Charles Witherow played with the Washington Nationals of the National Association in 1875. The 1875 New York Clipper listed his address as 1151 8th Street NW in Washington. Richard Malatzky traced this man through Washington city directories and the census. The 1880 census listed him as a clerk in the Treasury Department. Many Washington players at that time had jobs as "clerks in the Treasury Department." Richard was able to trace him until his death in 1948 at the age of 96. He would actually have been the oldest living player at the time of his death, although I do not list him that way since we don't know his exact date of birth. Charles Witherow is our Find of the Month.

Please welcome Arnie Braunstein to the biographical committee. Arnie's address is 169 Bee Meadow Farmway, Whippany, New Jersey 07981 and his code number will be B8.

At the convention in Denver, it was suggested that I republish the list of the top 20 missing ballplayers. Here is the list with a brief comment about each one.

1. Hugh Daily. Daily was a well known one-armed pitcher who was a 2-time 20 game winner. He came from Baltimore.
2. Harry Decker. Decker holds 3 patents for inventing the catcher's mitt, an idea he probably stole from Joe Gunson. He was in San Quentin under the name Earl Henry Davenport and was released in 1915.
3. Charles Wesley Jones. He had an 11 year career, led the league in homers in 1879, and is featured in 19th Century Stars.
4. Sam Larocque. A Canadian who supposedly was in Fall River, Massachusetts. The Sam Larocque who died there isn’t him.
5. Henry Moore. He played one year for Washington in the Union Association. Much is known about his family and he most likely wound up in California.
7. Archie McCarthy. Next to Negro League Committee Chairman Dick Clark, the second most famous baseball persona from Ypsilanti, Michigan. Lived in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1910 and then vanished.
8. Pearce Chiles. Another player last known to be in prison in California.
9. Matthew Porter. Actually, we know he died in Mexico in September of 1906. We just don’t know the exact date or place.
10. Charles Hoover. He was released from the Missouri penitentiary in May of 1902. He was not mentioned in his father’s 1911 obituary.
11. Andy Nelson. His family doesn’t know where he went, although he sent them lots of postcards.
12. Jimmy Wood. His baseball career ended when he lost his leg. Then we lost the rest of him.
13. Spencer Pumpelly. He is only on this list because he is the most recent player for whom we don’t know how he batted. Of course, he never batted in the major leagues, so guess no one ever saw him.
14. Mike Kelly. Kelly is the most recent player who is completely lost, having pitched for the 1926 Phillies. We have a nice biographical sketch of him, most of which is probably completely wrong.
15. Tom Letcher. This man left quite a little trail in Canada, but the trail fizzled out somewhere in Saskatchewan.
16. Maurice Pierce. We have leads on his entire family, just not him.
17. Arthur Twineham. The man who left the insane asylum to go work in a dynamite factory is still among the missing.
18. Creed Bates. Another player who spent time in the slammer. The were several guys named Creed Bates in Tennessee. None appear to be him.
19. George Blackburn. Blackburn was a long time minor league umpire. It’s hard to believe we can’t find him.
20. James Donaldson Brown. We know what happened to all of his family, just not him.
Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in September, and October, including Paul Hopkins, our oldest former major leaguer at 99. Be sure to send a card.

September 6    Harry Danning    92
September 17   Ernest Koy     94
September 21   Elden Auker     93
September 25   Paul Hopkins    99
October 5      Anthony Malinosky 94
October 13     Xavier Rescigno 90
October 25     Eugene Corbett  90

This One Might Be Tough

About a year and a half ago, a couple of scorebooks were found in the Hall of Fame basement. One was a Brooklyn Eckfords scorebook from 1872. In the scorebook for a game between the Eckfords and Mansfield played June 22, 1872, there was listed a defensive sub at second base. Apparently, the handwriting is tough to read, but Bob Tiemann thinks the player who came in was named Walksum. I checked with a man who has done massive research on Mansfield games and he finds no mention of such a player in the newspapers. I also checked various directories, censuses, and the like, and can find no person who ever lived with the name of Walksum. I know it is dirty pool for me to give you a Mystery of the Month that is probably unsolvable, but if you solve it. I can almost guarantee that you will win the Find of the Month.

