

# Nineteenth Century Notes



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Newsletter of the Nineteenth Century Committee, SABR  
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Special Issue: In the Projects  
2004:1

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## EDITOR'S NOTE, June 2004

This Special Issue is devoted to "outside" baseball research projects. It provides a 19c-oriented introduction to numerous projects organized outside the 19th Century Committee, SABR. For many moons, the "2003" newsletter has been unwieldy when not anchored in place, partly because I have so much of this material on the projects. The Special Issue is part of a solution; another number that isn't special will soon follow.

Following the introduction, each article features a baseball research project. It names the director in effect, usually the official director of a SABR project or a private researcher. The text includes an email address for that person, who is always the one you should contact to ask a question or to contribute to the effort (several articles explain how). In other words, "Contact X if you are interested in this research" is something that goes without sayin' at the end of each article. I am the proximate source of almost everything here, so let me apologize once and to all for any misrepresentation and let that, too, go without sayin' at the end of each article.

Complete addresses (email, street, phone) for everyone named are provided in a list at the end.

The present tense should be interpreted broadly, covering the first half of 2004.

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## INTRODUCTION

### NINETEENTH CENTURY COMMITTEE, SABR

The 19c Cmte has officially sponsored six projects, which does not include implied projects such as developing "The Nineteenth Century Baseball Researcher's Library" in the early 1990s.

*Nineteenth Century Stars* (SABR, 1989)

National Association Box Scores and Statistics, 1989-1996

*Baseball's First Stars* (SABR, 1996)

Pre-1871 Rosters (or Pre-1871 Box Scores and Statistics), 1993-1998, abandoned

American Association History, 1993 to date

Early Rules and Practices, 1998 to date

The first three were completed by 1996. Convenient abbreviations are 19c Stars, NA Project, and First Stars. The other three languished; Pre-1871 was officially abandoned and Early Rules did not really get started.

A project on Early Baseball Music (including songs) was informally proposed in 19cBB egroup traffic this January and was discussed productively for about a fortnight. Visions differ, but it would certainly include producing an audio record such as a CD, perhaps scholarly writing, and perhaps cataloguing compatible with *The Baseball Index* (q.v.). Jeff Sackmann ([jeff\\_sackmann@hotmail.com](mailto:jeff_sackmann@hotmail.com); one '\_') emerged as one leader of the interested group and he was appointed director of the effort to develop a formal proposal, perhaps in conjunction with the Music & Poetry Cmte. Chair Jeff Campbell ([hungryformusic@att.net](mailto:hungryformusic@att.net)) holds the Music portfolio there and he participated in the 19cBB discussion; the M&P Cmte also has its own egroup where the inchoate project was described and a small part of our discussion was reflected. It is likely that any Early Baseball Music project will be formally undertaken jointly.

A few other projects have been proposed and several others have been discussed privately. Most are less ambitious than Early Baseball Music, not to mention AA History, because they do not aim to publish a joint work. For example, I have proposed covering all new books about 19c baseball with formal reviews, which would involve piecemeal publication of works by individuals, and its value would not depend on completeness. Development and maintenance of a resource, such as the 19c Researcher's Library or a database described below, would probably be truly joint work, but it might be valuable without publication, not to mention completion.

To be continued. The theme of this Special Issue is projects that are underway elsewhere, not here.

## PEOPLE WHO ARE AWARE (and helpful)

Many baseball research projects may benefit from outsiders to the systematic work, if those outsiders are aware of that work and are helpful enough to send the tidbits or refer to the sources that they discover in the course of their own "work" or even at leisure. That is, people who contribute to a project without working on it may be a valuable resource. In turn, 19cBB and *Nineteenth Century Notes* can help many research projects simply by making people aware (because some are already helpful) and even more so by inducing them to help. Fortunately, the same reporting that might recruit workers to join is likely to develop a readership of People Who Are Aware. For example, a call for contributions with a paradigm illustration will inform everyone who reads it.

Our neighbor Retrosheet provides one good example. By policy and by luck, Retrosheet has developed a large population of People Who Are Aware of its scoring project. Most of those people know that a copy of an old scorecard may be useful to the project, and some of them send copies of old scorecards. When the major encyclopedias were in business, reliably producing revised editions every few years, each had in its own readers a large population of such People, and many of them sent corrections. The annual *Sporting News Record Book* can rely on its readers in much the same way. Of course, most projects hope for publication once (most books) or not at all (many compilations of data), rather than publication periodically. For many projects, there is a great "awareness threshold" to overcome, in order to elicit contributions, and one of my goals is to help those with partly 19c scope meet the challenge.

The official projects of SABR research committees have some priority here, if they do touch upon the 19th century. Mainly by using the SABR Bulletin and SABR-L, some of them have developed hundreds of People Who Are Aware. *The Baseball Index* may be the leader in that respect, but I am sure this newsletter can help even TBI. Projects not sponsored by SABR are also important, although the threshold must be something more than "a touch upon" the 1800s. Those are your projects, members; and yours, neighbors.

## THE 19C COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE PROJECTS

There is a selfish motive. The 19c Cmte has much to gain from a membership acquainted with outside projects. We are not defined by a region or a theme, but by an epoch. For most projects whose scope can be described partly by a time period, our epoch covers the early part of that time. Any such project implies a candidate project for us, to work on an earlier time period in the same field, such as playing records before 1871; and it implies an opportunity for any 19c Cmte member, to join the other project and help cover its early days. Indeed, many a project lacks clear definition in its early days, because of historical change between that time and the time that is its focus or inspiration. Consider management when Harry Wright handled the functions of several modern ballclub employees himself. Consider a college baseball team, unrecognized by the same school's "program" today, competing with the strongest nines, or comprising professional and prep school players. Consider signings and other transactions such as farming, before the major league "organizations" comprised most professional clubs and held rights to most of the players. And so on. 19c Cmte members might help a project on pro baseball management, or college baseball, or baseball player transactions define its early scope. Of course, 19ers might also work in the same field before or beside the scope of the other project.

## DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE, SABR

The DEC studies the Deadball Era defined as 1901-1919. As the two epochally defined Cmtees, we are neighbors in a way that is unique in SABR. The DEC completed its first project with the publication of *Deadball Stars of the National League* (SABR 2003); the AL sequel is underway. Most of the work is writing short biographies of "star" players, executives, managers, and umpires. Although a replacement biographer is occasionally needed, the Deadball AL project is practically closed now. As an outsider, you may be able to help if you have research notes, a good story, or a promising lead concerning one of the 139 subjects. There is no convenient list, so you earn extra credit if you contact the DEC on speculation and hit one. (The BioProject (q.v.) is generally interested in notes and leads for biographers.)

## BASEBALL RECORDS COMMITTEE, SABR

The Baseball Records Cmte works to improve playing data ("baseball" records) as the Biographical Research Cmte (q.v.) does biographical data, and each focuses on rather basic data. They are also defined by the major leagues: the play and the participants in MLB games from 1871. Several other SABR projects can be understood by analogy to one of these two, but the other SABR research committees are more eclectic. For example, the Negro Leagues Cmte works on playing data for the Negro Leagues, and on biographical data, and on play and biography more generally, and on business and more. Our NA Project focused on baseball records and selecting another league outside the majors (now including the NA) would practically define another project.

