



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
March/April 2001

Lou Castro Found

Lou Castro has long been one of our most mysterious players and one of our most difficult to find. It was known that he attended Manhattan College in the 1890s and was the son of Nestor Castro. Listed as being born in Colombia, he was rumored to be the nephew of Cipriano Castro, the president of Venezuela. He was reported as dying in Colombia, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. It turned out he died in New York City.

Dick Beverage is Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of Professional Ballplayers of America. He found a record that Castro joined the Association in 1937 and applied for aid as an indigent. In July, 1941, the Association began sending him a monthly check for \$30 until his death September 24, 1941. Richard Malatzky pulled a death certificate and found his father listed as Nestor. So congratulations go to Dick Beverage, winner of the *Find of the Month* award.

Ernie Burch

Ernie Burch played for Cleveland in 1884 and Brooklyn in 1886 and 1887. We listed him as being born in DeKalb County, Illinois in 1856. Notes indicated that he owned a ranch in Oklahoma. Jay Sanford found a marriage license for Ernest A. Burch and Anna Miller indicating that they married in Denver March 24, 1886.

I looked in the 1900 Oklahoma census and found Ernest Birch living with a woman named Anna Woody in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The census said that Birch was born in Kansas in 1865. The 1910 and 1920 Oklahoma census showed Ernest with his wife Anna and said that he was born in Illinois. I sent away for a death certificate to

Oklahoma and found Ernest Emanuel Birch born April 16, 1863 in Illinois and died August 15, 1933 in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Looks like an open and shut case.

When I gave Jay this news, Jay went on a deeper search. Jay found someone in Guthrie who knew Ernest Emanuel Birch and said that not only did he not play baseball, he was lame.

Jay contacted Richard Malatzky, who told Jay that Anna had moved back to Denver in the mid-1890s. Jay tracked her through the Denver city directories until she disappeared in 1916. Jay then found a Denver marriage license index only indexed through the C's. Jay found that in 1916, Anna Burch married Charles Brock. This enabled Jay to locate Anna's death in 1925. Anna's obituary stated that her remains were sent to Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Another phone call to Guthrie sent Jay to the same man at the cemetery he had spoken to before regarding Ernest Emanuel Birch. When Jay asked who was in the plot with Anna, the man told him Ernest Burch, who died October 12, 1892. The Guthrie newspaper carried a front page obituary for this Ernest Burch. The obituary referred to Burch as having "more than local reputation as a baseball player, having played with many of the national teams." Obviously, this is our missing player. Incredibly, we had Ernest Birch and Ernest Burch. Both were born in Illinois and were the right age for a ballplayer. Both married a woman named Anna. Both died in Guthrie, Oklahoma and are buried in the same cemetery! Great work by Jay Sanford for his relentless pursuit of this player. You just can't take anything for granted.

New Members

Please welcome Jim Hekel to the committee. Jim's address is 2367 290th Street, Rowley, Iowa 52329 and his code number will be H7. Also welcome Sean Holtz, 11400 SW 40th Terrace, Miami, Florida 33165. Sean's code number is H9.

The 1870 Census

I was looking for a ballplayer in the 1870 census and was amused by a category on the census form. The is a column wanting to know if the person was "blind, deaf, dumb, insane, or idiotic." I'm glad that one wasn't on my census form.

The 1930 Census

The 1930 census is scheduled to be released April 1, 2002. However, try to contain your excitement. Only 9 states are fully soundexed. Two states are partially soundexed. All these states are in the South. Soundexes exist for Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky (part), Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia (part). Kentucky and West Virginia each soundex only 7 counties. At the same time, the Records Administration will be issuing 1930 city directories for most major cities, presumably to assist in the research. Sounds like this may take a lot of digging.

Josh Reilly

This was rather interesting. We had listed Charles "Josh" Reilly as dying in San Francisco June 13, 1938. The mistake was easy to make as the obituary in the San Francisco Examiner was actually for Charles Thomas Reilly, who had died six months earlier. Due to fine work by Richard Malatzky, Peter Morris, and Dick Beverage, we determined that the man who died was actually William H. "Josh" Reilly and that he died June 12, 1938 in San Francisco.

Bob Leadley

Bob Leadley, the old non-playing manager, was living in Torreon, Mexico last we knew. When the 1930-39 California death index appeared on the web, Richard Malatzky decided to check for him there. Sure enough, he appeared there and all the biographical data matched with what we had. Sometimes you just have to look in the right place.

The Baseball Digest List

Here are the next 10 players featured in Baseball Digest's list of 100 missing players. These players appeared in the February 1963

issue:

W. Triplett Sigman - Alive in 1963, Wesley Triplett Sigman died 03/08/1971 in Augusta, Georgia.

Fisher - Edward Fisher died 07/24/1951 in Spokane Washington. The story of his "find" appears in the 1981 Baseball Research Journal.

