

Pearce Chiles Found

As you will see, this newsletter has many good finds. I am listing Pearce Chiles as the *Find of the Month* because we had lots of information on his family and he has been on our Top 20 Most Wanted list for years. In fact, with his criminal career, he has been on lots of Most Wanted lists.

Chiles was born in Deepwater, Missouri. He had a colorful career, and an even more colorful career after he left baseball resulting in several arrests and imprisonments. The SABR Bioproject has a good biography of Chiles that you can read here. <http://sabr.org/bioproj/person/038d8ca7> Anyway, he had escaped from prison as was last seen playing ball around Fortuna, California in 1903. Nothing had really been found on him after that time.

Peter Morris found his marriage record from 1906 where he was listed as Nuget Chiles, age 35, born in Missouri. He appears on the 1910 census as N. B. Chiles and about 1913, starts appearing as Newton Barron Chiles. Newton Barron Chiles dies in 1933, and while the death certificate doesn't say much, it does say that he was born in Deepwater, Missouri. Great work and a terrific find!

Harry Wilson

This writeup on Harry Wilson comes from the man who found him, Peter Morris.

Most nineteenth-century one-game players got their chance as the result of being in the right place at the right time -- an out-of-contention team suffered a string of injuries and was happy to fill the gaps with the first warm bodies that happened along. In contrast, Baltimore native Harry Clayton Wilson spent much of the 1898 season with his hometown's National League dynasty, but only saw action in the waning days of the season. His life then took a series of unpredictable detours that made it quite a chore to track him down.

Harry Clayton Wilson seems to have made his professional debut in the Virginia League in 1896, where he split time between Richmond, Norfolk, and Portsmouth, and then played for Paterson (NJ) of the Atlantic League in 1897. During one of these stints, he caught the eye of Ted Sullivan, the ubiquitous baseball scout and impresario. Sullivan apparently promised to get Wilson a contract for the 1898 season, but while awaiting Sullivan's instructions the young catcher got an even bigger break. Toronto's Eastern League team came to Baltimore for an exhibition game against the mighty Orioles on April 12 and Wilson was pegged to work behind the plate, where he made a favorable impression on Orioles manager Ned Hanlon.

Hanlon already had three veteran catchers in Wilbert Robinson, William "Boileryard" Clarke, and Frank Bowerman, so he had no room for Wilson, who eventually signed instead with Toronto. But in early June, the little-used Bowerman was sold to Pittsburgh and Hanlon wanted a replacement. By this time Wilson had already been released by Toronto and London, so Hanlon signed him to serve as the team's third-string catcher. For four months, Baltimore and Boston engaged in a pitched battle for the 1898 pennant as the local youngster warmed the bench. In the final week of the season, the Orioles were finally eliminated from contention, allowing Wilson to make his major league debut. In the second game of a doubleheader on October 12, 1898, he drew a walk in three plate appearances against the Giants in what proved to be his only major league game.

Harry Wilson then dropped back down to the minors, playing for Hartford of the Eastern League in 1899 and dividing the 1900 season between four Connecticut State League teams – Bristol, Waterbury, New London, and Norwich. He may have continued to play for a few more years, but by then his career was on the downturn and eventually he elected to walk away from the game, leaving behind a mystery that would take over a century to unravel.

A major part of the problem was that Harry Wilson is a very common name. Indeed, in an illustration of just how ubiquitous Ted Sullivan was, he seems to have signed two different Harry Wilsons from Baltimore in 1898 – Harry Clayton Wilson and Henry Merryman Wilson (1875-1956) from the Johns Hopkins University varsity nine. It took some time to disentangle these two men, and then another complication arose. The 1900 census was taken while our man was playing for Bristol, and he was enumerated in that city as a ballplayer who had been born in April of 1877. That pointed in the direction of a Harry Wilson who had been born in Baltimore on April 8, 1877, but after spending a lot of time researching him, it became clear that this was not the ballplayer. Instead, an 1897 ad in *Sporting Life* conclusively identified the player by giving his address as 423 Laurens, Baltimore. The man who lived there was Harry Clayton Wilson, whose date of birth was January 1, 1876, and who was the youngest of five children of Baltimore plumber/gas fitter John Wilson and his wife Mary.

Establishing his date of birth and family members did not make it easy to find him, however, as he disappeared from the Baltimore city directories in 1900. Eventually, the reason became apparent – after several more years of pursuing his baseball dream, Harry Wilson enlisted in the Army on July 25, 1904. Listing himself as a baseball player and his age as 28 years, 6 months (which corresponds perfectly to the birthdate of January 1, 1876) Wilson signed up in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and was identified as standing five feet, eight-and-three-quarters inches tall, and as having dark brown hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion. He was assigned to the 15th Cavalry, Company L, but his military career did not go well and less than a year later, on June 28, 1905, he deserted. He surrendered three-and-a-half months later and was given a dishonorable discharge.

By 1910, Harry Wilson had returned to Baltimore. Still unmarried, he was listed in that year's census as living with his parents and his brother James, who had followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a plumber. John and James Wilson were now jointly operating a plumbing shop, with Harry clerking for the business.

Harry Wilson remained in Baltimore until around 1916, but as the United States moved closer to entering World War I, he seems to have felt the urge to offer his services. The nature of his involvement was a bit confusing, however. On April 14, 1917, only eight days after the U.S. formally entered the war, Wilson was aboard the *S.S. Adriatic* as it sailed from Liverpool to New York. Most of his shipmates were enlisted cavalymen, but there is no indication of Wilson's status; his full name and date of birth are provided, but he is simply listed as living in Newport News, Virginia. Nor has any record been found that explains how Wilson made it to England in the first place.

A likely solution to that mystery was provided by articles that appeared in *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on October 30, 1917, and in the *Atlanta Constitution* twelve days later. Both articles surprisingly made reference to Harry Wilson's single season in the Virginia League more than twenty years earlier, a piece of good fortune that may have been occasioned by Wilson's friendship with Jake Wells, who had managed Wilson in the Virginia League twenty years earlier and had gone to become president of that league and one of the best-known figures in Southern baseball. At any rate, as the *Times-Dispatch* put it, Wilson had "given up the diamond for the sake of a more thrilling and exciting business" – as a professional steeplejack who specialized in painting flagpoles.

During his time in Richmond, the *Times-Dispatch* reported that he had been "engaged by several local concerns to paint flag poles and other things just as dangerous" and that he "seems to be just as young as he was [when he played in the Virginia League] and just as active." After his arrival in Atlanta, he went to work painting the sixty-foot flagpole atop the Hurt building, a feat that caused a crowd of onlookers to gather as Wilson "engaged in his task as easily as the average person walks around on terra firma." It added that he was planning to stay in town until he had completed painting "the flagpoles of practically all of Atlanta's skyscrapers." The article then provided a chilling reminder of just how dangerous Wilson's line of work was by

explaining that his partner was currently recuperating in a New York City hospital after a fall while painting one of that city's smokestacks.

Both articles also commented on Wilson's involvement with the war effort, although such claims must be taken with a grain of salt. That is particularly true of the *Times-Dispatch's* claim that Wilson "hurt his ankle in the Spanish-American War, and was forced to give up baseball." In fact, no evidence supports these contentions and they fly in the face of what we know about his career – that Wilson was riding the pines on the Baltimore bench for almost the entirety of that war and that he continued to play baseball for several more years.

The two articles make more plausible claims about his involvement in World War I. According to the *Times-Dispatch*, Wilson "has been in Saloniki [now Thessaloniki, Greece] in the employ of the American Bridge Company and has been near the firing line and heard the roar of cannons several times." The *Constitution* added that Wilson had "tried to enlist in Uncle Sam's service in various capacities, but an injured ankle and some other ailments have caused him to be turned down." So instead Wilson had recently returned "painting bridges" in the "war zone," a job that he intended to soon resume. These accounts would seem to explain his presence on the *S.S. Adriatic*.

By March he was in Altoona, where a reporter for the *Mirror* got a close-up view of his handiwork. "Harry C. Wilson, the ballplayer-steeplejack," he recorded, "attracted considerable attention this morning [March 4] while he painted the flagpole on the roof of the Altoona Mirror building. The pole is right on the edge, overlooking a drop of three stories to the street, and is only a thin pipe, yet Harry nonchalantly climbed and painted it in the space of about twenty minutes."

Wilson also provided the reporter with several insights into the life of a steeplejack, telling him a seemingly "little" job like the one of the *Mirror's* roof "is just as dangerous as any big one, for all poles are high enough for a fall to be fatal and often the small pole is far less securely erected than the very large ones. Steel poles are also more dangerous than wooden ones, for when the latter crack, they usually give sufficient warning that the climber can slip down to safety, but the steel pole breaks off short and there is no chance." He added that the secret to climbing "is to keep your mind on the pole and your work, and not up on moving clouds or down at moving objects in the street, as they make you think the pole is moving and you may grab at something that is not where you think it is."

