Lyman Drake Found

Jay Sanford captures the November Find of the Month award for nailing Lyman Drake, two-game outfielder for the 1884 Washington (AA) club. Jay was perusing the March 15, 1886 Denver Tribune (Don’t all good researchers do that?) and he came upon an article that stated that L. D. Drake of the Leavenworth club was from Plainfield, Indiana. (We had previously listed Lyman Drake as simply being from Indiana.)

Jay placed a call to the Maple Hill cemetery in Plainfield and, simple as that, there he was. He had died in Muskegon, Michigan. Jay sent for an obituary from Muskegon and learned that Drake had been the superintendent of the Missouri Reformatory at Boonville. Jay then obtained two huge obituaries from the two Boonville newspapers. Each mentioned his abilities as a baseball player, although both erroneously state that he played for the New York Giants. Good work, showing that sometimes you just need the right clue.

Missed Two

Last month, when I listed the 1995 rookies who were related to former major leaguers, I inadvertently left two out. Timothy Jay Mathews is the son of Nelson Mathews. Thanks to Scott Flotow for pointing this out. Also Matthew Lawton is a brother of Marcus Lawton. Thanks to Pete Palmer for this one.

Also, it was pointed out to me that Edgar Caceres is the oldest 1995 rookie rather than Ron Rightnowar. Having watched Caceres play all year, I’m amazed that I didn’t just naturally know that he was the oldest. (Supposedly just 31.) Caceres seems to have something in common with Otis Nixon and Vic Davalillo. They all graduated from high school with Joe Simenic.

Address Changes

We have two address changes this month. Gary Passamonte’s new address is 9 Barone Avenue, Mt. Morris, New York 14510. Joey Beretta’s new address is 108 Kensington Avenue #2, Kent, Washington 98031.

Renewal Time

This is the time of year when I want you all to let me know if you wish to remain on the committee for 1996. Those of you who I haven’t heard from in the past year and don’t contact me will be dropped. It’s a lot of work to stuff all those envelopes.

Ghost Towns

Many thanks to all of you who have helped in verifying the names of towns for your particular state. I am rather amazed that there are so many typographical errors and just factual errors in the database. I have listed each correction in the monthly report even if it is a typographical error, since some of you try to keep your records in sync with mine.

We have a few cities that are listed on the database which seem to be rather mysterious in that they are not listed on any atlas and the state historical society doesn’t know of them either. Perhaps some of you know the circumstances of how some of these towns came to be listed for the particular player.

George Spriggs - born in Newell, Maryland. It said this on his HOF questionnaire and in the 1969 Royals yearbook.

Howard McGraner - born in Hanley Run, Ohio. Only place close is a Hanley Village.

Charles Case - died in Clairmont, Ohio. Closest	hing is Clermont County.

Austin Grimes - died at Gilford Lake, Ohio

Interestingly enough, Rube Benton is listed as
dying in Amberly Village, Ohio. There is an
Amberly in Hamilton County and an Amberly
in Franklin County. (Why do they do this to us?)
However, Benton's obituary in the 1954 Sporting
News Guide says he died in Amberly Village
near Cincinnati. That would be Hamilton
County, so I changed his death place to
Amberly.

Also, Charles Grover is listed as being born in
Huntington Township, Ohio. There are four:
Galia, Lorain, Ross, and Brown counties. This
is a problem with listing townships as they are
seldom unique. Keep this in mind if you send me
a township. (Every time I list one I get a call
from Richard Topp, telling me not to do that and
he's right.)

Watt?

We list Frank Watt as dying August 31, 1956
in Glen Cove, Maryland. Lyle Spatz tells me that
there is no Glen Cove, but there is a Glencoe.
However, I have also seen Watt listed as dying in
Washington, D.C. Can someone confirm Watt's
place of death?

News On Neuer?

Bill Simpson found an article in the Rockford
Register-Gazette of August 12, 1908 that the
Cubs had signed George Washington Neuer, "a
big left-hander with a world of speed and he is a
rival of Rube Waddell and Bugs Raymond. This
is the same Neuer who was tried out by Griffith
for the Highlanders this spring." We list a John
S. Neuer who debuted with the Highlanders on
August 28, 1907. Is this the same guy? Anyone
know anything about this player?

Russell McKelvy

Bill Simpson also reports that Allegheny
College, alma mater of Russell McKelvy, lists
his death date as October 19, 1911. We list it as
October 19, 1915 in Omaha, Nebraska. Does
anyone have an obituary?

