



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
May 1992

Henry Mullin Found

May was a very slow month for new data but we do have a very deserving *Find of the Month*. Bob Richardson wins the prize for locating Henry Mullin. Bob even made a trip to New Hampshire, where Mullin had been playing for a railroad team, and discovered that he had been tracking the wrong man. He learned that the ballplayer was actually born in New Brunswick. This clue led him to check the Massachusetts vital records for a Mullin born in New Brunswick and he was able to nail the right guy. His obituary even mentioned that he once played for Washington in the Union Association. Great work!

Unfinished Business

Joe Simenic obtained a death certificate for Matthew Broderick which confirmed a February 26, 1940 death date so we finally have him cleaned up.

It also seems that Joey Jay is alive and well. Andrew Voytek sent me an advertisement promoting a card show in Milwaukee featuring Joey Jay as a guest making "his first card show appearance." Hopefully the Mafia won't gun him down.

Living At Fenway

Bob Anderson has moved and has the very appropriate address of 2 Fenway, Derry, New Hampshire 03038. Also please add Joe Murphy and Dave Taylor to the committee. Joe's address is 2441 Delevan Way, Santa Rosa, California 95404 and his code number will be M2. Dave's address is 5898 Clarendon Springs Place, Centreville, Virginia 22020 and his code number will be T5.

Monument to a Hall of Famer

Forest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City serves as the final resting place to two Hall of Famers. Satchel Paige has a huge monument on an island in a central part of the cemetery. Many people visit Forest Hill to read the inscriptions and admire the memorial.

A few hundred yards away in the shade of an elm tree lies a flat stone which simply says, "Zachary D. Wheat 1888-1972." Very few people are aware of the grave of this Hall of Fame outfielder. However, on May 23 a monument to Wheat was dedicated on Missouri 13 Highway about a mile and a half north of Polo, Missouri, Wheat's home town.

I would be interested in knowing if any of you are aware of any other monuments to former major leaguers and what they look like. This could also be possibly an interesting topic for a pictorial type of book.

You Can't Dig Here

Tom Hufford sent me an interesting note that comes under the heading of "trivia you can amaze your friends with." Did you know that apparently San Francisco is the largest city to have no former major leaguers buried there? Because of limited land space, there are no cemeteries in the city, only in the suburbs. The only two cemeteries within San Francisco are a military cemetery and a very old cemetery at Mission Dolores. (Of course, another earthquake might shift a few bodies back over the line.)

The Top 20 Most Wanted List

Since you all have been clamoring for me to reprint the Top 20 list, I have decided to do just that. After all, I don't want a revolt on my hands. Since I originally published the list, we have found several of the players and they have been replaced on the list with other toughies. So

without further adieu, here is the latest Top 20 Most Wanted List.

1. Joe Quest - The quest continues. We have found several but none appears to be him.
2. Harry Decker - This man was in Joliet prison around the turn of the century but seems to have escaped our clutches.
3. Emmet Seery - We have recently found his headstone in Jensen Beach, Florida. He died in 1930 but we don't have a date or place. Our June 1989 *Mystery of the Month*.
4. Tom Gettinger - This month's *Mystery of the Month*.
5. Matthew Porter - I have searched for him for 12 years. I have many leads but haven't found him yet. Our December 1990 *Mystery of the Month*.
6. Andrew Nelson - This 1908 pitcher has mystified us for years.
7. Spencer Pumpelly - We have all his birth and death data but his height, weight, bats, and throws remain a mystery, the most recent player for which this information is unknown.
8. Archie McCarthy - A name made for a ventriloquist dummy, McCarthy left Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for parts unknown. A clue may turn up in the 1920 census.
9. Henry Moore - No new information on him since he was featured as the December 1989 *Mystery of the Month*.
10. Walter Kinlock - Made his major league debut at 17 but has baffled us for years. Walter was the August 1990 *Mystery of the Month*.
11. David Rowe - The manager with the glowing won-loss record was the December 1991 *Mystery of the Month*.
12. C. B. White - Still no information on this Wakeman, Ohio native.
13. James E. Powell - I'm 90% sure he died in Montana and I am hoping to nail him soon.
14. John Russ - Bob Bailey recently identified

his first name. We just need his death.

