

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

SUMMER 2011

Society for American Baseball Research

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

Third Annual Ivor-Campbell Conference Held in Cooperstown

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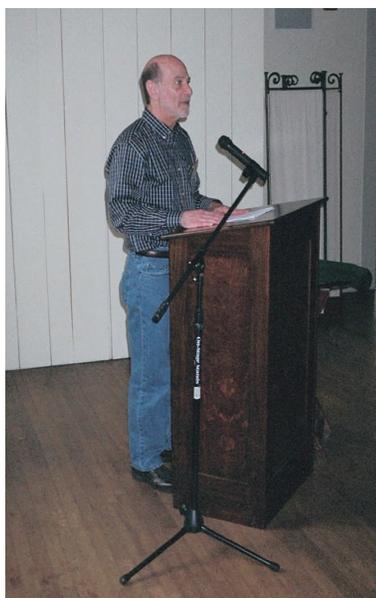
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In April the Third Annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell Nineteenth Century Baseball Conference came to Cooperstown again.

Nineteenth Century Committee Chairman Peter Mancuso organized the conference at the Baseball Hall of Fame with plenty of expert presentations, addresses, discussions, and fun.

We have two conference reports from Bob Tholkes and Jim



David Block delivers keynote address

Overmyer.

And a few paparazzi shots of the festivities. First up is Bob Tholkes' impressions.

Nineteenth Century Committee chair Peter Mancuso welcomed 50 attendees from all over the country to Cooperstown, New York, for the 3rd annual Fred Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference, April 15-16 at the Hall of Fame Library's Bullpen Theater. The confer-

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER by Peter Mancuso

Our Annual Business Meeting: By the time most of you are reading this your decision to attend SABR 41 in Long Beach, California has already been made. For those of you who will attend this year's convention, this piece will help you prepare

for the meeting. If you can't attend this piece will give you an idea of what will be discussed until the Fall newsletter, or until something sooner is posted via the SABR website's email.

For those attending SABR 41, our annual meeting will be held on Friday,

July 8th from 3PM to 4PM. The following are the topics to be covered.

2011 Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend: The results of our third annual Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends election will be announced. Thus far, Pete Browning (2009)

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Ivor-Campbell Conference (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

ence, a one-day program in 2009 and 2010, expanded for 2011, adding a Friday afternoon session.

After welcomes from Peter and from Hall of Fame Library Director Jim Gates, Bob Mayer delivered the first of the conference's seven scheduled research presentations on 19th-century topics, reviewing the brief history of the

a tour led by Tom Shieber. They then returned to the theater to enjoy an interview with John Thorn conducted by committee member Tom Simon, which ranged widely over John's career as a baseball publisher and researcher, which culminated in March with the publication of *Baseball in the Garden of Eden*, his landmark exploration of

Rich Arpi then closed the Friday session by reviewing the 1877 seasons of the St. Paul Red Caps, Minneapolis Brown Stockings, and Winona Clippers, all of Minnesota, who constituted the state's first ventures into professional baseball as members of the League Alliance, and drew conclusions about the lessons learned by the fledgling operators about



More Conference revelry with Richard Hershberger, Barbara & David Block & James Hawking



Less Conference Revelry with Harry Higham, Steve Suknaic, Tom Altherr & Larry McCray (the bartender is on the way).

Asylum Base Ball Club, which represented the State Homeopathic Hospital for the Insane at Middletown, New York in the 1890s.

Besides reviewing their successes on the field, Bob explained the therapeutic effort the team was believed to have on the hospital's patients, and mentioned its prominent players, headed by Hall of Famer Jack Chesbro.

The group then adjourned to the Hall's current Cricket and Baseball exhibit, organized by committee member Beth Hise, for

baseball's early years, and then looked forward, to John's new role as Major League Baseball's official baseball historian.

After a break, Deb Shattuck presented her groundbreaking research on women in baseball in the 19th century, characterizing the field as in its infancy, and explaining the hurdles American culture at the time posed to women players, and reviewed the categories of the known clubs, such as academic and professional, and providing examples of each.

running professional clubs.

Most of the group re-convened that evening for a welcoming dinner at the elegant Otesaga Resort and Hotel.

