

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

SUMMER 2015

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

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

Committee Contacts

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

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

Copyright © Society for American Baseball Research 2015

Inside this issue:

NA Statistical Leaders	4
New Committee Book Projects	6
Grave Marker Committee Named	7
Eastern Park, Brooklyn, NY	8-10
News & Notes	11
Photos from the Fred	12

To What Base Uses a Man May Come by Tom Simon

Every weekday morning during the school year, the kids in my Burlington [VT] neighborhood - my kids included - walk, bike and scooter their way to the Edmunds school complex at the corner of Main and South Union streets.

With arched windows offering spectacular views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains from its top floors, Edmunds Middle School is a gorgeous Renaissance Revival building that served

as Burlington's high school from 1900 to 1964. Edmunds Elementary



George F. Edmunds

School, attended by my second-grade daughter

and fifth-grade son, is housed in the adjacent former junior high school, built in 1926.

The schools are named for George Franklin Edmunds, who served as United States Senator from Vermont for twenty-five years. A candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in both 1880 and 1884, Edmunds was arguably the most influential Senator of his era, famous for the Edmunds Anti-Polygamy Act of 1882, which sup-

(Continued on page 2)

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER by Peter Mancuso

Our **Nineteenth Century Committee's Annual Business Meeting** was held this June 26th during SABR 45 in Chicago. This Chairman's Corner will mention briefly most of the agenda items covered at our business meeting. Discussion of some of these topics will also be enlarged

within the pages of this newsletter issue or by direct emails to our membership.

"The Fred" (Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference) completed its' seventh year this past April at its regular venue, the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. This was the

first year that the conference was extended to two full days. This two-day format will continue for the foreseeable future and our single track of presentations will remain in place at least through 2016. The next "Fred" will take place on April 15 & 16, 2016. Please, see the NEW schedule

(Continued on page 5)

To What Base Uses a Man May Come (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

pressed the practice in Utah, and for being the principal author of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890, which outlawed monopolistic business practices.

Before I started researching the early history of baseball in Vermont, I thought Senator Edmunds' only connection to the sport was that his namesake high school had produced Ray Collins, a left-handed pitcher for the Boston Red Sox from 1909 to 1916. But with my first search at Chronicling America, a digitized database of historic U.S. newspapers, I turned up the following from the Burlington Free Press of April 6, 1860: "BASE BALL CLUB. - A number of the actively disposed citizens of Burlington, mostly young men, have illustrated to 'what base uses a man may come,' by associating themselves into a Club, under the title of the Burlington Base Ball Club, for the practice of the game of Base Ball. The officers are: G. F. Edmunds, Pres.; G. G. Benedict, V. Pres.; Edgar Pitkin, Sec. and Treas.; B. W. Carpenter, W. W. Walker, N. B. Flanagan, D. W. C. Clarke, B. B. Smalley, S. H. Lane, Executive Com. Some striking performances may be expected in due season."

This is the earliest mention of baseball I have come across in any Vermont newspaper, and the list of men who made up the club reads like a Who's Who of mid-nineteenth-century Burlington.

In addition to Edmunds, already a former Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives and the city's preeminent lawyer at the age of 32, the club included: DeWitt

Clinton Clarke, a 48-year-old journalist who had founded the Burlington Times in 1858; George Grenville Benedict, a 33-year-old associate editor of the Free Press who owned the newspaper with his father, having acquired it from Clarke in 1853; Noble Flanagan, a deputy collector of U.S. internal revenue whose father was the Sheriff of Chittenden County; 23-year-old Bradley Barlow Smalley, an aspiring lawyer then clerking for his father, the United States District Court judge; 23-year-old Benjamin Walter Carpenter, working as a demonstrator of anatomy with his father, the co-founder of the University of Vermont's Medical Department; William W. Walker, also working with his father, the co-owner of Van Sicklen & Walker, Burlington's oldest and most prosperous wholesale grocery house; and Edgar Pitkin, a 20-year-old who may have been clerking in Edmunds' law office. The only unknown is S. H. Lane, who does not appear in Burlington census records or city directories.

