

SABR
Biographical Research Committee
May/June 2009 Report
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Author: Bill Carle, Bbxper@aol.com

This Budd's For You

Our *Find of the Month* this month is an especially good one. Peter Morris has identified the mysterious Mr. Budd, who played one game in left field for the Cleveland Players League club on September 10, 1890. Just identifying him is difficult enough. Then we have to track him down. This is how Peter describes his find.

"On the day after the 1890 player's one game, the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Sept. 11, 1890 called him a Cleveland amateur who failed to live up to his reputation as a hard hitter. In a game account on July 15, 1890, a club referred to as "Al Johnson's champion team" or the "Champs" had a player identified as Jay Budd in left field. Of course Al Johnson was the owner of the Cleveland (PL) club and the "Champs" included Larry Twitchell of that club, a Snyder who may have been "Pop" Snyder, and a Hotaling who presumably is Pete. So the "Champs" must be some sort of extension of the major league club for whom Budd played left field eight weeks later.

Richard Malatzky researched this player without knowing his first name and found very few men named Budd in Cleveland of appropriate age. Naturally there is only one Jay Budd -- indeed as far as I can tell there is only one Jay Budd in the United States at that time -- so it seems logical to assume that this man is the missing major leaguer.

He had a rather Zelig-like life. There are several notes about him in the Plain Dealer over the years, mostly involving getting arrested for his involvement in betting on horse races. In addition, there is a letter from "Jay Budd, the well known Clevelander" on June 18, 1901, stating that he was now the leading jockey in Russia.

His obituary in the Plain Dealer on August 23, 1923, was quite lengthy and mostly about his involvement with horse racing. It said he was from a prominent Elyria family, was 60, and had lived in Cleveland for "more than 20 years." Interestingly, he was well enough known around the country for one-sentence mentions of his death to appear in the Boston Globe, Hartford Courant and Chicago Tribune.

Searching Elyria papers I found this:

Elyria Chronicle-Telegram, May 6, 1921, thirty years ago today: new Elyria baseball team organized, Jay Budd, third base

He was five on the 1870 census, 14 on the 1880 census, and 1900 had 12/64. A couple of family trees on ancestry supply complete name and date of birth that match except for having 1865 as the year of birth. According to this cemetery transcription, <http://files.usgwarchives.net/oh/lorain/cemeteries/ridgelawn/part05.txt>, his middle name was spelled Cook and his year of birth was 1865. So it looks like:

Jay Cook Budd
B: December 4, 1865 Groton, Ohio
D: August 22, 1923 Cleveland

In light of his Zelig-like exploits, I say we call him Budd Zelig."

Death Certificate Images

One of our committee members, Frank Russo, has a website devoted to deceased major leaguers. It is called thedeadbballera.com and is definitely worth your time to check out. His most recent additions are the images of hundreds of death certificates of former major leaguers.

Committee Evaluation

The SABR office has been conducting an evaluation of our committee. Many of you participated in a survey and your comments are all appreciated. In my self-evaluation, one of the things I mentioned as a problem was figuring out how to get more people involved in doing the difficult research. The older players who are still missing are obviously very difficult to find, and it's frustrating to a new person to be unable to meet with some initial success. If anyone has any ideas along these lines, please let me know.

Billy Geer

William Henry Harrison Geer played 6 years in the major leagues with 7 different teams. Like many of our missing ballplayers, he had several brushes with the law. In fact, his minor league career extended until 1892 when he was jailed in Minnesota for forging a check.

We are unsure of his birth or his family background other than knowing that his mother was so impressed by President William Henry Harrison's one month in office, that she named her son after him. Peter Morris found an article about him in the 11/08/1897 [Syracuse Herald](#). It went on and on about how Geer came to Syracuse, charmed everyone with his brilliance and refinement, and seemed the perfect gentleman until he started conning everyone in sight. He also had a way with the ladies and in the spring of 1878 it was announced that he had secretly married Emily Smith, daughter of Jacob Smith of Van Buren & Smith (one of Syracuse's most successful businesses). But then rumors started to surface about Billy and he had to leave town as a result of some sort of financial deal gone bad. A divorce followed in the early 1880s. Geer does show up in the 1879 Syracuse city directory listed as a newsdealer, living with Jacob Smith.