Bechtel Beckons

It's quite possible that we have located George
Bechtel, who played from 1871-76. However, we
need some personal information about the
ballplayer to tie the whole thing together. Does
anyone have any information on this man? I
would be especially interested in any listings
from Philadelphia city directories of the 1870s
which list Bechtel as a ballplayer.

Birthday List

There are five nonagenarians celebrating
birthdays in December. Make sure you send a
card.

December 1 Red Bagdro 93
December 5 Ray Moss 94
December 11 Alfred Weston 90
December 13 Alfred Smith 92
December 17 Karl Swanson 92

Find This Guy Ortega Hike

Sorry about that headline, but every now and
then I like to throw in a Mystery of the Month of
more recent vintage.

Phil Ortega was a 60s kind of guy. He broke
in in 1960 and played every year of the 60s,
mainly with the Dodgers and Senators. He never
played in any other decade.

He has also disappeared and no one has heard
from him in years. He was born in Arizona
and his last known address was in San Diego. Quite
likely, he is in the west somewhere, but his
whereabouts remain a mystery. Finding him
would probably be difficult, but hopefully not
impossible. I recently received a book as a gift
titled How To Find Almost Anyone Anywhere.
Perhaps an answer may be found there.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>PCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Names</td>
<td>14447</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>99.490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Births</td>
<td>13763</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>94.780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Deaths</td>
<td>7148</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>49.225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assumed Alive</td>
<td>6897</td>
<td></td>
<td>47.497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bats</td>
<td>13164</td>
<td>1252</td>
<td>91.315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Throws</td>
<td>13409</td>
<td>1007</td>
<td>93.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Heights</td>
<td>13400</td>
<td>1016</td>
<td>92.952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Weights</td>
<td>13335</td>
<td>1081</td>
<td>92.501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Debut Dates</td>
<td>14521</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Questionnaires</td>
<td>9976</td>
<td>4545</td>
<td>68.700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Completion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>92.1631</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
John Henry Mohardt

By Cappy Gagnon

B: January 21, 1898, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
D: November 24, 1961, La Jolla, California
BRTR 5-10 165

From April 1, 1928 through April 1, 1933, John Mohardt was a "Fellow in Surgery" with the Mayo Foundation, perfecting several medical specialties during that span. Mohardt's life is one of the most outstanding stories in Notre Dame annals.

John Mohardt grew up in Gary, Indiana, dropping out of high school in the tenth grade to go to work in the steel mills. The Mohardt family was of extremely modest circumstances. After a few years at hard labor, Mohardt decided to give college a try. He applied to Notre Dame. Lacking a high school diploma, John was required by the school to prove his worth. According to his son, Mohardt was given two "tests" by the University: running and throwing. Doing sufficiently well in these entrance exams, young Mohardt entered ND with the class of 1922.

The Notre Dame football cupboard was well-stocked in those years. A guy named Rockne began his first year as head coach with players named Hunk Anderson, Eddie Anderson, Clipper Smith, Curly Lambeau, Chet Wynne, and Norm Barry. Oh yes, a feller named Gipp was the starter at left half. Mohardt was the third teamer at right half his freshman year.

In 1919, Mohardt was the third team left half behind Gipp. The following year he moved up to be Gipp's top sub. Mohardt was the starter in 1921, leading the Irish in rushing (781 yards) and passing (53/98 for 995 yards and 9 TDs). This was the best Notre Dame passing record until Angelo Bertelli's 1941 season. Mohardt's 12 touchdowns that year were an ND record which stood for 22 years. Johnny was also a star of the baseball and track teams.

Shortly before he passed away, Jake Kline recounted a humorous Mohardt incident. During the summer of 1920, Johnny and the entire Notre Dame baseball team played semi-pro ball in New Hampton, Iowa. (Although this was at variance with intercollegiate regulations at that time, I believe the statute of limitations has now expired.)

To keep a cloak of secrecy around their performance, all the players assumed aliases. Mohardt took the pseudonym of John Cavanaugh. During his summer among the cornfields, young Mohardt became smitten with a young lass, and she with him. He divulged that he was a Notre Dame man and she later wrote him a "love note" in care of the school. Unfortunately, this letter was delivered to the "real" John Cavanaugh, C.S.C., who took a dim view of the matter from his position as President of the University. Fortunately for young Mohardt, his good academic standing saved him.

