



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
April 1985

Foley a Phony

Our *Find of the Month* for April is not really a find but a loss. Pete Morris discovered that there were two Thomas Foleys. One was an owner and manager and one was a player. Our death was for the owner, who never played in the majors. Hence, Thomas Foley now becomes a missing player.

Encyclopedias

I saw an announcement today that Total Baseball has been named the official encyclopedia of major league baseball. As many of you know, there are two baseball encyclopedias, Total Baseball, and the MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia. Our committee provides biographical data to both publications. I won't editorialize on which book is better and I personally use both quite frequently.

I would like to know what "official" means. It would seem to me that by designating a book as the "official encyclopedia of major league baseball," baseball is accepting the data therein as accurate. If I want to know who won the 1911 AL batting title, then the person listed in the book is the one who is the recognized champion.

If that is the case, then any changes in the book would have to be accepted by major league baseball. If a researcher discovers that Babe Ruth actually hit 713 home runs, then making the change in the encyclopedia would have to have the approval of major league baseball.

Would this hold true with biographical data as well? We are constantly changing that based on our committee's research. Does baseball accept our changes without question? What if our change significantly alters a Hall of Famer's record? I consider my biographical database the "official" biographical record. My basic question is: What does it mean to be the "official encyclopedia of major league baseball" and what

are the responsibilities of both the book and the major leagues?

Yearly Report

I just wrote up the yearly report of our committee for the SABR office. It was actually a little depressing. Our number of finds is down quite a bit from previous years. I realize that the missing players get tougher and tougher to find. If they weren't tough, we would have found them by now. But I don't get nearly as many letters from committee members as I did 2 or 3 years ago and there are many more people on the committee now than there were then.

If you need any advice or assistance in your research, please feel free to give me a call. I'll be glad to help any way I can. I also need some help in writing articles for the newsletter. I can always use short filler articles.

New Members

Please welcome Ed Hartig, 447 Faversham Court, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440 to the committee. Ed's code number will be H8. Also welcome Allan Spear, c/o Stats Inc., 8131 N. Monticello, Skokie, Illinois 60076 (S8).

Committee Meeting

Our annual committee meeting in Pittsburgh will be Saturday at 7:30 in the morning. I expect everyone to be bright and cheery after spending the night talking baseball.

Rooney Sweeney

Last month I deleted the 1889 death date of John J. (Rooney) Sweeney because we had proof he was alive in 1891. Bill Haber wrote me and said that his records show that Sweeney died June 1, 1899 in New York City. Can someone check this out for me please?

Are You Sure Your Name Isn't Felix Unger?

Cappy Gagnon, in his research on collegiate players, discovered that while at Belmont Abbey College, Hal Haid received honors in Conduct, Neatness, and Politeness and was distinguished in Diligence and Punctuality. Today's players might follow his example.

Birthday List

There are four nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in May, including our oldest former player, Chet Hoff, who turns 104. Be sure you send a card.

May 7	Sal Gliatto	93
May 8	Chet Hoff	104
May 22	Decatur Jones	93
May 31	Ray Davis	90

Mike Kelly

Our April *Mystery of the Month* involves the most recent player for which we have no death date. Michael J. Kelly pitched four games for the 1926 Philadelphia Phillies. We list his birth as November 9, 1902 in St. Louis.

Kelly was brought up to Philadelphia from Bradenton of the Florida State League. Bradenton papers referred to him as the "old veteran" and talked about him like he was a real old-timer. I thought this strange for someone who, according to our records, was 23 years old. It made me wonder if our birthdate was correct.

In 1927, the Phillies sold him to Bloomington, Illinois. I located a profile of him in the Bloomington newspaper. It confirmed our birth of November 9, 1902 in St. Louis. It also said he was a graduate of Soldan high school in St. Louis. I checked box scores of Soldan games for 1920, when Kelly should have been a junior or senior. He does not appear. Bill Haber could not locate any Soldan records.

From 1921-24, he was in the marine corps where he "played considerable baseball in China." The marines don't seem to have any records of him either. In 1925, he pops up with St. Petersburg where he apparently goes 14-6. What happened to him after he left Bloomington in 1928 is unknown although he pitched in California during the winter of 1927. I searched all the Kellys in the 1920 St. Louis census and could not find anyone who matched. A most baffling case.

Possible Corrections

For the past 10 years, Cappy Gagnon has been corresponding with college registrars and archivists to obtain verification of the attendance of major leaguers. In the course of this research, he has picked up some biographical data which is different from what is contained in our database. Although this info may be incorrect, when it shows that a player is a year or two older than our records, suggesting a "baseball age", there may be some validity to the information. Before I take any action, I am asking committee members if they have any independent information.

