

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

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Society for American Baseball Research

Nineteenth Century Notes is a publication of the Nineteenth Century Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research

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Most Dominant Home Run Season Ever by Bill Felber

What player enjoyed the most dominant home run season in baseball history?

Measured by a widely accepted mathematical tool for measuring exceptional-ity, it wasn’t Barry Bonds, Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron or any of the other famed all-time home run leaders. Rather, the champion is an obscure turn-of-the-century figure who hit only 82 home runs in his entire 11-year career.

Buck Freeman wasn’t

known as a power hitter, yet in 1899, his first full



Buck Freeman

season as a first baseman with the Washington Senators, Freeman

smashed 25 home runs, a total that would not be eclipsed in the majors for two decades.

Freeman’s home run accomplishment is statistically remarkable. It measures 4.25 standard deviations above the norm for the top two dozen home run hitters that season. Since the National League began play in 1876, that is the largest standard deviation performance by any player when measured against the most prolific home run hitters in the

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CHAIRMAN’S CORNER by Peter Mancuso

The Fred is nearly upon us, just over two weeks away and just over three weeks past the day when all seats became filled and a waiting list to fill possible cancellations began. Although, on one level it is very gratifying knowing that people are anxious to attend and participate, yet on another

level it is somewhat frustrating and discomfoting to inform people, particularly members of this committee that space has run out.

Frederick Ivor-Campbell would have certainly shared my feelings because Fred was about learning and inclusion. He along with John Thorn, (like Fred another former

Nineteenth Century Committee Chairman) and Bob Bailey, our current Vice-Chairman helped plan the first “19th Century Base Ball Conference”, in fact, Fred moderated the conference’s panel discussion that first year. The Conference was named after Fred when he was tragi-

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Most Dominant Home Run Season Ever (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

same season. And it isn't close. The gap between Freeman and the second greatest standard deviation in history is as great as the gap between No. 2 and No. 12 on the historical list.

Standard deviation is a measure of exceptionality. In 1899, Freeman was nothing if not exceptional. His 25 home runs were more than twice as many as any other National League player; Bobby Wallace, who was second, hit 12 home runs for St. Louis. Freeman's total

did not set a single-season record because Chicago's Ned Williamson had hit 27 in 1884. But Williamson's total was a freakish result of an unusual one-season ground rule that counted balls hit over the fence at Lake Front Grounds – less than 200 feet distant down the lines – as home runs. Before 1884, they had been counted as ground rule doubles. In fact Williamson's teammates Fred Pfeffer, Abner Dalrymple and Cap Anson all also surpassed 20 home runs that season. That leaves Williamson's total of 27 a relatively modest 2.00 standard deviations above the norm for 1884

power hitters, less than half as exceptional as Freeman's 1899 showing.

Measured by standard deviation, Babe Ruth's best season was 1920 when he hit 54 homers. But even that total only separated him by 3.72 standard deviations from

Wilkes-Barre, Haverhill, Toronto, Detroit and Albany in various minor leagues. But when Freeman slugged 20 home runs for the Toronto Canucks in 1897, and followed by hitting 20 more in 1898, the Senators took a chance on the 27-year-old.



Buck Freeman with Boston in 1901

the league's 17 top home run hitters. Although Bonds hit 73 home runs in 2001, he stood only 3.17 standard deviations above the average for the NL's top 29 home run hitters that season.

Freeman was a 28-year-old journeyman when the Senators, destined for an 11th place finish in 1898 and extinction at the end of 1899, signed him to a big league contract. To that point, his major league experience consisted of a handful of games with Washington's American Association team as a teen-ager in 1891. He spent his prime playing years with Troy,

Freeman hit only three homers over the final month of the 1898 season, but he did bat .364 in 29 games, good enough to ensure an invitation to spring camp. His first four-bagger of 1899 came April 24 off Boston's Fred Klobendanz, but it was small consolation

to the Senators, who lost 10-1 in a game halted after eight innings so the Beaneaters could catch a train out of town. The defeat, Washington's fifth in succession, dropped their record to 1-8, good at the time for last place.

Home runs were no big deal in those days, so even when Freeman followed with a second blast off New York's Tom Colcolough in a 9-8 victory the next day, it went unnoticed outside the agate type. Freeman had three home runs by the end of April, 13 by the end of July, and his Sept. 20 home run

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Most Dominant Home Run Season Ever

(Continued from page 2)

off Louisville’s Rube Waddell made him the first player since Sam Thompson, a decade earlier, to amass 20 in one season.

Even at that point, 20 games remained to be played and Freeman was still finding his groove. He homered two days later off Louisville’s Walt Woods, and hit his 22nd – his fifth in eight days -- a day after that against Brickyard Kennedy in Brooklyn. [See page 5 for more on Kennedy]. Kennedy was a particular Freeman favorite, providing three of his gopher balls, the first in April and the third in October.

