

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

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Society for American Baseball Research

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John Thorn named MLB Historian

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John Thorn, co-founder and current member of the Nineteenth Century Baseball Committee, has been named Official Baseball Historian for Major League Baseball. The appointment was made on March 1 by Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig.

"I am very pleased to appoint John Thorn as Major League Baseball's Official Historian," Commissioner Selig said. "I have long admired John's work, his love for baseball

and his dedication to the practice of history. John will be an important resource to many of us at



John Thorn delivers First Ivor-Campbell Conference Keynote Address

have this new platform in the years ahead."

John continues to be an active member of the Nineteenth Century Committee with frequent contributions to the 19th Century news group, serving as Keynote speaker at the first Frederick Ivor-Campbell Nineteenth Century Baseball Conference, and his new book, Garden of Eden: The Secret History of the Early Game, released in March by

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER by Peter Mancuso

On Going Projects: Before beginning this column for each issue, I check back to the corresponding issue from the year before, to recall what I had written a year ago. Last Spring, I devoted this column to the status of our

Committee's projects: the Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, the Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends project, the How to do 19th Century Baseball Research project and our two book projects,

"The Pioneer Project" and "Inventing Baseball: The One Hundred Greatest Games of the Nineteenth Century." Without offering the analysis that I did last year on each, I will sim-

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Chairman's Corner (cont.)

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ply say a word about each, as this newsletter covers most of them in one form or another. The two books have progressed significantly. The Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends is entering its third annual election cycle (be sure to vote this June). The results of the second-half of the How to do 19th Century Baseball Research is reported on in this issue and the Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference has expanded to one-and-one-half days (only a half-dozen spaces left at the time of this writing). All of these accomplishments are the result of your participation and I am very proud of my affiliation with such a wonderfully talented and spirited group of men and women who make up this committee.

Looking Beyond: That being said (what has already happened, and what continues to happen) I know that we have just begun to scratch the surface of the Nineteenth Century Committee's true potential. Every three months this newsletter reaches over 500 Committee Members and approximately another 500 Potential Committee Members, over 1,000 SABR members in all who express interest in 19th-century base-

ball. Considering all of the projects mentioned above, including conference attendance, book contributions and committee grunt work there are at most 200 members actively involved in these undertakings.

In my view, this means that eighty-percent of our Members/Potential Members have yet to find the project that best fits



their skills and interests. Therefore, I'm asking our Members/Potential Members to help me guide our Committee toward those yet to be identified activities; both short term and long term projects. Every idea will be given full consideration and assistance, as long as one or more of you are willing to bring the idea to fruition. I can think of a half-dozen projects that I feel are

worthy of this Committee, but this is not my committee it is yours. Email or call me with your ideas, there is the whole 19th-century of baseball to think about.

Breaking News: I am most excited and pleased to announce that **John Thorn**, the founding Co-Chair of our Committee and dedicated Committee Member, has been named by MLB, its Official Historian. No sooner was that announcement made than Thorn was given his first major assignment by MLB, the leadership of a Baseball Origins Committee: comprised of ten other members, including the MLB Commissioner and five other SABR Members, including four, who are members of our Nineteenth Century Committee: **David Block, Adrian Burgos, Jr., Larry McCray,** and Potential-Member **Steve Hirdt**. The other SABR member is Jane Leavy.

Naturally, I wish to congratulate all our SABR members who have been selected by MLB to help unveil the deep history of our game, and I hope you will support me in offering our Nineteenth Century Committee's unwavering support of their mission.

Best Regards, Peter Mancuso

Thorn named MBL Historian (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Simon & Schuster.

In addition to these activities John has served SABR as Publication's Director. During his term he

created "The National Pastime" as a regular member publication in 1982. He currently edits Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game published by McFarland.

The position of Historian involves a broad range of research efforts, directing historical projects, and other endeavors on behalf of Major League Baseball.

Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends: Year 3

by Joe Williams

The 19th Century Committee will be holding its third annual vote for the 19th Century Overlooked Baseball Legend. Pete Browning was the 2009 winner and Deacon White led the way in 2010. The 2011 ballot again consists of ten names. We have seven returning candidates from last year, two returning from the 2009 ballot and a newcomer. The newcomer was the leading vote getter from last year's write-in votes. The returning candidates from the 2009 ballot also received a high number of write-in votes.

Without further ado, the 2011 candidates are...