The Records Cmte has no specifically 19c project underway. Its broad objective is accuracy in the "historical record" of the game on the field, which includes "most and least" records as well as the record of each game and season. New "most and least records" are set continually, but October means a flood of new mosts and leasts as well as the record of one more season. The publication of a reference such as the *Sporting News Record Book* establishes another informal project: checking it and compiling corrections. So incorporating "what happened this year" is a major effort by the Records Cmte. On the other hand, its bimonthly newsletter recently published some "Major League Records Set in the National Association 1871-1875 that would still be [official] records today" (August 2003). That was a selection from a compilation with similar title by Bob Tiemann, NA Project director. Perhaps we will publish some more of those here.

## 11 MORE

So much for 19th Century, Deadball Era, and Records! There are 24 SABR research committees and projects sponsored by ten of them are featured in the next section. Let me dispose of the other 11 quickly. (This implies an invitation to each.) As far as I know, none of the SABR research committees for Negro Leagues, Women, Asia, and Latin America (most have longer names) has a project underway that requires much 19c research, if any. But it won't surprise me to get news to the contrary. I think we know of a black ballplayer in 1859, a women's college team in 1867, baseball in Japan 1872, and a club in Latin America 1878. No Ballparks, Umpires, Minor League, or brand new Armed Forces Cmte project is covered here, although those committees do have all-time scope that includes plenty of action in the 19th century. I don't know about the Science and Baseball Cmte, another new one. The Statistical Analysis and Oral History Cmtees are defined methodologically, and I know that one of them will be unable to accept my invitation.

The next section provides a 19c perspective on about 15 projects organized by the other 10 of SABR's 24 research committees. The subsequent section does the same for 5 projects organized outside SABR. This is required reading for every 19c Cmte member, so we will soon all be People Who Are Aware.

## SABR Projects

### LAST GAME, Biographical Research Committee, SABR

Help complete Last Game. Mere *dozens* of players are missing, all from the National League 1876-1880.

The Biographical Cmte has "Last Game" for almost every MLB player, meaning the date of his last major league game. Vice Chair David Vincent ([grandslams@aol.com](mailto:grandslams@aol.com)) has coordinated compilation of this new field for the Biographical Database (q.v.). David Nemeč ([david\\_nemec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:david_nemec@sbcglobal.net); one '\_' ) is working on the 5-year rump this spring, and he will be happy to help coordinate in the final stage. Newspaper game reports are the crucial resource, so people with access to some particular newspapers may be invaluable.

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE, Biographical Research Committee, SABR

The Biographical Research Cmte maintains a database covering all MLB players and managers, which was 16115 people at the end of calendar year 2003. Many baseball databases cover the same group of people, or the players among them, but the Biographical Database includes the master list; the Cmte develops the list and others use it for reference. Chair Bill Carle ([bbxpert@aol.com](mailto:bbxpert@aol.com)) observes that the Cmte is descended from a group led by Lee Allen in the 1960s. As such, it has been gathering, validating, and maintaining biographical data since before the first MacMillan *Baseball Encyclopedia* was published and before SABR was founded. Its focus is on the basics, which reference works commonly publish with a player's name above his playing record. This example from one Retrosheet player page (<http://retrosheet.org/boxesetc/Pgednc101.htm>) indicates the database scope imprecisely. *Total Baseball* presented a different selection in one line of small type beside each player name.

#### ALFRED W. GEDNEY, HEADER AT RETROSHEET

Count Gedney  
 Born May 10, 1849, Brooklyn, New York  
 Debuted April 27, 1872  
 Final Game on October 29, 1875  
 Died March 26, 1922, Hackensack, New Jersey  
 Bat: Unknown Throw: Unknown  
 Height: 5' 9" Weight: 140

(Bat and Throw are "hands": left, right, both, or unknown.)

Most of the Biographical Research action now concerns 19c players on the one hand and 2002-2003 debutantes on the other, although there is still plenty of work to be done on all those merely recent players who debuted 1901 to 2001. The Cmte membership is a reservoir of knowledge, written and unwritten, including leads and work in progress on particular subjects. Carle's bimonthly report is organized in terms of particular discoveries, but it teaches practical lessons by implication; anyone who wants to get involved in the nitty-gritty search for missing players should join the Cmte, order several back issues, and read them. Occasional email from Richard Malatzky to SABR-L or to 19cBB provides another window on that work; Malatzky sometimes provides an account of a recent find, sometimes a list of pieces to an incomplete puzzle.

The database is the centerpiece. In a sense, it is nearly full of knowns, yet there are thousands of unknowns, missing. Here is part of the end-2003 snapshot with a count of net progress during the calendar year, derived from the December reports.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE, END-2003 STATE AND 2003 ACTIVITY

	KNOWN	2003 net	MISSING	2003 net
	end 2003	change	end 2003	change
Debut Dates	16115	183	0	0
Names	16059	184	56	-1
Births	16436	194	679	-11
Assumed Alive	7748	98		
Deaths	8019	112	348	-27
Bats (hand)	14822	194	1181	-12
Throws (hand)	15062	198	941	-16
Heights	15150	208	853	-26
Weights	15110	210	893	-28

A debut date is on file for everyone, whose number increased by 183 last year (row 1). It happens that there were 183 debuts in 2003, 182 players and one manager, but the year's net progress on debut dates {+183 known, 0 unknown} does not refer to the year's debuts. Rather, it refers to the net of those 183 debuts, two older players who were newly recognized, and two pairs of older players who were combined during the calendar year. (All six older revisions in the master list concerned 19c players.) The point pertains to every field of data. Loosely speaking, progress comprises new discoveries, corrections, and "undiscoveries" where a known becomes unknown.

Players with missing death data are simply called "missing players." Among 8367 persons not assumed alive, only 348 are missing, and that number is down 27 or 7.2% from one year ago (rows 4,5). The quest to find missing players is the main subject of each newsletter and is also the Cmte work most visible to other SABR members. Carle recently listed the 20 "Most Wanted." The first three are pitcher Hugh "One Arm" Daily; Harry Decker, who holds three patents for the catcher's mitt; and Charley Jones, who was the greatest player among the missing, in my opinion.

## NAMES

The primary name comprises First, Middle, Last, and Nick names: eg, George Herman Ruth Babe or Vincent P. Nava Sandy. Everyone has a primary name, perhaps incomplete, and it is usually the person's legal name both at birth and during his baseball career. But there is a Birth Name for anyone who changed his name (to his primary name), such as Maximilian Carnarius to Max Carey or Aloysius Szymanski to Al Simmons. And there is a Real Name for anyone who worked under a distinct "baseball name" (his primary name). Thus discovery of a real name is equivalent to discovery that someone used a baseball name. Seven were discovered last year and two of the players are famous: Vincent P. "Sandy" Nava was really Vincent Irwin; Ossee Freeman Schreckengost was really Schrecongost.

