

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

FALL 2012

Society for American Baseball Research

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

Henry Eckford: Boats and Ball Teams by Ray Edgerton

Committee Contacts

Chairman— Peter Mancuso
6970 Ely Road
New Hope, PA 18938
peterplus4@earthlink.net

Editor/VC— Bob Bailey
10223 SW 49th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32608
bobbailey@cox.net

Copyright © Society for American Baseball Research 2012

Inside this issue:

<i>Nineteenth Century Career Leaders</i>	4
<i>A Chat with Fred Goldsmith</i>	5-7
<i>The Hunt for Stoddard</i>	8
<i>Hilton Head Swung for the Fences in 1862</i>	9-10
<i>Overlooked Legend</i>	10
<i>News & Notes</i>	11

Eckford is a familiar name in 19th century baseball. The Eckfords from Brooklyn participated in the National Association in 1872. The squad compiled a 3-26 record, good for last place. Of more positive remembrance are various teams in Brooklyn, Albany, Syracuse, and Newark that carried the name.

But here we will look at the individual that inspired the name, Henry Eckford.

If you are interested in Henry Beckford's base-

ball activities you should



Henry Eckford

stop reading now. There are none. He probably has less connection to baseball than Abler Doubleday. But he

was a famous man for his time.

Eckford was Scottish-born in 1775. In 1791 he was apprenticed to a shipbuilding uncle in Quebec. He apparently learned his lessons well and in 1796 he moved to New York City where he worked in shipyards of the Manhattan shore along the East River. By the turn of the century he had his own yard along the East River.

He had developed a solid reputation as a naval architect and had developed techniques to build quality ship very quickly.

(Continued on page 2)

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER by Peter Mancuso

Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference: The 2013 Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference will be held at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY on Fri-

day, April 19th, from 1:PM-5:PM and on Saturday, April 20th from 10:AM-5:PM. There will be an optional Friday evening welcoming dinner and a post conference gathering, again optional, on Saturday after five. The Winter issue of this newsletter (January 1st)

will contain complete registration information and further details on the conference program and schedule. It is, however, not too early to submit, a research presentation proposal abstract of 100-200 words, including a title, on

(Continued on page 3)

Henry Eckford (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

The Eckford ship-building business flourished during this period and Eckford became a wealthy man. In addition to his industrial interests he served off and on as the manager of Federal shipyards.

His reputation was set by the outbreak of the War of 1812 and he assumed responsibility for the

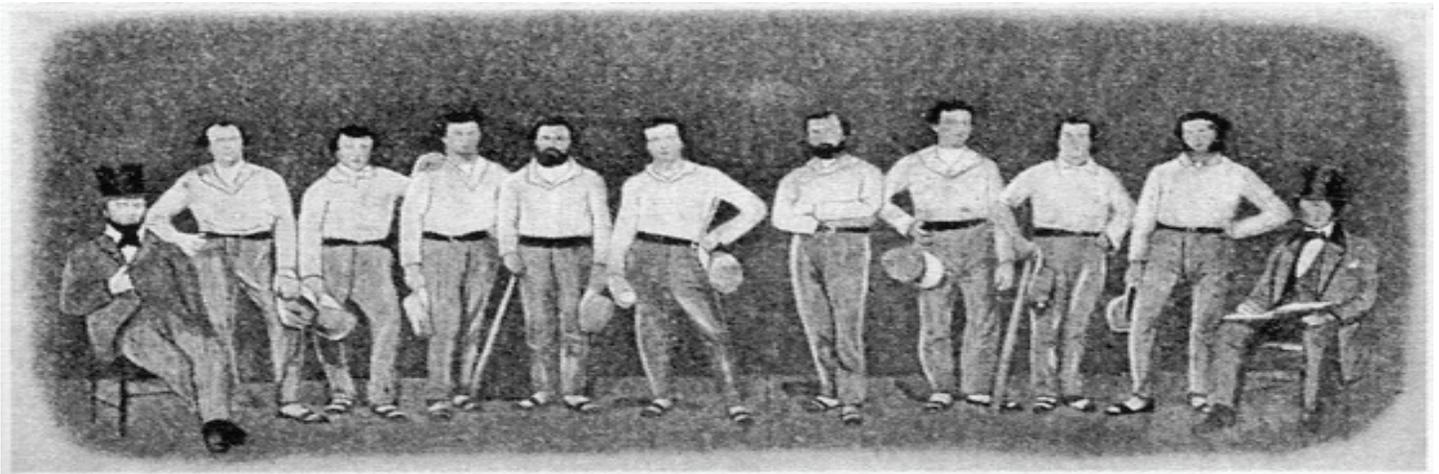
and transport them to Sackets Harbor for installation. Nevertheless the work accomplished enhanced Eckford's renown as a shipbuilder.

