



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
August 1995

Michael Shea Found

Michael Shea, who pitched 2 games for Cincinnati(AA) in 1887, has been found by Jay Sanford. For this, Jay wins the August Find of the Month award. Jay knew this player was from New Orleans and was able to locate his cemetery record which led to his capture. Good work!

Member Movement

Cappy Gagnon has moved. (Yes, again!) Cappy's new address is P.O. Box 509, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. Supposedly, there is a college in that town.

Also please welcome Jeff Samoray to the committee. Jeff's address is 28478 Ridgebrook, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334 and his code number will be X4.

Finally, welcome Cliff Otto to the committee. Cliff's address is 200 N. Pickett St. #415, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Cliff's code number will be O2.

How About Your State?

I sent Cliff Otto a list of all ballplayers born in Virginia and he was able to correct the spelling of several Virginia towns which were misspelled in my database. If you would like to do this for your state, let me know and I will send you a list.

Bill Haber's Material

Many of you have written to ask about the status of Bill Haber's research material. I have it at my house. However, it is far from the biographical gold mine I thought it would be. As I was going through it, it became obvious that

Bill kept a lot of data in his head. I went through his stuff piece by piece and sorted it by player, then compiled all the notes he had. In future newsletters, I will feature some of these players as the *Mystery of the Month* so stay tuned.

Marion Fricano

I received a very interesting biography on Marion Fricano written by Heidi Bamford. Unfortunately, it is too lengthy to print in this newsletter. However I am sending it to Len Levin for the Research Papers Collection. If you would like a copy, please write to Len.

Last Month's Mystery

Last month I relayed the story of William John Irvin Adams and how the player for Philadelphia in 1918-19 might be a different player than the 1911-14 player. I received letters with different pieces of information from Joe Dittmar, Joe Simenic, and Cliff Kachline. Interestingly, Joe and Joe are of the opinion that they are two different players while Cliff believes that they are the same player.

Notes from the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1918 referred to Adams' youth and stated that he had never pitched in the big leagues. This would lead you to believe it is a different player. However, it also referred to him as a "giant" and we know that the 1911 player was 6-04.

Also, a letter from his son to Bill Haber in 1978 stated that he played with Philadelphia and that during a road game in Boston he became ill with Adams' Disease (I bet you thought Lou Gehrig's disease was the first disease named after a baseball player.) and was hospitalized there for some time. He also had a heart attack on the field while playing with Hartford in 1920. He had supposedly been sold to Hartford by Connie Mack.

The Sporting News states that Adams was a "young collegian" and was sent to Richmond for experience. It also stated that he had no other professional experience. However, in his

Sporting News obituary in 1937, it said that it was while playing with a railroad shop team that he attracted the attention of Connie Mack.

There is the further matter of his name. The 1911-14 player was always known as James or Jimmy. The 1918-19 player was usually called Willie. The death certificate as well as Adams' son called him James Irvin Adams.

I'm not sure what we can conclude from all of this. I don't think I have an opinion one way or the other. I would really like to see some articles from Richmond to see what they say about him since we know that he went from Richmond to Philadelphia. Anybody want to check a Richmond paper?

Dividing Up The Loaves And Fishers

You will recall last month's confusing story of the Fishers, who I had divided into 7 categories. Based on research by Joe Simenic, I have split George Fisher into three players. George definitely was the Fisher who had played with Cleveland and Wilmington in 1884. He couldn't have played with Philadelphia on July 17 as he was playing in Minneapolis that day. The Philadelphia Fisher was a player they had picked up from Johnstown. (Note that I have listed his birth place as Johnstown, even though we do not know he was born there. However, that gives us a starting point for a search.)

The 1885 Buffalo pitcher made his debut in Philadelphia August 6, 1885. He was from the local Molyneaux club and it was his first effort against a league team. Again this can't be George Fisher and I am listing this player's birth as Philadelphia. Now all we have to do is find them.

Birthday List

There are three nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in September. Be sure to send a card.

September 5	Bill Musser	90
September 12	Leonard Dondero	92
September 25	Paul Hopkins	91

Can Anyone Guess Where This Player Is?