Newspapers from 1860 contain no other references to the Burlington Base Ball Club, so we can only speculate about which version of baseball these actively disposed young men were playing. At the time two competing versions existed, one known as the New York game and the other as the Massachusetts game (also sometimes called "town ball"). The rules of the New York game, which were first written down by the Knickerbocker Club of New York City in 1845, are essentially

the rules of baseball still in use today, with a couple of major exceptions: the ball had to be "pitched," meaning delivered underhand; and a batter was out if a fielder made a catch on one bounce.

Under the rules of the Massachusetts game, which were first written down in 1858, the playing field had four bases, 60 feet apart, and the "striker" stood mid-way between fourth and first base. There was no foul territory (the rules allowed 10 to 14 players on a side, to help cover the whole field), base runners were not required to stay within the baselines, and fielders were allowed to put a runner out by hitting him with a thrown ball. Outs were hard to come by, so a team's inning ended when a single player was put out. Runs were plentiful, and the rules declared the winner to be the first team to score 100. Though the Massachusetts game may seem odd to us today, it did feature two hallmarks of modern baseball: to record an out, the fielder had to catch the ball on the fly; and play was initiated by the ball being "thrown" (delivered overhand).

So which version was the Burlington Base Ball Club playing? At the meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Base Ball Players held on April 7, 1860 - the day after the article about the formation of the B.B.B.C. appeared in the Burlington Free Press - the name of the organization was changed to "The New England Association of Base Ball Players." Is that an indication that an effort

(Continued on page 3)

To What Base Uses a Man May Come (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

was underway to spread the game's acceptance beyond the northern border of the Bay State? Or was it more than mere coincidence that the number of B.B.B.C. officers listed in the Free Press article was nine - the number of players necessary to field a team under the New York rules? Unless we discover additional contemporary sources, we may never know.

We can be fairly sure of one thing, however: with representatives of both of Burlington's newspapers on the club, if the B.B.B.C. had ever played a match against another club, the result almost certainly would have appeared in print. That no such account exists suggests that any matches played were intramural affairs. According to baseball historian John Thorn, early baseball clubs like the B.B.B.C. were interested mainly in "limb stretching and camaraderie." In Thorn's words, "Which team won was of little concern; the aim was vigorous if inconclusive play. For its urban devotees with pale faces and narrow chests, baseball ... was a return to the rustic game of earlier days, now promoted as field exercise, a sort of gymnastics."

Unfortunately, their baseball was soon exchanged for field exercise of a different sort. On April 12, 1861, just about the time of year when the Burlington Base Ball Club would have been beginning its second season, Confederate batteries fired the first shots of the Civil War on Fort Sumter. Laying their bats and balls aside, the members of the B.B.B.C. devoted themselves to the Union war effort - the bloody

conflict illustrating far more than baseball to "what base uses a man may come."

The first to enlist was Edgar "Ned" Pitkin, who joined the 1st Vermont Regiment on May 2, 1861, in time to participate on June 10, 1861, in the Battle of Big Be-



George Benedict
Medal of Honor Recipient

thel, which some consider the first land battle of the Civil War. After his four months of service in the infantry ended, Pitkin was commissioned adjutant with the 1st Vermont Cavalry. He distinguished himself during the skirmish at Orange Court House on August 2, 1862, by leading a cavalry charge down the town's main street. Mustered out on September 10, 1862, Pitkin then secured a clerkship with the Secretary of the Treasury, Lucius Chittenden, great-great-grandson of Vermont's first governor, but resigned after only a few months to enlist in the U.S. Regular Cavalry. Serving under Philip Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, Pitkin was severely wounded in August 1864 and returned to Burlington to convalesce. As his condition improved, he re-

ported to Camp Remount, Pleasant Valley, Maryland, and was about to rejoin his regiment when he suffered a stroke on February 18, 1865, and died the next morning.

The most decorated of the former Burlington baseball players was George Benedict, who enlisted on August 23, 1862, in the Howard Guard, one of Burlington's militia companies that was later made part of the 12th Vermont Regiment. Appointed aide-de-camp to Brigadier General George J. Stannard of Burlington, Benedict also served as a sort of war correspondent for the Free Press, writing thirty-one published letters about his experiences during his nine months of service. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. According to his citation, during his brigade's flank attack on Pickett's Charge, Benedict "[p]assed through a murderous fire of grape and canister in delivering orders and re-formed the crowded lines." During the battle he served on the staff of Major General Winfield S. Hancock and was one of the two officers who helped Hancock from his horse when he was wounded. Following his honorable discharge on July 14, 1863, Benedict returned to Burlington and assumed the editorship of the Free Press.

