



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
October 1994

David Abercrombie's Birth Found

David Abercrombie, who played one game for the Troy Haymakers in 1871, was born in Falkirk, Scotland in 1840. Peter Morris has a sister living in Scotland and she found Abercrombie's birth record. He was born May 6, 1840. For this, the Morris family wins the October *Find of the Month* award. We have very few birthdates for ballplayers recorded in 1840 or before and this is especially noteworthy since the birth occurred in a foreign country.

Abercrombie lived to be 76 and for nearly four years (according to what we know) was the oldest living ex-major leaguer. He held this distinction from Alfred Barker's death in 1912 until he died in 1916, relinquishing the honor to Alfred Reach. Great work! Now if Pete only had a sister in Cuba.

New Members

Please welcome Gary Passamonte to the committee. Gary's address is 5753 Upper Mt. Morris Road, Mt. Morris, New York 14510 and his code number will be P4.

Confusion

We have several questions regarding players posed by Bob Richardson, Bob Tholkes, And Pete Palmer. Can anyone shed any more light on these?

John J. (Rooney) Sweeney - According to the Boston Herald Sweeney wanted the NY club to sign him in 1891. We have Sweeney dying in 1889 in New York City.

Tom Dolan - Again according to the Boston Herald, Dolan, the old St. Louis catcher, was electrocuted by stepping on a live wire in late April or early May 1894. We have Dolan dying in 1913.

Joe Dowie - Was fatally shot bt Negroes in New Orleans September 3 or 4, 1893.

Joseph Burke - The captain of the Muncie team died August 27, 1893 of injuries suffered in a game. Is this missing 1890 player Joseph A. Burke?

John McDonald - We have a questionnaire on this 1907 player which says that he was born 12/11/1881 in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania and died 11/16/1972 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Do we have the right player?

Doug Linton - We have his birth as 2/9/1965 and most sources have 9/2/1965.

Ben McDonald - We have his birth as 11/14/1967 and most sources have 11/24/1967.

First Out

This is the final edition of the last in, first out feature which takes us up to the present. If anyone has any ideas of something else I can feature in the future, please let me know.

1980 - Joe DeSa 12/20/1986

1981 - Alan Wiggins 01/06/1991

1982 - Steve Senteney 06/19/1989

1983 - None

1984 - None

1985 - None

1986 - None

1987 - Tim Crews 03/23/1993

1988 - None

1989 - Steve Olin 03/22/1993

1990 - Cliff Young 11/04/1993

1991 - None

1992 - None

1993 - None

1994 - None

A Bunch Of Turkeys

With Thanksgiving approaching, I thought I would print a list of all players born on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to Bill Deane for researching the list.

Harry Brooks	11/30/1865
Fred Parent	11/25/1875
Frank Corridon	11/25/1880
Pete Noonan	11/24/1881
Tex Hoffman	11/30/1893
Bill Anderson	11/28/1895
Molly Craft	11/28/1895
Reuben Ewing	11/30/1899
Billy Rogell	11/24/1904
Lynn King	11/28/1907
Lefty Gomez	11/26/1908
Al Cuccinello	11/26/1914
Ed Weiland	11/26/1914
Bob Finley	11/25/1915
Russ Meers	11/28/1918
Danny Reynolds	11/27/1919
Cal Howe	11/27/1924
Bill Currie	11/29/1928
Tom McCraw	11/21/1940
Denny Riddleberger	11/22/1945
John Harrell	11/27/1947
Rafael Santo Domingo	11/24/1955
Pat Rooney	11/28/1957
Mike Scioscia	11/27/1958
Mike Moore	11/26/1959
John Hoover	11/22/1962
Walt Weiss	11/28/1963
Randy Veres	11/25/1965
Terry Burrows	11/28/1968
Tim Laker	11/27/1969

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in November. Make sure you send a card.

