

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

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Society for American Baseball Research

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

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The Quest to Find Dick McBride

by Peter Morris

The main purpose of the Biographical Committee of SABR is to fill in the remaining gaps in major leaguers' vital information. But another important mission is to ensure the accuracy of the information currently listed. The need to do this was dramatically illustrated recently in the instance of 19th Century star Dick McBride. (Pictured at right.)

McBride was one of

the greatest players of the 1860s, with his pitching skill being crucial to the emergence of the Athletics of Philadelphia as the first team outside the New York City area to contend for the national championship. Yet when Richard Malatzky, one of the top contributors to SABR's Biographical research efforts, began to determine whether McBride was a Civil War veteran, he found something amazing.



While all of the standard reference sources list McBride as dying in Philadelphia on Oc-

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Chairman's Corner

By Peter Mancuso

I hope that all our members had a wonderful holiday and hot stove season, and that you have a healthy and happy 2008. Well, our survey results are back and I'm impressed with the

number and quality of responses. After eliminating a few double responses 152 of our 510 committee members took part – just a touch below a .300 batting average. The survey was designed (and

I take full responsibility if it was confounding) to establish our membership's sentiments and thoughts on several topics. I'll summarize each area of the survey in this col-

(Continued on page 7)

Question of the Day: 19th Century Obscurity

In our last newsletter we began a series that posed a question regarding 19th Century players and sought answers, opinions, feelings, or dissent. The Question was: Who is the most overlooked baseball personality of the 19th Century.

In conjunction with this our esteemed Chairman also included a like query in his questionnaire sent to committee members. The results of that survey are on page 3. There were another 17 names that received at least one vote.

As someone who has spent many years researching the Louisville team in the majors, seeing Pete Browning's name at the top of the list is more than a little bit pleasing. Browning was certainly a major star and drawing card in the American Association. One cannot read a story about Louisville during his tenure without his name appearing. A high average hitter with more than his share of colorful traits Browning has even receded from Louisville's baseball memory remembered only for his mythical link to the Louisville Slugger

bat. But now it cannot be denied; No lesser authority than the ballot box-stuffing members of the 19th Century Committee recognize his three batting titles and at least as many rehabs at French Lick.

In addition to the poll, several members dropped notes about their favorites.

The following are excerpts from the submissions. Your comments, opinions, derisive ripostes, or any other reactions are welcomed.

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Pete Browning



Tony Mullane



Deacon White



Nineteenth Century Obscurity Poll

Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Players, Managers, Executives and Others, November 2007 Survey of members of the Nineteenth Century Committee of the SABR

Name	1 st -3pts	2 nd -2pts	3 rd -1pt	Total Points
1 Pete Browning	10	5	0	40
2 Tony Mullane	4	6	4	28
3 Deacon White	4	7	0	26
4 Harry Stovey	2	6	2	20
5 George Van Halten	5	2	1	18
6 Bob Caruthers	2	5	2	18
7 Bill Dahlen	4	1	2	16
8 Jimmy Ryan	3	3	0	15
9 Chris Von der Ahe	4	1	0	14
10 Jim Creighton	2	2	3	13
11 Doc Adams	1	5	0	13
12 Jim Mutrie	3	1	1	12
13 Bob Ferguson	3	1	0	11
14 Ross Barnes	2	2	1	11
15 Jack Glasscock	2	2	0	10
16 Paul Hines	2	1	2	10
17 William "Dummy" Hoy	2	1	1	9
18 Dickie Pearce	1	2	2	9
19 Tip O'Neill	1	1	4	9
20 Guy Hecker	2	0	0	6
21 Dick McBride	2	0	0	6
22 William Wheaton	2	0	0	6
23 Tommy Bond	0	2	2	6
24 Al Reach	1	1	0	5
25 Will White	0	2	1	5
26 Joe Start	0	1	3	5
27 Charlie Bennett	1	0	1	4
28 Arthur Soden	1	0	1	4
29 Moses Fleetwood Walker	1	0	1	4
30 James Deacon McGuire	1	0	1	4
31 Bill Lange	0	2	0	4
32 Frank Brancroft	1	0	0	3
33 Cupid Childs	1	0	0	3
34 James A. Hart	1	0	0	3
35 Herman Long	1	0	0	3
36 Dick Cannonball Redding	1	0	0	3
37 Gus Weyhing	1	0	0	3
38 Germany Smith	1	0	0	3
39 George Gore	0	1	1	3
40 Patrick Powers	0	1	1	3
41 Charles Byrnes	0	1	0	2
42 Jack Clements	0	1	0	2
43 Sam Crane	0	1	0	2
44 Hugh Daily	0	1	0	2
45 John Gaffney	0	1	0	2
46 Grant (HR) Johnson	0	1	0	2
47 Germany Long	0	1	0	2
48 Bobby Lowe	0	1	0	2
49 Sadie McMahon	0	1	0	2
50 Mike Tiernan	0	1	0	2