15. Hugh Daily - One of the most baffling cases of all time. I found a letter in a 1939 TSN from someone who was wondering what happened to him. (No, it wasn't written by Joe Simenic.) The one-armed pitcher was our January 1990 *Mystery of the Month*.
16. Luis Castro - Was last known to be living in Georgia in 1915. Was born in Colombia but I suspect he died in the US.
17. George Shaffer - Shaffer had a lengthy career and a brother who also played in the majors. Yet we haven't found him. My guess is that if we check alternative spellings of his name he may pop up. The Shaffers were our May 1990 *Mystery of the Month*.
18. Charles Jones - This guy is really tough. His real name was Rippy and I would bet money he died in New York City. Our March 1991 *Mystery of the Month*.
19. Pearce Chiles - Another ex-convict who has eluded us. Old What's The Use was our October 1989 *Mystery of the Month*.
20. Samuel LaRocque - A minor league star who probably wound up in Canada. Our July 1991 *Mystery of the Month*.

There you have it. Anyone one who finds any of these players is probably a shoo-in for the coveted *Find of the Month* award. Good luck!

Convention Reminder

I'm sure I don't have to remind anyone but don't forget about the SABR convention in St. Louis June 26-28. Our committee meeting (a convention highlight) is Friday at 11:30 A.M. Please send me any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Monthly Biographies

If you would like to see our monthly biography feature continue, you will have to send me biographies. It doesn't have to be elaborate, just a one-pager on a player who might be interesting to you. It can be someone recent or someone from the 19th century. But unless I get more articles, I will have to discontinue the feature.

Birthday List

Only one nonagenarian celebrates a birthday in June. Former Pirate hurler Hal Smith turns 90 on June 30. But stay tuned for July. We will have several next month.

Let's Get Gettinger

Our *Mystery of the Month* for May is Thomas Gettinger, a player I have been working on for several years. Gettinger was born in 1869 in Frederick, Maryland under the name Gittinger. His parents were Lewis and Eveline Gittinger. He had a brother, Frank, and three sisters, Mary, Margaret, and Josephine. As far as I can determine, none of his family died in Frederick.

On September 18, 1894, Gettinger married Katie Dwyer at St. John's Episcopal Church in Mobile, Alabama. Gettinger lived in Mobile for the most part until 1918, although he did move back to Frederick for a couple of years around 1908. In July of 1895, Gettinger's son, Louis, was born in Mobile. As far as I know, this was Tom and Katie's only child.

Katie came from a rather large family. She was the daughter of Edward and Mary Dwyer. She had two brothers, John and James, and three sisters, Elizabeth, Sallie, and Mary. James and John apparently died young and are buried in

Mobile. I have been unable to locate the rest of her family.

In 1918, Tom and Katie moved to Pensacola, Florida where Tom got a job as a sanitary officer with the police department. At the present time, that is where Gettinger stands. If anyone has any contacts in Pensacola, I would appreciate you letting me know.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13708	75	99.456
Total Complete Births	12967	816	94.080
Total Complete Deaths	6793	502	49.285
Total Assumed Alive	6488		47.073
Total Bats	12370	1312	90.411
Total Throws	12645	1037	92.421
Total Heights	12540	1142	91.653
Total Weights	12464	1218	91.098
Total Debut Dates	13783	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9902	3881	71.842
Total Completion			91.9334

Homer Vernon Smoot

By Bob Tiemann

B: March 23, 1878, Galestown, Maryland
D: March 25, 1928, Salisbury, Maryland
BL TR 6-00 190

Homer Smoot's professional baseball career lasted through the first dozen years of the twentieth century with five full years spent as a starting center fielder with the St. Louis Cardinals and Cincinnati Reds.

Born in the hamlet of Galestown on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 1878, Smoot played for Washington College in Chesterson in 1897. He first broke into the national sports weeklies' box scores with the Allentown club of the Atlantic League in 1900, poling a triple and two singles on Opening Day. The league collapsed in June, but Smoot soon signed with Worcester of the Eastern League. He was unable to break into that club's starting lineup and was loaned to Providence. After only ten days with the Grays, he was recalled due to an injury to Worcester outfielder Jack Sharrott. Although he saw only limited duty in 1900, in 1901 he blossomed into a star by leading the EL in batting with a .356 average.