Scoreboard

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Jul/Aug Biographical Report
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1875  Abadie, John 
Debut: Apr 26 1875 (V1)

1903  Aubrey, Harry Herbert 
BR (R1)

1875  Bancker, John 
Debut: Apr 19 1875 (V1)

2000  Bernero, Adam G. 
Name: Adam Gino Bernero (V1)

2000  Biddle, Lee F. 
Name: Lee Francis Biddle (V1)

1999  Blum, Geoffrey E. 
Name: Geoffrey Edward Blum (V1)

1968  Bonds, Bobby Lee 
D: Aug 23 2003 (C1)

1998  Buddie, Michael J. 
Name: Michael Joseph Buddie (V1)

1910  Burg, Joseph Peter 
Height: 5-10 (R1)

1999  Castro, Ramon A. 
Name: Ramon Abraham Castro (V1)

1947  Chandler, Edward Oliver 
D: Jul 6 2003 (C1)

1945  Clark, William Otis 
B: May 22 1915 (H9)

1937  Coffmon, George David 
D: May 8 2003 (C1)

1875  Dailey, John J. 
Debut: Apr 29 1875 (V1)

1928  Donning, Ike 
Name: Isaac Danning (M1)

1905  DeGroff, Edward Arthur 
TL (R1)

1912  Dell, William George 
B: Jun 11 1886 (S7)

1932  Devens, Charles 
D: Aug 13 2003 (D6)

1879  Gardner, Franklin Washington 
B: May 6 1859 (R1)

1951  Hardy, Francis Joseph 
D: Aug 15 2003 (C1)

1875  Heifer, Franklin 
Debut: Jun 3 1875 (V1)

2000  Huff, Aubrey L. 
Name: Aubrey Lewis Huff (V1)

1912  Irvin, William Edward 
Name: William Edward Irwin (M4)

D: Feb 5 1916

1965  Jenkins, Ferguson Arthur 
B: Dec 13 1942 (F4)

1871  Johnson, Caleb Clark 
Debut: May 20 1871 (V1)

1875  Keen, George Henry 
Debut: May 4 1875 (V1)

1934  Kinzy, Henry Herschel 
Name: Harry Hersel Kinzy (H9)

D: Jun 22 2003

1912  Kirkpatrick, Enos Claire 
B: Dec 9 1884 (S7)

1884  Loughran, 
Name: Thomas Loughran (H9)

1872  Lowe, Charles 
Debut: Sep 24 1872 (V1)

1890  Lowe, Robed Lincoln 
B: Jul 10 1865 (C1)

1875  Lowry, JohnD. 
Debut: Jun 26 1875 (V1)

2001  Lyon, Brandon J. 
Name: Brandon James Lyon (VI)

2000  Matos, Luis D. 
Name: Luis David Matos (VI)

1948  McDermott, Maurice Joseph 
D: Aug 7 2003 (C1)

1875  McKelvey, John Wellington 
Debut: Apr 19 1875 (V1)

1969  McRae, Norman 
D: Jul 25 2003 (K4)

San Carlos, California

Birmingham, Alabama

Las Vegas, Nevada

Milton, Massachusetts

Phoenix, Arizona.

Garland, Texas
1913  Meyer, Bernhard  
   B: Jan 21 1885  
1952  Miller, William Paul  
   D: Jul 1 2003  
   Lititz, Pennsylvania  
1873  Nevin, Alexander Brown  
   Debut: May 6 1873  
1875  O’Neill,  
   Debut: Aug 20 1875  
1935  Passeau, Claude William  
   D: Aug 30 2003  
   Lucedale, Mississippi  
1895  Pond, Erasmus Arlington  
   B: Saucus, Massachusetts  
1910  Pond, Ralph Benjamin  
   TR  
1884  Porter, Henry  
   Weight: 142  
1941  Quinn, Wellington Hunt  
   B: May 14 1918  
1905  Rising, Percival Sumner  
   TR  
2000  Rodriguez, Jose I.  
   Name: Jose Ilich Rodriguez  
1925  Rogell, William George  
   D: Aug 9 2003  
   Sterling Heights, Michigan  
1936  Sheehan, James Thomas  
   B: Jun 3 1913  
1936  Sivess, Peter  
   D: Jun 1 2003  
   Candler, North Carolina  
1891  Slagle, John A.  
   Height: 5-10.5  
1948  Sloat, Dwain Clifford  
   D: Apr 18 2003  
   St. Paul, Minnesota  
2001  Spooneybarger, Timothy F.  
   Name: Timothy Floyd Spooneybarger  
1875  Sullivan,  
   Debut: May 15 1875  
1941  Waitkus, Edward Stephen  
   D: Sept 16 1972  
1884  Whitehead, Milton P.  
   TR  
1914  Wisterzil, George John  
   B: Mar 7 1888  
1875  Witherow, Charles Samuel  
   Name: Charles Lafayette Witherow  
   B: Apr 1852  
   Washington, D.C.  
   D: Jul 3 1948  
   Washington, D.C.  
1999  Wolf, Randall C.  
   Name: Randall Christopher Wolf  
1911  Zackert, George Carl  
   B: Horton, Vermont  
   (R1)  
   (S7)  
   (C1)  
   (V1)  
   (C1)  
   (R1)  
   (M4)  
   (S7)  
   (P3)  
   (M4)  
   (S7)  
   (M3)  
   (V1)  
   (V1)  
   (F4)