

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

SUMMER 2012

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

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The Annual Nineteenth Century Committee Meeting, which is normally the topic for the fall edition, appears now due to the early dates of SABR 42 in Minneapolis making it possible to give my report a full three

seventeen, he had the opportunity to play ball for a co-educational boarding school, the Clinton Liberal Institute. He spent three years at the



school, serving as a pitcher and a part-time second base-

man before joining, in 1889, the semi-pro ball club of Cobleskill, New York. In 1890, Cobleskill joined the New York State League with Dahlen as their star second baseman.

The team folded late in the season so Dahlen joined the Albany team to finish out the year. The young ballplayer hit .343, second in the league, while leading the league with 137 hits and 18 triples.

Dahlen's time in the minors didn't last long.

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months sooner than usual.

Saturday, June 30, 2012, 2: PM – 3: PM: Thirty-five SABR members attended the meeting, almost all members of our committee. The meeting commenced with my initial welcoming remarks and introductions

by all in attendance: including 2012 Bob Davids Award winner, **Jan Finkle**, Henry Chadwick Award winner **Tom Heitz** and this year's McFarland Publishing Award winners **Tom Altherr and Bill Lamb**.

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Bill Dahlen—Overlooked Legend (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Before the 1891 season, he was recommended to Cap Anson of the National League's Chicago franchise who immediately scooped him up. With Chicago, Dahlen established himself as one of the best players in the game where he enjoyed his finest offensive seasons while also earning his nickname "Bad Bill". Dahlen quickly made a positive impression on the Chicago fans with his offensive prowess, outstanding fielding and scientific base running. His most outstanding season was 1894 when he batted .359 with an on-base percentage of .455 and a slugging percentage of .566, all career highs. He also had career highs in runs scored (150), hits (182), homers (15) and RBI (108) while also hitting 14 triples and stealing 43 bases. The highlight of his season was a major league record 42-game hitting streak from June 20 through August 6, followed immediately by a new 28-game hitting streak, thus getting a hit in 70 of 71 games.

The 42-game streak would be broken by Willie Keeler in 1897, but still ranks fourth all-time. The 1895 campaign was his first season playing primarily at shortstop. In his prior seasons, he had split time at third base, shortstop, second base and the outfield positions. When he finished his playing career, he was the all-time leader in games played at shortstop with 2,133, currently ranked eleventh. He also was the career leader at shortstop in putouts with 4,856 (currently second) and assists with 7,505 (currently fourth).

He was also the first player with 8,000 career assists at all positions with 8,138 (currently fourth).

Dahlen's time with Chicago ended on January 25, 1899 when he was traded to the Baltimore Orioles for Gene DeMontreville. He would never play for Baltimore due to the syndicated ownership with the Brooklyn franchise, the team he would play for over the next five seasons. With Brooklyn, Dahlen, the defensive standout, was still a good-hitting shortstop, twice finishing in the



"Bad Bill" Dahlen

top ten in RBI. In his first two seasons with Brooklyn in 1899 and 1900, the team won the National League championship while winning 183 and losing just 101 games. After the 1903 season, John McGraw of the New York Giants traded for the veteran, calling it the "most successful deal I ever made".

McGraw now had both the great defensive shortstop he wanted to sure-up his infield de-

fense and an offensive shortstop that could drive in runs. Dahlen was the 1904 National League RBI champ. The Giants went on to win the NL championships in both 1904 and 1905. The Giants won an incredible 211 games and lost just 95 in those two seasons for a .690 winning percentage. In the 1905 World Series, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Athletics in five games.

Although Dahlen didn't get a hit in the series, he played flawless defense with ten putouts, 19 assists and three double plays. After the 1907 season, New York traded Dahlen to the NL's Boston franchise. The fiery Dahlen was approaching the end of his playing career. He played with Boston in 1908 and 1909. In 1910, he became Brooklyn's manager which lasted through the 1913 season. He played in three games in 1910 and one game in 1911.

Despite not being a favorite of teammates, the opposition and umpires, Bad Bill played for parts of twenty-one major league seasons. His career offensive numbers include 1,590 runs, 2,461 hits, 413 doubles, 163 triples, 84 home runs, 1,234 RBI, 548 stolen bases and 140 hit by pitches. His 84 homers do not seem like a lot but five times he finished in the top seven in home runs and when he retired, only Herman Long had more homers as a shortstop. His 2,444 games played at the time of his retirement was a major league record if you don't consider the National Association a major league and Cap Anson's 247 NA games played.

