



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
August 1997

Birth And Death Places Verified

Since we have no missing ballplayers who have been found this month, I am awarding the August *Find of the Month* award to Fred Lenger for his work in verifying the birth and death locations for all major league players.

Fred has done an incredible amount of work, writing to post offices, libraries, and town historians and consulting old maps and gazettes. Although we are recognizing him this month, it has taken him several years to compile this data and he deserves praise for his work. Thanks, Fred.

Mitchum, Alabama

Speaking of missing towns, Jamie Selko has done some research on Mitchum, Alabama. Jamie writes, "In northwest Alabama, there is a Mitchum Dam and Reservoir, neither one of which was there in the early part of the century. In the teens, there was a crossroads there which was a PPL. I believe it is the Mitchum we are looking for, now like so many other tiny rural hamlets, beneath the waters of a CCC or TVA Dam."

E-Mail Corrections

I left out the e-mail address for Richard Topp. His address is richardtopp@sprintmail.com. Also, the e-mail for Pat Doyle was wrong. His e-mail is pjdoyle@aol.com. Greg Beston's new e-mail address is Gbeston39@aol.com. Jack Smalling is at smalling@ames.net. Joe Dittmar's e-mail is Dittmar5@aol.com. Debbi Dagavarian-Bonar now checks in at

ddagavarian@call.tesc.edu.

Tug And Tim

I know absolutely nothing about country music, but apparently there is a present day country singer named Tim McGraw. I was told that he is the son of Tug McGraw. Does anyone know if this is true?

Where To Write

More of where to write to obtain birth and death certificates:

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Vital Records Service
47 Trinity Avenue SW, Room 217-H
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1201
Birth and Death from January 1, 1919
Birth and Death: \$10.00

State Department of Health
Research and Statistics Office
Vital Records Section
1250 Punchbowl Street, Room 103
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3378
Birth and Death from 1853
Birth and Death: \$2.00

State of Idaho
Department of health and Welfare
Vital Statistics Unit
450 West State Street
Boise, Idaho 83720-5450
Birth and Death from July 1, 1911
Birth and Death: \$8.00

Illinois Department of Health
Division of Vital Records
605 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702-5097
Birth and Death from January 1, 1916
Birth and Death: \$15.00

Indiana State Department of Health
Vital Records
1330 West Michigan Street
P.O. Box 1964
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1964
Birth from 1907, Death from 1900
Birth: \$6.00 Death: \$4.00

I've never written for any information from Hawaii, (I'd rather go there myself and pick it up) but the State Archives also has an index to obituaries from 1836-1950. If only all states could be that helpful.

Chips Off The Old Red Block

With Pete Rose, Jr. making his debut with the Reds, he becomes the 6th son of a member of the Reds' 1972 World Series team to make the major leagues. For the record, the 6 father/son combos are Pete and (Re)Pete Rose, Tony and Eduardo Perez, Julian and Stan Javier, Hal and Brian McRae, Pedro and Pedro Borbon, and Ed and Ed Sprague. Ed Sprague was on the Reds' 1972 World Series roster, but didn't appear in a game. Interestingly, the 1972 A's have had none. Is 6 the record for one World Series team? This is the kind of question I ask when I want to know the answer but I don't want to research it myself. But I will give you full credit when I publish the answer.

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in September. Be sure to send a card.

September 2	Ben Sankey	90
September 5	Bill Musser	92
September 8	Frank Stewart	91
September 12	Leonard Dondero	94
September 25	Paul Hopkins	93
September 27	Whitlow Wyatt	90

Hunting For The True Creed

Al Quimby sends along the information for our August *Mystery of the Month*, Creed Bates. Frank Charles Bates, also known as Creed Bates, was a star pitcher for the 1899 Cleveland Spiders, fashioning a nifty 1-18 record. We know little of Bates' personal life, other than he was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee about 1876. Using the name Creed N. Bates, he married Selma Bowe in Newport, Kentucky on April 25, 1900. Both listed their place of residence as

Cincinnati. They divorced a year later. In 1909, Bates was convicted of disorderly conduct in Quincy, Illinois and sentenced to serve 104 days in the House of Correction. Nothing has been found on Bates after that time.

Al was able to put together quite a bit of information on Bates' family:

Father - Levi Bates died 11/24/1904 in Chattanooga

Mother - Lucille Bates died 01/01/1922 in Knoxville

Sister - Mrs. Ida Bates Beckworth died 01/02/1947 in Buffalo, NY

Sister - Mrs. Hattie Mae Carr died 06/11/1961 in New Orleans

Brother - Adolphus Bates born 1871 in Georgia

Brother - William Bates died 04/08/1926 in Chicago

Brother - Charles Bates died in 1939 in Miami, Florida.

Uncle - Will Bates resided in St. Louis as of 11/26/1904

Niece - Ida Beckworth Hall was a resident of Buffalo as of September 1995

Niece - Catherine Miller was a resident of New Orleans as of 04/17/1996

This seems typical of many of our missing ballplayers. We'll be able to piece together their entire family with everyone except the ballplayer. Al has done a lot of good work tracking Bates. If anyone has any ideas or further information, send them along to either Al or myself.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14647	69	99.531
Total Complete Births	13973	743	94.951
Total Complete Deaths	7328	465	49.796
Total Assumed Alive	6923		47.044
Total Bats	13365	1245	91.478
Total Throws	13616	994	93.196
Total Heights	13612	998	93.169
Total Weights	13547	1063	92.724
Total Debut Dates	14716	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9982	4734	67.831
Total Completion			92.1898