



Pent-Up Mystery

This photo appeared on page 27 of *The Beer & Whiskey League – The Illustrated History of the American Association*, by David Nemecek, Mark Rucker picture editor, Lyons Press, 2004:



National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY

The authoritative caption read:

“Pittsburgh’s first major league team - the 1882 Alleghenys. The *accepted player identifications* are, top: George Strief, Johnny Peters, Joe Battin, Chappy Lane, Charlie Morton
ctr: Ed Swartwood, Denny Driscoll, Rudy Kemmler, Mgr Al Pratt, Harry Salisbury, Jack Leary, Mike Mansell
front: Billy Taylor and Jim Keenan

Then the caption itself casts doubt on some of these accepted identifications:

“Mansell is probably Harry Arundell and Leary is really Mansell. Peters and Morton are also certainly misidentified.”

The Beer & Whiskey League (BWL) is a well-researched and uniquely valuable book that deserves its high acclaim. But, this page 27 photo had always seemed strange. As stated, the real Peters and Morton (below, left image of each pair respectively) clearly do not match their respective counterparts in that photo (below, right image of each pair).



Johnny Peters



not Peters



Charlie Morton



not Morton

While this was acknowledged in the book, problems with some of the other identifications are easily shown. Below, left of each pair, is a verified photo of the named individual. The right image of each pair is the corresponding face from the page 27 picture. This shows that at least three more names are wrong.



Rudy Kemmler



not Kemmler



Joe Battin



not Battin



Jim Keenan



not Keenan

Then, on page 49 of the same book there appears a photo (not shown here) labeled as the 1883 Alleghenys – same team one year later. Its caption includes seven of the same names that appear in the page 27 “1882” team photo caption. However a close check of each of these seven faces shows that not one of them remotely matches its supposed counterpart (exercise left to the reader). *So – who is really pictured in that page 27 photo?*

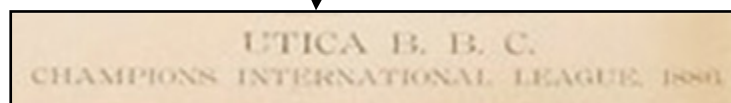
That mystery (at least for me) persisted until December, 2008 when baseball photo expert Nigel Ayers, a resident of the U.K., spotted the same image in an archive of a 2003 on-line auction. While not clear enough to read the player names, it was clear enough to see that the team was “Utica BBC”! The same photo (in the same frame) was later sold by Heritage Auctions and is shown below, left, as it appeared on their web site.



The photo is just clear enough to make out:

Utica B.B.C.

Champions International League 1886



While this all had been a mystery to me, it wasn't a mystery to Scott Fiesthumel, who authored a very well done mini-book in 1995 entitled *"Pent-Ups"- Minor League Baseball in Utica New York 1878 – 1892*. His book contains the very same Utica team photo and includes the player names. The same player names are part of the un-cropped very clear version of the image provided for this article by the Hall of Fame (found by Tom Shieber):



Top row: William D. "Billy" Shindle 3B, Mike J. Griffin LF, Jim Halpin SS, Tobias C. "Sandy" Griffin CF, John E. "Scrappy" Carroll RF

Center row: Emery J. "Moxie" Hengle 2B, J.J. Pendergrass P, Geo. W. "Jumbo" Latham 1B, David A. Dishler MGR, William I. "Billy" Serad P, James M. Toy C, Michael J. Mattimore P

Bottom row: David J. McKeough C, John W. Hofford C

Skeptics that we are, let's check at least some of the faces, just to be sure. On the left of each pair is a face from the Utica team photo, on the right is a known reference image of the player for whom we now expect a match.



Billy Shindle



Mike Griffin



Scrappy Carroll



Billy Serad



Jim Toy



Mike Mattimore

While the content of the photo is no longer a mystery, the origin of the "accepted player identifications" in the *BWL* caption remains so. Also, the incorrect "correction" of a few of the player names is odd. It's not likely that these identifications were intended for a different photo because the number of player names per row exactly matches the image. Also, that page 49 1883 Alleghenys picture has some identification problems, but that's a story for another day.

Slide, Jack, Slide

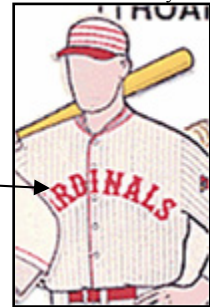
The early 1920’s Cardinals photo below appeared in the last issue (courtesy of Dennis Goldstein via Steve Steinberg). Several readers responded with analyses reminiscent of George Michael’s instructive *BRJ* articles. Gary Livacari noted that he could make out the blurry scoreboard well enough (bottom line score) to see that it was the first inning, that St. Louis was the home team, and that the visitors were probably the Braves. He also noted that in another game, New York was the visitor and the game was in the second or third inning.

