

## When Was Oscar Born?

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*Photo by Tom White, Findagrave contributor #47 243 299. Used with permission.*

Oscar Joseph Dugey is buried at Oakland Cemetery. His marker gives his birth as 25 Oct 1888 and his death as 1 Jan 1966.<sup>1</sup> Various other sources, however, give different dates. Read through these records. How would you determine his birth date? Which record would you trust?

**Census Records and Substitutes.** The 1900 census provides a person's age, birth year and month. In the 1900 Anderson County, Texas census in the family of O. J. Dugey lists 10-year-old Oscar born in October 1889. This census was recorded on 7 June 1900. He was born in Texas, and his father was born in Louisiana, July 1858.<sup>2</sup>

By 1910, Oscar is recorded as a ball player in Waco, Texas where he is a boarder at the Dumas Hotel with other ball players, artists, and salesmen. His age is not listed.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Photograph of Oscar Joseph Dugey marker. Findagrave.com, created by Tom White, used with permission. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9282/oscar-dugey> : accessed 24 January 2021)

<sup>2</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Anderson County, Texas, population schedule, Palestine Ward 3, Enumeration District (ED) 5, sheet 11A, page 99 (stamped), dwelling 188, family 192. Oscar Dugey: digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 22 January 2021) citing National Archives microfilm publication T623, roll 1607.

<sup>3</sup> 1910 U.S. Census, McLennan, Texas, population schedule, Waco Ward 1, Enumeration District (ED) 78, sheet 18B, dwelling 162 family 235. O J Dugey: digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 22 January 2021) citing National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 1575.

Oscar doesn't appear on a 1920 census, perhaps because he was moving around. According to newspaper accounts of his baseball career he may have been moving between Boston and Philadelphia.<sup>4</sup> In March 1920, he was signed as a coach for the Boston Braves.<sup>5</sup> He appears in two team photos in a collection of the Baseball Almanac, one with the Philadelphia Phillies 1916 and the other with the Boston Braves. His biography describes him and gives his birth date as 25 October 1894.<sup>6</sup>

Oscar's mother, the widow of Oscar J. Dugey, is in the 1920 and the 1921 Dallas city directories.<sup>7</sup> Her son Oscar is not recorded in either. A search on Ancestry.com in 1920 for all those who had "baseball" or "base ball" as part of their occupation located 200 people, but not Oscar Dugey. He is in the 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931 Dallas city directories.

Oscar had retired from baseball by 1930 as reported on the 1930 Dallas County census where he is in the family of [Mrs] O J Dugey who is a 60-year-old widow. But he is recorded as her brother, age 36, which would make his birth year 1894. Perhaps it was his sister Virginia L. Dugey, who appears on the census as Mrs. Dugey's daughter, who gave this information and stated that he was *her* brother. Still, Virginia may have confused the two birth dates of her brothers. On the 1900 census for the family, brother Frank is recorded as being born in 1894.<sup>8</sup>

**Newspapers.** "Oscar Dugey, 21, Today Is Luckiest Kid in Baseball....Oscar will attain his legal majority today, having been born in Palestine, Tex., Oct. 25, 1894." Earlier that year a Brooklyn,

<sup>4</sup> There is an Oscar J Dugey who, in 1924, lived in Galveston. *Morrison & Fourmy Directory Co.'s Galveston City Directory 1924-25*, (Galveston, Texas: Morrison & Fourmy Directory Co, 1925), 232, entry for "Dugey, Oscar"; digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 January 2021). According to the 1920 census this Oscar was a 13-year-old son of William J. Dugey who was also born in Louisiana. 1920 U.S. Census, Galveston, Texas, population schedule, Galveston Ward 7, E. D. 49, sheet 16A, dwelling 355, family 392 Oscar Dugey: digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 25 January 2021) citing National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 1806.

<sup>5</sup> "Dugey Signs," *Los Angeles Evening Express* (Los Angeles, California) 12 Mar 1920 p. 22, col. 3, digital image Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 25 January 2021).

