

**SABR**  
**Biographical Research Committee**  
**January/February 2009 Report**  
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## Ed Clark Found

Ed Clark pitched two major league games, one for Philadelphia in 1886 and one for Columbus in 1891. He has long been one of our most mysterious and fascinating players. He was from Cincinnati and married Maggie Goodall in Cincinnati on March 17, 1887. Maggie is listed in the 1900 census, 1910 census, and 1898 Cincinnati city directory as a widow, but things aren't always as they seem. Ed Clark is found umpiring in Texas as late as 1905 and in 1898, enlisted in the Spanish-American War.

He served in the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry and an 1898 article gave this account of his experiences, "Since leaving Texas in 1898 Umpire Ed Clark has had experiences varied enough to satisfy any man. He went to New Orleans and umpired one game in the Southern league, when it too, blew up. His old friends of the Eighteenth United States infantry wars were there and about to move to Manila. He joined them and went to the antipodes, where he spent nearly a year hiking through the Isle of Panay, getting mixed up in a score of skirmishes with the 'Goo-gooes,' and incidentally having his epidermis punctured by a few Filipino bullets. The wounds were all slight, however, and he finally transferred to Manila, where he was made chief clerk in the quartermaster's department. When his term of service was up he returned to 'God's country,' [Texas] and after spending a few weeks in Galveston and San Antonio, went to New Orleans and shipped as a foreman of a British mule transport, going to South Africa. Reaching Cape Town he organized a party among his muleteers to get through the British lines and join the Boer army, but one of the crowd got 'cold feet' and gave information to the British authorities, which landed them all in prison. Through the aid of a Salvation Army captain he was enabled to escape to Durban, where he shipped as a deck hand on a transport going to Baltimore. Last year he umpired in the Virginia-North Carolina and Southern Leagues and after the season was over made several trips to South Africa as a muleteer foreman before coming here."

That's quite a story. The common name, coupled with the fact that he was known as both Edward C. Clark and Edmund C. Clark has made him difficult to find. Peter Morris searched for an Army pension record and found Edmund C. Clark, M18 and L26, US Infantry, died November 7, 1927 at the National Soldiers Home in Hampton, Virginia. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This is great work on a very difficult player. Congratulate Peter for winning the *Find of the Month* award.

### Mike Ryan

Mike Ryan played two games with St. Louis in 1895. For years this player had been listed as John J. Ryan, but notes from the St. Louis Republic said that his name was Mike Ryan and that he had played with Natchez in 1893. Peter Morris found an article in the Dallas Morning News from 1903 that "Mike Ryan, former Southern League ballplayer, for some years a Natchez policeman, shot and killed a burglar ..." Peter contacted some people he knew in Natchez and found that Mike Ryan became the Natchez police chief, died in 1935, and was buried in the Natchez City Cemetery. I sent for both a death certificate and an obituary. He died September 3, 1935 in Natchez and the obituary stated that he had been a professional baseball player when he moved to Natchez. As it says on his headstone, "he was a terror to all evildoers."

## John Curran

We had once listed this 1876 Philadelphia player as Peter Curren; however, notes at the time said that this was John Curran and he had moved to San Francisco. A note from Sporting Life in 1883 said that he was an oarsman for the Alerts of Vallejo. The 1880 census shows John Curran, baseball player, living at 60 Tehama in San Francisco. Richard Malatzky was able to find the obituary for John H. Curran in the San Francisco Chronicle. He died September 26, 1896 in Vallejo, California and the funeral was held at his brother's house at 62 Tehama in San Francisco. It's not easy to find players who played back in 1876. This was great work by all involved.

## John Murphy

John Murphy pitched for Wilmington and Altoona in the Union Association in 1884. It would seem to be difficult to find a player with a name like John Murphy, but the notes we had on him fit together and we were able to track him down. Notes from Sporting Life said that John H. Murphy, who had pitched for Wilmington and Altoona was from Philadelphia and worked as a shoemaker. Armed with these clues, Richard Malatzky went to the Philadelphia city directories and found John H. Murphy, shoemaker, the only one in the city directory. He is listed in the city directory until 1905. Richard was then able to find his death certificate. William H. Murphy, shoemaker, died March 7, 1905 in Philadelphia. His obituary said he was a member of the Southwark Quoit Club. We just don't play enough quoit these days. Clearly, this is our missing player.