19th Century Base Ball Conference Survey

Compiled by Peter Mancuso

Conference location, duration and format.

More than 85% of the responders (at least 125 persons) answered the questions pertaining to the meeting/conference discussion.

Where members would be coming from? All 152 survey responders gave their city/town, state/province, postal code and country. The top ten states by number of responders were as follows:

New York 24, Ohio 12, Florida 8, California 7, Connecticut 7, Michigan 6, Maryland 5, New Jersey 5, Pennsylvania 5 and Washington 5. Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Minnesota were all at 4. Responses came from 36 states, (including DC) with 2 from Canada, 1 from Australia, 1 from Northern Ireland and 1 from "Lower Slobovia" which was actually from Akron, Ohio.

By far, most respondents were far more willing to drive than fly: 130 persons indicated a clear preference of driving to a one-day, Saturday only, all day conference (of all responders, 19.3% would drive up to one hour, 38.3% up to 2 hours and 47.5% up to 3 hours). Only 8 people would be willing to fly to this one-day format and 3 indicated that they would not attend

at all. Drivers and flyers total 133.

The number of persons willing to drive to a 1 & ½ day conference was roughly two-thirds (90 people) of those willing to drive to the one-day Saturday conference. Also, the number of persons preferring either a Friday night hotel stay or a Saturday night stay was identical. Those willing to fly to a 1 & ½ day conference jumped to 23 persons without a preference for which night (Friday or Saturday). Twenty persons rejected outright the Friday stay and twenty-two persons the Saturday stay. Drivers and flyers total 113.

Fewer persons still (77) were willing to drive to a full two-day conference (Saturday and Sunday) and the number of persons willing to fly to this format meeting went up only marginally (30 persons total) over those willing to fly to a 1 & ½ day event. 31 persons rejected this format completely. Drivers and flyers total 107.

A significant drop in willingness to attend a conference occurs when two hotel nights (Friday & Saturday nights) are presented. 57 would drive, 33 would fly and 38 persons would reject such a format. Drivers and flyers total 90.

At this time, there is negligible interest in a conference of longer

duration. Drivers & flyers total 51.

Remember, all numbers do not yet consider location of conference, individuals' calendar conflicts, etc.

The combination of NY 24, CT 7, MD 5, NJ 5, PA 5, & MA 4 totaling 50 and adding DC 2, DE 1 & RI 3 for a grand total of 56 (just over 1/3 of the total survey responders) would give a preliminary indication that the northeast provides the most promising geographical cluster for such a conference.

A very strong response was provided as to the meeting's content and surrounding activities. Of 130 responders to these questions only 9 felt very strongly and 15 felt strongly that the meeting afforded the opportunity to take in a major league game and only a few more, 10 felt very strongly and 17 strongly the same way about any professional game (major or minor league). Slightly more, 17 felt very strongly and 25 strongly about viewing a vintage baseball game. There was only slight interest, 11 people total that wanted the meeting to involve a spring training game. Slightly more than half the responders favored a meeting during the baseball off season. A more meaningful number thought the meeting should afford participants the opportunity to visit an historic baseball site;

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McBride (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

tober 10, 1916, there was in fact no evidence for that listing.

The state of Pennsylvania is notoriously difficult for this sort of research, and the absence of documentation doesn't mean that something didn't happen. Yet the lack of even a death notice for such a major figure was still extraordinary, and Malatzky's research prompted a reexamination of the evidence. E-mails flew back and forth between such accomplished researchers as Civil War historian Bruce Alardice, David Lambert of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Biographical Committee chairman Bill Carle, and Gabriel Schechter of the Hall of Fame.

It soon became clear that McBride was indeed a Civil War veteran, who served in the same company with his older brother Francis. Additional research established that his correct name was John Dickson McBride, not James Dickson McBride as had been listed. He came from a prominent Philadelphia family and worked at a clerk at the post office until 1915, at which point he disappeared from the city directories.

