Henry Burroughs Found

It was a terrific first two months of 1998 as we found four missing ballplayers. But of the four, Henry Burroughs would be the most difficult since he played only in 1871 and 1872. The Find of the Month is shared by Peter Morris and Debbi Dagavarian-Bonar.

Burroughs was rumored to be from Detroit and Pete was investigating him there. He found a note indicating that Burroughs was from Newark and found Burroughs’ wife listed as a widow in 1879. He sent this information to Debbi, who managed to find Burroughs’ death record in 1878. Debbi even found an obituary which mentioned his baseball career, an amazing thing for 1878. Great work by Pete and Debbi!

New Members

Please welcome Jay Roberts to the committee. Jay’s address is 7010 Grove Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22306. Jay’s code number will be R4. Also welcome Tom Miller, 1802 Wendell Street, Dalton, Georgia 30721. Tom’s code number will be M7.

Hoyt Wilhelm

Pete Palmer was at a function where he sat next to Hoyt Wilhelm’s wife. She said that Hoyt was actually a year older than we list, if that’s possible. Does anyone have a way of checking on this?

Collegians

Cappy Gagnon has done a lot of research on major league players who attended college.

Cappy sent me a list of the first collegians to play in the majors, organized into several categories.

The first members of a major league to have previously attended college were Cap Anson (Notre Dame and Iowa), Steve Bellan (Fordham), Fred Treacey (Manhattan), and Denny Mack (Villanova). The first NA players to graduate from college were, in order of debut, Alexander Nevin (Yale), Jim O’Rourke (Yale), George Knight (Yale), and Doc Bushong (Pennsylvania). Ranked by degree date, the order changes to Nevin, Knight, Bushong, and O’Rourke.

The first National Leaguers to graduate from college were, in order of debut, Jim O’Rourke (Yale), Doc Bushong (Pennsylvania), Leonidas Lee (Princeton), Frank Bliss (Michigan), John Ward (Columbia), Lee Richmond (Brown and NYU), Jack Allen (Pennsylvania), Asa Stratton (Brown and Boston), Hal McClure (Bucknell), Jack Jones (Yale and Harvard), and Will Sawyer (Adalbert). Ranked by degree date, the order becomes Bliss, Stratton, McClure, Lee, Richmond, Allen, Bushong, Sawyer, Jones, O’Rourke, and Ward.

Thus, depending on how you define it, Anson, Nevin, O’Rourke, Bliss, and Stratton can all lay claim to being the first collegian.

Dutch Fehring

Since we have been on the topic of one game players lately, Pete Cava sent along the following story of William Paul "Dutch" Fehring, who caught one game for the Chicago White Sox on June 25, 1934.

Fehring, a native of Columbus, Indiana, starred in baseball, football, and basketball at Purdue during the Depression years. In three varsity seasons at Purdue he won nine letters and in 1933 he was the Boilermaker’s MVP in baseball. Dutch passed up several pro football
offers after graduation in 1934 to sign with the White Sox. He spent the next few weeks warming up relief pitchers in the bullpen.

One afternoon at Comiskey Park, with the Yankees up 10-2 in the 7th, Chicago player-manager Jimmy Dykes ordered Fehring and another rookie, pitcher Harry Kinzy, into the game. "The first batter," Fehring recalls, "was Earle Combs who hit his first homer of the year."

One out later, New York centerfielder Ben Chapman reached base safely. "I said to myself, 'I hope he tries to steal and I'll throw him out,'" Fehring says. "But Lou Gehrig got up and hit two of the longest foul balls I've ever seen. The second one was a close call, and he came back to the batters box jawing at home plate umpire George Moriarty. Lou hit the next pitch to deep center."

As the ball sailed past Chicago centerfielder Mule Haas, Gehrig thundered around the bases. Haas retrieved the ball and fired it to Al Simmons, who moved over from left to take the throw. Gehrig was headed for the plate, trying for an inside-the-park homer. Simmons relayed the ball to shortstop Luke Appling, who gunned it to Fehring.

"I remember Gehrig as something like 6-2, 220," says Dutch, "and I weighed around 190. I saw him coming and I was sure he was going to bowl me over." When he saw Fehring with the ball, Gehrig slid for home. "He never reached the plate," says Fehring with a chuckle, "and I tagged him out. It was the thrill of my major league career."

Fehring struck out in his only major league at bat against Johnny Broaca. In July, the Sox assigned him to Dallas of the Class A Texas League. He finished the year at Longview of the Class C West Dixie League. Fehring retired after the season and returned to Purdue to coach freshman teams in baseball, basketball, and football. Two years later he took over as the Boilermakers' head baseball coach. Paul "Dudy" Friend, Bob Friend's older brother, was a solid-hitting outfielder on Detroit's 1942 squad — his last before entering the Navy for World War II military service. After the war, Fehring was hired twice as an assistant football coach by Bud Wilkinson — first at Oklahoma, later at UCLA. In 1948, he moved to Stanford as an assistant coach in baseball and football.

Fehring became Stanford's head baseball coach in 1956. He helped develop future big leaguers like Jim Lonborg, Bob Boone, Frank Duffy, and Don Rose. Duffy and Rose played for Stanford's 1967 squad, which Fehring led to a 36-6-1 record and 3rd place in the College World Series.

Fehring retired from coaching after that season and served as Stanford's intramurals director through 1977. He is a member of the Purdue University's Athletic Hall of Fame and the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Now 85 years old, Dutch and his wife Edna live in Menlo Park, California. Dutch also served as president of the U.S. Baseball Federation from 1963-77.