Economics immediately after the war did not favor shipbuilding and Eckford took a position at the Brooklyn Navy Yard from 1817-1820. During his time in Brooklyn he quarreled often

his Manhattan yard and continued building ship for the federal government if not for the Navy.

One biographer describes Eckford's life in the 1820s as "untidy." He certainly did not encounter smooth sailing during the decade.

Since opening his shipyard Eckford had involved himself with State and local politics. Not a



1858 Eckfords

establishment of ship-building operations for the U.S. on the Great Lakes. In 1812 Eckford developed the small hamlet of Sackets Harbor on Lake Ontario into a first-class shipyard.

In the course of two years Sackets Harbor launched eight warships and refitted a dozen commercial vessels to carry guns.

Several ships, notably the USS Madison and USS Mohawk were constructed with astonishing speed, going from keel-laying to launch in five to six weeks. This speed is a bit deceptive for Eckford had devised a system to pre-fabricate certain portions of the ship at his New York City yard

with the Board of Navy Commissioners, particularly Commodore John Rodgers.

Rodgers was a hero from the War of 1812 as he was a key naval officer in the recapture of Washington, D.C. following the burning of the city by the British. Apparently Rodgers thought Eckford was changing designs of ships during the construction phase without approval by the Naval Board. One suspects that Eckford did this regularly in Sackets Harbor where oversight and supervision of the remote outpost was minimal.

After leaving the Brooklyn Navy Yard Eckford returned to

bad idea if you did a significant bit of business with the government. He became involved with banking, served briefly in the State legislature, and became a leader in the New York Democratic Party. In the 1820s this means Tammany Hall. Eckford rose to become a member of the Council of Sachems, a 13-member committee that ran the party.

In 1826 Henry Eckford and several of his colleagues were indicted for fraud amounting to several millions of dollars. The case resulted in a hung jury and Eckford was never retried. But his reputation was never the same.

(Continued on page 3)

Henry Eckford (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

The 1820s were a quiet period for U.S. Naval development and Eckford looked abroad for opportunities. In 1831 he found it in a contract to rebuild the navy of the Ottoman Empire. Eckford planned a lengthy stay in Constantinople to establish his enterprise by he died there on November 12, 1832. His

body was shipped home and buried at St. George's Church Cemetery, Hempstead, NY.

While Eckford's reputation took a hit in the 1820s by the 1850s he was still fondly remembered in the working-class shipbuilding communities of Brooklyn. In 1855 a new ball club was founded in Brooklyn

and they adopted the name Eckford in Henry Eckford's memory. But that was not the end of the Eckford name. In 1987 the U.S. Navy began construction of the USNS Henry Eckford, a fleet oiler. Unfortunately the ship was never completed and in July 2011 it was dispatched to Brownsville, Texas to be scrapped in a recycling effort.

Chairman's Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

any aspect of 19th-century baseball. Abstracts may be emailed to me, peterplus4@earthlink.net or mailed to my home address, 6970 Ely Road, New Hope, PA 18938.

Greatest Games Book Project: Our committee's most recent book project, *Inventing Baseball: The 100 Greatest Games of the Nineteenth Century* is rolling toward publication. As I write this, the manuscript is in the hands of SABR's Publications Director, Cecilia Tan and is being prepared for printing while Editor-in-Chief Bill Felber and Photo Editor Mark Fimoff finalize acknowledgments, credits and captions. Next stop is next month for indexing by none other than Skip McAfee. We should be looking forward to purchasing the book by Spring.

American Association Research Papers: With the cooperation of former Committee Chairman, Paul Wendt and the incredible initiative of our Nineteenth Century Committee member and Chair of SABR's Baseball and The Arts

Committee, Joanne Hulbert we have secured the American Association Research Papers of five-plus years ago, or at least some portion of them. Joanne was able to obtain and transfer one box of files from Paul to me this past August (Paul was unclear if this box represented all of the files but promised to check if he was in possession of additional papers). Before our next issue of *Nineteenth Century Notes* I will complete an inventory of the files and query our membership in an attempt to assess what may be missing if anything. Once all the files' respective researchers have been identified I will notify each to ascertain how they would like their individual research handled. I know of several committee members who might benefit from particular files due to research projects they are involved in, but I feel I must first check with the primary researchers to honor their wishes before releasing their work to others. More to come...and thank you Joanne!

Overlooked Legends To Get Look Over: Our Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends project committee has taken on a review of the nomination and election steps behind the committee-wide selection of our annual Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend. Their goal is to increase election turnout (which should also be helped with the newly improved SABR website) with an eye toward greater involvement of Nineteenth Century Committee members along the way to the final annual election, while maintaining the same quality of final candidates that has thus far produced four great selections: Pete Browning, Deacon White, Harry Stovey and Bill Dahlen.