Doc Adams

Born: November 1, 1814, Died:

January 3, 1899

Played: 1839-1862

Position: Pioneer

The title "Father of Baseball" has been bestowed on a handful of gentlemen since the early days of our national pastime. Daniel Lucius Adams is among them. A graduate of both Yale and Harvard, Adams helped shape the game as we know it today. As a young physician in New York City, "Doc" played a form of baseball as early as 1839 and became a member of the famed Knickerbocker Base Ball Club in 1845, about a month after the club was formed. In 1846, Doc was elected vice president of the Knickerbockers and played in the famous "first" game between clubs on June 19 at Elysian Fields

in Hoboken, New Jersey. The following year he was elected president of the club, a position he held for the next three years and would serve again from 1856 to 1858. In 1848, he headed the committee to revise the rules and by-laws of the Knickerbockers. As a player, Adams is credited as being the first shortstop in 1849 or 1850.



Initially he played the position as an intermediary to receive the relay throws of the outfielders, but later moving up to the infield. The lefty batter played regularly and productively into his forties. At his suggestion, the first baseball convention of ball clubs met in May 1857 to formalize set rules between clubs and ultimately leading to the formation of the National Association of Base Ball Players. Adams was elected president of the convention and was the first chairman of the Rules Committee. In his leadership positions, Doc played a crucial role in the establishment of sev-

eral key aspects that make up the game of baseball, which include nine players per team, the nine inning game, ninety feet between bases and catching the ball on the fly to record an out rather than being able to catch the ball on one bounce for an out. In 1862, Adams stepped down from the Rules Committee post and resigned from the Knickerbockers. He left the legendary club as the most significant member in team history, membership that included Hall of Famer Alexander Cartwright.

Ross Barnes

Born: May 8, 1850, Died: February 5, 1915

Played: 1866-77,79,81

Position: Second Base

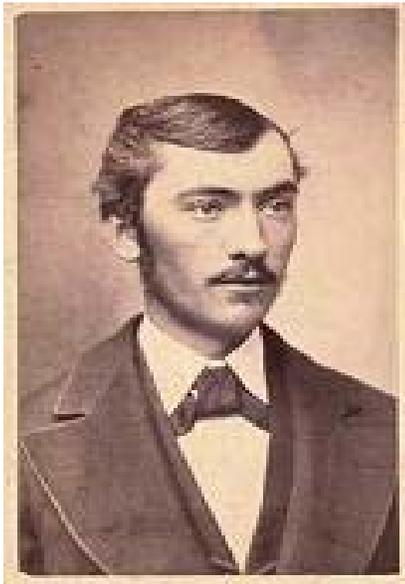
Barnes may have been the most exciting all around player of the 1860s and 1870s. Prior to the establishment of the National Association, Barnes was a star player for the Forest City Club of Rockford, Illinois. In 1871, he joined the Boston Red Stockings of the new professional league and quickly established himself as one of the league's shining stars. Over the next five seasons, Barnes would lead the league in at least eighteen offensive categories while becoming the National Association's career leader in runs, hits, doubles, base on balls, stolen bases, batting average and on-base per-

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Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

centage. Barnes, the premier fair-foul hitter, won batting titles in 1872 (.432) and 1873 (.425). Also a defensive standout, Barnes was



one of Boston's "Big Four" that led the Red Stockings to the league championship each year from 1872 to 1875. When the National League was formed in 1876, he became a member of the Chicago White Stockings and led them to the league's best record. He also led the league in almost every offensive category including batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, runs, hits, doubles, triples and total bases. After the 1876 season, he was never the same player. Both an illness, limiting Barnes to just 22 games in 1877, and the banning of the fair-foul hit were contributing factors in his demise. He finished his career by playing in the International Association in 1878, followed by two seasons as a shortstop for Cincinnati in 1879 and Boston in 1881.

Bob Caruthers

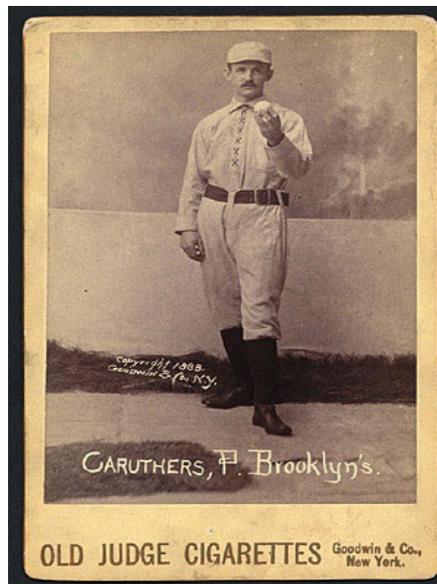
Born: January 5, 1864, Died:

