



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
July/August 1998

Al Metcalfe Found

This is the player previously identified as Robert Metcalf of the 1875 New York Mutuels. Richard Malatzky found references that referred to the player as Al Metcalf. Richard found only one man in the Brooklyn city directory who had a similar name: Alfred T. Metcalfe.

Richard traced through the Brooklyn death records until he located Metcalfe's death on September 2, 1914. Richard then found an obituary that confirmed he was the player. The obituary stated that Metcalfe played with the Mutuels in 1876, then played for Louisville. He actually played with the Mutuels in 1875 and, as far as we know, never played for Louisville. But it is highly unusual for a nondescript National Association player to have an obituary that actually mentions baseball. This find earns Richard the *Find of the Month* award.

Member Movement

Please add Rich Klein to the biographical committee list. Rich's address is 3939 Rosemeade Parkway #1221, Dallas, Texas 75287 and his code number will be K4. Also welcome Matt Phillip, 4535 Lindell Blvd. #309, St. Louis, Missouri 63108. Matt's code number will be P5.

Also, Bob Tholkes has moved. Bob's new address is 3966 Reservoir Boulevard, Columbia Heights, Minnesota 55421.

Mormon Sources

Richard Topp sent along a list of databases that the Mormons have available on the web. Of use to us are:

1. Connecticut Death Index 1949-1996
2. Kentucky Death Index 1911-1996

3. Michigan Death Index 1971-1996
4. North Carolina Death Index 1968-1997
5. Ohio Death Index 1958-1967
6. Vermont Death Index 1989-1996
7. Obituaries Index (85 major papers, searchable by word or name)
8. U.S. Catholic Source Index
9. U.S. Cemetery Address Book

The address of the Mormon database is www.ancestry.com. You can subscribe from this screen. Most of the Mormon databases are not open to the public. You need a library card which costs \$4.99 per month. However, the USGenWeb is open. They cover all genealogical societies by state and county. The county typically has their own indexes of births, deaths, etc. The address is www.usgenweb.org.

For example, in Ohio, they have death records available from 1913-1927 and from 1933-1937. If any of this might help you in tracking a ballplayer, you might want to check it out.

A Dilemma

What do we do with ballplayers who were born or died in rural areas? Fred Lenger sent me several Ohio born players who fit this criteria. If they were not born in town, the birth or death certificate lists a township. The problem with townships is that there may be several townships with the same name within the same state. Rich Topp suggests that the county be listed, but counties are quite large and doesn't narrow down the place of birth or death very well. I'm more inclined to list the nearest town. For example, the birth certificate for Dean Chance states that he was born in Plain Township, Ohio, a few miles west of Wooster. Chance says that he was born in Wooster. Technically, that may not be correct but it is the closest town. What do the rest of you think?

Is Lyndon in London?

Several years ago Zerah Zequiell Hagerman

was listed as being born in Linden, Kansas. Linden is listed as the place of birth on his death certificate. There is no Linden currently existing in Kansas but there is a Lyndon in Osage County, so a couple of years ago we changed his place of birth to Lyndon.

However, Fred Lenger found a biographical sketch of Hagerman in a 1917 record book. It clearly states that Hagerman was born near Lynden in Sumner County, Kansas. There is no Lynden or Linden in Sumner County, but there is a London. Can anyone figure out his exact place of birth?

More Selko Notes

Jamie Selko reports that former Cub pitcher Charles "Red" Adams had a very unusual hobby: he captured and trained mountain lions. Also, John Savage may hold an unwanted record among ballplayers. He was wounded three different times during World War II. He came back from the war and went 3-15 for the 1946 Philadelphia Athletics.

No More Big Mac

Macmillan has decided to quit publishing the Baseball Encyclopedia. This book has probably been the most useful tool to our committee over the past 30 years and it is sad to see them go. Rumor has it that it may be picked up by another publishing company. We can only hope that Total Baseball will continue to thrive. It's now the only place where we can see in print the fruits of our efforts.

Off Season Careers

Cappy Gagnon has sent along a list of some early major leaguers' off season careers. I thought this might be interesting.

Ray Kellogg	Advertising manager
Nick Carter	Farmer
James Buchanan	Farmer
Dan Coogan	College baseball coach
Tom Fleming	Detail work
Hod Ford	Restaurateur
Hub Hart	Owned billiard room
John Miljus	Corporation athletic dir.
Bill Morrell	Lt. Colonel, Army
Hap Myers	Finance
Alexander Nevin	Banking
Lee Richmond	Professor
Jack Slatery	College baseball coach

Tom Stankard	Postal Clerk
Evar Swanson	Postmaster
Jeff Tesreau	College baseball coach
Doc Wallace	Real estate
Dwight Wertz	Salesman
Joe Wilhoit	Luggage shop
Dave Wills	Real estate
Squanto Wilson	General store owner
Norwood Gibson	Chemist
Peaches O'Neill	Attorney
Tillie Shafer	Haberdasher

A Man for Another Sport

We all know that Ralph Terry joined the Seniors Golf Tour after his retirement from baseball and is now making money as a professional golfer. There is another player now making money in a different sport. Diego Segui is now a professional fisherman. I guess all that golf and fishing players do in their spare time eventually pays off. Will we ever see another player retire from baseball and become a doctor?

Birthday List

The following nonagenarians are celebrating birthdays in September and October. Remember to send them a card.

