

SABR
Biographical Research Committee
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Patrick Larkins Found

We just had this player listed as P. Larkin, so it was great work when Justin McKinney showed that this player was Patrick Larkins and was able to track him down. This is our *Find of the Month*. Peter Morris describes the find below:

A man listed in the box scores as Larkin played third base for Washington (UA) in 1884. Unlike many players on that team, he was not just a one-gamer; he debuted with the team on May 29 and played seventeen games, all at third base. A note in *Sporting Life* on July 16 indicated that he had just returned to action after been sick for a month. But his return was short-lived, as he played his final major league game on July 16.

There were quite a few men named Larkin playing baseball during those years, so the first task was to identify him. The next step was to check Reed Howard's database for a candidate. Fortunately, his stint with Washington was long enough to overlap with the verified whereabouts of many of the other Larkins. This eliminated all of the Larkins known to be active in 1884 except for a Patrick Larkin who played third base for Binghamton of the New York State League for the entire 1885 season, Oswego of the International League for the entire 1886 season, and then played eight games for Canandaigua of the Central New York League in 1888. The name Patrick jibed nicely with this note in *Sporting Life* on June 18: "The Rock Island people claim that P. Larkin, now with Washington, jumped his Rock Island contract to play with Scanlon's nine." While we did not have definitive proof, it looked very likely that Patrick was the 1884 Washington player. And, since all of Patrick Larkin's subsequent stints were in upstate New York, that seemed to be the place to look.

More digging turned up these notes:

Milwaukee Sentinel, April 4, 1885, P.C. Larkin and John Kozler of Rock Island Club removed from blacklist

Sporting Life, January 27, 1886, Oswego signings: "Pat Larkin, of last year's Binghamtons, will play third base; besides being a fine baseman, he is a heavy hitter and excellent base-runner."

Sporting Life, October 12, 1887, to CONSTANT READER, Canandaigua, N. Y.: "We are unable to give the information sought in your question, nor can we now remember at this late day where the letter for Pat Larkin was sent."

The first candidate to emerge was a Patrick A. Larkin from West Troy, which was later renamed Watervliet. When Larkin died there in 1911, an obituary mentioned that "In former years he was a well-known baseball player," a most encouraging sign. His birth year of 1859 was also an excellent fit. Unfortunately, this Patrick Larkin was a first baseman rather than a third baseman, and there was no indication that his playing career extended beyond the Troy area. The middle initial was also a problem. While we could not entirely eliminate this man, he didn't seem terribly likely.

The hunt for Larkin remained stalled until Justin McKinney found a note in the *Des Moines Register* on April 17, 1883, that the local team was trying to sign "Mr. Larkin, formerly of Rochester, New York, for third base." He then discovered a player referred to as Larkin or Larkins playing third base for Des Moines that season, before later moving on to play for the Chicago Unions (a strong semi-professional club, not to be confused with the following season's Union Association). Justin kept digging and found a sketch of the local Western League team in the *Leavenworth Times* on April 22, 1888 that included team captain and third baseman Patrick Larkin, 26, 5'11", 185, who had spent the previous season with Oswego. The Western League folded on June 21, 1888, allowing Larkin to subsequently pop up with Canandaigua.

In light of the Canandaigua connections, Justin suspected that the ballplayer might hail from there. He found only one Patrick Larkin of appropriate age in Canandaigua during those years and traced him up until his death in Brooklyn in 1918.

He found an obituary in the *Rochester Democrat Chronicle* on November 27, 1918, stating that this man's body had been brought back to Canandaigua for burial, but unfortunately it did not mention baseball. So was this our man?

I turned to the *Ontario (Canandaigua) Messenger and Repository* and found a note in May 1879 to the effect that the Canandaigua Base Ball Club had just been formed, with a player named Larkins at second base. Over the next few years, there were several references to a young man named Patrick Larkins competing in various athletic-type events. This was extremely promising, and better still, an article on the same paper on August 28, 1884, reported: "To-morrow afternoon a match game of base ball will be played at the fair grounds, by the Stars of Rochester and a Canandaigua nine, composed of Larkin (late of the Nationals of Washington), Smith and Tuohey (late of the Saginaws), Cunningham, Curtis, Mulligan, Howe, Dooley and O'Brien, Admission, 25 cents." So now it seemed quite clear that the 1884 Nationals player was from Canandaigua.

