John J. Smith Found

This is our Find of the Month in a month with many nice finds, since guys named John Smith aren’t exactly easy to find. Peter Morris found an article in the November 13, 1880 New York Clipper stating that Smith was born in New York City in 1858, his family moved to Chicago in 1870, and then to San Francisco in 1878. It also said that his brother Hugh was a prominent San Francisco ballplayer.

Peter found an obit for a judge named Hugh Smith, who died in San Francisco. The obituary mentioned that he had played in the Pacific Coast League and that his uncle Hugh had also been a prominent ballplayer. It also listed the names of 9 brothers and sisters. Peter was then able to find an obituary for John Smith, who died January 6, 1899. Although it didn’t mention baseball, it did mention the names of his 10 children, who matched up with the family in Judge Hugh Smith’s obituary. Obviously, we have our man. Great work!

Emmett Rogers

We had always listed Emmett Rogers as being born in New York. I don’t know where that came from but it was wrong. Peter Morris found many instances where it was mentioned that Rogers was from Hot Springs, Arkansas. He found Rogers in the 1920 Arkansas census living in Fort Smith.

My local library has an Arkansas death index from about 1925-45. I checked it and found an Emmett Rogers who died in Fort Smith. I ordered the obituary and it referred to him as a former major league catcher. It also listed his birth date in Hot Springs.

Albert Bauer

We had Albert Bauer misidentified for years. Richard Malatzky determined that the player was Albert Bauer and that he later became a private detective. He was definitely from Columbus, Ohio. Peter Morris made a trip to Columbus and was able to locate the death certificate of the private detective. Peter looked up the obituary and it stated that he “was active in his early life in baseball circles...” Looks like another open and shut case.

James Banning

Research on James Banning showed him to be living in St. Paul, Minnesota. The 1880 census found him, age 14, living in St. Paul with his family. He was born in New York and was the son of Bernard and Margaret Banning. Bob Tholkes tracked down his death certificate that showed him dying October 14, 1952 in St. Paul.

Edward Biecher

Richard Malatzky and Peter Morris did a great job tracking down Edward Biecher. All we had on him was Edward Beecher, born May 1876 in Indiana. Richard found notes indicating that he was in St. Louis and that he played for Mansfield, Ohio in 1900. Richard was able to find him in the 1900 Ohio census. The St. Louis city directory showed Edward Biecher, baseball, in 1903. The 1920 census showed Edward Biecher, wife Emma, and children Stanley and Bernadine.

Peter Morris then went to work on the family and found Bernadine Larson, Biecher’s daughter, still alive and living in St. Louis. She confirmed that her father was indeed a major league player. Peter was then able to locate his grave as he was buried with his parents. He died July 15, 1939 in St. Louis.
Taylor Shaffer

Peter Morris had been on the trail of Taylor Shaffer for some time. Peter found an entry in the California death index that looked promising. It was a Zachary Taylor Shaffer, born in Philadelphia, who died in Glendale, California on October 27, 1945. Peter sent away for the death certificate and it said, "Occupation: retired athlete, Kind of Industry: baseball." It would be nice if they all could be confirmed that nicely.

Harold Dellinger proved that Taylor Shaffer also played with Altoona, Kansas City, and Baltimore in the Union Association in 1884, games that had previously been attributed to Frank Shaffer. The confusion stemmed from a note in the 02/13/1884 Sporting Life which stated, "Frank Shaffer of Detroit to play with Altoona." Harold showed that the Altoona player transferred to Kansas City, then went to Baltimore. A note in the 06/08/1884 Kansas City Journal referred to this player as Taylor Shaffer. Another note from Sporting Life on 02/24/1886 stated that "Taylor Shaffer, still in Philadelphia, was with Kansas City, Albany, and other clubs."