September 2	Ben Sankey	91
September 5	Bill Musser	93
September 8	Frank Stewart	92
September 12	Leonard Dondero	95
September 25	Paul Hopkins	94
September 27	Whitlow Wyatt	91
September 28	Carl Sumner	90
October 3	John Riddle	93
October 18	Andrea Spognardi	90
October 22	Isaac Kahdot	97
October 23	Lee Grissom	91
October 28	Henry Boney	95

Let's Staple Down Mr. Staples

Joseph Staples played 7 games with Buffalo in 1885, batting a lousy .045. Richard Malatzky found a guy who quite likely is our ballplayer. Joseph E. Staple was born August, 1856 in New York, was married to the former Mary Forner, and died August 30, 1934 in Buffalo. The obituary doesn't mention baseball and we need to prove that this is our player. Does anyone know anything about this guy? He is our July/August *Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14831	66	99.557
Total Complete Births	14155	742	95.019
Total Complete Deaths	7442	453	49.956
Total Assumed Alive	7002		47.003
Total Bats	13545	1246	91.576
Total Throws	13802	989	93.313
Total Heights	13798	993	93.287
Total Weights	13736	1055	92.867
Total Debut Dates	14897	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9982	4915	67.007
Total Completion			92.1743

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1929 Badgro, Morris Hiram	D: <u>Jul 13 1998</u> <u>Kent, Washington</u>	(W2)
1953 Bruton, William Haron	B: <u>Nov 9 1925</u>	(H4)
1884 Buker, Thomas L.	Weight: <u>140</u>	(M4)
1873 Campbell, Michael	B: <u>Aug 1 1850</u> D: <u>Jan 12 1926</u> <u>Scotch Plains, New Jersey</u>	(D6)
1948 Clark, James	D: <u>Oct 24 1990</u> <u>Santa Monica, California</u>	(C1)
1964 Connolly, Edward Joseph, Jr.	D: <u>Jul 1 1998</u> <u>New Canaan, Connecticut</u>	(T3)
1939 Dobernic, Andrew Joseph	D: <u>Jul 16 1998</u> <u>St. Louis, Missouri</u>	(H2)
1890 Esper, Charles H.	Real Name: <u>Charles Esbacher</u>	(B6)
1909 Forman, William Orange	D: <u>Oct 2 1958</u>	(B6)
1873 Greyson,	Name: <u>Greason</u>	(M3)
1920 Grimes, Austin Roy	D: <u>Hanoverton, Ohio</u>	(L5)
1909 Hagerman, Zeria Zequiell	Name: <u>Zerah Zequiell Hagerman</u>	(L5)
1939 Hill, Oliver Clinton	B: <u>Oct 16 1909</u>	(H4)
1993 Holman, Bradley Thomas	Name: <u>Bradley Thomas Holman</u>	(L5)
1940 Javery, Alva William	D: <u>Putnam, Connecticut</u>	(H4)
1929 Jorgens, Arndt Ludwig	D: <u>Evanston, Illinois</u>	(B6)
1882 Kinzie, Walter Harris	TR	(M1)
1911 Krichell, Paul Bernard	D: <u>Bronx, New York</u>	(B6)
1905 Lindsay, Christian Haller	B: <u>Beaver County, Pennsylvania</u>	(L5)
1942 Lipon, John Joseph	D: <u>Aug 17 1998</u> <u>Houston, Texas</u>	(C1)
1907 Malloy, Herman	D: <u>Massillon, Ohio</u>	(L5)
1909 Matthews, William Calvin	D: <u>Mt. Carbon, Pennsylvania</u>	(B6)
1918 McHenry, Austin Bush	D: <u>Adams County, Ohio</u>	(L5)
1876 McManus, George	B: <u>Jun 28 1846</u>	(M3)
1951 McMillan, Roy David	B: <u>Jul 17 1929</u>	(H4)
1875 Metcalf, Robert	Name: <u>Alfred Tristram Metcalfe</u> B: <u>Dec 31 1852</u> <u>Brooklyn, New York</u>	(M3)
	D: <u>Sep 2 1914</u> <u>Brooklyn, New York</u>	
1926 Moss, Raymond Earl	D: <u>Aug 9 1998</u> <u>Chattanooga, Tennessee</u>	(O2)
1888 Nicholson, Thomas C.	Height: <u>5-06</u>	(M4)
1913 North, Louis Alexander	D: <u>May 15 1974</u>	(H4)
1922 Ogden, Warren Harvey	D: <u>Upland, Pennsylvania</u>	(B6)

1883 Orr, David L.	D: Jun 2 1915	(M3)
	<u>Richmond Hill, New York</u>	
1996 Rosado, Jose Antonio Rosado	Name: <u>Jose Antonio Rosado</u>	(C1)
	B: <u>Newark, New Jersey</u>	
1939 Salvo, Manuel	B: Jun 30 1912	(H4)
1949 Sanicki, Edward Robert	D: <u>Jul 6 1998</u>	(B6)
	<u>Old Bridge, New Jersey</u>	
1882 Schenck, William G.	B: <u>Jul 1854</u>	(M3)
	D: <u>Jan 29 1934</u>	
	<u>Brooklyn, New York</u>	
1875 Somerville, Edward G.	Height: <u>5-07</u> Weight: <u>158</u>	(M3)
1898 Stouch, Thomas Carl	B: Dec 2 1869	(L5)
1929 Susce, George Cyril Methodius	B: Aug 13 1907	(H4)
1954 Taylor, Joe Cephus	D: <u>Mar 18 1993</u>	(H4)
	<u>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</u>	
1952 Tuttle, William Robert	D: <u>Jul 27 1998</u>	(C1)
	<u>Anoka, Minnesota</u>	
1940 Valo, Elmer William	D: <u>Jul 19 1998</u>	(B6)
	<u>Palmerton, Pennsylvania</u>	
1980 Walker, Cleotha	B: Nov 25 1958	(N2)
1951 White, Samuel Charles	B: Jul 7 1927	(H4)