Mohardt graduated cum laude in 1922 in a science curriculum suitable for pre-med. Johnny decided to attend Northwestern Medical School, but lacked sufficient funds to pay his way, so he accepted some professional sports offers.

From 1921 through 1926, Mohardt played football for the Dayton Triangles, Chicago Cardinals, Racine Legion, Chicago Bears, and Chicago Bulls, teams of the three professional leagues of the time. With the 1925 Bears, Mohardt played in the same backfield with Red Grange.

In 1922, John also played baseball with the Detroit Tigers and with Denver and Syracuse in the minor leagues. His final year of baseball was in 1923 with Greenville. John's entire major league career consisted of exactly five games in mid-April, 1922. He appeared as an outfield defensive substitute in all three fields. He did accomplish two noteworthy feats, however. In his only plate appearance, he got a single, giving him a lifetime major league batting average of 1.000 and in his final games, he was sent in to pinch-run for Ty Cobb. Thus we have the only man in history who played with Gipp, Grange, and Cobb.

Then John gave up sports for medicine. He completed his Northwestern medical degree in 1927. George Halas said of Mohardt, "(he) was a man with a mission. He dedicated himself to the medical profession soon after he joined the Bears in the Twenties and never wavered."

For good measure, Mohardt also served his country. He enlisted in the Army at the opening of World War II. He served overseas in North Africa and Italy with the 12th General Hospital Unit. He was discharged as a lieutenant colonel. He later returned to government service as chief surgeon of a VA hospital and later as assistant director of the VA Surgical Service. It is unlikely that any athlete ever exceeded the combination of a college and professional academic and athletic career.
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1993 Johnson, Erik Anthony

New Information Received:

1908 Barry, John Joseph  D: Shrewsbury, Massachusetts (R1)
1913 Bentley, Jack Needles  B: Sandy Spring, Maryland (RC)
1923 Benton, Lawrence James  D: Amberley, Ohio (H3)
1964 Blass, Stephen Robert  B: Canaan, Connecticut (B3)
1992 Brogna, Rico Joseph  B: Turners Falls, Massachusetts (R1)
1902 Burns, Charles Birmingham  B: Bayview, Maryland (RC)
1901 Case, Charles Emmett  B: Smith's Landing, Ohio (H3)
1978 Chappas, Harry Perry  B: Mt. Rainier, Maryland (RC)
1995 Christiansen, Jason Samuel  BRTL (P1)
1961 Cisco, Galen Bernard  B: St. Marys, Ohio (H3)
1931 Cunningham, Raymond Lee  B: Jan 17 1905 (C1)
1911 Curry, George James  D: West Haven, Connecticut (B3)
1883 Cushman, Edgar Leander  B: Eagleville, Ohio (H3)
1915 Dee, Maurice Leo  D: Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts (R1)
1901 Dobbs, John Gordon  B: Jun 3 1875 (H4)
1884 Donnelly, James B.  D: New Haven, Connecticut (B3)
1995 Dougherty, James E.  Height: 6-00 (P1)
1884 Drake, Lyman C.  Name: Lyman Daniel Drake (S5)
B: Feb 9 1852
D: Feb 6 1932
Muskegon, Michigan
Height: 6-00

1902 Dunham, Henry Huston  B: Piketon, Ohio (H3)
1995 Estes, Aaron Shawn  B: San Bernardino, California (P1)
1880 Ewing, William  B: Hoagland, Ohio (H3)
1995 Garcia, Freddy Adrian  Name: Freddy Adrian Garcia (Felix) (P1)
1879 Gardner, Franklin Washington  B: Attleboro, Massachusetts (R1)
1955 Gastall, Thomas Everett  D: Riviera Beach, Maryland (RC)
1930 Gliatto, Salvador Michael  D: Nov 2 1995 (W1)

Tyler, Texas

1891 Hart, Thomas Henry  D: Gardner, Massachusetts (R1)
1903 Hoffman, Daniel John  B: Canton, Connecticut (B3)
1930 Holshouser, Herman Alexander  D: Jul 26 1994 (C1)
1888 Hoy, William Ellsworth  B: Houcktown, Ohio (H3)
1914 Hueke, Albert A.  D: St. Marys, Ohio (H3)
1905 Jackson, Charles Bernard  B: Versailles, Ohio (H3)
1912 James, William A.  B: Glen Roy, Ohio (H3)

D: Aug 2 1994
Burlingame, California

1926 Jones, Decatur Poindexter  B: Bel Air, Maryland (RC)
1918 Keen, Howard Victor  B: Dallroy, Ohio (H3)
1914 Kerr, John Jonas  B: Putnam, Connecticut (B3)
1893 LaChance, George Joseph

