



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report  
August 1992**

## James Bowser Found

Richard Topp has done it again. Rich found another poor SABR member willing to do committee research and he was able to track down one of our missing ballplayers. Congratulations to Rich and Robert Van Atta of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, winners of the August *Find of the Month* award.

Bowser was born in 1886 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania but his exact birthdate has not been determined. His baseball career began in 1902 when he played shortstop for a team at South Greensburg while being employed as a tinner by the Greensburg Hardware and Supply Company. During the first decade of this century, he also played with Greensburg in the Western Pennsylvania League, Charleroi in the POM League, Flint and Bay City in the Southern Michigan League, Johnstown in the Tri-State League, and Oakland in the Pacific Coast League.

His lone major league appearance came on September 13, 1910 when he was hitless in two plate appearances as an outfielder with the Chicago White Sox. He settled in Moundsville, West Virginia in 1913 and worked for the Fostoria Glass Company until his death in 1943. His body was returned to Greensburg for burial, although no stone marks the grave. This is what made finding him difficult. Great work in finding a tough guy!

### Under 500

When a major league team plays under .500 it is a bad sign. However, when our committee goes under 500 it is cause for celebration, because we now have only 497 missing ballplayers to find. The rest should be a piece of cake.

### Off Of Our Walker

Remember Walter S. Walker, our *Find of the Month* from last month? We listed him with four games in the outfield for Baltimore(AA) in 1885. That record belongs to Oscar Walker. Walter S. Walker caught one game for Detroit(NL) on May 8, 1884. A heckuva game; he made two errors and had seven passed balls. This Detroit entry was in Turkin-Thompson but somehow disappeared over the years. Thanks to Joe Simenic for straightening this out.

### Gee, I'm Confused

We were able to correct the death date of James J. Stafford thanks to the work of Richard Topp and Dick Thompson. However, his birth date is open to question. The death certificate says January 6, 1869. We have July 9, 1868. Earlier editions of the encyclopedias had December 30, 1868. Can anyone locate a birth certificate for Stafford and confirm the proper date?

### A Very Unusual Nickname

I was rather amused by a recent letter to *Baseball Digest* in which the author inquired as to the origin of Cub Stricker's nickname as it was listed in MacMillan, 060859. As most of you know, the seventh edition of MacMillan was filled with a multitude of errors and Stricker's birthday showed up as his nickname. This only goes to point out how once these errors appear in print, they can confuse the heck out of an uninformed public. I think that our committee can take pride in the role we are playing to see that these errors are eliminated.

### Rumors Of My Death...

The granddaughter of Charles Peter (Greek) George called MacMillan and reported that he is

alive and living in Covington, Louisiana. We had listed a death of January 30, 1975 in St. Louis but in looking back over old biographical reports, I couldn't find where we ever picked that up. Does anyone know the source of the St. Louis death?

### Member Movement

Please welcome Peter Morris, 706 Shepard, Lansing, Michigan 48912 (M4) to the bio team. Peter is the one who actually tracked down Walter S. Walker last month. That's the best debut since Bert Campaneris. Peter is now working on other Michigan players.

Also welcome Greg Beston, 31 Trafalgar Court, South Weymouth, Massachusetts 02190. Greg's code number will be B4.

Tom Shrimplin has moved. Tom's new address is 107 Navajo, Hiawatha, Kansas 66434.

### Birthday List

There are no nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in September but Leonard Dondero turns 89 on September 12. I'm sure he would appreciate a card.

### Take Me To Your Pilot

Last month's *Mystery of the Month* featured a player who debuted in 1871. This month we move ahead almost 100 years for a player who only played with the Seattle Pilots. Miguel Fuentes pitched 8 games for the Pilots in 1969 and then was shot to death the following January 29. We list him as being born May 10, 1946 which would make him 23 at the time of his death. However, various obituaries list him as 20, 21, and 22. He was shot in his hometown but some sources list this as Loiza and others as Loiza Aldea. There are towns of both names in the area.