19th Century Baseball Cities Symposia: I am in the process of assembling a modest sized advisory committee to begin preliminary planning for a Fall, 2014 Symposium in New York City. Subsequent conferences will be held in other locations throughout the country. Stay tuned

Nineteenth Century Career Leaders

In David Nemeč's Great Encyclopedia of Nineteenth Century Major League Baseball he lists career leaders in various categories for the 1871-1900 period. Here is a selection.

Batting Records

Batting Average

1. Willie Keeler .381
2. Ross Barnes .360
3. Jesse Burkett .357



Willie Keeler

Total Bases

1. Cap Anson 4,592
2. Roger Conner 3,788
3. Jim O'Rourke 3,591

Hits

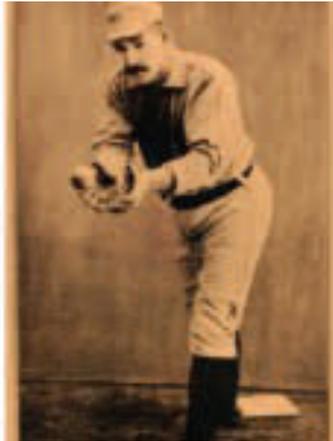
1. Cap Anson 3,461
2. Jim O'Rourke 2,639
3. Roger Conner 2,467

