



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
April 1996

Cornelius Doyle Found

Well, it didn't take long. Cornelius J. Doyle, last month's *Mystery of the Month*, has been found. It was actually rather simple thanks to Bob Richardson tracking Doyle and his sister Ellen to El Paso, Texas. I went to my local library and checked the Texas death index. I found a Cornelius J. Doyle who died July 29, 1931 in El Paso. I sent for the obituary through interlibrary loan and while it didn't mention baseball, it did mention that his sister Ellen had died two weeks before. I have also sent for the death certificate which will hopefully give his birth date. Quite obviously our boy. Good work by Bob Richardson to track him down. For this, Bob wins the April *Find of the Month* award.

The 1908 Pittsburgh Pirates

Joe Dittmar sent me an article on the 1908 Pittsburgh Pirates which gave some interesting biographical information on the members of the club. The article gave their marital status, offseason occupation, political affiliation, and religion.

For example, Royal Shaw was a Democrat, Methodist, and an undertaker. Dan Moeller was a mechanical engineer, Prohibitionist, and a member of the United Brethren Church. Cy Young worked in a billiard hall. (I wonder if he ever won the Minnesota Fats Award.) Sam Leever was a powder manufacturer. Lefty Leifield and Owen Wilson were both butchers. Isn't it a shame that we don't get such fascinating information on today's players? The last player I remember who even had an offseason occupation was Richie Hebner, who was a grave digger.

I Need Help

Here is where I really miss Bill Haber. I have 10 players that have been reported deceased, but I cannot confirm the date and place of death. Can anyone help?

Billy Wilson	1993	Unknown
Juan Rios	1995	Puerto Rico
Joseph Gantenbein	08/02/93	California
Vern Freiburger	02/27/90	California
James McDonnell	04/24/93	Michigan
Walt Whitman	02/06/94	Illinois
Charles Coles	01/15/96	Unknown
Charles Moss	10/09/91	Mississippi
Walker Cress	1996	Unknown
Gary Geiger	1996	Unknown

I have sent for death certificates for Gantenbein, Freiburger, and McDonnell. Moss supposedly died in Vicksburg but I couldn't find an obituary in the Vicksburg paper. But if you can help track down any of the other guys, I would definitely appreciate it.

SABR Convention

I hope all of you are planning to come to Kansas City for the SABR convention. Contrary to popular belief, a tour of my house is not on the convention agenda. However, I plan to pass out a new missing player list to those of you who come to our committee meeting. That alone should be enough incentive to come.

Birthday List

There are only two nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in May. Chester Hoff, the oldest living former player celebrates his 105th on May 8 and Willis Hudlin turns 90 on May 23. Be sure to send them a card. Milt Gaston passed away on April 26 at the age of 100. Gaston was the 6th oldest player of all time and the only centenarian to have played 10 years in the major leagues.

More On Names

Several people commented on my list of unusual first names from last month's report. Since you all seemed to enjoy that, Bill Weiss provided me with some unusual names of former minor leaguers.

First of all, there was one named after a president, Herbert Hoover Yoxtheimer. The Dodgers had two players in their minor league system named Robert Tweedy and Robert Twaddle while the Cubs had Willie Crummy and Ted Krappe (you might expect those guys to play for the Cubs.)

Heartsill R. Zollicoffer, Cyril Methodius Honeychuck, Horatio J. Fatzinger, Jr., and Aloysius Muesenfechter were actually minor league ballplayers and not characters played by Groucho Marx.

There were a couple of interesting sets of twins, Lesse and Jesse Menshouse, and Homer and Cromer Smotherman. We also had Precious Ellison Ross, Cleveland Lee Plump, Robert Bumcrot, Rolla Schmutte, Hubert Poovey, Peaster Mumphord, Jr., Gasper Pivorunas, Shelton Belch, McPherson Crumb, Fladgit Zunk, Hazel Sweatt, Robert Snoddy, Calhoun Vasbinder, Pick Fikes, and Greed McKinnis. (Do you suppose Greed had a couple of brothers named Sloth and Envy?)

Finally, there is the minor league equivalent of Wenceslao O'Reilly Gonzales. He has the rather unique moniker of Vondolf Cortez McClamrock. They don't come any better than that.

No, That Isn't a Cartoon Character

In keeping with our theme of interesting names, our April *Mystery of the Month* is Seymour L. Studley. Studley played for the 1872 Washington Nationals and must have been quite a ballplayer. He played a grand total of five games, hitting a lousy .136. Yet, according to the encyclopedias, he had the nickname of Warhorse.