One of the soldiers Benedict wrote about was his fellow Burlington Base Ball Club member Benjamin Carpenter, who was appointed assistant surgeon of the 2nd Vermont Regiment on June 11, 1861. At the First Battle of

(Continued on page 4)

To What Base Uses a Man May Come (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

Bull Run on July 22, which did not go well for the Union, Carpenter "was detached from the regiment, by order of a superior officer, before the battle, and stationed at a small house on the turnpike, in charge of a number of sick and disabled men," Benedict wrote. "All of these, who could walk, joined the retreat. Dr. Carpenter then posted himself in the road, pistol in hand, halted every wagon that came along, and when he could not persuade compelled the unwilling drivers to take in one or more of his sick and wounded men, till all were taken. ... The men thus assisted never forgot the service rendered them by the resolute young Vermont surgeon." Carpenter served with distinction until November 4, 1864, when he resigned from the army so he could care for his sick step-mother.

When the war ended in the spring of 1865, the surviving members of the Burlington Base Ball

Club continued their climb to positions of prominence. Following his election to the Vermont Senate in 1861, Edmunds went on to serve in the United State Senate from 1866 to 1891, declining appointments as U.S. minister to Great Britain and to the U.S. Supreme Court. After spending much of the war on the military staff of Vermont Governor Frederick Holbrook, Smalley became the president of the Burlington Trust Company and several railroads. He also served as secretary of the Democratic National Committee. Benedict owned and edited the Free Press for nearly a half-century, served in the Vermont Senate and as a trustee of the University of Vermont, and wrote several books about Vermont's role in the Civil War. DeWitt Clarke sold the Burlington Times in October 1860 and became the executive clerk of the U.S. Senate. Carpenter practiced medicine in Burlington and eventually became a druggist.

Flanagan served, at various times,

as chief of Burlington's fire and police departments. Except for that one brief notice in the Free Press of April 6, 1860, there is no record that any of them had any further direct connection with baseball.

Some of them, however, had indirect connections. In 1920 Smalley's daughter Caroline, married to Burlington's then-mayor, J. Holmes Jackson (a Democrat, of course), deeded a portion of the family property she had inherited to the city to be known as Smalley Park, where I held my children's tee-ball and coach-pitch practices. And four of the nine original members of the Burlington Base Ball Club - Benedict, Carpenter, Edmunds, and Smalley - are buried in Green Mount Cemetery, just beyond the outfield fence of Centennial Field, where Burlington's best baseball has been played since 1906.

Leaders for the National Association, 1871-75

(Source: Blackguards and Red Stockings by William J. Ryczek, page 229)

Pitching Leaders— Victories

Al Spalding	207-56
Dick McBride	152-76
Bobby Mathews	132-111
George Zettlein	125-90
Candy Cummings	124-72
Cherokee Fisher	51-64
Tommy Bond	41-48
George Bradley	33-26
Jim Britt	25-63
Asa Brainard	24-56

Base Hit Leaders

Ross Barnes	540
George Wright	494
Cal McVey	477
Andy Leonard	471
Al Spalding	462
James White	456
Davy Force	436
Adrian Anson	430
Dave Egglar	424
Lip Pike	402

Batting Ave. Leaders

Ross Barnes	.379
Cal McVey	.362
Levi Meyerle	.353
George Wright	.353
Adrian Anson	.352
James White	.347
Ezra Sutton	.327
Davy Force	.326
Andy Leonard	.321
Lip Pike	.321

Chairman's Corner (cont.)

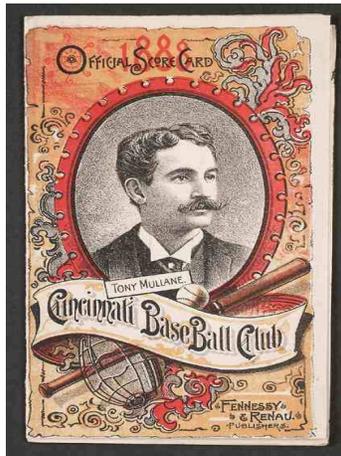
(Continued from page 1)

and related information for submitting an abstract for a research presentation proposal contained in this newsletter issue as well as some photos from our 2015 Conference.