Pinning down his date of death remained problematic. A 1922 newspaper article was discovered that seemed to imply that McBride was still alive. Allard-

ice found a Civil War disability pension that appeared to be dated from 1918, but unfortunately the handwriting was too poor to be certain that it wasn't from 1908. So was McBride actually alive after his listed death date?



Going back to square one, Richard Malatzky traced the family and discovered that both of McBride's parents were buried in Philadelphia's Monument Cemetery. This information was passed on to Bob Bailey, a Bio Committee contributor who has an interest in ball players and cemeteries. Bob knew that Monument Cemetery no longer existed and that all of its bodies had been reinterred in Lawnview Cemetery. Having done some

previous work at this cemetery, he contacted the cemetery office and was informed that a John D. McBride was buried in the family plot in Monument Cemetery on July 19, 1916, and that their records included a note that he was a baseball player.

They subsequently forwarded a copy of the original interment record, which included a newspaper clipping about McBride's baseball career. The source of the clipping was not identified, but a hand-dated note gave the date as July 29, 1916. The article included these words: "In one of our talks last week on the numerous men in Philadelphia who have passed their three score and ten and whose lives are still full of vitality and usefulness, mention was made of John Dickson McBride, the once famous pitcher and captain of the Athletic Club in the early days of base ball. But I was in error in assuming that he was still living. I am informed that 'Dick' passed away on the 20th of January last and that he was buried in Monument Cemetery."

So it appears that McBride actually died on January 20, 1916, but some questions remain. For one thing, why was there apparently a six-month gap between his death and burial? Bob Bailey notes that most cemeteries of the period had receiving vaults in which caskets were temporar-

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Obscurity Poll (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Ross Barnes— Barnes is best known for his adeptness at fair-foul hitting. Bob Schaefer notes, “Barnes’ skill as a fair-foul hitter was greatly respected in the 1870s. Why has this veneration not continued to the present day? I believe Barnes’ value as a ball player is misunderstood for two reasons. First, the extraordinary difficulty of successfully hitting a fair-foul is today incomprehensible to modern fans and consequently the requisite batting skill is unappreciated. Secondly, a widely circulated rationale for Barnes’ decline is his career was ‘derailed’ by a rule change that banned the fair-foul hit.” Schaefer notes that Barnes’ decline was more likely a result of a lingering illness.

Octavius Catto— The first of a sextet of Philadelphians submitted by John Schiffert, Catto was a leader of the early black ball club the Pythians. He was also a leader in the black community for education and civil rights. He was murdered one election day in Philadelphia. His funeral was an event that drew thousands of mourners.

Hicks Hayhurst— Schiffert notes that if he was judged solely on his baseball skills displayed in the 1860s he might be appropriately obscure. But he was an advocate of including Catto’s Pythians to the white Philadelphia Association and National Association in 1867.

Dick McBride— Mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, McBride was the leading pitcher in Philadelphia’s rise among national teams in the 1860s. He won 44 games for the Athletic club in 1875.

Al Reach— An early pro star, Reach was an athletic and business contemporary and competitor to Al Spalding. Like Spalding he was a star player, club owner, and sporting goods magnate. Schiffert calls him the “seminal figure in Philadelphia baseball.”

Francis Richter— Editor of the *Sporting Life* he had the misfortune of operating the national sporting paper that did not survive the rise of baseball’s popularity in the first half of the 20th Century.

Ben Shibe— Except for the fact that he never played profes-

sional baseball he was similar to Al Reach. Best-known today for lending his name to Shibe Park, he was involved in practically every professional club in Philadelphia from 1870 to 1920. His sporting goods business created many manufacturing techniques that brought uniformity and innovation to equipment.

Fleet Walker— Chuck Rosciam recognizes Walker’s pioneering status as a black ball player in the 1880s. Walker was the first black player in the majors and was a mainstay of teams in the white professional leagues for years before the color-line was drawn. He was also behind the plate as part of the first great all-black battery when he caught George Stovey in the International League.

Deacon White— Peter Morris calls White “the greatest player of the nineteenth century.” His 20 year career spanned the National Association to the Players League. He was a key player on the great Buffalo and Detroit teams of the 1880s. Morris adds “his omission [from the Hall of Fame] says much about the sad reality that the greats of the 60s and 70s had been long since forgotten by the time the Hall of Fame was opened.”



