



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report**  
**December 1996**

## Height And Weight Found For John O'Connell

The final 1996 *Find of the Month* goes to Bob Richardson for locating the height and weight of 1891 player John O'Connell. Needless to say, a thin month for finds.

### Where Are They Buried?

Jim Pereira is looking for the burial sites of Bill Dickey, Heinie Manush, and Bill McGowan. If someone can tell Jim where he can dig them up, please contact him at 508-672-3697 or at [jpereira@ici.net](mailto:jpereira@ici.net).

### Help on a Minor Leaguer

Bob McConnell is looking for further biographical information on a minor leaguer by the name of Daniel F. Cronin. Bob writes:

Cronin died in Manchester, New Hampshire on May 5, 1896. According to his obituary, he was 28 years old and he was born in Manchester. The New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records has no record of a Daniel Cronin being born in Manchester during this time period.

Cronin's main claim to fame was a four home run game on May 31, 1892 against Salem while playing for Pawtucket in a New England League game. Cronin played in 48 games for Pawtucket that season and, oddly, he did not hit any other homers.

Cronin is first known to have played semi-pro ball in Keene, New Hampshire in 1888. He

played in Bellows Falls, Vermont in 1889. In 1890, he played in Dover, New Hampshire and Lawrence, Massachusetts - still semi-pro ball. He played for Manchester in the New England League in 1891. There is no known playing record for him after 1892. Cronin was a first baseman and probably batted right-handed. A player named Daniel T. Cronin played in the majors in 1884. However, he died in 1885, so he is obviously a different player.

Bob needs Cronin's middle name, date of birth, confirmation of place of birth, confirmation of bats and throws. Also, teams played for after 1892.

### The Wrong Guy

The John Henry Murphy from Fitchburg, Massachusetts that we listed a few months ago turns out to be the wrong guy. While he was a ballplayer, he is not the Murphy who played with Altoona in 1884. The Fitchburg Murphy was playing with a local Fitchburg semi-pro team throughout 1884. The Altoona Murphy was from Philadelphia and pitched for the semi-pro Flowers of Philadelphia in 1883. (Was Pete Rose on that team?) Thanks to Bob Richardson for researching this.

### A Player I'm Sure You Never Heard Of

It is always rather interesting to learn a little about the life of an obscure on-game major leaguer. Pete Cava learned the following about 1886 Louisville first baseman Jack Heinzman:

At the end of the 1886 Southern League season, Jack Heinzman returned to Louisville, where he hooked up with the J.A. Etheridge team, a semi-pro outfit. On October 1 in Louisville, the Etheridge squad played an exhibition game with the Louisville Colonels of the American Association. With Heinzman playing first base, Etheridge beat the Colonels 9-6. The *Louisville Courier-Journal* zinged the

Louisville players for losing to an "amateur" team.

The next day the Colonels played the Baltimore Orioles in a regular season game. Heinzman was in the Colonels' lineup, but with no explanation provided. The *Courier-Journal* mentions frigid temperatures, so maybe John Kerins - the Colonels' regular first baseman - opted to sit out the meaningless contest. Heinzman went 0-for-5 in a 7-3 Louisville triumph.

It would be Heinzman's only big league appearance. He played in the minors through 1889, then returned to Louisville where he played and managed at the semi-pro level. He eventually became the station keeper for Louisville's central police station. Heinzman was very popular with newspaper reporters, who were always able to get good leads from him. He served as treasurer for the police union for a couple of years. In February 1914 Heinzman suffered three broken ribs in a fall. These injuries led to heart disease, which eventually claimed his life that October. Heinzman's father was something of a legend in Louisville. The elder Heinzman, also named John, was one of the pioneers of organized baseball in the city and had once been a teammate of Pete Browning, the old Louisville slugger.

## The First Firth

Bob Richardson also has a question about 1884 Richmond pitcher Ted Firth. We list him as dying April 18, 1885 in Marshalltown, Iowa, apparently the victim of a shooting. There was also a John E. Firth who died June 23, 1902 in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. He was originally from Lowell, Massachusetts and was playing in the late 1880s. Are we sure we have the right guy? Hopefully, someone will research this and come forth with the right Firth.

## Easter Bunnies

I know we just got finished with Christmas, but this might be a good time to take a look at ballplayers born on Easter Sunday. Thanks to Bill Deane for compiling the list.