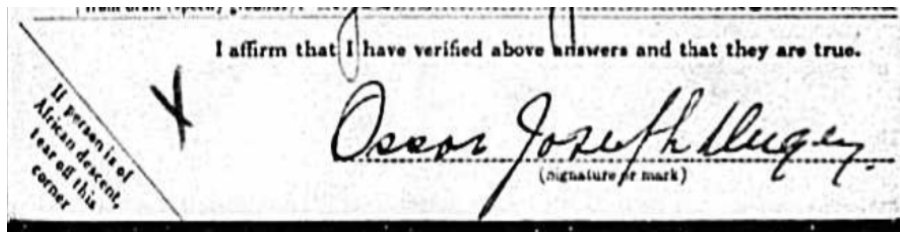
<sup>6</sup> "U.S., Professional Baseball Player Photos and Illustrations, 1876-2004", database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 January 2021), entry for Oscar Dugey, 1887 – 1 January 1966, Texas, citing "Baseball Almanac, comp. Biographical baseball data, images reproduced courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

<sup>7</sup> *John F Worley Directory Co's Dallas City Directory*, (Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Directory Co. Compilers and Publishers, 1920), 688, entry for "Dugey, Mattie B (wid Oscar J)"; digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 January 2021). *John F Worley Directory Co's Dallas City Directory*, (Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Directory Co. Compilers and Publishers, 1921), 734, entry for "Dugey, Mattie B (wid Oscar J)"; digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 January 2021). It should be noted that the information collected for city directories encompasses the preceding year, i.e. information in the 1920 city directory was collected in 1919.

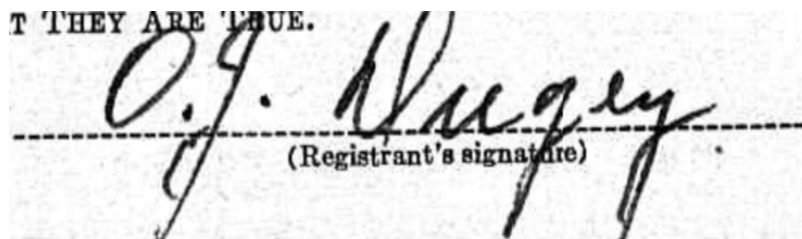
<sup>8</sup> 1930 U.S. Census, Dallas, Texas, population schedule, Dallas, Dallas, E. D. 57-19, sheet 42B, dwelling 639, family 674, Oscar Dugey: digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 25 January 2021) citing National Archives microfilm publication T626, roll 2314. 1900 U.S. census, Anderson Co., Tex., pop. sch., Palestine Ward 3, ED 5, sheet 11A, dwell. 188, fam. 192. Frank Dugey.

New York newspaper reported that “Oscar Dugey will be 25 on October 25 next [i.e. 1890] He was born in Palestine, Tex.”<sup>9</sup>

**Military Records.** On Oscar Joseph Dugey’s World War I draft registration, he recorded his birth date as 25 Oct 1889. At that time, he was living in Dallas, Texas and was employed as a baseball player for the “Phil National League Club.” The handwriting on the card does not appear to be a match to the signature.<sup>10</sup>



In 1942 when Oscar filled out his World War II Draft Registration card, he was a 51-year-old painter and gave his birth date as October 25, 1890. The hand printed card was signed 27 Apr 1942.<sup>11</sup>



**Vital Records.** Birth Records for Anderson county are in the FamilySearch catalog with a searchable “Index to current birth records A-K 1860-1990”, but there were no individuals listed with the surname Dugey, or whose father’s forename is Oscar or O J for the years 1888 to 1894.

<sup>9</sup> “Oscar Dugey, 21 Today, Is Luckiest Kid in Baseball,” *The Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer* (Bridgeport, Connecticut) 26 Oct 1915 p. 8, col. 4 digital image newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 25 January 2021). This story was repeated in *The Morning Post* (Camden, New Jersey), 25 Oct 1915 Mon, page 8, col. 4-5. “Birthday Dope on the Phils,” *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (Brooklyn, New York) 26 Sep 1915, Sun, page 58, col. 4 digital image newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 25 January 2021).