Bill Dahlen— Overlooked Legend (cont.)

After his playing and managing days, Dahlen walked off into obscurity. The man who was ejected from over sixty major league games worked less glamorous and odd jobs throughout his life. He ran a gas station, worked on the docks, scouted, managed a semi-pro team, ushered at Yankee Stadium, took tickets at Ebbets Field, guarded the Polo Grounds as a night watchman and was a night clerk at Brooklyn's main post office. Dahlen died on December 5, 1950 at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. He is buried in Brooklyn's Evergreen Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Bill Dahlen was born not far from what is now the home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. His journey should not end with

an unmarked grave in Brooklyn. It would be fitting to see him enshrined next year as a selection of the Pre-Integration Era Committee of the Hall of Fame, 100 years after his last season of on-field activity. With induction on July 28, 2013, it would be appropriate to finally get his grave marked with "Hall of Famer" on it.

Visit the following website for more information on the career of Bill Dahlen:

[Bill Dahlen Player Page, Baseball-reference.com, <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/d/dahlebi01.shtml>](http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/d/dahlebi01.shtml)

Main source and recommended reading:

Spatz, Lyle. Bad Bill Dahlen: The Rollicking Life and Times of an Early Baseball Star. North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2004.

Here are the point totals for the 2012 Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend:

Bill Dahlen	267 points
Ross Barnes	218 points
Tony Mullane	194 points
Doc Adams	178 points
Jim Creighton	177 points
Bob Caruthers	165 points
Jack Glasscock	123 points
Paul Hines	121 points
Joe Start	117 points
Bobby Mathews	110 points

Committee News and Notes

"Base Ball 1850-1870: The Clubs and Players Who Spread the Sport Nationwide" (for which Morris wrote 80% of the essays) was released by McFarland Publishing this past April.

Below is a note from Cliff Blau, Moderator of 19cBB mentioned in Peter Mancuso's Chairman's Corner. Cliff is also looking for a co-Moderator. Contact Cliff at brak2.0@dsxextreme.com.

19cBB is the online discussion group of SABR's 19th Century Committee (it is used by the Origins Committee as well). Any SABR member can join, and it is easy. If you don't already have a

Yahoo! ID, then you will have to register at <http://groups.yahoo.com>.



It's free; you just give them an e-mail address and some limited personal information (which you can make up. This will also give you a Yahoo! e-mail address.) Once you have completed the registration process, you will get an e-mail confirmation. Follow the instructions in it, and you are done.

Once you have a Yahoo! ID, just go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>, put 19cBB in the search box, click on it, and then click on Join This Group. You will be asked to say why you want to join the group. Since I have to approve membership, it will be helpful if you

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Chairman's Corner (cont.)

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Overlooked 19th Century Base-

ball Legends: One of the four charter members of this project committee, **Bob Gregory** was on hand to make the first public announcement of the 2012 Overlooked Legend and to offer some insights into this and past years' selection process. This year's selection, Bill Dahlen is profiled along with election results in this issue of the newsletter

On an interesting note, **Lyle Spatz**, who was in attendance and who wrote the biography, "Bad Bill Dahlen, stated that the current generation of Dahlen's descendants pronounce the name as, DAY-len. This is, I believe, not generally known.

Chairman's Award: For 2012 I named two Chairman's Award winners, there was truly no recognizing one and not the other, both did yeoman work:

Bill Felber was recognized for his role as Editor-in-Chief of, "Inventing Baseball: The 100 Greatest Games of the Nineteenth Century" a work by over forty of our committee members which has been completely written and edited and is on its way into the hands of SABR's Publication Director, **Cecilia Tan** who will complete the process of getting the book ready for publication (e-book and Print-on-Demand) after committee member, **Skip McAfee** applies his indexing skills.

Peter Morris was recognized for initiating the **Pioneer Project** which four years later has resulted in a ground breaking two volume

work of the long forgotten history of pre-professional baseball. The first volume, "Base Ball 1850-1870: The Clubs and Players Who Spread the Sport Nationwide" (for which Morris wrote 80% of the essays) was released by McFarland Publishing this past April. The second volume has been turned over to the same publisher for release in the months ahead. Collectively, these two works were a massive undertaking of painstaking and



tedious research combined with skillful writing and editing that eventually required the combined efforts of four extremely talented Co-Editors: **Bill Ryczek, Jan Finkle, Len Levin** and **Richard Malatzky** to complete, but it was Morris who gave his vision and exhausting efforts to propel the project.