Chairman's Corner (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

umn, but have requested our "Nineteenth Century Notes" editor, Bob Bailey to devote room in this issue of our newsletter to treat each major portion of the survey in a separate report, so be sure to read all sections of our newsletter.

19th-CENTURY BASE BALL CONFERENCE: The bulk of the survey was to determine the feasibility and possible structure of a regional or national 19th-century baseball meeting or conference of which 89% of you who participated responded in the positive, "very interested" (29.4%) or "interested" (59.3%). This section of the survey, through a series of questions including geographical demographics, willingness to travel, longevity of stay, etc. will provide a future "19th-century baseball conference chair" with preliminary information to help insure the best possible results for members wishing to attend such a gathering. On that note, be sure to read and analyze the results and if you think you would like to play a leadership or any role in organizing the Nineteenth Century Committee's first national or regional meeting/conference please let me know. I will do everything in my power to assist any and all of our members who wish to be involved.

OVERLOOKED 19TH-CENTURY PLAYERS, MAN-

AGERS, EXECUTIVES, ETC.:

88 of the 152 people who took part in the overall survey contributed to this section of questions. 88 1st-place votes were cast, 76 2nd-place votes, 69 3rd-place votes and 64 members skipped the question (I eliminated only a few responses containing the names persons already inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and a few "accidentally" stuffed ballots. I scored three points for each 1stplace vote, two points for each 2ndplace vote and one point for each 3rdplace vote. The reason for including this question was to provide (in a very preliminary way) a collective view to the committee of the choices of our members who are most passionate (myself included) about bringing attention to those 19th-century individuals who contributed greatly to the game through outstanding on-field performance or otherwise as managers, executives, etc. I have asked our editor to include the entire result of this "balloting" to serve as food-for-thought at the very least, and perhaps as the very first step of a more serious committee-wide endeavor to bring "official recognition" to those 19th-century pioneers who have yet to be recognized. I certainly welcome ideas, feedback and of course leadership on ways that this process can go forward. Read, research, but most of all enjoy the selections given by our fellow members. I certainly did.

ON-LINE DISCUSSION

GROUP: 73 survey responders, just below one-half of the survey group (about 15% of the total committee membership) reported that they were members of our committee's on-line discussion group. I urge our members to subscribe to this free service, it is a wonderful way to learn about and contribute to our understanding of the development of our national pastime. To subscribe, go on-line and visit 19cBB-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. There was an additional question on the survey directed to our on-line group subscribers pertaining to whether there was any strong sentiment among them to separate the discussion group into two distinct groups, "19th-century" and "Origins." Origins' Committee Chairman Larry McCray and I have been in regular contact and have been trying to assess the idea of separating the on-line discussion group, an idea proposed by several members of both committees. The result of this survey revealed that only 15.5% of 84 responders (13 persons) recommended separation. Both mine and Larry's views are consistent with the majority of our responders who seem to be either indifferent 47.6% or opposed to separation 34.5%. Eight individuals offered other comments, none of which advocated separation. For now it will remain status quo. Finally, there were questions in-

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Meeting Survey (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

31 felt very strongly, and 36 felt strongly about this. Visiting non-baseball attractions was rejected completely by 82 responders, with only slightly fewer (75) also rejecting interest in a program for spouses/companions. Likewise, responders (again 130) gave strong direction in terms of the meeting/conference content. 81 felt strongly or very strongly that the meeting should include a keynote speaker. A whopping 114 persons felt strongly or very strongly that individual research presentations of up to thirty-minutes be made. More strong

support was given to the inclusion of a panel discussion with 106 persons in favor of this component being included, while 62 persons would like to include some form of vote on overlooked 19th-century baseball personalities. Again in the positive category 97 people would like the meeting to include the discussion of a committee-wide project. Receiving far less interest were the following components: only 33 persons felt strongly or very strongly about including a 19th-century baseball trivia contest, and only 40 felt the same way

about having a demonstration of vintage base ball, and only 31 decidedly positive about having a presentation of 19th-century baseball music or poetry included.