May found Wilson in Elmira, New York, where the *Star-Gazette* reported on May 16 that a former member of Ned Hanlon's Orioles dynasty had just "painted the flag pole on the Star-Gazette building, the St. Cecilia church pole, and has engagements for other work which will keep him in Elmira for some time." The article also elaborated on his ankle injury, explaining that, "A year ago, while doing construction work in Salonica, Greece, he fell and broke his ankle. He was confined in the Forty-second British general hospital for fifteen weeks."

By the fall of 1918, Wilson was living in Newport, Rhode Island, where he was working as a cook at a lunch room when he filled out his World War I registration card on September 12. The existence of a registration card indicates he was not enlisted, but his job presumably allowed him to interact closely with the troops and feel that he was contributing to the war effort. Within a week, however, that had changed, as Wilson was arrested and charged with "transporting liquor into a barred zone." The Bureau of Investigation (forerunner of the FBI) opened an investigation into Wilson, and while his file contains only a cursory one-page report, that may have been enough to cost him access to the base.

He was soon back at work as a steeplejack, and in December 6 the *Atlanta Constitution* reported that he had returned to town to paint the flagpole on the Fourth National Bank. But with that his trail suddenly went cold. Where had Harry Clayton Wilson gone?

Over the next few years, Wilson's immediate family thinned out rapidly. His mother had died in 1916, and on June 10, 1920, his father passed away. An obituary listed all five of their children as survivors, but they did not outlive their parents for long – Harry's two brothers died in 1922 and 1926 and his sisters in 1925 and 1927. None of their obituaries indicated whether Harry was still alive and, if so, where he was living. Efforts to find a

Maryland death record were unsuccessful, and the only plausible candidate on the 1930 census turned out not to be the ballplayer. Where had Harry Clayton Wilson gone?

The answer to that question proved elusive until I discovered a family tree on the internet that gave a date of death of April 15, 1929. No source was given, but it matched the period in which the ballplayer seemed most likely to have died, so I checked it out. I was able to find a Harry C. Wilson, age 50, who died in Knoxville, Tennessee, on that date and whose body was returned to Baltimore for burial. Death notices in the *Baltimore Sun* on the 17th and 18th incorrectly gave the death date as the 16th, incorrectly gave the place as Nashville, but did reveal that he was buried in New Cathedral Cemetery (his father had been buried in Cathedral Cemetery).

It all seemed to fit extremely well, but the death certificate was still necessary to be certain. I turned to it, hoping to find the ballplayer's parents or date of birth listed. Alas, the hospital at which he died had served as the informant and almost all of the critical fields were blank. But just when I was losing hop, I noticed the occupation line, which read steeplejack. And what claimed the life of the man who had braved death so many times as a steeplejack? Pneumonia

John Fischer

This player started out as an unknown player simply named Fisher. He pitched with Philadelphia (UA) in 1884 and Buffalo in 1885. He was listed as being from Johnstown, Pennsylvania and had in fact pitched for Johnstown in 1884. An 1886 note from Sporting Life enabled us to identify this player.

"Johnny Fisher, the excellent Williamsport pitcher, has been released at his request, and is at his home, 303 Canal Street, this city, waiting for something to turn up."

The 1860 census showed the family at that address. John was the son of Christian and Dora Fischer, age 4. He was also easy to track through the Philadelphia city directories, staying at the 303 Canal Street address through the 1890s. The 1900 census shows him living with his wife Mary and father-in-law Silas Hepburn. He appears in the census through 1930, and Peter Morris was able to find an obituary in the Philadelphia Inquirer that lists him as the husband of Mary Fischer (nee Hepburn).

James Graham

James Graham played four games for Philadelphia in 1889. There were a lot of notes on this player and that made him easy to identify. He was the son of James and Martha. He appears in the city directory listed as a ballplayer, but disappears in 1897. The whole family worked as weavers, so when we found a James Graham who died in Philadelphia in 1918 who was a weaver, it seemed we had our man. Alas, a check of the death certificate showed that man to have different parents. We were temporarily stonewalled.

Peter Morris decided to reexamine some other possibilities and found a James Graham of the right age living in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Our ballplayer played in Lebanon, so this seems like a good possibility. Peter was able to find an obit in the Lebanon paper that confirmed this James Graham was our missing ballplayer.

Al Froelich

We have long listed a player named Ben Froelich who caught one game for the Phillies in 1909. All his information was there and it was likely we never would have looked at him. However, if you would like to know how a great researcher goes about his work, read this account from Peter Morris and

see how he became suspicious of the listing, and how he was able to establish the proper identification of this player.

Every time I think we're getting close to having eliminated all of the imposters from the encyclopedias, I find an egregious counterexample like this one. We list a William Palmer "Ben" Froelich as catching part of one game for the Phillies played at Boston on July 2, 1909, then dying in his native Pittsburgh seven years later. Not surprisingly, the listing goes back to Turkin & Thompson. The mismatched nickname looks immediately suspicious, and as soon as I started to look into it, the whole thing speedily unraveled.

Philadelphia Inquirer, July 3, 1909, p. 10, game account: "In the final game Dooin became engaged in a heated argument with Czar Rigler over a decision at the plate and the Red Top was waved to the bench. As Jacklitsch had a broken finger the Phillies were without a regular catcher, but an amateur secured from the lots of Brooklyn, by the name of Froelich, who just reported before the game yesterday, was pressed into service in the last two innings. The Brooklyn lad has much to learn yet for big league company."

Boston Globe, July 3, 1909, p. 5, game account: "Dooin made a lengthy kick over Rigler's decision and was banished from the game. Froelich, the new amateur catcher of the Phillies, then entered on the scene, and while he was getting acquainted with National league proceedings Bates stole second and third ..."

Sporting Life, July 10, 1909, p. 8, game account of second game of July 2 doubleheader: "Dooin was sent to the clubhouse in the second game by Umpire Rigler for disputing a decision, and a Brooklyn youngster named Froelich took his place."

Sporting Life, July 10, 1909, p. 4: "Manager Murray brought Froelich, a young semi-professional catcher, with him from Brooklyn. He has a lot to learn about catching and will be used to warm up the pitchers until Jacklitsch's finger gets well."

Brooklyn Eagle, July 10, 1909, p. 19, photo of Froelich (holding mask in right hand and mitt in left), with caption "AL. FROELICH Who Has Been Signed by the Philadelphia National league Club." Page 18 has this writeup, "Froelick, who was the captain and star catcher of Rebus team last year, has been signed by the Philadelphia Association. The boys all wish Al luck in his new position."

More research made the real player's identity obvious:

Brooklyn Eagle, October 30, 1908, "The local amateur season came to a formal end last night, when the Rebus Club received the Eagle pennant emblematic of the intercity championship ... Captain Al Froelich of the Rebus, in a really nice speech, thanked Mr. Ebbets for his good words and also the Eagle for its support of the amateur clubs in Greater New York. ... members of the team ... Al Froelich, captain and catcher ..."

Sporting Life, February 20, 1909, "President Ebbetts [sic], of Brooklyn, has received the signed contracts of Edgar Lennox, Jesse Ryerson and A. Froelich. The two last are semi-professional catchers who have been highly recommended to Ebbetts, and as it has been his policy to encourage local talent he will send these men South for Manager Lumley to give them a try-out."

New York Press, April 4, 1910 (also reprinted in *Niagara Falls Gazette*, April 6, 1910), "Al Froelich, known to Brooklyn ball fans, signed a contract to play with the Fort Wayne club of the Central league. Froelich is a catcher, and several years ago played semi-professional ball on several teams in Brooklyn. Two years ago he was on the Brooklyn Nationals' reserve list. Last year when Dooin and Jacklitsch of the Phillies were laid up Froelich helped out behind the bat."

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, May 2, 1910, Wessel, Froelich, and Noah released; “All are good ball players and will land up at another place before long.”

Utica Herald-Dispatch, March 17, 1911, Catcher Froehlich signed by Utica on recommendation of Steve O’Neill and Hugh Jennings. In light of the Pennsylvania connections, perhaps this is William Palmer Froelich and/or Ben Froelich. I found no indication that it was Al. In any case, this player seems to have been cut before the season.

Brooklyn Standard Union, September 18, 1912, At the end of an article about the debut of a new Brooklyn player – a “well-put-up, light-haired young gentleman” named “Charlie Stengel” (“outside of making four hits, drawing a base on balls, stealing two bases, and driving in two runs, Stengel made a poor showing in his debut”) – is this note: “Al Froehlich, the popular semi-pro. catcher of this borough, has been signed by the Cubs and will appear in uniform at Washington Park to-day.” (Wow! The Cubs were still alive in the pennant race, albeit with little chance of overtaking the Giants, so not surprisingly Froehlich was not used.)

Brooklyn Eagle, September 18, 1912, “Al Froehlich, the well-known Brooklyn semi-professional catcher, has been signed for a trial with the Chicago Cubs and may well work one of the games here this week. Froelich used to catch for the Rebus Club in the Prospect Park League, when the Rebus team won the championship of Brooklyn. He was once tried by the Brooklyn National League team.”