Dwayne Isgrig used the HoF’s Uniform Database to correctly peg the slider as a member of the 1922 Cardinals, as did Marc Okkonen. The Cardinals sometimes wore this unique to 1922 alternate home uniform. Dwayne requested a magnification of the scoreboard (see next page). He correctly noted Pittsburgh at Philadelphia on top, New York at Cincinnati next, Brooklyn at Chicago just below, leaving Boston at St. Louis on the bottom. Hence, the visiting club is definitely Boston (not Brooklyn), and the location may be Sportsman’s Park.



Dennis Goldstein Collection

National Baseball HoF and Library



StL NL 1922

Tom Shieber continued the analysis: “[The ballpark] matches Sportsman’s before the distinctive right-angled extension of the left-field side grandstand.” Tom provided a 1926 World Series photo of Sportsman’s left field scoreboard (right) which perfectly matches the one in the mystery photo above – virtual proof of the location.



Tom continued:

“The [mystery photo] scoreboard (right) gives the match-ups of the teams that day and confirms Boston as the visitor... Apparently New York and Cincinnati scored no runs in the first, but the Giants scored 2 in the top of the second... *only one date for Boston at St. Louis [in 1922] matches the beginning line score for the New York vs. Cincinnati game: 7/19/1922*”

“As to the game in the mystery photo – the scoreboard tells us it’s the bottom of the first inning.” The 7/20/1922 *Boston Globe* gives the following account:

“The Braves were out in order in the first, but the Cardinals got to Miller for their first tally. Flack doubled against the right field fence, Smith walked and Hornsby slashed a two-bagger off Ford’s glove, scoring Flack. Kopf threw out Mueller at first and *Holke cut Smith out at the plate.*”

The box score, right, indicates that the plate umpire was Charley Moran, Tony Boeckel was at 3rd base, and Mickey O’Neill was catching.



| ST LOUIS | AB | R | BH | TB | PO | A | E |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Flack rf..... | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Smith cf..... | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Hornsby 2b..... | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Mueller lf..... | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Fournier 1b..... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Stock 3b..... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Ainsmith c..... | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Toporcer..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clemens..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Lavan ss..... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| †Schultz..... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ‡Mann..... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haines p..... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| North p..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| §Shotten..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals..... | 33 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 27 | 12 | 2 |
| BOSTON | | | | | | | |
| Powell cf..... | 5 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Nixon lf..... | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Cruise rf..... | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Boeckel 3b..... | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Holke 1b..... | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Ford ss..... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Kopf 2b..... | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| O'Neill c..... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Miller p..... | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals..... | 36 | 6 | 10 | 18 | 26 | 8 | 1 |

*Batted for Ainsmith in eighth. †Batted for Lavan in ninth. ‡Ran for Schultz in ninth. §Batted for North in ninth. †Two out when winning run scored.

| Innings | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| St Louis | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3-7 |
| Boston | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0-0 |

Two-base hits, Flack, Hornsby. Home runs, Powell, Hornsby. Sacrifice, Stock. Double plays, Kopf, Holke and O'Neill; Smith, Stock and Hornsby. Left on base, Boston 4, St Louis 6. Base on balls, by Haines, by Miller 4. Struck out, by Haines 5, by Miller 3, by North 2. Hits, off Haines, 10 in 8 innings; off North, 0 in 1 inning. Winning pitcher, North. Time, 2h 10m. Umpires, Moran and Hart.

Summarizing:

- Sportsman’s Park in St. Louis
- Braves vs. Cardinals
- July 19, 1922
- Bottom of the first inning
- Jack Smith out at the plate
- Catcher is Mickey O’Neill
- Hornsby is running to 3rd base
- Braves’ 3rd baseman is Tony Boeckel
- Plate umpire is Charley Moran

For a sanity check, let’s first try to confirm that a couple of the somewhat discernable faces in the mystery photo resemble known images of people that do appear in the box score:



plate umpire in.....mystery photo



photo years later

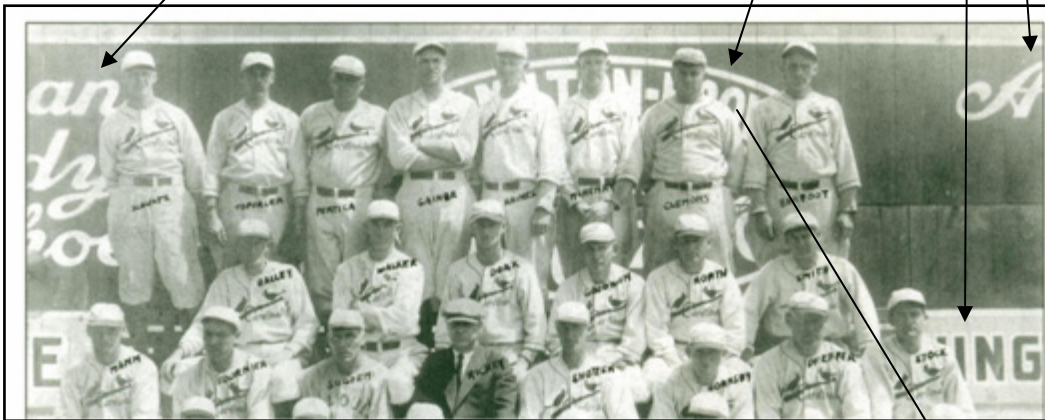


player in front of home.....plate in mystery photo



matches Walt Holke

Next, a comparison is made between the left field wall advertising in the mystery photo (just below) to the left field wall advertising in a confirmed 1922 Cardinals team picture (bottom photo) from the Cardinals' Hall of Fame Museum:



Courtesy of St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame Museum

It's a perfect match. (Tom determined that the ad was for Hamilton-Brown shoes - see right). So everything checks out, right? Well, not quite everything. Recall that the *Boston Globe* article said that 1st baseman Walt Holke, just after a putout at first base, threw the ball to O'Neill to



get Smith out at home - but how can that be right if that's Holke (and it surely is) walking in front of home plate as the tag is applied? Since the rest of the evidence is thoroughly convincing, perhaps the play was not quite as described in the *Globe*. If anyone has access to the St. Louis newspapers' account of that 7/19/1922 play, we'd like to hear from you.


Reader Steve Hatcher independently came to the same conclusion as did Tom Shieber using basically the same logic. Steve also noted that Jack Smith's Cardinals cap does not match that shown in the Uniform Database for 1922, which lacks the "StL". The Database is a priceless tool, but does contain occasional errors on small details. Thanks to all readers who offered an opinion. 🗑️