Finally, if a hotel stay were to be included, 122 persons provided guidance in this area with 24 willing to pay up to \$80 per night, 38 up to \$100 per night, 39 up to \$120, 8 up to \$140 per night and 13 up to \$160 per night. Of course, the survey showed that few were willing to remain more than one night. I firmly believe the interest exists for such a meeting. Do we

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Comments (continued)

cally. Folks from Michigan, New York City, New York State, Missouri, Massachusetts, and Florida all contributed to the McBride effort.. The census work that discovered McBride's parent's names was as important a find as the discovery in the cemetery records of McBride's death date. Without the former, the latter would still be unfound in the back room of a cemetery office. The point here is that to a significant extent, SABR research is a collaborative, sharing effort. People with differing interests and knowledge sets exist within the organization and can be called on for assistance. Sometimes just who should be contacted is not obvious. But the SABR website has a lookup fea-

ture in the Member Directory section that allows searches by fields of interest. Another connector is to let us place items of your research and needs in this Newsletter. This works to solve two problems; one is getting your research out to an interested audience; and the other is that it gives the poor, desperate newsletter editor new material to include in this publication.

There are many more Dick McBride stories to be told because there are many more mysteries unsolved. On Page 11 you will find a list of selected 19th Century players who death data is still unknown. The Committee has some clues on some of these players. Contact Bill Carle, Chairman of the Biographical Committee if you start hunt-

ing some of these men. Or you can go to www.petermorrisbooks.com where Peter has brief summaries of the current research status of these players under "Hot Cold

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Chairman's Corner (cont.)

volving both the interests and projects underway or planned by committee members. These activities were not only numerous, but were extremely interesting and some were quite ambitious. As this issue of our newsletter is bursting at the seams, I will whet your appetite by deferring the descriptions of our members' interests and work to the spring edition. Again feel free to reach me by whatever means is most convenient to you.

Research Requests

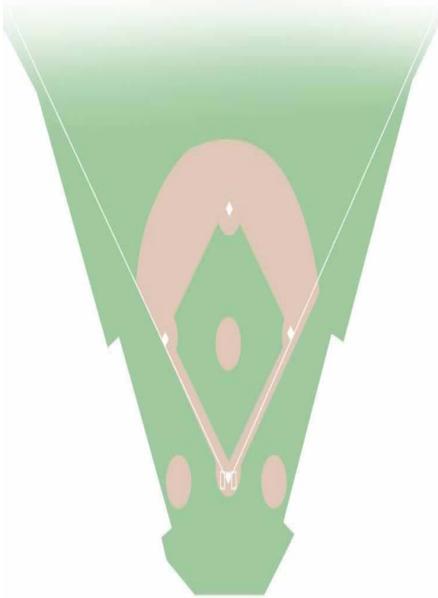
Can you help. Of course you can. Below are requests received from folks doing 19th Century baseball research. Any tidbit you can contribute, any source you can point to, any theory you have about the subject can help move our research forward. Go ahead, start a conversation.

Craig Fleming, email: Dodgr-Craig@aol.com is seeking sources regarding 19th-century baseball in southern California, including Los Angeles (which rumor has recently moved to southern California).

Mario Torres, email: matorres10@comcast.net is seeking any detailed information on the distance of particularly long home runs hit in the 19th-century. Apocryphal tales welcomed as well as yarns about long rollers.

Reed Howard, email: reed-howard@verizon.net is inviting Nineteenth Century Committee members to work in conjunction with Minor League Committee members in attempting to identify the proper names and specific locations of minor league parks. Reed is seeking someone who would act as a data coordinator. Does your local library have a monograph about baseball in your town. If so they almost always have something to say about the grounds.

Peter Mancuso, esteemed Chairman and erstwhile confrere on all things baseball, email: peter-plus4@earthlink.net has received the complete research files collected by Fred Schuld on the 1888-89 Cleveland American Association team. Anyone interested in borrowing these files for continued research or as source material for a team history should contact Peter. Fred is a long-time SABR researcher whose diligent efforts have graced SABR publications and research works for many years. This was an interesting period for the Cleveland franchise as it moved from the AA to the NL.



Larry McCray, email: lmccray@mit.org, Chairman of the Origins Committee has dropped a note that the Committee has posted a list of potential research projects in which committee members might partici-

pate. This paper can be accessed at the SABR web site by going to the list of Research Committees and clicking on the "Initial Program Plan" link on the Origins Committee line. Collection of early images, accounts of games, and tracing rules evolution are among the topics.

Chuck Rosciam, purveyor of all things relating to catchers, email: baseballcatchers@comsact.net, tells us his is engaged in a project to document the pitching debuts of all major league pitchers. He has data on 800 of the 859 19th Century pitchers. The "Lost 59" need debut date, catcher, game result and details of the pitcher's stats for his first game. If you can help contact Chuck.