Charles Gessner pitched one game for Philadelphia(AA) on July 19, 1886. I am unfamiliar with any other part of his baseball career. Gessner is our August *Mystery of the*

Month. However, on October 29, 1889, he married Anna Bremer of Davenport, Iowa in Davenport. Gessner lived in Davenport, working at that customary ballplayer occupation, bartender. Charles and Anna had 2 children, Howard, born June 23, 1892, and Gertrude, born in June of 1896. In 1897, Charles pulled another old ballplayer trick and deserted his wife and family. Anna filed for divorce in 1904.

Anna died May 1, 1946 in Davenport. Her obituary stated that her husband preceded her in death. This could mean that she knew he was dead or she just didn't want the truth to be known. Howard died in Davenport July 24, 1963 and left no children. Gertrude Worth died in November of 1982 in Tampa, Florida. I do not know if she left any children but if so, perhaps they would know Charles Gessner's whereabouts. By the way, I made a trip to the Davenport library to locate this information and they have some very good resources. If anyone has any leads in Davenport, I would recommend contacting that library.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14199	74	99.482
Total Complete Births	13513	760	94.675
Total Complete Deaths	7130	477	49.955
Total Assumed Alive	6666		46.704
Total Bats	12916	1253	91.157
Total Throws	13162	1007	92.893
Total Heights	13149	1020	92.801
Total Weights	13084	1085	92.342
Total Debut Dates	14273	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9973	4300	69.873
Total Completion			92.2087

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1927 Bartell, Richard William	D: <u>Aug 4 1995</u> <u>Alameda, California</u>	(C1)
1981 Bell, Jorge Antonio (Mathey)	Name: George Antonio Bell (Mathey)	(H8)
1957 Churn, Clarence Nottingham	B: <u>Bridgetown, Virginia</u>	(O2)
1952 Clarkson, James Buster	B: <u>Mar 13 1915</u>	(H4)
1937 Craft, Harry Francis	D: <u>Aug 3 1995</u> <u>Conroe, Texas</u>	(C1)
1884 Fisher,	New Player B: <u>Johnstown, Pennsylvania</u> Debut: <u>Jul 17 1884</u>	(S1)
1885 Fisher,	New Player B: <u>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> Debut: <u>Aug 6 1885</u>	(S1)
1884 Fisher, George C.	Debut: <u>Aug 9 1884</u> Remove PHL(UA) record and give it to Fisher #1 above. Remove BUF(NL) record and give it to Fisher #2 above.	(S1)
1942 Kennedy, William Gorman	D: <u>Aug 20 1995</u> <u>Alexandria, Virginia</u>	(O2)
1924 Lane, James Hunter	D: <u>Sep 12 1994</u>	(C1)
1901 Lee, Wyatt Arnold	B: <u>Lynch Station, Virginia</u>	(O2)
1951 Mantle, Mickey Charles	D: <u>Aug 13 1995</u> <u>Dallas, Texas</u>	(C1)
1957 McDaniel, Max Von	D: <u>Aug 20 1995</u> <u>Lawton, Oklahoma</u>	(C1)
1883 Mountjoy, William R.	Name: William Henry Mountjoy B: <u>Dec 11 1858</u>	(S5)
1933 Richmond, Beryl Justice	B: Glen Easton, <u>West Virginia</u>	(O2)
1912 Rixey, Eppa	B: <u>Culpeper, Virginia</u>	(O2)
1983 Salazar, Argenis Antonio (Yepez)	B: <u>Anaco, Venezuela</u>	(C1)
1888 Sanders, Alexander Bennett	B: <u>Catharpin, Virginia</u>	(O2)
1887 Shea, Michael J.	Name: Michael <u>Joseph</u> Shea D: <u>Aug 22 1927</u> <u>New Orleans, Louisiana</u>	(S5)
1989 Veres, Randolph Ruhland	Name: <u>Randolph</u> Ruhland Veres	(H8)
1944 Wurm, Frank James	D: <u>Sep 19 1993</u> <u>Glens Falls, New York</u>	(C1)