Charles Jones Found

Our newest committee member, Peter Mancuso, has already captured his first Find of the Month award by locating Charles F. Jones of the 1884 Brooklyn AA club. He had help from Richard Malatzky, Peter Morris, and Joe Simenic. This required a lot of detective work and obviously, finding someone named Charles Jones isn't like finding someone named Rufus T. Firely.

First of all, notes from Sporting Life in 1885 showed that the Charles Jones who played for Brooklyn played with Newark in 1885, Binghamton in 1886, and Worcester in 1889. He was definitely from New York City. In 1891, he joined the New York City police force. In 1894, Charles F. Jones, "formerly 38 of the Newark and Worcester team" is the captain of the 16th precinct team in a game played at the Polo Grounds between the 9th and 16th precinct teams. Notes about Jones being a policeman continue in the Sporting News as late as 1898. The New York City directories show him as a ballplayer in 1891/1892. He appears in the 1910 census as a policeman.

Peter Mancuso obtained his career record from the New York City Police Museum. He was appointed to the NYPD in 1892 and was promoted to sergeant in 1913. His date of birth was October 24, 1861 which matches the date in the 1910 census. He retired in 1918. Jones’s police pension record showed his date of death as September 15, 1922 and stated that he was a sergeant in the 16th precinct, the precinct for which he played in 1894. He also worked for 2 other precincts as well. The death certificate showed that he died in St. Francis Hospital in the Bronx and was buried in St. Raymond’s cemetery. Excellent work by all involved!

Better Name, But Just As Tough

Certainly a more distinctive name than Charles Jones is Huyler Westervelt. I always thought that this guy should be easy to find. He was a stockbroker in New York City for years and definitely has a unique name. However, he disappeared from New York City after 1936 and nobody knew what happened to him. Richard Malatzky was able to do an online search of the New York Times and found the death of Huyler’s wife in 1960 and the marriage of his daughter Madeion to Otto von Stockhausen Whiteleock. Huyler’s wife died in Pelham Manor, New York so Richard checked there and found Huyler’s death in 1949. The New York Herald Tribune carried an obituary and, although it didn’t mention baseball, it is obvious that this is our missing player. By the way, Huyler was his mother’s maiden name.

George Fisher

Bob McConnell, Jon Dunkle, Richard Malatzky, and Peter Morris managed to put together all the evidence that led to tracking down George Fisher’s death in 1937 in Oakland, California. They proved that the George Fisher who played for Cleveland and Wilmington in 1884 was born in Wilmington and moved to Oakland, California. According to the death certificate, the Fisher who died in Oakland was born in Wilmington and had lived in Oakland for 50 years, meaning he moved there at exactly the same time the ballplayer was known to have moved there. Obviously, this is our missing player.
It's All In The Cards

George Treadway had been a bit of an enigma. He had at one time been thought to be black, which had proven to be false. He had also been listed as dying in Riverside, California on November 5, 1928. However, his California death certificate listed him as 85 years old; his birth date was 1843. Hence, we eliminated him from consideration as he would have been 50 when he debuted in 1893. Andy McCue found an obituary in the Riverside newspaper and it contained the key information that among his possessions was a membership card in the Association of Professional Baseball Players. Apparently, whoever filled out his death certificate miscalculated his age. He actually was born in 1866. He must have looked a bit grizzled.

And I’m Glad My Parents Didn’t Name Me....

Vivian Potts had lived all his life in Bristol, Pennsylvania. We knew his son had died there in 1975. Richard Malatzky searched the cemeteries of Bristol and found that Vivian died in Bristol on August 17, 1934.

The Missing Fruit Peddler

George Hodson was listed in the 1900 Connecticut census as a ballplayer living in Hartford. He was born in Pennsylvania. By 1910, he had moved to California and was living in San Rafael and working as a fruit peddler. He was still there in 1920 and I could never find a death certificate for him in California. I had assumed he must have died elsewhere.