Brooklyn Daily Star, September 26, 1914, “Al Froelich, the well-known Brooklyn catcher, who had a try-out with Brooklyn and Philadelphia National League teams, is now the regular catcher of the New York police team. Froelich is well known over here, having caught for the Suburbans of Brooklyn and the Glenwoods of Long Island City.”

Brooklyn Eagle, October 4, 1915, Romer and Froelich the battery for NYPD versus the Fire Department in front of 22,000 fans with Hank O’Day and Ernie Quigley umpiring.

Brooklyn Eagle, July 27, 1916, “The Degnon Grays will meet the strong Pittsfield Club at Degnon Field on Sunday. Art Romer will hurl for the Pittsfield team, with Froelich catching. Hoelker or Anker will pitch for the Degnons, with Fred Jacklitsch catching.” Note the presence of Jacklitsch.

Brooklyn Daily Star, August 30, 1916, Romer and Froelich will be the battery for the New York Police Department team against the Philadelphia police. “Occasionally this team [the NYPD team] plays under the name of the Pittsfields.”

Several similar notes and game accounts in the Brooklyn papers in 1915 and 1916.

Brooklyn Standard Union, September 6, 1924, Albert Froelich of the 30th listed as second-string catcher on NYPD team

He proved very easy to trace:

1892 NY State census, Brooklyn Ward 8

Otto Froehlich 40 Gy produce dealer

Mary 39 Gy

Otto 17 NY merchant dealer

Lizzie 9 NY

Albert 7 NY

Margaret 3 NY

1900 census, 282 Prospect, Brooklyn
Otto Froehlich 47 Gy3, imm. 1873, news dealer
Maria Froehlich 46 Gy3, m. 27 yrs, 11/5
Otto Froehlich 25 NY news dealer
Lizzie Froehlich 17 NY milliner
Albert Froehlich 15 (3/85) NY
Margaret Froehlich 10 NY
Frances Froehlich 6 NY
and Maria's parents, Julius and Rosetta Zanker

1910 census, 403 Prospect, Brooklyn
Otto Froehlich 58 Gy news dealer
Marie Froehlich 56 Gy
Albert Froehlich 25 NY news dealer
Elizabeth Froehlich 28 NY clerk, candy store
Margaret Froehlich 21 NY clerk, candy store
Frances Froehlich 17 NY clerk, candy store
Marie Froehlich 9 NY

Kings County Marriage Index:

November 8, 1913, Albert G. Froehlich and Amanda Antoinette Theresia Elmquist

1915 NY State census, 1604 Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn
Albert G. Froehlich 30 NY police officer
Amanda A. T. Froehlich 28 NY
(Fred Jacklitsch, injured catcher for the 1909 Phillies, is on the same page of the census at 360 Sixteenth Street as Fred F. L. Jacklitsch, professional ball player, with wife Josephine. Likely that explains how Al Froehlich got his chance with the Phillies that season.)

WWI Registration

Albert George Froehlich, b. January? (could be June, but I think it says Jan) 2? (could be a 3), 1885, 1604 Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn, patrolman, nearest relative: wife Amanda, medium height and build

1920 census, 1604 Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn
Albert J. Froehlich 35 NY Gy Gy policeman
Amanda Froelich 33 NY Sweden Sweden

1930 census, 29 Fane Ct., Brooklyn
Albert G. Froehlich 45 NY Gy Gy patrolman, m. 17 years
Amada A. F. Froehlich 43 NY Sweden Sweden
with brother-in-law and sister-in-law Alfred and Signe Elmquist

1940 census, 29 Fane Ct., Brooklyn
Albert G. Froehlich 55 b. Brooklyn, patrolman
Amada A. T. Froehlich 53 b. Brooklyn

New York Death Index:

Name: Albert G. Froehlich

Birth Year: abt 1885

Age: 56

Death Date: 15 Mar 1941

Death Place: Kings, New York, USA
Certificate Number: 6035

“Cop, Fearing Blindness, Kills Himself With Pistol,” *New York Evening Post*, March 15, 1941, Patrolman Albert G. Froelich, 56, was afraid he was going blind. At 12:12 a.m. today, his wife, Amanda, heard a shot in the back yard of their home, 29 Fane Court, Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn, and found him lying on the ground with a bullet wound in his temple and a bullet wound in his head. He died at Coney Island Hospital at 6:30 a.m., the 114th policeman to commit suicide since 1934. Froelich was a professional baseball player before becoming a policeman in 1913 and was a star catcher for the police baseball team up to a few years ago.”

Brooklyn Eagle, March 16, 1941, A13, “Funeral services for Patrolman Albert George Froehlich, who died yesterday in Coney Island Hospital from a gunshot wound self-inflicted because of his fear of going blind, will be held at 8 p.m. tomorrow in the Herbst Chapel, 83 Hanson Place. Patrolman Froehlich, who was 56, lived at 29 Fane Court, Gerritsen Beach, and was assigned to the Hamilton Avenue Precinct. He had been on the police force for 28 years and had previously been a professional baseball player. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ettie Froehlich. Burial will be private.”

Amanda lived until 1971 and is buried in a columbarium in Green-Wood, but Albert doesn't appear to be buried with her.

Harry Atkinson

Yet another misidentified player was Harry Atkinson, previously identified as Henry Adkinson. Peter explains how Atkinson came to be misidentified and how Peter was able to determine who the right guy was:

On September 25, 1895, two new players named Coleman and Atkinson debuted for the Browns, playing pitcher and left field respectively. Turkin & Thompson eventually tacked first names on both of them, and it took many years to identify these as mistakes and research them afresh. Several years ago, we found proof positive that the pitcher was in fact Walter Lee Coleman, whose obituary read as follows:

Fulton Gazette, November 26, 1925:

"Walter L. Coleman, 51 years old, pitcher on the famous Fulton Stars baseball team of 1895, died suddenly at his home in Bunceton, Cooper County, shortly after arising Friday morning. Death was caused by apoplexy.

"Funeral services were held at the Bunceton Presbyterian church Sunday afternoon.

"Coleman made Fulton his headquarters several years during his baseball career and had a great many friends in the city. He joined the Stars when the team was on the upgrade in amateur circles and with his good left arm helped them win from all comers, including the St. Louis Browns.

"The game with the Browns was played in a remote corner of Star Park on a beautiful fall afternoon and every devotee of the sport in and near Fulton was on hand. When the prize sluggers among the Browns were mowed down by Coleman's curves, the joy of Fulton was unbounded.

"Coleman had the control, speed, curves, and physique to make a great pitcher. Following his victory over the Browns in Fulton, he was tried out the next season by the St. Louis team, but professional ball did not appeal to him and he did not join the organization. The easy-going ways of amateur baseball were more to his liking and he passed up the chance to become famous.

"Coleman was reared at Bunceton and after his baseball days he returned there and operated a grain elevator. He became one of the leading citizens of the town. A son is noted in his home section also as a baseball player."

Richard Malatzky subsequently noted that Atkinson was identified in several game accounts as a Missouri boy and an amateur whose name was spelled Atkinson, yet Turkin & Thompson had identified him as Henry Magee Adkinson, a University of Chicago ballplayer. Richard dug more digging and found a more detailed account in the St. Louis Republic that said that both Coleman and Atkinson came from a team in Fulton and had been accompanied by a rooting section from that town. The Post-Dispatch also described Atkinson as having come along with Coleman.

Fulton is not a large town and there was only one candidate who seemed to fit: a J[ohn] Harry Atkinson who was born in 1874 and seems to have lived his whole life in the towns of Auxvasse, Fulton, and Mexico, including graduating from Westminster College in Fulton. This man was even elected mayor of Fulton in 1906 after running on a platform of paving the town's streets. The more we dug, the more it looked as though this was our man. But would we be able to prove it?

Somebody contacted the Callaway County Public Library in Fulton, where a librarian named Carolyn Branch found an article in the Fulton Sun-Gazette of September 28, 1895, that identified the two new Browns players as Walter Coleman and Harry Atkinson. This made it seem extremely likely that we had the right man, but it still wasn't definitive.