Peter Morris discovered both that William Edward Irwin was William Edward Irwin and that Vincent P. Nava was really Vincent Irwin. The first was recorded as a corrected primary name, the second as a real name. What is the difference? I asked Morris about all the names in the database, in terms of these examples and a few others. Treating W.E. Irwin as a *corrected last name* implies that Irwin has been known to us as Irwin by some mistake. Here that is reasonable because he was a one-game replacement player and the names are so similar. On the other hand, treating V. Irwin as a *real name* implies that Irwin adopted "Nava" or acquiesced in its use. Here that is reasonable because he played for several years known as Nava; his mother was Hispanic and "Nava" may have been her family name; the names are so different. The difference between surnames is evidence but it isn't crucial; 2003 finds "Schrecongost" and "Hodgdon" were recorded by the Cmte as real names, with Schreckengost and Hodson retained as baseball names, despite the similarity. Career length and consistent usage in the contemporary playing records may be the most important criteria, but judgment is fundamentally unavoidable.

## MISSING HANDS

The Biographical Database gives limited coverage to baseball careers: debut date, last game date, batting hand, and throwing hand. Debut is complete; last game is nearly so (q.v.); batting hand and throwing hand will never be. No surprise, most of the players with "missing hands" had short major league careers in the 19th century. Here are the leaders in games played.

### NO BATTING HAND (most games played)

G	Name	Debut
989	Barry McCormick	09/25/1895
943	Sid Farrar	05/01/1883
550	Reddy Mack	09/16/1885
495	Mike Muldoon	05/01/1882
490	Steve Brady	07/23/1874
472	Jake Evans	05/01/1879
466	Bill White	05/03/1884
440	John Richmond	04/22/1875
427	Tom O'Brien	05/10/1897
417	Mox McQuery	08/20/1884

### NO THROWING HAND (most games played)

G	Name	Debut
963	Tom York	05/09/1871
753	Farmer Weaver	09/16/1888
630	Con Daily	06/09/1884
550	Reddy Mack	09/16/1885
495	Mike Muldoon	05/01/1882
490	Steve Brady	07/23/1874
466	Bill White	05/03/1884
440	Harry Taylor	04/18/1890
427	Tom O'Brien	05/10/1897
417	Mox McQuery	08/20/1884

The leader with missing batting hand, Barry McCormick, is remarkable because he played so late: a regular infielder for seven seasons 1895-1901, and the only person in these two Top Tens who played in the 20th century. These lists actually understate the predominance of early players because the early seasons were short, measured in games.

Special sources, even special methods may be important in the search for missing hands. If so, that work is a "special field" in biographical research, which provides an opportunity for people who specialize, or specialists. I hope to learn more about that.

## THE BASEBALL INDEX, Bibliography Committee, SABR

*The Baseball Index* (<http://baseballindex.org>), or TBI, officially went live in June 2002. The bibliographic data and some computer programs that manipulate it had been installed on the web and opened to use by any visitor, and that use was demonstrated to a large SABR Convention audience. TBI is worth an occasional trip to the public library or to a friend's home, if you live without the internet and you research baseball. More than 200,000 items have been catalogued: mainly published books, book sections, and periodical articles, but there are other Document Types. The user can search by title, author, year, topic, person named (topics and people are two kinds of subject), or by a combination of those categories. The end result of search is a rectangular display on the screen, essentially a tailored version of one card in a traditional card catalogue; or the end result may be dozens of such electronic cards, or none.

Ted Hathaway ([ted@baseballindex.org](mailto:ted@baseballindex.org)) and Andy McCue ([andy@baseballindex.org](mailto:andy@baseballindex.org)) are co-directors. *The Baseball Index* will never be completed, but its value does not depend on completion (note that property). Indeed, every item catalogued and every amendment increases the value as soon as the public version is periodically updated.

Soon after TBI went live, I visited and searched for early copyright dates; more than a year later, I returned and repeated the survey. Here is what I found for the 1850s. The entire catalogue grew by more than 10% during the same period, so this is not where the cataloguing action is!

#### THE BASEBALL INDEX, 1850s LISTINGS

Date	Number	Increase, ~15 months
1850	0	0
1851	0	0
1852	1	1
1853	2	0
1854	3	0
1855	2	0
1856	68	1
1857	235	0
1858	335	1
1859	229	0

One 1853 entry is the general one for the *New York Clipper*, 1853-1924; the other is *Clipper's* first box score (July 16). There is one ballclub constitution each year 1852, 1854, and 1855 (two for the Eagle club, NY; one Pioneer, NJ). The other three 1854-55 items are the 1854 New York Rules and two articles from *Spirit of the Times*, each reprinted in Dean Sullivan's *Early Innings* and catalogued from that secondary source. The 1856 boom in number of entries reflects the editorial decision to admit very early box scores and game stories; many published in the *Clipper* and the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* have been catalogued. (By policy, TBI is open to game reports through 1875.)

How much early baseball writing *should* be covered by TBI? The Bibliography Cmte makes decisions about scope, but it appears that some of us who use early baseball writings must volunteer or the early work will go very slowly; in effect, we will make some of the decisions. I have no idea what will be or should be, except that references in 19cBB traffic pretty clearly show that *Clipper* and *Porter's* should be high among our priorities, if any cataloguing of antebellum material should be.

#### BOOK INDEXING, Bibliography Committee, SABR

The Bibliography Cmte provides indexes for significant books that were published without them. More than 70 have been completed and filed in the SABR Research Library (contact Len Levin ([lenlevin5@hotmail.com](mailto:lenlevin5@hotmail.com))) under titles that begin with 'Index' or 'Name Index'. A name index is limited to proper names or even to the names of people.

Each index is the work of one person. Full indexing is preferred but name indexing is acceptable. Director Skip McAfee ([xerxes7@earthlink.net](mailto:xerxes7@earthlink.net)) will provide "Guidelines" that comprise both guidelines and advice, so that a conscientious beginner can do the job. Books are not provided.

Eight books largely about 19c baseball have been indexed, not counting the Putnam histories of classic teams (all have been done).

#### 19c BASEBALL BOOKS, INDEX COMPLETED

Author	Date	Title
Allen, Lee	1950	100 Years of Baseball: The Intimate & Dramatic Story
Anson, Adrian	1900	A Ball Player's Career
Axelson, Gustav	1919	"Commy": The Life of Charles A. Comiskey
Bartlett, Arthur	1951	Baseball and Mr. Spalding
Frommer, Harvey	1988	Primitive Baseball
Morse, Jacob	1888	Sphere and Ash
Pearson, Daniel	1989	Baseball in 1889: Players vs. Owners
Spink, Alfred	1911	The National Game (2d edition)

Which books *should* be indexed? The 19c Cmte might identify some of the most significant, needy books about 19th century baseball; in turn, we might generate volunteers for particular books. One has been mentioned several times on 19cBB: *Preston Orem, Baseball 1845-1881 From the Newspaper Accounts* (1961). (Orem also published supplements covering 1882-1891 that have been indexed.) SABR has published three 19c books without any index: *19c Stars*, *First Stars*, and John Ward, *Base-Ball: How to Become a Player*, 1888 (SABR reprint 1993). The two books of Stars are significant and a joint index of proper names would be valuable, I believe. The BioProject (q.v.) might benefit from a name index of almost any book, but these two more than most. Ward's book is 80% instructional, in a sense, but that 80% is worthy first- and secondhand evidence about contemporary rules and practices, values and interpretations, and players.