04/11/1852	Cap Anson
04/08/1860	Charlie Ingraham
04/17/1870	Ad Yale
03/28/1875	Jimmy Barrett
03/28/1875	Harry Gleason
04/13/1879	Jake Stahl

03/25/1883	Elmer Brown
04/13/1884	Phil Ketter
04/13/1884	Red Killefer
04/25/1886	Ralph Good
04/06/1890	Tom Fitzsimmons
04/06/1890	Red Smith
04/17/1892	Morrie Schick
04/09/1893	Bill Morrell
04/09/1893	Tiny Osborne
04/10/1898	Tom Jenkins
04/23/1905	Belve Bean
04/19/1908	Babe Phelps
03/27/1910	Steve Sundra
04/23/1916	Jack Creel
03/31/1918	Marv Grissom
04/20/1924	Jim Bilbrey
04/05/1931	Fred Besana
03/27/1932	Wes Covington
04/01/1934	Rod Kanehl
04/21/1935	Mack Burk
04/13/1941	John Stephenson
04/25/1943	Bob Johnson
04/25/1943	Lew Krausse, Jr.
04/09/1944	Jerry Hinsley
04/05/1953	Kim Allen
04/01/1956	Mark Esser
04/21/1957	Jesse Orosco
04/06/1958	Leo Sutherland
03/26/1967	Jarvis Brown
03/26/1967	Shawn Hare
04/14/1968	Jesse Levis
04/06/1969	Bret Boone

I must admit to being disappointed not to find Bunny Brief on the list but at least we do have Shawn Hare.

## Never on Sunday?

Speaking of appropriate births, did you know that Billy Sunday was born on a Sunday? However, Grier Friday was born on Tuesday. I realize that even for a filler, that tidbit is rather "week."

## Birthday List

There are four nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in January, including our second oldest player, Joe Hauser. Make sure you send a card.

January 2	Ted Gullic	90
January 3	Gus Suhr	91
January 12	Joe Hauser	98
January 17	Ray Cunningham	92

## Frank Burt

Frank Burt played ten games in the outfield for the 1882 Baltimore(AA) club compiling a nifty .111 batting average. We list him as being born in Camden, New Jersey and he is among the missing.

Debbi Dagavarian-Bonar found a possible candidate in a Franklin Burt who was born June 4, 1859 in Cumberland County, New Jersey. His father's name was Daniel. I found another possibility in the 1880 New Jersey census. It lists an Edward Burt (56) and Lucy Burt (49) with their children, Bell (26), Frank H. (24), Eddie (13), May (12), and Clifford (9). Edward was a book binder, Bell was a book sewer, and Frank was a machinist. (You'd think he'd be a book maker.)

The 1900 Camden census shows Frank (05/1860) living at 834 Broadway with his wife Ella (07/1861) and son Frank (05/1886). Frank was an oil cloth printer and he and Ella had been married 20 years. In 1920, all three lived at 1818 S. 7th Street in Camden. Frank's age is given as 64. With these clues, it should be no problem to track down Burt, our December *Mystery of the Month*.

## The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14646	70	99.524
Total Complete Births	13969	747	94.924
Total Complete Deaths	7269	469	49.395
Total Assumed Alive	6979		47.425
Total Bats	13363	1247	91.465
Total Throws	13612	998	93.169
Total Heights	13610	1000	93.155
Total Weights	13545	1065	92.711
Total Debut Dates	14716	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9980	4736	67.817
Total Completion			92.1747

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

1963 Bateman, John Alvin	B: Jul 21 1940 D: Dec 3 1996 <u>Sand Springs, Oklahoma</u>	(C1)
1903 Bowcock, Benjamin James	D: <u>Taunton, Massachusetts</u>	(R1)
1966 Brabender, Eugene Mathew	D: Dec 27 1996 <u>Madison, Wisconsin</u>	(C1)
1962 Goss, Howard Wayne	D: Jul 31 1996 <u>Reno, Nevada</u>	(PP)
1959 Green, Fred Allen	D: Dec 22 1996 <u>Titusville, New Jersey</u>	(C1)
1930 Grossklos, Howard Hoffman	Name: Howard Hoffman <u>Groskloss</u> B: Apr 9 1906	(PP)
1945 Hendrickson, Donald William	B: Jul 14 1913	(C2)
1934 Klumpp, Elmer Edward	D: <u>Menominee Falls, Wisconsin</u>	(M4)
1914 Lear, Charles Bernard	D: <u>Waynesboro, Pennsylvania</u>	(B6)
1948 Mapes, Clifford Franklin	D: Dec 5 1996 <u>Pryor, Oklahoma</u>	(C1)
1884 Murphy, John Henry	Delete birth and death information.	(R1)
1891 O'Connell, John Joseph	Height: <u>5-09.5</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	(R1)
1934 Petoskey, Frederick Lee	D: Nov 30 1996 <u>Elgin, South Carolina</u>	(C1)
1953 Rand, Richard Hilton	D: Jan 22 1996 <u>Moreno Valley, California</u>	(PP)
1939 Sayles, William Nisbeth	D: Nov 20 1996 <u>Lincoln City, Oregon</u>	(C1)
1895 Spies, Henry	D: Jul 7 1942	(S5)
1951 Thorpe, Benjamin Robert	D: Oct 30 1996 <u>Waveland, Mississippi</u>	(H4)
1887 Toy, James Madison	D: <u>Cresson, Pennsylvania</u>	(B6)
1923 Wade, Richard Frank	D: Jun 15 1957 <u>Duluth, Minnesota</u>	(T2)
1875 Waitt, Charles C.	TR	(C1)
1938 Walsh, Joseph Patrick	B: <u>Boston, Massachusetts</u>	(R1)
1957 Yewcic, Thomas J.	D: <u>Boston, Massachusetts</u> Delete middle initial J.	(D7)