SABR
Biographical Research Committee
January/February 2004 Report

Sam LaRocque Found

As you can see from this voluminous report, we had an amazing 2 months in tracking down ballplayers. It was very difficult to pick a *Find of the Month*; however, I am awarding it to our newest member, Dave Lambert, for finding Sam LaRocque.

LaRocque was difficult to find because he was literally, all over the map. He was born in Quebec, and his family moved to Fall River, Massachusetts for a while. There was a Sam LaRocque who died in Fall River, but he was from a different family. Various notes show LaRocque signing on to be a Virginia League umpire, heading to Texas to play in the Texas League, and working as a fireman in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dave found a birth record from Quebec showing that his full name was Simeon Henry Jean LaRocque. His family had moved from Fall River back to Canada and was living in Windsor Mills, Quebec. Simeon LaRocque appears in the 1920 census living in New Castle, Pennsylvania, then "Sam" LaRocque is in the 1930 census in Detroit. All these entries appear to be our ballplayer, but catching him was like trying to catch a moth.

The key to the search was Dave finding "crossing cards." Apparently, when you crossed the border from Canada to the United States, they had you fill out a card saying who you were, where you were going, and why you were going there. LaRocque filled out several of these cards as he was crossing the border from his parents' place in Windsor Mills. Most of these show him going somewhere to umpire, including places as far away as Utah.

In the meantime, Dave had found that Sam had married Ann Chamblee in Mississippi. They had three children, Marie, Joseph, and Henry. Dave found a crossing card for Joseph from 1934 stating that he was going to visit his father's grave in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Detroit. The cemetery had his name as Simeon H. Le Rocque. That might have made him tough to find for us as we had his name as Samuel LaRoque. This was a terrific piece of research!

Here's the Story Of A Man Named Brady

William Brady pitched one game for the 1912 Boston Braves and has been missing for years. About ten years ago, Rich Bozzone found a profile of Brady in the Toledo Blade. The article said that Brady was born August 18, 1889 in New York City. It seemed at the time that with that clue, he would be easy to find. We found a William A. Brady living in the Bronx working as a tire salesman that seemed a good possibility. He was listed in the 1920 census as being 30 years old, the right age to be our player.

I found him in the 1930 census. He had moved to Brooklyn and was managing a service station. I supplied Richard Malatzky with that information and he found that a William A. Brady had died in Brooklyn in 1956. This was apparently our tire salesman. Now of course, we had to prove he was the ballplayer.

Peter Morris found his obituary in the New York Herald. The obituary mentioned the names of two of his sisters. Richard Malatzky took this back to the census and found that William was the son of Peter Brady. The family is listed in the 1900 census with William listed as born in August of 1890. The year is one off, but that isn't especially unusual. Then Peter found the clincher in the 1910 census. He found Peter Brady's family, and William A. Brady was listed as age 20, occupation "professional baseball player." Great work by all involved.

Our Committee in the News

Our committee has been mentioned in various newspapers over the years, but I never thought we would appear on the front page of the Wall Street Journal. There was a very nice article on the January 30 issue featuring Peter Morris and his search for William Edward White, who Peter discovered may be the first black player in the major leagues. White debuted in 1879, predating Fleet Walker by five years. Peter took the reporter on a trip to Georgia to search for clues on White and the reporter did a very nice write-up on Peter and the work of our committee. Hopefully, this will lead to our finding White.

We're Dunn With Dresser

We had listed Edward Dresser as playing shortstop for Brooklyn on May 28, 1898. I looked at the Brooklyn Eagle for an account of the game and the box score lists Dresser as playing shortstop that day. However, in reading the game account, it says that Candy LaChance was scheduled to play short that day, but was injured during the pregame warm-ups and Jack Dunn took his place. Dunn even drove in a couple of runs. I don't know where the "Edward" Dresser came from. The likely possibility is that someone found a minor leaguer by that name and just plugged him in. At least this is one less player that we need to be searching for.

