



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
June 1997

Eugene Derby Found

Eugene Derby, stellar .129 hitting catcher with Baltimore in 1885, has been found by Bob Richardson and Rich Bozzone. Bob and Rich share the June *Find of the Month* award.

Bob began tracking Derby a year or so ago and was able to locate his birth in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He found a note that had him living in Watervliet, New York. I located a 1900 census record for Derby in Watervliet. The month and year of his birth matched up and he was living with his wife, Angeline and his daughter, Grace. They did not appear in the 1920 census from New York. However, Bob located Angeline in the 1920 Connecticut census listed as a widow and living with her daughter, Grace Grover in Waterbury.

Bob then contacted Rich, who tracked Derby through the Waterbury city directories. Eugene was last listed in 1917, then in 1918 Angeline was listed as a widow. Rich then began the task of going through the Waterbury newspapers day by day looking for an obituary. He began with September 1917 for one newspaper and after only going through 14 issues, found his obituary listing his death in Waterbury on September 13, 1917. Although the obituary did not mention baseball, it did mention his wife Angeline and daughter Grace, confirming that it is indeed our ballplayer. Great work by Bob and Rich! By the way, since Derby never hit a home run, he was probably never called Home Run Derby.

George Schaefer

In response to my note about the attempt to revive the American Association in 1899, Ralph Horton responded regarding the possibility that George Schaefer might be former ballplayer Orator Shaffer.

"There were several articles in the Missouri Republic in September of that year. In one it is stated that St. Louis has a baseball park available and that it is controlled by George Schaefer. In another, George D. Schaefer is quoted denying reports that Adolphus Busch is the financial backer of the new team. Schaefer also defends the formation of a new league, stating that it was no different than someone opening a billard parlor a block away from him."

"In the 1899 City Directory George D. Schaefer is listed as a clerk for William Schaefer (saloon) at 201 N. 6th Street, and residing at 2815 Dickson. William Schaefer is also listed at both addresses. William Schaefer is also listed as a saloon owner in 1884, the year Orator Shaffer played in St. Louis."

"I don't believe there is any connection between George D. Schaefer and Orator Shaffer. If there had been, the newspaper accounts would have referred to Schaefer as a former baseball player."

Member List

Since it has been a long time since I have sent you a list of committee members, I am attaching a list of all members, their addresses, and code numbers with this newsletter. If any of you have e-mail addresses, please e-mail me the address and I'll put those in the next newsletter. My e-mail is Bbxpert@aol.com.

The Lost Cities

Fred Lenger has done a terrific job of identifying birth places of major league players. However, there are still 11 cities which he cannot locate. Can anyone help Fred determine where these towns are or where they were?

Mitchum, Alabama
Concordia, California
Breda, Illinois
Sweetwater, Louisiana
Colchester, Massachusetts

Mount Hebron, Missouri
Kiser, North Carolina
Berona, Pennsylvania
Baltic, Rhode Island
Halbrook, West Virginia
Morganette, West Virginia

Obituary Indexes

Many cities or historical societies publish death or cemetery indexes. I would like to compile a list of such indexes. If anyone knows of any indexes for their cities, I would appreciate you sending it along.

Where To Write

The suggestion was made at our committee meeting in Louisville for me to publish where to write in each state for birth and death records. I will begin that this month doing 5 states each month. The costs I list are the last ones I have. They may not be current.

Alabama Department of Public Health
Center For Health Statistics
Office of Vital Records
P.O. Box 5625
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5625
Dating from January 1908 \$12.00

Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics
P.O. Box 110675
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0675
Dating from January 1, 1913 \$10.00

Arizona Office of Vital Records
Arizona Department of Health Services
2727 West Glendale Avenue
P.O. Box 3887
Phoenix, Arizona 85030-3887
Birth dating from 1884, death from 1887 \$6.00

Arkansas Department of Health
Division of Vital Records
4815 West Markham Street, Slot 44
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867
Dating from February 1, 1914
Birth \$5.00 Death \$4.00

California Office of Vital Statistics
Department of Health Services
304 S Street
P.O. Box 730241
Sacramento, California 94244-0241
Dating from July 1, 1905 \$9.00

Future Mysteries

Most of the time, when you read the *Mystery of the Month*, it is something I provide myself. I'm beginning to run dry of mysteries. If any of you have any players you think would make a good mystery, please send me the details. Also, I would like to give advance notice of the mystery just in case anyone has further information.