Somebody named Professor Worth (I'm not sure who that is) contacted the college and received this response: "Our yearbooks go back only to 1897. I looked in that yearbook, as it is the only one we have from the 1890s, and Mr. Atkinson is not in it. However, I called our alumni office and discovered that your Mr. Atkinson graduated Westminster in 1894. His son, by the same name, graduated in 1931, and the third Mr. Atkinson graduated in 1960. No mention is made of Mr. Atkinson's activities at Westminster, other than his membership in Phi Delta. Sorry I have no picture, but at least you know he graduated from Westminster in 1894. Hope this helps with your research. Cyndie Faircloth-Smith"

This article had some interesting details: Daily Missourian, August 17, 1916, "HE HELPED BEAT THE BROWNS. Harry Jacks Played on Winner Against St. Louis Team In 1895," "Few Columbians realize that they have right in their midst a man who was a member of a team that once took a series from the St. Louis Browns the team that is now furnishing the thrill of the American League by winning two out of three games. That man is Harry Jacks of the Herald-Statesman Publishing Company and the team was Fulton. Back in 1895 the Browns journeyed to Fulton for a series of practice games. They got plenty of practice and went home with only one game out of the three to their credit. One of the features of the series came when three Fulton players, Bailey, Atkinson and Douglas knocked three home runs on three pitched balls. The line-up of the Fulton team follows. Catcher, Tony Berry; pitcher, Walter Coleman; first base, Harry Jacks; second base, Harry Atkinson; third base, Roy Tucker; shortstop, Douglas; left field, Celsus Bailey; center field, Henry Mathews; right field, W. E. Newland." But it didn't prove that the Harry Atkinson in question was J. Harry Atkinson.

Harry Jacks and J. Harry Atkinson were both members of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and a publication of that fraternity suggested a link between the Fulton Stars and Phi Delta Theta. We also found several other articles indicating that Atkinson took an active interest in sports at his alma mater, but nothing conclusive. He warranted a front page obituary when he died in Mexico on January 2, 1953, but there was no mention of baseball. So things stalled until I found this article:

"FORM AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Westminster's New Athletic Body Will Aim in Promoting School Sports," Kansas City Star, December 18, 1921, 15A: "FULTON, Mo., Dec. 17 -- The members of the Westminster College Alumni Association in Fulton have organized an athletic advisory committee of the board of trustees and they will co-operate with the athletic board of control at the school in all athletic matters in the future. The board was perfected with the election of the following men: W. Brewer Whitlow, former star center and former coach of the Blue Jays, for a term of three years; J. Harry Atkinson, at one time one of the star players on the baseball team and later given a tryout with the St. Louis Browns, two years; Frank P. Baker, another baseball player of note of former years, one year. New members will be elected as the term of each of these men expires."

That should leave no doubt:

John Harry Atkinson

Born June 19, 1874 Fulton, Missouri (the DC says January, but WWI and 1900 census both have June)

Died January 2, 1953 Mexico, Missouri

Buried Hillcrest Cemetery, Fulton, Missouri

Harry Ely

Harry Ely pitched one game for Baltimore on September 24, 1892. According to notes of the game, he was a former Pennsylvania State Leaguer. Research on Ely was done by Joe Simenic, Bob McConnell, and Peter Morris. Peter was able to piece together the story and determine that Ely was actually Isaac Harry Ely and found his obit in the Reading Times. Here is Peter's writeup on the search.

John Ely played for York in the Penn State League in 1893, while Harry played for Allentown.

Harry and John were teammates on both Hazelton and Philadelphia in the Penn State League in 1894.

Harry played the outfield and pitched, while John was mostly a pitcher.

In the crucial year of 1892, however, the only Ely in the league was a man who played first for Allentown and then Reading, mostly in the outfield but occasionally as a pitcher. He was suspended by Allentown at the end of June for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, joined Reading on July 12 and played for them until the team folded on July 28.

He checked six Philadelphia papers and two Baltimore ones for the days immediately following Ely's game and found extensive notes in several of them, but nothing at all about Ely save the Baltimore Sun's mention that he came from the Pennsylvania State League.

Based on that, there are four candidates to be the one-game major leaguer: John W. Ely, Harry Cannon, David Ely, and Isaac Harry Ely.

John W. Ely is all but inconceivable: he was only 16 or 17, and all evidence is that he didn't start his professional career until the following year. None of the notes point to him.

Harry Cannon is just as implausible: his candidacy is based entirely on one note two years after the fact implying that Harry Ely was a pseudonym for Harry Cannon from Camden. But there is plenty of evidence that the ballplayer was from Reading and all indications are that his real name was Ely.

David Ely somehow got listed in the 1893 and 1894 Reading CDs as a ballplayer, but that is the entirety of the evidence for him. The 1897 address in Sporting Life's was Isaac Harry's father David. More importantly, the only David Ely of appropriate age in Reading was Isaac Harry's brother, who had died in childhood twenty years earlier, so he can be ruled out entirely.

That just leaves Isaac Harry Ely, and I think it's clear that he is our man: he is the right age; he grew up in Reading as the Reading Times article said; he lived at the Cotton Street address given for the ballplayer in Sporting Life in 1897; and his obituary says he was a ballplayer. He has to be the Penn State Leaguer and, according to the only notes about the major leaguer, the two are one and the same.

It was a Long Time Coming

A man named Long played outfield for Louisville on August 29, 1888. This man had been identified by Turkin and Thompson as Dan Long. It was later proven that Dan Long was playing in San Francisco on the date in question so we changed the player's name to just Long. Peter Morris has finally been able to identify Mr. Long.

The Philadelphia Press had an article that said, "Long, late of the Athletic Reserves, guarded left field for Louisville." In March of 1889, the Philadelphia Inquirer had a note that Chester had signed

"Tom and Harry Long, late of the Athletic Reserves, who played with the team last season." A check of box scores for Chester showed that Harry Long was a catcher and Tom Long was an outfielder. That would indicate that Tom was our major league outfielder. But who were they?

Peter found several teams that Tom and Harry played on together. That would indicate they were likely brothers. A check of the Philadelphia city directories and the census showed that the only brothers who were the right age were Thomas and Harry Long, the sons of Joseph and Catherine. Knowing that, it was easy to find Thomas Long in the Pennsylvania death certificates. He died in the state insane asylum in Norristown on December 15, 1914.

Charles Kelly

Another writeup from Peter Morris:

We had very little on this guy, who played two major league games at third base in 1883 and one at shortstop in 1886.

A 6/13/83 account of an exhibition game between the Phillies and the Merritts stated that "Kelly, an amateur player, occupied 3B with the Philadelphias." He then played with them in his ML debut the next day. Several notes in *Sporting Life* indicate that he was on the Solar Tips team of Philadelphia. SL Vol. 3 # 17: Solar Tips (Pha) C Kelly ss also R Kelly c (brother?). SL Vol. 5 #12: Solar Tips P Kelly 2b C Kelly ss.

Then the *Philadelphia Press* of May 2, 1886, reported: "The Athletics new ss, Charles Kelley, of the Solar Tips, secured by Manager Sharsig of the Association Club of this city."

Sporting Life added on May 19, 1886: "Charles Kelly of the Solar Tips has been signed by the Athletics and will be tried at short field. He used to catch for Peter Conway, and when not catching played short stop, in which position he did brilliant work."

Richard found several other notes in *Sporting Life* linking him to the Solar Tips, and one that indicated that he was born around 1862. So in sum, it certainly looked as though the same man had major league cups of coffee in 1883 and 1886, that his name was Charles Kell(e)y, that he could have a brother with the name of P and R, that he was probably born around 1862, and that at some point he had played with Pete Conway. Not much to go on, though Richard tried hard to develop a candidate on the basis. Since the Solar Tips were sponsored by the John Mundell Shoe Company of Philadelphia, he tried to find a Charles Kelly with such an occupation, but the best-looking candidate proved difficult to trace. He also worked on a Charles Kelly who played for Wilkes-Barre, but couldn't find any proof that it was the same man.

Everything changed when two ballplayers happened on a skeleton. Yes, really. On December 6, 1917, this article appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* under the headline "Skeleton Identified; Said To Be That of William C. Kelly, Once Well-Known Pitcher": "CLIFTON HEIGHTS, Pa., Dec. 5 (Special). – The skeleton which was found on Samuel Riddle's farm near Williamson School last Friday afternoon by Jack Krouse and Elmer Lukens, two Media ball players who were gunning, has been identified, it is reported, as that of William Kelly, of Clifton Heights, 50 years old. At one time he was one of the best pitchers in this section of the country. Kelly played with the Hazleton (State League) team some years ago and in other parts of this State. He was well known in Philadelphia in the eighties when he pitched for the Portuondo and Solar Tip teams in the famous Trades League in that city. He is survived by a widow, three children and three brothers, all former ball players. John played with Toronto, Montreal and Baltimore clubs in the International League and St. Louis Nationals; Charles played in the Tri-State and State Leagues; Thomas played in semi-professional leagues in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Kelly left his home on September 18 of last year. He had been ill and was believed to be mentally unbalanced. He evidently walked into the woods where he died."

Wow! While the article does not identify Charles Kelly as a major leaguer or even a member of the Solar Tips, it puts his brother with that team and puts the family in Clifton Heights, the hometown of Pete Conway. Obviously William Kelly is the brother of the mysterious major leaguer.

I looked at his death certificate next, and it listed him as a weaver, the son of Thomas and Sarah Kelly, with a birthdate of June 30, 1866. He was buried in St. Charles Cemetery, Kelleyville. The informant was Charles Kelly of Swarthmore.