November 2	Elon Hogsett	91
November 14	Gil Paulsen	92
November 15	George Cox	90
November 20	Tim McNamara	96
November 24	Billy Rogell	90
November 30	Clyde Sukeforth	93

A Babe In The Woods

I received a letter from a gentleman in California regarding 1907 St. Louis player John Burnett. It appears quite likely that we have the wrong man. An excerpt from his letter follows:

"The birthdate for Jack Burnett of 12/02/1889 which is given is almost certainly in error. Jack was a teammate of Walter Johnson's on the powerful Olinda Oil Wells semipro team. In fact, he was already the team captain at the time Walter joined the Oil Wells in January 1905. In a 1913 article describing his discovery of Walter Johnson, another Olinda teammate, Joe Burke, describes how Burke and Burnett gave Johnson an impromptu tryout in the field next to the Olinda general store. This tryout took place, as best we can determine, sometime in 1904. Burke describes Burnett as 'Olinda's best hitter'; contemporary newspaper accounts refer to him as the captain of the team. Most of the Olinda players at the time were in their twenties. It is unlikely they would have been captained by a 15-year-old boy.

Jack Burnett was signed to a pro contract with Seattle (PCL) early in 1906, then traded to Tacoma (NWL). While at Tacoma, he arranged for Walter Johnson to join the Tacoma team, but after pitching one game against Grays Harbor, which may or may not have been an exhibition game, Walter was released, then caught on with a semipro team in Weiser, Idaho. Catcher Cliff Blankenship signed him for Washington there the following summer. Burnett stayed at Tacoma and was sold to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1907. What happened to him after that one big league season we do not know."

This would appear to cast enough doubt on the accuracy of our John Burnett to make Burnett our October *Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14193	74	99.481
Total Complete Births	13504	763	94.652
Total Complete Deaths	7041	479	49.352
Total Assumed Alive	6747		47.291
Total Bats	12911	1251	91.167
Total Throws	13155	1007	92.889
Total Heights	13128	1034	92.699
Total Weights	13060	1102	92.219
Total Debut Dates	14267	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9971	4296	69.889
Total Completion			92.1818

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1871 Abercrombie, David	B: May 6 1840	(M4)
1947 Banta, John Kay	Name: Jackie Kay Banta	(S2)
1913 Calhoun, William Davitte	D: Jan 28 1955	(H4)
1890 Calihan, William T.	Name: William T. Callahan	(H6)
	B: 1869	
1895 Carey, George C.	B: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	(H1)
1908 Carter, Conrad Powell	Weight: 140	(T2)
1937 Chozen, Harry	D: Sep 16 1994	(L4)
	Houston, Texas	
1927 Dear, Paul Stanford	D: Aug 29 1989	(C1)
	Christiansburg, Virginia	
1907 Durbin, Blaine Alphonsus	B: Lamar, Missouri	(S2)
1942 Ferens, Stanley	B: Wendel, Pennsylvania	(H1)
	D: Oct 7 1994	
	Greensburg, Pennsylvania	
1884 Fogarty, James G.	D: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	(M4)
1882 Fusselback, Edward L.	BR	(M4)
1935 Gamble, Lee Jesse	D: Oct 5 1994	(C1)
	Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania	
1903 Gessler, Harry Homer	D: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	(T2)
1926 Graves, Joseph Ebenezer	B: Feb 26 1906	(H1)
	D: Salem, Massachusetts	
1875 Hautz, Charles A.	BR	(M4)
1930 Hughes, Thomas Franklin	D: Aug 10 1989	(C1)
	Beaumont, Texas	
1880 Kearns, Thomas J.	BR	(M4)
1884 Kent, Edward C.	BRTR	(M4)
1884 Levis, Charles H.	BR	(M4)
1884 MacArthur, Malcolm M.	Height: 5-09.5 Weight: 164	(M4)
1884 Manlove, Charles Henry	Name: Charles Henry Weeks Manlove	(D8)
1944 McGhee, William Mac	D: Mar 1984	(SE)
	Decatur, Georgia	
1884 McGuire, James Thomas	D: Duck Lake, Michigan	(M4)
1884 McSorley, James Bernard	BR	(M4)
1931 Murphy, Walter Joseph	D: Mar 1976	(SE)
	Houston, Texas	
1884 Phelan, James Dickson	BR	(M4)
1883 Reid, William Alexander	BL	(M4)
1879 Stockwell, Leonard Clark	BR	(M4)
1882 Thompson, John P.	TR	(M4)
1925 Willoughby, Claude William	B: Buffalo, Kansas	(S2)
1930 Winsett, John Thomas	D: Jul 1987	(C1)
	Memphis, Tennessee	
1884 Wood, Fred S.	Weight: 150	(M4)