



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
April 1997

Frank Kreeger Found

Frank Kreeger, the one game Kansas City Union Association pitcher, has been found by Jay Sanford. Kreeger had been listed without a first name for years and his last name was spelled four different ways in the newspaper account of his game.

Kreeger's proper first and last name was identified several years ago by 19th century expert Harold Dellinger. It was known that Kreeger played with St. Joseph in 1886. Jay searched Denver newspapers for accounts of the games that St. Joseph played with Denver. Jay found a profile of Kreeger that said he hailed from Pana, Illinois. A call to a Pana cemetery revealed a Frank Kreeger buried there who had died in 1899. Jay searched day by day through the Pana newspapers until he located Kreeger's obituary stating that he had drowned in the Okaw River (now the Kaskaskia) while on a fishing trip on July 14, 1899. A well-deserved *Find of the Month*.

High School Classmates

Jim Kreuz sends along some information on high school classmates. Robert Redford and Don Drysdale played baseball together in high school. Stan Musial played at Donora High with Buddy Griffey, Ken Griffey's father. McLymond High in Oakland, California in 1952 featured Frank Robinson and Bill Russell playing on the same basketball team. The following year Vada Pinson played baseball with Robinson. Eddie Murray and Ozzie Smith played high school ball together and may become the first high school teammates to make the Hall of Fame. Fairfax High in California featured in the same yearbook Larry Sherry, Barry Latman, Herb Albert, and Jack Kemp. Also, Jamie Selko sends along the note

that Warren Spahn went to high school with pro wrestler Killer Kowalski.

Teammate Combos

Scott Flatow sent along a few more interesting pairs of teammates. The 1933 St. Louis Browns had Pepper Martin and Bill Lewis. The 1932 White Sox had Lu Blue and Charlie Berry. The 1927 White Sox had Bob Way and Aaron Ward. And last but certainly not least, the 1904 Reds had Gabby Street and Tom Walker.

Ready To Meet The Saints

With a biblical name like Joseph Abraham Werrick, it seems only fitting that he would be born in St. Paul, Minnesota and die in St. Peter, Minnesota. Curiously, as you travel between the two communities, you pass through Burnsville. It's a good thing he didn't stop there. Thanks to Fred Lenger for this bit of humor.

Believe It Or Else

When I saw the article in my local paper reporting the death of Joe Coleman, I saw that it didn't tell where he had died. In trying to locate this information, I came across a man who collects obituaries. He has a web site entitled *You're Outta Here* devoted to famous people who have died and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter entitled *Please Don't Get Up* on the same topic. (I am not making this up.) Anyway, he reads several newspapers a day and sent me the obit from the Boston Globe which did indeed list Coleman's place of death. He will send be any baseball obituaries he finds.

More On Kinsler

Pete Morris did some research on our February *Mystery of the Month*, Mr. Kinsler. Pete writes that in late July and August of 1893, a team called the New York Athletic Club set out

on a tour to vie for the designation of national amateur champions. After wins in Rochester and Syracuse, they won two more games in Cleveland on August 1 and 2, and were scheduled to play the Detroit Athletic Club in Detroit on August 4 and 5. This team claimed to be all collegians and other pure amateurs, though the Detroit papers pointed out that in fact several of their players had professional experience.

On 07/29/93 the Free Press noted that their players included "Kinsler, of Jasper College, catcher; Westervelt, Fountain, Boners of Yale, Brokaw of Princeton, pitchers." Then on 08/05/93 they wrote: "Campbell, the third baseman, is from Jasper College (probably Manhattan), where his name is understood to have been Kinsler, and last spring he played with John Ward's New York League team."

To further confuse things, in the second game between the two teams, "Campbell" played third base and in the absence of regular umpires, "Mr. Kinsler, the N.Y.A.C. professional coach" served as one of the umpires. And, after considerable boasting of how unspoiled the amateurs were, the game ended in a dispute after Campbell ran over the D. A. C. third baseman, and later an N.Y.A.C. player named Cumings punched Frank Bowerman for trying to block home without the ball. The N.Y.A.C. left for games in Battle Creek and Chicago against the Evanston Boat Club.

Why Turn Down Something Free?

There was a letter in the recent Baseball Digest magazine from a fan pointing out that when the magazine printed a list of players who died in 1996, they left out Bill Serena and Don Bollweg. The magazine's answer was that they occasionally omit some names or don't hear of the player's passing.

Each year I send Baseball Digest a list of all the players I have who died in that year. They never use it. I will never understand why you would print incomplete information when someone has given you the correct information for free.

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians (and one centanarian) celebrating birthdays in May. Make sure you send a card.

May 8	Chet Hoff	106
May 23	Willis Hudlin	91

May 26	Emile Roy	90
May 28	Marvin Olson	90

A Butte of a Mystery

Brothers Joseph and Samuel Moffett were both major league players. Joe played with Toledo in 1884 and Sam played with Cleveland in 1884 and Indianapolis in 1887 and 1888. After their playing careers were over, Sam and Joe, along with their brother Abraham headed west to Butte, Montana to enter the copper mining business.

Tragedy struck in 1907 when Abraham and Samuel died within a week of each other. Abraham died April 28 and Samuel died on May 5. Joseph survived them and was listed in the 1910 Butte city directory as Joseph Moffat. He was living at 117 Ruby and was working for the WGR Mine.

As you might expect, we have no record of Joseph's whereabouts after 1910 and hence, Joseph Moffett becomes our April *Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14647	69	99.531
Total Complete Births	13972	744	94.944
Total Complete Deaths	7296	467	49.579
Total Assumed Alive	6953		47.248
Total Bats	13365	1245	91.478
Total Throws	13614	996	93.183
Total Heights	13610	1000	93.155
Total Weights	13546	1064	92.717
Total Debut Dates	14716	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9980	4736	67.817
Total Completion			92.1822

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1950 Aloma, Luis (Barba)	D: <u>Apr 7 1997</u>	(T1)
	<u>Park Ridge, Illinois</u>	
1949 Cain, Robert Max	D: <u>Apr 8 1997</u>	(S1)
	<u>Cleveland, Ohio</u>	
1939 Chapman, William Fred	D: <u>Mar 27 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Kannapolis, North Carolina</u>	
1942 Coleman, Joseph Patrick	D: <u>Apr 9 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Fort Myers, Florida</u>	
1945 Dockins, George Woodrow	D: <u>Jan 22 1997</u>	(W1)
	<u>Clyde, Kansas</u>	
1930 Dugas, Augustin Joseph	D: <u>Apr 14 1997</u>	(B3)
	<u>Colchester, Connecticut</u>	
1896 Eustace, Frank John	Debut: <u>Apr 16 1896</u>	(V1)
1934 Kleinhans, Theodore Otto	Real Name: <u>Traugott Otto Kleinhans</u>	(S7)
1884 Krieger,	Name: <u>Frank Kreeger</u>	(D3)
	D: <u>Jul 14 1899</u>	(S5)
	<u>Shelby County, Illinois</u>	
1927 Peel, Homer Hefner	D: <u>Apr 8 1997</u>	(W1)
	<u>Shreveport, Louisiana</u>	
1958 Smith, William Garland	D: <u>Mar 30 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Clinton, Maryland</u>	
1935 Warnock, Harold Charles	D: <u>Feb 8 1997</u>	(S3)
	<u>Tucson, Arizona</u>	
1888 Yaik, Henry	BL	(M4)