<sup>10</sup> “U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 January 2021), entry for Oscar Joseph Dugey, Dallas County, Texas, 25 May 1917, citing United States, Selective Service System, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication M1509.

<sup>11</sup> “U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942,” database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 January 2021), entry for Oscar Joseph Dugey, Dallas County, Texas, 27 April 1942, citing United States, Selective Service System. *Selective Service Registration Cards, World War II: Fourth Registration*, Record Group Number 147, National Archives and Records Administration.

The actual records could not be searched at this time as they are only available on site in Anderson County, Texas courthouse in Palestine, Texas or via microfilm at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mrs. Hubbard Marshall, who was Oscar's sister Virginia, provided the information on Oscar's death certificate in Dallas County, Texas, in 1966. Oscar's birth date was given as 25 October 1888. He was listed as a retired painter and his parents were Mattie Bell Green and Oscar J. Dugey. He died at the Ambassador Hotel, Dallas. Virginia Lee Dugey married James Leedy Rose in 1930 and later married Herbert William Marshall, Jr. in 1936.<sup>12</sup>

According to the Social Security Death Index, Oscar Dugey was born 25 Oct 1886, died January 1966. His social security number is available; and it would be possible to order a SS-5 to confirm that the birth date in the index was transcribed correctly.<sup>13</sup>

### **Oscar DuGey**

Graveside service for Oscar (Jake) DuGrey (sic), 77, of the Ambassador Hotel, a National League baseball player from 1913-20, will be held at Oakland Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Burial will follow.

Mr. DuGey, who died in a Dallas hospital Saturday, was an infielder with the old Boston Braves and the Philadelphia Phillies for six seasons. Before that he played with a Waco team in the Texas League from 1908-1013, playing 639 games. He set the all-time record for stolen bases for the Texas League.

In the early 1920s he was a coach for the Chicago Cubs, retiring from baseball in 1925.

Survivors: Three sisters, Mrs. Bowman Whited, Shreveport, La., Mrs. Mizzell Philips, Larchmont, N.Y., and Mrs. Herbert Marshall, Dallas, and a brother, Frank G. DuGey of Dallas.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> "Affairs for Thursday," *The Times* (Shreveport, Louisiana) 17 September 1930, p. 16, col. 1, digital image Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 25 January 2021). "Marshall-Rose," *The Times* (Shreveport, Louisiana) 8 May 1936 p. 14, col. 4, digital image Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 25 January 2021).

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 January 2021), entry for "Oscar Dugey," January 1966, Texas.

<sup>14</sup> "Oscar DuGey." *The Dallas Morning News* (Dallas, Texas), 2 January 1966, p. 34, col. 3 digital image, GenealogyBank.com (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 27 January 2021). His death notice also appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer: "Funeral Held for Former Phil," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* 3 Jan 1966 p. 19 col. 1, Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> accessed 25 January 2021).

So... if you wanted to select one birth year for Oscar Joseph Dugey, born October 25<sup>th</sup> in Palestine, Texas, which record would you choose? Why?

<b>Birth Year</b>	<b>Source</b>
1888	Cemetery marker
1889	1900 census – Anderson County, Texas
1894	1930 census – Dallas County, Texas
1894	Newspaper – <i>The Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer</i> in 1915
1890	Newspaper – <i>Brooklyn Daily Eagle</i> in 1915
1894	Baseball Almanac ca 1916
1888	World War I Draft Registration in 1917
1890	World War II Draft Registration in 1942
1888	Death certificate in 1966
1886	Social Security Death Index
1889	Obituary in 1966

*Author's Note:* When I started this research, I had no idea that this individual was a nationally known baseball player. Enter the “genealogy rabbit hole!” I became interested in him because I was researching individuals buried at Oakland Cemetery who had served in the military. We had incorrectly coded him as being in the military.

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