Saturday opened with Richard Hershberger's exposition on the Taxonomy and nomenclature of the Early Baseball Family of Games, which he wisely re-titled "The Name of the Game". Covering the period 1744-1867 in the United States, Richard identified round ball, base ball, and town ball as the major names given to

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Ivor-Campbell Conference (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

bat-and-ball games, and the New York Game and the Massachusetts Game as names given to the two formalized versions. He reviewed the geographic range of the names and proposed a new taxonomy for their spread and development.

Bill Humber followed with a special presentation on cricket in North America, which reviewed

ball games. David provided a detailed account of his continuing research in the area, including newly-discovered references which have altered his earlier conclusions about the origins of American baseball.

David noted the large amount of work remaining to be accomplished, and invited members to become engaged.

Returning to the Bullpen

wright, who had moved to the islands in 1851, was involved in the game there, but that his sons DeWitt and Alexander III both played. As elsewhere, cricket preceded baseball but was later supplanted.

Following a chance to have their book purchases signed by the Committee's several author-members, Jerry Casway closed the



Tom Simon interviews MLB Historian John Thorn at the Ivor-Campbell Conference



At the Bullpen Theater— Baseball Hall of Fame

the differences and similarities from baseball in the games' historical development, offered basic tutelage in cricket fundamentals and terminology, and suggested overarching reasons for baseball's ability to first match and then overwhelm cricket in popularity in the United States and Canada.

Adjourning for lunch, the group met at historic Templeton Hall in Cooperstown to hear keynote speaker David Block, author in 2006 of *Baseball Before We Knew It*, his pioneering, extensively-researched work on early

Theater, the group unwound with a freewheeling panel discussion on a wide range of topics, moderated by John Thorn, who asked opening questions of panelists Joanne Hulbert, Tom Altherr, and Bob Tholkes and then opened the discussion to the audience.

Monica Nucciarone followed with a review of "Nineteenth Century Bat and Ball Games in Hawaii", new territory for the group. Her research found no evidence that Alexander Cart-

proceedings with his presentation, "Earnings and Occupations of 19th-Century Ballplayers", which discussed the uncertainties and brief durations which offset the relatively high earnings of 19th-century players, noted that with few exception players descended into low-wage occupations after they were finished in baseball.

Many attendees capped their weekend by attending the "traditional and optional" Post Conference Gathering dinner, held at the historic Tunnick Inn.

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Ivor-Campbell Conference (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

This next report comes courtesy of Jim Overmyer.

Newly expanded to a day and a half through suggestions of past attendees, the third annual Fred Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference, held at the Baseball Hall of Fame April 15 and 16, included new features

thing, and the conference benefited from the recent appointment of 19th Century Committee member John Thorn as Major League Baseball's official historian, and the additional naming of him and two other 19th Century members, David Block and Larry McCray, to MLB's Baseball Origins Committee.

Block, author of "Baseball

"baseball" in England in the 18th and 19th centuries were simply a name change for the game of rounders to the opinion that both games existed, English baseball being a game for girls, and rounders for boys. "Those of us looking to unlock the mysteries" of baseball's origins "face many unanswered questions; there are many secrets waiting to be discov-



Conference Panel Discussion: Joanne Hulbert, Tom Altherr & Bob Tholkes. John Thorn moderates



Good food, good company and a good discussion on town ball in 1854

made possible in part by the additional time available. Fifty people, mostly members of the SABR 19th Century Committee, attended.

In addition to the in-depth presentations and discussions of early American ball to which the attendees have become accustomed, there was a focus on baseball and the English sport of cricket, thanks in part to a "sneak preview" of a special exhibit at the Hall explaining the significant relationship between the two sports.

Timing is sometimes every-

Before We Knew It," was the conference's keynote speaker on Saturday, the 16th. He described the successes and pitfalls of the continuing research into the predecessors of what eventually became the game of baseball. He pointed out that the greatly enhanced Internet research resources of the last few years have led to new discoveries of old games, causing him to revise his thinking since the writing of his book.

For example, he has moved from thinking that mentions of

ered," he concluded.

