



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
October 1992

James Knowles Found

In the August 1989 Biographical Report, I deleted the death of James Knowles. We had been erroneously carrying the death date of his brother, Sam, who died in Chicago. James was living in Jersey City at the time and took possession of the body. Joe Simenic was able to locate an obituary stating that Knowles died February 11, 1912 in Jersey City. For this Joe wins the coveted *Find of the Month* award.

When Joe informed me of this I located Knowles in the 1900 census. We had listed an 1859 birth in Toronto; however, the census shows that Knowles was born in September of 1856 in Massachusetts. His mother was born in Canada. Can one of you guys from Massachusetts see if you can locate a birth date and place?

1992 Rookies

I know that everyone anxiously awaits October so that they can see the list of that year's rookies and accordingly, I have attached the list of 1992 rookies. Thanks to Bill Haber and Pete Palmer for providing the data.

This year saw 162 rookies make their debut, one for each game of the season. There were also two non-playing managers. No new countries were represented; however Victor Cole became the first Russian to play in the major leagues since Reuben Ewing in 1921. The Dominican Republic sent 17 new rookies and has now surpassed Canada as the foreign country to provide the most major leaguers, 170-165.

The oldest rookie was Tim Fortugno at 30. Tim has already had his name etched in the

record books as the pitcher who yielded George Brett's 3000th hit. No teenagers played in 1992, but the youngest player was Mel Nieves who turned 20 last December. Heights ranged from 6-10 Eric Hillman to 5-08 Kevin Koslofski.

Several players were related to other major leaguers. Pedro Felix Borbon is the son of Pedro Borbon, Bret Boone is the son of Bob Boone and grandson of Ray Boone, Phil Clark is the brother of Jerald Clark, Shawn Jeter is the son of Johnny Jeter, and Pedro Martinez is the brother of Ramon Martinez.

One player was born with a different name than he uses: Albert Lee Martin was born Albert Lee Scales-Martin. There were several unique and euphonious names among the rookies. My personal favorite has to be Hillary Houston Hathaway, although honorable mention goes to Wedsel Gary Groom, the winner of the Favel Perry Wordsworth award for the most unusual first name. D. J. Dozier wins the spelling award for getting D. J. out of William Henry.

I am still awaiting the first major leaguer born in my hometown of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, yet 1992 featured two players who attended high school there, Tim Pugh and Russ McGinnis. Pugh is the first College High School graduate to make the major leagues. Doesn't this excite you all?

With the addition of the new expansion teams we can look to 1993 as a record setting year for rookies as we should easily top the 200 mark and bring our total past 14000 ballplayers. Time for me to get a bigger computer.

By Land Or By Sea

By now, I'm sure that all of you have received the brochure about the SABR cruise. I think that I will be going along. Not to discount Stan Musial or Lew Burdette, but the clincher for me was the stopover in Curacao and I can finally learn the birth city of Hensley Meulens. My only concern is that we will not be in Colombia long enough for me to track down Lou Castro.

New Members

Please welcome Victor Debs to the Biographical committee. Victor's address is 175 Lewiston St., Staten Island, New York 10314 and his code number will be D9.

More on Householder

Richard Topp informed me that he removed the death date from the Charles Householder who fell off the house when Vern Luse found him playing in the minor leagues in 1885, a year after his "fatal" mishap. There is still confusion on which Householder did what.

A Weber of Intrigue

✓ Joe Simenic has discovered that Joseph Edward Weber was the outfielder for Detroit in 1884 rather than Harry Weber, and that Harry Weber was the Indianapolis catcher rather than Joseph Weber. Harry Weber may have died in Texas but further research is needed. Does anyone know anything about him?

Baseball and Hockey

We have all heard recently of two sport stars: Bo Jackson in baseball and football, Danny Ainge in baseball and basketball, Deion Sanders in baseball, football, and ice water dumping. However, there has never been a ballplayer to play both major league baseball and major league hockey. (Lonnie Smith was called "Skates" for a different reason.) Both Tom Glavine and Kirk McCaskill were drafted by the NHL, Glavine by the Los Angeles Kings and McCaskill by the Winnipeg Jets. McCaskill did play one season for Sherbrooke in 1983-84.