<i>Player</i>	<i>Debut</i>	<i>Correction</i>	<i>College Source</i>
Rick Camp	1976	B: 1952	West Georgia College
Wirt V. Cannell	1904	Name order	Tufts
Sydney Cohen	1934	B: 1906	SMU
Thomas Drake	1939	B: 1912	Jacksonville State (AL)
Barry Evans	1978	B: 1955	West Georgia College
Robert Farley	1961	B: 1936	Lycoming College
John Fimple	1983	B: 1957	Humboldt State
Fred Hatfield	1950	B: 1924	Troy State
William Latham	1985	B: 1959	Auburn
Charles Machemehl	1971	B: 1946	TCU
Roger Mason	1984	B: 1957	Saginaw Valley
Olia A. McArthur	1914	First name/B: 1891	Texas A & M
Constantin Niarhos	1946	B: 1921	Auburn
Roy Ostergard	1921	B: 1897	Southwestern Univ. (Tex)
William Thrace Ramsey	1945	Name order	Florida
Clarence Franklin Thomas	1925	Middle name/B: 1901	Lynchburg College
Peter Vukovich	1975	B: 1951	Clarion University
Roy Wise	1944	B: 1923	Illinois Wesleyan
Loral Wyatt	1924	B: 1899	Wabash

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14197	73	99.488
Total Complete Births	13512	758	94.688
Total Complete Deaths	7098	480	49.741
Total Assumed Alive	6692		46.896
Total Bats	12915	1250	91.175
Total Throws	13159	1006	92.898
Total Heights	13146	1019	92.806
Total Weights	13080	1085	92.340
Total Debut Dates	14270	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9973	4297	69.888
Total Completion			92.2131

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1958 Allison, William Robert	D: <u>Apr 9 1995</u>	(C1)
	<u>Rio Verde, Arizona</u>	
1884 Baker, Charles A.	B: <u>Jan 15 1856</u>	(T1)
	<u>Stirling, Massachusetts</u>	
1994 Borland, Toby Shawn	B: <u>Burton, Louisiana</u>	(H1)
1994 Bottalico, Richard Paul	Name: <u>Ricky Paul Bottalico</u>	(H1)
1994 Bowie, James R.	Name: <u>Jim Bowie</u>	(H1)
1937 Crawford, Charles Lowrie	D: <u>Dec 20 1994</u>	(S3)
	<u>Hanover, Pennsylvania</u>	
1871 Foley, Thomas J.	Delete birth and death data. Wrong man.	(M4)
1928 Goodell, John Henry William	D: <u>Mesquite, Texas</u>	(H1)
1903 Householder, Edward H.	TL	(C1)
1910 Kahler, George Rannels	Name: <u>George Runnels Kahler</u>	(M4)
	D: <u>Feb 7 1924</u>	
1908 Lapp, John Walker	Weight: <u>160</u>	(M4)
1987 Liriano, Nelson Arturo (Bonilla)	B: <u>Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic</u>	(H1)
1903 Marshall, Joseph Hanley	Height: <u>5-08</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	(C1)
1991 Martinez, Reyinaldo Ignacio	B: <u>Belize, British Honduras</u>	(M4)
1989 McElroy, Charles Dwayne	B: <u>Port Arthur, Texas</u>	(H1)
1994 Miller, Orlando Salmon (Dixon)	Name: <u>Orlando Miller (Salmon)</u>	(H1)
1935 Moore, Terry Bluford	Name: <u>Terrence Bluford Moore</u>	(H1)
1909 Netzel, Miles A.	BL	(C1)
1951 Nichols, Chester Raymond, Jr.	D: <u>Lincoln, Rhode Island</u>	(C1)
1985 Polidor, Gustavo Adolfo (Gonzalez)	D: <u>Apr 28 1995</u>	(C1)
	<u>Caracas, Venezuela</u>	
1994 Pulido, Juan Carlos	Name: <u>Juan Carlos Pulido (Valera)</u>	(H1)
1909 Redmond, Harry John	BR Height: <u>5-08</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	(C1)
1879 Richmond, J Lee	Weight: <u>155</u>	(H3)
1948 Scala, Gerald Daniel	D: <u>1993</u>	(S3)
1940 Secory, Frank Edward	D: <u>Apr 7 1995</u>	(C1)
	<u>Port Huron, Michigan</u>	
1888 Staley, Henry E.	Name: <u>Henry Eli Staley</u>	(M4)
1913 Strand, Paul Edward	BL	(C1)
1994 Tavarez, Jesus Rafael	Name: <u>Jesus Rafael Tavarez (Alcantaras)</u>	(H1)
1926 Uchirnscko, James Emerson	D: <u>Mar 17 1995</u>	(C1)
	<u>Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania</u>	
1994 Valdes, Ismael	Name: <u>Ismael Valdes (Alvarez)</u>	(H1)
1944 Verdel, Albert Alfred	D: <u>1991</u>	(S3)
1883 Ward, Frank Gray	BS	(C1)
1934 Wilson, John Francis	D: <u>Apr 19 1995</u>	(W2)
	<u>Edmonds, Washington</u>	
1911 Wilson, Lester Wilbur	B: <u>Jul 17 1885</u>	(M4)
1969 Wilson, William Harlan	D: <u>1993</u>	(S3)