A new feature of the conference, the "Member Spotlight," appropriately shone on John Thorn, who besides his new position with Major League Baseball is author of the recently-published "Baseball in the Garden of Eden." Interviewed by Tom Simon, John dryly described his new book, an account of the development of baseball in the U.S., including the social and political aspects as well as the athletic, as "a very American tale, filled with greed, treach-

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Ivor-Campbell Conference (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

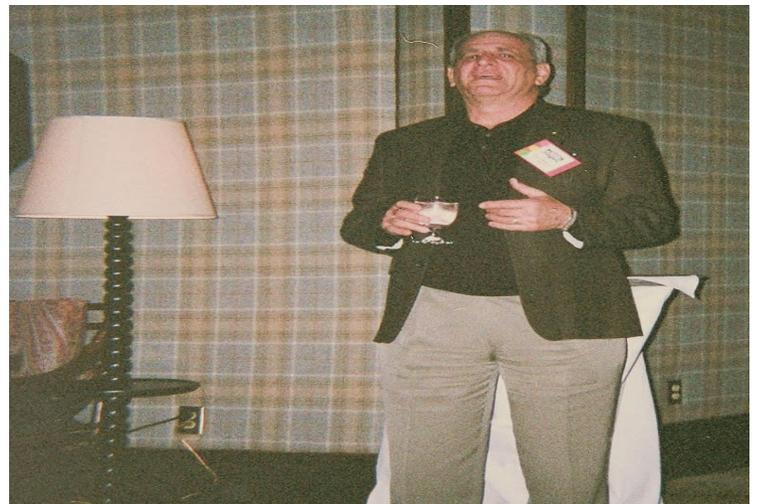
ery and ignorance.”

Regarding his historian duties to the commissioner’s office, he said he sees his primary responsibility will be responding to “questions that baffle them. Nobody’s asking me to do anything that tilts toward public relations as opposed to history.” He does see an obligation to get commentary

elists Tom Altherr, Joanne Hulbert and Bob Tholkes. A main thread was the change in the way modern players are portrayed in the press. As Hulbert said, in the early days of national baseball sportswriters “had a field day” describing players in stereotypical terms as heroes or villains, and working those stereotypes into their stories. Today,

of their accomplishments) is making the game less entertaining than before.

Bill Humber of Toronto followed up on his well-received 2010 presentation on baseball in the north with a special presentation, “Cricket!?!?! – A North American Perspective.” Humber’s talk on Saturday followed a special tour of the Hall’s newly-



Just a few innings of a 19th century dice baseball game. Who drafted Creighton?

Chairman Peter Mancuso. Already thinking about 2012

on baseball in this age of performance enhancing drugs “away from the guys with the pitchforks and torches” who want to go after the record books and devalue or expunge the statistics of suspected steroid users. So far as those changes go, he said, “The historical view is that an asterisk should be on Babe Ruth’s records for not having to play against African-American pitchers.”

Thorn also moderated a panel discussion on “How Knowledge of Early Baseball Makes Today’s Game More Enjoyable,” with pan-

“sportswriters make them more like us.”

This led to the conclusion that, as archetypical portrayals of the game and its stars have declined, baseball is seen as less of a model of idealism and integrity, and thus less accessible to Americans on that level. The 19th century experts also opined that modern changes in the sport, emphasizing batting power and frequent changes of relief pitchers, along with the general increase in ability of major league players (which leads to leveling

opened exhibition, “Swinging Away,” created in conjunction with the Marylebone Cricket Club of London. According to the Hall, it is the first major museum exhibition dedicated to exploring the roots and relationship of baseball and cricket, featuring game-used equipment from historic moments in both sports.

Humber pointed out the difference in expectations between players and spectators of baseball and cricket, where “a good two innings” can describe a full game.

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Ivor-Campbell Conference (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

Cricket, he said, is slow, with “a different sensibility” – ancient Greeks would watch long plays, and cricket fans have the same patience. Possibly springing from play by shepherds, cricket has clear rural origins in England, to the continuing extent that the main teams are named for English counties, at one point the major political unit of the country. Humber extensively described the cricket writings of C. L. R. James, whose 1963 book, “Beyond a Boundary,” is considered the greatest writing about the game.

The extended length of the conference allowed for the doubling of individual research presentations from three to six.