The media hardly knew what to make of Freeman’s power surge, writing little about it at the time. That’s probably an indicator of how lightly the home run was viewed as a strategic force at the time compared to the more scientific approach. It was not until the following February that the Sporting News acknowledged Freeman’s accomplishment with a feature article. When it finally did, the slugger offered a very manly explanation for his surge, which he said amounted to giving in to overpowering urges.

“Often time I have it blocked out to go for a base on balls,” Freeman told writer H.G. Merrill, sounding almost apologetic about his breach of etiquette. “Yet when in position, I suddenly see a fashion of ball coming that I think ... in a flash ... that I can kill. I follow that inclination and go after it.”

When the Senators were contracted out of existence in 1900, Freeman caught on with the new Boston Americans, settling in as

their first baseman and cleanup hitter. He enjoyed several good seasons in Boston, but never again approached his remarkable 1899 power surge, topping out at 13 home runs in 1903. While that was enough to lead the league, it remained only 2.27 standard deviations ahead of the average of power hitters that season. But then from a statistical standpoint, nobody has ever come close to dominating the home run stats like Freeman did in 1899.

All-time Top 25 Home Run Seasons*

Player	Season	Team	Std Dev.
Buck Freeman	1899	Was	4.17
Jose Canseco	1988	Oak	3.76
Babe Ruth	1920	NYY	3.72
Jose Bautista	2010	Tor	3.70
Babe Ruth	1919	Bos	3.64
Babe Ruth	1926	NYY	3.59
Chris Davis	2013	Bal	3.49
Alex Rodriguez	2007	NYY	3.43
Cecil Fielder	1990	Det	3.40
Ken Griffey	1997	Sea	3.37
Mark McGwire	1987	Oak	3.35
Mike Schmidt	1980	Phi	3.35
Babe Ruth	1928	NYY	3.34
Mickey Mantle	1956	NYY	3.34
Cy Williams	1923	PhiN	3.33
John Mize	1940	St.L	3.33
Willie Mays	1964	SF	3.30
Rogers Hornsby	1922	St.L	3.28
Babe Ruth	1921	NYY	3.28
Prince Fielder	2007	Mil	3.24
John Reilly	1888	Cin	3.21
Harry Davis	1907	PhiA	3.21
Alex Rodriguez	2002	Tex	3.21
Babe Ruth	1924	NYY	3.20
Bill Nicholson	1943	ChiN	3.19

19th Century Top 5 Home Run Seasons*

Player	Season	Team	Std Dev
Buck Freeman	1899	Was	4.17
John Reilly	1888	Cin	3.21
Jimmy Collins	1898	Bos	3.12
Harry Stovey	1885	PhiA	2.88
Paul Hines	1878	Prov	2.88

*Measured by standard deviation above the average for the most prolific home run hitters each season. The number of home run hitters used in the calculation was equal to twice the number of teams; thus, in a 12-team league approximately the top two dozen constituted the sample.



Baseball Themed Toothpick Holder

Chairman's Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

cally killed in a car accident just months after the inaugural conference six years ago.

Now, in year seven, after expanding the conference from its initial one day format, to a one-and-one-half day format we have arrived at two full days of programming. Each progression of the length of the conference was prefaced with a survey of our committee members, including those who had attended previously and those who had not over the question of whether the conference should be lengthened or not. In both survey cases a clear majority voted to make it longer.

The Original Conference Planning Committee apparently knew what they were doing, as the original conference contained nearly all

of the ingredients that it has today: one special presentation, a luncheon with keynote address, a panel discussion, a handful of research presentations (now, two handfuls) book signings, A.M and P.M coffee breaks and a post conference gathering; by year two, the Welcoming Dinner was added and a year after that the Member Spotlight Interview became a fixture. Barring a general negative review of this year's full two-day format, it seems that longer has proven better.

The Future question that now must be raised is whether bigger would prove to also be better. No doubt, the Hall of Fame has proven to be an attractive venue, but its space is limited if we wish to continue the same conference format - all participants, all together throughout the program and all experiencing every presentation and

discussion in unison. There are ways to use at least two separate spaces within the HOF simultaneously but this would require our attendees splitting into two groups for the greater portion of the conference. How much this would change the conference experience for attendees and the dynamics of the event in general is a big question for this committee. I would love to hear from our members on this, so please, email me your thoughts and opinions.

Peter Mancuso,
peterplus4@earthlink.net



An illustration of ball playing on Boston Common from Robin Carver's "Book of Sports". Lilly, Colman, and Holden. Boston. 1834.