So this is obviously the family on the 1880 census in Clifton:

Thomas Kelly 55 Ireland works dye house
Sarah 45 Ireland
Charles 18 Pa weaver
William 13 Pa weaver
Ellen 11 Pa
Dennis 9 Pa
Thomas Jr. 6 Pa
Catherine 4 Pa
John 1 Pa

Evidently his Solar Tips teammates with the same surname were not his brothers.

1900 census, Clifton Heights (same page as his parents):

Charles J. Kelly 2/62 Pa Ire Ire weaver
Grace A. Kelly 8/70 Pax3 m. 12 yrs. 1/1
daughter Gertrude 1/89 Pax3

Chester Times, September 26, 1916, article about disappearance of William Kelly, last seen by brother Charles of Victoria Plush Mill, near Swarthmore

1920 census, Springfield Twp. Delaware:

Charles J. Kelly 58 Pa Ire Ire weaver, plush mills
Grace A. 49 Pax3
Mary D. Miles, 78, mother-in-law, widowed Pa NY NY
Helen Spense, 6, niece Pax3

1930 census, Springfield Twp. Delaware:

Charles J. Kelly 68, widowed, laborer, plush mill Pa Ire Ire

Find-a-grave has Grace Kelly 1870-1928 buried with Charles Kelly 1862-1940 at Saint Charles Borromeo Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Delaware County.

PI 1/7/1940 Deaths – Charles J. Kelly, no details

PA Death Index: Charles J. Kelly, d. January 5, 1940 Clifton Heights

Chester Times, January 8, 1940, "Charles Kelly of East Baltimore avenue, Clifton heights, a former professional baseball player, and a well-known resident of the borough, died suddenly at his home Friday morning of a heart attack.

"Mr. Kelly, who was 78 years old, was born at Kelleyville and was a former member of the Wilkes-Barre baseball club. He was also a former member of the Mundell Shoe Company of Philadelphia, where he was employed for a number of years.

"He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Flower, and a brother, John Kelly, both of Baltimore, Md., and a sister, Mrs. Sidney Shipley, of Clifton Heights."

There's one more paragraph about funeral, high mass, and burial arrangements. Note that this puts him in the employ of the parent company of the Solar Tips -- can't get much better than that!

Henry Gilroy

Peter was also able to find Henry Gilroy, who previously had been completely unidentified. I am copying two letters from Peter. The first describes how Peter was able to establish his identity, but at the point Peter wrote me, he didn't have a death for him. The second email shows how Peter was able to find his death.

We have an unidentified player named Gilroy who played for Chicago in 1874 and the Philadelphia Athletics in 1875. We have absolutely no biographical info listed for this guy, but both were catchers and the Chicago player was picked up when the team played in Philadelphia, while the Chicago Tribune said that both Quinlan and Gilroy from the Eurekas of Philly, so it seems logical to assume that the two were one and the same and were from Philadelphia.

Still not much to go on, but Richard found this note in Sporting Life and figured that it might be our missing player:

SL 4/29/83 Manager of Ashland: Harry Gilroy of Manayunk

So he traced this man:

1880 census, 106 Mifflin, Philadelphia
Henry Gilroy 27 Pax3 beef butcher
wife Caroline 28 Pa
son Henry 5 Pa

And the parents are at 110 Mifflin:

Charles T Gilroy 56 Pa
Jane 55 Pa
Helen Dix 24 Pa
John 23 Pa

In 1900 Caroline and Harry are living with her parents Henry Ribbel (Rivel in 1870 census) and Sarah Ribbel: Harry born 2/53 butcher; Caroline 10/56; Harry 1/77.

Now that Philly deaths are out, I figured I would see if I could find this man, which proved easy enough; he died in 1906. Then I tried and find a connection to baseball and this popped up:

Lebanon Daily News, June 26, 1875, page 4: "Harry Gilroy, change catcher for the Athletic base ball club of Philadelphia, performed said duties in the game with the Actives of Reading yesterday. His splendid playing brought forth applause and the ladies complimented him very highly for his skill. Mr. Gilroy is active and watchful, and presents all the evidences of becoming one of the best players of the club. He was stopping at the residence of John W. Mish, Esq., last night, and this morning left for Philadelphia."

And so did this:

Lebanon Daily News, July 17, 1876: "Harry Gilroy is in town and manifests a deep interest in base ball matters."

So now we have a first name for our missing player. Unfortunately, it soon became obvious that the ballplayer was not the butcher identified by Richard. The butcher was already married and his first child was born in 1875. There's no evidence that he ever lived anywhere other than Philadelphia and no plausible reason that

he'd be visiting Lebanon and staying at the home of John Mish, who was a very prominent attorney. Instead our ballplayer has to be the only other Henry Gilroy who appeared in the Philadelphia CDs during the crucial years – a lawyer named Harry/Henry E. Gilroy who was about a year older than the butcher. More importantly, Harry E. Gilroy had lived in Lebanon in 1869 when his father, a minister, was serving there, and was listed at Manayunk for most years in the early 1880s. He married a Lebanon woman named Mary Gloninger around 1883 and their first child was baptized in Manayunk by his father in 1885. So everything fits perfectly.

Our man was the son and namesake of Rev. Henry E. Gilroy, whose obit read as follows:

Henry Engard Gilroy was born Mount Holly, N.J., January 11, 1821. He was converted when in the thirteenth year of his age, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in Mount Holly, which was then one of the appointments on Burlington circuit. Removing to Philadelphia, he became a member of Mariner's Bethel. When seventeen years of age, he received license to exhort, and, a year later, license to preach. In the year 1839, he served as a "supply" on Strasburg circuit, under the Presiding Eldership of Solomon Higgins, with Edward Kennard as preacher-in-charge.

He was received on trial in the Philadelphia Conference in 1840, admitted into full membership, and ordained Deacon by Bishop Waugh in 1842, and ordained Elder by Bishop Hedding in 1844. His active ministry extended over a period of forty-six years, and was spent in the following appointments: Dauphin circuit, 1840; Rising Sun, 1841; Cohocksink, 1842; Mauch Chunk, 1843; Milestown circuit, 1844-45; New Market Street, 1846-47; Sanctuary, 1848; Port Carbon, 1849-50; Smyrna, Delaware, 1851-52; Dover, Delaware, 1853-54; Port Deposit, Maryland, 1855-56; North East Maryland, 1857; Pottsville, 1858-59; Front Street, 1860-61; Mariner's Bethel, 1862-63; Mt. Zion, Manayunk, 1864-65; Madison Street, Chester, 1866-68; Lebanon, 1869; Asbury, 1870-72; Sixteenth Street, 1873; Cheltonham, 1874-76; Phoenixville, 1877-78; Paschalville, 1879-80; Bristol, 1881-83; Bridesburg, 1884 to the Conference of 1886, when he became supernumerary, in which relation he continued until the close of his earthly life.

In 1844, Brother Gilroy was married to Miss Catharine Smith, of Philadelphia, who proved herself a worthy helpmeet, and who died in 1870, leaving a daughter, now Mrs. James Wallace, of Manayunk, and a son, Mr. Henry Engard, of the Philadelphia Bar.

In 1874 Brother Gilroy was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Blakeley, of Chester, Pa., whose loving companionship brightened the remaining years of his life. Two daughters by this marriage, Mrs. Emily B. Damon of Darby, and Miss Alice B., survive.

From 1886 to the time of his death, Brother Gilroy resided in Chester, Pa., and for five years was connected with Madison Street, as "supernumerary with work."

This brief summary of the life of our brother is, if itself, sufficient to show the value of his work. But only the older members of the Conference, who knew what the charges which Brother Gilroy served were, and the character of the service which he rendered in them, can estimate the success and efficiency of his ministry. When we recall the names of the men who were his contemporaries in the Conference, and note how well he ranked with them, we recognize the fact that he possessed abilities which made him their peer.

As a preacher, Brother Gilroy was strong and clear. His sermons were analyses of the subjects suggested by the chosen texts, closing with faithful application of the truth to the heart and conscience. He was empathetically a student of the Bible, and out of the treasury he brought forth things new and old. He so preached the Gospel as to convince and persuade, as the revivals which attended his his [sic] ministry abundantly prove.

He was an efficient administrator and a faithful pastor. His sympathetic nature made him a friend of the erring, the helper of the needy and the comforter of the sorrowing. His appearance and manner, his modesty and reticence, inspired confidence. He was strong in his friendships, and to those who came closest to him, there was a revelation in the tenderness and strength of his nature which awoke their deepest affection. Though spared to see more than seventy-five years of life, he never grew old in appearance or spirit.

After his retirement from the active ministry, he was always found in his place in the public services of the Church, and in the social means of grace. He was the friend of his pastors, unobtrusive and helpful.

The closing years of his life were passed amid the most delightful surroundings, and in the serenest peace. Honored by all who knew him, beloved by the family which God had given him, and by a wide circle of relatives, and favored with large manifestations of Divine favor, he passed his days in service, in study, in meditation and prayer, waiting the call of the master to come up higher.