## CURRENT BASEBALL PUBLICATIONS, Bibliography Committee, SABR

*Current Baseball Publications* is a quarterly distributed to every Bibliography Cmte member at the same time as the newsletter. It has been compiled both quarterly and annually since the 1980s by Rich Arpi ([rwaces@cs.com](mailto:rwaces@cs.com)). For a few years, it was published by SABR on the web. For example, see the 1999 "Annual Compilation" or one of the year 2000 quarterlies (<http://sabr.org/committ/biblio/cbp.htm>).

The older numbers now on the web show the scope and nature of the periodical, and they are sufficient to inform the imagination regarding what it would be like to work with CBP as a point of reference. (Late bulletin: The archive will be completed and current publication will be resumed after a redesign of the Bibliog Cmte website in July.) CBP may become important to the 19c Cmte because it includes an authoritative list of baseball books that is regularly released in standard format. It should be a reference list for either one of two projects that I have proposed on 19cBB, to identify the 19c scope of all recent baseball books and to review all new books mainly about 19c baseball. That is, cover the field of "new and recent baseball books" with Scope Notes and cover part of the field with Book Reviews (to be continued). CBP should also be an authority for us in this sense: if we do somehow cover a new book not listed in CBP, then we should either be satisfied that it is not really a "baseball" publication or we should provide the compiler with formal bibliographic data and with information to help judge whether it should be included. In another voice, if you differ from CBP then explain why.

Arpi and I have discussed the literal annotation of CBP book listings with notes on scope. He has long considered scope notes a useful feature that is too costly to produce. A 19c Cmte project would generate notes from a 19c perspective, not for a general purpose (although it might be valuable there), but literal annotation is nonetheless a candidate format. This annotated segment of CBP 2003 #4 (October) indicates both the nature of CBP and the 19c Scope Notes idea.

### 19c SCOPE NOTES AS ANNOTATIONS TO *CURRENT BASEBALL PUBLICATIONS*

#### Section II: Biographies, Autobiographies, and Personal Accounts

04. Anderson, Will. *The Lost New England Nine: The Best of New England's Forgotten Ballplayers*. Anderson & Sons Publishing Company, 34 Park Street, Bath, Maine 04530 (140 pp., index, bibliography, photos, \$ 19.95 p) 1-893804-03-8; source - Milman

[blank, meaning no note has been provided]

05. Boxerman, Burton A. and Benita W. Boxerman. *Ebbets to Veeck to Busch . . .* [2-3 lines complete bibliographic data]

Profiles of eight MLB owners featuring their influence in baseball. The two earliest, Charlie Ebbets and Barney Dreyfuss, were club Presidents from 1898 and 1899.

06. Cataneo, David. *Casey Stengel: Baseball's Old Professor . . .* [2-3 lines complete bibliographic data]

no 19c.

07. Devine, Christopher. *Harry Wright: The Father of Professional . . .* [2-3 lines complete bibliographic data]

all 19c.

Full-life biography, 1835-1895.

19c Scope Notes must be short, if we do undertake to cover the field. Few books that are partly about 19c baseball can be handled simply by enumerating subjects (as for Boxerman & Boxerman, if the above 25-word note is adequate) or by counting pages. I suggest that 50 words is a good target for a book with more complex structure. Whatever format we choose, books with "no 19c" or "all 19c" time scope should stand out. (To be continued.)

## INDEX OF POETRY, Music & Poetry Committee, SABR

The Music & Poetry Cmte, aka Songs & Poems, is cataloguing poems about baseball (4 lines or more) in an Index of Poetry that will be compatible with TBI, a kind of extension. Joanne Hulbert ([jhulbert@earthlink.net](mailto:jhulbert@earthlink.net)), Vice Chair for poetry, directs the project. Adequate data for listing a poem is the bibliographic data included in TBI for a book or article plus the First Line of the poem. Hulbert also requests notes on background or context and a paper or electronic copy of the poem; thus an ideal contribution is more than adequate.

Some poems are published alone, or as articles in a magazine or newspaper, or as "chapters" in a collected book. The Index of Poetry covers those, of course, and also covers poems published within other documents. The latter would not appear in a traditional table of contents for the whole publication, so they would easily be missed by some comprehensive cataloguing efforts. (The paradigm for me is the poetry within the chapters of *Alice In Wonderland*.) So this new project will depend on contributions from observant readers among the People Who Are Aware. If you find a baseball poem in old microfilm, print the page and note basic source data; in a book, mark the page with a sticky note. If you use email, it will be cheap to send Hulbert enough information to determine whether yours is new or duplicate. Indeed, First Line may be enough to distinguish new and duplicate poetry (soon?).

Here is a fortunate illustration. My good fortune was that Thorn had transcribed the entire 1887 article and distributed it to 19cBB with some valuable comments, so I merely forwarded a tailored version to Hulbert. Our good fortune is that the poem may be a first.

Joanne,

Here is one reportedly published 1838 or so! John Thorn sent it to 19cBB before you were a subscriber.

Title: none

First Line: Then dress, the[n?] dress, brave gallants all

John said this is the earliest known American poem about baseball and the earliest known poem about an adult version of the game, if the report is true. He added that a letter to the editor from "S. H. R." two days later called it an adaptation of William Motherwell, "Song of the Cavalier."

From *The National Daily Baseball Gazette*, O.P. Caylor, ed., New York NY, 20 Apr 1887.

Walter Colton Abbott, of Reading, Hillsdale county, Michigan, sends to THE GAZETTE a copy of what he believes to be the first verse of rhyme inspired by the national game. It was published in the *New York News and Courier* about the year 1838, and is as follows:

Then dress, the dress, brave gallants all,  
 Don uniforms amain;  
 Remember fame and honor call  
 Us to the field again.  
 No shrewish tears shall fill our eye  
 When the ball club's in our hand,  
 If we do lose we wil not sigh,  
 Nor plead a butter\* hand.  
 Let piping swain and craven jay  
 Thus weep and puling cry,  
 Our business is like men to play,  
 Or know the reason why.

\*Hence the term "butter-fingers," which, twenty years ago, was applied to a man or a boy who didn't hold a ball.

Regarding the term 'butter fingers', I also sent the 1887 article to Skip McAfee, who now edits *Dickson's Baseball Dictionary* (q.v.).

#### PLAYER IMAGE INDEX, Pictorial History Committee, SABR

The principal project of the Pictorial History Cmte is locating images of MLB players and compiling information about them in the Player Image Index. The project doesn't collect the images, or acquire rights to use them, only "index" them. Chair Bill Hickman ([bdhickmn@aol.com](mailto:bdhickmn@aol.com); no 'a') also maintains the Index. He will provide lists in spreadsheet format on several definitions, such as players associated with a particular team, born in a particular state, or active during a particular span of MLB seasons.

At least one image has been located and indexed for about 15000 of 16000 MLB players(!) and most of the roughly 1000 "Missing Players" were in the majors during only one season. In that context, the group made astonishing progress last year by finding almost 25% of the missing. As for many other data-gathering projects with all-time major league scope, most of the action is now in the 19th century. 76% of the missing played then, including all of the leaders in games played.

