



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
February 1993

Leo Meyer Found

Leo Meyer, shortstop for the 1909 Brooklyn Dodgers, has been found. The winner of the *Find of the Month* award is me, with help from Jack Dougherty.

I began looking for Meyer when Bill Haber sent me a rundown of his family. It seems that Meyer left Cincinnati for Brooklyn in the 1920s. His family lost track of him; in fact, his niece made a trip to Brooklyn in 1949 to look for him with no success. I checked the Ohio census records for both 1910 and 1920 and found Meyer listed as a ballplayer. The census confirmed that Meyer was born in March of 1888 in Iowa.

I then checked the Social Security death index to see if I could locate him. After pursuing the only possible Leo Meyer, who proved not to be our guy, I decided to check for Lee Meyer. Up popped a guy who was born March 29, 1888, obtained his social security number in New York, and died in September of 1968 in Smyrna, Delaware.

I sent this information to Jack Dougherty, who checked the cemetery and confirmed that this man was born in Iowa and his mother's maiden name matched our player. What would we do without that Social Security Death Index?

Working Up A Swett

Special mention should also go to Bob Richardson for tracking down William E. "Pop" Swett of the 1890 Boston Players League club. We had always listed him as Charles Swett, which is probably why we never tracked him down. Good work!

Stupid Trivia Question

What player named Homer has hit the most

lifetime homers? Clue: He is also the only Homer to lead the league in homers. Answer below.

New Members

Please welcome Larry Bonura, P.O. Box 831038, Richardson, Texas 75083 to the committee. Larry's code number will be B9. And yes, he is related to Zeke Bonura. Also greet Rob Schwark, 5600 Lindenwood, Fairfield, Ohio 45014. Rob's code number will be S6.

Last Month' Mystery

Bob Richardson did some investigation into last month's mystery of James D. Curtis and determined that Curtis' real name was apparently Ervin Duane Curtiss. At some point in his life he probably went by James D. The obituary refers to him as a former Cincinnati player. It also mentions that he lived in Savannah, Georgia where he ran a pool and bowling establishment. The Savannah city directories from 1892-96 list a James D. Curtiss as the proprietor of a saloon. So it appears that James Curtiss and Ervin Curtiss are one and the same. Judging from the death certificate, obituary, and census, Ervin is his real name.

Hoss's Brother, Little George?

In the encyclopedia, you will see Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourne listed as the brother of George Radbourne, who also died in Bloomington, Illinois. However, in the May 27, 1883 issue of *Sporting Life*, it says, "Radbourne of Bloomington, Illinois, cousin of the Providence pitcher, has been engaged by the Detroit as change pitcher." Then on June 17, 1883, *Sporting Life* contradicts that with, "Detroit's new pitcher spells his name Rathbun, not Radbourne. He is in no way related to the Providence pitcher."

When Hoss died February 5, 1897, *Sporting*

Life ran a lengthy obit in which no mention was made of a brother or cousin who played in the major leagues. So who was Charles? Brother, cousin, or no relation? Things were simpler on the Ponderosa, right Pa?

Living Or Dead?

No, this is not a quiz. There are 4 players over the age of 80 for whom we do not have a current address. Does anyone know the whereabouts of these players? Joe Becker, Ed Cole, Joe Mack, and Bill McGhee.

Missing Coaches

Pete Palmer has been keeping track of non-playing coaches. There are two coaches that he has no biographical data on. Can anyone find anything on J. R. McKee who coached Pittsburgh in 1947 or Harry Matthews, coach of Cleveland in 1926-27 and the Yankees in 1929? If so, please send the information to Pete.

Answer To Stupid Trivia Question

None other than Harold Homer Chase with 57 homers. He can star on a team with Ken Singleton (1441 singles), Abner Doubleday (0 doubles, but other claims to fame), Coaker Triplett (14 triples), Dixie Walker (817 walks),

and missing ballplayer John Strike (4 strikeouts). See, I told you it was stupid.

Birthday List

Only one nonagenarian is celebrating a birthday in March. Arthur Weis turns 92 on March 2. Be sure to send him a card.

The Man With The Wooden Leg

Our *Mystery of the Month*, James Leon Wood, played in the National Association from 1871-73 and managed in 1874-75. Midway through the 1873 season, Wood had to have his leg amputated. After this, Wood pretty much disappeared from the scene. At one time we listed an 1886 death for Wood; however, this is wrong.

Wood's son, James Leon Wood, Jr. was living in Winter Park, Florida in 1920 with his sister, Carrie Wood Temple. I don't have a death date for either of them, but both were widowed by 1920. Carrie's daughter, Dorothy, married a major league player herself, Adelbert Mason, who died in 1962. Dorothy at one time told Lee Allen that Wood died in 1926 or 1927 in New York City. Can someone locate a death on Wood anywhere in New York? Or can someone track the remainder of his family in Winter Park, Florida? We should be able to find this guy.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13873	73	99.476
Total Complete Births	13135	811	94.185
Total Complete Deaths	6871	490	49.269
Total Assumed Alive	6585		47.218
Total Bats	12538	1305	90.573
Total Throws	12810	1033	92.538
Total Heights	12713	1130	91.837
Total Weights	12636	1207	91.281
Total Debut Dates	13946	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9907	4039	71.038
Total Completion			91.8231

David Lewis Fultz

By Lefty Bileco

B: May 29, 1875, Staunton, Virginia
D: October 29, 1959, DeLand, Florida
BRTR 5-11 170

David L. Fultz, coming up from Staunton Military Academy at Staunton, Virginia matriculated at Brown University in the fall of 1894. He made the baseball team for four years, playing second base and center field. Casper Whitney selected him as utility infielder on his All American College team in *Harpers* in both 1896 and 1897. Fultz batted .392 in 1897. In 1894, his first year at Brown, he won a letter as a substitute halfback on the football team. He played halfback all season in both 1895 and 1896. In 1896 he had an 85-yard touchdown run against Yale and scored four touchdowns against Carlisle. In 1897 at 167 pounds, he captained the team. In June of 1898 he graduated with a PhB degree.