August 5, 1911

Played: 1884-93

Position: Pitcher and Outfield

Born in Memphis, Tennessee and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Robert Lee Caruthers was among the greatest all-around players of his day. He was an outstanding pitcher with a deceptive right-handed delivery and a hard-hitting outfielder who had a solid reputation as a defensive player and a base runner. Before signing with the St. Louis Browns of the American Association in 1884, Caruthers played for Grand Rapids (1883) and Minneapolis (1884) of the Northwestern League. The



5'4", 140 pound twenty-year-old made his major league debut for the Browns on September 7, 1884 and went 7-2 in 13 games to close out the season. In 1885, he teamed with Dave Foutz to lead the Browns to the pennant, going 40-13 and leading the

league in wins, winning percentage (.755) and ERA (2.07). After the 1885 season he went to Paris, France and became engaged in a trans-Atlantic salary dispute with Browns' owner Chris Von der Ahe, earning his nickname "Parisian Bob" and settling for a \$3,200 salary. The Browns won the pennant again in 1886 with Caruthers going 30-14 with a 2.32 ERA (second in the league) while hitting .334, slugging .527 and leading the league with .448 on-base percentage. The 1887 season was much of the same with a pennant, a 29-9 record and a league-leading .763 winning percentage, at the same time hitting .357, slugging .547, scoring 102 runs, stealing 49 bases and getting on base with a .463 percentage. After the season in a Von der Ahe shakeup, Caruthers was traded to Brooklyn where he would play for four seasons, winning 29, 40, 23 and 18 games, respectively, while contributing to pennant winners in 1889 and 1890, Brooklyn's first season in the NL. In 1892, he went back to the Browns, now a NL team, and played primarily in the outfield, having career highs in games (143), at bats (513), hits (142) and walks (86). The 1893 season was his last in the majors, playing briefly for the Chicago Colts and the Cincinnati Reds. He finished with a 218-99 record, an ERA of 2.83 and a .391 OBP for his career. He continued playing in the minors until 1898 before becoming an umpire. He was an American League umpire in 1902 and 1903.

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Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

Bill Dahlen

Born: January 5, 1870, Died: December 5, 1950

Played: 1891-1911

Position: Shortstop

Known as "Bad Bill" for his extreme temper, Dahlen played for 21 seasons and is considered one of the great defensive shortstops in baseball history. With excellent range and a tremendous arm, he set numerous fielding records. It has been almost 100 years since Dahlen last put on the uniform as



a player and yet he is still among the all-time leaders at shortstop in games played, assists and putouts as well as errors. As a hitter, Dahlen was among the best hitting shortstops of his era and had excellent power. In his career, five times he finished in the top seven in home runs and when he retired, only Herman Long had more homers as a shortstop. He also led the league in RBI in 1904 with 80 and finished in the top nine three other times. His career offensive numbers include 1,589 runs, 2,457 hits, 413 doubles, 163 triples, 84 home runs, 1,233 RBI, 547 stolen bases and 140 hit by pitches. In 1894, Dahlen hit in 42 consecu-

tive games to set a major league record which has since been surpassed but is still fourth best in history. Dahlen played his entire career in the National League, playing for Chicago, Brooklyn, New York and Boston.

Dahlen's fiery style of play was a key factor in the success of the teams he played on, including NL championships in 1899 and 1900 with Brooklyn and 1904 and 1905 with New York. New York went on to win the World Series in 1905. Dahlen appeared on the Hall of Fame's 2009 Veterans Committee ballot for pre-1943 players but failed to gain election.

Jack Glasscock

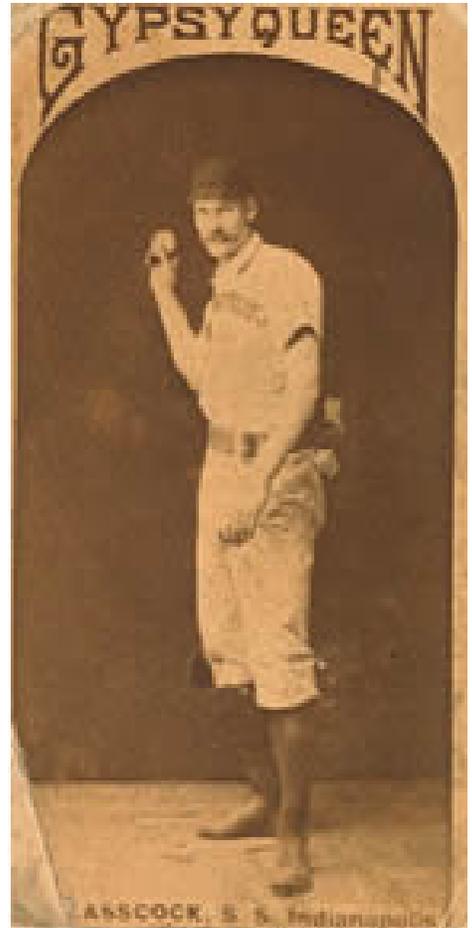
Born: July 22, 1857, Died: February 24, 1947

