



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
March 1993

Frank Pearce Found

Frank Pearce, who pitched one game with Louisville in 1876, has been found by Bob Bailey, winner of our March *Find of the Month* award. Bob discovered that Pearce had come from the Louisville Amateurs, a team made up of the sons of prominent local businessmen. Pearce was the 16-year-old son of R. W. Pearce, a well-to-do local physician. Bob tracked young Frank through the censuses (or is the plural censi?) until he located his death in 1926. Good work on a tough case!

Help From The Past

Fred Ivor-Campbell of the 19th Century Committee recently appealed to his committee members to help the biographical committee by sending us biographical data that they may have found on 19th century players. I'd like to thank Fred for the plug. Our committees are somewhat intertwined and I know that several of us have written biographies for More 19th Century Stars. Hopefully, this will help track some of those long-lost players. Where have you gone, One Arm Daily?

New Member

Please welcome Joseph Schuster, 624 Wesley Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63135 to the biographical committee. Joe's code number will be S2.

An Opportunity

The Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame in Maumee, Ohio (does anyone know if there's a Daddee, Ohio?) is looking for presentations on various baseball topics for the upcoming season.

Our committee has helped them in the past and they would like to continue that relationship. If anyone would like to make a presentation, particularly if it is Ohio-related, please contact Kathleen Gardner, 2901 Key Street, Maumee, Ohio 43537, (419)893-9481.

They're Alive!

Joe Becker and Bill McGhee are both very much alive. Ralph Horton sends along their current addresses. Becker lives at 2800 21st Place, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 and McGhee lives at Mustang Road, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561.

Historical Perspective

A few months ago, our *Mystery of the Month* concerned Nathan Berkenstock, born in 1831. Once we find his exact birth date, he will be the player with the earliest recorded birth date. We actually have recorded a birth date earlier than that in the non-playing manager of the New York National League club in 1876, William Henry Cammeyer. Cammeyer was born March 20, 1821.

Just to give you some idea of how long ago that was, James Monroe was President, Missouri became our 24th state, Napoleon died (Bonaparte, not Lajoie), Grimm was writing his fairy tales (Jakob, not Charlie), and Joe Simenic was in the third grade.

Missing Player List

This month I intend to prepare a new missing player list, updated from the one I passed out in 1990. If you would like to receive one, please write and let me know and I'll send one along.

I'd Give My Right Arm To Be Ambidextrous

Pete Palmer and I had a discussion one day

about whether Matt Stairs bats right-handed or left-handed. It was listed both ways but right seemed to be the more prevalent way. Jon Dunkle called the Expos who said that Stairs bats left. I looked in the Baseball Register and under the "Miscellaneous Notes" it says, "Batted right-handed 1989-91."

Switch-hitters are common, but does anyone know of a player who batted one way and then changed to the other way without switch-hitting? The even more perplexing question is why did he change? Stairs led the Eastern League in hitting, hits, and triples in 1991. I think his hitting coach needs mental help.

Birthday List

There are only two nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in April. Be sure to send a card.

Apr 19	Bernie DeViveiros	92
Apr 22	Ray Benge	91

Motivated By Creed

For years, our committee has been motivated by Creed. Creed Bates, that is, our March *Mystery of the Month*. Creed Bates will always be remembered for his fine work with the 1899 Cleveland Spiders as he turned in a nifty 1-18 record, accounting for 5% of Cleveland's wins.

Bates began his career in 1896 with Columbus and Mobile of the Southern League. 1897 was spent with Mobile, Terre Haute, Dayton, and Wheeling, 1898 with Dayton and Cleveland, 1899 with the Spiders, and 1900 with Wheeling, Youngstown, and Marion in the Interstate League.

His name was usually listed as Creed, but he was also listed as Frank and Charles. We list his birth as Chattanooga, Tennessee and in fact we have found two different Creed Bates's who were from Chattanooga. Neither is related to the ballplayer.