A Rumor Grows in Brooklyn

Bob Richardson found notes on two different players, John (Rooney) Sweeney and Frank Knauss, each indicating that they were dying in Brooklyn in 1897. Bob could not find any mention of their deaths in the New York Times, but perhaps this would be a good starting point in looking for them.

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in March and April. Make sure you send a card.

March 12 Robert Barr 90
March 29 William Strickland 90
April 9 Howard Groskloss 92
April 17 Robert Stevens 91

Was His Son's Name Kennesaw?

Samuel Landis had a rather interesting but brief career. He pitched one season in the major leagues and went 12-28, leading the AA in losses in 1882. He was born August 16, 1854. On August 1, 1883, he married Ida Weidner in Reading, Pennsylvania. The marriage license said he was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania. No Samuel Landis with wife Ida appears in the 1900 Pennsylvania census. We have an exact birth date, and exact wedding date, and nothing afterwards. Hence, Landis becomes our first 1998 Mystery of the Month.
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New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:
None

New Information Received:

1937 Ambler, Wayne Harper
   D: Jan 3 1998
      Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
   (D6)

1936 Becker, Joseph Edward
   D: Jan 11 1998
      Sunset Hills, Missouri
   (H5)

1952 Bevan, Joseph Harold
   Name: Harold Joseph Bevan
   B: Nov 12 1941
   (T1)

1972 Blanco, Damaso (Carpe)
   Name: Henry S. Burroughs
   (D4)

1871 Burroughs, Henry F.
   D: May 31 1878
      Newark, New Jersey
   (S6)

1935 Conroy, William Gordon
   D: Nov 13 1997
      Citrus Heights, California
   (S3)

1928 Cox, George Melvin
   D: Bedford, Texas
   (C1)

1943 Curtright, Guy Paxton
   D: Aug 23 1997
      Sun City Center, Florida
   (C1)

1942 Donovan, Willard Earl
   D: Sep 25 1997
      Maywood, Illinois
   (H4)

1891 Fitzgerald, John T.
   Name: Warren B. Fitzgerald
   B: Apr 1872
   (S5)

   Pennsylvania

   D: Nov 7 1930
      Phoenix, Arizona

1952 Fornieles, Jose Miguel (Torres)
   TL: Height: 5-09  Weight: 162
   D: Feb 11 1998
      St. Petersburg, Florida
   (O2)

1932 Friedrichs, Robert George
   D: Apr 15 1997
      Jasper, Indiana
   (C1)

1951 Gaedel, Edward Carl
      Real Name: Edward Carl Gaedele
   D: Jan 30 1995
      Manteca, California
   (T1)

1940 Gremp, Louis Edward
   D: Jan 30 1995
      Manteca, California
   (C1)

1938 Gryska, Sigmund Stanley
   B: Nov 4 1914
   (T1)

   D: Aug 27 1994
   (T1)

1937 Harshaney, Samuel
   B: Apr 24 1910
   (N4)

1922 High, Andrew Aird
   D: Sylvania, Ohio
   (H3)

1929 Holloway, James Madison
   D: Apr 15 1997
      Baton Rouge, Louisiana
   (C1)

1959 Hunt, Kenneth Lawrence
   D: Jun 8 1997
      Gardena, California
   (W1)

1896 Johnson, Albert J.
   B: 1875
      Chicago, Illinois
   (M4)

   D: Nov 28 1960
      Detroit, Michigan

1891 Killeen, Henry
1897 Magee, William J.
1940 Masterson, Paul Nickalis

1935 Mazzera, Melvin Leonard
1997 McGuire, Ryan Byron
1898 McKenna, James William
1890 Miller, Robert W.

1938 Moran, Albert Thomas
1919 Newkirk, Joel Ivan
1890 O'Connell, Patrick

1886 O'Connell, Patrick H.
1994 Oliva, Jose (Galvez)
1931 Olson, Marvin Clement

1996 Ordonez, Reynaldo
1945 Picciuto, Nicholas Thomas
1997 Ramos, Kenneth Cecil
1915 Rice, Edgar Charles
1948 Rice, Harold Houston
1887 Roach, John F.
1943 Rocco, Michael Dominick

1930 Samuels, Joseph Jonas
1927 Smith, Richard Paul
1940 Strincevich, Nicholas
1884 Welch, Curtis Benton

B: May 1872
B: Jul 6 1875
B: May 23 1931
D: Nov 27 1997
D: Dec 19 1997
D: May 5 1892
D: Apr 17 1890
D: Jun 1 1897
D: Bath, New York
D: Feb 10 1862

B: Chicago, Illinois
B: Bellflower, California
TR
Newark, New Jersey
D: Jan 7 1998
Saratoga Springs, New York
D: Eldorado, Illinois
New Player
B: 1862
Brooklyn, New York
D: May 5 1892
Brooklyn, New York
Debut: Apr 17 1890
Remove 1890 Brooklyn (AA) record
Height: 6-03  Weight: 215
D: Feb 5 1998
Tyndall, South Dakota
D: Jan 11 1971
D: Winchester, Virginia
B: Sidney, Nebraska
D: Rossmoor, Maryland
Debut: Sep 25 1948
B: Farrandsville, Pennsylvania
D: Jun 1 1897
St. Paul, Minnesota
D: Bath, New York
D: Sylvania, Ohio
Real Name: Nicholas Mihailovich
B: Feb 10 1862

Williamsport, Ohio