Andy Fusco, email: fusco@baldcom.net, asks if Tom Messitt of the 1898 Auburn (NY) team the same player as Tom Missitt as the 1908-1910 Richmond player featured on several tobacco cards? Also does anyone have any family data on Messitt's Auburn 1898 teammate Bill Eagle? The local Auburn papers describe him as "Indian."

Email any "Research Requests" to Bob Bailey, at bobbailey@cox.net

Quips and Quotes

Response to the call for citations from 19th Century sources on base ball generated a variegated assortment of submissions. A sampling is below.

The Evils of Base Ball

"As soon as the spring sun draws the frost out of the hands of the idle boys and half-grown men who loaf about the streets, the nuisance of throwing base-balls about our thorough fares-to the terror of ladies and small children-commence." (Chestertown Transcript, April 13, 1872.)

"The absorbing thing with young people now seems to be base ball. It is the talk day and night. The church, the young people's meeting and the Sunday school are mostly given the go-by, while the game field is never too hot, and the peculiar lingo that belongs to such exciting contests is readily absorbed by these young hopefuls. A simple game of ball for diversion is all right, but parents can hardly look upon demoralizing association and bad language so prevalent in exciting contests as a good thing for boys of an impressionable age." (Easton Gazette, August 4, 1894)

The Florid Language of the Era

"The possibilities of the English language have frequently been taxed to describe the great American game of baseball, but for striking illustrations, this from the Herald of Quincy, Ill., has rarely been equaled:

The glass-armed toy soldiers of this town were fed to the pigs yesterday

by the cadaverous Indian grave-robbers from Omaha. The flabby one-lunged Rubens who represent the Gem City in the reckless rush for the base-ball pennant had their shins toasted by



the basilikeyed cattle drivers from the west.

They stood around with gaping eyeballs like a hen on a hot nail, and suffered the grizzly yaps of Omaha to run the bases until their necks were long with thirst. Hickey had more errors than "Colin's Financial School," and led the rheumatic procession to the morgue. The Quinceys were full of straw and scrap iron. They couldn't hit a brick wagon with a pick-axe and ran bases like pall-bearers at a funeral. If three base-hits were growing on the back of every man's neck they couldn't reach 'em with a feather duster. It looked as if the Amalgamated Union of South American Hoodoos was in session for work in the thirty-third degree. The geezers stood about and whistled for help, and were so weak they couldn't lift a glass of beer if it had been all foam.

Everything was yellow, rocky and whangbasted, like a stigtossed full of doglegammon. The game was whiskered and frostbitten. The Omahogs were bad enough, but the Quincy Brown Sox had their fins sewed up until they couldn't hold a crazy quilt unless it

was tied around their necks." (Los Angeles Times, August 5, 1895)
Cerulean ?

"The fast ball that came sailing over the plate received such a slap from Morelock's ash as to rise gracefully toward the cerulean and finally alight in a cornfield some distance beyond and without the high board enclosure..." (Salisbury Advertiser, August 17, 1895)

Base Ball in the Bible

"Base Ball Among the Ancients"

*The devil was the first coacher--he coached Eve when she stole first--Adam stole second.
When Isaac met Rebecca at the well she was walking along with the pitcher.
Samson struck out a great many times when he beat the Philistines.
Moses made his first run when he slew the Egyptian.
Cain made a base hit when he killed Abel.
Abraham made a sacrifice.
The Prodigal Son made a home run.
David was a great long distance thrower.
Moses shut out the Egyptians at the Red Sea. (Dayton Daily Herald, May 6, 1898)*

Submissions courtesy of Jack Carlson, Joanne Hulbert, and Marty Payne.

*We have several descriptions of 19th Century pitcher's motions and batter's hitting style. A few more would be appreciated. Send to:
Bob Bailey
bobbailey@cox.net.*

Biographical Committee Selected Missing 19th Century Data

Below is a small sample of 19th Century players whose death dates are not known. Several also have missing death places and birth information. Every month members of the Committee whittle down the list bit by bit. If you have some resources or clues to these folks please contact Bio Committee Chairman Bill Carle, email: bbxpert@aol.com. You'll be glad you did.