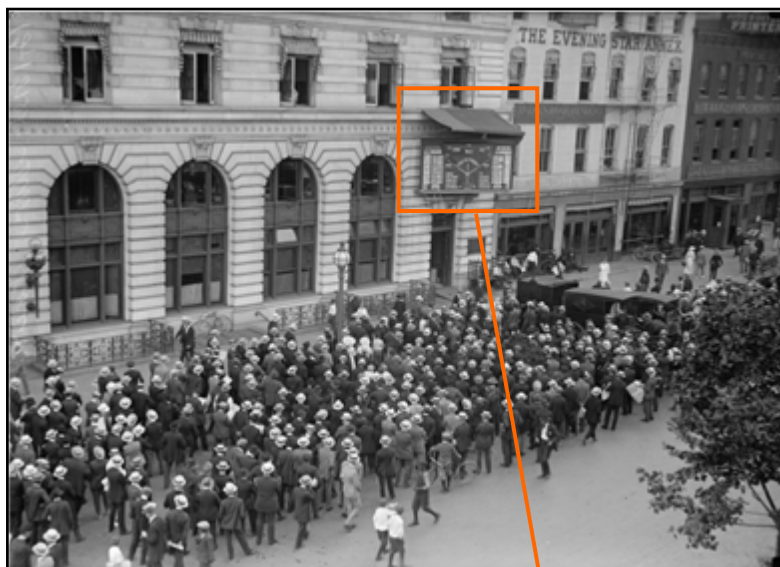


Jack Smith

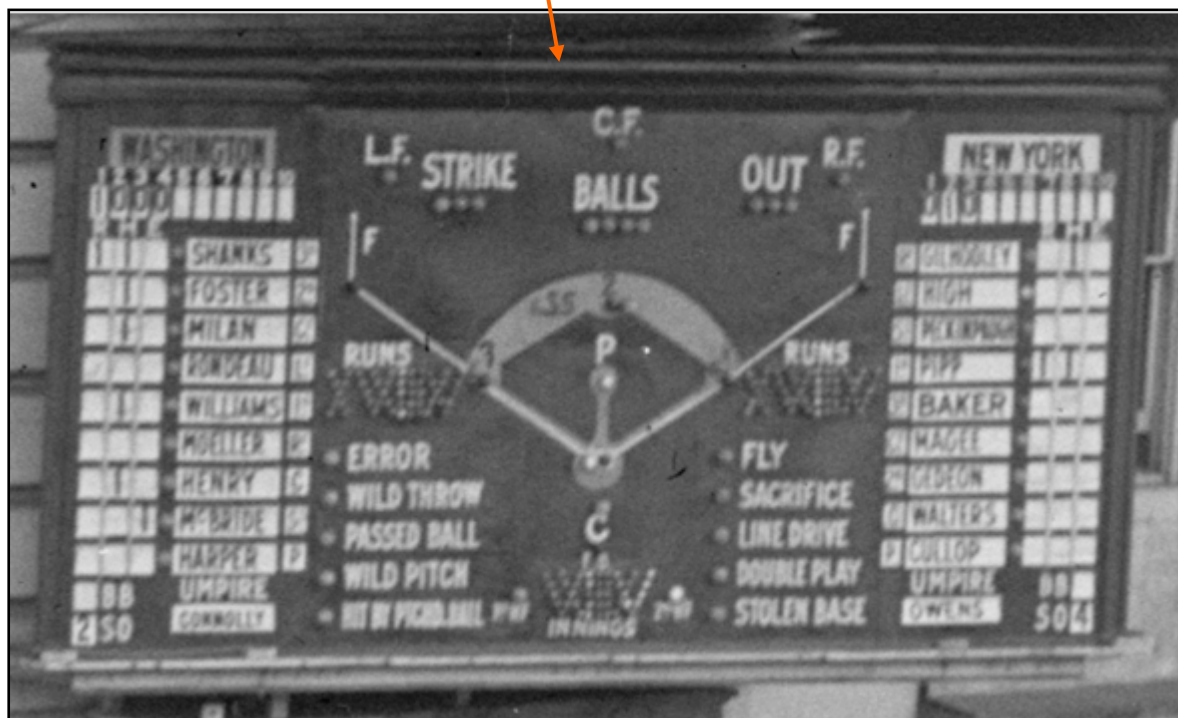
New Old Photos at the Library of Congress

As mentioned in the November PHC newsletter, a project is underway to identify a large number of 1910's Harris & Ewing baseball photos posted recently on the Library of Congress-Prints and Photographs website. As of this writing, there are 340 baseball photos posted, of which about 200 have been identified by our group. One interesting image is shown below. Given the example of the excellent analysis of the Cardinals photo, can anyone determine the date of this photo?

Available in high res at: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hec.07858> 



Library of Congress, Harris & Ewing Collection



Say, it Ain't Joe

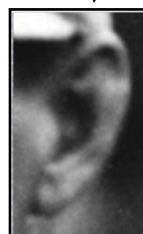
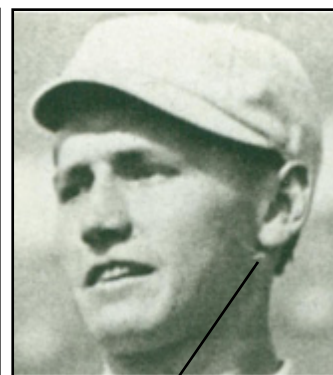
Library of Congress George Bain collection photo 10313 is currently identified as “Smokey” Joe Wood (near right). By comparing the left ear in 10313 to that in a known photo of Wood (far right), we have proof positive that 10313 is not Joe Wood. It's often easier to prove who it's not than to show who it is. So, who is this c1913 Boston Red Sox player?

High res download accessible at:
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ggbain.10313>

LoC Bain 10313
ID'd as Joe Wood



Joe Wood



Mystery from Steve Steinberg/Mike Mumby

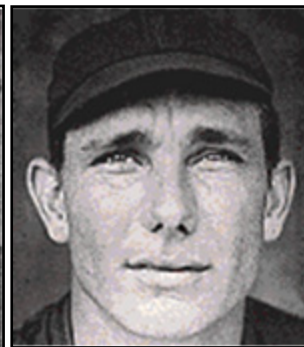
While the question posed concerning this photo ran last time, we wanted to include the news on the Utica team photo in this issue. So, analysis of this image has been pushed back to the next issue. The description is repeated below.

The image near right, courtesy of the Mike Mumby collection, appeared in the 1911 Spalding Guide team headshot composite for the 1910 Cincinnati Reds. It was identified as Bob Bescher. Is it Bescher (far right)? Why or why not?

Mumby Collection



Bescher ?



Bob Bescher

A Multilateral International Effort

Special thanks to Nigel Ayres, Scott Fiesthumel, Tom Shieber, and Steve Steinberg without whom this would have been a much shorter issue.

The opinions expressed in this supplement are those of the author. Supportive or contrary opinions from readers are strongly encouraged. Also, if you have a mystery photo that might be an interesting subject for a future column, please submit it to Mark Fimoff, bmarlowe@comcast.net.