Bio Report 5 November 1995
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Real Name</th>
<th>Additional Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>LaCoss, Michael James</td>
<td>Michael James Marks</td>
<td>(T1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Leahy, Daniel C.</td>
<td></td>
<td>(D2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Lipon, John Joseph</td>
<td>B: Martins Ferry, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Llewellyn, Clement Manley</td>
<td>Name: Clement Manly Llewellyn</td>
<td>(S7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Marquez, Isidro (Espinoza)</td>
<td>B: Navojoa, Mexico</td>
<td>(W1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Martin, John Robert</td>
<td>B: Wyandotte, Michigan</td>
<td>(C1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Martinez, Angel Sandy</td>
<td>Name: Angel Sandy Martinez (Martinez)</td>
<td>(P1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Mattingly, Lauretta Earl</td>
<td>B: New Port, Maryland</td>
<td>(RC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D: Brookeville, Maryland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Maynard, Leroy Evans</td>
<td>B: Turners Falls, Massachusetts</td>
<td>(R1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>McColl, Alexander Boyd</td>
<td>B: Eagleville, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>McElvy, Russell Errett</td>
<td>B: Sep 8 1854</td>
<td>(S7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Swissville, Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>McNabb, Edgar J.</td>
<td>B: Coshocton, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>McNichol, Edwin Briggs</td>
<td>B: Martins Ferry, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Meeker, Charles Roy</td>
<td>B: Lead Mine, Missouri</td>
<td>(S7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Moose, Robert Ralph</td>
<td>B: Martins Ferry, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Morey, David Beale</td>
<td>D: Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts</td>
<td>(R1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Nickro, Joseph Franklin</td>
<td>B: Martins Ferry, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Niemiec, Alfred Joseph</td>
<td>D: Oct 29 1995</td>
<td>(W2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kirkland, Washington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Pabor, Charles Henry</td>
<td>D: Apr 23 1913</td>
<td>(B3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Padden, Richard Joseph</td>
<td>B: Martins Ferry, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D: Martins Ferry, Ohio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Paulsen, Guilford Paul Hans</td>
<td>D: Apr 2 1994</td>
<td>(C1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harlan, Iowa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Peterson, Kent Franklin</td>
<td>D: Apr 27 1995</td>
<td>(UM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Highland, Utah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Plock, Walter S.</td>
<td>Weight: 180</td>
<td>(D2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Posada, Jorge Rafael</td>
<td>Name: Jorge Rafael Posada (Villeta)</td>
<td>(P1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Reising, Frank Carl</td>
<td>B: Martins Ferry, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Ricci, Charles Mark</td>
<td>B: Abington, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>(P1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Rickey, Wesley Branch</td>
<td>B: Flat, Ohio</td>
<td>(S7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Rogers, Lee Otis</td>
<td>D: Nov 23 1995</td>
<td>(D6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Little Rock, Arkansas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Ryan, Daniel R.</td>
<td>Weight: 200</td>
<td>(M4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Ryan, John Francis</td>
<td>B: West Mineral, Kansas</td>
<td>(C1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Sedgwick, Harry Kenneth</td>
<td>B: Martins Ferry, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Shannabrook, Warren H.</td>
<td>B: Massillon, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Smith, Douglass Weldon</td>
<td>B: Millers Falls, Massachusetts</td>
<td>(R1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Stocksdale, Otis Hinkley</td>
<td>B: Arcadia, Maryland</td>
<td>(RC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Stouch, Thomas Carl</td>
<td>B: Perryville, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Taylor,</td>
<td>Name: Z. H. Taylor</td>
<td>(T4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Tesreau, Charles Monroe</td>
<td>B: Silver Mine, Missouri</td>
<td>(S7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Tuckey, Thomas H.</td>
<td>B: Birmingham, England</td>
<td>(B3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Vargus, William Fay</td>
<td>B: Hyannis, Massachusetts</td>
<td>(R1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Vaughn, Henry Francis</td>
<td>B: Ruraldale, Ohio</td>
<td>(H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Wagenhorst, Ellwood Otto</td>
<td>Height: 5-11, Weight: 165</td>
<td>(R1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Wheeler, George L.</td>
<td>B: Methuen, Massachusetts</td>
<td>(R1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Williams, Todd Michael</td>
<td>Debut: Apr 29 1995</td>
<td>(P1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>