Charles Abbey Found

Charles Abbey, who knocked in 101 runs for the 1894 Washington Nationals has been found. I managed to track him down myself and hence win the Find of the Month award.

We knew that Abbey was born in October of 1868 in Falls City, Nebraska, a fact which I was able to confirm in the 1900 Washington, D.C. census. His wife’s name was Feliciata and his daughter was Lucille. A note from Sporting Life in 1906 mentioned that he was the advertising manager for the Washington Post, was crossing the street and was struck by a car, necessitating the amputation of his arm. He was listed at various addresses in Washington through 1914.

When the 1920 census came out, I checked Washington and discovered that he and his wife had divorced and she was remarried to a man named William Duff. Abbey had moved to Seattle. Hoping that he died there, I requested a search for a death certificate in the state of Washington. I was quite disappointed that it came up empty.

Since I have the California death index, I decided to check that to see if he may have gone in that direction. I found a candidate who fit perfectly. When I received the death certificate, it listed his occupation as professional reporter and baseball player. That was quite surprising for a man who was 59 years old. (Interestingly, I received Joe Quest’s death certificate on the same day and he was listed as a ballplayer despite being nearly 72!) Abbey’s body was taken to Falls City for burial.

Since Abbey was on our Top 20 list, he will be replaced by Michael McGeary, whose career extended from 1871 to 1882 and yet is still among the missing.

New Members

Please welcome Rick Benner, P. O. Box 16, Gilsum, New Hampshire 03448 to the bio team. Rick’s code number will be B2. Also welcome Dan Price, 20 Captain Shankey Drive, Garnerville, New York 10923. Dan will be P3.

Missing Player Lists

Several of you have written me asking for copies of the missing player list. I am fresh out of them. Hopefully, I’ll get around to making up new ones around the early part of next year.

Renewal Time

Once again, it’s the time of year when I ask you to let me know if you would like to continue on the committee for 1994. The mailing list is growing all the time and if you don’t let me know that you want to continue, I will drop you from the mailing list.

What Joe Does When He Can’t Play Golf

Certainly winter in Cleveland is not golf season. But it seems to be the time Joe Simenic goes through his old notes and sends me clues. Here are a few of the items he has sent.

Frederick W. Osbourne was managing the Walla Walla club in 1892. The 1900 census lists a Fred W. Osbourne, born in 1865 in Canada, as a clerk in Walla Walla. In 1920, he was a farmer in King County, Washington. It is unknown whether this is the ballplayer.

Harry Mace was supposedly living at 1315 T Street in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Margaret. I could not find Mace in any census.

In the "ballplayers I’m glad my mother didn’t name me after" category, we have Vivian Potts, who had been confused with Daniel Potts. Vivian was listed in Bristol, Pa. with his wife Annie in 1900 and 1910. Annie was listed alone in 1920.
although she was listed as married.

Joseph and Sam Moffett were partners in a
mining business in Montana. Sam died in Butte
on May 5, 1907. I found Joe listed in the 1900
census in Jefferson Township, Montana with his
brother, Abraham. There was no mention of
Sam. Montana doesn't have a 1910 index and
they weren't listed in 1920.

James Leon Wood, one of our Top 20, moved
to Chicago in 1884. I couldn't find him in the
1900 Illinois census.

August Yost was apparently from
Washington, D.C. Again, I couldn't find him in
the 1900 census.

Any of you have any interest in checking these
guys out?

A Friend In Need Is A Freund Indeed

Once again, Al Kermisch has unraveled
another mystery and published it in the Baseball
Research Journal. Frank Freund, whom I knew
we had wrong, has been shown to be Lawrence
Freund, who died in 1933 in Jeffersonville,
Indiana. Once the information is in wrong, it is
hard to get it right because you wonder about the
source of the original information. That is why I
try to be careful about listing something until I
am sure. Thanks to Al for straightening it out
and to Bob Bailey for sending me the obituary.