The article also said he was a college graduate, so that points strongly to the Geer who played shortstop for Manhattan College from 1867-1870. If that is correct it seems like we're looking for a birth around 1849 or 1850 so that points to this listing on the 1860 census in New York City:

John Geer 40, wealthy jeweler
Jane 37
John 16
George 13
William 10
Edward 3
Irene 1
all born New York

In the 1870 census, this family is listed as John and Lucy Egore. John had remarried a lady named Lucy Doe and had children George, William, Edward, Irene, and Ann. In the 1880 census, they were listed as John and Josephine Aiguier with children George, Irene, and Annie. John had once again remarried. So the family shows up in 3 consecutive census listings, each with a different mother, each with a different spelling starting with a different letter. They were always listed as jewelers.

Peter Morris researched this family and found that John, Jr. died December 21, 1868. George died in Newark, New Jersey November 1, 1917. Annie Aiguier married a man who also had the last name

of Doe. She died February 25, 1932 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. So Billy could have been using the name Geer or the name Aiguier or possibly other aliases. It clearly isn't certain that Billy Geer and William Aiguier are the same person and nothing is known of Billy Geer's whereabouts after about 1892. An article about Geer in the St. Paul Globe in 1892 mentions that he was from Glen Ridge, New Jersey and we know the Aiguier family moved to New Jersey. This guy isn't going to be exactly easy to find, but that's why he's our *Mystery of the Month*.

Birthday List

Here are the nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in July and August.

July 4	Mike Palagyi	92
July 10	Chuck Stevens	91
July 11	George Binks	95
July 19	Phil Cavarretta	93
August 6	Tommy Reis	95
August 9	Ralph Houk	90
August 9	Fred Sanford	90
August 10	Buddy Lewis	93
August 11	Connie Marrero	98
August 11	Luis Olmo	90
August 23	Lonny Frey	99
August 23	Ken Holcombe	91
August 25	George Cisar	97
August 31	Danny Litwhiler	93

Scoreboard

CATEGORY	IN	OUT	PCT
Names	17153	51	99.704
Births	16618	586	96.594
Assumed Alive	8363		48.611
Deaths	8576	265	49.849
Bats	15953	1135	93.358
Throws	16174	914	94.651
Heights	16320	768	95.506
Weights	16272	816	95.225
Debut Dates	17204	0	100.000
Questionnaires	9984	7220	58.033
Total			92.3853

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

DEBUT YR	NAME	CHANGE OR ADD	SOURCE
1923	Adams, Spencer Dewey	Debut: <u>Apr 22 1923</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1926	Allen, Ethan Nathan	Debut: <u>Jun 13 1926</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1907	Asmussen, Thomas William	Height: <u>5-11.5</u> Source: WWII draft card	(SE)
1950	Atkins, James Curtis	D: <u>Feb 28 2009 Hanceville, Alabama</u> Cemetery: <u>Jefferson Memorial Gardens, Birmingham, Alabama</u> Source: Funeral home	(C1)
1923	Barnes, Everett Duane	Debut: <u>Sep 24 1923</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1923	Bell, Lester Rowland	Debut: <u>Sep 17 1923</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1934	Benson, Allen Wilbert	B: <u>Mar 28 1905</u> Source: South Dakota birth certificate	(H7)
1923	Benton, Lawrence James	Debut: <u>Apr 19 1923</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1912	Berran, Dennis Martin	Height: <u>5-11</u> Source: WWII draft card	(SE)
1916	Bigbee, Carson Lee	Last date: <u>Aug 7 1926</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1913	Billings, John Augustus	Last date: <u>Aug 24 1923</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1928	Brandt, Edward Arthur	Debut: <u>Apr 15 1928</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1890	Budd,	Name: <u>Jay Cook Budd</u> B: <u>Dec 4 1865 Groton, Ohio</u> D: <u>Aug 22 1923 Cleveland, Ohio</u> Cemetery: <u>Ridgelawn Cemetery, Elyria, Ohio</u> Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer, death certificate	(M4)
1887	Burnham, George Walter (MGR)	D: <u>Nov 17 1902</u> Source: Death certificate	(R4)
1923	Burns, Dennis	Debut: <u>Sep 19 1923</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1929	Burns, George Henry	Last date: <u>Sep 29 1929</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1919	Burrus, Maurice Lennon	Last date: <u>Aug 21 1928</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1973	Cash, Ronald Forrest	D: <u>Apr 22 2009 Tampa, Florida</u> Cemetery: <u>Trinity Memorial Gardens, Trinity, Florida</u> Source: Tampa Bay Online	(H9)
1929	Clarke, William Stuart	Debut: <u>Jul 12 1929</u>	(V1)