Jesse Hoffmeister

Jesse Hoffmeister is an example of a player where all the pieces don't fit perfectly together. However, I think we can be reasonably sure we have our man. Notes from Sporting Life and The Sporting News indicate that Hoffmeister is from Toledo, Ohio. Like Kid Nichols, Johnny Kling, and John Burkett, he is a champion bowler. Around the turn of the century, he shows up in Kansas City. The 1900 census lists him as a ballplayer, apparently erroneously listing his birthplace as Missouri. In 1905-06, he is playing for Ottumwa, Iowa. This is really the key to finding him, because he appears in the 1910 census living in Ottumwa. However, in 1910 his birthplace is listed as Ohio as we would expect. In the 1920 and 1930 censuses, he is in Des Moines, also with the birthplace of Ohio. He died January 14, 1933 in Des Moines and the obituary says nothing. With the unusual name and the Ottumwa connection, I think it is pretty apparent we have the right guy. Kudos to Peter Morris for tracking this down.

Michael Brannock

Michael Brannock played for Chicago in 1871 and 1875, batting a lusty .087. Not too much was known of him after that, but the key was finding that his sister was murdered in 1877. Michael was playing for St. Paul at the time and the St. Paul papers mentioned that he would miss a few games due to the tragedy. This led to Peter Morris finding Brannock in the 1870 census listed with his parents. A death notice was found in the Chicago Daily News of October 8, 1881 that also mentioned his parents so we were able to match him up. The name was spelled Brenock in the paper. That made him much more difficult to find.

Billy Lennon

Another 1871 player we nailed this month is Billy Lennon. We knew Lennon was born in Brooklyn and moved to Baltimore. An interview with Lennon in the Philadelphia Press in 1889 proved that this

was the 1871 ballplayer and that he was connected with the Commission Department. The 1889 Baltimore city directory showed William H. Lennon as the superintendent of street repairs. In 1872, he married Susie Eschbach. The 1880 census shows William and Susie Lennon with 2 daughters, Daisey and Neila. Neila married George Savage and they appear in the 1910 census in Philadelphia with William Lennon living with them. Richard Malatzky made a trip to the Philadelphia Archives where they have death certificates through January of 1915. He discovered that Lennon died there on August 19, 1910. He is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in Philadelphia. It's tough to find those 1871 players.

Catching a Bass

Maybe those 1871 players aren't so tough after all. John E. Bass debuted with Cleveland in 1871. We knew he was from Brooklyn and Richard Malatzky found the only John E. Bass in Brooklyn to be the son of Job Bass. I searched the online Brooklyn Eagle and found his obituary showing that he died in Denver, Colorado. Neither the Brooklyn obituary nor the Denver obituary mentioned baseball, but the Denver papers had mentioned Bass before as planning to umpire in the American Association. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Denver.

Finding a Cooke

Fred Cooke played 5 games in the outfield for Cleveland in 1897. He was living in Toledo in 1900 with his wife Lily. In 1910, the census showed him in Gallipolis, Ohio as a patient in the Ohio Hospital for Epileptics. Efforts to trace him any further had failed. Peter Morris had checked Ohio death records and came up empty. The break came when we discovered that Fred's father, Charles Cooke, had died in Toledo on December 24, 1906. A check of the Toledo cemeteries discovered that Charles was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo. Buried with him was Fred Cooke, who was buried January 26, 1923. John Husman checked the Woodlawn Cemetery records and they showed that Fred died January 22, 1923 in Gallipolis. Apparently, he never left the hospital. This sent Peter scurrying back to the Ohio death records to see why Cooke wasn't there. Apparently, whoever typed in the Ohio death records doesn't type any better than I do. The record was there plain as day. Dying in Gallipolis on January 22, 1923 was one Frederick B. Coone. And people wonder why some of these players are so hard to find.

Patrick Sullivan

Patrick Sullivan is the man we had previously listed as James Patrick Sullivan, the non-playing manager of Columbus in 1890. Peter Morris found a note in the Columbus newspaper that "P. J. Sullivan" will take over as manager and referred to him as "Patsey." Peter found a Patrick J. Sullivan in the city directories that seemed to be a likely possibility. Peter found his death record in 1896 and the obituary showed that he was known as "Patsey."