Vice-Chairman's Report:

In his usual unassuming way, Committee Vice-Chairman, **Bob Bailey**, made his usual appeal

for article submissions for this quarterly newsletter. I pointed out to all present, and restate it here, Bob has faithfully, effectively and without exception completed (with the publication with this issue which you are now reading) a full five years' of quarterly editions of "Nineteenth Century Notes". I wish to take this opportunity to thank him not just for this obvious service as editor of our newsletter but for the wise counsel he has provided me these past five years. There has not been a single program or project in all that time that Bob has not played an integral role in planning, designing and championing.

Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference:

I made the first public announcement of the dates of **April 19 & 20, 2013** for the next Frederick-Ivor Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, please, mark your calendars. I felt delighted to announce the dates for the 5th annual conference to be held at the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum in Cooperstown, New York in the presence of **Alma Ivor-Campbell**, the widow of the extraordinary man for whom the conference is named. Alma Ivor-Campbell was attending SABR 42 to not just enjoy the conference program but to also serve as a family representative (she is admittedly a distant relative) of the late F.C. Lane, the former long time publisher of "Baseball Magazine" who was posthumously named a recipient of SABR's Henry Chadwick Award.

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Chairman's Corner (cont.)

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19cBB@yahoogroups: The on-line chat group used by many members of this committee was a scheduled topic for discussion for two reasons. The first reason was because **John Thorn**, who has an invaluable eye out for this committee's success noticed a significant drop-off in postings on this once highly trafficked on line group site, which in turn led me to a discussion with **Cliff Blau**, our on-line site's co-moderator. I asked Cliff if he would dedicate a few words in this newsletter on how to sign-up for free access and use of the site, which he kindly agreed to do (see his contribution in this issue). He, in turn asked if I would solicit our membership for a new co-moderator (Cliff's previous other-half in this position is no longer a member of SABR and has not performed the co-moderator function in quite some time). This was the second reason it was on the meeting agenda. I did get one volunteer at our meeting and Cliff will be contacting him to answer his questions. Cliff describes the duties as amounting to about 15 minutes per week, so if anyone is interested, please, contact me directly and I will have Cliff Blau contact you. Also, 19cBB@yahoogroups.com is a very powerful and effective way to share your research, learn from the research of others and ask questions. It is user friendly and the people who use it are among the most friendly and knowledgeable in SABR and beyond.

"The 19th Century Baseball: Cities Symposia Series" (a working title): This was effectively the final topic of discussion at our meeting. Briefly, it is an idea in a very initial concept stage. Its' goals (in question format) are primarily two-fold: How to provide more of our membership an opportunity to participate in a 19th century baseball symposium closer to their homes? How to structure such



symposia in a way that will enrich our understanding of 19th century baseball history in specific locales through a better understanding of those locales larger history while affording general historians in those locations a greater understanding of their baseball history.

The preliminary vision is mixing local and national historians of 19th century baseball (our committee members) with local historians, academics and curators (of specific locales)

with expertise in a wide variety of disciplines to create a cross exchange of knowledge beneficial to both groups' understanding of how local historical environments affected baseball and how baseball affected those 19th-century locales.

I will be mustering a small concept committee dedicated to developing a template of what such a symposium would look like: topics for discussion, types of (outside of baseball) participants, size and duration of a typical symposium. Anyone wishing to contribute their thoughts to these primary focus issues (topics, participants, size and duration) is encouraged to contact me directly.

These symposia, if they come to fruition, would not start prior to the autumn of 2014 and would not replace the Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference which will remain at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown for the foreseeable future.

My preliminary planned progression would be to gradually enlarge and make more vivid the template of a model symposium while continuing to both share that emerging model with all our members while soliciting your ideas and input at each stage of development. There will be more to come in our fall newsletter.

Best Regards,

Peter Mancuso

Whatever Happened to the NAPBBP?

by Brock Helander

On February 2, 1876, the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs was formed at the Grand Central Hotel in New York City. Six of the clubs---Mutuals of New York, Athletics of Philadelphia, Browns of St. Louis, Chicago, Boston and Hartford---had been members of the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players (NAPBBP) the previous season. The other two were strong independent clubs from the West---Cincinnati and Louisville.