Bob Mayer’s talk on “The Asylum Baseball Club” recounted the history of the late 19th and early 20th century semi-pro team sponsored by a mental hospital, the Middletown (NY) State Homeopathic Hospital. Baseball was introduced at the hospital by its director, Dr. Selden Talcott, in 1888 as a means of providing recreation and diversion for his patients. However, by the early 1890s the team had filled its roster with good players who either worked for the hospital or were paid by the game. Asylum stars included Jack Chesbro, later a Hall of Fame major league pitcher, and Tuck Turner, a .300-hitting big league outfielder.

Debbie Shattuck presented some of her continuing research on women’s participation in baseball’s early days. Her searches of historical newspapers and other

documents have traced women’s teams back as far as 1865, not coincidentally during a period when American women began to take part in heretofore male occupations and pastimes. While research and writing on women’s roles in baseball has been going on for about 20 years, considerable more work is



Bill Humber is Leg Before Wicket on a googly in cutter. Or is it a flipper?

needed because “the historical memory of women baseball players is virtually non-existent” in contemporary 19th century publications, she said.

Rich Arpi spoke on the three Minnesota entries in the 1877

League Alliance, a predecessor of the minor league baseball structure, which were the state’s first professional teams. The St. Paul Red Caps won 39 of 72 games played (with three ties) and were a power in the Alliance. The Minneapolis Brown Stockings won 31 of 70 (again with three ties), but lapsed from a fully professional outfit into a co-operative club by that August. The Winona Clippers won half of their 30 games, but went out of business before season’s end. The season in Minnesota, Arpi said, was “a learning experience in how to run professional ball clubs.”

Richard Hershberger’s “The Name of the Game” used his recent research to revise thinking about the development of the names applied to bat and ball games, leading to further consideration of their development timeline. According to Hershberger, the 19th century terms “Base ball”, “town ball” and “round ball” were primarily regional synonyms all referring to a family of closely-related games played during the same period, not in any sort of chronological succession. All had the same general characteristics, including two opposing sides alternating at bat and in the field and three or more bases that had to be reached in order to score a run.

Monica Nucciarone, the most recent biographer of Alexander Cartwright, spoke on “Nineteenth Century Bat and Ball Games in Honolulu, Hawaii,” tracing the game in the islands back prior to

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Ivor-Campbell Conference (cont.)

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the 1860's, when it began to be standardized with mainland rules from California. The enthusiasm of Hawaiian King Kalakaua (1874-91) for the sport led to its further development and the founding by 1890 of the Hawaiian Baseball Association.

Jerrold Casway's "Earnings and Occupations of Nineteenth Century Ballplayers" displayed his continuing research that equates major league salaries with those of white collar employees of the period, but with significant

drawbacks. There was no salary insurance for injuries that put a player off a club's roster and payroll. There were additional expenses of often maintaining on and off-season households and keeping up the well-dressed and socializing facades expected of public figures. And, with the exception of those who went into baseball management or related professions such as sporting goods, there was essentially no future in the game for players after retirement. Their fame, Casway pointed out, was often

"a flaming meteor" that left them at a serious financial disadvantage when it burned out.

In addition to the presentations, conference members were, as usual, well provided for at the table, with a welcoming dinner at the Otesaga Hotel on Friday evening and a catered lunch at Templeton Hall in downtown Cooperstown for David Block's keynote address on Saturday, as well as a plethora of breakfast and afternoon treats at the Giamatti Research Center in the Hall.

Chairman's Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

and Deacon White (2010) have made our Nineteenth Century Committee's list of 19th-century baseball legends of hall of fame caliber who have yet to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. Our Committee's 2011 selection will be made public for the first time at the beginning of our meeting along with full election results, including past and new nominees.

2011 Chairman's Award: Having had the good fortune as Committee Chair to work with the many wonderful people who make up this group I greatly enjoy the opportunity to publically recognize an individual who has accomplished a committee goal or project to the benefit of our commit-

tee in general since the last business meeting I will be announcing this year's recipient who will also be presented with a trophy bat which is a replica of an 1880s Burlingame model, from the Phoenix Bat Company bearing the SABR Nineteenth Century Committee Logo, year of the award and the recipient's name.

Vice-Chair's Report: Nineteenth Century Committee Vice-Chair, Bob Bailey will discuss our committee's newsletter, "Nineteenth Century Notes".

