

SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Bill Hickman, Chair
bdhickmn@aol.com

Cary Smith, Vice Chair
zinnbeck@aol.com

February 2009
Copyright © 2009 Society for American Baseball Research

FIRST HARRIS & EWING CAPTIONS SUBMITTED TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Mark Fimoff and his group of Pictorial History Committee members have continued to make progress in their photo project with the Library of Congress (LOC). This one pertains to the Harris and Ewing Photo Collection on the LOC website.

Mark has now submitted the results of their first 199 identifications to the Library of Congress staff. Those identifications and the associated website addresses of the photos are detailed in an Excel spreadsheet. If any of you want a copy of that spreadsheet, just send me an email at bdhickmn@aol.com and I'll be happy to provide it to you.

Those committee members who have helped Mark in this project include Matt Fulling, Catherine Petroski, John Thorn, Marc Okkonen, Dwayne Isgrig, Mark Macrae, and Anthony Youngkin.

FORMERLY MISSING PLAYERS FOUND SINCE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Joe Gormley - found by Nigel Ayres in a 1906 photo of the Lansford, PA team.

Harry Wilhelm - found by Bill Hickman on the OOTP Developments website at the following URL:
<http://tinyurl.com/6qxqbz>

Lou Galvin - found by Bill Hickman on the OOTP Developments website at the following URL:
<http://tinyurl.com/8hy24g> Mark Fimoff reports that this photo came from BASEBALL IN MINNESOTA, by Stew Thornley, p. 15.

Caleb Johnson - found by Mark Stach in the March 23, 1910 Sterling (IL) Daily Gazette.

John Meister - found by Peter Morris in the New York Sun, February 27, 1887. Can be seen at
<http://tinyurl.com/cstzph>

Charles W. Hall - found by Peter Morris in the New York Sun, February 27, 1887. Can be seen at
<http://tinyurl.com/cstzph>

John Cuff - found by Peter Morris in the New York Sun, February 14, 1887. Can be seen at
<http://tinyurl.com/b9yc3k>

James Burke - found by Bill Hickman in the 1887 Lowell team photo in THE PHOTOGRAPHIC BASEBALL CARDS OF GOODWIN & COMPANY (1886-1890), p. 213. The authors are Jay Miller, Joe Gonsowski, and Richard Masson.

Anton Falch - found by Dennis Pajot in Milwaukee Sentinel of November 3, 1895 on page 14 in a story about "Cops on the Corner."

Howard "Dick" Blaisdell - found by Bob Richardson in the Lynn (MA) Item of July 9, 1910 on page 5. Blaisdell appears in a team photo of the Lynn Bees of the 1880's.

We are now down to 605 major leaguers whose images are missing. All committee members are invited to help on this project. If you want the Excel spreadsheet containing our Missing Players List, please write to me at bdhickmn@aol.com (no letter "a" in bdhickmn).

A FEW STEPS BACKWARD

Those who are tracking our progress in finding images of major leaguers might wonder why we're not below the 600 mark in missing players, given how many new discoveries were made over the past three months. The answer is that we also learned that some of our previous discoveries turned out not to be accurate. So we have placed the following players back onto the Missing Players List:

Charles A. Baker - The image reported earlier for him was really of Phil Baker, apparently a labelling mistake made in the Burke/Brace Studio many years ago.

Dennis Driscoll - The image reported earlier from the OOTP Developments files was traced by Mark Fimoff to an image of a player in an 1883 Pittsburgh Alleghenys team photo in THE BEER AND WHISKY LEAGUE, by David Nemeč. If that player really is surnamed Driscoll, he would have been John F. "Denny" Driscoll, not the Dennis Driscoll who had been our missing player.

Robert M. Gibson - He had been reported as having appeared on an Old Judge card. This had never been check-listed as such in any of the baseball card reference books. Now that the new, thorough book THE PHOTOGRAPHIC BASEBALL CARDS OF GOODWIN & COMPANY is out, and there is still no Robert Gibson reported, we conclude that this was just an error and we'll have to look elsewhere for an image of this Bob Gibson.

