

## **DEDICATION**

Dedicated to the memory of Bill Haber. Bill was the pioneer of baseball biographical research. The enormous amount of data which has been uncovered began with the grass roots leg work that Bill performed. He did not have access to the electronic information that we have at our fingertips today. His life ended much too suddenly.

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## PREFACE

How often have you checked the places of births or deaths in a baseball encyclopedia and asked yourself, "Where is that place?" Have you wondered how many players were born or passed away in your hometown? Perhaps you wanted to challenge someone's statement that a ballplayer has never died in Alaska, but you did not want to take the time to examine the 22,000 plus entries.

This tool is intended to be used as a companion with baseball encyclopedias. Baseball sources identify the locales where players were born and passed away. Attempting to locate some of these places is an entirely different matter. Even the experienced researcher would have difficulty locating Dallas, Michigan; Toler Creek, Kentucky; Daisy Station, North Carolina; Eleanora, Pennsylvania; or Morganette, West Virginia.

The scope of this work intends to identify the county/parish where each major league player, manager, coach and umpire was born and, where appropriate, passed away and interred. Most locales should be identifiable in traditional maps and atlases. A selective group of towns and villages which have either disappeared or are not easily traceable are identified in Appendix A.

Managers, coaches and umpires who did not play major league baseball are identified "-M-" or "-C-" or "-U-" following their names.

Names, places of birth, and places of death are based upon biographical data in the most recent print edition of *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia*, recognized by Major League Baseball as the official source for data. Burial locations are largely based on research by Bill Lee, author of *The Baseball Necrology*. Cemeteries identified in the Retrosheet, as well as updates in the SABR's bi-monthly Biographical Research Committee Monthly Reports have also been used as a source in determining resting places.

This project is ongoing, and corrections are continuously made. I am indebted to any who are able to rectify any errors and/or omissions.

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## EXPLANATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

In every instance, I have merely geographically located previously identified places of births and deaths. The *Rand McNally Commercial Atlas & Marketing Guide* and United States postal histories were the primary resources used to locate each county or parish which a community exists. Gazetteers, place name books, internet websites, and nineteenth century state atlases were also used in finding lesser-known towns.

Some cities and towns cross county lines. The primary county is considered the one in which most of the area is

located. This is typically the county in which the post office and/or railroad station were/are located. Aurora, Colorado, is an example of a city which lies in three counties. Because the main post office resides in Arapahoe County, Arapahoe is the primary county identified. For this reason, it is likely there are instances where a person was born or passed away in an adjoining county other than that which is cited. A bullet • identifies towns whose boundaries extend beyond one county.

On several occasions, I discovered that communities share the same name as other populated places within the state; e.g., the commonwealth of Pennsylvania has had no less than thirteen Mount Pleasants. When possible, the correct choice was confirmed through correspondence with the individual himself, a family member, or a local historian. Personal questionnaires on file at the Baseball Hall-of-Fame often provided information which helped determine the correct locale. The dates that a post office served the community also was taken into consideration. When confirmation was not possible, evidence was weighted using these two factors:

1. Data available from other resources. Biographical information found in other resources often helped to determine which same-named town might be correct; e.g., player profiles in A. S. Barnes' *The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball*, by Hy Turkin and S. C. Thompson; earlier editions of *Total Baseball*, Macmillan's *Baseball Encyclopedia*, and *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball*. Data compiled by Bill Haber, one of baseball's pioneer biographical researchers, contained geographical notes which eventually led to discovery. Previous editions of Jack Smalling's *Sport Americana Baseball Address List* includes zip codes of home addresses suggesting confirmation. In their later editions, *The Sporting News' Baseball Registers* identified high schools attended; when used with caution, this data supported the selection of a same-named town.
2. Geography. If one knows where a player was born, lived and/or died, that information may suggest, with varying degrees of certainty, the location of the town in question. Many people, especially past generations, lived their entire lives in the same area.

Due to insufficient information, there is one location--the birthplace of Bill Bruton, where there remains some uncertainty as to the correct county.