#### PICTORIAL MISSING PLAYERS, 200+ MLB GAMES PLAYED

MLB Games	MLB Span	Name (fielding position), birth date
495	1882-86	Muldoon, Mike (3B), b. 4/9/1858
387	1890-94	O'Rourke, Tim "Voiceless Tim" (3B), b. 5/18/1864
318	1872-84	Holdsworth, Jim "Long Jim" (SS/OF), b. 7/14/1850
250	1875-84	Foley, William B. "Will" (3B), b. 11/15/1855
248	1879-84	Gross, Emil (Catcher), b. 3/3/1858
202	1883-84	McCormick, John "Jerry" (P/3B), Unknown d.o.b.

For the 1871 season, 24 of 115 players are missing. 13 and 14 players are missing for 1899 and 1901, when the player pool was much larger (371 in 1901). 1900 is exceptional, because most of the lesser 1899 and 1901 players were outside the single 8-team major league. Only one 1900 player is missing: Harry Stanton, Catcher, Unknown d.o.b. Stanton played only one game, October 14, and he was the last person to make his MLB debut in the 19th century.

#### FRONT OFFICE HISTORY, Business of Baseball Committee, SABR

The Business of Baseball Cmte is working on the evolution of the major league front office, from the one-person days. The project requires some gathering of names and titles, but much more than that. Contact director Liesl McCool ([LMMcCool20@aol.com](mailto:LMMcCool20@aol.com)).

For each season of the 1871-1875 National Association, I have contributed the "Management" page from the report by our NA Project. Here it is for 1871, by Bob Tiemann.

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION CLUB MANAGEMENT, 1871

Club	type	President	Manager (or Secy)	Captain	W-L-T, place
Athletic	salary	James N. Kerns	E. Hicks Hayhurst	Dick McBride	21-7, 1st
Boston	salary	Ivers W. Adams	Harry Wright	Harry Wright	20-10-1, 2nd
Chicago	salary	Norman T. Gassette	Tom Foley	Jimmy Wood	19-9, 3rd
Forest City, Clev.	salary	?	J. Ford Evans	Charley Pabor	10-19, 7th
Haymaker (*)	salary	James H. Ingram	John W. Schofield (secy)	Lip Pike Bill Craver	1-3, 7th (quit May 24) 12-12-1, 6th
Kekionga	co-op	M. Neidlinger	George J. E. Mayer (secy)	Bill Lennon Harry Deane	5-9, 7th (fired Jul 26) 2-3, 8th
Mutual	salary	J. Wildey (?)	James McConnell	Bob Ferguson	16-17, 4th
Olympic	salary	A. G. Mills (resigned 7-13) General W. D. Whipple	Nicholas E. Young (secy)	Charlie Sweasy Acting Captains: Fred Waterman Sweasy Asa Brainard Sweasy	15-15-2, 5th (out ill twice) 2-3, 6th 0-1, 7th 10-9-2, 5th 3-2, 5th
Forest City, Rock.	co-op	John P. Manny	Hiram H. Waldo (secy)	Scott Hastings	4-21, 9th

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OFFICERS, 1871 (elected March 17)

President	James N. Kern	Athletic Club
Vice President	J. Ford Evans	Forest City Club of Cleveland
Secretary	Nicholas Young	Olympic Club
Treasurer	John W. Schofield	Union Club of Troy (*)

(\*) The "Haymaker" Club was officially the Union Club of Troy, NY.

Note that Harry Wright is the only club "Manager" who was also "Captain" of the club's team. He is also the only 1871 club "Manager" listed as a manager in modern reference works, where the meaning is field manager. The latter is no accident. Contemporary rules gave the Captain some powers and responsibilities that are the field manager's today, and most NA Captains are now credited with managing their teams. One exception is Harry Wright in 1875. By then, Al Spalding was the Boston Captain, but "Manager" Wright is the one credited with managing the team. That was a judgment based on knowledge of the particular case.

The NA "Management" pages for 1872-1875 are available by mail from me. Wider distribution may be desirable. I'll consider it later this year if several people show interest, maybe otherwise.

#### GENERAL MANAGERS, Business of Baseball Committee, SABR

The Business of Baseball Cmte is compiling a list of MLB General Managers in the modern sense, with or without the modern title. Director John Matthew IV ([john.matthew@rogers.com](mailto:john.matthew@rogers.com)) recently reported having a complete list for the major league histories of the Brooklyn/ Los Angeles Dodgers and the Philadelphia Phillies. The earliest current listing is Al Reach, Philadelphia NL 1883.

The identification of GMs is similar to the identification of (field) managers, which was completed years ago for the major leagues, and similar to the identification of college baseball coaches, which is now a challenge for the Collegiate Cmte (q.v.). For each modern role, there is an early period when it is reasonable to identify some historical actors with the role, but discovery of the reasonable cases is a challenging task. Before that, it cannot be done reasonably. Of course, the "early period" is different for different modern roles; for the (field) manager, we identified someone for every MLB club from 1871.

#### BIOPROJECT, BioProject Committee, SABR

The BioProject Cmte is defined by one project, the SABR Baseball Biography Project or BioProject for short. From Chair Mark Armour:

The purpose of this project is to solicit, write, edit, and maintain high quality journal-length biographies of every one who ever played in the major leagues, as well as any other person connected with baseball in a significant way. If you have been looking for a research idea, this is your chance. Although the scope of our project is vast, it is really thousands of small well-defined projects.

For more information, visit our website (<http://www.bioproj.sabr.org>) or contact project director Mark Armour ([markjane@comcast.net](mailto:markjane@comcast.net)).

The practical meaning of "high-quality journal-length" is twofold: the author writes 1500+ words and provides source notes; a project editor works with the author before publication. More than one hundred biographies were completed this year. (Armour sends a periodic list of new ones to SABR-L.) Almost every one has a single author, so the BioProject's growing "weblication" is like a traditional collected work rather than a traditional joint work. Yet, there may be opportunities for a researcher and a writer to collaborate, if you are interested only in one or the other.

#### NOTES AND LEADS

The BioProject does need more than biographers. In particular, please send to Armour any note or lead that you do not plan to use, which is likely to be irreproducible. That might be something intriguing or illuminating that you read in an unlikely place, or an artefact that you discover in a local museum or online auction (eg, a signed contract). Best of all, you might know or learn of some person likely to be a unique source about a baseball figure, such as a descendant or a neighbor.

#### OLD SABR BIOGRAPHIES

SABR has published many biographical articles in its 33 years, including 289 via our own projects, *19c Stars* and *First Stars*. (Visit an alphabetical list of those 19c Cmte subjects (<http://world.std.com/~pgw/19c/biographies.html>).)

The BioProject does not reprint those articles, and it solicits new biographies of the old subjects by new authors. Previous authors no longer have priority but they are still welcome to claim their old subjects if available, and to revise their works. John Thorn is one old author who has done so. He recently wrote to 19cBB that he had "added to my Doc Adams bio for the SABR Bio Project. I hope that many others of the 289 profiles in the two 19c Cmte books have been enlisted for Mark Armour's valiant new project." (Thorn is also a new author on an old subject, Jim Creighton. For the new Doc Adams biography, visit <http://bioproj.sabr.org>; select A-E, then Adams. For Creighton, select A-E, then C, then Creighton. Along the way, you will visit the lists of A and C subjects who have been claimed or completed.)