Runs

1. Cap Anson 1,996
2. Bid McPhee 1,684
3. Jim O'Rourke 1,729

Home Runs

1. Roger Connor 138
2. Sam Thompson 126
3. Harry Stovey 122



Roger Connor

Triples

1. Roger Connor 233
2. Dan Brouthers 205
3. Bid McPhee 189

Doubles

1. Cap Anson 582
2. Jim O'Rourke 468
3. Dan Brouthers 460

Base on Balls

1. Billy Hamilton 1,125
2. Roger Connor 1,002
3. Cap Anson 984

Pitching Records

Wins

1. Jim Galvin 365
2. Tim Keefe 342
3. John Clarkson 328

Loses

1. Jim Galvin 309
2. Bobby Mathews 248
3. Gus Weyhing 231

Innings

1. Jim Galvin 5,998.1
2. Tim Keefe 5,049.2
3. Bobby Mathews 4,955.1



Jim Galvin

Strikeouts

1. Tim Keefe 2,564
2. John Clarkson 1,978
3. Amos Rusie 1,944

Winning Percentage

1. Al Spalding .795
2. Dave Foutz .690
3. Bob Caruthers .688

ERA

1. Jim Devlin 2.06
2. John Ward 2.10
3. Al Spalding 2.13

Hit Batsmen

1. Gus Weyhing 272
2. Pink Hawley 201
3. Tony Mullane 185

Home Runs Allowed

1. John Clarkson 160
2. Kid Nichols 143
3. Jack Stivetts 131

He's a Sucker For a Curve: A Chat with Fred Goldsmith by B. Navin & G. Rounds

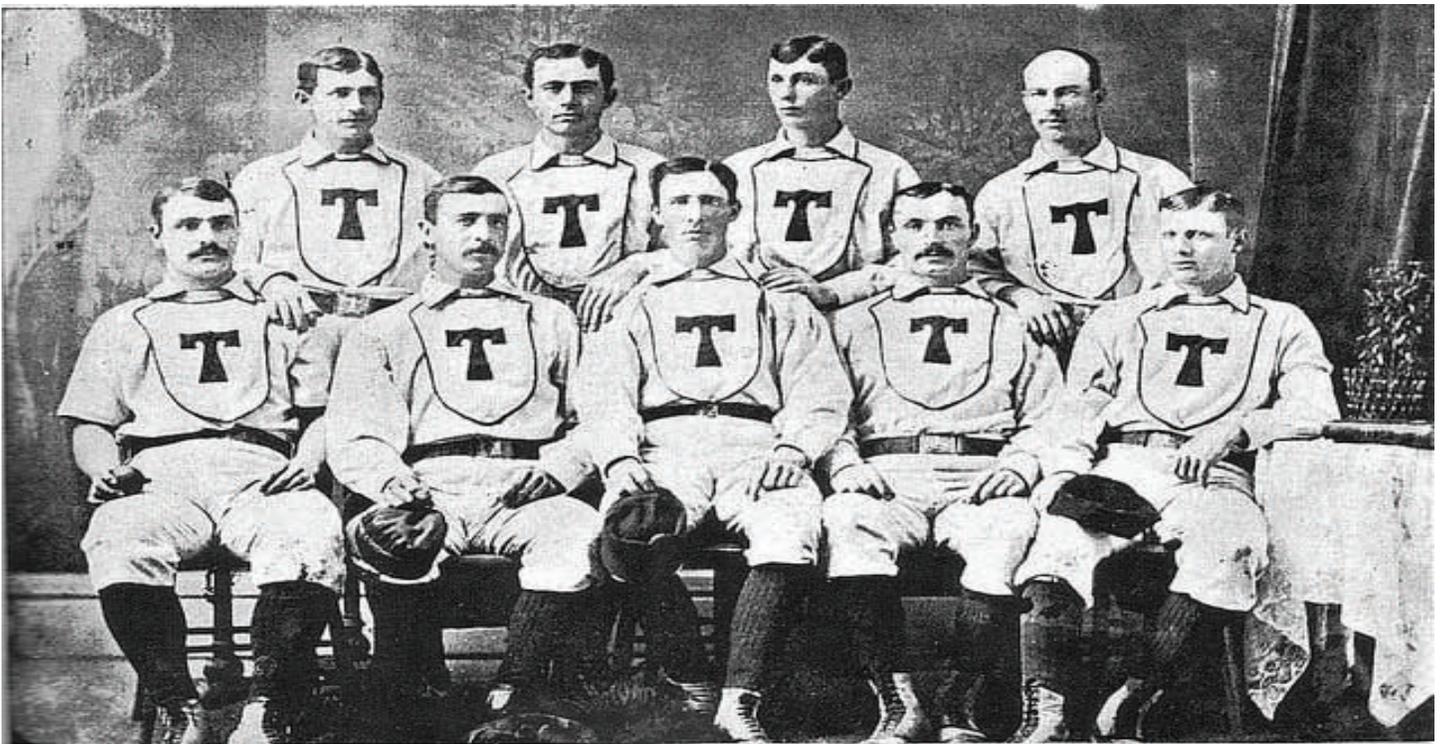
A few months ago, (no wait, it was over a year ago, those synapses are not firing as they use to), our good friend and Committee Co-founder John Thorn sent along a copy of a High School Yearbook interview with former Chicago pitcher Fred

land County and met with the 82-year-old Goldsmith. I am not sure why this rated inclusion in a yearbook but nevertheless it did.

Here is the result of the interview, who's subtitle labels Goldsmith "Discoverer of the Curve Ball."

the baseball game, a ball game as it is played today; but his fame was too far-reaching to permit him his much desired peace. The ball game became a secondary matter as news reporters proceeded to get their stories.

This is the picture that came to our minds as we sat in a typical



WINNERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL TROPHY, 1877.

J. KNOWDELL. J. HORNUNG. W. SPENCE. E. SOMERVILLE.
F. GOLDSMITH. R. SOUTHAM. PHIL. POWERS. M. DINNEN. HERMAN DOESCHER.

Goldsmith. Goldsmith is co-claimant (along with Candy Cummings) as the inventor of the curve ball.

In 1938, not long before Goldsmith's death in 1939, a pair of enterprising high schoolers from Birmingham, Michigan made their way to the outer reaches of Oak-

As the last curve broke across the plate to retire the batter and end the baseball game, a very different scene was taking place in another section of the ball park. Fred Goldsmith, the inventor of the curve ball was being besieged by reporters and photographers. He had come to see

little Michigan farmhouse situated about fifty miles north of American's greatest baseball city. There we found eighty-two-year-old Fred "Goldie" Goldsmith, coiner of that famous saying, "He's a sucker for a curve ball."

He greeted us warmly; and as

(Continued on page 6)

A Chat with Fred Goldsmith (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

soon as our mission was made known, a battered traveling case packed with clippings, pictures, and souvenirs was spread before us. Everything we looked at had a story which our host eagerly related.

Fred Goldsmith was born in New Haven, Connecticut, during the 1850's. Throughout his youth, he was constantly using his playmates as backstops for his pitching efforts. When only eleven, he made the unusual discovery which later brought him fame and fortune. By holding the ball in a certain position and snapping the wrist in a peculiar manner, he managed to make the ball go in a curved path.

This defied all the existing laws of science and soon aroused the interest of Henry Chadwick, president of the National League and greatest baseball editor of all time. Chadwick invited fifteen-year-old Freddie to come to New York and prove his claim. So before a crowd of 14,000 curious fans, he gave the first exhibition of his wonderful discovery which was to revolutionize baseball.

Upon his return home, the owner of the Tecumseh Club in London, Ontario, offered him a job at 300 dollars a month. Fred's father strongly opposed baseball as a career, but with the fine salary which was offered, the chance seemed too good to miss.