Peter Morris was able to do a phonetic search for his name and came up with a George Hodgdon, who died in San Rafael in 1924. Going back to the 1880 census, Richard Malatzky was able to locate the family in Philadelphia under the name Hodgdon. A check of the Philadelphia city directories for the late 1890s showed a George Hodgdon listed as a ballplayer. The San Rafael obituary confirmed through the family connection that the guy who died in California was indeed the Philadelphia ballplayer. This is a terrific find! It's pretty tough to find people when they go under a different name.

Marcus Kragen

If that name doesn't sound familiar to any of you, that is the real name of the player we list as Martin Creegan. Creegan had also been listed as Mark Creegan and Mike Creegan. He was definitely from the San Francisco area. Richard Malatzky couldn't find anyone who fit, so he tried the soundex for similar sounding names. He came up with Marcus Kragen and was able to contact the family. They confirmed he was the player and provided documentation on his career that showed he played as Creegan because his family didn't want him to play baseball. Amazing find!

The Missing Childs Report

David Nemec got the ball rolling on this one when he discovered that that the first baseman for Columbus on May 31, 1883 was not James Field, as was originally thought, but a man named Childs, who had been the first baseman for Yale. Peter Morris looked into this and found that Yale had a first baseman at that time named Samuel Childs. Peter searched for him through census records and found that he had become a doctor and moved to Denver, Colorado. Jay Sanford was then able to
locate a death certificate for Childs in Denver. Rich Bozzone then found a Who’s Who entry for Childs listing his many medical achievements as well as his birth date. Rick Benner found that the Yale athletic department actually listed Childs on their roster of Yale major leaguers. As you can see, this was a group effort and identifies a previously unknown major leaguer.

Steve Bechler

Steve Bechler’s unfortunate death in spring training make him the 18th player to die within a year of his major league debut, a scant 164 day stretch. The shortest period of time between a player’s debut and his death was 1965 Angel pitcher Dick Wanta who died of cancer a mere 30 days after his debut. Here is the complete list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Debut</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Richard Wanta</td>
<td>04/13/1965</td>
<td>05/13/1965</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Al Thake</td>
<td>06/13/1872</td>
<td>09/01/1872</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Drowned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Francis Levy</td>
<td>04/30/1907</td>
<td>10/04/1907</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>Appendicitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sam McMackin</td>
<td>09/04/1902</td>
<td>02/11/1903</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Steve Bechler</td>
<td>09/06/2002</td>
<td>02/17/2003</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>Heat stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Augustine Williams</td>
<td>04/18/1890</td>
<td>10/04/1890</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>Cold Complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Ralph Sharman</td>
<td>09/10/1917</td>
<td>05/24/1918</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>Drowned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Edgar McNabb</td>
<td>05/12/1893</td>
<td>02/28/1894</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Clytus Bentley</td>
<td>04/26/1872</td>
<td>02/26/1873</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Alvin Montgomery</td>
<td>06/20/1941</td>
<td>04/26/1942</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>Auto accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. George Grossart</td>
<td>06/07/1901</td>
<td>04/18/1902</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Elmer White</td>
<td>05/04/1871</td>
<td>03/17/1872</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Odie Porter</td>
<td>06/16/1902</td>
<td>05/02/1903</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. George Prentiss</td>
<td>09/23/1901</td>
<td>09/08/1902</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>Typhoid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Herbert Gorman</td>
<td>04/19/1952</td>
<td>04/05/1953</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>Heart attack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Doctor, Doctor!

According to Jamie Selko, he believes that Gail Hopkins may be the only player to earn both a PhD and an MD. Does anyone know of any others?

Last Month’s Mystery

Joe Simenic obtained a completed questionnaire from Andy Bednar’s sister several years ago. Our information agrees with that, so it appears there is no reason to make any changes.