Harry Salisbury - He had been named in the caption as part of an 1882 Pittsburgh team photo on page 27 of THE BEER AND WHISKY LEAGUE. It is now concluded that the photo is actually of the 1886 Utica team, so it's not Harry Salisbury. See Mark Fimoff's Mystery Photo Column for more details on conclusions about this photo.

George Strief was also cited for being in that page 27 team photo mentioned immediately above, but Mark Fimoff found another image of Strief in an 1879 Cleveland N.L. team photo on p. 123 of David Nemeč's THE GREAT ENCYCLOPEDIA OF 19TH CENTURY MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL. Therefore, we didn't have to put Strief back onto the Missing Players List.

Gerry Shea - He had been cited as appearing in the ST. LOUIS CARDINALS ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Bob Broeg and Jerry Vickery. Marc Okkonen did some photo comparisons and concluded that the Broeg/Vickery image was really of Nap Shea.

John J. Leary - He had been referenced from Lefty Blasco's Collection. We now know that this is a photo of Jim Toy, rather than Leary, from the 1886 Utica team photo.

NEW CONTRIBUTORS SINCE JUNE NEWSLETTER

It has been a while since we have mentioned people who have for the first time contributed images to our Player Image Index project. Our new debuters include Nigel Ayres, Patrick Donahue, Jack Morris, Dennis Pajot, Mark Stach, John Wondowski, Clyde Wood, and Anthony Youngkin. This brings us to a total of 139 individuals who have contributed at least one image in the development of the Player Image Index and the pictorial section of the SABR Encyclopedia.

MINOR LEAGUE PHOTO LIST

We previously announced that we had created a spreadsheet showing which minor league teams were pictured in which Spalding Guides, Reach Guides, and Commissioners Guides during the 1895-1943 period. Rocky Bauer has now appended page numbers for many of those years. That is, you can look at the spreadsheet and for many of the team photos, learn what specific page the photo was published on. If you would like a copy of this spreadsheet, just send an email to me a bdhickmn@aol.com, and I'll provide it to you.

Rod Nelson has suggested that the spreadsheet could be enhanced one more step to make photo access even easier. A column could be added to create a direct link to the URL of the Library of Congress's on-line copy of the Spalding Guide (for those which are on-line). This would entail looking up each photo and getting the associated URL for the page number (or image number) and placing it in the spreadsheet. If anyone is willing to take on this project, please contact me.

SABR-YOSELOFF GRANT

Do you have a research idea that's been kicking around in your head? If lack of funds for travel, photocopying or other research-related expenses has stopped you from pursuing a pet project, consider applying for a SABR-Yoseloff research grant. Through the generosity of the Anthony A. Yoseloff Foundation, SABR is able to award baseball research grants to its members with the intention of later publishing that research. A minimum of \$4,000 is allocated for awards annually, but distribution is dependent upon the quality of the proposal pool. The maximum grant award is \$1,000, and individuals are limited to one grant per year. The Yoseloff Grant Program is not restricted to any single area of baseball research, thus most projects are eligible for full or partial grant funding.

The final work product of the proposed research must be suitable to be published by SABR, although copyright will remain with the author. For clarification, publication does not necessarily mean print publication. The final work product may be something that SABR can publish on its web site in electronic format, such as an article, a database, or other media product. Only SABR members are eligible to be considered for a Yoseloff-SABR Baseball Research Grant.

Proposals are currently being accepted for the 2009 calendar year. Application forms are available on the SABR website. See <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,2057>

MYSTERY PHOTO COLUMN

Mark Fimoff continues with his regular column which provides a mystery photo for Pictorial History Committee members to analyze. Because Mark's columns contain photos, I'm distributing them as PDF files and supplements to the regular Pictorial History Committee Newsletter. Those of you with email access will be receiving Mark's column shortly after you receive this newsletter.

SABR 39 CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, DC

Because I'm on the Planning Committee for next year's National Convention, I feel comfortable in telling you that a great deal of work is going into preparations for this meeting and the Bob Davids Chapter is excited about hosting it. Washington is a great destination for bringing your family. There are many monuments, museums, and the like which are not only within walking distance of the hotel where the convention will be held, but admission to them is free. The convention will take place from Thursday, July 30 through Sunday, August 2. Hope you plan to be there, and at the Pictorial History Committee meeting within the convention.

Bill Hickman