So in 1876, Fred Goldsmith joined the Tecumseh Club. "During those three years in which I played with them, I pitched every game and we won

the International League Championship three years in succession. In 1878 we challenged the Chicago White Stockings, the champions of the National League to a playoff series. In that series, I pitched and won three successive games to make the Tecumseh Club the First World Champions."

"The following year saw me in a Chicago uniform under the management of Pop Anson. In



Fred Goldsmith studies an earlier team photo of himself (probable taken in the 1930s)

the three seasons when I was with them, we won two World Championships. While with that team, we played a three-game series in Indianapolis. The first game, played in the morning, was called at the end of nine innings, a scoreless tie. After fourteen innings in the afternoon, the

game was again called, another scoreless tie. The next day we won the third game by a score of 1-0, and I had allowed only one hit in the entire series."

"While pitching against Boston in 1883, my arm suddenly went dead and began shaking violently. It hung useless at my side and I had to retire from the game. I pitched for Baltimore the next year, but I wasn't much good. I completed my baseball career umpiring two years in the American Association, and I have never pitched ball since."

We wondered about the records which Mr. Goldsmith had established and how they have stood up through the intervening years.

"I hold several records which are still standing today. I have already mentioned a few, but I forgot to tell you about my long distance throwing record. While I was still with Tecumseh, the league held a distance throwing contest. I threw a baseball 131 yards, two feet, nine inches, a record which has never been duplicated."

"Did other pitchers soon pick up your delivery and use it against you?" we asked.

"Not at first. I had a monopoly for five or six years. Meantime, I had developed several other kinds of curves, including the drop."

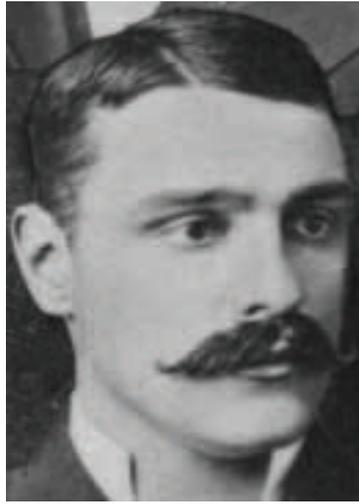
"What do you think of the game today compared with baseball when Chicago was the World Champions?" we queried, hoping not to set off a touchy subject. "Chicago in 1882 could have beaten any team which is organ-

A Chat with Fred Goldsmith (cont.)

ized today. The players were better and tougher. I have never seen a ball player who could measure up to King Kelly in his prime. In those days, the ball players had to be tough. They played without gloves, and catchers had broken and deformed hands for life. As for the game itself, there isn't much difference. From appearance and feel, the ball is very much the same. The rules have changed very little, and we played the same number of games in a season that modern teams play."

"Did you ever play any other position besides on the mound?"

"Oh, I played a little first base, but I wasn't very good at bat; so I did most of my playing as a pitcher. My lifetime average was around .300 [actually he hit .226];