In 1898, he joined the Philadelphia National League team as a substitute outfielder. In 1899, he was sold to Baltimore and played third base and outfield for John McGraw and batted .300. In 1900, Fultz went to Brooklyn but never played there and was sold to Milwaukee in the Western League as a shortstop for Connie Mack. During the winter season of 1899 and 1900 he coached football at Missouri University. In 1901, the American League was formed and Mack brought him to the A's as a center fielder and second baseman. In 1902, he batted .300 with the A's and again coached football in the fall at Lafayette College. In 1903, Fultz began a three-year stint with the New York Highlanders, managed by Clark Griffith. He again coached football in the fall of 1903 at Brown and in 1904 at New York University.

On September 25, 1905, Dave was playing centerfield for New York when he collided with shortstop Norman Elberfeld in a head-on crash. His nose and jaw were broken, an injury which would end his baseball career. It didn't end his football career, however, as he played professional football in 1905-08 with Duquesne and Homestead. They won every game.

While playing with the Highlanders, he studied law, working for a law firm in 1905 and forming his own law service in 1906. In 1912 he founded the Players Fraternity, and along with August Herrmann, Ban Johnson, and others, secured many benefits for the players. In 1919-20, he served as president of the International League.

A busy person, he was the first Brown University player to be selected for an All-American football team when Walter Camp selected him for the second team in 1897. Later in life, he officiated many intercollegiate games through 1928. Grantland Rice of the Associated Press stated that Jim Thorpe was the best football player, but Fultz was a leading star in both sports.

In 1956, he began living on the shore of Lake Helen in Florida in a home built many years before by Mr. DeLand, the founder of the nearby city of DeLand, Florida where David Fultz passed away October 29, 1959.

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1947 Albright, Harold John	D: <u>Jul 22 1991</u>	(H1)
	<u>San Diego, California</u>	
1885 Andrus, Wyman W.	Name: <u>William Wiman Andrus</u>	(B7)
1883 Blogg, Wesley C.	Name: <u>Wesley Collins Blogg</u>	(D2)
	D: <u>Baltimore, Maryland</u>	
1936 Bokina, Joseph	D: <u>Chattanooga, Tennessee</u>	(H1)
1935 Browne, Earl James	D: <u>Jan 12 1993</u>	(B6)
	<u>Whittier, California</u>	
1883 Burns, Richard Simon	D: <u>Nov 16 1937</u>	(R1)
1914 Burr, Alexander Thomson	D: <u>Oct 12 1918</u>	(D2)
	<u>Cazaux, France</u>	
1891 Curtis, James D.	Name: <u>Ervin Duane Curtiss</u>	(R1)
1944 Dubiel, Walter John	B: <u>Feb 12 1918</u>	(B3)
1983 Fernandez y Castro, Octavio Antonio	B: <u>Jun 30 1962</u>	(H1)
1971 Hooton, Burt Carlton	B: <u>Feb 7 1950</u>	(C1)
1909 Kelly, Robert Brown	B: <u>Aug 19 1884</u>	(T1)
1950 MacDonald, William Paul	D: <u>May 4 1991</u>	(H1)
	<u>Shasta Lake, California</u>	
1909 Meyer, Leo	B: <u>Mar 29 1888</u>	(C1)
	<u>Iowa</u>	
	D: <u>Sep 2 1968</u>	
	<u>Smyrna, Delaware</u>	
1915 Miljus, John Kenneth	D: <u>Fort Harrison, Montana</u>	(B7)
1881 Morrissey, John J.	B: <u>Dec 30 1856</u>	(D2)
1941 Mulligan, Richard Charles	B: <u>Swoyersville, Pennsylvania</u>	(H1)
	D: <u>Dec 15 1992</u>	
	<u>Victoria, Texas</u>	
1937 Polly, Nicholas	D: <u>Jan 17 1993</u>	(H1)
	<u>Chicago, Illinois</u>	
1928 Pyle, Harlan Albert	D: <u>Jan 13 1993</u>	(S3)
	<u>Beatrice, Nebraska</u>	
1903 Quick, Edwin S.	B: <u>Dec 1881</u>	(D2)
1953 Repulski, Eldon John	D: <u>Feb 10 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Waite Park, Minnesota</u>	
1968 Rooker, James Phillip	B: <u>Sep 23 1942</u>	(C1)
1988 Samuels, Roger Howard	B: <u>Jan 5 1961</u>	(C1)
1944 Schanz, Charley Murrell	D: <u>May 28 1992</u>	(W1)
	<u>Sacramento, California</u>	
1935 Schott, Eugene Arthur	Name: <u>Arthur Eugene Schott</u>	(N1)
	D: <u>Nov 16 1992</u>	
	<u>Sun City Center, Florida</u>	

1890 Stafford, Robert M.

1940 Stewart, Walter Nesbitt

1890 Swett, Charles A.

D: Aug 20 1916

Moores Springs, North Carolina

D: London, Ohio

Name: William E. Swett

B: Apr 16 1870

D: Nov 22 1934

San Francisco, California

(D8)

(H1)

(R1)