		Source: Box score	
1926	Cohen, Andrew Howard	Debut: <u>May 31</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
1926	Cox, Leslie Warren	Last date: Sep <u>21</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
1927	Cremins, Robert Anthony	Last date: Sep <u>17</u> 1927 Source: Box score	(V1)
1929	Cronin, James John	Last date: Sep <u>20</u> 1929 Source: Box score	(V1)
1939	Crouch, Wilmer Elmer	Name: <u>William Elmer Crouch</u> B: Aug 20 <u>1907</u> Source: Birth certificate	(C1)
1945	Dasso, Frank Joseph Nicholas	D: <u>Jun 8 2009 Seattle, Washington</u> Source: Wenatchee World	(H9)
1926	Davis, George Willis	Debut: Jun <u>5</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
1892	Decker, George A.	B: Jun 1 <u>1866</u> Source: 1870, 1880, 1900 census	(M4)
1932	Demaree, Joseph Franklin	Cemetery: <u>Cremated, ashes interred at Winters Cemetery, Winters, California</u> Source: Winters High School	(CL)
1987	Destrade, Orestes (Cucuas)	Name: Orestes Destrade (<u>Cuevas</u>) Source: Orestes Destrade	(F4)
1940	DiMaggio, Dominic Paul	D: <u>May 8 2009 Marion, Massachusetts</u> Cemetery: <u>Newton Cemetery, Newton, Massachusetts</u> Source: Boston Globe	(V1)
1922	Doran, William James	Last date: <u>Jul 28</u> 1922 Source: Box score	(V1)
1913	Dugey, Oscar Joseph	Last date: Aug <u>15</u> 1920 Source: Box score	(V1)
1907	Durbin, Blaine Alphonus	Cemetery: St. Peter Cemetery, <u>Kirkwood</u> , Missouri Source: Cemetery	(W4)
1922	Ens, Jewel Winklemeyer	Debut: Apr <u>28</u> 1922 Source: Box score	(V1)
1920	Falk, Bibb August	Debut: <u>Jul 17</u> 1920 Source: Box score	(V1)
1923	Felix, August Guenther	Debut: Apr <u>18</u> 1923 Source: Box score	(V1)
1926	Florence, Paul Robert	Debut: May <u>21</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
1922	Gagnon, Harold Dennis	Last date: <u>Jul 10</u> 1924 Source: Box score	(V1)
1890	Gilbert, Peter	D: <u>Dec 31</u> 1911 Source: Death certificate	(R4)
1927	Gillis, Grant	Last date: Jun <u>25</u> 1929 Source: Box score	(V1)
1920	Gleason, Joseph Paul	Last date: Jun <u>11</u> 1922 Source: Box score	(V1)
1922	Goebel, Wilbur Edwin	Debut: May <u>3</u> 1922 Source: Box score	(V1)
1920	Grimes, Oscar Ray, Sr.	Last date: Aug <u>12</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
1909	Hagerman, Zerah Zequiel	B: Jun 20 <u>1886</u> Source: Nephew, WWI draft registration	(H9)

1926	Hamby, James Sanford	Last date: May <u>27</u> 1927 Source: Box score	(V1)
1943	Hamrick, Raymond Bernard	D: Jun 9 2009 Nashville, Tennessee Cemetery: <u>Spring Hill Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee</u> Source: Nashville Tennessean	(Q1)
1954	Held, Woodson George	D: Jun 11 2009 DuBois, Wyoming Cemetery: <u>Cremated</u> Source: Funeral home	(R4)
2008	Herrera, Daniel Ray	Height: <u>5-06</u> Weight: <u>165</u> Source: mlb	(V1)
1905	Hinchman, William White	Last date: Jul 23 1920 Source: Box score	(V1)
1919	Hofmann, Fred	Last date: Sep <u>27</u> 1928 Source: Box score	(V1)
1926	Holland, Howard Arthur	Last date: Jul <u>29</u> 1929 Source: Box score	(V1)
1925	Hood, Albie Larrison	Debut: Jul <u>13</u> 1925 Source: Box score	(V1)
1903	Hug, Edward Ambrose	Height: <u>5-08.5</u> Source: WWII draft card	(SE)
1929	James, Robert Byrne	Debut: Apr <u>24</u> 1929 Source: Box score	(V1)
1912	Jantzen, Walter Charles	Cemetery: <u>Cremated, inurned at Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois</u> Source: Cemetery	(R4)
1921	Jonnard, Claude Alfred	Last date: Jul <u>26</u> 1929 Source: Box score	(V1)
1964	Kelso, William Eugene	D: May 11 2009 North Kansas City, Missouri Cemetery: <u>White Chapel Memorial Gardens, Kansas City, Missouri</u> Source: Kansas City Star	(C1)
1919	Lee, Clifford Walker	Last date: Sep <u>8</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
1905	Leifield, Albert Peter	D: <u>Fairfax, Virginia</u> Source: Death certificate	(R4)
1939	Lillard, William Beverly	D: Jun 9 2009 San Luis Obispo, California Cemetery: <u>Santa Barbara Cemetery, Santa Barbara, California</u> Source: Daughter	(C1)
1952	Littrell, Jack Napier	D: Jun 9 2009 Louisville, Kentucky Cemetery: <u>Louisville Memorial Gardens East, Louisville, Kentucky</u> Source: Louisville Courier Journal	(C1)
1955	Locke, Charles Walter	Last date: Sep <u>23</u> 1955 Source: Box score	(V1)
1911	Long, Thomas Augustus	D: Jun <u>23</u> 1972 Source: Alabama death index	(C1)
1901	McCann, Henry Eugene	B: Jun 13 <u>1875</u> Source: WWI draft registration, 1880, 1900 census	(X8)
1922	McCurdy, Harry Henry	Debut: Jul <u>1</u> 1922 Source: Box score	(V1)
1925	McGee, Francis D.	Last date: Sep <u>30</u> 1925 Source: Box score	(V1)
1922	McNamara, Timothy Augustine	Last date: May <u>15</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)