In April of 1900, Bates married his wife, Selma, in Newport, Kentucky. They were divorced in December of 1901. On May 25, 1909, Bates was convicted of disorderly conduct in Quincy, Illinois and sentenced to the House of Correction for 104 days. Nothing is known about Bates after this point and I have never been able to locate Bates in the census.

By the way, when searching for missing ballplayers, our committee does not discriminate by race, religion, or Creed.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13874	72	99.484
Total Complete Births	13137	809	94.199
Total Complete Deaths	6881	487	49.340
Total Assumed Alive	6578		47.168
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			91.8279

Frank Patrick "Flash" Gilhooley

By John R. Hueman

B: June 10, 1892, Toledo, Ohio
D: July 11 1959, Toledo, Ohio
BLTR 5-08 155

They called him "Flash" for his speed. Frank Gilhooley had a long and brilliant major league career. If it were not for Babe Ruth and broken bones he might have had a long and brilliant major league career.

As a youngster Gilhooley was an all-around athlete. He began playing semi-pro baseball at age 16. His first full professional season was 1911 as an outfielder for Adrian of the South Michigan League. There he hit .364 and stole 47 bases. Fellow Toledoan Roger Bresnahan noticed and brought him to St. Louis where he made his major league debut while still a teenager.

Gilhooley was sold and traded several times over the next few years, playing mostly in the International League. Buffalo sold him to the Yankees after the 1915 season. By opening day of 1916 he had won the right field spot in the Yank lineup. The team started fast and Gilhooley moved up to the leadoff position. His ability to get on base and his fast and heady base running were keys to the Yankee success. He was called "the fastest man in baseball, and, next to Cobb, the most feared on the bases."

But it didn't last. The turning point in his career and the Yankees season came July 3, 1916. The Yanks held the top spot in the league standings and were in Washington to face the immortal Walter Johnson. Flash led off the top of the ninth of a scoreless game with a walk. In typical fashion, he moved all the way to third on a bunt. But on the slide he caught the bag with his foot and broke his ankle. He did not play again that season. He would later say that he was never the same, "From then on I was just a step slower, and a step in baseball means the difference between a hit and a putout."

Flash was back in the lineup to start the 1917 season. But disaster struck again. On May 7 he broke his collarbone diving for a fly ball. He was out until August. The Yanks finished sixth and brought in Miller Huggins to manage. Gilhooley was sent to Boston in a major trade.

In Boston Gilhooley met his major league demise - Babe Ruth. He would share an outfield position and road accommodations with Ruth. It was Ruth's transitional year; he played left field and took a turn on the mound every fourth day. When Ruth pitched, Gilhooley played left. When Ruth played left, Gilhooley sat. He couldn't stand not to play and asked to be sent back to Buffalo. His wife May recalled that he never wanted to return to the majors. "We had a wonderful life in the International League and Frank got top pay which was \$5,000."

Gilhooley went on to become an all-time International League great. He played ten seasons with Buffalo, Toronto, Rochester, and Jersey City. Continuing where he left off when he went up to the Yankees, he had 200 hits, batted .343, stole 45 bases, and was a bundle of exuberance in center field. Numbers like these were his norm - he had highs of a .362 average and 230 hits in Reading in 1922. In 1925 he led Toronto to a 5-0 win over Louisville in the Little World Series. In 13 full minor league seasons he never hit less than .306, twice was over .340 and twice more over .360. His career average was .323. His last two years in the game were as playing manager at Jersey City where he got George Selkirk, his demise's successor, into the Yankee organization.