I then looked for papers that might have said something about Larkin or Larkins when he signed with Rock Island in 1884. Rock Island is one of the "Quad Cities" on the Illinois/Iowa border, and the *Quad City Times* of April 15, 1884, called the player "Pat Larkins" and said he previously played for Port Huron. The Larkins spelling was used again on May 28, 1884, when he was expelled from the team for jumping to the Union Association. This was also encouraging.

Justin then turned his attention to April of 1885, the month that Larkin or Larkins was expelled from the blacklist and turned up two more crucial notes. The *Syracuse Standard* of April 17, 1885, provided a Binghamton roster that included Larkin of Canandaigua. Ten days later, the *Utica Daily Press* listed P.C. Larkin as a Binghamton signee. His signing so soon after being reinstated was another instance of the pieces fitting together perfectly. However, there was still doubt that the Patrick Larkins who died in Brooklyn in 1918 was the ballplayer.

All doubt ended when I found an article in the *Canandaigua Repository-Messenger* on August 2, 1888, describing how Patrick Larkins's brother Richard and another ballplayer were on their way home from a ball game in Chicago when they were shot and killed. The article also said that Patrick was living in Chicago and brought the body back to Canandaigua, as well as mentioning another brother who lived in Iowa. That fit perfectly with this note about the player's debut with Canandaigua: *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, August 10, 1888, "Larkin, formerly of the Kansas City [sic] club, played a beautiful third base for Canandaigua." All of the brothers fit perfectly with census listings for the candidate identified by Justin. So obviously after returning home for his brother's funeral, Patrick Larkins had decided to play for the local team. The brother in Iowa also provides a likely explanation for how Patrick got to Des Moines, Rock Island, and other place far from Canandaigua.

Evelyn Begley then tracked down a death certificate for our man. It listed him as a blacksmith and stated that he had lived in Brooklyn for fourteen years before his death from lobar pneumonia at Long Island College Hospital (in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn) on November 25, 1918. His burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in Canandaigua took place on two days later. His parents matched what we already knew: Catherine (maiden name Deveraux) and Thomas Larkins, both from Ireland. His birthplace was just listed as the U.S. So it looks like:

Patrick C. Larkins
Born February 14, 1860 New York State
Died November 25, 1918 Brooklyn
BL 5'11, 185
Buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Canandaigua

Fred Wood

Yet another missing ballplayer has been found. Peter Morris provides the story of the search for Fred Wood.

There is no such thing as a "typical" missing player, as is illustrated by the case of Fred Wood of the 1884 Detroit Wolverines and 1885 Buffalo Bisons. A number of traits are closely identified with these mystery players, including lack of a post-baseball career, struggles with alcohol abuse, brushes with the law, instability, marital woes, small families and a lack of descendants, brief careers, and common names. Yet Wood possessed none of those traits except for the last one, and even his name doesn't sound so commonplace when considered in its entirety: Frederick Llewelyn Wood.

Moreover, Fred Wood possessed many of the aforementioned attributes in abundance. As one of three brothers to play professional baseball, *Sporting Life* would refer to Pete, Jeff, and Fred Wood as "Canada's most famous family of professional ball players." When their playing careers ended, each made a successful transition to life after baseball, Pete

as a doctor and Jeff and Fred as dentists. You want stability? Fred's marriage to Adelaide Orr, daughter of the former mayor of Calgary, was announced in *Sporting Life* in 1885, and they soon settled in London, Ontario, where they raised a large family and eventually celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Despite all of these reasons to expect that Fred Wood would be well remembered, a series of implausible events prevented him from gaining a spot in the encyclopedias. To begin with, in 1933, *Sporting News* published an obituary for a New York City resident named Charles Wood, who was described as having pitched for Detroit from 1881 to 1884. Despite the match of last name and primary team, this was obviously not the right player. Nonetheless, that death date was placed under Fred Wood's record and it remained there until Richard Malatzky noticed the mistake and had it removed.