Roy Miller - Died 07/31/1938 in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Elmer Bacon - Actually Edgar Bacon. He was alive when this article was published, but died 10/02/1963 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Benjamin Taylor - Died 11/03/1946 in Martin County, Indiana.

Bert Chaplin - Alive in 1963. Died 08/15/1978 in Sanford, Florida.

Daniel Kerns - Actually, this turned out to be Edward Kearns, who was already found. He died 12/21/1949 in Trenton, New Jersey.

John Pasquariello - Actually Michael Pasquella. He was alive in 1963, but died 04/05/1965 in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Everett Nutter - Died 07/25/1958 in Battle Creek, Michigan.

H. Varenhorst - Harry Vahrenhorst died 10/10/1943 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Birthday List

The following nonagenarians are celebrating birthdays in May and June. Be sure to send them a card.

May 1	Conrado Marrero	90
May 17	Michael Balas	91
May 21	Mace Brown	92
May 23	Willis Hudlin	95
June 20	Bill Werber	93
June 25	Ralph Erickson	99
June 28	Joe Cascarella	94

This Graham Is The Wrong Cracker

We list Barney Graham as playing 3B for Philadelphia in 1889 and dying in Mobile, Alabama on December 31, 1896. We list Bernard

Graham as playing OF for Chicago and Baltimore in 1884 and dying in Mobile on October 30, 1886. An obituary in the November 6, 1886 Sporting News did mention that Bernie Graham died of malaria in Mobile. However, it is questionable whether our information on Barney Graham is correct.

Peter Morris found the following note in the March 12, 1892 Sporting News to prompt me to make this our *Mystery of the Month*: "James Graham, who played third for the Erie, Pa. club, has signed a Western League club contract. He is a fine fielder at third, but only an ordinary batter. The old Athletics gave him a trial once."

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	15465	59	99.620
Total Complete Births	14802	722	95.349
Total Complete Deaths	7695	415	49.568
Total Assumed Alive	7414		47.758
Total Bats	14190	1226	92.047
Total Throws	14436	980	93.643
Total Heights	14462	954	93.812
Total Weights	14408	1008	93.461
Total Debut Dates	15524	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9983	5541	64.307
Total Completion			92.1707

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1883 Bakely, Edward Enoch	Weight: 170	(M4)
1956 Balcena, Robert Rudolph	D: Jan 5 1990	(M4)
1925 Ballou, Noble Winfield	D: Jan 29 1963	(M4)
1895 Battam, Lawrence	Weight: 166	(M3)
1884 Brennan, Jack	Weight: 155	(M4)
1955 Burbrink, Nelson Edward	D: Apr 12 2001	(C1)
	Largo, Florida	
1884 Burch, Earnest W.	Name: Ernest A. Burch	(S5)
	B: Sep 9 1856	
	D: Oct 12 1892	
	Guthrie, Oklahoma	
1888 Burnett, Hercules H.	Height: 5-11	(M4)
1912 Burns, Edward James	D: May 30 1942	(M4)
1902 Castro, Luis Manuel	Name: Louis Manuel Castro	(CL)
	B: Nov 25 1876	
	D: Sep 24 1941	
	New York, New York	
2000 Charles, Franklin Scott	B: Fontana, California	(L5)
1902 Congalton, William Miller	D: Aug 19 1937	(M4)
1921 Connolly, Joseph George	Name: Joseph H. Connolly	(M4)
1872 Coughlin, Dennis F.	B: 1844	(M4)
	New York	
1889 Daley, William	Height: 5-07 Weight: 140	(M4)
1954 Davis, James Bennett	D: Nov 30 1995	(M4)
1891 Donohue, Joseph F.	Name: Alexander Donohue	(M4)
	B: Altoona, Pennsylvania	
1884 Dugan, Edward John	TR	(M4)
1924 Fitzke, Paul Frederick Herman	Name: Robert Paul Fitzke	(B3)
	Real Name: Frederick Herman Fitzke	
1885 Foley, John J.	B: Oct 25 1857	(C1)
	Brattleboro, Vermont	
1947 Gearhart, Lloyd William	D: Apr 2 2001	(C3)
	Dayton, Ohio	
1888 Gibson, Leighton P.	D: Oct 12 1907	(B3)
1890 Gilbert, John G.	Name: John B. Gilbert	(B3)
1939 Glossop, Alban	B: Jul 12 1914	(M4)
1937 Harshaney, Samuel	D: Feb 1 2001	(C1)
	San Antonio, Texas	
1918 Heathcote, Clifton Earl	D: Jan 18 1939	(B3)
1942 Hodge, Edward Burton	Name: Edward Burton Hodges	(C1)
	D: Jan 8 2001	
	Knoxville, Tennessee	
1888 Hoffman, Frank J.	Height: 5-09.5 Weight: 163	(M4)