2015 Chairman's Awards for service to our Nineteenth Century Committee were announced at our business meeting. Three awards were presented: **Ralph Carhart** for his attention to a number of logistical details to make the Negro Leagues' Committee's grave marker dedication of 19th Century Black baseball pioneer Sol White a huge success, his follow-up assistance to Jim Overmyer in identifying descendents of Sol White and for his invaluable help in assembling and presenting Greater NYC data from the Origin's Committee's Proto Ball List for this past NYC 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium; **Don Jensen** for planning and leading a highly informative and enjoyable walking tour of Manhattan's Historic Madison Square District, the heart of "the sporting life" during NYC's Gilded Age. The tour was an optional activity on the Sunday of the NYC Symposium weekend; and **John Zinn** for his planning and on-site management of the Origin's Committee's morning portion of the NYC Symposium. All three have received an engraved replica 1880's Burlingame model bat fashioned by the Phoenix Vintage Bat Company.

The 2015 Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend election results were announced by Overlooked Legends Committee member **Bob Gregory**. This year's winner is pitching star **Tony Mullane**.

Nineteenth Century Committee members should have received an email from this committee before July 1st containing the full elec-



tion results in the form of a press release which they are encouraged to share with any sports writers or editors they may know (newspapers, broadcasters, bloggers and/or websites). Also, briefly discussed was what may be the next phase of the Overlooked Legends project, a book. Congratulations to Adam Darowski and the entire Overlooked Legends Committee for another successful year presenting the primary and final election to first our Nineteenth Century Committee members then to all SABR members.

"Baseball's 19th Century 'Winter Meetings'" book project was formally announced. This two volume work (Vol. 1, 1857-1875 and Vol. 2, 1876-1900) is intended to complement a recently begun project of SABR's Business of Baseball Committee who are devoting their volumes to the 20th and 21st Century. Nineteenth Century Committee members are already signing-up as As-

sociate Editors and writers for this project. Our 1857-1875 volume will be lead by Jeremy Hodges as Editor-in-Chief while our 1876-1900 volume is to be lead by Editor-in-Chief, Susan Lantz. Further details and how to join the project are contained in this issue of the newsletter.

19th Century Grave Marker Committee Chairman, **Bob Gregory** introduced another of our Nineteenth Century Committee's new initiatives. The idea sprang to life at our last "Fred" conference in April when **John Thorn** gave those in attendance a passionate reminder that 19th-century New York Knickerbocker, James Whyte Davis was buried in Green Wood Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Information on joining and donating to this project is also discussed in detail in the issue.

The **2016 Philadelphia 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium** was formerly announced by the undersigned and Committee Member **Dick Rosen**. This will be the second 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium in our cities series. The location and date currently being planned for are **Drexel University on Saturday, November 12, 2016** (an alternate date would be Nov. 19th). More information will be provided in the months ahead, including a possible 2017 Symposium in Boston.

Peter Mancuso...because baseball history is not only baseball history.

New Committee Book Projects

Our **Nineteenth Century Committee** was approached about two months ago by SABR Vice President, **Bill Nowlin** to see if we might be interested in producing a book that, in a sense, would be a prequel to another SABR Research Committee's (Business of Baseball Committee) recently started project to publish one or more volumes on Major League Baseball's Winter Meetings of the 20th & 21st centuries.

After a preliminary round of email discussions with a number of our Committee's members with considerable editing, writing and publishing experience it was decided that to approach the subject of 19th century "winter meetings" we should consider a two volume work that would divide the work more evenly. Therefore we gave the books a working title, "**Baseball's 19th Century 'Winter Meetings'**": **Vol. 1 (1857-1875)** and **Vol. 2 (1876-1900)**.