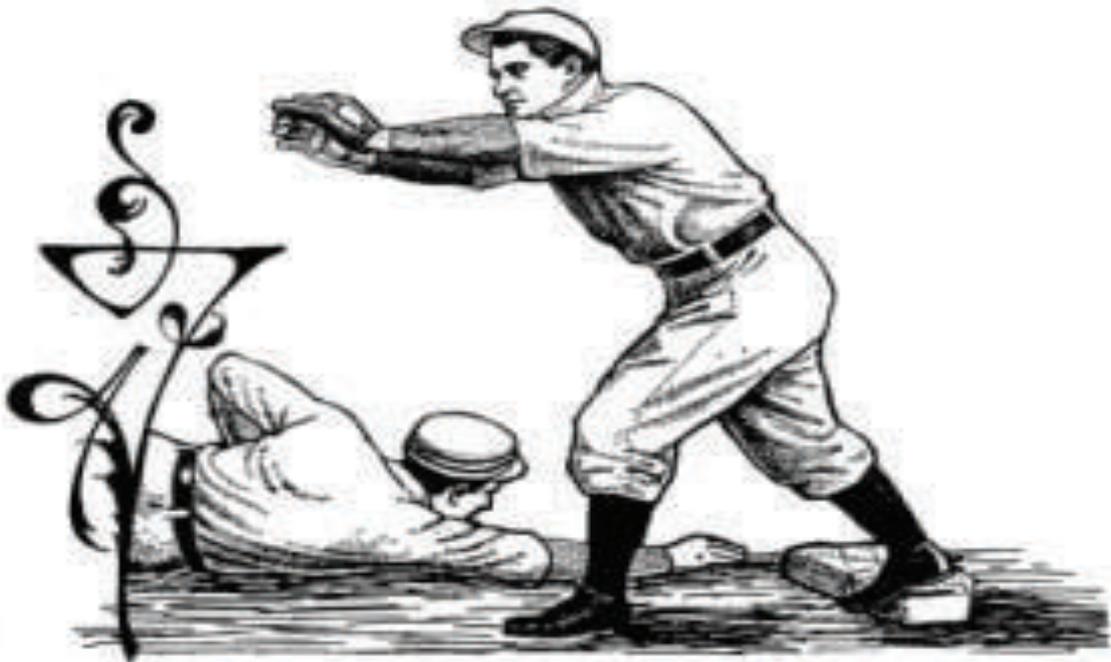


Fred Goldsmith during his playing days

pretty fair for today's game, but it was low for the 1880's. But then that isn't the only change that has taken place. In my hey-

day, I was paid only 5,000 dollars a year, a wonderful salary for an early ball player but not like today's"

As we prepared to leave, Goldsmith brought out a leather folder which he opened. Inside was a solid silver plate, given to him to honor his life of service in professional baseball. It was a life pass to any ball game in the major leagues. As we made our way to the door, our attention was drawn to the picture on the wall. They were paintings done by Mr. Goldsmith as a diversion in his later years. We could not help pausing to pay honor to such a man who had done so much to deserve a peaceful old age, the "greatest no-hit pitcher of all time."



Hunting for Stoddard of the 1875 Atlantics

by Richard Malatzky

Hunting down 19th Century ballplayers is not an easy task. Names change or players operate under assumed names; players are pulled out of the stands if lineups are short; and newspapers report incorrect names. As we said, it is not easy. Committee member Richard Malatzky has been hunting and finding these obscure and missing players for many years. He has had many successes. If you go to the SABR website and look through a sampling of the Biographical Committee Newsletters you will see many examples for his efforts. Below he provides some information on Stoddard, who played a pair of games for the Brooklyn Atlantics in 1875. No first name, no previous teams, no nothing on Mr. Stoddard. While a work-in-progress note the number and types of sources used and how, even as we get closer to an answer, there are still plenty of hurdles to overcome.

Here is Richard's report:

By the time the awful 1875 Brooklyn Atlantics got to September, they were bringing in one or two players a game with no prior known history or later history. After years of work we have found several of them,

Bill Boyd, Oliver Brown, Wash Fulmer, Hugh Gilgan, Al Martin, Horatio Munn, Al Nichols, Tom Patterson and William Rexter were all from Brooklyn, except for Fulmer, who was Philadelphian.

Looking at the other missing

players we surmise that they were most likely locals from Brooklyn.

Of the missing players left, Stoddard (no first name) is the only name that appears with a local team in the *New York Clipper* or other local papers. Just the fact that his two games are separated by two weeks indicates that he was not traveling in from Buffalo.

The January 19, 1875 *Brooklyn Eagle* has an article about the Tuttle and Bailey ball team. (Tuttle & Bailey was a warm air register manufacturer on North Tenth Street in Brooklyn. The company still exists today and is located in Richardson, Texas). Charles Stoddard "attended the game along with Miss McGrath."

I searched the Brooklyn City Directories and the census and the only Charles Stoddard who fits is one who is not married by January 1875 as he would be taking his wife to a ball, not an unmarried female.

I eliminated every one except Charles F Stoddard. He was a printer and lived with his mother Sarah. She was listed in the Brooklyn census CDs as Sarah Stoddard widow Captain Charles Stoddard.

In the 1870 census in Brooklyn, lists Sarah Stoddard, age 33, born in England and Charles F. Stoddard, age 15, born in Canada

The 1875 New York State census lists Sarah, age 38, born in England and Charles, age 20,

born in Nova Scotia.

By the 1880 U.S. Census Sarah is now 43 and Charles F is 25.

In 1883 Charles married Minnie H Webb and she died in 1895.

In 1900 Charles and his mother and 6 children were living in Chester NY and his birth date is given as February 1856.

Putting together what we know about this individual we get:

Charles Frederick Stoddard, born February 1855 on Prince Edward Island, possibly there due to a shipwreck. He died January 1, 1936. (Some of this data comes from a Family Tree published on Ancestry.com).

In 1904 Charles married 15-year-old Rose Becchio. They are listed in the 1910 U.S. Census living in Ridgewood, NJ.

In 1920 they are in an apartment in Ridgewood, both listed as married. In 1930 they are together in Brooklyn. In 1940 Rose is a widow living with her mother.

I found the listing in NYC deaths Charles Stoddard, age 81, dying in Brooklyn on January 1, 1936.