“Roaring Bill” Kennedy by David Nemeč

Roaring Bill Kennedy was born on October 7, 1867, in Bellaire, Ohio, today a town of less than 5,000 on the Ohio River and considered part of the Wheeling, West Virginia, Metropolitan Statistical Area. In its heyday, shortly after Kennedy’s birth, Bellaire was known as “The Glass City” but lost the title in the late 1880s when natural gas was discovered in Findlay, Ohio, drawing most manufacturers from Bellaire to the west, where the region around Toledo and Fostoria became the new center for Ohio’s glass industry. Bellaire has experienced a more recent moment of fame, however. The Bellaire toll bridge across the Ohio River (now abandoned and closed) appeared in the 1991 film *Silence of the Lambs*.

Stories abound that Kennedy was illiterate, but all of them cite nearly identical examples of his witlessness that are also attributed to players that preceded him to the majors. Kennedy’s actual education level remains unknown, as does most of his family history. What is known for certain is that his 174 wins during the decade of the 1890s put him fourth, behind only Kid Nichols, Cy Young and Amos Rusie, all of whom are in the Hall of Fame. That Kennedy never quite achieved enough to join them may be largely attributable to his greatest failing as a pitcher: an utter inability to cover first base. He simply could never master the task and kept vainly trying to persuade his managers that it wasn’t part of a pitcher’s job description.

Called “Roaring Bill” for his foghorn voice and the way he incessantly ran his mouth at the top of his lungs while ragging umpires, opposing batters and even his own teammates, Kennedy, as per the July 29, 1899, issue of *The Sporting News*, frequently clashed with managers, most prominently



“Roaring Bill Kennedy”

Ned Hanlon (1899-1901), because of his wont to constantly blame teammates for errors behind him and umpires for the stunning number of batters he often walked. On August 31, 1900, he issued free passes to a National League record six consecutive hitters in the course of a 9-4 loss to Philadelphia and finished his career having walked the most batters (1,203) of any pitcher with less than 800 strikeouts (799). His volatile temper, argumentative nature and erratic control were nonetheless tolerated because his live fastball was nearly unhittable on days when he was right.

After growing up on the Buckeye side of the Ohio River as a protégé of Will White’s while White lived in Bellaire, the five-foot-eleven and 165-pound Kennedy crossed the water at age 21 to pitch for Wheeling of the Tri-State League in 1889 and then joined Denver of the Western Association the following year. The lean right-hander remained in Denver in 1891, winning 20 games against 18 losses for the fifth place Grizzlies, and was rumored by several sources to be targeted for the Pacific Northwest League in 1892. But the February 13, 1892, *Sporting Life* wrote that “Kennedy, Wheeling’s famous brickyard phenomenon, is living at Bellaire, but is disengaged. The reason is plain. He asks \$3000 to pitch this season.” The brickyard reference was to his place of employment during the offseason and was the nickname that accompanied him to Brooklyn when he received a last-minute offer in March 1892 from the Bridegrooms that we can safely assume was far less than his original asking figure. Although sporting papers periodically continued to refer to him as “Brickyard” Kennedy and current reference works still list that as his primary nickname, he was known to teammates and opponents almost from the onset of his arrival in the National League as Roaring Bill. In addition, he was also known sometimes by his middle name according to the July 8, 1893, *Sporting Life*: “They call Kennedy ‘Park.’ He is a Bel-

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“Roaring Bill” Kennedy (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

laire, O., boy, and was once called ‘Wheeling’s brickyard phenomenon.’ He has an arm of iron.”

Kennedy had never ventured more than a few miles east of Wheeling before making the majors and especially not to a city the size of New York or Brooklyn. The February 24, 1900, issue of *The Sporting News* recounted that the rookie right-hander, after winning his major league debut on April 26, 1892, at Brooklyn by outlasting Baltimore’s Sadie McMahon 12-10, bought a loud \$50 suit with his first paycheck and then took his change in dollar bills so he could flash a big wad. Swiftly taken to the cleaners by New York sharps, an embarrassed Kennedy fled home to Bellaire, once there was cleaned out of the rest of his cash by “sympathetic” locals and did not rejoin the Brooklyn team for several weeks. Even then player-manager John M. Ward did not risk starting him again until August 9 at Baltimore when he lost a tight 3-2 rematch with McMahon. After that, Ward put Kennedy into the regular rotation, and despite his posting only one decision before the season was well past the half-way mark, he finished 13-8 and completed 18 of his 21 starts.

By his second campaign, Kennedy was Brooklyn’s ace and remained the club’s strongest pitcher for six seasons. His career day came on May 30, 1893, at Brooklyn when he hurled two complete-game wins against Louisville, topping Billy Rhines 3-0 on a two-hitter in the morning game of a Memorial Day doubleheader and adding the

icing to his twin bill win cake by beating the Colonels’ most popular pitcher, Scott Stratton, 6-2 in the afternoon contest. Even in 1899, when Kennedy lost his team kingpin status to rookie 28-game winner Jay Hughes, he bagged 22 victories and another 20 the following year after Joe McGinnity replaced Hughes as Brooklyn’s top gun.