1890 Jones, Henry	Weight: <u>150</u>	(M4)
1940 Jones, Maurice Morris	Name: <u>Morris E. Jones</u>	(M4)
	B: <u>Nov 2 1911</u>	
	D: <u>Jun 30 1974</u>	
1902 Jones, Thomas	D: <u>Jun 19 1923</u>	(T6)
1885 Kennedy, Theodore A.	Weight: <u>178</u>	(M4)
1899 Langsford, Robert William	Height: <u>5-07</u> Weight: <u>168</u>	(M4)
1888 Leadley, Robert H. (MGR)	B: <u>Nov 11 1858</u>	(M3)
	D: <u>May 19 1936</u>	
	<u>Los Angeles, California</u>	
1913 Leverenz, Walter Fred	B: <u>Jul 21 1888</u>	(M4)
1942 Lowrey, Harry Lee	B: <u>Aug 27 1917</u>	(M4)
1938 Maggert, Harl Warren	B: <u>May 4 1914</u>	(M4)
1879 Magner, William John	Name: <u>John T. Magner</u>	(M4)
	Height: <u>5-07.5</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	
1955 Malmberg, Harry William	B: <u>Jul 31 1925</u>	(M4)
1913 Mamaux, Albert Leon	D: <u>Dec 31 1962</u>	(M4)
1890 McMillan, George A.	B: <u>Sep 1 1863</u>	(M4)
	<u>Ontario</u>	
1884 Meister, George B.	Weight: <u>160</u>	(M4)
1937 Mele, Albert Ernest	D: <u>Hollywood, Florida</u>	(M4)
1930 Moore, Joseph Gregg	D: <u>Apr 1 2001</u>	(C1)
	<u>Bryan, Texas</u>	
1871 Norton, Frank Prescott	B: <u>Jun 1845</u>	(M3)
	<u>New York</u>	
	D: <u>Aug 2 1920</u>	
	<u>Greenwich, Connecticut</u>	
1914 Oeschger, Joseph Carl	B: <u>May 24 1892</u>	(M4)
1909 Ohl, Joseph Earl	Height: <u>6-01</u> Weight: <u>175</u>	(M4)
1943 Orrell, Forrest Gordon	B: <u>Mar 6 1917</u>	(M4)
1932 Pearson, Montgomery Marcellus	B: <u>Sep 2 1908</u>	(M4)
1918 Pertica, William Andrew	B: <u>Aug 17 1898</u>	(M4)
1915 Ray, Carl Grady	D: <u>Apr 2 1970</u>	(B3)
	<u>Lexington, North Carolina</u>	
1896 Reilly, Charles	Name: <u>William H. Reilly</u>	(M4)
	B: <u>May 9 1868</u>	
	D: <u>Jun 12 1938</u>	
1942 Riebe, Harvey Donald	D: <u>Apr 16 2001</u>	(S1)
	<u>Cleveland, Ohio</u>	
1938 Ross, Donald Raymond	D: <u>Mar 28 1996</u>	(M4)
1884 Sexton, Thomas William	<u>BL</u>	(M4)
1924 Shirley, Ernest Raeford	D: <u>Aug 3 1955</u>	(B3)
1911 Smith, Wallace H.	B: <u>Mar 13 1888</u>	(B3)
1990 Sojo, Luis Beltran (Sojo)	B: <u>Jan 3 1965</u>	(P1)
1890 Stafford, Robert M.	Height: <u>6-00</u> Weight: <u>180</u>	(M3)
1962 Stargell, Wilver Dornel	D: <u>Apr 9 2001</u>	(C1)
	<u>Wilmington, North Carolina</u>	
1890 Sterling, John A.	Height: <u>6-01</u> Weight: <u>172</u>	(M3)
1875 Terry,	Name: <u>Wallace W. Terry</u>	(B6)
	B: <u>Oct 1850</u>	
	D: <u>Jan 21 1916</u>	
	<u>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u>	
1927 Thomas, Fay Wesley	B: <u>Oct 10 1903</u>	(M4)
	D: <u>Aug 12 1990</u>	
1941 White, Harold George	D: <u>Apr 21 2001</u>	(B6)
	<u>Venice, Florida</u>	

2000 Young, Michael B.
1890 Ziegler, George J.
1941 Zientara, Benedict Joseph

Debut: Sep ~~29~~ 2000
Height: 5-08 Weight: 150
B: Feb 14 ~~1918~~

(V1)
(M4)
(M4)