At times during his last sickness his sufferings were extreme but his confidence in God never wavered and his peace was never broken. He seemed to forget himself in his consideration for others. From his lips that had so often uttered the words of eternal life. Came expressions of holy confidence and of inexpressible love for the Saviour. To his son he said, "If you ever hear any man expressing doubts, tell him that you saw a man die who hadn't the shadow of a doubt!" At another time he said, "Not only will my loved ones be watching for me, but also, those who, through my humble instrumentality, were brought to Christ." When in great bodily distress, laying his hand on his struggling heart he said, "Let my triumphant spirit go. Precious Jesus! In mercy, send the messenger, oh! send the messenger." And then, as if fearing that he had been impatient, he added a "Thy will be done -- not my will." Through his sickness down to the end, Brother Gilroy was the same gentle, patient, thoughtful and trustful man, that he had been in health.

On the night of Friday, June 19th, 1896, Brother Gilroy peacefully passed to his home in heaven, leaving to his loving and beloved family the priceless heritage of a well-spent life, and to the Church the inspiration of his faithful ministry.

His funeral took place on Monday, June 22nd, at 3 p.m. The services were held at his late residence in the city of Chester. The large attendance of the people of the city, and of his brethren of the Conference, testified the esteem in which he was held. The following took part in the impressive services: J.F. Crouch; T.C. Murphey, D.D., W.L. McDowell, D.D.; Nathaniel Turner, F.A. Gilbert, R.W. Humphriss, D.D.; and J.L. Russell, D.D., of the Darby Presbyterian Church. Addresses were made by Drs. W.J. Paxson, S.W. Thomas, and J.R.T. Gray. The interment took place in the Chester Rural Cemetary [sic]. The service was read by Drs. T.M. Griffith, W.J. Paxson, A.M. Wiggins and J.R.T. Gray.

As we finished life of our lamented brother, we may sum up the purpose for which he lived and the object for which he labored, in the expressive phrase, "For Christ and His Church."

So we are looking for Henry Engard Gilroy, Jr., born around 1852 in Delaware – almost certainly Smyrna, where his father was then preaching – and who became a member of the Philadelphia Bar in December of 1873. Sounds easy enough, especially since Mary Gloninger was a member of one of Lebanon's most prominent and influential families, which allowed Gilroy to make connections of his own.

Instead, the search for him is one maddening dead end after another. The ballplayer's mother died when he was young, and his father remarried and started a new family, which broke up the family unit. Harry Jr. graduated from Philadelphia Central High in 1870 and their records indicate that he then earned a B.A. and became a member of the Philadelphia Bar in December of 1873. But that's a very short period in which to do both, and while he is listed as a student in the Philadelphia CD in two of those years, there is no record of him attending Penn. He could have studied at a different university, but most of the other ones in Philadelphia at the time were Catholic, which his father surely would not have let him attend. Perhaps I missed one, but I'm dubious about his B.A., and suspect he just studied law in a lawyer's office (perhaps Mish's?) without graduating from college. His legal career may not have been successful – he is listed as a lawyer in Philadelphia CDs until 1899, but searches of his name in newspapers during those years turn up only one case. Maybe he was in a field of law that didn't involve litigation, but if he was doing well, you'd expect to his name pop up from time to time.

Meanwhile, after giving birth to two children, his wife seems to have moved back to Lebanon. On the 1900 census, she and the children are living with her father and they are all listed as Gloninger, with no sign of Harry, though Mary is listed as married. Presumably the 1900 census listing is a mistake but there it become increasingly clear that the marriage has failed. In 1905, the Lebanon CD lists Harry (Mary) Gilroy, but by 1907,

she is listed as his widow. She dies suddenly in 1910 and there is a very lengthy obit on the front page of the Lebanon paper that pointedly avoids any mention of him. Their daughter died in 1940, and the Lebanon paper again had a long obit without any mention of Harry. Obviously he had become persona non grata for some reason.

So what happened to Harry? He last appears in the Philadelphia CD in 1899, and I can't find him on the 1900 census or subsequent ones, so he could have died in 1899 or 1900. But if he died in Philadelphia, there should be a DC, and I can't find one. The 1905 Lebanon CD makes it look as though he is still alive. Obviously listings by estranged wives have to be taken with a grain of salt, but it's unusual for such a woman to list her husband as alive after he dies, since that doesn't save face, so it seems likely that he was still alive. But I can't find him in the new 1906-1924 Pennsylvania deaths database, so perhaps he died in 1905. One intriguing possibility: in 1905, Mary's brother, a doctor named Adam Gloninger, opened the Lebanon Sanatorium. Was his brother-in-law one of the patients? And did he perhaps die there in 1905, with his death understandably being given no publicity? But there are other possibilities. Is he buried in Chester Rural Cemetery with his father? Is he buried with his wife despite the problems?

For now he's just:

Henry Engard Gilroy (Jr.)
b. 1852 Smyrna, Delaware

Familysearch updated their Philadelphia deaths over the weekend and now he pops up. I don't understand why I couldn't find him in the new state death records, but he is indexed as Gibroy, so I guess that is why. It looks as though he spent the last seven years of his life in the Philadelphia hospital, which corresponds to him disappearing from the CD in 1899; otherwise the two death certificates are both pretty vague, but more than enough to establish that he is our man:

Henry Engard Gilroy
b. 1852 Smyrna, Delaware
d. October 31, 1907, Philadelphia
buried at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Philadelphia

Sparrow Morton

Peter was able to find Sparrow Morton, pitcher for Philadelphia in 1884, also known as Sparrow Moore. Here is the story to that find:

8/96 Mystery of the Month, from Bob Richardson: William P. Morton or Martin when pitching in New England league, connected with Philadelphia post office

July-Aug. 1999 newsletter: "Morton, who pitched for the Philadelphia club in a game against New York last week, is said to be a Fairmount Park 'Sparrow' and is not a graduate of the Chambersburg club. It is also said that his real name is Morton More."

1884 note: Philadelphia signs LHP Morton from the Chambersburg, Pa. club; same in Philadelphia Inquirer

SL VOL 3 #17 The Keystone Club will this week try a new Left Handed Pitcher named Morton, who played with St Louis in the early season

SL 4/15/85, 7: The Defiance Club of Pha has reorganized under management of William H Morton of last season's Pha Lg club Left handed Pitcher 1462 Hutchinson St, Pha "...William H. Morton, left-handed pitcher of last season's Philadelphia League Club. First-class clubs, address William H. Morton, Manager Defiance B.B.C., 1462 Hutchinson Street, Phila., Pa."

There was never a Morton at that address and it seemed impossible for anyone to match all of these contradictory notes, but it turned out that there was a near-perfect match:

1882 Louisa Moore, widow, with William P., telegraph operator, 1462 Hutchinson

1883 Louisa, widow with William P., carrier, 1462 Hutchinson

1884 Phil cd William P. Moore, po carrier, 1462 Hutchinson

1885 Phil cd William P. Moore, po carrier, 1462 Hutchinson

1880 census, 1460 Hutchinson

Wm. Moore 21 telegraph operator all Pax3

Louise Moore 58? mother

Josephine Moore 12 sister

1870 census, Philadelphia

Louisa Moore 37 all Pax3

Jane Moore 18

William P Moore 11

Daniel F Moore 4

Josephine Moore 1

William J Calhoun 48

1860 census

R A P Moore 32 carpenter, all Pax3

Maria L Moore 30 (Maria Louisa?)

Jane E Moore 10

William P Moore 2

1860 cd: Robt A.P. Moore, telegrapher, r 510 Delwyn

1863: same, clerk

Name: R. A. P. Moore

Death Date: 27 Aug 1869

Death Place: Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Gender: Male

Race: White

Birthplace: Philad.

Marital Status: Married

Street Address: 517 Chatham St.

Cemetery: American Mechanic Cemetery

Burial Date: 01 Sep 1869

Name: Louisa M. Moore

Death Date: 31 Mar 1886

Death Place: Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gender: Female

Race: white

Death Age: 53 years

Estimated Birth Year: 1833

Birthplace: Phila

Marital Status: Widowed

Street Address: 1457 Camar St

Cemetery: American, Mechanic

Burial Date: 03 Apr 1886

In an intriguing twist, Sparrow's brother Daniel F Moore married Lillian Eccles Ulrick, the sister of one of our former missing players in 1889 in Philadelphia. On the 1900 census they were living under the same roof:

1900 Colwyn Borough Delaware Co Pa
Daniel F Moore 1 65 Pax3 bookseeper
Lillian E 9 65 Pa 10 2-2
Erma C 1 91 III
George F 6 93 III
BIL George F Ulrick, our former missing player

But William P. Moore seemingly disappeared completely. Sadly, it turns out that he spent the last fifteen years of his life in the state insane asylum where he died in 1917, and perhaps was institutionalized elsewhere before then. At least his sister Josephine kept tabs on him and meticulously provided his family and vital information when he died (http://interactive.ancestry.com/5164/41381_2421406274_0595-01212/1480261?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgst%3d-6&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnSearchResults):

William P. Moore (baseball name: William Morton)
b. August 7, 1858, Philadelphia
d. July 18, 1917, Norristown, Pa.
Buried Mechanics Cemetery, Philadelphia

Patrick Carroll

Our *Mystery of the Month* comes courtesy of Peter Morris. It appears that the man we list as Patrick Carroll may not be our ballplayer. Here is what Peter says about the mysterious Patrick Carroll.