John Wood

Peter Morris did quite a bit of research confirming that the 1896 player, was John Wood, rather than James Wood and that he was born in Philadelphia and had played for Atlanta in the Southern League in 1895. In the 03/25/1902 edition of Sporting Life, the Atlanta correspondent wrote an article on the 1895 Atlanta team and where those players were now. He mentioned that Wood was working for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Richard Malatzky then found a 1920 census entry for a John B. Wood, who was a bookkeeper for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Richard traced him until 1929 and then was able to find his death notice, indicating he died in Philadelphia January 30, 1929. The address given in the death notice matched that of the 1920 railroad worker. Obviously, we have our man.

Willard Holland

Peter and Richard also teamed up to track down Willard Holland, 1889 Baltimore shortstop. Peter researched his baseball career and found that he was from Philadelphia and his occupation was a hatmaker. Richard found in 1889 entry in the city directory listing Willard Holland as a hatmaker. The following year he was listed as a ballplayer.

This gave Richard some information on Holland's family and he was able to trace them through the city directories until he disappeared in 1930. Richard searched through the Philadelphia papers until he found the death notice that he died July 19, 1930 in Philadelphia. His address confirmed that we had the right man.

Andrew M. Thompson

We had listed Andrew M. Thompson as playing for the Washington Nationals in 1875 and managing St. Paul in the Union Association in 1884. He was definitely the manager of St. Paul, but there is no evidence that he played for Washington. Peter Morris, Bob Tholkes, and Richard Malatzky tracked him down. So I have added him new as a non-playing manager and I'm leaving the 1875 Washington entry alone until some evidence is found for me to change it.

Not All Gormans Stoop

John F. (Stooping Jack) Gorman had been credited with playing for Kansas City in the Union Association in 1884. Harold Dellinger has determined that this record actually belonged to two different players. Thomas Gorman played from June 10 through July 25, mainly at first base. Stooping Jack Gorman played from August 22 through August 31. Both players were from St. Louis although they were apparently unrelated. By the way, Stooping Jack got his nickname from his pitching delivery. It is assumed that Thomas stood upright. Thomas also played with St. Joseph in 1886.

The Baseball Digest List

This is the second to last installment of the 100 missing ballplayers from Baseball Digest. This list appeared in the March 1963 issue.

Clair Shirey - Died 09/01/1962 in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Allen - Listed as Robert Allen, this was discovered to be Alvah Charles (Rowdy) Elliott. He was alive in 1963, but hiding. He died 12/18/1975 in Naperville, Illinois.

Patrick Cavanaugh - This was really John J. Cavanaugh. He died 01/14/1961 in New Brunswick, New Jersey.
**Birthday List**

Here are the nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in July and August:

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<td>July 29</td>
<td>Fran Healy, Sr.</td>
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<td>Herbert Pyle</td>
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<td>Ray Berres</td>
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**Crawling With Roaches**

John S. Roach pitched one game with New York (NL) on May 14, 1887. We list him as being born in Fannardsville, Pennsylvania. Michael Stephen Roach caught 24 games for Washington in 1899. We list his birth as December 23, 1873 in New York City and his death as November 12, 1916 in New York City.

Notes on John Roach showed him living in Reno, Pennsylvania in 1891. In 1895, he was listed as being in Driftwood, Pennsylvania and running a hotel. He is listed in the 1900 census in Renovo with his wife Susie and children Mary and William. He is not listed in 1910 or 1920.

Michael Roach played in the minor leagues from 1892 to 1900. He was listed both as James Michael Roach and Michael S. Roach. However, a note from 1896 showed Toledo catcher Roach wintering in Driftwood, Pennsylvania. So it seems reasonable to assume that Michael and John Roach are related.

The Binghamton, New York directories show a Michael S. Roach running a hotel with his wife Rosemary. Rosemary is shown as a widow in 1917, consistent with our death of Michael. (He was originally listed as dying in Binghamton.) Richard Malatzy pulled a list of all the Roaches buried in Clinton county where Renovo is located. Listed are Michael S., who died November 13, 1913 and M. S. w/o Charles P., who died November 12, 1916, same as Michael our ballplayer. So what does "M. S. w/o Charles P." mean? Is this our ballplayer or is the 1913 Michael S. the ballplayer? And where is John?