The Director recently appealed to previous 19c biographers by email to 19cBB (edited with permission).

#### TO THE AUTHORS, *Nineteenth Century Stars* and *Baseball's First Stars*

We made a strong attempt to contact all authors who wrote biographies that appeared in the two 19c books, asking if they would be interested in updating their work for the BioProject. We did ask that the biographies be expanded if possible, since we hope for a little bit longer pieces, and that source information be provided, even if scanty and from memory.

With a few notable exceptions, the writers have not been interested. In some cases the problem has been the hassle of getting the biography into electronic form. As it happens, I have electronic versions of the bios in *Baseball First Stars*, the later volume, which could be used as a starting point.

I think the 19c biographies are an invaluable treasure trove for historians and researchers, and represent a lot of hard work on the part of our membership. Those bios would have much more value and utility on-line, which is the principal benefit of our project.

It's possible that my twin requests for (a) more material and (b) sourcing, were intimidating to people who didn't really want to spend a lot of time revisiting old work. These requirements are flexible. Given the vast scope of the project, and given the small share of SABR members who are passionate about the nineteenth century, it is disturbingly possible that many of these subjects will \*never\* be researched again. In which case we \*must\* preserve what we have already done.

I am interested in any plan that results in more 19th century biographies on our web site. I would be interested in hearing the thoughts of some *19c Stars* and *First Stars* biographers.

Mark Armour ([markjane@comcast.net](mailto:markjane@comcast.net))

If you are not interested in revising your old work, you may yet be able to contribute to a new biography of your subject. Do you have a longer version of the article that was abridged to match space available? Do you have notes and leads that you did not use in the article? If so, will you make that material available as a source for a new researcher?

#### WHO SIGNED WHO, Scouts Committee, SABR

The Scouts Cmte studies the people and methods that procure ballplayer talent. The focus is on procurement by the "organizations" of MLB clubs, which is practically the whole story for much of the 20th century, including the heyday of the professional scout. Co-Chair Rod Nelson ([SABRscouts@aol.com](mailto:SABRscouts@aol.com)) directs the Who Signed Who project, the development of a database covering certain player transactions, namely the free agent signings of future MLB players.

The paradigm is signing of an amateur free agent player with an "organization" controlled by one MLB club, by a "scout" or scouts hired by that organization to find and secure talented players. A player enters one MLB organization with his first professional contract and that contract typically leads to his MLB debut by trade or purchase if not by promotion. That is, the typical career path is within and between MLB organizations without returning to the market. One signing is crucial and that one belongs in the database. The paradigm is drawn from the time after the development of farm systems and before the amateur draft, the aforementioned heyday.

But the WSW project covers all time. For the 19th and early 20th century, the Scout role needs a broad interpretation, covering teammates, minor league owners, MLB field managers, and so on. Many players are free agents at the end of each season, before the reserve system or outside it, and a typical path to the majors goes thru the market more than once. WSW focuses on two signings: a player's first professional contract and the one that leads to his MLB debut via transaction and promotion; that is, his first free agent signing and the last one before his MLB debut.

One record in the WSW database means that player P signed with organization O, credited to person A (or A, B, C --as many as three "Scouts"), on date D, according to source S. Here are two of the earliest WSWs on file, in stylized English.

Mike "King" Kelly signed with Columbus IA, by Charlie Pabor, 1877. [NYTimes 4/28/1913]

Charlie Comiskey signed with Dubuque independent, by Ted Sullivan, 1878. [Axelson, "Commy": *Life of Comiskey*]

If you report a signing, try to provide minimum adequate information, as in those two examples: player, club & league (MLB organization if applicable), scouts (persons credited), date (with month and day if known), and source. More information is welcome, such as the role of each scout (eg, recommended by A, secured by B). At least for 19c signings, less-than-adequate information is also welcome, such as player and scout without organization and date.

About 2200 of 16000 MLB players debuted in the 19th century (14%). The WSW Database includes a professional signing for 116 of them, or 5%, in contrast to 70% of the players with MLB debuts 1901-2003.

Most of the people presently credited with several 19c signings are MLB field managers such as Harry Wright. Larry Sutton may have been the first fulltime scout, and his earliest listed signings are Nick Altrock, Ralph Miller, Jimmy Barrett, and Bill Bradley in 1898-1899. Those four players signed with four different NL clubs, Louisville, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, and Chicago. A few years later, Sutton made an exclusive arrangement with Brooklyn. At about the same time, new arrangements placed more players under major league control while still in the minors. Only decades later, the WSW paradigm fits the baseball business reasonably well, and development of the WSW database is more routine.

In a sense, Who Signed Who complements the Transactions Database (q.v.). The latter covers transactions involving players who are within the MLB system: between two MLB clubs, such as a trade or a purchase and sale; between a club and a veteran free agent, such as a release or a signing. Those are later transactions in a player's career. WSW covers one or more early transactions before he is in the MLB system.

#### NO CONTRACT?

By the way, which MLB players never signed a contract to play baseball? Perhaps some entrepreneur-managers (Ted Sullivan?), some emergency replacements, some members of NA 1871-1875 cooperative teams? Was contract universal in NL 1876? Or nearly so?

#### MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYERS IN COLLEGIATE BASEBALL, Collegiate Baseball Committee, SABR

The Collegiate Cmte was rejuvenated more than a year ago with a new focus, collegiate baseball rather than collegiate biography and demography of MLB players. Co-chair Rick Benner ([SABRCollege@aol.com](mailto:SABRCollege@aol.com)) directs the principal project, development of a database covering all American college and university baseball programs: date established, name changes, names and dates of MLB players who played or coached there. I suspect that any identification of 19c college coaches is likely to be a welcome contribution at this stage, since early work has focused keenly on the college players (specifically, the future major leaguers).

The Cmte website (<http://www.ncaa-baseball.com/sabr/>) presents a recent snapshot of the database, published piecemeal using one webpage for each school. (Warning: although it is recent, progress has recently been rapid. Benner's own version includes many updates!) Here is an intriguing sample, the earliest data presently published for St Mary's University, CA.

#### ST. MARY'S (CA) PLAYERS WHO ALSO PLAYED IN THE MAJORS

Name	Birthplace	Dates Played at College	Major League Debut
Jeremiah D. Eldridge (Denny)	New York, NY	1878-79	5/2/1881
Edward Morris	Brooklyn, NY	1881-83	5/1/1884
Frederick H. Carroll	Sacramento, CA	1883	5/1/1884
James G. Fogarty	San Francisco, CA	1883	5/1/1884
Henry F. O'Day	Chicago, IL	1881-83	5/2/1884
James D. McElroy	Napa County, CA	1881-84	5/26/1884
Charles F. Gaggus	San Francisco, CA	1881-84	8/7/1884

...

(The last is Gaggus at St. Mary's; Geggus in the Biographical Database.)