Played: 1879-95

Position: Shortstop

Considered by many historians as the greatest defensive shortstop of the Nineteenth Century, "Pebbly Jack" played the majority of his career without a glove. He received his nickname for his dutiful inspection of the field for pebbles and tossing them away to avert bad hops during the game. He led the league in fielding percentage and assists six times, double plays four times, putouts two times and had the most range of any shortstop of his era. He retired as the career leader for shortstops in games, assists, double plays, putouts, total chances and fielding percentage. At the bat, he got better with age. A career .290 hitter, he led the National

League in hits in 1889 and 1890, winning the 1890 batting title with a .336 average after finishing sec-



ond the previous year with a .352 average. He finished his career with 1,163 runs, 2,040 hits and more than 825 RBI. Striking out just 196 times in his career, Glasscock was also one of the toughest hitters to strikeout, leading the league three times in at bats per strikeout. The "King of Shortstops" played for nine teams in seventeen years, including a brief stint in the Union Association. He continued playing in the minors until 1901.

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Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends (cont.)

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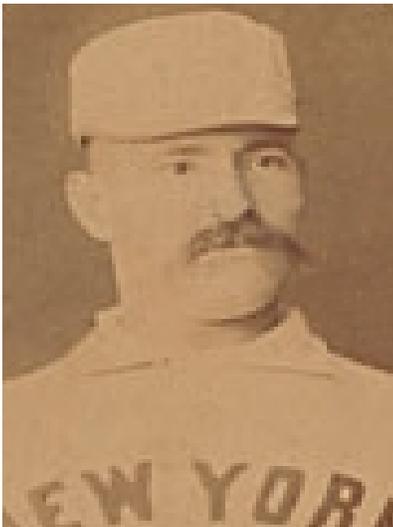
George Gore

Born: May 3, 1857, Died: September 16, 1933

Played: 1879-92

Position: Outfield

Gore was a speedy center fielder that had the knack for getting on base and scoring runs. In 1,310 games, "Piano Legs" scored 1,327 runs, including seven seasons of 100 or more and two other sea-



sons of less than 100 but leading the league. He was a hard hitter that also took a walk, leading the league in bases on balls three times and finishing in the top seven in on-base percentage ten times. In 1880, he led the NL in batting average (.360), on-base percentage (.399) and slugging percentage (.463). Gore retired a .301 career hitter with a .386 on-base percentage. On defense, he was talented with a good arm but at times was not focused rendering himself an average fielder at best. His prowess at the plate kept him on the field. He was the table setter for many championship teams.

He played on NL championship teams in 1880, 1881, 1882, 1885, 1886 with Chicago and world championship teams with the New York Giants in 1888 and 1889, beating the American Association pennant winners while batting .455 and .333 respectively. On June 25, 1881, Gore stole seven bases in a single game, a record he shares with Billy Hamilton.

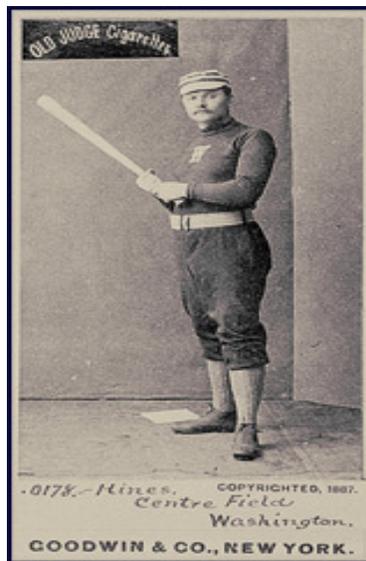
Paul Hines

Born: March 1, 1855, Died: July 10, 1935

Played: 1872-91

Position: Outfield

Hines, an outstanding defensive center fielder, was among the best all-around players in the game for 20 seasons. He started his professional career with Washington of the National Association before becoming a



member of the Chicago White Stockings in 1874, playing for the first National League champion in 1876. In 1878, he joined

Providence and became baseball's first triple crown winner when he led the league with 4 homers, 50 RBI and a .358 batting average. He followed his historic season with another batting title in 1879 (.357), while also leading the league in games, hits and total bases as the Grays won their first NL championship. In 1884, along with Old Hoss Radbourn, Hines led the Grays to the NL pennant before defeating New York of the American Association to win the first "World Series." Hines played for the Grays during their entire existence (1878-1885). He returned to Washington for the 1886 and 1887 seasons before bouncing from Indianapolis (1888 and 1889), Pittsburgh and Boston (1890) and back to play in Washington for the Statesmen of the AA in 1891. Hines finished his career with 1,217 runs, 2,134 hits, 549 extra-base hits, 855 RBI and a .302 batting average.