We have plenty of information but not enough to identify him as our ballplayer. There is no direct evidence that I have found from the period to tie him to a ball team but we do have a candidate and we have developed a good deal of data on him from the tiny scrap we started with.

But we don't despair or surrender. We can only continue the research following the best path that can be found

Hilton Head Swung for the Fences with 1862 Ball Game by Laura Nahmias (from *The Island Packet*)

Committee member Tom Perry sent us a note about an article he saw in the Columbia (SC) *State* about a baseball game played during the Civil War at Hilton Head Island. We found the original which was published in the May 21, 2010 edition of *The Island Packet*. Below is the tale told by Laura Nahmias.

The score of what might have been one of the largest sporting events of the 19th century -- and played on Hilton Head Island -- is still a mystery.

The Hilton Head Baseball Championship took place Christmas Day 1862, with about 10,000 Union soldiers and Confederate prisoners watching, according to regimental records at the New York State Military Museum.

The number of spectators for the game made it one of the largest sporting events in the 19th century, according to George Kirsch, baseball historian and history professor at Manhattan College in New York.

The little-known event, which has slipped into obscurity, recently caught the attention of Hilton Head Heritage Library president Robert Smith, who mentioned it in a lecture this week on the island's Civil War history.

As the 150th anniversary of the war nears in 2011, the library has been pinpointing Hilton Head's role in preparation for history buffs who might travel to the area. Information about the game, be-

yond the fun it entailed, is scarce, Smith said.

One team consisted of nine men of the 165th New York Volunteer Infantry, who had arrived on the island a week earlier, records show.

Their opponents were members of the 47th and 48th New York Infantry Regiments.

The game gets a two-sentence mention in the official war records of the 165th:

"Christmas Day: The men had quite a time playing a game of ball with other troops here. Sgt. A.G. Mills and George E. Cogswell of Co. B played in this game, which was witnessed by 10,000 soldiers."

Mills later became the fourth commissioner of the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs, according to National Baseball Hall of Fame archivists in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In letters home from the Civil War, Mills wrote that he often carried his bat and ball with him, along with his field equipment.

The game also popped up in the Christmas Day report of *The New South*, one of Hilton Head's two newspapers at the time.

After a demonstration of fire engines and a large meal, "there were absurd and laughable sports among the men, and a ball match between the 'Van Brunt' and 'Frazer' base ball clubs, which resulted in a victory for the latter," according to *The New South's* report.

"The specifics of the bout are

sort of shrouded in mystery," Kirsch said.

But historians can reconstruct what the game might have looked like.

The day dawned "as warm and sunny as a June day at the North," *The New South* reported.

The 165th players wore a distinctive uniform -- red balloon pants, ornamental cloth jackets, white spats, and fezzes with blue tassels, according to the New York State Military Museum.

Civil War records show that the 47th and 48th wore blue. Soldiers would have been familiar with baseball, which had become popular in New York in the two decades before the war, Kirsch said. Regional versions already were being played throughout the states, he added.

The Civil War was pivotal in spreading America's favorite pastime, according to military and baseball historians.

Hilton Head, previously home to wealthy planters and their slaves, was captured early in the war from Confederates and declared the headquarters of the Union's Department of the South. By 1864, there were nearly 55,000 soldiers, civilians and freed slaves camped on the island, Smith said.

In 1861, Union soldiers built a large military complex on the island's heel near what is now Port Royal Plantation. The installation had three forts, houses, a railroad line, a main street called "Robbers' Row," one hotel and a department store, wrote historian Robert

Hilton Head Swung for the Fences with 1862 Ball Game (cont.)

Carse in "Department of the South: Hilton Head Island in the Civil War."

By 1865, the leisurely life on Hilton Head was over for Union

soldiers. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman asked the troops there to be ready to support his march to Savannah, Carse wrote.

"There would be no more baseball on the beaches, or horseback riding beneath the spreading live oaks," Smith said.

An Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends

Project Update

by Joe Williams

A little over four years ago, our chairman, Peter Mancuso asked me to take on the leadership role in overseeing the Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends Project. It was a no brainer for me to accept since I have been a fan of the National Baseball Hall of Fame since my first visit there in the late 1970s when I was around ten years of age. During college, I started going to the annual induction ceremony and have not missed one since I watched the 1986 ceremony on ESPN.

One way I started to learn the history of the game was through the Hall of Famer roster. As I learned more about the game, I noticed certain names were not on this roster and started to compile lists of potential candidates. My interest in the 19th Century game came to the forefront with the publication of William J. Ryczek's *Blackguards and Red Stockings* in 1992. I was hooked!