Greason Is The Word

A local Washington amateur named Greason pitched 7 games for Washington of the National Association in 1873. After compiling a 1-6 record in those games, he was not asked back. There were two brothers named Greason who played for local teams throughout the 1870s and 1880s, George and John. John was a left-handed pitcher and George was an outfielder. John is obviously our major leaguer. Richard Malatzky was able to find a death notice for him in the Washington Post, showing that he died July 22, 1889.

Shuffle and Doyle

In 1872, a man named Doyle played a few games at shortstop and second base for the Washington Nationals. We had listed this man as Joseph K. Doyle from Cincinnati, Ohio. There was a Joseph Doyle who played first base with the Buckeyes of Cincinnati in 1868 and 1869. He moved to the Forest City club of Rockford in 1870. Peter Morris discovered that Doyle wasn't from Cincinnati, but was from Washington. However, he doesn't seem to be playing anywhere in Washington after 1865. However, Joe Doyle had a younger brother Jacob who was playing with the Jeffersons of Washington and was generally a middle infielder. It appears more likely that Jacob was the major league player. We found Jacob's obit in the Washington Post and the obit mentioned that he was once an amateur baseball player. This is one of those cases where we can't be 100% sure, but I think we can feel fairly confident that Jacob Dixon Doyle is the player we were seeking.

John Barnett

This player had previously been listed as John P. Burnett. Back in 1997, we proved this to be wrong when we saw that for Burnett to be the major league player, he would have had to be a minor league manager at 15. Peter Morris discovered that this player was actually John Barnett and that he was from Ventura, California. He found his death by searching through the Los Angeles Times. Barnett was killed on a hunting expedition when his hunting partner mistook him for a deer and shot him. It makes you wonder how he was able to get his baseball cap on over those antlers.

New Members

Please add Dave Lambert to the committee roster. Dave's address is 1108 West Street, Stoughton, Massachusetts 02072 and his code number will be L6. Also add Ron Henry. Ron's address is Suite 142, 3031 Ewing Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55416 and his code number will be H5.

Errata

I obviously did a great job proofreading the last newsletter. The middle name of Fred Graf is spelled Gottleib. Also, John Herndon Brewer died November 30, 2003, not 1918. And Candy LaChance was born February 14, 1870 rather than 2003.

My Favorite Cemetery

In all the years I have been doing baseball biographical research, I have dealt with many different cemeteries. Some keep good records, while others keep no records at all and you have to bumble your way through the graveyard, hoping you'll trip over the right stone.

Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, a rather picturesque cemetery that I have visited, keeps very good records. I was able to track down Joe Strauss there several years ago. I discovered that they have a web site where you can search for whatever name you want and it will show you a picture of their burial card. Fine and dandy and very helpful. However, imagine my astonishment when I looked at the bottom of the page and saw a link entitled "Baseball Notables." I clicked on it and found a complete list of every former major league baseball player, manager, and owner that is buried there along with his birth date, death date, major league debut, etc. I feel like I should make them honorary committee members just for doing that. They have a sister cemetery, Oak Hill, that has the same thing.

Birthday List

Here are the 90 year olds celebrating birthdays in March and April. Make sure you send a card.

March 2	Ace Adams	92
March 11	James Bucher	93
March 26	Hal Epps	90
April 1	Jake Wade	92
April 9	Howdy Groskloss	98
April 14	Jack Radtke	91
April 15	Eddie Mayo	94
April 17	Bobby Stevens	97
April 22	Marvin Center	92
April 25	Woody Davis	91
April 27	Frenchy Uhalt	94

Larry's Brother

Our *Mystery of the Month* doesn't seem like it should be that hard. Larry Corcoran's brother, Michael, pitched one game for Chicago in 1884, twirling a nifty 16-hitter. Michael was two years older than Larry. They were the sons of William and Ann Corcoran of Brooklyn, and had siblings William, Frances, Margaret, Thomas, and Mary. Michael was listed as a carpenter in the 1880 census while Larry was listed as a ballplayer. (Michael pitched like a carpenter.) He was still listed as a carpenter on the 1910 census in Brooklyn, living with his sister, Frances. Nothing is known about him after that, but since he came from a big family, and his brother was a well-known pitcher, you would think he would be easy to find.