LNAME	FMNAME	NICKNAME	DEBUT	BIRTH_DATE	BIRTH_CITY	BIRTH_ST
Allison	Andrew K.	Andy	5/7/1872	1848	New York	New York
Bancker	John	Studs	4/19/1875		Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Barlow	Thomas H.	Tom	5/2/1872	1852		New York
Barnes	William H.	Bill	9/27/1884		Indianapolis	Indiana
Childers	William	Bill	7/27/1895		St. Louis	Missouri
Daily	Hugh Ignatius	Hugh	5/1/1882	07/17/1847		
Donohue	Alexander	Alexander	8/24/1891	1869	Altoona	Pennsylvania
Fagin	Joseph	Joe	6/25/1895		Cincinnati	Ohio
Fisher	Charles	Charles	6/15/1889		Baltimore	Maryland
Geer	William Henry Harrison		10/15/1874			
Goetz	George Burt	George	6/17/1889	1865	Greencastle	Pennsylvania
Hoffman	Frank J.	Frank	8/13/1888		Houston	Texas
Jones	Charles Wesley	Charley	5/4/1875	04/30/1850	Alamance	North Carolina
Knauss	Frank H.	Frank	6/25/1890	1868	Cleveland	Ohio
Knowdell	Jacob Augustus	Jake	5/15/1874	07/27/1840	Brooklyn	New York
Landis	Samuel H.	Doc	5/2/1882	08/16/1854	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Letcher	Frederick Thomas	Tom	9/27/1891	01/ /1868	Bryan	Ohio
Lukens	Albert P.	Al	6/23/1894	1872	Vineland	New Jersey
McGeary	Michael Henry	Mike	5/9/1871	1851	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
McKenna	Edward J.	Ed	7/29/1874		St. Louis	Missouri
Miller	L. Edward	Ed	7/18/1884		Tecumseh	Michigan
Moore	Maurice	Molly	6/30/1875			
O'Neal			10/23/1874		Hartford	Connecticut
Petty	Charles E.	Charlie	7/30/1889	01/28/1866	Nashville	Tennessee
Purcell	William Aloysius	Blondie	5/1/1879	03/16/1854	Paterson	New Jersey
Redmond	William T.	Billy	5/4/1875		Brooklyn	New York
Reville	Henry	Henry	10/14/1874		Baltimore	Maryland
Ritter	Charles J.	Charlie	9/21/1885			
Ryan	John A.	John	6/11/1884		Birmingham	Michigan
Ryan	John J.	John	7/25/1895		St. Louis	Missouri
Sager	Samuel B.	Pony	5/6/1871	1847	Marshalltown	Iowa
Sheehan	Daniel	Dan	4/19/1884		Washington	D.C.
Smith	William J.	Bill	4/14/1873		Baltimore	Maryland
Stanley	Joseph	Joe	4/24/1884			New Jersey
Swan	Andrew J.	Andy	7/23/1884	08/ /1858	Falls	Pennsylvania
Treacey	Peter	Pete	8/5/1876	1852	Brooklyn	New York
Twineham	Arthur S.	Art	9/11/1893	11/26/1866	Galesburg	Illinois
Ulrich	George T.	George	5/1/1892	06/05/1869	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Vadeboncoeur	Onesime Eugene		7/11/1884	07/15/1858	Louisville	Quebec
White	C. B.	C.B.	6/1/1883		Wakeman	Ohio
Whiting	Edward C.	Ed	5/2/1882	1860	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Zay	William	William	10/7/1886		Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania

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McBride (continued)

ily kept, and suggests that McBride's body may have been kept there until either he was identified or until a burial site was chosen. Since he was the last family member buried in the plot, this seems plausible. A delay in identifying his body would also explain the lack of immediate mention of his death in the Philadelphia papers. (Neither the *Inquirer* nor the *Public Ledger*, the two newspapers I've been able to check,

had any mention of his death in January.)

It thus seems that this once legendary pitcher died in obscurity and even his body may not have been identified for some time afterward. But the matter is far from closed, and research continues. The lesson of Dick McBride is therefore one that experienced researchers know all too well – that even when all the information appears to have been discovered, it is always worth checking and rechecking

Comments on McBride Research...

The story that Peter Morris tells in the hunt for Dick McBride illustrates several points about SABR Committee research. Among them is that research efforts overlap various committees. Interested parties who might have had contributions to make to this effort include Biographical, 19th Century, Origins, and others. Also, the researchers involved are spread out geographi-

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