Some time ago Richard Malatzky questioned the identification of Patrick Carroll and pointed to a different candidate. The problem with identifying Carroll is that the two listings of Carroll as a ballplayer in the Philadelphia CD (in 1886 and 1889) are at addresses not associated with any other Carrolls. Richard concluded that they fit better with a different Patrick Carroll, who, oddly, was born within a year of the man we list, also had a wife named Mary, and died within a year of the man we list. The only real difference is that the man we list was born in Pennsylvania and the other in Ireland; his theory was that somebody got them crossed at some point.

That's certainly plausible, but after spending a lot of time trying to map out all the Patrick Carrolls in the CDs during the late 80s, it's not possible to draw a direct line to any of the Patrick Carrolls. I agree with Richard that the Irish-born man looks more likely than the man we list, but I'm troubled that both are significantly older than one would expect -- 35 or 36 when last listed as a ballplayer in 1889. So I have another candidate: a Patrick Carroll Jr. who was a decade younger and who died in 1893 in Norristown, probably in the state asylum. Here is the weird thing about this man: in 1886, the same year that we have the first Patrick Carroll, ballplayer, listing at 1921 S. 11th, there is also a listing for this man as a catcher! I've never seen a ballplayer listed by his position in the CD, and catcher could also mean dog catcher, and of course the double listing is not a good sign. Nevertheless, I've seen too many double listings to rule him out, and in general this man seems like a better fit than the two older men. I've done quite a bit of digging on him and can find nothing that proves (or disproves) my new theory, so unless Reed Howard has something about Carroll in his magical notes, this is likely to remain a mystery.

Birthday List

Here are the nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in July and August.

July 10	Chuck Stevens	96
July 16	Len Okrie	91
July 22	Jim Rivera	92
July 24	Clint Conatser	93
July 25	Marv Rackley	93
July 26	Milt Welch	90
August 11	Luis Olmo	95
August 20	George Zuverink	90
August 27	Don Grate	91

Scoreboard

CATEGORY	IN	OUT	PCT
Names	18254	40	99.781
Births	17747	547	97.009
Deaths	9074	208	98.863
Bats	17085	1089	94.008
Throws	17300	874	95.191
Heights	17457	717	96.055
Weights	17395	779	95.714
Debut Dates	18294	0	100.000
Questionnaires	9980	8314	54.553
Total			92.3443

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

DEBUT YR	NAME	CHANGE OR ADD	SOURCE
1895	Adkinson, Henry Magee	Name: <u>John Harry Atkinson</u> Nickname: <u>Harry</u> B: <u>Jun 19 1874 Fulton, Missouri</u> D: <u>Jan 2 1953 Mexico, Missouri</u> Cemetery: <u>Hillcrest Cemetery, Fulton, Missouri</u> Source: <u>Daily Missourian, Kansas City Star</u>	(M4)
1879	Allen, Cyrus Alban	D: <u>Trenton, New Jersey</u> Source: <u>Trenton Times</u>	(M4)
1872	Allison, William	B: <u>Jul 16 1850</u> Source: <u>Death certificate</u>	(R4)
1875	Arundel, Harry	B: <u>Feb 8 1855</u> Source: <u>Baptismal record</u>	(M4)
1971	Ballinger, Mark Alan	D: <u>Jun 13 2014 Okeechobee, Florida</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated, ashes given to family</u> Source: <u>Funeral home</u>	(R4)
1896	Bergen, Martin	Last date: <u>Oct 13 1899</u> Source: <u>Game records</u>	(V1)
2001	Berroa, Angel Maria (Selmo)	B: <u>Jan 27 1978</u> Source: <u>Baseball America</u>	(C1)
1884	Bickerton, John A. (MGR)	Cemetery: <u>Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC</u> Source: <u>Cemetery</u>	(C1)
1872	Bielaski, Oscar	Last date: <u>Aug 21 1876</u> Source: <u>Game records</u>	(V1)
1914	Black, David	<u>TL</u> Source: <u>Boston Globe</u>	(N6)
1975	Bostock, Lyman Wesley	D: <u>Sep 24 1978</u> http://www.uclick.com/client/wpc/wpdom/	(D9)
1872	Britt, James Edward	Height: <u>5-06</u> Source: <u>California voters registration</u>	(M4)
1887	Burke, William R.	Name: <u>William Rickard Burke</u> B: <u>Nov 1862</u> Source: <u>California voters registration, 1870, 1880 census</u>	(M4)
1943	Camelli, Henry Richard	Real name: <u>Henry Richard Comolli</u> Source: <u>1940 census, sibling's obits</u>	(C6)
1890	Carfrey, Edwin M.	B: <u>Jul 28 1863</u> Source: <u>Death certificate</u>	(M4)
1904	Cassidy, Joseph Phillip	Name: <u>Joseph Philip Cassiday</u> Source: <u>Death certificate</u>	(M4)
1899	Chiles, Pearce Nuget	D: <u>Dec 11 1933 Talmage, California</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated</u> Source: <u>Death certificate</u>	(M4)
1951	Clark, Melvin Earl	B: <u>Jul 7 1924</u> D: <u>May 1 2014 West Columbia, West Virginia</u>	(C1)

		Cemetery: <u>Sunrise Memorial Gardens, Letart, West Virginia</u> Source: Phillies	
1884	Conway, James P.	Cemetery: St. Charles <u>Borromeo Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Cemetery name correction	(C1)
1885	Conway, Peter J.	Cemetery: St. Charles <u>Borromeo Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Cemetery name correction	(C1)
1884	Creegan, Mark	Height: <u>5-07.5</u> Source: California voters registration	(M4)
1901	Crolius, Frederick Joseph	<u>BL</u> Source: Toronto Star	(M4)
1952	Dittmer, John Douglas	D: <u>May 31 2014 Strawberry Point, Iowa</u> Cemetery: <u>St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Elkader, Iowa</u> Source: Cedar Rapids Gazette	(C1)
1892	Drauby, Jacob F.	B: Jan <u>6</u> 1864 Source: Death certificate	(M4)
2012	Edgin, Joshua Wayne	<u>BR</u> Source: mlb	(P1)
1892	Ely, Harry	Name: <u>Isaac Harry Ely</u> B: <u>Aug 13 1868 Reading, Pennsylvania</u> D: <u>May 11 1925 Reading, Pennsylvania</u> Cemetery: <u>Aulenbach's Cemetery, Mount Penn, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Reading Times	(M4)
1884	Fischer, John	D: Feb 9 1942 <u>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> Cemetery: <u>Mount Moriah Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Philadelphia Inquirer	(M4)
1884	Fisher, George Cresse	Height: <u>5-09</u> Source: California voters registration	(M4)
1871	Fisler, Weston Dickson	B: Jul 6 <u>1843</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1909	Froelich, William Palmer	Name: <u>Albert George Froelich</u> Nickname: Al B: <u>Jan 2 1885 Brooklyn, New York</u> D: <u>Mar 15 1941 Brooklyn, New York</u> Source: Brooklyn Eagle	(M4)
1895	Gardner, James Anderson	Name: James <u>Andrew Gardner</u> Source: Marriage record	(M4)
1903	Gessler, Henry Homer	D: Dec <u>26</u> 1924, <u>Kilbuck Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1888	Gibson, Leighton P.	D: Oct <u>11</u> 1907 <u>Talmage, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Geographical correction, death certificate	(C5)
1889	Gill, James Clifford	B: <u>Sep 29</u> 1865 Source: Death certificate, 1900 census	(M4)
1874	Gilroy,	Name: <u>Henry Engard Gilroy</u> B: <u>1852 Smyrna, Delaware</u> D: <u>Oct 31 1907 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> Cemetery: <u>Mount Moriah Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Lebanon Daily News, Sporting Life, death certificate	(M4)