NAPBBP clubs excluded from the National League were the Philadelphias (sometimes called the Pearls, Whites or White Stockings) and Centennials of Philadelphia, New Haven, the Atlantics of Brooklyn, Washington, Red Stockings of St. Louis, and Westerns of Keokuk, Iowa. During the 1875 season, the Centennials, Atlantics and New Haven failed to tour the West, while the Westerns and St. Louis Reds did not tour the East. In September, *The Brooklyn Eagle* provided a table showing the record of the professional clubs that "throws out the games of the New Haven, Atlantic, Red Stockings, Washington, Western and Centennial nines." Later *The New York Times* reported: "The Centennials disbanded May 25, the Westerns June 16, the Washingtons July 5, and the Atlantics September 15."

The case of the Centennials marked a milestone in the history of professional baseball, inasmuch as the team disbanded after officials of the Athletics paid \$1,500 of the Centennials' debt to secure second baseman Bill Craver and

outfielder-pitcher George Bechtel, making it the first player sale.

The seven clubs had been outmaneuvered by the mastermind of the National League, Chicago President William H. Hulbert, whose secret meeting occurred one month before the scheduled March 1 meeting of the NAPBBP. Not only were the seven NAPBBP clubs excluded from membership but also dozens of independent professional and semi-professional clubs across the country. How was this accomplished? The National League Constitution included the following provisions: that only stock companies (as opposed by co-operative clubs) be admitted, thus eliminating the Atlantics; that no club be admitted from a city that had less than 75,000 inhabitants (neither Hartford nor New Haven met the criteria, necessitating a unanimous vote for admission); and that no two clubs be admitted from the same city, thus eliminating the Philadelphias, the Centennials and the St. Louis Reds.

Even before the NAPBBP meeting, Lewis Meacham, Hulbert's mouthpiece on *The Chicago Tribune*, and Henry Chadwick, of *The New York Clipper* and *The Brooklyn Eagle*, began engaging in a war of words. Referring to the membership of the Judiciary Committee of the NAPBBP that awarded Davy Force to the Athletics rather than Chicago, the *Tribune* observed that it was "made up of Hayhurst, of the dead Centenni-

als; Van Delft, of the disreputable Atlantics; Spering, of the Athletics; Concannon, of the Philadelphias; and Bishop, of the St. Louis, the latter being the only man in the party who would be likely to be selected as arbitrator in a law suit." The next day's edition of the *Eagle* remarked that "[i]t is very well known that what is mildly termed 'irregularities of play,' were indulged in by a minority of the players of the Philadelphia, Mutual, Atlantic and Chicago clubs." After noting that Hartford had 13,000 less inhabitants than New Haven and that another club included "a very 'marked' man," the article stated that "[t]hese glaring inconsistencies (especially that of ruling out the Philadelphia and letting in the same old Mutual team) plainly point to some other object in view as the real cause of the revolutionary movement than the ostensible one of reform." The next day, under the banner THE WESTERN COUP D'ETAT AND ITS RESULTS, the *Eagle* stated: "In fact, the League appears to be based on the policy of a monopoly of professional ball playing, and as such is opposed to the representative and democratic principles of the National Association." The following day's edition of the *Tribune* duly noted the objections of three New Haven newspapers, the *Union*, *Register* and *Palladium*.

The New York Times subsequently reported that the New Haven Base-Ball Club had requested admission to the National League, noting that "the present club con-

Whatever Happened to the NAPBBP? (cont.)

tains only two of the original players of the nine of 1875, and none of their present officers or Directors (with one exception) were interested its management.” The next day, *The St. Louis Globe-Democrat* published two items of interest: (1) an article from *The Philadelphia Sunday Item* questioning Philadelphia’s exclusion and (2) a letter dated February 8 and signed by New Haven manager T. B. Jewett, objecting to its exclusion, with the club director’s letter requesting admission to the League appended. The *Tribune* noted: “The Secretary of the New Haven Club was in the city last week and had a conference with the President of the Chicagos, to whom he applied all the arguments known in favor of allowing his club admission into the League.” By then the eight clubs that formed the National League had withdrawn for the National Association. In March the *Eagle* reported that St. Louis and Chicago had blocked the admission of New Haven, while in April the *Clipper* stated it was Cincinnati, rather than St. Louis.