Scoreboard

CATEGORY	IN	OUT	PCT
Names	16058	56	99.652
Births	15437	677	95.799
Assumed Alive	7725		47.940
Deaths	8052	337	49.969
Bats	14823	1179	92.632
Throws	15062	940	94.126
Heights	15151	851	94.682
Weights	15111	891	94.432
Debut Dates	16114	0	100.000
Questionnaires	9985	6129	61.965
Total			92.3502

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

DEBUT YR	NAME	CHANGE OR ADD	SOURCE
2002	Allen, Lucas G.	Name: Lucas Gale Allen	(L6)
1890	Allen, Robert Gilman	D: May 14 1943	(M4)
1902	Arndt, Harry J.	Name: Harry John Arndt	(H4)
1903	Babb, Charles Amos	D: Mar 19 1954	(M4)
1884	Baldwin, Charles Busted	Name: Charles B. Baldwin	(M4)
1871	Bass, John E.	Name: John Elias Bass D: Sep 25 1888 Denver, Colorado	(C1)
1948	Beers, Clarence Scott	D: Dec 6 2002 Tucson, Arizona	(L6)
1948	Blatnik, John Louis	D: Jan 21 2004 Lansing, Ohio	(C1)
1943	Bowles, Charles James	D: Dec 23 2003 Newton, North Carolina	(C1)
1912	Brady, William Aloysius	D: Apr 10 1956 Brooklyn, New York	(M4)
1871	Brannock, Michael J.	D: Oct 7 1881 Chicago, Illinois	(M4)
1940	Brecheen, Harry David	D: Jan 17 2004 Bethany, Oklahoma	(C1)
1911	Brown, Elmer Brown	B: Aug 25 1883	(H4)
1879	Burke, Michael E.	B: 1854 New York	(L6)
1907	Burnett, John P.	Name: John Jairus Barnett B: Dec 16 1879 Ventura, California D: Sep 3 1923 Modoc County, California BS	(M4)
1872	Buttery, Frank	D: Norwalk, Connecticut	(L6)
1874	Clack, Robert S.	Name: Robert Suter Clack B: Jun 13 1850	(L6)
2003	Claussen, Brandon Allen	Name: Brandon Allen Falker Claussen	(H9)
1956	Constable, Jimmy Lee	D: Sep 4 2002 Johnson City, Tennessee	(S3)
1884	Conway, William F.	D: Dec 18 1943	(L6)
1897	Cooke, Frederick B.	D: Jan 22 1923 Gallipolis, Ohio	(M4)
2003	Cordero, Chad P.	Name: Chad Patrick Cordero	(L6)
1878	Corey, Frederick Harrison	B: 1855 Coventry, Rhode Island	(L6)
1891	Cotter, Thomas B.	Name: Thomas Benedict Cotter	(L6)
1912	Cramer, William Wendell	B: May 22 1891	(H4)
1875	Dailey, John J.	B: 1854	(L6)
1932	Devens, Charles	D: Scarborough, Maine	(L6)
1944	Devlin, James Raymond	D: Jan 15 2004 Danville, Pennsylvania	(L6)
2003	Diaz, Matthew E.	Name: Matthew Edward Diaz	(L6)
1879	Dolan, Thomas J.	B: Sep 1855	(L6)
1872	Doyle, Joseph K.	Name: Jacob Dixon Doyle B: 1853 Washington, D. C. D: Aug 15 1941 Waukegan, Illinois	(M4)