In 1901, after winning two



“Roaring Bill” in a quiet moment

straight pennants in the City of Churches, Hanlon decided he could do without Kennedy’s tantrums and released him that fall after the cantankerous veteran hurled less than 90 innings. On October 25, 1901, the *Police Gazette* reported that Kennedy was dying of consumption at his home in Bellaire, and though it turned out to be only a bad case of pneumonia, the episode was probably a harbinger of health problems to come. Having recovered (at least

temporarily) by February of 1902, Kennedy caught on with the New York Giants and started the season in the regular rotation but was dropped after he took a 15-1 pasting in Cincinnati on May 18. He then went home to Bellaire to run his saloon and scrap together a local semipro team he dubbed the “Bill Kennedy All Stars.”

When Kennedy’s arm revived toward the end of the summer of 1902, he engineered a tryout with defending NL champion Pittsburgh in the spring of 1903 and made the club after stopping St. Louis 11-1 in a trial game on April 27. Used as only a spot fourth starter since the Pirates’ went with a three-man rotation during most of the regular season, Kennedy assembled a 9-6 record in 15 starts, his last coming on September 26 at Pittsburgh when he lost 4-1 to the Giants’ Joe McGinnity. He was then pressed into action in the first modern World Series when one of the Pirates’ primary starters, Ed Doheny, had to be institutionalized on the eve of the affair with the American League champion Boston club and a second primary starter, Sam Leever, hurt his right shoulder in a trapshooting contest in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, late in the season. On his 35th birthday Kennedy started Game 5 at Pittsburgh in front of a throng of well-wishers who had made the trip upriver from Bellaire. After battling Cy Young to a scoreless tie for five innings, he was undone when errors by Honus Wagner and Fred Clarke opened the gates

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“Roaring Bill “ Kennedy (cont.)

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for six Boston runs in the sixth frame and his removal in favor of rookie mop-up man Gus Thompson from what became an 11-2 Pirates drubbing.

It proved to be Kennedy's last opportunity to display his famous temper in front of a big league audience. He never again donned a major league uniform after the final game of the Series, marking him as

the first big leaguer to experience his finale in a modern Fall Classic. Kennedy toiled for two seasons with the Wheeling Stogies of the Class B Central League and then wrapped up the professional portion of his career with a three-year stint with the Dayton Old Soldiers of the same loop by going 1-3 in six appearances in 1908 at age 40. He continued to pitch with Ohio River semipro teams for a time before his

health began to decline. Kennedy died of tuberculosis at his brother's home in Bellaire on September 23, 1915, two weeks before his 48th birthday.

This biography is an expanded version of one that appeared in David Nemeč's *Major League Baseball Profiles: 1871-1900* (Bison Books, 2011) vol. 1.

Report on 19th Century Baseball in NYC Conference

by Oscar Moran

On November 15th, 2014 I had the privilege of attending the 19th Century Baseball History Symposium held by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. This was the first time I ever attended a history conference, so I didn't exactly know what to expect. Being a long time baseball fan as well as a history major, I can say that I looked forward to this symposium with much anticipation.

My familiarity with the game was very modern. I was aware of some 20th century baseball history with names like Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, and Roberto Clemente. I knew the rules of the game, how the divisions worked, and how the championship was settled. However, I was always oblivious to the origins of the sport. I always wondered where the idea to hit a ball with a wooden bat and run around bases came from. I can

say that this conference definitely shed light on many questions I always had about baseball and its origins.

There were multiple research presentations and panel discussions by scholars in respective fields. Some of these researchers and historians didn't really know much about baseball during the 19th century. But that's what I found truly worthwhile because they were able to apply their knowledge of that time period into how it affected the growing baseball industry and franchises in the United States. They discussed various social issues and technological developments that contributed to the evolution of baseball throughout that time period. Some of these social issues included things like gambling, which Dr. Ann Fabian from Rutgers University presented on. Others like Dr. Hochfelder from the University of Albany presented on the technological advances going on that brought people together; mainly,

the telegraph, which allowed for almost a "play-by-play" calling of the game(s) taking place.

Listening to all of these presentations and realizing the effort that goes into extensive research was very enlightening. Listening to the knowledge that these scholars were willing to share about America's past-time and how it transformed into what it is today, was an experience like no other. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I was granted to attend this symposium. I would like to thank Prof. James DeLorenzi for informing me about this opportunity. I'd also like to thank John Jay Alumni; Peter Mancuso who granted me a small scholarship to attend this symposium. Being a history major, as well as a life-long baseball fan, I can say that this was one of the most academically enriching experiences I've had the honor of being part of.