But once the case was reopened, new problems emerged. Wood and his wife were traced through the London city directory until their last listing in 1936. Since city directories are typically compiled during the previous fall, the logical inference was that Fred Wood had either died or left London in late 1935 or early 1936. Unfortunately, efforts to find a matching death in Ontario were unsuccessful, but when I looked further afield, I discovered that a Fred Wood of the right age with a wife named Addie died in Howard, Rhode Island, on April 9, 1937. It seemed odd that the Woods would have relocated to a small town in Rhode Island, but since searches of the censuses revealed no other couple by that name, it looked as though this has to be the ballplayer. When we were unable to obtain a death certificate or obituary, the search ground to a halt.

Recently, I decided to try putting his whole name into a database of Ontario deaths and one of the possible hits that popped up was for a "Nedrick L Lwellyn Wood." When I checked it out, sure enough, the unusual penmanship on the death certificate had led to a transcription error in the index. Justin McKinney and Martin Lacoste were then able to locate brief obituaries for the missing ballplayer. So odd handwriting and a pair of apparent doppelgangers in Rhode Island and New York had conspired to shroud in mystery a player whose life was a picture of stability!

John Dailey

John Dailey played in the National Association in 1875 with the Washington Nationals and Brooklyn Atlantics. A profile of him shows that he was born October 26, 1853 in Brooklyn and he appears on the 1880 census as a ballplayer named John Daly. He is living with a family named Clancy and it appears that his wife is Elizabeth Clancy. He later worked as an umpire in the Texas League and is shown to be seeking a major league umpiring position in early 1898. Efforts to find him in the 1900 census or any subsequent census has proved fruitless, undoubtedly complicated by the fact that his last name could be spelled Daily, Daly, Daley, Dailey, etc. Once census listing might be the key to finding him. He is our *Mystery of the Month*.

Birthday List

Here are the nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in January and February.

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----|
| January 1 | Carl Scheib | 91 |
| January 5 | Bob Oldis | 90 |
| February 2 | Red Schoendienst | 95 |
| February 5 | Hank Workman | 92 |
| February 6 | Charlie Gorin | 90 |
| February 7 | Felipe Montemayor | 90 |
| February 10 | Randy Jackson | 92 |
| February 16 | Howie Judson | 92 |
| February 17 | Jack Crimian | 92 |
| February 20 | Elroy Face | 90 |

Scoreboard

| CATEGORY | IN | OUT | PCT |
|----------------|-------|------|---------|
| Names | 19269 | 39 | 99.798 |
| Births | 18814 | 494 | 97.441 |
| Deaths | 9470 | 173 | 99.104 |
| Bats | 18104 | 1079 | 94.375 |
| Throws | 18313 | 870 | 95.465 |
| Heights | 18524 | 659 | 96.565 |
| Weights | 18443 | 740 | 96.142 |
| Debut Dates | 19308 | 0 | 100.000 |
| Questionnaires | 9979 | 9329 | 51.683 |
| Total | | | 92.2763 |