Under the banner THE COMING CONVENTION---A CALL FROM THE PHILADELPHIA CLUB, the *Eagle* noted: “The Philadelphia Club at a meeting last week...drew up a protest in which it was declared the National League had adopted certain laws for no other purpose than to exalt the Athletic by the humiliation of the Philadelphia. The club will send a copy of the protest to the League.... They also adopted a resolution inviting the co-

operation of all the organized base ball clubs of the country ...to be held in New Haven on March 1st....” The *Clipper* provided a transcript of the protest and details of the February 10 meeting and noted that a letter from Mr. Jewett was read, stating, in part: “We are, as yet, undecided as to what course to pursue in the future.” On February 26, the New Haven Base Ball Club withdrew from the National Association.

On the day of the meeting, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*’s list of teams to be represented included Washington of Washington, the Stars of Covington, Kentucky; the Experts of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and the Camdens of Camden, New Jersey. Three days later it reported that Camden had been represented by a Mr. Bellisle.

Despite New Haven’s withdrawal, the March 1 meeting took place as scheduled. The amateur Stars of New Haven were among those represented. *The Hartford Courant* stated that “the only professionals represented were the Philadelphias, Centennials, Atlantics and Red Sox. Six amateurs were represented.” Other than the Stars, the clubs and their representatives were: Baltimore, H. Kennard; Atlantics, James McColgan, of the Philadelphia club; Philadelphias, George Concannon; Centennials, T. J. Lindsey; Kleinz of Philadelphia, M. C. Lyons; Actives of Reading, Pennsylvania, J. A. King; Neshannock of New Castle, Pennsylvania, A. W.

Culbutson; and Quickstep of Wilmington, Delaware, A. Hindle. Referring to the NAPBBP as “Chadwick’s Association,” the *Tribune* reported: “Of these, Concannon, Lindsey, Lyons and McColgan were really delegates from the Philadelphias. Mr. Hindle was made President and Mr. Lindsey Secretary of the Association.... (T)here seemed nothing but a Philadelphia and Pennsylvania interest in the concern....” After appointing a committee on rules, the convention adjourned, to meet April 3 in Philadelphia.

The *Clipper* stated that Secretary Lindsey, on March 9, issued a call to the semi-professional clubs of the country requesting they send delegates to the April 3 meeting. Under the banner THE NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION, the *Eagle* published a report of the meeting.

Carryover representatives were Concannon of the Philadelphias, Lindsey of the Centennials, Lyons of the Kleinz, and Hindle of the Quicksteps. By proxy, the Atlantics were represented by James McColgan and the St. Louis Reds by Charles Tisdall, secretary of the Philadelphia club. Baltimore did not send a delegate. The new representatives were W. Jacoby of the Campbells of Philadelphia, H. Garland of the Brooklyns of Brooklyn, Lemuel Buch of the Actives of Reading, J. Morris of Neshannock, and W. Culbertson (much like Neshannock’s A. W. Culbutson) of the Allegheny City of Pittsburg. Officers were elected, including Alfred Hindle

Whatever Happened to the NAPBBP? (cont.)

as President, rules adopted, and Judiciary and Championship committees formed. "The championship season was fixed to begin on the 15th day of April and close on the 1st of November, while the number of games each club is required to play has been reduced from ten to seven, four instead of five constituting the requisite number to count in the series. It was agreed that the price of admission be twenty-five cents. On adjourning, it was agreed to hold next year's meeting in Reading, Pa." The entrance fee for the pennant matches was set at \$10 and the Reading meeting would take place on March 1, 1877.

POSTSCRIPT

No evidence exists that the National Professional Association ever played an official game. *The Chicago Tribune* noted derisively that "the Professional Association...opened the season of 1876 so vigorously---on paper---but never played a game."

The New Haven club disbanded in late August \$7,000 in debt, yet the team played a few more games on the co-operative basis. During the season, New Haven played at least 33 games against National League clubs, tying one and winning thirteen, including three defeats of Hartford. In September a New Haven baseball stock association was formed in order to organize a professional team for 1877.

The Atlantic of Brooklyn did not field a team in 1876 and was

superseded by the National League Hartford of Brooklyn in 1877.