## Frank Martin

Frank Martin played with three teams from 1897-99. A note in Sporting Life from December of 1902 said that he had recently married Kathryn Fleming. We were able to find his marriage record that confirmed this. We had listed Martin as dying in Chicago September 20, 1924. The only problem is that Frank and Kathryn are still in Chicago in the 1930 census. The Frank Martin who died in 1924 was the husband of Anna Jordan. Our ballplayer was actually born in Colorado, but lived in Chicago most of his life. His WWI card shows him as Frank Joseph Martin, born July 29, 1878. Kathryn died in 1955 and her obituary said that she was the widow of Frank and buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Bruce Allardice checked with St. Joseph's cemetery and buried with Kathryn is Frank Martin who died September 2, 1942 in Chicago. The Illinois death index shows him as Frank J. Martin, age 64, perfectly matching our player.

## The First Out

Tom Zocco wrote an inquiry to SABR-L asking, for each pennant winner, who was the first player to die from that team? I pulled a report off the database listing the first player to die from each major league team since 1871. For example, the first player to die from the 1962 New York Mets was Gil Hodges, who died April 2, 1972. The earliest team who has not yet had a player die is the 1973 Montreal Expos.

## What Makes SABR Great

I recently had someone write me who was the great-great-nephew of Uriah "Bloody Jake" Evans, who played with several teams from 1879-1885. Not knowing much about Evans myself, I put an inquiry out to SABR-L to see if anyone knew any details about Evans. Frank Vaccaro wrote back with a nice biography of Jake Evans's career. I forwarded this to Evans' relative and he was ecstatic to

learn so much about his great-great-uncle. Thanks to Frank for his work and for giving such a good impression of SABR to a casual fan.

## Notes on the Missing

Peter Morris has a website that really is a "must visit" for anyone interested in the work of this committee. The website address is [www.petermorrisbooks.com](http://www.petermorrisbooks.com). Peter has compiled notes on many of our missing ballplayers. At the left side of the page, he has a section entitled, "Missing Players." Underneath, there are links to "Cold Cases," players that we have a fair amount of knowledge about their families, but the ballplayer seems to have dropped off the face of the earth. Another link is for "On The Brink," players that we are pretty sure we have found, but are missing the last piece of evidence that confirms that the guy we found is our missing ballplayer. A third link is for "Colder Cases", players for whom we have some notes, but no definitive evidence on who the ballplayer is.

Peter also describes some success stories. These are stories of missing players we have found, and Peter describes the process that led to their capture. This is a great help to anyone who might be new to our committee and is looking for a ballplayer they might want to track. Obviously, for many of these players, we have voluminous data above and beyond what Peter lists in his site. If you want more information, feel free to contact me and I'll be happy to flesh out the story. Finally, I'd like to put in a plug for Peter's books. If you'd like to read a well-researched history of the early days of baseball, you can't go wrong with one of Peter's books.

## My Favorite Wife

Our *Mystery of the Month* is one you just have to love. Roy Evans pitched for a variety of major league teams from 1897-1903. He was born March 19, 1874 in Knoxville, Tennessee and died August 15, 1915 in Galveston, Texas. The story was that he had died in the great 1915 Galveston hurricane. When investigating the death, some problems start to arise. The hurricane hit Galveston on August 16, one day after Evans died. There is no death certificate in Texas for Evans and Evans was not listed in a list of people killed in the hurricane. All of this is somewhat bothersome, but that doesn't mean that in all the confusion during a hurricane, that the death certificate wasn't properly filed or the date may have been off by a day. But the next piece of evidence really blows away the hurricane story.

Bob Hoie found the following article in the Dallas News: "Ft. Worth, Nov. 18. Robert Roy Evans, charged with violation of the Mann Act, pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court this morning before Judge James C. Wilson and his punishment was fixed at two years service in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan. According to records submitted by the Department of Justice, Evans has been married at least three times within the last year. He was arrested and indicted after he had married a Georgia school teacher with whom he came to Texas."

Also, "Ft Worth, Nov. 19 (1920). Robert Roy Evans, who says he was a major league baseball player a few years ago, today was under sentence to two years in prison having been convicted in the Federal Court here of bigamy. He admitted having married three women. He declared that his career embraced more than 10 years service as a pitcher. He said he played with the Washington and Detroit American League clubs and the Brooklyn National League club. He asserted that he was the "pitching mainstay of Brooklyn" in 1903 and 1904 and says he retired after managing the St. Paul American Association club during the season of 1909. Evans says he is 48 years old and his home is in Emporia, Kan." Sure enough, he shows up in the 1920 census living in Eastland, Texas with one of his wives.