1977	Gordon, Michael William	D: <u>May 26 2014 Boston, Massachusetts</u> Cemetery: <u>Pine Hill Cemetery, West Bridgewater, Massachusetts</u> Source: Brockton Enterprise	(C1)
1876	Graffen, Samuel Mason (MGR)	B: <u>Dec 8 1943</u> Source: Baptismal record	(M4)
1889	Graham, James	B: <u>Jan 8 1865 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> D: <u>Feb 17 1935 Lebanon, Pennsylvania</u> Cemetery: <u>Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Lebanon, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Lebanon Semi-Weekly News	(M4)
1954	Gray, John Leonard	B: <u>Dec 11 1926</u> D: <u>May 21 2014 Boca Raton, Florida</u> Cemetery: <u>South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth, Florida</u> Source: Palm Beach Post, 1930 census	(C1)
1882	Greenwood, William F.	Name: <u>William Fitter Greenwood</u> B: <u>Apr 19 1857</u> Source: Baptismal record	(M4)
1885	Greer, Edward C.	Name: <u>Edward Greer</u> Real name: <u>Adam Edward Gewehr</u> B: <u>Jun 29 1863 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> D: <u>Feb 14 1890 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> Cemetery: <u>Glenwood Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Baptismal record, death record	(M4)
1919	Grevell, William Joseph	D: <u>Springfield Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1982	Gwynn, Anthony Keith, Sr.	D: <u>Jun 16 2014 Poway, California</u> Source: San Diego Padres	(C1)
1875	Harbridge, William Arthur	Name: <u>William Albert Harbridge</u> D: <u>Mar 16 1924</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1955	Harrell, William	D: <u>May 6 2014 Albany, New York</u> Cemetery: <u>Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, New York</u> Source: Albany Times Union	(C1)
1914	Harris, Joseph	B: <u>Coulter, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Geographical correction	(N6)
1890	Helmbold, Horace Willing	Height: <u>5-09.5</u> Source: Passport application	(M4)
1901	Hinton, John Robert	D: <u>Woodville, Pannsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1902	Jones, Thomas	B: <u>Jun 21 1874</u> Source: WWI draft registration	(M4)
1896	Keener, Joshua Harry	B: <u>Aug 18 1868</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1883	Kelly, Charles H.	Name: <u>Charles J. Kelly</u> B: <u>Feb 1862 Kellyville, Pennsylvania</u> D: <u>Jan 5 1940 Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania</u> Cemetery: <u>St. Charles Borromeo Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania</u> Brother of John Benedict Kelly	(M4)

		Source: Chester Times	
1907	Kelly, John Benedict	Brother of Charles J. Kelly Source: Chester Times	(M4)
1910	Kirsch, Harry Louis	Last date: Apr <u>29</u> 1910 Source: Game records	(V1)
1931	Kloza, John Clarence	Real name: <u>Jan Klojzy</u> Source: Naturalization record	(M4)
1884	Krehmeyer, Charles L.	Last date: Oct <u>5</u> 1885 Source: Game records	(V1)
1902	Krug, Henry Charles	Height: <u>5-07</u> Source: California voters registration	(M4)
1897	Kuhns, Charles Benton	D: Jun 20 1922 <u>Woodville, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1888	Long,	Name: <u>Thomas L. Long</u> B: Nov <u>1860</u> Philadelphia, Pennsylvania D: <u>Dec 15 1914</u> Norristown, Pennsylvania Cemetery: <u>Fernwood Cemetery, Royersford, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1890	Long, Daniel W.	Name: Daniel <u>William</u> Long Height: <u>5-07</u> Source: California voters registration	(M4)
1871	Mack, Dennis Joseph	B: <u>1850 Mauch Chuck</u> , Pennsylvania Source: 1850 census	(M4)
1965	Marentette, Leo John	D: <u>May 8 2014</u> Lambertville, Michigan Cemetery: <u>East Swanton Cemetery, Swanton, Ohio</u> Source: Funeral home	(C1)
1886	Marr, Charles W.	Last date: Sep <u>23</u> 1891 Source: Game records	(V1)
1906	Mathewson, Henry	D: <u>Jun 30</u> 1917 Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1906	McCloskey, James John	B: Aug <u>25</u> 1882 Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1964	McCool, William John	D: <u>Jun 8 2014</u> Summerfield, Florida Source: Dayton Daily News	(D6)
1872	McDonald, Daniel	Last date: Aug <u>14</u> 1872 Source: Game records	(V1)
1901	McFadden, Bernard Joseph	B: <u>Mar 29 1875</u> D: Apr <u>28 1922</u> Cemetery: <u>St. Ann Cemetery, Freeland, New Jersey</u> Source: Death certificate, Philadelphia Inquirer	(M4)
1890	McFetridge, John Reed	D: <u>Glenolden, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1903	McGeehan, Cornelius Bernard	B: <u>Jeddo, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1894	McGuire,	Name: <u>Thomas Maguire</u> Source: Philadelphia Inquirer	(M4)
1885	McTamany, James Edward	B: Jul <u>4</u> 1863 Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1886	Meister, John F.	D: Jan <u>17</u> 1923 Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1937	Mele, Albert Ernest	Cemetery: <u>St. Raymond Cemetery, Bronx, New York</u> Source: Grandson	(R4)

1891	Merritt, William Henry	Last date: Oct Source: Game records 1899 Source: Game records	(V1)
1874	Miller, Thomas P.	B: <u>Mar</u> 1850 Source: 1850 census	(M4)
1884	Moore, William P.	Name: William P. <u>Morton</u> Real name: <u>William P. Moore</u> B: <u>Aug 7</u> 1858 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania D: <u>Jul 18</u> 1917 Norristown, Pennsylvania Cemetery: <u>Philadelphia Memorial Park, Frazer, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1954	Morton, Guy, Jr.	D: <u>May 11</u> 2014 Lorain, Ohio Cemetery: <u>Maple Grove Cemetery, Vermilion, Ohio</u> Source: Tuscaloosa News	(C1)
1909	Oakes, Ennis Telfair	Height: <u>5-11</u> Source: Baseball Magazine	(C1)
1947	Picone, Mario Peter	D: <u>Oct 23</u> 2013 Brooklyn, New York Cemetery: <u>St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, New York</u> Source: New York Daily News	(C1)
1981	Pittman, Joseph Wayne	B: Jan 1 <u>1953</u> D: <u>Jun 13</u> 2014 Lake Jackson, Texas Source: Columbus Ledger Enquirer, Texas birth index	(C1)
1884	Price, James Lyman (MGR)	Cemetery: <u>Forest Home Cemetery, Forest Park, Illinois</u> Source: Cemetery	(C1)
1895	Purner, Oscar E.	B: Dec 9 <u>1872</u> Height: <u>5-10.5</u> Source: Army enlistment papers	(M4)
1913	Quinlan, Thomas Finners	Name: Thomas <u>A.</u> Quinlan Source: WWII registration, Philadelphia Veterans Burial Cards, Philadelphia Inquirer	(M4)
1953	Roig, Anton Ambrose	Cemetery: <u>Pines Cemetery, Spokane, Washington</u> Source: Cemetery	(R4)
1894	Russell, Paul A.	Real name: Benjamin <u>Philip</u> Sheeder B: Mar <u>20</u> 1871 Source: Birth record	(M4)
1902	Sebring, James Dennison	B: Mar <u>25</u> 1882 Hoytville, Pennsylvania Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1884	Serad, William I.	B: <u>Apr</u> 1862 Source: 1900 census	(M4)
1899	Seybold, Ralph Orlando	D: Dec <u>21</u> 1921 Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1874	Shafer, George W.	B: Oct <u>4</u> 1851 D: Jan <u>22</u> 1922 Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1886	Sharsig, William A. (MGR)	B: <u>Jan 1</u> 1855 Source: Church record	(M4)
1875	Terry, Walter W.	B: Apr <u>7</u> 1850 Source: Funeral director	(M4)
1904	Unglaub, Robert Alexander	B: Jul 31 <u>1880</u> Source: Marriage record, 1900 census	(M4)
1955	Vargas, Roberto Enrique	D: <u>May 27</u> 2014 Caguas, Puerto Rico	(C1)

	(Velez)	Cemetery: <u>Borinquen Memorial Park, Caguas, Puerto Rico</u> Source: Primerahora	
1883	Ward, Frank Gray	D: <u>Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1978	Welch, Robert Lynn	D: <u>Jun 9 2014 Seal Beach, California</u> Source: Oakland Athletics	(C1)
1948	Welteroth, Richard John	D: <u>May 7 2014 Williamsport, Pennsylvania</u> Source: Funeral home	(N5)
1901	Wicker, Robert Kitridge	B: <u>May 25 1877 Bono, Indiana</u> Source: WWI, WWII draft registration, 1880 census, Bedford Daily Mail	(C1)
1884	Wiley, Joseph	B: <u>Mar 14 1857</u> Source: Death certificate	(M4)
1898	Wilson, Harry Clayton	D: <u>Apr 15 1929 Knoxville, Tennessee</u> Cemetery: <u>New Cathedral Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland</u> Height: <u>5-08.5</u> Source: Death certificate, military enlistment	(M4)
1919	Wisner, John Henry	Real name: <u>John Henry Wisinski</u> Source: Grandson	(H9)
1896	Wood, John B.	B: <u>May 14 1872</u> Source: Arch Street Society of Friends Monthly Meeting Records	(M4)
1954	Zimmer, Donald William	D: <u>Jun 4 2014 Dunedin, Florida</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated</u> Source: New York Daily News	(C1)