New Members

Please welcome Peter Mancuso to the biographical committee. Peter’s address is 6970 Ely Road, New Hope, PA 18938. His code number will be M0.
Research Help

Biographical Research Committee member Bill Deane (PO Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337; 607-547-5786; DizDeane@USAdatanet.net) is a veteran researcher living near the National Baseball Library, and is available to do research (biographical or otherwise) there for those not able to come to Cooperstown. Contact Bill for details.

Committee Meeting

In case you haven’t seen it, our biographical committee meeting will be at 8:00 AM on Friday during the convention. Don’t miss it.

Birthday List

Here is the list of 90 year olds celebrating birthdays in March and April. Make sure you send them a card.

| March 2  | Ace Adams            | 91 |
| March 11 | James Bucher         | 92 |
| April 1  | Jake Wade            | 91 |
| April 9  | Howard Groskloss      | 97 |
|          | Claude Passeau        | 94 |
| April 14 | Jack Radtke           | 90 |
| April 15 | Eddie Mayo            | 93 |
| April 17 | Robert Stevens        | 96 |
| April 22 | Marvin Center         | 91 |
| April 25 | Woodrow Davis         | 90 |
| April 27 | Bernard Uhalt         | 93 |

Lost Nichols

In 1877, four Louisville players were thrown out of baseball for throwing games. Three of them, Bill Craver, George Hall, and Jim Devlin have been found. The one missing guy is Albert Nichols and we know virtually nothing about him other than he was from Brooklyn. No one listed in the 1900 Brooklyn census appears to be him. There was an Alfred Nichols who died June 21, 1934 in Brooklyn at the age of 89 who is about the only possibility. Can anyone provide any clues on this guy? This is our Mystery of the Month.
## Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>PCT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Names</td>
<td>15876</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>99.649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births</td>
<td>15248</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>95.707</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assumed Alive</td>
<td>7629</td>
<td></td>
<td>47.885</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>7937</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>49.818</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bats</td>
<td>14630</td>
<td>1191</td>
<td>92.472</td>
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<tr>
<td>Throws</td>
<td>14865</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>93.957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heights</td>
<td>14943</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>94.450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weights</td>
<td>14902</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>94.191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debut Dates</td>
<td>15932</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questionnaires</td>
<td>9985</td>
<td>5947</td>
<td>62.673</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>92.3068</td>
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## Questionnaires Received:

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Creegan, Martin</td>
<td>Name: Mark Creegan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Real Name: Marcus Kragen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B: 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D: Sep 29 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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## New Information Received:

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Albosta, Edward John</td>
<td>D: Jan 7 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saginaw, Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Arndt, Harry J.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Aydelott, Jacob Stuart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Beard, Ralph William</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Bechler, Steven Scott</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Bottenfield, Kent Dennis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Brower, Louis Lester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Brown, Richard P.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Childs,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Daisy, George R.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Fisher, George C.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Ford, William B.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Gessner, Charles J.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Gumbert, Harry Edward</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Harding, Louis Edward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Hayden, John Francis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Hodson, George S.</td>
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</table>

