



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
April 1984

John Bates Found

John Bates, one-game pitcher for Kansas City in 1889, has been found by our newest committee member, Jay Sanford. Hence, Jay debuts by winning the April *Find of the Month* award. That's just like hitting a homer in your first major league at bat.

Harold Dellinger found several references to Bates coming to Kansas City from the Texas League as well as a note that Bates was from Denver. Jay tracked Bates throughout his Texas League career and found him to be one of the top pitchers from the Denver area. Jay was able to obtain the names of Bates' wife and children through Denver city directories. Since they disappeared from Denver in the early part of this century, Jay decided to check every state for the family in the 1920 census. He found the wife and children living in San Francisco with the wife listed as a widow. From there it was a simple matter to obtain the death certificate from California. A great way to break in to the committee!

Not Another One!

We have another new ballplayer and, as luck would have it, his last name is Smith and his first name is unknown. A SABR member from Cincinnati wrote me and said that the man who played for Cincinnati May 31, 1886 was referred to as a New Jersey amateur and also as a Louisville amateur. Elmer Smith didn't join the team until September.

Joe Simenic checked this out and found him referred to in *Sporting Life* as a St. Louis amateur. (At least we know he was an amateur; we just don't know from where.) Elmer Smith was playing in Nashville at the time. Anyone who would like to research our latest Mr. Smith

has my blessing.

How Now, Mr. Brown?

Lefty Blasco sent me an article from *Sporting Life* of 11/23/1901 which stated that Brown, "formerly with the Chicago National League club" was with Marion, Ohio. Since both Browns who played with Chicago prior to 1900 were dead by 1901, does anyone know who this player is?

New Members

Please welcome Bill Arnold, 951 Alice Lane, Menlo Park, California 94025 to the bio committee. Bill's code number will be A4. Also welcome Al Quimby, 35 Ashington Lane, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Al's code number will be Q1. Finally, welcome Jay Sanford, 7086 Braun Court, Arvada, Colorado 80004. Jay's code number will be S5.

Committee Meeting

Our biographical committee meeting, the highlight of any SABR convention, will be held on Friday, June 17, at 7:00 PM. Please keep that time clear to attend.

Old-Timers

Fred London would like to know if Jimmie Reese is the oldest person ever to be in uniform for a major league team. My guess is that he is. Does anyone know?

Learning Link

SABR is partnering with PBS to provide baseball information through Learning Link, a computer-based information service for school age children. Our committee is going to help with this project by providing answers to questions of a biographical nature. It is all done

by way of a computer modem. I would like a volunteer to help with this effort as I don't have the time to do it. You would have to log in every few days and check if anyone has asked a question, research the answer, and place the answer back on Learning Link. It sounds like an exciting project; let me know if you are interested.

Last In, First Out

For the decade of the 1920s, you will notice a change. After 1921, I will change the list to just "First Out." This is because we have multiple players still alive after 1921, except 1923 where George Fisher is the last 1923 debut player. So the player listed will be the first player to have died from that year.

1920 - Walter Schulz	02/27/1928
Allen Conkright	07/30/1991
1921 - Herman Merritt	05/26/1927
Lew Fonseca	11/26/1989
1922 - Phillip Bedgood	11/08/1927
1923 - Charles Dorman	11/15/1928
1924 - Wayland Dean	04/10/1930
1925 - Charles Corgan	06/13/1928
1926 - George Stutz	12/29/1930
1927 - Walter Morrison	08/14/1934
1928 - Walter Lorian	10/22/1929
1929 - Elliott Bigelow	08/10/1933

Birthday List

Chet Hoff, the oldest player ever, turns 103 on May 8. Be sure to send him a card as well as the other nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in May.

May 7	Sal Gliatto	92
May 8	Chet Hoff	103
May 22	Decatur Jones	92

Another Missing Smith

The April *Mystery of the Month* is provided by Bob Richardson. Albert E. Smith was born

October 15, 1860 in North Haven, Connecticut. He attended Yale and played baseball there in 1882, but he did not graduate. He played professionally for Holyoke in 1882 and Boston in 1883, but quit playing after that to become a paper salesman.

Bob traced Smith from Holyoke to Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1884, to New York City in 1886, to Paterson, New Jersey in 1892. The 1900 census showed Smith living in Rahway, New Jersey with his wife, Ella, and two sons, Donald and Henry. Smith is listed in the 1920 census, but without his family. His occupation is the proprietor of a publishing business.

Smith's brother, Frank, died April 7, 1941 and his parents died in 1911 and 1912, but no obits could be found. Perhaps someone could track down his family.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14078	76	99.463
Total Complete Births	13381	773	94.539
Total Complete Deaths	7004	477	49.484
Total Assumed Alive	6673		47.146
Total Bats	12783	1267	90.982
Total Throws	13035	1015	92.776
Total Heights	13005	1045	92.562
Total Weights	12936	1114	92.071
Total Debut Dates	14154	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9968	4186	70.425
Total Completion			92.0495

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1902 Arndt, Harry J.	D: Mar 25 1921	(C2)
1889 Bates, John	Name: John W. Bates	(S5)
	D: <u>Mar 24 1919</u>	
	<u>San Francisco, California</u>	
1931 Brower, Louis Lester	B: <u>Cincinnati, Ohio</u>	(H1)
	D: <u>Mar 4 1994</u>	
	<u>Tyler, Texas</u>	
1939 Clemensen, William Melville	D: Feb 18 1994	(H1)
1890 Eiteljorg, Edward Henry	Name: Edward Henry Eiteljorge	(B1)
1932 Freitas, Antonio	D: <u>Mar 13 1994</u>	(H1)
	<u>Orangevale, California</u>	
1932 Friedrich, Robert George	Name: Robert George Friedrichs	(D7)
1902 Fuller, Charles F.	Height: 5-11 Weight: 165	(R1)
1949 Hofman, Robert George	D: <u>Apr 5 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>St. Charles, Missouri</u>	
1900 Hughes, Thomas James	Weight: 175	(R1)
1948 Kozar, Albert Kenneth	B: Jul 5 1921	(T1)
1931 Kreevich, Michael Andreas	D: <u>Apr 25 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Pana, Illinois</u>	
1904 McCormick, Michael J.	Height: 5-03 Weight: 155	(R1)
1883 Mountjoy, William R.	BL	(C1)
1884 Powell, Charles Abner	BL	(C1)
1937 Rosen, Goodwin George	D: <u>Apr 6 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Toronto, Ontario</u>	
1886 Smith,	New Player.	(S1)
	Debut: <u>May 31 1886</u>	
1886 Smith, Elmer Ellsworth	Debut: <u>Sep 10 1886</u>	(S1)
1954 Strahs, Richard Bernard	B: Dec 4 1923	(H1)
	D: <u>May 26 1988</u>	
	<u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	
1884 Walker, Walter S.	B: <u>Mar 12 1860</u>	(M4)
1945 Wilson, Walter Wood	D: <u>Apr 17 1994</u>	(H4)
	<u>Bremen, Georgia</u>	
1941 Wolff, Roger Francis	D: <u>Mar 23 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Chester, Illinois</u>	