What a guy! Bob contacted someone at the Leavenworth prison archives and he confirmed that Leavenworth was home to the ballplayer Roy Evans and that he was also the Robert R. Evans living in Eastland, TX at the time of the 1920 Census. He gave his occupation as "newspaper man" (matches

census), his age as 48 (actually 46 which in the census was correct), birthplace as Tennessee (correct), and his father was E.N. Evans of Emporia, Kan. (correct). He was released from Leavenworth on June 26, 1922 and there is no indication of where he went after that.

His father, Edward N. Evans was a judge in Emporia. When he died February 4, 1930, the obituary suggests that Roy may have been disowned by his father, if not the whole family, as it says that Edward had only five children, all mentioned by name including the daughter who died in 1915, so the first born, Roy, had apparently become a non-person. One of his sisters, Frances Brown, died September 9, 1915. Her obituary noted she was survived by 2 sisters and 3 brothers which obviously includes Roy. His mother died May 17, 1917 and her obituary mentioned the 5 surviving children including Roy "address unknown".

So Roy Evans joins our list of missing ballplayers and he becomes one of the many who has a criminal record. Let's just hope he didn't change his name or we may never find him.

## Birthday List

Three of our top 10 oldest former players died in the first month of 2009, including Bill Werber, who our oldest former player. Tony Malinosky is now the oldest former player. Malinosky was born October 5, 1909. Here are the nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in March and April.

March 1	Nick Strincevich	94
March 4	Les Mueller	90
March 5	Alex Monchak	92
March 15	Don Lang	94
March 22	Carl Miles	91
March 23	Lou Lucier	91
April 7	Bobby Doerr	91
April 26	Virgil Trucks	92
April 28	Charlie Metro	90
April 29	Art Kenney	93

## Scoreboard

CATEGORY	IN	OUT	PCT
Names	17152	52	99.698
Births	16616	588	96.582
Assumed Alive	8393		48.785
Deaths	8544	267	49.663
Bats	15951	1137	93.346
Throws	16174	914	94.651
Heights	16314	774	95.471
Weights	16270	818	95.213
Debut Dates	17204	0	100.000
Questionnaires	9984	7220	58.033
Total			92.3756

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

DEBUT YR	NAME	CHANGE OR ADD	SOURCE
1938	Balas, Mitchell Francis	Cemetery: <u>Cremated, ashes retained by family</u> <b>Source: Sister-in-law</b>	(L6)
1906	Birmingham, Joseph Leo	B: <u>Dec 3 1884</u> <b>Source: WWI draft registration</b>	(M3)
1911	Black, John Falconor	Cemetery: <u>Mount Lebanon Cemetery, Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania</u> <b>Source: Passaic Herald News</b>	(C1)
1938	Bongiovanni, Anthony Thomas	D: <u>Jan 6 2009 San Jose, California</u> <b>Source: San Jose Mercury News</b>	(C1)
1887	Casey, William B.	Name: <u>Tommy Casey</u> Eliminate birth information <u>TL</u> <b>Source: Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Press</b>	(M3)
1886	Clark, Edward C.	Name: <u>Edmund C. Clark</u> B: <u>1863</u> D: <u>Nov 7 1927 Hampton, Virginia</u> Cemetery: <u>Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia</u> <b>Source: Army pension record</b>	(M4)
1936	Corbett, Eugene Louis	D: <u>Jan 28 2009 Salisbury, Maryland</u> <b>Source: Salisbury Times</b>	(C1)
1914	Crane, Samuel Byren	Name: Samuel <u>Byrem</u> Crane <b>Source: WWII registration</b>	(M4)
1906	Crawford, Forrest A.	D: Mar <u>27 1908</u> <b>Source: Death certificate</b>	(M4)
1876	Curren, Peter	Name: <u>John Henry Curran</u> B: <u>1852 Ireland</u> D: <u>Sep 26 1896 Vallejo, California</u> Cemetery: <u>Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, California</u> <b>Source: San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Voters Registration</b>	(M3)
1924	Day, Henry Clyde	B: <u>Center, Missouri</u> <b>Source: 1900 census</b>	(M4)
1970	Derrick, James Michael	D: <u>Jan 14 2009 Lexington, South Carolina</u> Cemetery: <u>Woodridge Memorial Park, Lexington, South Carolina</u> <b>Source: Columbia State</b>	(C5)
1896	Diddlebock, Henry H. (MGR)	Name: Henry <u>Harrison</u> Diddlebock <b>Source: Death certificate</b>	(M4)
1953	Elston, Donald Ray	D: <u>Evanston, Illinois</u> <b>Source: Chicago Tribune</b>	(N4)