100 Greatest Games Book Project: Book Project Chair, and Editor-in-Chief, Bill Felber will give an update on our committee's progress toward the publication of "Inventing Baseball: The 100 Greatest Games of the

19th Century." The book's publication target date is Spring 2013.

Pioneer Project: Another book project initiated by **Peter Morris** with the able assistance of **Jan Finkle** and the contributions of several dozen committee members has reached a milestone with the completion of the first of what has turned out to be a two volume endeavor. **Bill Ryczek** has taken over the reins for the second volume and will be providing a status report on its progress.

Open Forum: Opportunity to discuss our next Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, solicit ideas for future research projects and committee activities and assign volunteers to assume leadership roles in these endeavors.

Is it Ross Barnes?

Several times in the past few years we have had stories or items related to the 1876 National Leaguer batting champion Ross Barnes. Barnes added this batting title to the pair he collected in the National Association in 1872 and 1873. Here is the photo of Barnes we have used.

This image shows up all over the internet identified as Ross Bar-



The unreal Ross Barnes?

nes. It illustrates the Wikipedia article on Barnes, is included in the Google image library, and a host of other places.

After appearing in the Spring 2011 issue of *Nineteenth Century Notes* committee member Gary Passamonte took issue with the photo identification.

Gary hails from Mount Morris, NY, as did Barnes. I am pretty sure they did not play on the same

Little League team together.

But Gary has held a long-term interest in the ballplayer from his hometown and is an avid collector of all things Ross Barnes. He noted that the image we have been using first became available in the 1990s and was always identified as Barnes. But when he got a copy of the picture and he compared it to other images he has he began to doubt that the same person was being depicted. Gary writes, "It looked nothing like the images I had; eye shade, hair, face shape, etc. seemed wrong. After discussing the image with other 19th century collectors, a conclusion was reached that this was not Barnes. Recently this exact CdV image was shown on the Net54 discussion board and deemed to be someone other than Ross Barnes."

Gary was kind enough to include a photo from his collection of Ross Barnes material. It is in the right-hand column.

I think you would have to join with Gary and say that the two photos are not of the same person. I am not even sure you can make a case for and argument that it is an old and younger Barnes, or a flipped image, or that they are second cousins—twice-removed.

So here are some of the questions for our readers:

1. Which one is really Ross Barnes?
2. Who is the other guy?
3. Can our friends on the Pictorial History Committee give

us some help?

4. Did these two appear on *To Tell the Truth* together in 1962?
5. Does the Ross Barnes on the left need a new barber?
6. Do either of these two guys look like a master fair-foul hitter?
7. Should we fire the newsletter editor for not getting the right



The real Ross Barnes?

image placed in the newsletter?

8. Are there other contenders in the "I am the real Ross Barnes" photo contest?

Send along anything you can add to the hunt for the Real Ross Barnes

More Picture Questions

There is a bit of a run on photo identification questions this issue.

Committee member Tracy Martin is asking about the image below. He writes, "I have run into one dead end after another [in his attempts to identify the team and players in the photo]. I have this photo in my collection: it is on

thick stock, about 6 x 8 in size, and the players are wearing bib front uniforms with BUCKEYE on them. I live in Ohio I know that Cincinnati and Columbus had teams called BUCKEYE around this era."

The image is reproduced below. They are certainly a handsome lot. I'll bet no more than three of

these fellows had a picture posted in the local post office. Does the fact that only three players and both suited gentlemen have mustaches help date the photo?

If you can help Tracy he can be reached at:
www.vintagebaseballcollector.com



Research Requests and Other Stuff

Go to: ourgame@mlblogs.com to read **John Thorn's** latest musings. Topics frequently have a 19th-century theme, although it's good reading no matter the era.

On the same website, **David Block** contributed, "An Early Hint of Continental Europe's Influence on Baseball" which draws in the Jamestown Settlement of 1609, just for starters. The article will be among many origins topics in the spring edition of *Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game*, McFarland Publ.

The Spring 2011 edition of *The Baseball Research Journal* contains no fewer than ten articles about those lovable Cubbies including **Richard Hershberger's** 19th-century focused piece, "Chicago's Role in Early Professional Baseball."

