

SABR

Biographical Research Committee

July/August 2003 Report

Charles Witherow

Charles Witherow played with the Washington Nationals of the National Association in 1875. The 1875 New York Clipper listed his address as 1151 8th Street NW in Washington. Richard Malatzky traced this man through Washington city directories and the census. The 1880 census listed him as a clerk in the Treasury Department. Many Washington players at that time had jobs as "clerks in the Treasury Department." Richard was able to trace him until his death in 1948 at the age of 96. He would actually have been the oldest living player at the time of his death, although I do not list him that way since we don't know his exact date of birth. Charles Witherow is our *Find of the Month*.

New Members

Please welcome Arnie Braunstein to the biographical committee. Arnie's address is 169 Bee Meadow Parkway, Whippany, New Jersey 07981 and his code number will be B8.

The Top 20

At the convention in Denver, it was suggested that I republish the list of the top 20 missing ballplayers. Here is the list with a brief comment about each one.

1. **Hugh Daily.** Daily was a well known one-armed pitcher who was a 2-time 20 game winner. He came from Baltimore.
2. **Harry Decker.** Decker holds 3 patents for inventing the catcher's mitt, an idea he probably stole from Joe Gunson. He was in San Quentin under the name Earl Henry Davenport and was released in 1915.
3. **Charles Wesley Jones.** He had an 11 year career, led the league in homers in 1879, and is featured in 19th Century Stars.
4. **Sam Larocque.** A Canadian who supposedly was in Fall River, Massachusetts. The Sam Larocque who died there isn't him.
5. **Henry Moore.** He played one year for Washington in the Union Association. Much is known about his family and he most likely wound up in California.
6. **Mike McGeary.** Another 11 year major league veteran, he definitely came from Philadelphia.
7. **Archie McCarthy.** Next to Negro League Committee Chairman Dick Clark, the second most famous baseball persona from Ypsilanti, Michigan. Lived in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1910 and then vanished.
8. **Pearce Chiles.** Another player last known to be in prison in California.
9. **Matthew Porter.** Actually, we know he died in Mexico in September of 1906. We just don't know the exact date or place.
10. **Charles Hoover.** He was released from the Missouri penitentiary in May of 1902. He was not mentioned in his father's 1911 obituary.
11. **Andy Nelson.** His family doesn't know where he went, although he sent them lots of postcards.
12. **Jimmy Wood.** His baseball career ended when he lost his leg. Then we lost the rest of him.
13. **Spencer Pumpelly.** He is only on this list because he is the most recent player for whom we don't know how he batted. Of course, he never batted in the major leagues, so guess no one ever saw him.
14. **Mike Kelly.** Kelly is the most recent player who is completely lost, having pitched for the 1926 Phillies. We have a nice biographical sketch of him, most of which is probably completely wrong.
15. **Tom Letcher.** This man left quite a little trail in Canada, but the trail fizzled out somewhere in Saskatchewan.
16. **Maurice Pierce.** We have leads on his entire family, just not him.
17. **Arthur Twineham.** The man who left the insane asylum to go work in a dynamite factory is still among the missing.
18. **Creed Bates.** Another player who spent time in the slammer. There were several guys named Creed Bates in Tennessee. None appear to be him.
19. **George Blackburn.** Blackburn was a long time minor league umpire. It's hard to believe we can't find him.
20. **James Donaldson Brown.** We know what happened to all of his family, just not him.

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in September, and October, including Paul Hopkins, our oldest former major leaguer at 99. Be sure to send a card.

September 6	Harry Danning	92
September 17	Ernest Koy	94
September 21	Elden Auker	93
September 25	Paul Hopkins	99
October 5	Anthony Malinosky	94
October 13	Xavier Rescigno	90
October 25	Eugene Corbett	90

This One Might Be Tough

About a year and a half ago, a couple of scorebooks were found in the Hall of Fame basement. One was a Brooklyn Eckfords scorebook from 1872. In the scorebook for a game between the Eckfords and Mansfield played June 22, 1872, there was listed a defensive sub at second base. Apparently, the handwriting is tough to read, but Bob Tiemann thinks the player who came in was named Walksum. I checked with a man who has done massive research on Mansfield games and he finds no mention of such a player in the newspapers. I also checked various directories, censuses, and the like, and can find no person who ever lived with the name of Walksum. I know it is dirty pool for me to give you a *Mystery of the Month* that is probably unsolvable, but if you solve it. I can almost guarantee that you will win the *Find of the Month*.

Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Names	15876	55	99.655
Births	15252	679	95.738
Assumed Alive	7588		47.630
Deaths	7984	359	50.116
Bats	14638	1182	92.528
Throws	14880	940	94.058
Heights	14960	860	94.564
Weights	14920	900	94.311
Debut Dates	15931	0	100.000
Questionnaires	9985	5946	62.677
Total			92.3595