This confusing story is a natural for our *Mystery of the Month*.

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**The Scoreboard**

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Bio Report 3 May/June 2001
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:
None

New Information Received:

1872 Allen, Homer S.
Name: Frank Erwin Allen
B: 1846, Place Unknown
D: Feb 6 1881
Natick, Massachusetts
(M4)

1888 Banning, James M.
B: Jun 11 1865
D: Oct 14 1952
St. Paul, Minnesota
(T2)

1884 Bauer, Albert
B: Aug 7 1859
D: Feb 23 1944
Columbus, Ohio
(M4)

1871 Beavans, Edward P.
Name: Edward P. Beavans
1897 Beecher, Edward
Name: Edward Beecher
D: Jul 15 1939
St. Louis, Missouri
(W5)
(M4)

1903 Berte, Harry Thomas
Height: 5-10  Weight: 160
1917 Boeckel, Norman Doxie
D: La Jolla, California
1913 Bonin, Ernest Luther
D: Jan 3 1966
2000 Bradley, Milton Obelle
B: Harbor City, California
1969 Brown, Isaac
D: May 17 2001
Memphis, Tennessee
(M4)
(M4)
(L5)
(N4)

1887 Brown, Willard
Name: William M. Brown
1892 Camp, Llewelyn Robert
Name: Robert Plantagenet Llewellan Camp
B: Feb 23 1868
1892 Camp, Winfield Scott
B: Dec 8 1869
New Albany, Ohio
(M4)
(M4)

1884 Connor, John
B: 1865
Nashua, New Hampshire
D: Nov 14 1905
Nashua, New Hampshire
(M3)
(M4)

1950 Consuegra, Sandalio Simeon (Castello)
B: Potrerillos, Cuba
1895 Coogan, Daniel George
Height: 5-08
1884 Coridan, Philip
D: Jun 4 2001
Indiana, Indiana
(M4)
(M4)
(C2)

1872 Coughlin, Dennis F.
Name: Dennis H. Coughlin
1909 Curtis, Clifton Garfield
B: Jul 3 1881
1999 DePaola, Sean M.
Name: Sean Michael DePaula
1891 Doran, John F.
Height: 5-11  Weight: 175
1942 Fernandez, Froilan
D: Harbor City, California
1894 Flaherty, Patrick Henry
BR
1896 Flynn, George A.
Weight: 150
1886 Flynn, John A.
BR
1885 Fogarty, John J.
Height: 5-09  Weight: 158
(M4)
(M4)
(B3)
(M4)
(M4)
(SS)
1893 Frank, Charles  1895 Friend, Daniel Sebastian  1891 Fuller, Henry W.  1893 Goodenough, William B.  1884 Gorman, Thomas

1886 Graves, Frank M.  1871 Hall, George William  1946 Hamner, Ralph Conant

1914 Harris, Joseph  1897 Herron, Thomas H.  1887 Herr, Edward Joseph

1894 Hogan, Martin F.  1889 Holland, Willard A.

1884 Householder, Charles F.  1882 Householder, Charles W.

1950 Jethroe, Samuel  1933 Johnson, Robert Lee  1944 Keely, Robert William


1899 Langsford, Robert William  1972 Lovitto, Joseph

1891 Lyston, William Edward

1886 Marr, Charles W.  1884 Matteson, Clifford Virgil

1884 McDonald, James A.  1892 McFarlan, Alexander Shepard  1883 McGinnis, Gus

1884 McLaughlin, James  1884 Meegan, Peter J.  1887 Munyan, John B.

2000 Nady, Xavier Clifford  1904 Needham, Thomas Joseph  1891 Newell, John A.

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