



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
February 1996

Honus Wagner's Birthplace Changed

We didn't track down any missing ballplayer's death this month so our *Find of the Month* is by Dennis DeValeria. Dennis is writing a biography of Honus Wagner and discovered that the Mansfield, Pennsylvania birthplace that had been listed was incorrect for Honus and his brother Butts. (I sure wish I had a nickname.) Chartiers is the proper birthplace.

Chartiers and Mansfield were two small communities separated by a tiny creek. In 1894, years after the Wagner boys were born, the two boroughs consolidated and the town was named Carnegie. The Wagner clan lived in Chartiers at the time the two Wagner boys were born. Later, after the Wagner boys were news, someone went back and came up with Mansfield rather than Chartiers for the record books, an easy mistake since Mansfield had been the larger of the two communities. By the way, you'll notice that I resisted the temptation to use the headline, "Butts Moved" for this article.

Auto Accidents

With the death of Danny Monzon in an auto accident in the Dominican Republic, it brings to mind the fact that we have had several players killed in auto accidents in several different foreign countries. We've had Mexico (Aurelio Monteagudo), England (Dick Farrell), The Bahamas (Wenty Ford), Venezuela (Gonzalo Marquez), and Puerto Rico (Joe DeSa).

George Bechtel

Bob Bailey searched through the Philadelphia city directories from 1865 to 1882 looking for George Bechtel. He found Bechtels who were salesman, carpenters, policemen, real estate agents, laborers, and gate keepers, but no baseballists. So we're no closer to pinning this guy down. (By the way, does anyone know anybody today who is a gate keeper? Or is that a ticket taker at the ballpark?)

One Way To Find a Typo

After putting in my list last month of ballplayers named after presidents, I got a note from Pete Morris saying, "What about Calvin Coolidge Ermer?" I checked my database and discovered that he was listed as Calvin Cooledge Ermer, which is why I didn't pick him up. Always nice to take care of those typos.

Member Movement

Jon Dunkle has moved. Jon's new address is 19A6 Capano Drive, Newark, Delaware 19702. Bob Bluthardt has also moved. Bob's new address is 3514 Cedar Ridge Lane, San Angelo, Texas 76904. And we have two new members. Welcome David J. Smith, 319 Creek Street, Wrentham, Massachusetts 02093. David's code number will be X7. Finally, welcome Fred Lenger, 714 Valley View Drive #E, Ionia, Michigan 48846 (L5). Fred has been working on accurate cities of birth and death. Hopefully, he'll be able to clear up some of the problems we have with our database.

Our Fellow Committees

If anyone is interested in helping out the Negro League Committee with some biographical work, Larry Lester has a list of Negro Leaguers for whom he has incomplete death data. For the most part, he has a month, year, and place of

death, but not the day. All this should involve is a search of a month's worth of newspapers to find the obituary. Most of these players died in fairly large cities, so if you're interested in helping out, be sure to drop Larry a line.

Aren't You Glad I Changed My Mind?

Many of you poke fun at some of the lists I come up with as filler for this newsletter. Last month's list of ballplayers named after US presidents is an example.

I recently pulled a list of players born in Pennsylvania and was startled to discover that Mike Menosky was born in Glen Campbell, Pennsylvania. That spurred me to come up with a list of "Ballplayers Born In Towns Named After Famous Singers." Although the idea was quite gentle on my mind, I decided I couldn't take the abuse I would get after putting that one in.

Birthday List

There are four nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in March. Be sure to send a card. By the way, I received a very nice note from Bob Cremins after sending him a birthday card a couple of weeks ago. He had a rather interesting post-playing career. He taught boxing, designed boxing canvasses, and drew cartoons for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

March 2	Arthur Weis	95
March 11	William Lawrence	90
March 21	Joseph Samuels	91
March 22	Carlton Tremper	90

The Mystery of Michael Muldoon

That sounds like the title of a Sherlock Holmes novel but Michael Muldoon is actually our February *Mystery of the Month*. These notes are brought to you by Rich Bozzone.

Michael Muldoon played 495 games for Cleveland (NL) from 1882 to 1884, and Baltimore (AA) in 1885 and 1886. He is shown as being born in Hartford, Connecticut. However, the 1870 census shows his place of birth as Ireland. Rich believes he was one of 6 children of Michael and Catherine Muldoon. His father arrived in Hartford in 1863. Our ballplayer Michael was born in 1858. The family is still listed in the 1880 census, albeit only two of the children are living at home.

