



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report**  
**December 1997**

## Rafael Almeida Found

Although we had a month and year for Rafael Almeida's death, we did not have an exact date. The fact that he died in Cuba makes this particularly difficult to find out. Jose Jimenez located someone in Cuba who was a Cuban baseball historian who was able to provide Almeida's exact death date. Since this man may be able to help us on other Cuban ballplayers, Jose wins the December *Find of the Month* award.

### New Members

Please welcome Dave Stevens to the biographical committee. Dave's address is 5225 N. River's Edge Terrace, #410, Chicago, Illinois 60630. Dave's code number will be X5.

### Mitchum, Alabama

You'll recall a few months back that I published a list of towns that Fred Lenger was unable to locate. These towns had been listed as birth places or death places for various ballplayers. One of these was Mitchum, Alabama, listed as the birthplace of Thomas Long, the man who still holds the Cardinals team record for triples in a season.

Cliff Otto wrote the Alabama State Archives and received the following response:

"I have been unable to locate the town of Mitchum in The Historical Atlas of Alabama. There is, however, a Mitcham located in Clarke County. This is a variant name for the town more commonly referred to as Chilton. You can see

the town of Chilton on a map to the south and west of Thomasville."

Perhaps someone would like to investigate Chilton as Long's birthplace.

### Baseball and Baseball Players

Last month I mentioned a book called Baseball and Baseball Players which supposedly listed obituaries for former ballplayers. Bob McConnell writes that he has a copy of the book and that it contains 93 mini-obituaries, including 76 for ex-major leaguers. Only three of the players are players for whom we do not have complete birth and death information. The players in question are Pete Dowling, Mike Hines, and Ed Knouff. The book has little birth information and the death information for these three players differs slightly from what we list. This is not too surprising and we don't know whether the source of the author's information is any more reliable than what we have.

### More One-Gamer Trivia

Greg Beston has done some research on one-game major leaguers. he sent along the following interesting notes:

On 10/05/1912 Homer Thompson caught for New York (AL) in his only major league game, but the pitcher for the Highlanders was his brother Tommy. This was the first brother battery in AL history.

On 05/10/1884, Alex Gardner of Washington (AA) had a record 12 passed balls in his only game.

As the starting pitcher in the 05/18/1912 Tiger protest game, Al Travers allowed a record 24 runs, 26 hits, and 5 triples.

Rex Hudson of the Dodgers gave up Hank Aaron's 726th home run on 07/27/1974.

Dave Bennett finished up in relief for the Phillies in a game started by his brother on 06/12/1964.

Johnny Pyecha of the Cubs was 1 out from winning his major league debut on 04/24/1954, but Wally Post hit a 3 run homer in the bottom of the ninth to win the game 6-5. He never pitched again.

Tom Yewcik (1957) was quarterback for the Boston Patriots from 1961-66.

Harry O'Neill (1939) was killed in WWII in Iwo Jima and Alex Burr (1918) was killed in WWI in France.

George Heubel (1876), Almazoo Jennings (1878), John Magner (1879), John Dyer (1882), and Rip Egan (1894) were all full time major league umpires.

Charlie Mason (1883), Walter Alston (1936), and Cal Ermer (1947) were all major league managers.

Mel Kerr (1925), Red Smith (1927), Buddy Hancken (1940), Nick Testa (1958), and Bart Zeller (1970) were all major league coaches.

Jack Aragon (1941), John Corriden (1946), Guy Morton, Jr. (1954), and Charlie Lindstrom (1958) all had fathers who played in the majors.

Joe Berry, Sr. (1902), Bill Crouch (1910), Steve Partenheimer (1913), Barney Martin (1953), and Tom Fletcher (1962) all had sons play in the major leagues.

Marty Herrmann's (1918) grandson played in the majors.

Lave Cross, Johnny Evers, Bing Miller, George Kelly, Joe and Luke Sewell, Wally Westlake, Tom and Jim Paciorek, Manny Jimenez, Phil Gagliano, and Robin Yount all had brothers who played in one game.

## Bi-Monthly

As you know, beginning in 1998, I will start issuing the newsletters bi-monthly. I'm sorry to have to do this, but it is getting to be too much work to do it on a monthly basis and it's getting harder and harder to come up with interesting reading material. Hopefully, it will improve the quality of the newsletter as well. Of course, your

help in coming up with interesting articles is always appreciated.

## Birthday List

Here is the list of nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in January and February. Be sure to send a card.

Jan 2	Tedd Gullic	91
Jan 3	Gus Suhr	92
Jan 17	Ray Cunningham	93
Jan 29	Ray Hayworth	94
Feb 15	Bob Cremins	92

## Turn of the Century Confusion

Our final *Mystery of the Month* for 1997 comes from Bob Richardson. It regards the player we list as Patrick James Hannivan.