Tony Mullane

Born: January 20, 1859, Died: April 25, 1944

Played: 1881-84,86-94

Position: Pitcher

Born in Ireland, Mullane won 284 games in thirteen major league seasons. Nicknamed the "Count" and the "Apollo of the Box" for his good looks and polished appearance, Mullane was a popular player who was often called to pitch on "Ladies' Day" to get more fans to the field. He was a right-handed thrower who occasionally pitched from the left side as one of the few ambidextrous

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Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

pitchers in baseball history. After a brief five-game stint in 1881 with the Detroit Wolverines of the National League, Mullane joined Louisville of the American Association the following season. Mullane won 30 games with a 1.88 ERA in over 460 innings pitched for the second place Eclipse. In 1883, he joined the St. Louis Browns and led them to a second place finish in the AA, winning 35 games with a 2.19 ERA. After flirting with playing for the St. Louis Maroons of the Union Association, despite being under contract with the Browns,



he ended up in Toledo of the AA in 1884. He led the mediocre Blue Stockings with 36 wins, 325 strikeouts and 567 innings pitched. Mullane's revolving finally caught up with him in 1885. Toledo folded and he became property of St. Louis once again.

Mullane decided to sign and play with Cincinnati instead. For his actions, Mullane was suspended for the entire 1885 season which ultimately cost enough wins to leave him short of 300 victories. In 1886, he joined Cincinnati and stayed with the team until June 1893, when he was traded to Baltimore. With the Red Stockings (team changed their name to the Reds when they joined the NL in 1890), Mullane won 20 or more games five times, including 33 in 1886 and 31 in 1887 even though the Reds were usually in the bottom half of the standings. In 1892, he left the team to protest his salary being cut which cost him a few more wins. Mullane was a fine all around player who played the field in over 200 games when he didn't pitch and hit a respectable .243 for his career, scoring over 400 runs and stealing over 100 bases. He played minor league ball as late as 1902.

Dickey Pearce

Born: February 29, 1836, Died:

September 18, 1908

Played: 1856-77

Position: Shortstop

Richard John "Dickey" Pearce was the first great shortstop in baseball history. He revolutionized the game both on the field and at the plate. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Pearce changed the way the shortstop position was played. Prior to Pearce, shortstops were rovers that primarily backed up throws and handled relays from the outfield. Pearce positioned himself on the

field according to the hitter at the plate. He would play in against weak hitters and back against stronger batsmen. He was known for his range, sure hands, accurate throwing arm and his "headwork", displaying great judgment as the field general. He also played catcher and was one of the first to give signals to the pitcher concerning the location of a pitch. At the plate, he was a "scientific" hitter who was primarily a leadoff hitter. He has been credited with inventing the bunt, the fair-foul hit and possibly the sacrifice bunt and the squeeze play as well. Dickey was considered a place-hitter, who



tried hitting the ball according to the other team's defensive placement on the field. He was a short, stocky man, standing less than five feet, four inches tall and weighing 150 plus pounds. Despite his size, he was fast enough to beat out bunts and score lots of runs. Pearce's greatest seasons were with the legendary Atlantics of Brooklyn teams that dominated the late 1850s and 1860s. The Atlantics were the National Association of Base Ball Players champions for the years 1859-1861,

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Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends (cont.)

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1864-1866 and 1869. Pearce played in the game on June 14, 1870 when the Atlantics defeated the Cincinnati Red Stockings, ending the Red Stockings 89 game winning streak. Pearce was considered one of the first professionals, probably receiving payment for play in the early 1860s. When the Atlantics decided to join the National Association of Amateur Base Ball Players after the 1870 season, Pearce along with teammates, Bob Ferguson, Charlie Smith and Joe Start signed with the New York Mutuals of the National Association. He played two seasons in New York, including 16 games as the manager in 1872, before heading back to Brooklyn. In 1875, he jumped to the St. Louis Brown Stockings, where he played in the National League's inaugural season. After his major league playing career was over, he continued to play semi-pro and minor league ball, did some umpiring and was even a groundskeeper. Pearce's contribution to the game cannot be measured by his statistical numbers in the NA and NL. He was one of the game's true pioneers.