We list Studley as dying in 1874. I have seen him listed as dying in either Washington, D.C. or Rochester, New York. Researchers have been unable to unearth him in either city. (No, not the same way they unearthed Jesse James.) We need a date and place of death.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14449	72	99.504
Total Complete Births	13771	750	94.835
Total Complete Deaths	7189	471	49.508
Total Assumed Alive	6861		47.249
Total Bats	13166	1250	91.329
Total Throws	13410	1006	93.022
Total Heights	13408	1008	93.008
Total Weights	13346	1070	92.578
Total Debut Dates	14521	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9977	4544	68.707
Total Completion			92.1923

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1976 Armas, Antonio Rafael (Machado)	B: <u>Anzoategui</u> , Venezuela	(L5)
1990 Bell, Michael Allen	B: <u>Lewiston</u> , <u>New York</u>	(L5)
1975 Belloir, Robert Edward	B: <u>Heidelberg</u> , <u>West Germany</u>	(L5)
1913 Bonin, Ernest Luther	B: <u>Greenhill</u> , <u>Indiana</u>	(L5)
1946 Brady, Robert Jay	D: <u>Apr 22 1996</u>	(B3)
	<u>Manchester</u> , <u>Connecticut</u>	
1882 Brown, Freeman (MGR)	B: <u>Hubbardston</u> , <u>Massachusetts</u>	(L5)
1948 Bucha, John George	D: <u>Apr 28 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Bethlehem</u> , <u>Pennsylvania</u>	
1993 Byrd, James Edward	B: <u>Wewahitchka</u> , <u>Florida</u>	(L5)
1882 Carroll, Samuel Clifford	B: <u>Clay's Grove</u> , <u>Iowa</u>	(L5)
1908 Cates, Eli Eldo	B: <u>Greens Fork</u> , <u>Indiana</u>	(L5)
1961 Chance, Wilmer Dean	B: <u>Wooster</u> , <u>Ohio</u>	(L5)
1913 Cooper, Claude William	B: <u>Troup</u> , <u>Texas</u>	(L5)
1912 Davis, Frank Talmadge	B: <u>Wilsons Mills</u> , <u>North Carolina</u>	(L5)
1983 DeLeon, Jose (Chestaro)	B: <u>Rancho Viejo</u> , <u>Dominican Rep.</u>	(L5)
1955 Delis, Juan Francisco	B: <u>Santiago de Cuba</u> , <u>Cuba</u>	(L5)
1929 Delker, Edward Alberts	B: <u>Apr 17 1906</u>	(L5)
	<u>Palo Alto</u> , <u>Pennsylvania</u>	
1897 Denzer, Roger	B: <u>Le Sueur</u> , <u>Minnesota</u>	(L5)
	D: <u>Le Sueur</u> , <u>Minnesota</u>	
1987 Destrade, Orestes (Cucuas)	B: <u>Santiago de Cuba</u> , <u>Cuba</u>	(L5)
1912 Douglas, Phillip Brooks	D: <u>Aug 2 1952</u>	(L5)
	<u>Sequatchie</u> , <u>Tennessee</u>	
1883 Doyle, Cornelius J.	D: <u>Jul 29 1931</u>	(C1)
	<u>El Paso</u> , <u>Texas</u>	
1912 Edington, Jacob Frank	B: <u>Koleen</u> , <u>Indiana</u>	(L5)
1922 Fitzgerald, Howard Chumney	D: <u>Mathews</u> , <u>Texas</u>	(L5)
1984 Garbey, Barbaro (Garbey)	B: <u>Santiago de Cuba</u> , <u>Cuba</u>	(L5)
1924 Gaston, Nathaniel Milton	D: <u>Apr 26 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Hyannis</u> , <u>Massachusetts</u>	
1889 Gastright, Henry Carl	D: <u>Cold Spring</u> , <u>Kentucky</u>	(L5)
1936 Gleeson, James Joseph	D: <u>May 1 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Kansas City</u> , <u>Missouri</u>	
1984 Gonzalez, Denio Mariano (Manzueta)	B: <u>Sabana Grande de Boya</u> , <u>Dominican Rep.</u>	(L5)
1920 Grimes, Austin Roy	D: <u>Guilford Lake</u> , <u>Ohio</u>	(L5)
1913 Harding, Charles Harold	D: <u>Bold Spring</u> , <u>Tennessee</u>	(L5)
1936 Harris, Herbert Benjamin	D: <u>Jan 18 1991</u>	(C1)
	<u>Crystal Lake</u> , <u>Illinois</u>	
1958 Herrera, Juan Francisco (Willavicencio)	B: <u>Santiago de Cuba</u> , <u>Cuba</u>	(L5)
1920 Hiller, Harvey Max	D: <u>Lehighton</u> , <u>Pennsylvania</u>	(L5)
1951 Hisner, Harley Parnell	B: <u>Maples</u> , <u>Indiana</u>	(L5)
1978 Hubbard, Glenn Dee	B: <u>Hahn</u> , <u>West Germany</u>	(L5)