The St. Louis Reds played ninety-one games during the season, winning sixty-seven, losing twenty-three, with one tie.

Of the Philadelphia clubs, the Philadelphias disbanded in July, following a Western tour and the resignation of manager H. H. Diddlebock. The semi-professional Centennials played at least into August, while the amateur clubs, Kleinz and Campbell, played at least through July and August, respectively.

The Allegheny, in its first season as a semi-professional team, contested sixty-nine games, playing at least into September, later joining the International Association in February 1877.

The Active of Reading won thirty-five games and lost twenty-one during the season, playing at least through August.

The Neshannock of New Castle played thirty-seven games, winning twenty-seven and disbanding in the latter part of August.

The Quickstep of Wilmington, in its first season of a paid nine club, played fifty-five games, disbanding on September 28.

Despite the failure of the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players, efforts to form regional leagues occurred during 1876. In March Secretary Jimmy Williams of the Buckeyes of Columbus, Ohio,

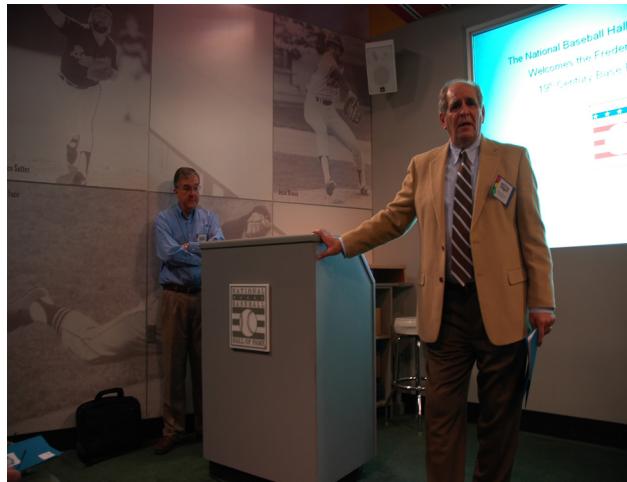
proposed the formation of a Western Association by clubs in Ohio, Kentucky, Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The Massachusetts Base Ball Association formed in March and the New England and Canadian Base Ball Associations formed in April.

In late September L. C. Waite, Secretary of the St. Louis Red Stockings, issued a call to non-League clubs that ultimately led to the formation in February 1877 of the International Association of Base Ball Players, a worthy rival to the monopoly of the National League.

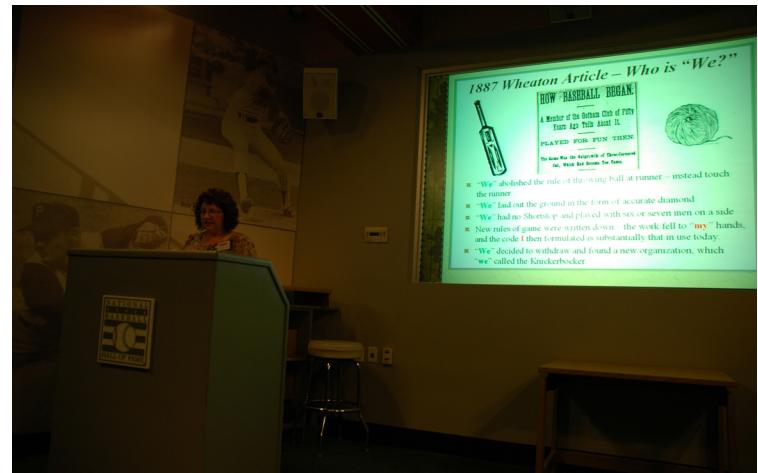
Special thanks to Bob Tholkes for providing readable copies of some of the articles from *The New York Clipper*. Also thanks to John Thorn, Richard Hershberger, Paul Browne, Gordon Hylton and the late David Ball for their discussion regarding the North American and European models of professional sports and the comparative nature of the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players, the International Association of Base Ball Players and the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs at SABR's Nineteenth Century Baseball Group.

Sights from the 2012 Fred Ivor-Campbell Conference

Photos Courtesy of Richard Astifan



Chairman Peter Mancuso welcomes Conference attendees and announces bathroom locations in Hall of Fame.



Monica Nucciarone during presentation on the comparison between Alexander Cartwright and William Wheaton. Wheaton was shorter.



Bill Ryczek delivers Keynote Address. Who knew he cleaned up so well.