Early Baseball...or Not

The following was sent along by John Thorn. It is taken from an 1837 book titled, "Female Robinson Crusoe, A Tale of the American Wilderness." Certainly this is where Doubleday got his inspiration to invent base ball. You can read the book in full text or PDF at:

<https://archive.org/details/femalerobinsonc00unkngoog>

The game description below can be found on pp. 176-178. John writes...

Purports to be the narrative of one Lucy Ford, who endured a long and solitary residence in a Western wilderness, with an account of the captivity of her mother and her fiancé (Thomas Williams), and including occasional observations on the every-day life and habits of the Indians, their legends, etc. In the preface the author states, "New Yorkers will easily recognize some well-known facts concerning personages not unknown to fame"; words which seem to give authenticity to the narrative.

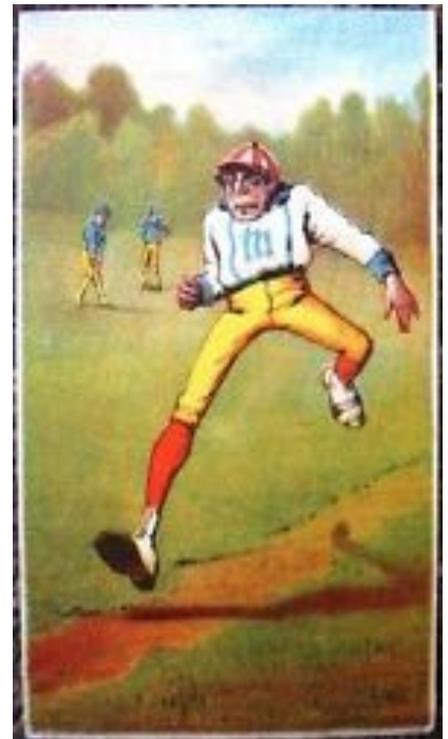
"Some of the male adults were playing ball, which article was, as he afterwards ascertained it to be on examination, portion of a sturgeon's head, which is elastic, covered with a piece of dressed deer-skin. Another ball which he noticed was constituted of narrow strips of deerskin, wound around itself, like a ball of our twine, and then covered with a sufficiently broad piece of the same material.

"In playing this game, they ex-

hibited great dexterity, eagerness, and swiftness of speed. The party engaged, occupied an extensive surface of open ground, over whose whole space, a vigorous blow with the hickory club of the striker, would send the ball, and also to an amazing height. On its coming down, it was almost invariably caught by another player at a distance, and as instantly hurled from his hand to touch, if possible, the striker of the ball, who would then drop his club, and run, with a swiftness scarcely surpassed by the winds, to a small pile of stones, which it was part of the game for him to reach. If the runner succeeded in attaining to the desired spot, before the ball touched him, he was safe. Otherwise, he had to resign his club to the fortunate thrower of the ball against him, and take his place to catch. The runner, by watching the coming ball, was almost always enabled to avoid its contact with him, by dodging or leaping, which was effected with all the nimbleness of one of the feline race. If that was effected, another person, in his own division of the playing party (there being two rival divisions), assumed the dropped club, to become a striker in his turn.

"Their principal object seemed to be, to send the ball as far as possible, in order to enable the striker of it, to run around the great space of ground, which was comprised within the area formed by piles of stones, placed at intervals along the line of the imaginary circle. Two rival parties would thus contrive in eager contest for hours, and their captive, has actually

known them to keep up the game for several days, regardless of food or drink, which, however, their fellow savage spectators, who became interested, would bring, and persuade them to partake of, in order to sustain in vigour, their drooping strength and spirits. When the darkness of night had involved the scene, and they could no longer discern the ball, they would drop asleep in the very spot where they had stood, at the time that the obscurity in the air, obliged them to suspend playing; and at the earliest gray of dawn, some arose, and immediately making the welkin ring with their shouts, thus awakened the others, and at it again they all went, with scarce a moment's cessation, until night again temporarily stopped the sport."



Why Not Ross Barnes? by Gary Passamonte

Charles Roscoe Barnes died February 5, 1915. As I write this today, February 5, 2015, exactly one hundred years have passed since Barnes' death. When Barnes died in 1915, he was hailed as the best second baseman and one of the greatest baseball players of all time. If the National Baseball Hall of Fame had conducted their initial vote in 1915, Barnes would have had an excellent chance of being inducted within the first few elections. Unfortunately for Barnes, by the time 1936 and the first vote came around, time had dimmed his luster and most that had seen him play were no longer living.

If we fast forward to today, the domination that Barnes had on the diamond is partially lost to the standards of excellence recognized today. Milestones such as 3000 hits and 500 home runs were not possible with the shorter schedules and style of baseball played in Barnes' day. However, Barnes was able to accomplish something no other player in the history of Major League baseball has ever done. Ross Barnes batted over .400 in four separate seasons. This sure sounds like a Hall of Fame feat. Barnes still holds the career record of 1.4 runs per game. Hall of Fame numbers? In 1876, the first year of the National League, Barnes led the league in almost every category. In fact, the season Barnes put together in 1876 is statistically one of the greatest of all time.