"From 1893-96 one of the New England League starts was a left-handed throwing shortstop named James J. (Jimmy) Hannivan. Now that I've begun wading through 1897 newspapers, I've discovered that he was the 1897 Brooklyn 2B-OF we list as Patrick James Hannivan. I'm not certain our ID is wrong, but he was always James J. or Jimmy Hannivan during his NEL years and Tom Shea has notes on him through 1905 as Jimmy Hannivan. Patrick James Hannivan (or Hanifin) was definitely a ballplayer, but his obit makes me suspicious too. It says he played for New York 'when the National League was young' and Providence 'when it was in the league.' Even though there is no record of him playing for NY-NL or Providence-NL, this suggests an earlier timeframe than 1897 and would be consistent with Patrick J.'s 1866 birth. This ID actually goes way back; the 1909 Reach Guide necrology notes the passing of 'James Hannivan, well-known minor league player, in his 35th year.' Patrick was 42 when he died in 1908.

Unfortunately, I can't pin down the 1893-96 NEL player. Notes indicate he was from Hartford and Springfield, but there is no James Hannivan (or any of the other possible spellings) - or Patrick, for that matter, in the city directories for either city during that span. I did find one fellow born about the right time and living in the vicinity in the right years, but I have been unable to establish that he was a ballplayer - his obit tells about his business career but doesn't mention baseball.

Tom Shea's notes have James J. Hannivan living in Appleton, Wisconsin in 1903 and show

him playing for Grand Rapids of the Western Association in 1901, Binghamton (NY State) in 1904, and Montgomery (Southern) in 1905. Perhaps somebody could check these locales for a line on Hannivan."

### The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14828	68	99.544
Total Complete Births	14154	742	95.019
Total Complete Deaths	7375	468	49.510
Total Assumed Alive	7053		47.348
Total Bats	13546	1244	91.589
Total Throws	13798	992	93.293
Total Heights	13796	994	93.279
Total Weights	13732	1058	92.847
Total Debut Dates	14896	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9982	4914	67.011
Total Completion			92.1580

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

1911 Almeida, Rafael D.	D: Mar 19 1968	(J1)
1871 Armstrong, Samuel	Name: Robert Armstrong	(W5)
1947 Baumholtz, Frank Conrad	D: Dec 14 1997	(S1)
	<u>Winter Springs, Florida</u>	
1871 Bevans, E. P.	Name: Edward P. Beavans	(W5)
1949 Bowers, Grover Bill	B: Mar 25 1922	(S3)
	D: Sep 17 1996	
	<u>Wynne, Arkansas</u>	
1934 Clifton, Herman Earl	D: Dec 22 1997	(X4)
	<u>Cincinnati, Ohio</u>	
1960 Clinton, Luciean Louis	D: Dec 6 1997	(C1)
	<u>Wichita, Kansas</u>	
1928 Cox, George Melvin	D: Dec 17 1995	(C1)
1961 Hamilton, Steven Absher	D: Dec 2 1997	(SS)
	<u>Morehead, Kentucky</u>	
1937 Harshany, Samuel	Name: Samuel Harshaney	(T1)
1959 Hunt, Kenneth Lawrence	D: Jun 1997	(S3)
1945 Lombardi, Victor Alvin	D: Dec 3 1997	(O2)
	<u>Fresno, California</u>	
1933 Lovett, Merritt Marwood	D: Sep 19 1995	(T1)
	<u>Downers Grove, Illinois</u>	
1953 Martin, Barnes Robertson	D: Oct 30 1997	(D6)
	<u>Columbia, South Carolina</u>	
1943 McDonnell, James Joseph	D: Apr 24 1993	(C1)
1931 McWilliams, William Henry	D: Jan 21 1997	(C1)
	<u>Garland, Texas</u>	
1994 Oliva, Jose (Galvez)	D: Dec 22 1997	(C1)
	<u>San Cristobal, Dominican Rep.</u>	
1945 Picciuto, Nicholas Thomas	D: Jan 10 1997	(C1)
1930 Samuels, Joseph Jonas	D: Oct 28 1996	(C1)
1875 Smith, Thomas N.	Height: 5-08 Weight: 141	(M4)
1955 Templeton, Charles Sherman	D: Oct 9 1997	(S3)
	<u>Irving, Texas</u>	
1958 Thacker, Morris Benton	D: Nov 13 1997	(N1)
	<u>Louisville, Kentucky</u>	
1997 Whisenant, Matthew Michael	BR	(MC)
1969 Wilson, William Harlan	D: Aug 11 1993	(C1)