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1992 Alexander, Manuel DeJesus	Real name: <u>Manuel DeJesus y Alexander</u>	(H1)
1953 Antonello, William James	D: <u>Mar 4 1993</u>	(T2)
	<u>Fridley, Minnesota</u>	
1992 Ashley, Billy Manual	B: <u>Trenton, Michigan</u>	(H1)
1992 Astacio, Pedro Julio	Name: <u>Pedro Julio Astacio y Pura</u>	(H1)
	B: <u>Nov 28 1968</u>	
1986 Bonilla, Roberto Martin Antonio	B: <u>Bronx, New York</u>	(H1)
1992 Borbon, Pedro Felix	Name: <u>Pedro Felix Borbon y Marte</u>	(H1)
	B: <u>Nov 15 1967</u>	
1992 Bournigal, Rafael Antonio	Name: <u>Rafael Antonio Bournigal y Pelletier</u>	(H1)
1992 Branson, Jeffrey Glenn	Name: <u>Jeffery Glenn Branson</u>	(H1)
1895 Childers,	Name: <u>William Childers</u>	(B6)
1992 Cordero, Wilfredo Nieva	Name: <u>Wilfredo Cordero y Nieva</u>	(H1)
1987 Crews, Stanley Timothy	D: <u>Mar 23 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Orlando, Florida</u>	
1989 Finley, Steven Allen	B: <u>Paducah, Kentucky</u>	(H1)
1935 Gomez y Rodriguez, Julio Luis	Is Deceased	(H1)
1927 Jordan, Baxter Byerly	D: <u>Mar 18 1993</u>	(H1)
	<u>Salisbury, North Carolina</u>	
1992 Leon, Danilo Enrique	Name: <u>Danilo Enrique Leon y Lineco</u>	(H1)
1992 Linton, Douglas Warren	B: <u>Feb 9 1965</u>	(H1)
1948 Main, Forrest Harry	D: <u>Jun 27 1992</u>	(H1)
	<u>Whittier, California</u>	
1992 Martinez, Domingo Emilio	Name: <u>Domingo Emilio Martinez</u>	(H1)
	<u>y LaFontaine</u>	
1889 Meek, Frank J.	B: <u>Mar 14 1867</u>	(D2)
	D: <u>Dec 22 1922</u>	
1992 Menendez, Antonio Gustavo	Name: <u>Antonio Gustavo Menedez y Remon</u>	(H1)
1992 Mesa, Jose Ramon	Name: <u>Jose Ramon Nova Mesa</u>	(H1)
	Real name: <u>Jose Ramon Nova y Mesa</u>	
1892 Miller, Frank A.	Name: <u>Frank E. Miller</u>	(S1)
	D: <u>Mar 29 1951</u>	
	<u>Reading, Pennsylvania</u>	
1992 Natal, Robert Marcilino	Name: <u>Robert Marcel Natal</u>	(H1)
1952 Necciai, Ronald Andrew	B: <u>Gallatin, Pennsylvania</u>	(W1)
1989 Olin, Steven Robert	D: <u>Mar 22 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Little Lake Nellie, Florida</u>	

1876 Pearce, Frank	Name: <u>Franklin Johnson Pearce</u>	(B6)
	B: <u>Mar 30 1860</u>	
	<u>Jefferson County, Kentucky</u>	
	D: <u>Nov 13 1926</u>	
	<u>Louisville, Kentucky</u>	
1992 Pichardo, Hipolito Antonio	Name: Hipolito Antonio Pichardo y Balbina	(H1)
1944 Schanz, Charley Murrell	Name: <u>Charles Murrell Schanz</u>	(H1)
1923 Shaner, Walter Dedaker	D: <u>Nov 13 1992</u>	(H1)
	<u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	
1916 Sicking, Edward Joseph	D: <u>Madeira, Ohio</u>	(C1)
1992 Smith, Daniel Scott	B: <u>Apr 20 1969</u>	(H1)
1992 Stairs, Matthew Wade	<u>BL</u>	(D8)
1931 Stumpf, George Frederick	D: <u>Mar 6 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Metairie, Louisiana</u>	
1986 Swindell, Forest Gregory	B: <u>Fort Worth, Texas</u>	(H1)
1928 Tauscher, Walter Edward	D: <u>Nov 27 1992</u>	(H1)
	<u>Winter Park, Florida</u>	
1872 Yeatman, William Suter	B: <u>Mar 1839</u>	(D2)