1897	Evans, Roy	Name: <u>Robert Roy Evans</u> Remove death information Source: <b>1920 census, Leavenworth prison</b>	(H7)
1871	Ewell, George W.	B: <u>Oct 29 1850</u> Source: <b>Death certificate</b>	(M4)
1889	Ferson, Alexander	Cemetery: <u>Old St. Joseph Cemetery, Bedford, New Hampshire</u> Source: <b>Cemetery</b>	(DX)
1871	Flowers, Charles Richard	D: <u>Oct 6 1892</u> Source: <b>Death certificate</b>	(M4)
1919	Frisch, Frank Francis	Debut: <u>Jun 17 1919</u> Source: <b>Official records</b>	(S0)
1959	Gabler, John Richard	D: <u>Feb 7 2009 Overland Park, Kansas</u> Cemetery: <u>Monticello Union Cemetery, Shawnee, Kansas</u> Source: <b>Kansas City Star</b>	(C1)
1944	Gomez, Preston	D: <u>Jan 13 2009 Fullerton, California</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated</u> Source: <b>Los Angeles Times</b>	(C5)
1952	Hamilton, Thomas Bail	Cemetery: <u>Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville, Texas</u> Source: <b>Cemetery</b>	(W4)
1938	Helf, Henry Hartz	Cemetery: <u>Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville, Texas</u> Source: <b>Cemetery</b>	(W4)
1967	Hernandez, Ramon (Gonzalez)	D: <u>Feb 4 2009 Carolina, Puerto Rico</u> Source: <b>El Nuevo Dia</b>	(C1)
1883	Hines, Michael P.	D: <u>Mar 14 1910 Taunton, Massachusetts</u> Cemetery: <u>St. Mary Cemetery, New Bedford, Massachusetts</u> Source: <b>Fall River Evening News</b>	(DX)
1982	Johnson, Roy Edward	D: <u>Jan 26 2009 San Francisco de Campeche, Campeche, Mexico</u> Cemetery: <u>Jardines del Angel, San Francisco de Campeche, Campeche, Mexico</u> Source: <b>Cronica de Campeche</b>	(G6)
1889	Krumm, Albert	Weight: <u>145</u> Source: <b>Pittsburgh Post</b>	(M3)
1947	Lyons, Edward Hoyte	D: <u>Jan 25 2009 Winston-Salem, North Carolina</u> Cemetery: <u>God's Acre, Winston-Salem, North Carolina</u> Source: <b>Winston-Salem Journal</b>	(N5)
1928	Malone, Perce Leigh	Cemetery: <u>Cremated</u> Source: <b>Death certificate</b>	(R4)
1897	Martin, Frank	Name: <u>Frank Joseph Martin</u> B: <u>Jul 29 1878 Colorado</u> D: <u>Sep 2 1942 Chicago, Illinois</u> Cemetery: <u>St. Joseph Cemetery, River Grove, Illinois</u> Source: <b>WWI draft registration, 1930 census, cemetery</b>	(M4,A5)
1883	McCormick, James J.	B: <u>Dec 31 1861</u> Source: <b>1900 census, death certificate</b>	(M4)
1944	Mills, William Henry	B: <u>Nov 2 1919</u> Source: <b>Massachusetts birth records</b>	(L6)
1900	Murphy, Daniel Francis	Cemetery: <u>St. Mary's Cemetery, Norwich,</u>	(DX)