Richard Topp Memorial Gardens

Richard Topp will begin keeping records of the cemetery players are buried in. If anyone has burial sites of any former players, please send them to Rich.

A College President

From Jamie Selko: Former Washington Senators catcher Steve Korcheck became president of Manatee Community College.

A Clue That Won't Help

Jay Sanford reports that the mysterious Mr. Smith, who pitched for Cincinnati in 1886, was an amateur who was plucked out of the stands. Good luck, guys.

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in July. As usual, make sure you send a card.

July 9	Louis Polli	96
July 10	Ad Liska	91
July 24	Robert Adams	96
July 25	Joe Zapustas	90

John Burnett

We list John Burnett, outfielder with St. Louis in 1907, with a birth of Dec 2, 1889 and a death of September 8, 1929. This is quite likely the wrong man.

In 1905, Walter Johnson joined the Olinda Oil Wells club. The team captain was John Burnett. If our birth date is accurate, he was 15 years old at the time. Highly unlikely. Burnett was signed to a pro contract with Seattle (PCL) early in 1906, then traded to Tacoma. Tacoma sold Burnett to the Cardinals in 1907.

Where he went after 1907 is unknown. A 1918 newspaper article on the old Olinda team mentions that Burnett was working as a game warden in Ventura County, California. In the 1920 California census, I found a John Barnett, age 39, working as a deputy game warden in Ventura County and living with his wife, Nora. Certainly this confusion is enough to enable John Burnett to be our June *Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14647	69	99.531
Total Complete Births	13973	743	94.951
Total Complete Deaths	7310	465	49.674
Total Assumed Alive	6941		47.166
Total Bats	13365	1245	91.478
Total Throws	13616	994	93.196
Total Heights	13611	999	93.162
Total Weights	13547	1063	92.724
Total Debut Dates	14716	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9981	4735	67.824
Total Completion			92.1883

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1933 Roy, Emile Arthur	Name: <u>Emil Arthur Roy</u>	(C1)
	D: <u>Jan 5 1997</u>	
	<u>Crystal River, Florida</u>	

New Information Received:

1893 Abbey, Charles S.	TL	(S5)
1932 Brubaker, Wilber Lee	D: <u>Apr 2 1978</u>	(T1)
	<u>Laguna Hills, California</u>	
1932 Davis, Harry Albert	D: <u>Mar 3 1997</u>	(S3)
	<u>Shreveport, Louisiana</u>	
1929 Delker, Edward Alberts	D: <u>May 14 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Pottsville, Pennsylvania</u>	
1885 Derby, Eugene A.	D: <u>Sep 13 1917</u>	(B3)
	<u>Waterbury, Connecticut</u>	
1913 Grover, Charles Byrd	Name: <u>Charles Burr Grover</u>	(L5)
	D: <u>Emmett Township, Calhoun Cty, Michigan</u>	
1932 Lawrence, William Henry	D: <u>Jun 15 1997</u>	(W2)
	<u>Redwood City, California</u>	
1933 Lee, Thornton Starr	D: <u>Jun 9 1997</u>	(O2)
	<u>Tucson, Arizona</u>	
1947 Linde, Lyman Gilbert	B: <u>Sep 30 1920</u>	(S3)
	<u>Rolling Prairie, Wisconsin</u>	
	D: <u>Oct 24 1995</u>	
	<u>Beaver Dam, Wisconsin</u>	
1914 Mattis, Ralph L.	Name: <u>Ralph Mattis</u>	(S7)
1872 Nelson, John W.	B: <u>Mar 14 1849</u>	(S5)
1930 Rosenberg, Harry	D: <u>Apr 13 1997</u>	(W1)
	<u>San Mateo, California</u>	
1879 Rowe, John Charles	B: <u>Dec 8 1856</u>	(S5)
	<u>Hamburg, Pennsylvania</u>	
1893 Treadway, George B.	TL	(S5)
1909 Yohe, William Clyde	B: <u>Mt. Erie, Illinois</u>	(S7)

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