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

| DEBUT YR | NAME | CHANGE OR ADD | SOURCE |
|----------|----------------------------|---|--------|
| 1962 | Belinsky, Robert | Cemetery: <u>Davis Memorial Park, Las Vegas, Nevada</u> Source: Cemetery | (W4) |
| 1937 | Bildilli, Emil | Cemetery: <u>Elm Ridge Memorial Park, Muncie, Indiana</u> Source: Cemetery | (W4) |
| 1950 | Borkowski, Robert Vilarian | D: <u>Nov 18 2017 Dayton, Ohio</u> Cemetery: <u>Calvary Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio</u> Source: <u>Dayton Daily News</u> | (C1) |
| 1968 | Brown, Jophery Clifford | Cemetery: <u>Cremated, ashes given to family</u> Source: Cemetery | (W4) |
| 2017 | Calhoun, Willie Shawn | Name: Willie Shawn <u>Lamont</u> Calhoun Source: <u>California birth index</u> | (S0) |
| 1961 | Coleman, Clarence | Cemetery: <u>Holy Temple COGIC Cemetery, Bamberg, South Carolina</u> Source: Cemetery | (W4) |
| 1888 | Cross, Joseph A. | Height: <u>5-11.5</u> Weight: <u>165</u> Source: <u>Altoona Times</u> | (MC) |
| 1937 | Doerr, Robert Pershing | D: <u>Nov 13 2017 Junction City, Oregon</u> Cemetery: <u>Rest Lawn Memorial Park, Junction City, Oregon</u> Source: <u>Boston Globe</u> | (C1) |
| 1915 | Ehmke, Howard Jonathan | Name: Howard <u>John</u> Ehmke Source: <u>WWI draft registration</u> | (RC) |
| 1962 | Fazio, Ernest Joseph | D: <u>Dec 1 2017 Danville, California</u> Source: <u>East Bay Times</u> | (C1) |
| 1962 | Gallagher, Douglas Eugene | D: <u>Dec 17 2017 Fremont, Ohio</u> Cemetery: <u>Greenlawn Memory Gardens, Clyde, Ohio</u> Source: <u>Toledo Blade</u> | (H3) |
| 1952 | Gernert, Richard Edward | D: <u>Nov 30 2017 Reading, Pennsylvania</u> Source: <u>Funeral home</u> | (C1) |
| 2017 | Gohara, Luiz Enrique | Name: Luiz Henrique Gohara Source: <u>Correction of typo</u> | (S0) |
| 2014 | Gonzalez, Miguel Alfredo | D: <u>Nov 23 2017 Havana, Cuba</u> Source: <u>Philadelphia Phillies</u> | (C1) |
| 1998 | Halladay, Harry Leroy | D: <u>Nov 7 2017 Holiday, Florida</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated, ashes given to family</u> Source: <u>mlb</u> | (C1) |
| 1969 | Hill, Garry Alton | Cemetery: <u>Sharon Memorial Park, Charlotte, North Carolina</u> Source: <u>Funeral home</u> | (B6) |
| 2017 | Hu, Chih-Wei | B: <u>Taichung, Taiwan</u> Source: <u>Correction from rookie report</u> | (L5) |

| | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|--|------|
| 1962 | Jimenez, Manuel Emilio (Rivera) | D: <u>Dec 11 2017 New York, New York</u> Cemetery: <u>Cementerio Municipal, San Pedro de Macoris, San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic</u> Source: Diariolibre | (C1) |
| 1956 | Kindall, Gerald Donald | D: <u>Dec 24 2017 Tucson, Arizona</u> Source: Arizona Star | (C1) |
| 1884 | Larkin, P. | Name: <u>Patrick C. Larkins</u> B: <u>Feb 14 1860 New York</u> D: <u>Nov 25 1918 Brooklyn, New York</u> Cemetery: <u>St. Mary Cemetery, Canandaigua, New York</u> <u>BL</u> Height: <u>5-11</u> Weight: <u>185</u> Source: Canandaigua Repository Messenger, death certificate | (MC) |
| 1954 | Lary, Frank Strong | D: <u>Dec 14 2017 Northport, Alabama</u> Cemetery: <u>Tuscaloosa Memorial Park, Tuscaloosa, Alabama</u> Source: Funeral home | (C1) |
| 2006 | Lind, Adam Alan | B: <u>Muncie, Indiana</u> Source: Father | (C2) |
| 1956 | LiPetri, Michael Angelo | D: <u>Nov 17 2016 Farmingdale, New York</u> Cemetery: <u>Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Westbury, New York</u> Source: Farmingdale Observer | (C1) |
| 1893 | Lucid, Cornelius Cecil | Cemetery: <u>Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, Houston, Texas</u> Source: Cemetery | (W4) |
| 1961 | Luplow, Alvin David | D: <u>Dec 28 2017 Saginaw, Michigan</u> Cemetery: <u>Cremated</u> Source: Saginaw News | (C1) |
| 1998 | Otanez, Willis Alexander | B: <u>Cotui, Sanchez Ramirez, Dominican Republic</u> Source: Willis Otanez | (C1) |
| 2017 | Paredes, Edward Miguel | Name: <u>Edward Miguel (Cruz) Paredes</u> Source: mlb | (P1) |
| 1977 | Picciolo, Robert Michael | D: <u>Jan 3 2018 Los Angeles, California</u> Source: Friend | (C1) |
| 1945 | Picciuto, Nicholas Thomas | Cemetery: <u>Cremated, interred at St. Stephen Episcopal Cemetery, Milburn, New Jersey</u> Source: Daughter-in-law | (W4) |
| 1914 | Piez, Charles William | Cemetery: <u>Greenwood Cemetery, Pleasantville, New Jersey</u> Source: Cemetery | (W4) |
| 1956 | Pless, Rance | D: <u>Nov 11 2017 Greeneville, Tennessee</u> Cemetery: <u>GreeneLawn Memory Gardens, Greeneville, Tennessee</u> Source: Funeral home | (N5) |
| 1962 | Prince, Donald Mark | D: <u>Nov 8 2017 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina</u> Cemetery: <u>Hammond Cemetery, Nichols, South Carolina</u> Source: Funeral home | (C1) |
| 1952 | Rivera, Manuel Joseph | D: <u>Nov 13 2017 Fort Wayne, Indiana</u> Source: Chicago White Sox | (C1) |
| 1955 | Schultz, George Warren | Cemetery: <u>Cremated, interred at Monument</u> | (W4) |

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|---|------|
| | | <u>Cemetery, Beverly, New Jersey</u> Source: Cemetery | |
| 1923 | Shaner, Walter Dedaker | Cemetery: <u>Davis Memorial Park, Las Vegas, Nevada</u> Source: Cemetery | (W4) |
| 1904 | Shannon, William Porter | B: Feb 7 <u>1875</u> D: May <u>17</u> 1940 <u>BL</u> Source: WWI draft registration, 1880 census, death certificate | (C1) |
| 2017 | Smith, Dominic David Rene | B: <u>Los Angeles, California</u> Source: Correct from rookie report | (L5) |
| 1960 | Stallard, Evan Tracy | D: <u>Dec 6 2017 Kingsport, Tennessee</u> Cemetery: <u>Powell Valley Memorial Gardens, Big Stone Gap, Virginia</u> Source: Funeral home | (C1) |
| 1971 | Stelmaszek, Richard Francis | D: <u>Nov 6 2017 Chicago, Illinois</u> Cemetery: <u>Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois</u> Source: Chicago Sun Times | (C1) |
| 1954 | Strahs, Richard Bernard | Cemetery: <u>Palm Mortuary and Cemetery Eastern, Las Vegas, Nevada</u> Source: Cemetery | (W4) |
| 1953 | Talbot, Robert Dale | B: Jun 6 <u>1928</u> D: <u>Oct 31 2017 Visalia, California</u> Source: California birth index, Funeral home | (C1) |
| 1920 | Turner, Theodore Holhot | Name: Theodore <u>Holtop</u> Turner Source: Questionnaire, death certificate | (C1) |
| 2017 | Valera, Breyvic (Henriquez) | Name: Breyvic <u>Jose</u> (Henriquez) Valera Source: Correction of typo | (S0) |
| 2013 | Webb, Robert McDaniel | Name: Robert <u>Wyatt</u> McDaniel Webb Source: Kentucky birth index | (L5) |
| 1964 | Whitby, William Edward | Cemetery: <u>Cremated, ashes scattered</u> Source: Wife | (W4) |
| 1884 | Wood, Frederick Llewellyn | B: Jul 21 <u>1861</u> D: <u>Nov 17 1935 London, Ontario</u> Cemetery: <u>Woodland Cemetery, London, Ontario</u> Source: Death certificate | (M4) |