Last In, First Out

I thought I would start a new feature this
month which I will call Last In, First Out. For
each debut year, I will list the first player from
that debut year to die and the last survivor. I will
do them a decade at a time, beginning with the
1870s.

1871 - Elmer White
George Bird
03/17/1872
11/09/1940
1872 - Al Thake
Paul Hines
09/01/1872
07/10/1935
1873 - Hugh Campbell
Louis Say
03/01/1881
06/05/1930
1874 - Thomas Miller
Tommy Bond
05/29/1876
01/24/1941
1875 - Ed Somerville
John McKelvey
10/01/1877
05/31/1944
1876 - John Bergh
Frank Whitney
04/16/1883
10/30/1943
1877 - John Sullivan
John Gleason
09/12/1881
09/04/1944
1878 - William Sullivan
Abner Dalrymple
11/13/1884
01/25/1939

1879 - Archibald Hall
Jack Glasscock
02/10/1885
02/24/1947

Birthday List

We have four nonagenarians celebrating
birthdays in December.

Dec 1 Red Badgro 91
Dec 5 Ray Moss 92
Dec 13 Al Smith 90
Dec 17 Karl Swanson 90

A Missing Manager

Wallace Fessenden, non-playing manager of
Syracuse in 1890, is the month's Mystery of the
Month. Bob Richardson located a grand nephew,
who sent him the family genealogy entry. It
states:

"Wallace Clifton Fessenden (b. Oct. 5, 1860,
Windham, N.H.) was one of the earliest major
league baseball umpires. In 1899 he was manager
of the London, Ont. (Canada) club of the
International Baseball League. He started the
1890 season as manager of Syracuse in the
American Association, then a major league. He
was succeeded at Syracuse sometime during the
1890 season by George Frazier. Syracuse
finished 7th among the league’s nine teams with a
55-72 record. He was also a well known race
horse owner and an enthusiastic follower of horse
racing; one of his horses, Pass Book, was once a
winner at Belmont at 100 to 1, and again at 60 to
1. A cartoon in a New York City newspaper
captioned 'Hunch and Picken' referred to him as
the Duke o' Kabik. However, his luck did not
always hold; at his death in 1933, he was given a
decent burial only through the generosity of his
relatives."

Bob suspected that he may have died in New
York City, but I searched the death indexes for
all five boroughs and he didn't turn up. Anyone
know where he went?
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Henry Monroe Jones
By Peter Morris

B: May 10, 1857, New York State
D: May 31, 1955, Manistee, Michigan
BS 5-06 149

Henry Monroe Jones was one of the last surviving members of the days when baseball was pursued as an avocation rather than vocation and few men better symbolize that seldom-remembered period of baseball history.

Jones's father was from New York State which is apparently where Henry was born, though he grew up in Pennsylvania. By the time I was able to pick up his trail in 1882, Jones was in his seventh year as a player, managing the Fort Wayne team in what was the last year that the top midwestern teams played as independents. The following season saw Jones selected to manage the Grand Rapids franchise of the newly formed Northwestern League. On the eve of that season, Jones returned to Fort Wayne to marry Junietta Fordney of that city.

Jones starred amidst a league full of former and future major leaguers, batting .344 which was second only to teammate Charles Eden, and leading the league in runs scored and slugging average. He mostly played the outfield, and ranked among the league leaders in fielding percentage, but also filled in at shortstop for 20 games. There were concerns, however, about his ability to hold the three caps of player, field captain, and manager, and at season's end, Horace Phillips was hired to be Grand Rapid's full-time manager in 1884.

Jones worked in the off season as a brakeman and engineer for the G, R, & I Railroad in Cadillac and as the new season approached, he faced a difficult dilemma. His baseball career was very promising but it did not offer much security. Now almost 27, with a wife to support and a child on the way, there was much speculation that Jones would give up baseball to "drive his engine all through the year." Eventually, Jones was able to reach agreement with the railway allowing him to take the summer off and return to work at season's end.