1898	Dresser, Edward	Eliminate player. Record belongs to Jack Dunn.	(C1)
1893	Duffee, Charles Edward	Height: 5-05.5 Weight: 151	(M4)
1977	Duncan, Taylor McDowell	D: Jan 3 2004 Asheville, North Carolina	(L6)
1913	Dunlop, George Henry	D: Dec 12 1971	(L6)
1876	Fair, George T.	B: Jan 13 1856	(L6)
1881	Flaherty, Martin J.	Name: Martin John Flaherty	(L6)
1886	Flynn, John A.	D: Dec 31 1907	(L6)
1884	Flynn, Joseph Nicholas	B: Dec 29 1861 D: Dec 22 1933	(L6)
1942	Fox, Charles Francis	D: Feb 16 2004 Stanford, California	(C1)
1952	Freeman, Hershell Baskin	D: Jan 17 2004 Orlando, Florida	(C1)
1921	Fullerton, Curtis Hooper	D: Jan 9 1975	(L6)
1872	Galvin, John A.	B: Aug 1842	(L6)
2003	Garcia, Rosman J.	Name: Rosman Jose Garcia	(L6)
1949	Glaviano, Thomas Giatano	D: Jan 19 2004 Sacramento, California	(L6)
1890	Glenalvin, Robert J.	Real Name: Edward A. Dowling	(A5)
2002	Gload, Ross P.	Name: Ross Peter Gload	(L6)
1949	Goliat, Mike Mitchell	B: Nov 5 1921 D: Jan 13 2004 Seven Hills, Ohio	(C1)
1873	Greason, John R.	Name: John A. Greason B: Jul 29 1851 Washington, D.C. D: Jul 22 1889 Washington, D.C.	(M3)
1884	Hackett, Charles M.	Name: Charles Michael Hackett B: 1855 Lee, Massachusetts	(L6)
1945	Hamner, Wesley Garvin	D: Dec 15 2003 Richmond, Virginia	(C1)
1884	Hawkes, Thorndike Proctor	D: Feb 2 1929	(L6)
1941	Hegan, James Edward	D: Lynn, Massachusetts	(L6)
2002	Herrera, Alexander J.	Name: Alexander Jose Herrera	(L6)
1883	Hines, Michael P.	D: Taunton, Massachusetts	(L6)
1872	Hines, Paul A.	B: Virginia	(L6)
1897	Hoffmeister, Jesse H.	B: Jun 1872 D: Jan 14 1933 Des Moines, Iowa	(M4)
1927	Hopkins, Paul Henry	D: Jan 2 2004 Middletown, Connecticut	(C1)
1949	Howerton, William Ray	D: Dec 18 2001 Blakely, Pennsylvania	(C1)
2002	Infante, Omar R.	Name: Omar Rafael Infante	(L6)
1903	Iott, Frederick	Name: Frederick Bidds Iott	(L6)
1901	Jordan, Clarence Veasey	B: Sep 27 1878	(H4)
1905	Justis, Walter Newton	Debut: Jul 12 1905	(V1)
1946	Kennedy, Monty Calvin	Name: Montia Calvin Kennedy	(RC)
1916	King, Edward Lee	D: Chelsea, Massachusetts	(L6)
1875	Knight, George Henry	D: Salisbury, Connecticut	(L6)
1889	Knouff, Edward	Weight: 160	(M4)
1978	Lacoss, Michael James	Delete real name of Michael James Marks	(H9)
1891	Lake, Frederick Lovett	B: Cornwallis, Nova Scotia	(L6)
1888	LaRoque, Samuel H. J.	Name: Simeon Henry Jean LaRocque B: Feb 26 1863 D: Jun 5 1933 Detroit, Michigan	(L6)
1880	Leary, John J.	B: Jul 1857	(L6)

