
Genealogical Research in Baseball: A Search for the Obscure Players or Their Survivors

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The efforts of members of the Research Club of the National Baseball Library of the Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, New York are described by means of reference to general genealogical methods. Eight case studies serve as illustrations of the application of genealogical methods to the location of turn-of-the-century players or their survivors.

Three of the case studies, Carl Gustav Spongberg, Claude Gouzzie, and Fred John Iott, exemplify record-linkage problems resulting from confusion over the spelling of the players' last names. Case studies of two players, Albert Klawitter and Charles Emory Eakle, are described to illustrate problems confronting the investigator as a consequence of paucity of information. Finally, unsolved case studies for three players, William Hanlon, Isaac Broc Rockenfield, and Louis Ellis Nordyke, are presented to acquaint the inexperienced investigator with the realization that some cases are not easily solved. In some few

instances in which players have left no survivors, it is recognized that the cases may never be completed.

Other sports groups are encouraged to begin the collection of demographic data immediately. The longer the delay before the collection is begun, the more difficult the process becomes.