With the major leagues at war, Smoot was able to jump his Worcester contract and sign with the Cardinals after the end of the season. A sour-grapes sports writer from Worcester warned St. Louis that "Homer can neither run bases nor throw" but did admit that he was "a gentleman and thoroughly good fellow."

Installed in center field and the top half of the batting order, Smoot quickly disproved these accusations and became a key player on the Cardinal team, able to flag down a fly ball or race around the bases after a good hit. He led all NL outfielders in putouts in his rookie year, and he tied or led the Cardinals in home runs in three seasons. But he could not be called a power hitter, since none of his fifteen career HRs in the NL is known to have gone over the fence on the fly. He finished his big league career with a .290 batting average in 680 games played. A mild-mannered man, Smoot rarely argued with the umpires and was popular with fans and teammates alike. When he won a dramatic 8-7 game on July 22, 1903, with a two-out, two-strike, three-run home run in the bottom of the ninth, the joyous crowd swept onto the field and whisked the self-conscious Smoot up onto its shoulders for a hero's ride to the clubhouse. During the same homestand, Smoot twice scored the winning run in extra innings and saved another game with a spectacular, leaping backhanded catch after a long run to deep center field.

Smoot was traded to Cincinnati for utility man Shad Barry on July 20, 1906. When the Reds overhauled their roster after the season, Homer was sold to Toledo. He spent the next four and one-half years in the American Association with Toledo (1907-09), Louisville (early 1910), and Kansas City (June 1910 - June 1911). Then he was sold to Wilkes-Barre (New York St. Lg.) in July 1911. In June 1912 the 34-year-old outfielder, who suffered from inflammatory rheumatism, was suspended "at his own request" because he was not in condition to play. His replacement in the Wilkes-Barre outfield was Joe Delehanty, who ironically had been a teammate of his way back in Allentown in 1900.

Smoot coached Washington College in 1913 and managed Salisbury in the Eastern Shore League (near his birthplace) in 1924. His son played in the Cardinal chain briefly in 1927. Homer died of spinal meningitis in 1928, two days after his 50th birthday.

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

ready in Mdc VI. 1903 Broderick, Matthew Thomas	B: Dec 1 1877 Lattimer, Pennsylvania	(S1)
1942 Denning, Otto George 42-3 Cle N	D: Feb 26 1940 D: May 25 1992	(T1)
1940 Grove, Orval Leroy 40-9 CHIA N	Chicago, Illinois	
1884 Mullen, Henry	Is Deceased Name: Henry J. Mullin	(H1) (R1)
	B: Apr 1862 St. John, New Brunswick	
1923 Rosenberg, Louis C.	D: Nov 8 1937 Beverly, Massachusetts	
1940 Seats, Thomas Edward 40 A2 45 NL N	Name: Louis Rosenberg	(H1)
	B: Sep 24 1910	(M2)
1938 Stein, Justin Marion Phi-Gin N	D: May 10 1992 San Ramon, California	
	D: May 1 1992	(H1)
1946 Weigel, Ralph Richard 46 Cle 48 WSox 49 Wash N	Creve Coeur, Missouri	
	D: Apr 15 1992 Memphis, Tennessee	(H1)

New Monthly Data

Questionnaire Received

None

New Information Received

1973 Boudrick, Matthew Thomas

B. Dec 1 1971

1974 Boudrick, Matthew Thomas

B. Dec 1 1971

1975 Boudrick, Matthew Thomas

B. Dec 1 1971

1976 Boudrick, Matthew Thomas

B. Dec 1 1971

1977 Boudrick, Matthew Thomas

B. Dec 1 1971

1978 Boudrick, Matthew Thomas

B. Dec 1 1971

1979 Boudrick, Matthew Thomas

B. Dec 1 1971

1980 Boudrick, Matthew Thomas

B. Dec 1 1971

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