1871	Lennon, William H.	D: Aug 19 1910 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	(M3)
1896	Lewis, Edward Morgan	D: May 23 1936	(L6)
1890	Lyons, Thomas A.	Name: Thomas Arthur Lyons D: Aug 27 1920	(L6)
1892	Mahoney, Daniel J.	D: Jan 31 1904	(L6)
1948	Mauro, Carmen Louis	D: Dec 19 2003 Carmichael, California	(LA)
1872	McDonald, Daniel	B: 1844	(L6)
1905	McGovern, Arthur John	D: Danvers, Massachusetts	(L6)
1965	McGraw, Frank Edwin	D: Jan 5 2004 Nashville, Tennessee	(C1)
1884	McKeever, James	B: St. John's, Newfoundland D: South Boston, Massachusetts	(L6)
1949	Merriman, Lloyd Archer	D: Jan 20 2004 Fresno, California	(C1)
2003	Morban, Jose	BR B: Oct 2 1979	(V1)
1909	More, Forrest T.	Name: Forrest Thedore More B: Sep 20 1881	(H4)
1911	Moulton, Albert Theodore	D: Jul 10 1968	(L6)
1894	Murphy, William Henry	B: Oct 11 1869 Southborough, Massachusetts D: Westborough, Massachusetts	(L6)
1915	Nabors, Herman John	D: Oct 29 1923	(M6)
1871	Norton, Frank Prescott	B: Jun 9 1845 Port Jefferson, New York	(L6)
1871	Pearce, Richard J.	D: Wareham, Massachusetts	(L6)
1874	Peters, John Paul	B: New Orleans, Louisiana	(L6)
2003	Porter, Colin F.	Name: Colin Frederick Porter	(L6)
1884	Porter, Henry	Name: Walter Henry Porter	(L6)
1939	Pyle, Ewald	D: Jan 10 2004 DuQuoin, Illinois	(N5)
2001	Redding, Timothy J.	Name: Timothy James Redding	(L6)
1944	Rodgers, William Sherman	D: May 13 2002 Worcester, Massachusetts	(PP)
2002	Sanchez, Frederick P.	Name: Frederick Philip Sanchez	(L6)
2003	Santos, Francisco	Name: Francisco Alejandro Santos	(H9)
1884	Scanlon, Michael B. (MGR)	D: Jan 18 1929	(C1)
1900	Scott, Edward	Name: Phillip Edwin Scott	(H9)
1943	Seminick, Andrew Wasil	D: Feb 22 2004 Melbourne, Florida	(C1)
1883	Shaw, Frederick Lander	D: Jan 12 1938	(L6)
1918	Shea, Patrick Henry	D: Stafford, Connecticut	(L6)
1882	Shetzline, John Henry	B: 1852	(L6)
1894	Smith, Orlin Hudson	D: Torrance, California	(C1)
1999	Soriano, Alfonso Guilleard	B: Jan 7 1976	(C1)
1933	Stoneham, John Andrew	D: Jan 1 2004 Owasso, Oklahoma	(N4)
1930	Suhr, August Richard	D: Jan 15 2004 Scottsdale, Arizona	(PP)
1890	Sullivan, James Patrick	Name: Patrick Joseph Sullivan B: Mar 24 1854 Lewisburg, Virginia D: Feb 26 1896 Columbus, Ohio	(M4)
1898	Sullivan, Suter G.	Name: Suter Grant Sullivan	(H4)
1953	Szekely, Joseph	D: Oct 16 1995 Paris, Texas	(S3)
1950	Tappe, Theodore Nash	D: Feb 13 2004 Wenatchee, Washington	(D6)
1994	Valdes, Ismael (Alvarez)	Name: Ismael Valdez (Alvarez)	(P1)
1958	Wagner, Leon Lamar	D: Jan 3 2004 Los Angeles, California	(C1)

1938	West, Max Edward	D: Dec 31 2003 Sierra Madre, California	(C1)
2003	White, Matthew J.	Name: Matthew Joseph White	(L6)
1884	Whiteley, Gurdon W.	Name: Guerdon W. Whiteley B: Hopkinton, Rhode Island D: Nov 23 1925	(L6)
1948	Wilson, Grady Herbert	D: Jul 23 2003 Columbus, Georgia	(PP)
1888	Wise, Nicholas Joseph	D: Jan 25 1923	(L6)
2003	Zoccolillo, Peter J.	Name: Peter Jude Zoccolillo	(L6)