1886	Meister, John F.	B: <u>Allentown, Pennsylvania</u> Source: <u>New York Sun, 1860, 1870 census</u>	(M3)
1894	Mercer, George Barclay	Cemetery: <u>Spring Grove Cemetery</u> , East Liverpool, Ohio Source: <u>Cemetery</u>	(R4)
1910	Mercer, Harry Vernon	Height: <u>5-11.5</u> Source: <u>WWII draft card</u>	(SE)
1929	Miller, Elmer Joseph	Last date: <u>Aug 22</u> 1929 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1929	Miller, Rudel Charles	Last date: <u>Sep 20</u> 1929 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1901	Mitchell, Frederick Francis	Cemetery: <u>Brookside Cemetery, Stow, Massachusetts</u> Source: <u>Granddaughter</u>	(H9)
1958	Morejon, Daniel (Torres)	D: <u>Apr 27 2009 Miami, Florida</u> Source: <u>El Nuevo Herald</u>	(S3)
1933	Mowry, Joseph Aloysius	Cemetery: <u>Sunset Memorial Park, Affton, Missouri</u> Source: <u>Cemetery</u>	(W4)
1915	Myers, Elmer Glenn	Last date: <u>Apr 24</u> 1922 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1909	Myers, Henry Harrison	Last date: <u>May 7</u> 1925 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1917	Naylor, Roleine Cecil	Last date: <u>Jun 25</u> 1924 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1921	Neitzke, Ernest Frederick	Last date: <u>Oct 2</u> 1921 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1925	Neubauer, Harold Charles	Debut: <u>Jul 12</u> 1925 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1907	Neuer, John S.	<u>BL</u> Height: <u>5-08.5</u> Nickname: <u>Tacks</u> Source: <u>San Antonio Light, Army enlistment papers</u>	(H7)
1920	Okrie, Frank Anthony	Debut: <u>Apr 18</u> 1920 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1895	Orth, Albert Lewis	B: <u>Sedalia, Missouri</u> Source: <u>Passport application, army enlistment papers</u>	(C2)
1973	Ozark, Daniel Leonard (MGR)	D: <u>May 7 2009 Vero Beach, Florida</u> Cemetery: <u>Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Fort Pierce, Florida</u> Source: <u>Philadelphia Inquirer</u>	(C1)
1909	Pape, Laurence Albert	B: <u>Jul 21 1885</u> Source: <u>1910 census, headstone</u>	(C1)
1899	Parent, Frederick Alfred	Name: <u>Alfred Joseph Parent</u> B: <u>Nov 11</u> 1875 Source: <u>Baptismal record</u>	(L6)
1955	Phillips, John Melvin	Debut: <u>Apr 12</u> 1955 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1923	Pick, Edgar Everett	Debut: <u>Sep 10</u> 1923 Last date: <u>Jul 7</u> 1927 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1917	Piercy, William Benton	Last date: <u>Sep 6</u> 1926 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1926	Purdy, Everett Virgil	Last date: <u>Sep 15</u> 1929 Source: <u>Box score</u>	(V1)
1875	Redmond, William T.	B: <u>1853</u>	(C1)

