



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
January 1996

Marshall Locke Found

It was January 27 and I was bemoaning the fact that I had nothing for a *Find of the Month*. Then I opened a letter which was forwarded to me from the SABR office and received the biggest shock that I had since I watched Lonnie Smith round the bases once without falling down.

It was a letter from the great-nephew of Marshall Locke, outfielder in seven games for Indianapolis in 1884. He had read an article on SABR in the Cleveland Plain-Dealer and since he had noticed that the encyclopedias had listed no biographical data on Locke, he wrote to tell us his birth and death date and a little story of Locke's life. I knew from the 1900 census that Locke was a songwriter (Essentially all I knew about him) but his great-nephew informed me that Marshall Locke had written the lyrics to the famous song "The Big Rock Candy Mountain." Locke was born and died in Ashland, Ohio but lived most of his life in Indianapolis. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy in New England.

This is an absolutely amazing discovery and it makes a person wonder how many other people are out there wondering why their relative's birth and death isn't listed in the encyclopedia. I'm awarding the *Find of the Month* to Morris and John in the SABR office for getting that article into the Cleveland Plain-Dealer which prompted the great-nephew's letter. Terrific!

New Members

Please add James Pereira, 160 Purrington Street, Somerset, Massachusetts 02726 to the committee. Jim's code number will be P5. Also welcome Pat Doyle, P.O. Box 7294, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66207. Pat's code number will be X6.

Reaching Far And Wide

I noticed that the Associated Press came out with an article on Milt Gaston in celebration of his 100th birthday. In the article, it mentions that he is the longest-lived 10 year veteran. You might recall that this fact was mentioned in last month's newsletter. It also mentioned all the players who had lived to be 100. Since they listed Charles Emig, whom we recently discovered after he had been a "missing" player for all these years and whose death has not yet been published in the encyclopedias, it appears that fact as well came from last month's newsletter.

It's nice to know that our work is being recognized by well-known sources. It is hoped that everyone who reads this newsletter will reciprocate and let the committee chairman know any player deaths, etc. that might be of interest to us.

A Published Article

Dick Thompson recently wrote an article on the life of Cy Morgan which was published in the Middleboro (MA) Gazette. Dick will be glad to send a copy of the article to anyone who would like it for an SASE.

Those of you who think it might be difficult to get an article published in your local paper should take a lesson from Dick. In addition to Cy Morgan (1-1 W-L record, 7.39 ERA), Jim has also had an article published on Jim Cudworth, .147 hitter for the 1884 Kansas City Unions. The right author can make even the most obscure player interesting.

The Details, Please

There are two players who have been reported as being deceased for whom we haven't yet been able to find a date and place of death. Both broke into the big leagues in 1969.

Billy Wilson, Phillies pitcher, supposedly died in 1993. He had been living in the Tulsa

area, but Oklahoma does not have a death certificate on file for him. And Juan Rios, Royals infielder, apparently died in 1995 in Puerto Rico. If anyone can find out more information, it would be most helpful.

The World Wide Web

My sister told me of a web site which lists people doing genealogical research on a particular surname. I checked it out and already have a possible lead on a player. The address is:

<http://www.rand.org/cgi-bin/Genea/rsl?>

If anyone else knows of any web sites which might be helpful to our committee, send me the address and I will publish them in the newsletter.

Presidents

I was wondering the other day how many ballplayers were named after U.S. presidents. So I did what every dedicated baseball researcher with time on his hands does. I counted them. There are 61. Interestingly, only one player who debuted after 1960 was named after a president. That was Max Venable, who was named after William McKinley.

Far and away the leader is George Washington with 18 namesakes. He is followed by Thomas Jefferson with 7, Andrew Jackson with 5, and Grover Cleveland with 4. Tied with 3 are James Madison, Franklin Pierce, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Chester Arthur, and William McKinley. (*Chester Arthur?*) Coming in at 2 are Benjamin Harrison and Woodrow Wilson. Then with one apiece are John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, Calvin Coolidge, and Franklin Roosevelt. Of course, the player named after Calvin Coolidge is the only player named after a US president, a Roman emperor, and an Indian chief, Calvin Coolidge Julius Caesar Tuskahoma McLish. Alas, there has never been a ballplayer named after Millard Fillmore.

Birthday List

There is only one nonagenarian celebrating a birthday in February. Robert Cremins turns the big 90 on February 15. Be sure to send him a card.