Jerry Denny, later a famous pro, preceded the other six at the school. The six all played for St. Mary's in 1883 and debuted in the major leagues in 1884! That was a good year for debuts, thanks to the entry of the Union Association, but there must be more to the story. Morris, McElroy, O'Day, and Geggus were major league pitchers, Carroll a catcher, Fogarty an outfielder. In 1884, they played for Toledo AA (O'Day), Columbus AA (Morris and Carroll), Philadelphia NL (Fogarty and McElroy), and Washington UA (Geggus). All but McElroy and Geggus played in the majors to 1890 or later.

The Collegiate Cmte's treatment of college teams before the establishment of a "baseball program" is undetermined. Some programs recognize a long history beginning when a team from the school first played a team from another school, but that isn't the rule, and some have no records at all that predate the program. Some early college teams included non-students, prep students, or students who were also professional ballplayers. Some played against the best competition, including professional teams. For example, the Harvard College team was probably the strongest in the Boston area before 1871, and it played a "major" schedule during the Spring. In 1873, Harvard played four spring matches with the NA champion Boston Red Stockings that may be considered part of Boston's "spring training" (q.v.).

#### SPRING TRAINING SITES, Spring Training Committee, SABR

The young Spring Training Cmte is developing a systematic record of spring training sites, maintained as another electronic database. Chair Kevin Saldana ([sabrkev@iwon.com](mailto:sabrkev@iwon.com)) distributed the current list of 19c MLB spring training sites by club and by year, late in 2003. Here is the data for Brooklyn, 1884-1900. "Home" means the team trained in its home city, Brooklyn NY. Gaps in the sequence of years represent unknowns (last year).

BROOKLYN AA,NL. @ Home 1888-89, Saint Augustine FL 1890, Macon GA 1892, Charlotte NC 1896, Augusta GA 1899-1900

The project covers spring training and preseason baseball at all levels and the 20c focus is now on minor league teams.

#### 19c SPRING TRAINING, Spring Training Committee, SABR

What should be counted as a spring training site? That is only one question for the 19c Spring Training project --not a representative one but a crucial one for the development of the sites database. Director Mike McCardel ([mccardelm@kenyon.edu](mailto:mccardelm@kenyon.edu)) introduced himself to 19cBB two years ago (a version of that letter is on the 19c website). There and later privately, he has observed that this project must be eclectic. He hopes to "build a composite of spring in the life of a 19th century ball player." Beside what the sites database indicates, some general developments are home newspaper coverage and travelers who are not on the team. Basic data are not to be ignored: preseason game schedules or results, rosters and reserve lists, transactions and salaries.

"What has already been researched? What has been published? Please advise." -mm

The project needs those who will share what they already know about spring training prior to 1900, those who will undertake systematic research, those who will compile what is readily available and what is submitted. It also needs people to participate in discussion.

In the 19th century, MLB teams played many spring games against minor and college teams. In-season exhibitions were also common before the championship schedule filled most of the dates. (Eg, the AA season increased from 80 to 140 games, 1882-1886. For quick reference, visit "Length of Early MLB Seasons: Games Scheduled" <http://world.std.com/~pgw/19c/schedule.games.html>.) For example, consider the 1873 Boston Red Stockings. The NA champions played Harvard four times.

BOSTON RED STOCKINGS vs  
HARVARD COLLEGE, 1873

Apr 19	10-0 (6 innings)
Apr 26	12-4
May 10	17-5
May 21	14-7

Albert Spalding pitched all four games for Boston (I have no record for Harvard) and yielded 4, 11, 18, and unknown hits. Within the same span, Boston also played three championship games, all at home, W-L 1-2; Spalding pitched all three and yielded 21 runs, 35 hits. During the remainder of the championship season, which ended November 1, Boston played six more known exhibition games against top teams, all of them NA teams. Since 57 of Boston's 60 championship games were played after its latest known match with Harvard, there is a strong analogy between those Harvard matches and modern spring training games.

Source for 1873:

Frank Vaccaro, *All Games Baseball*, version 5 (2003). For some early years beginning 1871, *All Games Baseball* lists every known game between two MLB teams and every one between one MLB team and another top team; that is, it covers exhibition games played by MLB teams against each other and against other top teams. (The number of such games listed grows as Vaccaro discovers more of them. There is no target to shoot for, or to help assess completeness at any point, such as league standings provide for a log of championship games.) Has anyone else compiled data on exhibition games played by MLB teams?

## ORIGINS, Baseball in UK/Europe Committee, SABR

The UK/Europe Cmte focuses on the UK, which is the home of most "European" SABR members (as we call them in the States). Who in the UK shares the interest of several 19ers in early bat, ball, and base games; that is, in the ancestors and siblings of baseball? Chair Mike Ross ([michael.ross33@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.ross33@ntlworld.com)) is one. The following indirect introduction of Ross and three others is a slightly edited version of three paragraphs from SABR UK Secretary Michael Olenick's report of the Annual Meeting, May 2003. The individual presentations reveal joint interests and The Secret Game might be a group project.

Patrick Carroll presented a book proposal entitled "The Secret Game: A History of Baseball in Britain and Ireland" [on hold, May 2004]. The chapters will range from a re-examination of baseball's ancestry (part of a family of bat and ball games, but no more directly evolved from rounders as it was invented by Doubleday), through Spalding's early tours, to post-World War I tours, and end with the state of the game in Britain today, as well as Britain's attempts at developing a team able to compete on an international level.

Jim Combs delivered a short report on Robert W. Henderson's "Ball, Bat and Bishop". In this book, Henderson not only investigates the Doubleday myth but also engages in an examination of the history of many, if not all, modern day ballgames. In his report, Jim began an examination of some of the many sources used by Henderson in his survey of the evolution of these ballgames from ancient times to modern.

Martin Hoerchner spoke about his and Mike Ross's expedition to Kent to watch ye olde game of "Bat & Trap" or Trapball. This is basically a pub game (although played outdoors) which involves hitting a rubber ball self-launched from the "trap" at your feet down a swathe of grass using a bat resembling an elongated ping-pong paddle. If successfully hit straight and long enough, opposing players field the ball and attempt to roll it back into the trap in order to retire the batter. A run is awarded for a successful hit followed by a miss of the trap by the fielding team.

## Private Projects

### RETROSHEET, President Dave Smith

Retrosheet (<http://retrosheet.org>) is a nonprofit corporation distinct from SABR. All Board members and most volunteers are members of SABR and its annual meeting is at SABR's Annual Convention. Founder and President David W. Smith ([dwsmith@retrosheet.org](mailto:dwsmith@retrosheet.org)) has received the occasional SABR Special Achievement Award for his Retrosheet work.

The primary Retrosheet project is collection, compilation, and publication of play-by-play data for major league games back to 1871. That involves "retroscore" games, or rescore in a standard way. Where that has been done, box scores and line scores can be generated from the play-by-play. Auxiliary projects must cover box scores, line scores, and game scores, each where no more information is available. Coverage of MLB game scores is now complete.

Andy Singer is now retroscore 1871, using as a resource the fruit of our NA Project. The first National Association game, 4 May 1871, is the subject of a special feature on the Retrosheet website: the standard game report for human readers, including complete play-by-play and box score, with an introduction (<http://retrosheet.org/1stGame.htm>).