1983 Huppert, David Blain	B: Apr 17 1957	(V1)
1925 Husta, Carl Lawrence	B: <u>Egg Harbor City</u> , New Jersey	(L5)
1938 Kahle, Robert Wayne	B: <u>New Castle</u> , Indiana	(L5)
1909 Kull, John A.	Real Name: <u>John A. Kolonauski</u>	(L5)
	D: <u>Schuylkill Haven</u> , Pennsylvania	
1940 LaManna, Frank	B: <u>Waterton</u> , Pennsylvania	(L5)
1915 Lee, William Joseph	D: <u>West Hazelton</u> , Pennsylvania	(L5)
1895 Madison, Arthur M.	B: Jan 14 1871	(L5)
1955 Martin, Paul Charles	B: <u>Brownstown</u> , Pennsylvania	(L5)
1917 May, Frank Spruiell	B: <u>Youngsville</u> , North Carolina	(L5)
1975 Monge, Isidro Pedroza	B: <u>Agua Prieta</u> , Mexico	(L5)
1906 Moroney, James Francis	B: Dec 4 1883	(T3)
1905 Mowrey, Harry Harlan	B: <u>Brown's Mill</u> , Pennsylvania	(L5)
1912 Napier, Skelton Leroy	B: <u>Byromville</u> , Georgia	(L5)
1908 Neighbors, Flemon Cecil	Height: 5-10 Weight: 178	(D5)
1977 Norwood, Willie	B: <u>Greene County</u> , Alabama	(C1)
1916 O'Connor, John Charles	B: <u>Cahiriveen</u> , Ireland	(L5)
1913 Orr, William John	D: <u>Sanitarium</u> , California	(L5)
1932 Pepper, Raymond Watson	D: <u>Mar 24 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Belle Mina</u> , Alabama	
1946 Price, John Thomas Reid	B: <u>Winborn</u> , Mississippi	(L5)
1969 Robertson, Jerry Lee	D: <u>Mar 24 1996</u>	(X2)
	<u>Burlington</u> , Kansas	
1938 Ross, Donald Raymond	D: <u>Apr 4 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Arcadia</u> , California	
1949 Serena, William Robert	D: <u>Apr 17 1996</u>	(W1)
	<u>Hayward</u> , California	
1912 Smoyer, Henry Neitz	D: <u>Du Bois</u> , Pennsylvania	(L5)
1914 Snyder, John William	B: <u>Lincoln</u> , Pennsylvania	(L5)
1968 Solaita, Tolia	B: <u>Nuuuli</u> , American Samoa	(L5)
1905 Starr, Charles Watkin	Height: 5-10.5 Weight: 165	(D5)
1964 Stottlemire, Melvin Leon	B: <u>Hazleton</u> , Missouri	(L5)
1980 Sutherland, Leonardo (Cantin)	B: <u>Santiago de Cuba</u> , Cuba	(L5)
1966 Sutton, Donald Howard	B: <u>Clio</u> , Alabama	(C1)
1971 Torres, Rosendo (Hernandez)	B: <u>Aguadilla</u> , Puerto Rico	(L5)
1920 Townsend, Ira Dance	D: <u>Schulenburg</u> , Texas	(L5)
1927 Tremper, Carlton Overton	D: <u>Jan 9 1996</u>	(W1)
	<u>Clearwater</u> , Florida	
1912 Troy, Robert	Name: Robert <u>Gustave</u> Troy	(T1)
	B: <u>Bad Wurzach</u> , Germany	
	B: Aug 27 1888	
	D: <u>Petit Maujouym</u> , France	