		Connecticut <b>Source: Cemetery</b>	
1884	Murphy, John Henry	B: <u>1858 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> D: <u>Mar 7 1905 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> Cemetery: <u>Fernwood Cemetery, Fernwood, Delaware County, Pennsylvania</u> <b>Source: Death certificate, Philadelphia Inquirer</b>	(M3)
1932	Padden, Thomas Francis	Cemetery: <u>New St. Joseph Cemetery, Bedford, New Hampshire</u> <b>Source: Cemetery</b>	(DX)
1942	Perme, Leonard John	D: <u>Jan 24 2009 Hayward, California</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated</u> <b>Source: Granddaughter</b>	(H9)
1906	Quillen, Leon Abner	Name: <u>Leon Abner Quillin</u> <b>Source: 1900-1930 census, death certificate</b>	(T2)
1885	Ramsey, Thomas H.	Height: <u>5-09.5</u> <b>Source: Omaha Bee</b>	(M4)
1969	Roberts, David Arthur	D: <u>Jan 9 2009 Short Gap, West Virginia</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated, ashes retained by family</u> <b>Source: Funeral home</b>	(C1)
1875	Rocap, Adam	D: <u>Mar 29 1892</u> <b>Source: Death certificate</b>	(M4)
1895	Ryan, Michael	Name: <u>Michael Patrick Ryan</u> B: <u>Jun 7 1868 St. Louis, Missouri</u> D: <u>Sep 3 1935 Natchez, Mississippi</u> Cemetery: <u>Natchez City Cemetery, Natchez, Mississippi</u> <b>Source: Death certificate</b>	(C1)
1921	Sedgwick, Harry Kenneth	Name: <u>Henry Kenneth Sedgwick</u> <b>Source: Grandson</b>	(F4)
1949	Simmons, John Earl	D: <u>Aug 1 2008 Farmingdale, Nassau County, New York</u> Cemetery: <u>Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, New York</u> <b>Source: Newsday</b>	(L6)
1884	Smith, John Francis	Cemetery: <u>New St. Joseph Cemetery, Bedford, New Hampshire</u> <b>Source: Cemetery</b>	(DX)
1922	Sorrells, Raymond Edward	Cemetery: <u>Royse City Cemetery, Royse City, Texas</u> <b>Source: Spelling correction of city name</b>	(L5)
1898	Stallings, George Tweedy	Last game: <u>May 25 1898</u> Pinch-ran for Philadelphia <b>Source: ICI Sheets</b>	(P1)
1980	Stimac, Craig Steven	D: <u>Jan 16 2009 San Marino, San Marino</u> Cemetery: <u>Cimitero di San Marino – Montalbo, San Marino, San Marino</u> <b>Source: Maremma News</b>	(S3)
1955	Sturdivant, Thomas Virgil	D: <u>Feb 28 2009 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</u> <b>Source: Daily Oklahoman</b>	(C1)
1898	Taylor, John W.	Cemetery: <u>Greenlawn Cemetery, Nelsonville, Ohio</u> <b>Source: Cemetery</b>	(S0)
1946	Tepsic, Joseph John	D: <u>Feb 23 2009 Bald Eagle, Blair County,</u>	(C1)

		<u>Pennsylvania</u> <b>Source: Centre Daily Times</b>	
1965	Uhlaender, Theodore Otto	B: Oct 21 <u>1939</u> D: <u>Feb 12 2009 Atwood, Kansas</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated, ashes retained by family</u> <b>Source: Funeral card</b>	(S5)
1957	Valdes, Rene (Gutierrez)	Real name: Rene Gutierrez ( <u>Valdes</u> ) <b>Source: Correction from previous report</b>	(L5)
1915	Vance, Clarence Arthur	Name: <u>Charles Arthur Vance</u> <b>Source: WWI registration</b>	(F4)
1945	Wallen, Norman Edward	Real name: Norman Edward <u>Walentowski</u> B: Feb 13 <u>1918</u> <b>Source: Great niece</b>	(H9)
1891	Walsh, Joseph R.	Height: <u>5-06.5</u> Weight: <u>150</u> <b>Source: Omaha Bee</b>	(M4)
1875	Weaver, Samuel H.	B: Jul <u>20</u> 1855 <b>Source: Death certificate</b>	(M4)
1930	Werber, William Murray	D: <u>Jan 22 2009 Charlotte, North Carolina</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated, inurned at Sharon Memorial Park, Charlotte, North Carolina</u> <b>Source: Charlotte Observer</b>	(C1)
1984	Williams, Frank Lee	D: <u>Jan 9 2009 Victoria, British Columbia</u> <b>Source: Victoria Times Colonist</b>	(C5)
2000	Williams, Matthew Taylor	Name: <u>Matt Taylor Williams</u> <b>Source: Player</b>	(H9)
1943	Woods, George Rowland	B: May 22 <u>1920</u> <b>Source: Brother, Connecticut birth record</b>	(C1)