Harry Stovey

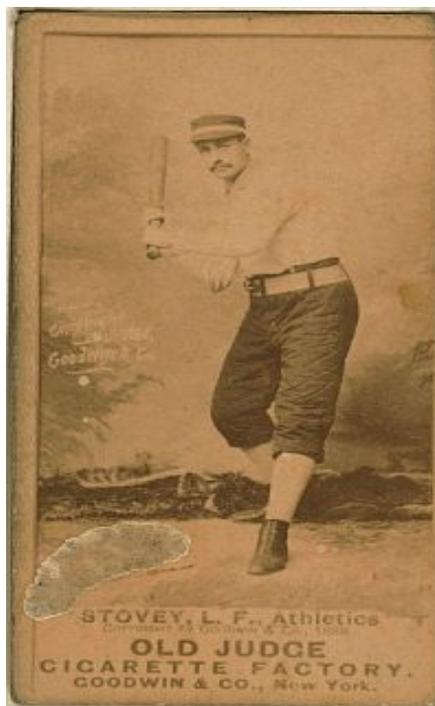
Born: December 20, 1856, Died: September 20, 1937

Played: 1880-93

Position: Outfield and First Base

Stovey was a great all-around player and one of the game's first power hitters. He finished in the top four in home runs ten times, leading the league in five of those seasons. In 1883, he set the single

season record with 14 homers. When he retired in 1893, he was the all time leader in home runs with 122 and was third on the list as late as 1920. Stovey's other offensive numbers include 347 doubles, 174 triples, 908 RBI, over 500 stolen bases (records are not available for six of his seasons so he may have stolen more than 800 bases) and 1,492 runs in 1,486 games, in-



cluding nine seasons of 100 or more runs. Besides home runs, he led the league in over twenty other offensive categories, including extra-base hits five times, runs scored and triples four times, slugging percentage and total bases three times, stolen bases twice and RBI once. Stovey's first three seasons were with Worcester of the National League. In 1883, he became a member of the Philadelphia Athletics of the AA, spending seven

seasons with the team which included the pennant that first season and four seasons hitting .300 or better. In 1890, he joined the Boston Reds of the Players League and led them to the pennant. He then spent the next three seasons playing for the Boston Beaneaters (1891 and 1892 NL champion), Baltimore Orioles and the Brooklyn Grooms.

Others receiving consideration but did not make our top ten include Cupid Childs, Jim Creighton, Bud Fowler, Mike Griffin, Herman Long, Cal McVey, Jim Mutrie, Joe Start, Jack Stivetts, Chris Von der Ahe and Ned Williamson.

Voting Process

The voting process will be quite simple. Sometime in June, every member of the Nineteenth Century Committee will receive a ballot either in electronic format or via U.S. mail. Each member will be asked to rank their top five candidates with 5 points for first place, 4 points for second place, etc. The person with the most points will be the Overlooked Nineteenth Century Legend for 2011. There will also be an opportunity to submit one or two names to the subcommittee for consideration in 2011. The votes will be tabulated in July and the winner will be announced in Long Beach, California during SABR's annual convention. We look forward to your ballot submission in June.

The 19th Century Legends Project Committee consists of Charles Faber, Bob Gregory, Ralph Peluso and Joe Williams.

How to Do 19th Century Research— Part II

This listing completes the How to Do 19th Century Baseball Research list started in the last Newsletter. Thanks again to Jerry Kuntz who headed the effort and the other committee members Kim Juhase, Richard Oller and Joe Williams.