With the establishment of this project, I had the pleasure of getting to know Charles Faber and Bob Gregory. The three of us spent many hours creating the

process we have followed the past four years. Charles and Bob butted heads often and I played the mediator. It was a blast! The three of us developed tremendous respect for each other during the process. Ralph Peluso joined in the fun the following year.

The last four years we have honored four gentlemen as Overlooked Legends: Pete Browning, Deacon White, Harry Stovey and Bill Dahlen. These players of a long-ago time are all outstanding choices and Cooperstown's shrine would be a better place if they were on the roster of greats.

The process we developed has worked well. However, we have decided to change it up a bit. We want the rest of the 19th Century Committee to have a say in our ten candidates. Let's mix it up! We have decided to present a list of 25 candidates to the entire 19th Century Committee to pare it down to our final ten. The Overlooked Legend will come from that final ten and announced at our committee business meeting at the annual convention each year. The list of 25 will mostly come from the

write-ins that voting members submitted in the prior election.

To make it even more interesting, we will present the ten candidates to the entire SABR community for election of the Overlooked Legend. To ensure a good mix of candidates each year, we will increase the write-ins on the ballot to five. The write-ins give us a pool of players that SABR members feel are most deserving of consideration. The ones with the most votes will be considered for the Overlook Legends ballot of 25.

The Overlooked Legends Committee hopes this new process will keep our faithful participants interested and bring new SABR members into the process. I ask the entire 19th Century Committee to support these changes.

Keep your fingers crossed for the results of the Hall of Fame's Pre-Integration Era Committee. Perhaps, one of our previously Overlooked Legends will get their name on the roster I have been looking over for the past 34 years.

Committee News & Notes

David Nemeč has done it yet again, following on the heels of his two volume work, *Major League Baseball Profiles* (see the last issue of this newsletter) he has just had published, *The Rank and file of 19th Century Major League Baseball: Biographies of 1,084 Players, Owners, Managers and Umpires*. John Thorn contributed the book's foreword and Nemeč most deservedly dedicated to book to our late committee colleague, David Ball. In combination with his two volume MLB Profiles, he has covered all the bases.

Bob Mayer, who is a regular participant at our Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference in Cooperstown and quite the expert on the baseball history of New York's Hudson Valley put together quite the "Old Timers Baseball Celebration" back in July at Peekskill, New York. There on the banks of the Hudson River he organized and assembled a three day event that featured guest speakers Jim Bouton and Marty Appel among others and veterans players and one bat boy from the old Colonial League that played throughout the region in the 1940s. Mayer, a Nineteenth Century Committee member did an incredible job juggling all aspects of the three day event. This Committee Chairman attended the final day of the Celebration, (a well played game between two teams from the area's wooden bat league) with 90 year old former LHP Carmine DeRenzio from Staten Island who played for Peekskill in 1947. We

had a blast thanks to Bob's incredible and successful effort. **Ed Achorn**, our fellow Nineteenth Century Committee Member who brought us his award winning book on the life of Hoss Radbourn and his incredible 1884 season of 59 wins is now working on another biography of one of 19th-century baseball's most colorful characters, Chris Von der Ahe. Achorn, a Pulitzer Prize finalist in Distinguished Commentary is sure to breathe life in the old 19th-century German immigrant beer baron who gave birth to the team that we know today as the St. Louis Cardinals. Stand by for what is sure to be a great read.

Mickey "The Lip" Tangel



Jim Creighton Grave Site at Green-Wood Cemetery

sends us news of a celebration Sesquicentennial Celebration for Jim Creighton. The event will be on October 18, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Creighton's grave site at

Green-Wood Cemetery, 500 25th Street, Brooklyn, NY. After parking vehicles attendees will be shuttled to the grave site for welcoming remarks by Jeff Richman, Erick Miklich and Mickey Tangel. Following the placement of a wreath and the recitation of an original Creighton poem by Robert L. Harrison the trolley will take attendees to the Green-Wood Chapel for two presentations on Creighton and a demonstration of Creighton's pitching style. The event will close with a hands-on "show and tell" of baseball artifacts by umpire Ed Elmore and player Bob Johnson.

Rich Blevins writes: "I'm at work on a biography of Cleveland Spider shortstop Ed McKean. Elmer Bates talks about a book of poems Ed wrote, probably in 1893, and published with an eastern firm. It may have been called "Some Grounders that I Have Stopped." So far, no one I've contacted has ever heard of the book, and all my own searches have failed to turn it up. Bates claims it was a fast seller in Cleveland in the fall of 1893. Hmm. Help! Contact Rich at rblevins@pitt.edu.

Searching for the genealogy of a lost player, or of a lost family member? **John Thorn** passes on the link below to a source to help identify genealogy books. Happy Hunting.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2012/07/genealogy-book-links.html