Jeremy Hodges and Susan Lantz to Serve as Editors

A little over a month ago we sent out a call for Editors and Writers via email to our entire Nineteenth Century Committee membership to take on this work. We received a strong initial response to that email which was added to at our Committee's annual business meeting at SABR 45 in Chicago last week. In all 26 of our Nineteenth Century Committee members (23) joined in the project immediately or expressed strong interest (3 more) in joining. Among this



Jeremy Hodges

group an "Editor-in-Chief" was selected for each volume, they are: **Jeremy Hodges, Vol. 1 (1857-1875)** and **Susan Lantz, Vol. 2 (1876-1900)**.

To date, joining Jeremy Hodges on the **1857-1875 volume** are Associate Editors and Writers: Bob Tholkes, John Zinn, Bill Ryczek, Marcus Dickson, Dennis Pajot, Richard Hershberger, Bob Gregory, Jim Frutchey and Jody Ackerman.

Joining Susan Lantz on the **1876-1900 volume** are: Bill Lamb, Steven Hernandez, Michael Haupt, Jim Frutchey, Gregory Chrisiano, Phil Coffin, Michael McAvoy, John McMuaary, Jack Selzer, Matt Albertson, Rochell Nicolls, John Zinn and David Nemec. Expressing interest in either or both volumes are the following: Al Davis, Christopher Kamka and Noel Fliiss; more are expected.

This will be a very exciting

project giving all participants an opportunity to research, learn, write and read about their favorite 19th century baseball season, be it amateur or professional. Whether the issues pertain to on-field rules, pitching and batting developments, uniforms, reserve clauses, salary caps, racial exclu-



Susan Lantz

sion, team and league issues, you name it, the "Winter Meetings" offer a new dimension to our understanding of a season, a decade and/or a century. Volume 1 will include the NABBP and the NA, while volume 2 will include the NL, AA, UA and PL.

To join in the project as an Associate Editor or Writer or to receive additional information for **Vol. 1, contact Editor, Jeremy Hodges at:**

dr.jhodges@hotmail.com or **Vol. 2, contact Editor, Susan Lantz at:**

slantz1815@gmail.com. Contact them both if your interest is in both periods.

Grave Marker Committee Named

SABR and its Nineteenth Century Research Committee are pleased to announce the formation of a new project committee, the "**19th Century Baseball Grave Marker Committee**" (19cBB Grave Marker Committee). Much like what the Negro Leagues Research Committee has successfully undertaken, the purpose and goal of this new Committee are to identify 19th century baseball notables who either lack a grave marker or those whose headstones are in dire disrepair, and rectify those issues. The Committee will work closely with SABR's home office in the collection of donations and the planning of grave marker ceremonies.

The Committee currently has six volunteers: Bob Bailey, Ralph Carhart, Bob Gregory, Eric Miklich, Dave Stalker and John Thorn. Bob Gregory has agreed to head up and chair this Committee. If anyone wishes to join in the fun, they can contact Bob at: **mgregory128@hotmail.com**

The first site chosen by the Committee to be marked is that of an early New York Knickerbocker, James Whyte Davis, one of the "Founding Fathers" of baseball. Efforts are already underway for the Davis marker to be placed on his unmarked grave in Green Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. Donations are now being accepted specifically for the Davis grave site and/or the 19th Century Grave Marker Project in general.

For more on Davis follow the following link to John Thorn's Our Game blog: <http://ourgame.mlblogs.com/2011/12/31/too-late-to-reach-home-plate/>

To make a tax exempt donation, send a check payable to: "**SABR**" and (**most importantly**) write on the check's memo line "**19cBB Grave Marker Project**". Checks should be mailed to:

Society for American
Baseball Research
Cronkite School at A.S.U
555 N. Central Ave #416
Phoenix AZ 85004I



Doc Adams (left) and James Whyte Davis from a Knickerbocker photo

Donations may be made in any amount, large or small; but to help initiate the project, a \$25 donation is suggested; approximately the equivalent of one dollar at the time of Davis' passing in 1899.

Not only will long forgotten 19th century baseball notables receive some well deserved attention, SABR and the Nineteenth Century Baseball Research Committee will also benefit from the publicity asso-

ciated with the marking of these grave sites.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, and we hope that others among our Nineteenth Century Committee members will join this project committee as the project requires some real field research in many places (perhaps near you) to verify if a 19th century baseball notable is in a marked grave or unmarked grave and to be part of the excitement of dedicating a grave marker.