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1875 Abadie, John	Debut: <u>Apr 26 1875</u>	(V1)
1903 Aubrey. Harry Herbert	<u>BR</u>	(R1)
1875 Bancker, John	Debut: <u>Apr 19 1875</u>	(V1)
2000 Bernero. Adam G.	Name: Adam <u>Gino</u> Bernero	(V1)
2000 Biddle, Lee F.	Name: Lee <u>Francis</u> Biddle	(V1)
1999 Blum, Geoffrey E.	Name: Geoffrey <u>Edward</u> Blum	(V1)
1968 Bonds, Bobby Lee	D: <u>Aug 23 2003</u>	(C1)
	<u>San Carlos, California</u>	
1998 Buddie, Michael J.	Name: Michael <u>Joseph</u> Buddie	(V1)
1910 Burg, Joseph Peter	Height: <u>5-10</u>	(R1)
1999 Castro, Ramon A.	Name: Ramon <u>Abraham</u> Castro	(V1)
1947 Chandler, Edward Oliver	D: <u>Jul 6 2003</u>	(C1)
	<u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	
1945 Clark, William Otis	B: <u>May 22 1915</u>	(H9)
1937 Coffmon, George David	D: <u>May 8 2003</u>	(C1)
	<u>Birmingham, Alabama</u>	
1875 Dailey, John J.	Debut: <u>Apr 29 1875</u>	(V1)
1928 Donning, Ike	Name: <u>Isaac</u> Danning	(M1)
1905 DeGroff, Edward Arthur	<u>TL</u>	(R1)
1912 Dell, William George	B: <u>Jun 11 1886</u>	(S7)
1932 Devens, Charles	D: <u>Aug 13 2003</u>	(D6)
	<u>Milton, Massachusetts</u>	
1879 Gardner, Franklin Washington	B: <u>May 6 1859</u>	(R1)
	<u>Boston, Massachusetts</u>	
1951 Hardy, Francis Joseph	D: <u>Aug 15 2003</u>	(C1)
	<u>Phoenix, Arizona.</u>	
1875 Heifer, Franklin	Debut: <u>Jun 3 1875</u>	(V1)
2000 Huff, Aubrey L.	Name: Aubrey <u>Lewis</u> Huff	(V1)
1912 Irvin, William Edward	Name: William Edward <u>Irwin</u>	(M4)
	D: <u>Feb 5 1916</u>	
1965 Jenkins, Ferguson Arthur	B: <u>Dec 13 1942</u>	(F4)
1871 Johnson, Caleb Clark	Debut: <u>May 20 1871</u>	(V1)
1875 Keen, George Henry	Debut: <u>May 4 1875</u>	(V1)
1934 Kinzy, Henry Herschel	Name: <u>Harry Hersel</u> Kinzy	(H9)
	D: <u>Jun 22 2003</u>	
	<u>Fort Worth, Texas</u>	
1912 Kirkpatrick, Enos Claire	B: <u>Dec 9 1884</u>	(S7)
1884 Loughran,	Name: <u>Thomas</u> Loughran	(H9)
1872 Lowe, Charles	Debut: <u>Sep 24 1872</u>	(V1)
1890 Lowe, Robed Lincoln	B: <u>Jul 10 1865</u>	(C1)
1875 Lowry, JohnD.	Debut: <u>Jun 26 1875</u>	(V1)
2001 Lyon, Brandon J.	Name: Brandon <u>James</u> Lyon	(VI)
2000 Matos, Luis D.	Name: Luis <u>David</u> Matos	(VI)
1948 McDermott, Maurice Joseph	D: <u>Aug 7 2003</u>	(C1)
	<u>Phoenix, Arizona</u>	
1875 McKelvey, John Wellington	Debut: <u>Apr 19 1875</u>	(V1)
1969 McRae, Norman	D: <u>Jul 25 2003</u>	(K4)
	<u>Garland, Texas</u>	

1913 Meyer, Bernhard	B: <u>Jan 21 1885</u>	(S7)
1952 Miller, William Paul	D: <u>Jul 1 2003</u>	(C1)
	<u>Lititz, Pennsylvania</u>	
1873 Nevin, Alexander Brown	Debut: <u>May 6 1873</u>	(V1)
1875 O' Neill,	Debut: <u>Aug 20 1875</u>	(V1)
1935 Passeur, Claude William	D: <u>Aug 30 2003</u>	(C1)
	<u>Lucedale, Mississippi</u>	
1895 Pond, Erasmus Arlington	B: <u>Saucus, Massachusetts</u>	(R1)
1910 Pond, Ralph Benjamin	<u>TR</u>	(R1)
1884 Porter, Henry	Weight: <u>142</u>	(M4)
1941 Quinn, Wellington Hunt	B: <u>May 14 1918</u>	(S7)
1905 Rising, Percival Sumner	<u>TR</u>	(R1)
2000 Rodriguez, Jose I.	Name: Jose <u>Ilich</u> Rodriguez	(V1)
1925 Rogell, William George	D: <u>Aug 9 2003</u>	(C1)
	<u>Sterling Heights, Michigan</u>	
1936 Sheehan, James Thomas	B: <u>Jun 3 1913</u>	(D0)
1936 Sivess, Peter	D: <u>Jun 1 2003</u>	(D6)
	<u>Candler, North Carolina</u>	
1891 Slagle, John A.	Height: <u>5-10.5</u>	(M4)
1948 Sloat, Dwain Clifford	D: <u>Apr 18 2003</u>	(D6)
	<u>St. Paul, Minnesota</u>	
2001 Spooneybarger, Timothy F.	Name: Timothy <u>Floyd</u> Spooneybarger	(V1)
1875 Sullivan,	Debut: <u>May 15 1875</u>	(V1)
1941 Waitkus, Edward Stephen	D: <u>Sept 16 1972</u>	(P3)
1884 Whitehead, Milton P.	<u>TR</u>	(M4)
1914 Wisterzil, George John	B: <u>Mar 7 1888</u>	(S7)
1875 Witherow, Charles Samuel	Name: Charles <u>Lafayette</u> Witherow	(M3)
	B: <u>Apr 1852</u>	
	<u>Washington, D.C.</u>	
	D: <u>Jul 3 1948</u>	
	<u>Washington, D.C.</u>	
1999 Wolf, Randall C.	Name: Randall <u>Christopher</u> Wolf	(V1)
1911 Zackert, George Carl	B: <u>Horton, Vermont</u>	(F4)