Although this year J. T. Snow became the first major league player who was the son of an NFL player, there have been three major league players who were sons of NHL players. Pete Ward is the son of Jimmy Ward who played for the Montreal Maroons, Joe Cowley is the son of Bill Cowley who played for the Boston Bruins, and Kirk McCaskill is the son of Ted McCaskill who played for the Minnesota North Stars. In addition, Bill Stewart coached the Chicago Blackhawks to the 1938 Stanley Cup and was a National League umpire from 1933-54.

Thanks to Robert Schulz for providing this information.

Big Ed

We list Ed Delahanty as dying in Niagara Falls, New York. According to Mike Sowell's new book on Delahanty, he was put off the train at Bridgeburg, Ontario, fell off the International Bridge, and his body was found in Drummondville, Ontario. Where should we list his place of death?

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in November. Be sure and send a card.

Nov 14	Gil Paulsen	90
Nov 20	Tim McNamara	94
Nov 20	John Prudhomme	90
Nov 22	Walter Tauscher	91
Nov 26	John Kerr	94
Nov 30	Clyde Sukeforth	91

Are You Sure You Weren't In The Revolutionary War?

Nathan Berkenstock played one game for the Philadelphia Athletics of the National Association on October 30, 1871. Nate died February 23, 1900 in Philadelphia. Why do we care? Because Nate was 40 when he made his major league debut, making him the only person ever to have played in the major leagues who was born before 1835.

Currently, Harry Wright has the earliest recorded birth among major league players, entering this world on January 10, 1835 in Sheffield, England. So if you can find the birth date and place of Nathan Berkenstock, you can solve our *October Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13874	73	99.477
Total Complete Births	13133	814	94.164
Total Complete Deaths	6825	496	48.935
Total Assumed Alive	6626		47.508
Total Bats	12536	1308	90.552
Total Throws	12808	1036	92.517
Total Heights	12709	1135	91.802
Total Weights	12632	1212	91.245
Total Debut Dates	13947	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9907	4040	71.033
Total Completion			91.7231

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1895 Stewart, Asa

No New Information

(HF)

New Information Received:

1879 Adams, George

BRTR Height: 5-06 Weight: 175 (R1)

1879 Allen, Cyrus Alban

BRTR (R1)

~~10~~ 1910 Bowser, James H.

B: Sep 20 1881 (H1)

Freeport, Pennsylvania

Is Deceased (H1)

~~42~~ 1943 Ciola, Louis Alexander

D: Oct 19 1992 (C1)

~~38-45~~ 1938 Donald, Richard Atley N

West Monroe, Louisiana

Height: 5-10 Weight: 160 (R1)

1879 Foley, Charles Joseph

D: Reseda, California (H1)

1902 Hildebrand, George Albert N

B: Sep 1856 (C1)

~~1~~ 1884 Knowles, James 2

Massachusetts

D: Feb 11 1912 (S1)

Jersey City, New Jersey

1875 Mason, Charles E.

BR (R1)

1931 Masters, Walter Thomas

D: Ottawa, Ontario (H1)

1884 McKinnon, Alexander J.

Weight: 170 (R1)

~~30-4~~ 1926 Morrell, Willard Blackmer N

B: Apr 9 1893 (T3)

Hyde Park, Massachusetts

~~28-9~~ 1928 O'Connell, John Charles

B: Berona, Pennsylvania (OT)

D: Oct 17 1992

Canton, Ohio

Delete birth date. Birth is for wrong man. (R1)

~~02~~ 1891 O'Connell, John Joseph

D: New York, New York (S1)

1904 O'Neill, William John

D: Sep 25 1991 (S3)

~~28~~ 1939 Prichard, Robert Alexander N

Abilene, Texas

Height: 5-06 Weight: 155 (R1)

1882 Rowen, W. Edward

Is Deceased (H1)

~~23-1~~ 1923 Rowland, Charles Leland N

Debut: Jun 20 1883 (S1)

1883 Smith, Albert Edgar

Height: 5-09 Weight: 170 (R1)

1879 Sullivan, Dennis J.

Debut: Jul 22 1884 (S1)

~~1~~ 1884 Weber, Harry N

Switch playing record with Joseph Weber

~~1~~ 1884 Weber, Joseph Edward N

Debut: May 30 1884 (S1)

Switch playing record with Harry Weber

~~45~~ 1945 Wentzel, Stanley Aaron N

D: Nov 28 1991 (H1)

St. Lawrence, Pennsylvania

1954 Wright, Melvin James

D: Houston, Texas (C1)

1899 Ziegler, Charles W.

Name: Charles Wallace Ziegler (S1)

D: Apr 18 1904