All of the obituaries have him shot in that town but say he was taken to a hospital in another city where he died as there was no doctor in the city where he was shot. The *Seattle Times* says that he was taken to the town of Fajardo; the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* says he was taken to the Fajardo District Hospital in San Juan; the AP account says he died in Fajardo District Hospital but did not specify a city. To complicate the situation, Loiza and Loiza Aldea are both about halfway between San Juan and Fajardo. Can anyone provide any insight into this or perhaps indicate what is the best way to get

birth or death certificates from Puerto Rico? Thanks to Joey Beretta for providing this month's *Mystery*.



### The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13710	73	99.470
Total Complete Births	12969	814	94.094
Total Complete Deaths	6808	497	49.394
Total Assumed Alive	6478		47.000
Total Bats	12371	1311	90.418
Total Throws	12645	1037	92.421
Total Heights	12544	1138	91.683
Total Weights	12468	1214	91.127
Total Debut Dates	13783	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9905	3878	71.864
Total Completion			91.9504

## **Francis Thomas Kane**

By Dick Thompson

B: Mar. 9, 1895, Whitman, Massachusetts  
D: Dec. 2, 1962, Brockton, Massachusetts  
BLTR 5-11.5 175

Frank Kane is a perfect example of the down side of the draft exempt status of the high minors during the 1920s. While the majors eventually had to meet the prices for the Lefty Groves and the Jack Bentleys, it was the players who weren't deemed more valuable than the standard draft price, but who were certainly of major league caliber, who languished in the high minors, and are mostly forgotten today.

Frank Kane started his pro career with Taunton of the Colonial League in 1914. The MacMillan Encyclopedia still lists his real name as Kiley, not Kane. While untrue, Frank did play part of the 1914 season under the name of Kiley, but did so to avoid confusion with his uncle, Ambrose Kane [1878-1936], a long-time minor league outfielder who was the player-manager of the Taunton club.

When Taunton folded in 1915, Frank's contract was transferred to Brockton. As one of the brightest young stars of the Colonial League, which was affiliated with the Federal League, Frank appeared briefly with the Brookfeds late in the season.

In 1916 and 1917 Frank was under contract with Providence in the International League but spent time in lower classifications. After time out for World War I, Frank went to spring training with the Yankees. He made the club but after just one pinch-hitting appearance, for Jack Quinn on April 28, was sent to Toledo.

For the next seven plus seasons Kane was a regular in the International League. Three times he scored over 100 runs and in 1921 led the IL with 68 stolen bases. From 1920-26 he averaged 18 triples a season and in 1924 hit .348, had 204 hits, 112 RBIs, and 25 steals. Despite these numbers Kane was never able to work his way back to the majors. He retired from active play after spending the latter part of the 1928 season with Brockton of the New England League.

Kane was a graduate of the Bentley School of Accounting in Waltham, Massachusetts. He worked as an accounting firm executive in Boston for over 30 years and held a seat on the local board of selectmen in his hometown of Whitman, Massachusetts from 1933-45. At the time of his death he was the town accountant of Rockland, Massachusetts.

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

<del>1910</del> Bowser, James H. N	D: <u>May 22 1943</u>	(T1)
	<u>Moundsville, West Virginia</u>	
1890 Crawford, George N	Debut: Oct 8 1890	(S1)
1935 George, Charles Peter N	Is Alive	(T1)
<del>1926</del> Hamby, James Sanford N	D: <u>Oct 21 1991</u>	(C1)
	<u>Springfield, Illinois</u>	
1939 Parsons, Edward Dixon	D: <u>Longview, Texas</u>	(H1)
<del>1922</del> Schnell, Karl Otto	D: <u>May 31 1992</u>	(H1)
	<u>Palo Alto, California</u>	
1890 Stafford, James Joseph	D: Sep 18 1923	(T3)
<del>1879</del> Walker, Oscar N	<u>Worcester, Massachusetts</u>	
	Add 1885 Baltimore(AA) record from	(S1)
	Walter S. Walker	
<del>1885</del> Walker, Walter S.	Debut: <u>May 8 1884</u>	(S1)
	Remove Baltimore(AA) entry and add	
	Detroit(NL) in 1884	
<del>1890</del> Welsh, James J.	Name: James J. <u>Welch</u>	(S1)
1963 Williams, Donald Reid	D: <u>La Jolla, California</u>	(H1)