I'm not writing this article to get too caught up in a statistical analysis. The numbers do speak for themselves however, and Barnes

contemporaries speak for Barnes, also. Albert Spalding, in 1911, said Barnes was, "In my opinion one of the best all-around players the game has produced." Cap An-



Ross Barnes

son called Barnes, "one of the best players that ever wore a shoe. I do not know of a single man on the diamond at the present time I regard as his superior." Anson wrote that quote in 1900. Henry Chadwick called Barnes "the greatest second baseman past or present." Baseball writer Sam Crane called Barnes, "the best second baseman the game has produced." In 1936, sports writer Walter Barnes said George Wright, Ross Barnes, Cal McVey, and Adrian Anson were most fre-

quently mentioned as the best players of the pre-1900 era. W.B. Hanna of the New York Tribune in naming an all-time team in 1926 picked Eddie Collins at second base, but added, "Lajoie and Ross Barnes can be considered." I think you get the idea.

It would seem that the case for Barnes' Hall of Fame election is very strong. When compared to his contemporaries, he was the brightest star of his era. Barnes was truly the first "superstar" of Major League baseball. Unfortunately, Barnes only played nine recognized Major League seasons, with ten seasons required for consideration to the Hall of Fame. However, Barnes played five seasons with the Rockford Forest Cities from 1866 to 1870. The Rockford team was one of the best teams in the country at the time, yet the seasons Barnes played with them are not counted regarding Hall of Fame consideration. The first recognized Major League, the National Association was not formed until 1871. Is it the fault of Barnes and many of his contemporaries that they were "born too soon" and were unable to play in the "Major Leagues" because the "Major Leagues" did not exist? Barnes was truly a pioneer of 19th century baseball and one of the best players of his time. The ten year rule should not apply to players whose careers started prior to 1871, with the beginning of Major League baseball. The "Pioneer" category should be used to induct, well, pioneers. This group should in-

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Why Not Ross Barnes? (cont.)

(Continued from page 9)

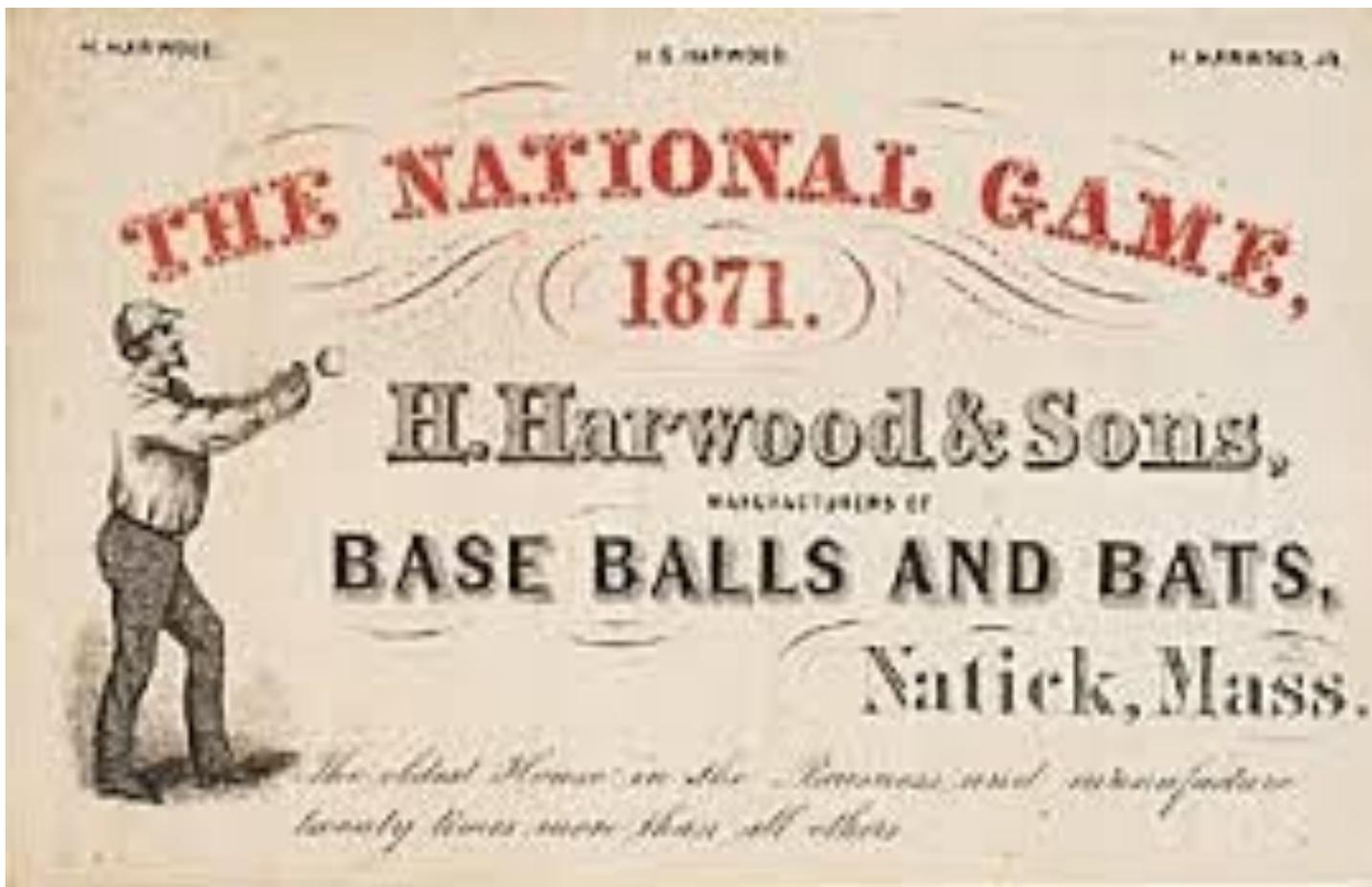
clude players whose careers took place all or in part prior to 1871, whether they played in ten Major League seasons or not. Currently, the Hall of Fame has no avenue to include these pioneers of the game. It is time for individual exceptions to be made for these players as was done in the case of Addie Joss. Joss did not play ten Major League seasons, however an exception to the ten year rule was granted Joss and his induction followed. Another remedy would be to form a committee tasked with inducting the pioneer players as was done with the Negro Leaguers a few