Part of the research necessary for the project going forward we need to identify those with connections to the 19th century game who are unmarked. We have developed a list of all 19th century players and managers along with a number of umpires, sportswriters and pre-professional players. We can provide a list in your area for a cemetery visit to confirm the location, note if it is marked, and supply other information on the plot location. You can contact me at the e-mail address below or Bob Bailey at: bobbailey@cox.net if you can help with this

Bob Gregory, Chairman
19cBB Grave Marker Committee
mgregory128@hotmail.com

Eastern Park, Brooklyn, NY by Ron Selter

Brooklyn had a franchise in the NL from 1890 to 1957. The Brooklyn team in the NL in the 19th Century was called the Bridegrooms or Grooms (1890-98) and the Superbas starting with the 1899 season until early in the 20th Century when they became the Dodgers. In addition, there was a Brooklyn team in the American Association from 1884 to 1890 and a Brooklyn team in the 1890 Players League. That meant there were

Brooklyn Wonders. After the end of the Players League, the NL began using Eastern Park in the 1891 season. The NL team was known as the Bridegrooms and used Eastern Park through the 1897 season. After that season, the NL Brooklyn Bridegrooms moved into Washington Park III.

Eastern Park had stands that consisted of a wooden grandstand and a pavilion (meaning roofed stands) down the first base line. There were no bleachers in the

dimensions at Eastern Park, starting with the 1892 season, became exactly 235.

EASTERN PARK DATA

AKA
Brotherhood Park 1890, Atlantic Park

OCCUPANTS

PL Brooklyn Wonders April 28-September 12, 1890; NL Brooklyn Bridegrooms April 27, 1891-October 2, 1897



three major league Brooklyn teams for the 1890 season.

Eastern Park was in the East New York section of Brooklyn, while all of the Washington Parks (I, II, and III) were in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn. Eastern Park was first used for the 1890 season by the Players League

Brooklyn Map showing Eastern Park

outfield. The LF and RF dimensions were increased for the 1892 season as that was the season the minimum home run distance specified in the rules was increased from 210 to 235 feet. The foul line

LOCATION

(N) Eastern Parkway (now Pitkin Ave), (W) Powell St, (S) Sutter Ave, (E) Vesta Ave (later van Sinderen St), also Canarsie Railroad tracks, City Line and Brownsville Line Elevated Railroad tracks;

(Continued on page 9)

Eastern Park, Brooklyn, NY (cont.)

(Continued from page 8)
 in the East New York section of
 Brooklyn, near Jamaica Bay

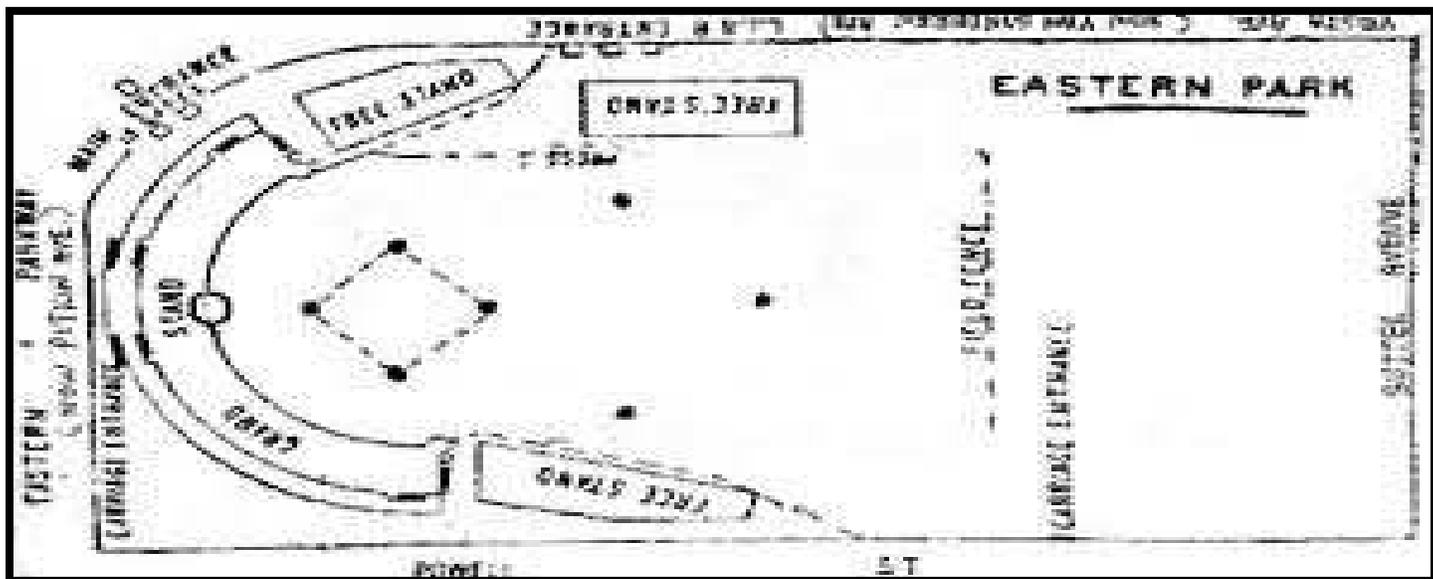
based on a map of the ballpark
 published in 1890 (*New York Daily
 Tribune* November 27, 1890) ⁽¹⁾.