For work from scratch, after 1875, old scorecards are a crucial source, and they are valuable even if the scoring is woefully incomplete. Fortunately, a good photocopy is as good as the original. Unfortunately, but simply, the 19c chamber in the vault is still so nearly empty that "any new material is always welcome; it is unlikely to be duplicated information." -ds

**Call for scorecards.** Please send paper copies of old scorecards to Retrosheet, c/o Dave Smith, 20 Sunset Rd, Newark DE 19711-5236 and send electronic copies to Dave Smith ([dwsmith@retrosheet.org](mailto:dwsmith@retrosheet.org))

### DICKSON'S BASEBALL DICTIONARY, Editor Skip McAfee

*Dickson's Baseball Dictionary* is a private project, published as a book by Paul Dickson in 1989 and 1999. New editor Skip McAfee ([xerxes7@earthlink.net](mailto:xerxes7@earthlink.net)) expects to complete the 3rd edition in about three years and there will probably be a 4th about ten years later.

McAfee is "always soliciting info, at all times, right up to the end." He observes that input from readers is especially important regarding the first known use ('1ST' in the book) and that we should not presume he catches everything distributed to 19cBB or SABR-L. For example, *Dickson's* (1989) shows first known use of 'butter fingers' in 1888. So I forwarded the 1887 article that illustrates the Index of Poetry (q.v.), which reports a poem published c. 1838. McAfee did have that one from 19cBB, but it works as an illustration here, too.

**Contribute to Dickson's.** Refer to one of the published editions, preferably the second. Suggest a new entry or a major amendment by providing as much information as you can, of the same kinds that appear throughout the book. Send an earlier 1ST (first known use) with source information.

THE BASEBALL CHRONOLOGY, Editor Jim Charlton

*The Baseball Chronology* is a private project. Jim Charlton ([binswanger@aol.com](mailto:binswanger@aol.com)) edited the print edition (1990) and he remains the editor-compiler. The Baseball Library publishes a live edition that includes new entries and revisions since 1990, and it is the best available reference for anyone who will now use the work or will provide corrections. Here is one item quoted from that edition.

**September 21, 1901:** Tom Hughes of Chicago and Boston Beaneater Bill Dinneen pitch 16 scoreless innings before the Colts score in the 17th on an error, hit batter, force-out, and a single by Clarence Childs. Each pitcher gives up eight singles. This will stand as the longest shut out ever by a Cub pitcher. Hughes fans 13 in 17 frames. The 17 innings sets the major-league record for the longest game [at 60' 6"]. The record will be broken a number of times.  
(<http://baseballlibrary.com/baseballlibrary/chronology/1901SEPTEMBER.stm>)

That isn't right. This spring, I sent a correction to Charlton.

Subject: CHRONOLOGY Childs 1901-09-21

Jim,

Cupid Clarence Childs was released in midseason 1901 and replaced as Chicago second baseman by Pete Pierre Childs. From the first sentence in *The Chicago Tribune* game story, -09-22, "won in the seventeenth inning, when "Pete" Childs, with his fourth single of the day, sent Dexter home."

Retrosheet and the SABR Biographical Database incorrectly give Last Game 1901-09-26 for Cupid Clarence. I will send a correction to Bill Carle in a few minutes.

1901-09-26 is the date of the last game Pete played in 1901. 1901-07-08 is the Last Game date in Cupid's MLB career, which belongs in the Biographical Database (q.v.). I supported that with a few crucial quotations from July newspaper coverage and sent it to Carle. Both Charlton and Carle have revised their master editions.

By the way, the Baseball Library entry for September 21, as for any date in-season, includes a complete list of MLB game results, thanks to Retrosheet. For example, the Childs game: "Chicago Cubs 1, Boston Braves 0 at West Side Grounds."

TRANSACTIONS, Tom Ruane and others

Tom Ruane ([truane@bestweb.net](mailto:truane@bestweb.net)) compiled a starter database of major league player transactions and donated it to Retrosheet a few years ago. He is also the author of Retrosheet season, team, and player pages, where he has reported transactions in English. Mike Crain ([ucraimx@yahoo.com](mailto:ucraimx@yahoo.com)) owns the BBTransactions egroup, which is dedicated to gathering data and to determining how to handle all of the information systematically. (In order to join, send any email message to [BBTransactions-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:BBTransactions-subscribe@yahogroups.com).) Ruane provides guidance and decides what is accurate enough and complete enough for publication on the Retrosheet website.

At Retrosheet, single transactions are published for human readers on the webpage for each team-season or player. For example, here is one famous transaction described in English from the perspectives of the 1900 New York Giants and of player Amos Rusie.

December 15, 1900

Traded Amos Rusie to Cincinnati Reds in exchange for Christy Mathewson.

Traded by New York Giants to Cincinnati Reds in exchange for Christy Mathewson (December 15, 1900).

All the transactions are also published together in one file for download and manipulation by computer. For example, here is the same trade of Rusie and Mathewson represented by two lines of csv data, or comma-separated values.

```
"19001215", , , 2, "rusia101", "T ", "NY1", "NL", "CIN", "NL", , , , 1889, 1901, Rusie, Amos Wilson
"19001215", , , 2, "mathc102", "T ", "CIN", "NL", "NY1", "NL", , , , 1900, 1916, Mathewson, Christopher
```

The various statements in English are all generated by computer from those two lines.

Research for the Transactions project generates some entries for the Who Signed Who Database that is under development by the SABR Scouts Cmte (q.v.), and vice versa, because the two projects have complementary scope. Transactions covers players controlled by a major league club (mainly playing in the majors, in the 19th century) and major league veteran free agents. In contrast, WSW focuses on the initial transactions whereby players enter professional baseball or newly join the MLB system (commonly two distinct transactions, for a 19th century player).

This year, the Transactions project incorporated data from David Ball, "Nineteenth Century Transactions Register" (ver. 2, August 2003) <http://world.std.com/~pgw/19c/Trades.rtf>. That is a pioneering work on player transactions between MLB clubs through May 1900, when the National League completed contraction from twelve teams to eight. In structure, it is a chronological, annotated list of transactions with a short preface. Congratulations!

UMPIRE GAME LOGS, John Schwartz

The Schwartz log for each league-season identifies for each day the umpire(s) who worked each championship game, by name and order of listing in a box score. A summary sheet for the league-season gives the number of games and the calendar span of games worked by each umpire. Here is a portion of one summary sheet.

## 1884 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION UMPIRES

	Umpire	First	Last	Total	
1	John O. Kelly	1 May	15 Oct	102	+ 1 World Series Game . . . [specified]
2	John G. Valentine	1 May	11 Oct	102	incl 1 with Quinn . . . [specified]
3	George E. Seward	1 May	15 Jul	54	
...					
42	James M. Becannon	11 Oct	11 Oct	1	

(18 of the 42 umpires worked one game; 8 worked two games. The 12-team league needed 6 umpires at once, but only two men worked much more than half of the season!) Beside the new game and season data, this work includes better Name data for many umpires; that is, it incorporates some new biographical research.

Schwartz has nearly completed coverage of the major leagues from 1876 to 1919. He plans to make the data widely available when it is practically complete, maybe this year. If you are interested in researching missing games or incomplete names for 1876-1882, contact John Schwartz, #166 Danforth St, Rochester NY 14611 (585-328-3850) or send a simple email message to me.

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