When Did Old McDonald Buy The Farm?

Usually, my *Mystery of the Month* is someone on which I have a fair amount of information and can provide some clues that might lead to his capture. Our player this month, James McDonald of the 1902 New York Giants, is not one of those players. So why am I featuring him? I just wanted an excuse to use that silly headline.

James McDonald played only 2 games for the Giants but he hit .333. Little is known about him. A *Sporting Life* article indicated that he had been playing with a team in Roxbury, Pennsylvania. Other articles indicated that he was from Philadelphia. Bill Haber had an address listed for him as 603 Earp Street in Philadelphia although I do not know the source of that information. So it appears that what we need to find him is a clue, clue here and a clue, clue there. Here a clue, there a clue, everywhere a clue, clue. Sorry. I'll stop.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14449	72	99.504
Total Complete Births	13769	752	94.821
Total Complete Deaths	7164	472	49.335
Total Assumed Alive	6885		47.414
Total Bats	13164	1252	91.315
Total Throws	13409	1007	93.015
Total Heights	13403	1013	92.973
Total Weights	13342	1074	92.550
Total Debut Dates	14521	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9976	4545	68.701
Total Completion			92.1800

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1914 Boucher, Medric Charles Francis	Debut: <u>May 20 1914</u>	(P1)
1884 Cahill, John Patrick Francis	Name: <u>John Patrick Parnell Cahill</u>	(S5)
1930 Campbell, Bruce Douglas	D: <u>Fort Myers Beach, Florida</u>	(C1)
1884 Crosby, George Washington	B: <u>1860</u>	(S5)
1883 Cushman, Edgar Leander	Weight: <u>177</u>	(S5)
1909 Downey, Alexander Cummings	Debut: <u>Sep 14 1909</u>	(C2)
1884 Drake, Lyman Daniel	B: <u>Berea, Ohio</u>	(S5)
1894 Flaherty, Patrick Henry	B: <u>Jan 31 1866</u>	(S5)
1884 Foster, Elmer Ellsworth	Height: <u>5-10</u> Weight: <u>178</u>	(S5)
1970 Freed, Roger Vernon	D: <u>Jan 9 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Chino, California</u>	
1902 Hazleton, Willard Carpenter	D: <u>Mar 10 1941</u>	(T3)
1876 Holbert, William Henry	Weight: <u>197</u>	(S5)
1898 Hughes, James Jay	Weight: <u>185</u>	(C1)
1941 Jelincich, Frank Anthony	D: <u>Jun 27 1992</u>	(S3)
	<u>Rochester, Minnesota</u>	
1882 Kinzie, Walter Harris	B: <u>Chicago, Illinois</u>	(S5)
1884 Locke, Marshall	Name: <u>Marshall Pinkney Wilder Locke</u>	(ED)
	B: <u>Mar 12 1857</u>	
	<u>Ashland, Ohio</u>	
	D: <u>Mar 6 1940</u>	
	<u>Ashland, Ohio</u>	
1879 Mansell, Thomas E.	TR	(S5)
1911 Mayer, Walter A.	D: <u>Minnetonka, Minnesota</u>	(T2)
1948 McCall, Robert Leonard	D: <u>Jan 7 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Little Rock, Arkansas</u>	
1875 McSorley, John Bernard	B: <u>Dec 16 1852</u>	(S5)
1972 Monzon, Daniel Francisco	D: <u>Jan 21 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</u>	
1887 Rainey, John Paul	Height: <u>5-10</u>	(S5)
1884 Reeder, Edward James	Height: <u>6-00</u>	(S5)
1942 Ryan, Cornelius Joseph	D: <u>Jan 3 1996</u>	(S6)
	<u>Metairie, Louisiana</u>	
1939 Schultz, Joseph Charles, Jr.	D: <u>Jan 10 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>St. Louis, Missouri</u>	
1888 Silch, Edward	Height: <u>6-02</u> Weight: <u>180</u>	(D2)
1945 Singleton, Bert Elmer	D: <u>Jan 5 1996</u>	(S3)
	<u>Ogden, Utah</u>	
1965 Spriggs, George Herman	B: <u>Jewell, Maryland</u>	(RC)
1980 Veselic, Robert Mitchell	D: <u>Dec 26 1995</u>	(W1)
	<u>Los Angeles, California</u>	