c. Books about 19th Century Baseball

- i. Block, David. *Baseball Before We Knew It*. Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2006.
- ii. Di Salvatore, Brian. *A Clever Base-Ballist: The Life and Times of John Montgomery Ward*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1999.
- iii. James, Bill. *The Bill James Guide to Baseball Managers from 1870 to Today*. New York: Scribner, 1997.
- iv. Kirsch, George B. *Baseball in Blue and Gray*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2003.
- v. Lamster, Mark. *Spalding's World Tour*. New York: Public Affairs, 2006.
- vi. Kerr, Roy. *Sliding Billy Hamilton*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers, 2010.
- vii. Morris, Peter. *But Didn't We Have Fun? An Informal History of Baseball's Pioneer Era, 1843-1870*. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2008.
- viii. Morris, Peter. *Catcher: How the Man Behind the Plate Became an American Folk Hero*. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2009.
- ix. Morris, Peter. *A Game of Inches. The Stories Behind the Innovations That Shaped Baseball. The Game on the Field*. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2006.
- x. Nash, Peter, J. *Baseball Legends of Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery*. New Hampshire, 2003.
- xi. Nemeč, David. *The Beer and Whiskey League*. New York: Lyons and Burford, 1994.
- xii. Nemeč, David. *The Great Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Major League Baseball*. New York: Donald I. Fine Books, 1997.
- xiii. Nemeč, David. *The Great Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Major League Baseball, Second Edition*. Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 2006.
- xiv. Nucciarone, Monica. *Alexander Cartwright: The Life Behind the Baseball Legend*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2009.
- xv. Ryczek, William J. *Baseball's First Inning: A History of the National Pastime Through the Civil War*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2009.
- xvi. Ryczek, William J. *Blackguards and Red Stockings: A History of Baseball's National Association, 1871-1875*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1992.
- xvii. Ryczek, William J. *When Johnny Came Sliding Home*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1998.
- xviii. Schiff, Andrew J. *"The Father of Baseball": A Biography of Henry Chadwick*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2008.
- xix. Seymour, Harold. *Baseball - The Early Years*. New York: Oxford Press, 1960.
- xx. Shiffert, John. *Base Ball in Philadelphia: A History of the Early Game, 1831-1900*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2006.
- xxi. Sullivan, Dean A. *Early Innings: A Documentary of Baseball, 1825-1908*. Nebraska: Bison Books, 1995.
- xxii. Wright, Marshall D. *The National Association of Base Ball Players, 1857-1870*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2000

V. Groups, Publications, Websites, and Blogs

a. Publications

- i. The Baseball Research Journal (BRJ) is SABR's flagship publication. Established in 1972, BRJ was created so that members could publish and share their research with like-minded students of baseball. Today, BRJ provides a unique mix of cutting-edge baseball research and historical and biographical articles.
- ii. The National Pastime is SABR's convention-focused journal. Published annually, this 100-page journal provides in-depth articles on all aspects of baseball history.
- iii. Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game is a peer-reviewed journal published twice each year. Offering the best in original research and analysis, the journal promotes study of baseball's early history, from its protoball roots to 1920, and its rise to prominence within American popular culture. seeks to promote the study of all historical aspects of baseball and centers on the cultural implications of the game wherever in the world baseball is played. The journal reflects an eclectic ap-

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How to Do 19th Century Research– Part II (cont.)

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proach and does not foster a particular ideological bias.

b. Websites

i. 19c Base Ball- <http://www.19cbaseball.com/>

ii. Seamheads.com -- <http://www.seamheads.com/>

iii. Baseball Fever – 19th Century Baseball -- <http://www.baseball-fever.com/forumdisplay.php?66-19th-Century-Base-ball&s=a5b1003ba674e4afe9847db74cb4e35b>

iv. 19cBB Yahoo Group -- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/19cBB/>

VI. Essential Datasets

a. Baseball Biography Project -- <http://bioproj.sabr.org/>

b. Baseball-Reference.com -- <http://www.baseball-reference.com/>

c. TBI – The Baseball Index -- <http://www.baseballindex.org/>

d. Project Protoball -- <http://>

retrosheet.org/Protoball/

e. Baseball Rules (1845, 1860, 1865) -- <http://open-site.org/Sports/Baseball/History/Rules>

f. SABR Encyclopedia of Baseball -- http://sabrpedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

g. Retrosheet -- <http://www.retrosheet.org/>

Research Odds & Ends Submitted by Marty Payne

Baseball players have always found creative diversions when on road trips. One of the more unusual was that of the Baltimore Orioles when in Columbus, Ohio in 1889. Several team members entertained themselves by fishing for rats in an alley adjoining their hotel. They dangled a rod and line out of the window. When the rat took the bait, they were “jerked heavenward.” Matt Kilroy caught 19 in a single afternoon. A whole new take on a good day fishing. (Baltimore American, July 28, 1889)

And we think modern day fans are avid. “...a tornado carried grandstand and spectators over the fence but they filed back to watch the game in West Chester, Pa.” (Baltimore Daily World, May 4, 1886)

Authority figures can sometimes get carried away in exercising their duties. Secretary Hiss of the Baltimore Orioles had a seven year old boy arrested for running off with a ball hit over the fence. The lad was chased ten city blocks before he was caught. He was then hauled before Justice Hicks, who in a moment of Solomonesque wisdom, released the boy. (Baltimore American, July 31, 1888)

As we know, players are always looking for an edge, not always legal. There was a catcher in Pittsburg who seemed a little too adept at catching foul tips, even when the ball appeared to be several inches from the bat. It was found that he had attached a rubber band to his

glove that he would snap to simulate the sound of a foul tip. (Baltimore Daily World, June 8, 1886)



Committee News & Notes

Joe Gray, SABR member from the United Kingdom has a new book out titled "What About the Villa?" Joe tells the story of the first professional baseball league in England which started in 1890. history, games stories, box scores. See <http://www.fineleaf.co.uk>.