years ago. It is time for the Baseball Hall of Fame to do the right thing and induct deserving pioneer players. Why not Cal McVey? Why not Dickey Pearce? Why not? Why not Ross Barnes?



The stylish Ross Barnes



News & Notes

-Committee member Bill Bake sends along the following request: "I am writing to you because I purchased many years ago a scored scorecard for the game in which Harry Stovey hit his 11th homerun on August 9, 1883. Are you aware of any collections or collectors who have an earlier scored scorecard for games that George Hall hit a home run in 1876 (home runs 1-5), Charley Jones in 1879 which bettered Hall's record (home runs 6-9), or Harry Stovey's 10th home run in 1883. Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Thanks very much. I would also appreciate any sources or places that you can point me to for photos and memorabilia on George Hall, Charley Jones, Harry Stovey and Ned Williamson! E-mail : wbake1@aol.com or bakemanhere1@aol.com. Phone: 443-240-0214 (cell)

-The Fred is again sold out. The

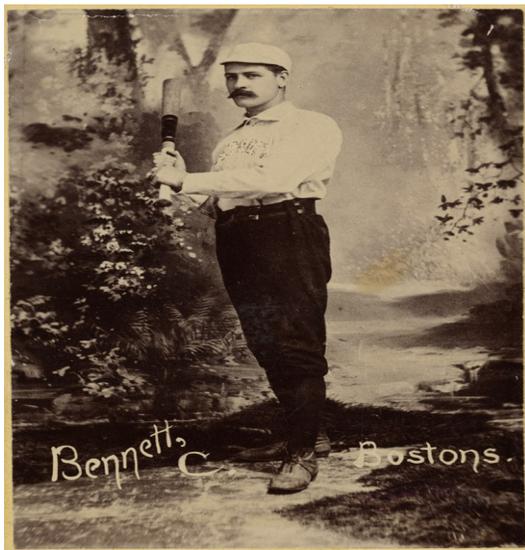
conference slots are filled but if you wish you can contact Peter Mancuso to join the waiting list. If you are attending the conference and wish to add a guest for the Keynote lunch or Welcoming Dinner please contact Peter. His e-mail is: peterplus4@earthlink.net

"19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium" is in the preliminary discussion phase right now. It has a target date of a Saturday in November 2016, after the World Series and before Thanksgiving. Our target city, following in the tradition of New York City, has an extremely rich 19th century baseball history spanning both the pre-professional and professional eras I hope to have more details by our Nineteenth Century Committee business meeting during our SABR national convention in Chicago this June.