Tom Simon, will be giving a Research Presentation at SABR 41 on Thursday, July 7th from 12:30 – 12:55 PM in the Pacific Room on "The Wonder Team of the White City: U.V.M. at the Intercollegiate Base Ball Tournament of 1893"; based on his book of the same title that was mentioned in this column last month.

Last issue we mentioned **Joe Gray's** new book, "What About the Villa?: Forgotten Figures from Britain's Pro Baseball League of 1890. Committee member Jerry Kuntz adds his opinion: "I'll throw in an endorsement of Joe's work.

Just 3-4 years ago I looked into the history of organized baseball in England in the 1890s (as best I could from the U.S., using digitized resources available at the time)--and what little material I found was confusing due to the variation in the names of the baseball leagues and organizations. 1890 was particularly puzzling, owing to the fact that both a pro league and an amateur league were active in the same areas. The amateur league endured through most of the decade.

Joe's book is a dazzling compilation of research. The events that played out in 1890 highlight the danger of premature professionalization of a sport-- and the unique pressures placed on the pro league by spectator comparisons to cricket. It also details the conflicting attitudes of Americans in how best to evangelize the sport.

I'd highly recommend it-- especially if you are interested in the complete story of Spalding's World Tour and its aftermath.

The book can be found on Amazon.com. Can anyone contribute a review for the newsletter?

The Grafton (Massachusetts) Historical Society has a team photo of a circa 1875 amateur baseball club that includes 19th century ML player Hick Carpenter, along with

Foghorn Bradley, George Adams and Asa Stratton.

We are attempting to research as much about this team's organization and particularly its local (Grafton) game field in Worcester (MA) and Westboro newspaper accounts.

To date we have collected most game summaries for the team's 1874 and 1875 seasons. I have also visited with the volunteers at the Upton Historical Society and have researched their records about the Upton Excelsiors and their MA. championship play in 1859.

I am particularly interested in trying to pull together additional biographical information about Cincinnati third baseman and Grafton native Hick Carpenter beyond what is available in on-line references. I've contacted the San Diego Historical Society (were Carpenter is buried) but have not turned up additional information beyond his playing days.

If someone might suggest some Cincinnati based sources for known information about Hick Carpenter, it would be most appreciated

John LaPoint
Research Committee
Grafton (MA.) Historical Society
glfjl@aol.com

Pioneer Project News by Peter Morris

As many of you know, volume one of the Pioneer Project went to McFarland in March and work on preparing it for publication has already begun.

Gary Mitchem of McFarland informs me that it is currently slated for their Spring 2012 lineup, with likely publication in the first three months of 2012, and that there is a small chance that it could even be moved forward to late fall of this year if things go smoothly.

Thanks to all of you for making this possible!

We do not yet have a title and so I wanted to give everyone the opportunity to offer suggestions. Gary offered these guidelines; "the top candidates will be concise but descriptive.

Straightforward wording and an authoritative tone are what we're after." The final choice of title is McFarland's call and there is no guarantee they will pick any of our suggestions, but they will give consideration to all suggestions.

So if a good title comes to mind, drop me an email within the next week. [Ed. Note: This was received more than a week ago so the deadline may have passed] and I will forward all suggestions along.

Feel free to submit more than one idea. I won't respond to each message in detail, but will reply with a brief thanks to let you know it arrived.

The second volume is also making steady progress. Bill Ryczek has taken over the gen-

eral editorship of volume two, but I will remain very much involved.

At this point we are expecting to have about 40 entries, all on clubs from New York City/Brooklyn, New Jersey, Philadelphia and suburbs, and Massachusetts. Eighteen of the entries have already been finished and edited, with several more nearly completed.

We're hoping to have all the remaining pieces in by the end of the summer (hint, hint to those of you with outstanding pieces), which would allow volume two to follow hot on the heels of volume one. Needless to say, it is very exciting to have the end of this long and important project in sight.

The Boys Play Long Toss

Gene Delisio sends this item from the Chicago Tribune of June 27, 1890:

"Before the game at Buffalo Monday there was a throwing match between Jim O'Rourke and Harry Vaughn for \$25.00.