The 1884 season embodied all the reasons why a responsible man with a family would have grave reservations about a career in baseball. The Northwestern League, buoyed by the success of 1883, had expanded from 8 teams to 12, adding new cities in far flung places like Wisconsin and Minnesota. The increased travel expenses placed a great burden on all the teams, and Bay City surged to an early lead and then disbanded. Grand Rapids assumed first place by default, but soon they too were on precarious financial footing. In late July, Jones left the team to be with his wife as she gave birth to their daughter Frances. Two weeks later, the team disbanded and Jones and four other players were sold to Detroit of the National League. Jones didn't hit much, but he did draw walks, score runs, and fill in capably at second base, shortstop, and in the outfield. He was counted upon by Detroit for the 1885 season, but the previous year had made up his mind in favor of security. Detroit tried in vain to persuade him to report throughout the 1885 spring training, but Jones, now working in Grand Rapids, declined all offers.

He was still not forgotten, but in 1886 the Detroit papers again reported that "Jones will not play this season on account of opposition from his wife." A telegram to Jones by one team was returned by Mrs. Jones, with a curt message. In 1890, a hand injury suffered on the job forced Jones to give up his railway job and he tried unsuccessfully to obtain an umpiring position. Then his wife died and he moved to Saginaw, where he and his mother set up a photography business. Around 1904, he moved to Manistee, where he married a widow named Ida Seymour, again worked as an engineer, and then got into farming.

When he died in 1955, Henry Monroe Jones was the longest-lived player of all time; he was also the first to celebrate his 97th and 98th birthdays and is still the longest-lived switch-hitter of all-time. One can only imagine what Jones thought as he watched the game evolve from a risky business into a lucrative profession.
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1993 Becker, Richard Goodhard
1993 Delgado, Carlos Juan
1993 Kiefer, Mark Andrew
1993 Pride, Curtis John

Name: Richard Goodhard Becker (C1)
B: Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (C1)
No New Information (C1)
Height: 6'00 Weight: 205 (C1)

New Information Received:

1893 Abbey, Charles S.
B: Oct 14 1866
D: Apr 27 1926
San Francisco, California (Cl)

1884 Bignell, George William
1934 Boland, Edward John

B: Oct 5 1860
D: Nov 12 1933
Little Rock, Arkansas (C1)

1928 Boland, Cecil Glenford
D: Aug 25 1923
Jackson, Mississippi (H1)

1895 Coleman, John
B: 1874
Lees Summit, Missouri (W3)

1932 DeShong, James Brooklyn
D: Oct 16 1993
Lower Paxton Township, Pennsylvania (H1)

1928 Dickey, William Malcolm
D: Aug 25 1923
Jackson, Mississippi (H1)

1890 Fessenden, Wallace Clifford (MGR)
Name: Wallace Clifton Fessenden
B: Oct 5 1860
D: 1933
BL
Weight: 160 (W3)

1884 Fisher, George C.
1899 Flood, Timothy A.
1896 Friend, Frank B.

Name: Lawrence L. Freund (B6)
B: Jul 1875
Indiana

1944 Gilmore, Leonard Preston
1889 Goetz, George Burt
1932 Goldstein, Isidore
1890 Jordan, Michael Henry
1933 Leiber, Henry Edward

B: Fairview Park, Indiana (C2)
B: Greencastle, Pennsylvania (S1)
B: Odessa, Russia (H1)
Height: 5'07.5 Weight: 155 (R1)

1902 Mathison, James I.
Name: James Michael Ignatius Mathison (D2)
B: Nov 11 1878

1912 Meaney, Patrick J.
1892 Miller, Frank E.
1884 Morarity, Eugene John
1909 Ohl, Joseph Earl

B: Jul 1871 (D2)
B: Jan 1874 (D2)
B: Jan 5 1865 (R1)
Real Name: Joseph Earl von Ohl (S1)
B: Jobston, New Jersey

1993 Paquette, Craig Howard
1959 Perry, James Evan

Name: Craig Harold Paquette (H1)
B: Oct 30 1935 (T1)

Bio Report

5 November 1993
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