Scott Brandon writes, As a member of the Pictorial History Committee, I am trying to help locate images of the last ~125 National Association players for whom we do not have pictures cataloged. A committee member recently discovered that one of the missing, Harry Deane, was shown on the far left of an 1870 Cincinnati Red Stockings on-field team photo. We now have a very-low-res copy of that photo (I would be happy to share, if anyone is interested), but was hoping that someone here would have a higher-res version in which the team members (it appears there are 19 or 20) are actually identifiable. Thank you for any help anyone can offer!
t_scott_brandon@msn.com.

Committee member Beth Hise of Australia is the original curator of "Swinging Away: How Cricket and Baseball Connect," a new and one-of-a-kind exhibit at the Baseball Hall Fame from April 16 through February 2012. The exhibit recently finished a successful run at the Marylebone Cricket Club at Lord's Cricket Grounds, London. Attendees of April's Frederick Ivor-Campbell Nineteenth Century Base Ball Conference will get an early peek at the exhibit on Friday afternoons confer-

ence opening. A companion book about the exhibit is available from Scala Publishers Ltd.

Tom Simon's new book, "The Wonder Team in the White City: U.V.M. [University of Vermont] at the Intercollegiate Base Ball Tournament of 1893" was recently published by Gardner-Waterman Press.

Ed Achorn's biography of Hoss Radbourn, "Fifty-nine in '84 (Harper-Collins) is now available in paperback.



The Committee's Great Games Project has several game essays that have not been assigned as yet. Contact Bill Felber if you can help with any of these: July 4, 1833: Olympics v. Camden; June 3, 1851: Knicks v. Gothams; September 9, 1858: Eons v. Tri Mountains; October 11, 1859: Excelsiors v. Union; October 14, 1862: Excelsiors v. Union; September 28, 1865: Eckfords v. Mutuals; July 23, 1870: New York v. Chicago; May 9, 1875: Princeton v. Yale; July 7, 1884: Chicago v. Boston; October 15, 1884: Providence v. Philadelphia.

Pioneer Project Update from Peter Morris: After three years of

blood, sweat and tears (not all of it figurative), the first volume of this committee's Pioneer Project was sent to McFarland on March 21. Volume one consists of club histories and player profiles for the clubs and players responsible for spreading the game during the 1860s -- some sixty clubs in all, from as far east as the Pennessee-wassees of Norway, Maine, to as far west as the Wide Awakes of Oakland, from as far south as the Gate Citys of Atlanta to as far north as the First Nationals of Hancock, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, from celebrated clubs like the "Red Stockings" of Cincinnati and the Forest Citys of Rockford to forgotten ones like the Pecatonica Base Ball Club of Pecatonica, Illinois, and the Morning Star Club of St. Louis. In short, a bountiful feast that includes everything except the pioneer-era clubs from New York City, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Philadelphia, which will be featured in the other volume. Contributors will be receiving updates on this volume's path toward publication and on the progress of the other volume.

My heartfelt thanks to a group of contributors too long to list here for their hard work and patience. I'm especially grateful to Jan Finkel and Len Levin, who combined to edit every one of the entries. Having also read every word myself, I can say that it is a most impressive work that will belong on the bookshelf of anyone with an interest in baseball's early history and will serve to inspire more research.

Some 19th Century Baseball Poetry– Submitted by
Marty Payne

“The Umpire”

Mother, may I slug the umpire?
May I slug him right away,
So he cannot be there mother,
When the club begins to play?

Let me clasp his throat, dear mother,
In dear, delightful grip
With one hand, and with the other
Bat him in the lip.

Let me club his frame, dear mother
While the happy people shout!
I’ll not kill him dearest mother,
I will only knock him out.

Let me mop the ground up mother,
With his person, dearest do;
If the ground can stand it, mother
I don’t see why you can’t too.

Mother may I slug the umpire-
Slug him right between the eyes.
If you let me do it, mother
You shall have the Champion Prize.

“Washington Critic”

Baltimore Daily World, August 13, 1886