There was no wind and Jim threw the ball 128 yards. Vaughn won, throwing the sphere 134 yards, 2-and a half inches at the first attempt, beating John Hatfield's famous throw of 133 yards, 1-foot-7 inches, and near the record made by Ed Crane of

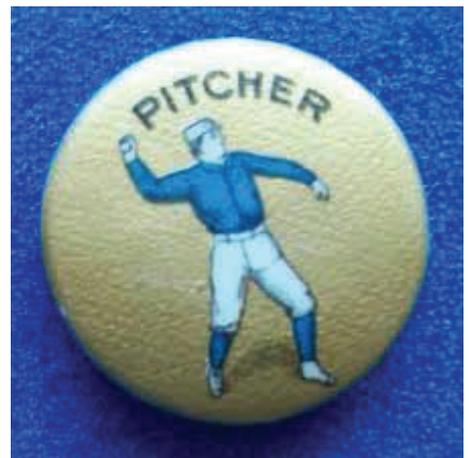
the Giants--135 yards, 1-foot-one-half inch."

It seems that such exhibitions of long throwing were not uncommon in the nineteenth century. I think I have seen a thread or two about such contests on SABR-L or the Nineteenth Century listserve:

(19cBBayahoogroups.com)

If you have some information on such things consider sending along a newsletter article, or list

of such contests, or a progression of records, or compendium of the types of contests involved.



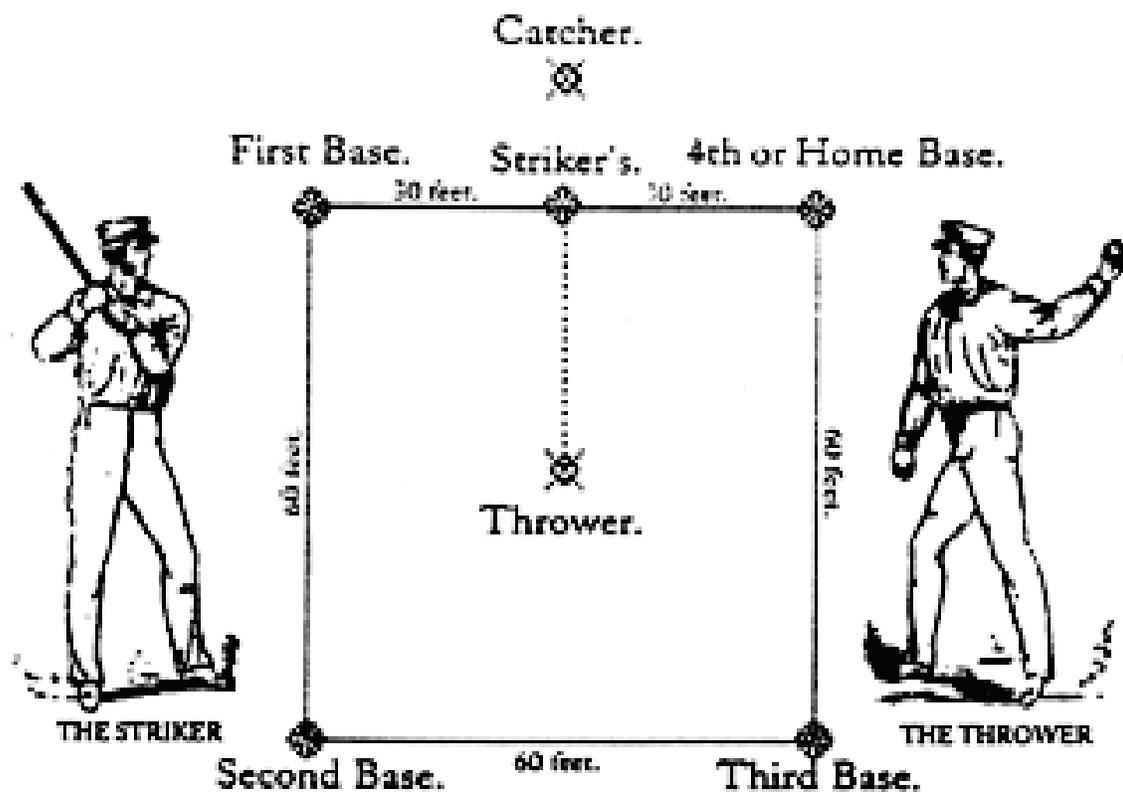


DIAGRAM OF THE BALL FIELD