### 1941 Albosta, Edward John
- D: Jan 7 2003
- Saginaw, Michigan
- BR

### 1902 Arndt, Harry J.
- BR

### 1884 Aydelott, Jacob Stuart
- BLTR

### 1954 Beard, Ralph William
- D: Feb 10 2003
- West Palm Beach, Florida

### 2002 Bechler, Steven Scott
- D: Feb 17 2003
- Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

### 1992 Bottenfield, Kent Dennis
- BR

### 1931 Brower, Louis Lester
- B: Cleveland, Ohio

### 1893 Brown, Richard P.
- D: Mar 10 1948

### 1883 Childs,
- Name: Samuel Beresford Childs
- B: Nov 6 1861
- East Hartford, Connecticut

### 1884 Daisy, George R.
- B: Gloucester, New Jersey

### 1884 Fisher, George C.
- Name: George Cresse Fisher
- B: Aug 20 1855
- D: Jan 29 1937
- Oakland, California

### 1936 Ford, William B.
- Name: William Brown Ford

### 1886 Gessner, Charles J.
- Name: Charles R. Gessner
- B: Dec 1863
- D: May 25 1922
- Washington, D.C.

### 1935 Gumbert, Harry Edward
- Name: Harry Edwards Gumbert

### 1886 Harding, Louis Edward
- Name: Edward H. A. Harding
- B: 1862
- Missouri

### 1901 Hayden, John Francis
- Weight: 170

### 1894 Hodson, George S.
- Real Name: George S. Hodgon
- D: Jan 9, 1924
- San Rafael, California
1884 Jones, Charles F.  
B: Oct 24 1861  
D: Sep 15 1922  
New York, New York

1978 Kammeyer, Robert Lynn  
D: Jan 27 2003  
Sacramento, California

1919 Koenigsmark, William Thomas  
Name: Willis Thomas Koenigsmark  
D: Dec 10 2002  
Lafayette, Indiana

1944 Kosman, Michael Thomas  
D: Sep 26 2002  
Arcadia, California

1942 Kvasnak, Alexander  
D: Jan 9 2003  
Pittsbug, California

1957 Landrum, Donald Leroy  
D: Dec 1 2002  
Monterey, California

1939 Loane, Robert Kenneth  
D: Jan 9 2003  
Fort Worth, Texas

1901 McFadden, Bernard Joseph  
B: Mar 20 1877  
(O4)

1943 Metheny, Arthur Beauregard  
D: Jan 2 2003  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

1937 Meyer, Lambert Dalton  
D: Jan 19 2003  
Sun City West, Arizona

1882 Muldoon, Michael D.  
B: Apr 9 1858  
Westmeath County, Ireland

1922 O'Neill, Joseph Henry  
B: Nov 20 1892  
Lindsay, Ontario

1948 Ostrowski, Joseph Paul  
D: Jan 3 2003  
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

1971 Parker, William David  
D: Feb 9 2003  
(16)

1912 Pearce, George Thomas  
Name: George Thomas Pierce  
B: Shabbona Grove, Illinois

1871 Pearce, Richard J.  
D: Sep 18 1908  
Weight: 185

2000 Perez, Santiago Alberto  
D: Feb 21 2003  
(H4)

1936 Peters, Russell Dixon  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

1999 Pote, Louis William  
B: Aug 21 1971  
D: Aug 17 1934

1892 Potts, Vivian  
B: Mar 5 1854  
(M4)

1875 Richmond, John H.  
D: Dec 19 2002  
(H4)

1950 Rinker, Robert John  
Hazleton, Pennsylvania

1945 Rudolph, Ernest William  
D: Jan 13 2003  
Black River Falls, Wisconsin

1972 Ryerson, Gary Lawrence  
B: Jun 17 1948  
(H4)

1924 Schultz, Webb Carl  
Name: Wilbert Carl Schultz  
D: Sep 14 2002  
(C1)

1941 Shokes, Edward Christopher  
Winchester, Virginia

1939 Spindel, Harold Stewart  
D: Jul 28 2002  
San Clemente, California

1955 Sullivan, Haywood Cooper  
D: Feb 12 2003  
(C1)

1882 Sweeney, William J.  
Fort Myers, Florida

Height: 5-11  Weight: 160  
(M4)
1944  Thesenga, Arnold Joseph  
D: Dec 3 2002  
Wichita, Kansas  
(C1)

1893  Treadway, George B.  
B: Nov 11 1866  
Greenup County, Kentucky  
(BL)

1943  Webb, William Frederick  
Name: Willie Fred Webb  
(M3)

1894  Westervelt, Huyler  
D: Oct 1 1869  
Tenafly, New Jersey  
(H9)

1955  Westlake, James Patrick  
D: Jan 3 2003  
Pelham Manor, New York  
(C1)

1946  Whitman, Dick Corwin  
D: Feb 12 2003  
Sacramento, California  
(N5)

1943  Zarilla, Allen Lee  
D: Aug 28 1996  
Peoria, Arizona  
(B6)