		Source: Correction of typo from last month	
2008	Reineke, Chad K.	Name: Chad <u>Karl</u> Reineke Source: Chad Reineke	(H4)
1952	Rhodes, James Lamar	D: <u>Jun 17 2009 Las Vegas, Nevada</u> Cemetery: <u>Davis Memorial Park, Las Vegas, Nevada</u> Source: Funeral home	(R4)
1926	Rice, Robert Trumbull	Last date: Sep <u>29</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
2008	Roenicke, Joshua	Name: Joshua <u>James</u> Roenicke Source: UCLA baseball media guide	(B7)
1872	Rogers, Fraley W.	Last date: <u>Jul 5 1873 with Boston (NA)</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1917	Russell, John Albert	Last date: <u>May 2</u> 1922 Source: Box score	(V1)
1929	Ryan, John Francis	Last date: Jun <u>19</u> 1929 Source: Box score	(V1)
1918	Sanders, Roy Lee	Cemetery: <u>Louisville Memorial Gardens West, Louisville, Kentucky</u> Source: Cemetery	(B6)
1972	Scarce, Guerrand McCurdy	Name: <u>Guerrant</u> McCurdy Scarce Source: Public records index	(C1)
1958	Schaive, John Edward	D: <u>May 11 2009 Springfield, Illinois</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated</u> Source: Springfield State Journal Register	(C1)
1914	Schreiber, Henry Walter	Last date: Aug <u>16</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
1921	Sedgwick, Henry Kenneth	Last date: Jul <u>31</u> 1923 Source: Box score	(V1)
1915	Severeid, Henry Levai	Last date: Sep <u>25</u> 1926 Source: Box score	(V1)
1915	Shannon, Joseph Aloysius	D: Jul <u>20</u> 1955 Source: Death certificate	(R4)
1915	Smith, Jack	Last date: <u>May 23</u> 1929 Source: Box score	(V1)
2008	Snider, Travis James	Debut: Aug <u>29</u> 2008 Source: Box score	(V1)
1919	Snover, Colonel Lester	Cemetery: <u>Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira, New York</u> Source: Cemetery	(R4)
1998	Spencer, Stanley Roger	B: Aug <u>7</u> 1969 Source: mlb.com	(H9)
1906	Stanage, Oscar Harland	D: <u>Highland Park, Michigan</u> Source: Death certificate	(R4)
1910	Steele, William Mitchell	D: <u>Clayton, Missouri</u> Source: Death certificate	(R4)
1928	Sumner, Carl Ringdahl	Debut: Jul <u>25</u> 1928 Source: Box score	(V1)
1954	Thompson, Charles Lemoine	Debut: Apr <u>20</u> 1954 Source: Box score	(V1)
1920	Tierney, James Arthur	Debut: Sep <u>22</u> 1920 Source: Box score	(V1)
1921	Toporcer, George	Last date: Jun <u>2</u> 1928 Source: Box score	(V1)
1911	Tutwiler, Guy Isbel	D: <u>Anniston, Alabama</u> Source: Death certificate	(R4)

1921	Twombly, Edwin Parker	Last date: <u>Aug 17 1921</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1926	Uchrinscko, James Emerson	Last date: <u>Jul 25 1926</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1909	Walker, Ewart Gladstone	B: <u>Jun 1 1888</u> Source: WWI draft registration, 1900 census	(RC)
1919	Welch, Frank Tiguer	Last date: <u>Aug 13 1927</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1929	Weston, Alfred John	Debut: <u>Jun 29 1929</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1910	Wheeler, George Harrison	D: <u>Jun 14 1918</u> Source: Death certificate	(R4)
1918	Wheeler, Richard	Debut: <u>Jun 13 1918</u> Source: Philadelphia Evening Bulletin	(C1)
1946	Wilber, Delbert Quentin	Last date: <u>Sep 19 1954</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1926	Williams, Leon Theo	Debut: <u>May 26 1926</u> Last date: <u>Sep 6 1926</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1924	Wilson, Francis Edward	Last date: <u>Jul 2 1928</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1921	Wirts, Elwood Vernon	Last date: <u>Jul 2 1924</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1919	Wisner, John Henry	Last date: <u>May 15 1926</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1916	Witt, Lawton Walter	Last date: <u>Aug 19 1926</u> Source: Box score	(V1)
1871	Wood, James Leon	B: <u>Dec 1 1843</u> Source: Macon Weekly Telegraph	(M3)
1956	Woodeshick, Harold Joseph	D: <u>Jun 14 2009 Houston, Texas</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated, inurned at Memorial Oaks Cemetery, Houston, Texas</u> Source: Houston Chronicle	(R4)
1922	Youngblood, Albert Clyde	Debut: <u>Jun 16 1922</u> Source: Box score	(V1)