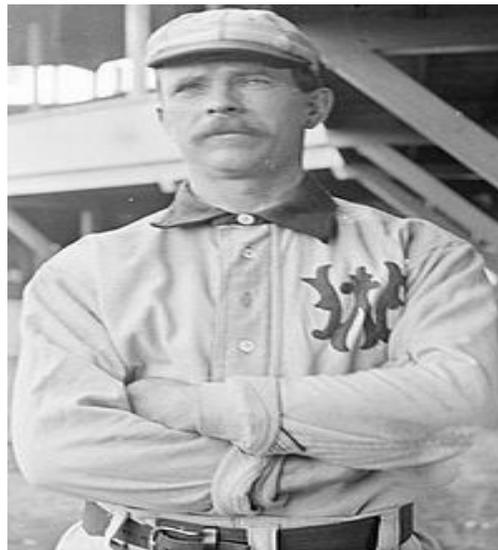
-Adam Darowski reports that the 2015 Overlooked 19th Century

Base Ball Legend project is getting closer to naming its seventh honoree. At the end of January the eleven finalists for 2015 were announced (there eleven because of a tie in the tenth slot). They are Charlie Bennett, Bob Caruthers, Jim Creighton, Jack Glasscock, Paul Hines, Dummy Hoy, Bobby Mathews, Tony Mullane, Al Reach, Jimmy Ryan, and George van Haltren. Bennett and Ryan are first-time finalists (see photos below). Voting for the final election will open on Monday May 11, 2015 and close Monday May 25, 2015. Voting is open to all SABR members. This year's winner will be announced at SABR 45. You can follow along at the project's Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/sabr19thcenturyoll>



Charlie Bennett



Jimmy Ryan

Society for American Baseball Research, (SABR) Nineteenth Century Committee
Frederick Ivor-Cambell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, “The Fred”
 Friday and Saturday, April 17 & 18, 2015,
 National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum, Cooperstown, NY

Program & Schedule

Friday, April 17, 2015

- 9:00AM-10:00AM – Lobby of Giamatti Research Center, Check-in and Morning Coffee Service
 10:00AM-10:15AM – Bullpen Theater – Welcome and Introductions
 10:15AM-10:45AM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation - Dennis Thiessen, “1887 St. Louis Browns: Anything to Win”
 10:45AM-11:00AM – 3rd Inning Stretch
 11:00AM-11:50AM – Bullpen Theater –Special Presentation - James E. Brunson III, “Black Baseball:1858-1900”
 11:50AM – 1:30PM – On Own: Lunch in “America’s Perfect Village” and/or Explore HOF
 1:30PM – 2:00PM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation – M. A. (Missy) Booker, “1862: A Second Revolution in Cambridge”
 2:00PM – 2:30PM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation – Mark Souder, “The French Connection: Government Baseball in Washington, DC
 2:30PM – 3:00PM – 5th Inning Stretch, HOF Bookstore, Gift Shop, Other Necessities
 3:00PM – 3:30PM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation - Herm Krabbenhoft, “Most RBI, / Single Season / Individual Player / Nineteenth Century”
 3:30PM – 4:00PM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation– Brian Marshall, “Keeler’s 5 Hit Games in 1897”
 4:00PM – 4:30PM – Giamatti Research Center, 7th Inning Stretch, Afternoon Coffee Service
 4:30PM – 5:00PM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation - Bill Humber, “Deconstructing Beachville”
 7:00PM -10:00PM – Templeton Hall – Welcoming Dinner (Optional, Pre-Reg. Required, see Reg. Form in previous newsletter)

Saturday, April 18, 2015

- 9:00AM-10:00AM – Giamatti Research Center – Check-in, Morning Coffee Service
 10:00AM-10:15AM – Bullpen Theater – Welcome and Introductions, Part 2
 10:15AM-10:45AM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation - David Nemecek, “Taking One for The Team: The Evolution of the Hit Batsman Rule from 1884 to 1902”
 10:45AM- 11:45AM – Bullpen Theater – Panel Discussion, John Thorn, moderator; “Sporting News: Baseball in the 19th Century Press”; panelists: Jim Overmyer, Bob Tholkes & George Thompson
 11:45AM – 1:30PM – Templeton Hall – Luncheon – Keynote Speaker, Jerrold Casway, PhD, Author
 1:30PM – 2:45PM – Bullpen Theater – Member Spotlight – Tom Simon interviews Bob Bailey
 2:45PM – 3:15PM - Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation – Eric Miklich, “Better Than Creighton?”
 3:15PM – 3:45PM – Giamatti Research Center – Book Signings, Afternoon Coffee Service
 3:45PM – 4:15PM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation – Richard Hershberger, “Baseball’s Financial Revolution of 1866”
 4:15PM – 4:45PM – Bullpen Theater – Research Presentation – David Krell, “Morgan Bulkeley: Figurehead or Founding Father”
 4:45PM – 5:00PM – Closing Remarks – All

Optional Post Conference Gathering: Immediately following the conference on Saturday you are invited to join our traditional & optional Post Conference Gathering (food & beverage costs are responsibility of individuals, limited menu) Good food, cheer and great conversation will take place at our private lounge ADJACENT TO THE HAWKEYE GRILL IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE HISTORIC OTESAGA HOTEL, 6:00PM seating.