Over the passage of years, some communities have vanished or been renamed. Footnote <sup>1</sup> refers to Appendix A, a selective list identifying the locations of "Lost Communities". Locales which have been renamed are identified by footnote <sup>2</sup> and listed in Appendix B. These towns are listed as they were known at the time the event occurred. The current name follows in parenthesis. Minor spelling changes have also been noted. In 1890 the then-recently established Board of Geographical Names and the Post Office Department mandated spelling simplifications for hundreds of towns and hamlets. The terminal "h" was dropped from "-burgh", the ending "-boro" was shortened from "-borough", in some instances "-town" became "-ton", and the "s" was dropped as a possessive noun. After the turn of the century, some communities reverted to their original spelling, although most maintained the postal change. In addition, many railroad towns dropped the "station" from their names as their communities grew, establishing an identity beyond that of a mere "whistle stop".

Populated places are sometimes known by more than one name. The variant might have been an alternate spelling, post office name, corporate name, or railroad station. Alternate names are listed as "aka" if the two names have little or no similarity to each other. For example, Mike Ryba was born in De Lancey, also known as Adrian Mines, Pennsylvania. Both locales are noted. He passed away in Brookline Station, also known as Brookline, Missouri. Ryba's place of death is merely identified as Brookline Station. A complete list of variant names appears in Appendix C, referenced by the footnote <sup>3</sup>. While many of these variants are no longer in use today, they are nevertheless noted for sake of historical importance.

County boundaries have often changed during the course of American history. No attempt has been made to list county assignments for towns which do not coincide with current county boundaries. Syd Smith was born in Smithville, South Carolina. Although the town no longer exists, Smithville was located in Sumter County at the time of his birth in 1883. Nineteen years later, that section of the county was granted its own identity and named Lee County. Thus, Smith was born in Sumter County, but the area is now located in Lee County, and that is the county listed.

New York City is made up of five boroughs which are coextensive with five counties. The Bronx (which is Bronx

County), Brooklyn (Kings County), Manhattan (New York County), Queens (Queens County), and Staten Island (Richmond County). The borough of New York is considered to be the business district of the city. Kings County has the largest population of any of the counties, and Queens County covers the greatest square miles. For the purpose of this project the city is identified with Kings County because of the likelihood that the majority of births and deaths arguably occurred in this section of the city.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has 41 independent cities. These cities are administratively and legally separate from any county. For ease of comparison with other states that do not have independent municipalities, these geographically adjacent cities have been listed with the county from which they originally separated. Each is identified by †. Some of the independent cities also serve as county seats for adjoining counties.

Due to Virginia's secession from the Union, West Virginia broke away from the Commonwealth and became the 35th state in 1863. For the sake of uniformity, and since the county names remained the same, places of birth in this area of Virginia are identified in West Virginia. Patsey Sullivan was born in 1854 in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, Virginia,; however, he appears with other West Virginians who were born in Greenbrier County after West Virginia gained statehood.

In the nine Northeastern group of states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont), the reference to “town” has a distinctive meaning; “towns” are not defined the same as elsewhere in the country. The “towns” are more important administrative civil divisions than are the counties wherein they lie. In the Midwest and other parts of the United States, the reference to town may be used synonymously with village or hamlet. However, in the Northeast, a “town” may be fifteen, twenty, thirty, or more square miles. It typically contains a central village with the same name as the “town”, but the “town” may also include other villages, smaller localities, and farms. For that reason, it is difficult to ascertain whether place names which have the same town and village name refer to the administrative civil division, or the village itself. Walt Weiss serves as a good example. Weiss was born in Tuxedo, New York. Tuxedo was the railroad name for the village, Tuxedo Park. This community lies in the “town” of Tuxedo. It is quite possible that the shortstop was not born in the village of Tuxedo, but rather somewhere within the 40 square miles comprising the “town” of Tuxedo. Nevertheless, with respect to the “towns” in the Northeast, the places of birth/death can be determined within a few miles, much closer than place names such as New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles. Wisconsin is the only state outside the Northeast which refers to its townships as towns.

Two comments concerning the location of burial places. Because of the propensity of cemeteries to be located outside city limits, burial locations in most instances have been identified geographically closest to the nearest community. This has been done to avoid the numerous references to townships or other locally recognized subdivisions which would require explanations as to their geographical whereabouts. There are also instances where the identified town of a cemetery is sited in a different county than which the community lies. The locale may lie on the edge of the county line, and the cemetery lies in an adjacent county. These instances are identified with a dagger †. There are also a number of instances where the nearest populated area may be five to ten miles away in an adjacent county.

Internationally, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are grouped together as the United Kingdom. With respect to Canada, the Confederation was not established until 1867. The various provinces were independent colonies until they joined the Confederation at different times of history. Canadian references to colonies while still independent are identified, for example, Saint John, New Brunswick (now Canada).