From 1881 through 1889 our Michael

Muldoon is shown in the Hartford city directory as a "baseballer." The entire building he resided in was occupied by others in the Muldoon family. Rich has been able to document the deaths of everyone in his family except for one brother. First to pass on was brother John, age 24, who died on December 16, 1883. He was single. Next a second brother Thomas, also single, died on June 19, 1884. Then his mother Catherine died on August 30, 1885 at age 54 and his father Michael, age 65, on September 3, 1890. A brother Patrick died on July 5, 1906. The only survivors listed in Patrick's obituary are his wife, two daughters, and one sister, Winifred Cashin. Winifred died on May 18, 1928.

Rich has notes from Sporting Life through 1889 on him. He spent the winter of 1886/87 in Baltimore. In March of 1887 he signed with Jersey City of the International League and played with them through August 2, 1887. In November of 1887 he was in Hot Springs, Arkansas "drying out." On May 17, 1888, he signed with Allentown, Pennsylvania of the Central League but was released by them after a one week trial. The last note Rich found stated, "Mike Muldoon, the old third baseman (age 31) has come to the surface again. He is at Atlanta, Georgia. He says his arm is alright and he wants an engagement." Both Rich and Tom Hufford checked for him in Atlanta and found nothing.

Judging from this, it would appear that Muldoon died between 1890 and 1906. Where or when remains a mystery.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14449	72	99.504
Total Complete Births	13770	751	94.828
Total Complete Deaths	7169	472	49.370
Total Assumed Alive	6880		47.380
Total Bats	13165	1251	91.322
Total Throws	13409	1007	93.015
Total Heights	13403	1013	92.973
Total Weights	13342	1074	92.550
Total Debut Dates	14521	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9977	4544	68.707
Total Completion			92.1823

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1884 Locke, Marshall Pinkney Wilder	No New Information	(C1)
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New Information Received:

1927 Boley, John Peter	B: <u>Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
	D: <u>Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania</u>	
1943 Butka, Edward Luke	B: <u>Canonsburg, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1893 Cooley, Duff Gordon	Name: <u>Duff Gordon Cooley</u>	(C1)
	B: <u>Mar 29 1873</u>	
	<u>Leavenworth, Kansas</u>	
1908 Daley, Thomas Francis	B: <u>Du Bois, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1872 Dehlman, Herman J.	B: <u>Catasauqua, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1973 Dettore, Thomas Anthony	B: <u>Canonsburg, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1889 Dowie, Joseph E.	B: <u>Jul 15 1865</u>	(S6)
1946 Ennis, Delmer	D: <u>Feb 8 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania</u>	
1947 Ermer, Calvin Cooledge	Name: <u>Calvin Coolidge Ermer</u>	(M4)
1935 Ferrazzi, William Joseph	D: <u>Aug 10 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Gainesville, Florida</u>	
1871 Fisler, Weston Dickson	BR	(C1)
1949 Goldsberry, Gordon Frederick	D: <u>Feb 23 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Lake Forest, California</u>	
1953 Janowicz, Victor Felix	D: <u>Feb 27 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Columbus, Ohio</u>	
1927 Klinger, Joseph John	B: <u>Canonsburg, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1967 Lyle, Albert Walter	B: <u>Du Bois, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1937 Muncrief, Robert Cleveland	D: <u>Feb 6 1996</u>	(BP)
	<u>Duncanville, Texas</u>	
1890 Rhines, William Pearl	B: <u>Ridgway, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
	D: <u>Ridgway, Pennsylvania</u>	
1910 Sellers, Oliver	B: <u>Duquesne, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1944 Shemo, Steven Michael	B: <u>Swoyersville, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1941 Suder, Peter	B: <u>Aliquippa, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1898 Wagner, Albert	B: <u>Sep 17 1871</u>	(C1)
	<u>Chartiers, Pennsylvania</u>	
1897 Wagner, John Peter	B: <u>Chartiers, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1927 Way, Robert Clinton	B: <u>Emlenton, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1956 Woodeshick, Harold Joseph	B: <u>Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)