Runs (IPHR). This proportion of
 IPHR at Eastern Park was exactly
 double the overall NL proportion
 (41%) in 1893-1900. Over-The-
 Fence (OTF) home runs averaged
 a mere 4.8 per season. This home

DIMENSIONS

Left Field: 215, 235 (1892)

The Impact of the Park's



- Straightaway Left Field: 325
- Left Center: 410
- Center Field: 402
- Right Center: 410
- Straightaway Right Field: 325
- Right Field: 230, 235 (1892)
- Backstop: 70

CAPACITY

12,000

PHENOMENA

Eastern Park for the late 19th Century was a large ballpark, except down the foul lines. A hard-surfaced bicycle racing track that was located in the outfield caused fielding problems for the outfielders, with the ball often bouncing past them for home runs. The distance to the fence in the LF and RF corner was very short-less than at the Polo Grounds. Dimensions are

**Drawing of Eastern Park
1890**

Configurations and Dimensions on Batting

Eastern Park was generally not a good hitter's park. The runs park factor for 1891-97 time period was 90, one of the lowest in the NL during the 1890s. For home runs, Eastern Park was a bit poorer than the average NL ballpark. The average home run park factor at Eastern Park in 1891-97 was 89.

A study of all home runs hit at Eastern Park during the 1893-97 seasons (Note that detailed home run data for the 19th Century is available only for 1893-1900) showed that 82% of the total home runs were Inside-the-Park Home

run data is consistent with the estimated dimensions that show Eastern Park was noticeably larger than the average NL ballpark.

The home run data does have a curious blip for the 1897 season. In the preceding four seasons there were a total of 12 OTF home runs, in the 1897 season there were also 12 OTF home runs. In both time periods, 11 of the 12 OTF home runs were to LF and in each time period one OTF home run was to an unknown field. Why the rate of OTF home runs went from three per season to 12 per season with no changes in the park's dimensions is unknown.

There were no OTF home runs to CF which is not surprising as the dimensions to left center, CF,

(Continued on page 10)

Eastern Park, Brooklyn, NY (cont.)

(Continued from page 9)

and right center were all greater than 400 feet. What is surprising is that there were no known OTF home runs to RF in five seasons.

This result is curious in light of the RF dimensions having been the league minimum of 235 feet.

Home run data and the batting park factors for Eastern Park are below in three tables:

HOME RUNS BY TYPE AT EASTERN PARK

Year	Total	OTF	Bounce	IPHR
1893	41	2	0	39
1894	37	10	5	27
1895	42	7	3	35
1896	32	1	0	31
1897	30	12	1	18

OTF HOME RUNS BY FIELD AT EASTERN PARK

Year	Total	LF	CF	RF	Unk
1893-96	12	11	0	0	1
1897	12	11	0	0	1

Excludes Bounce Home Runs

INSIDE-THE-PARK HOME RUNS BY FIELD AT EASTERN PARK

Year	Total	LF	LC	CF	RC	RF	Unk
1893	39	3	11	10	6	1	8
1894	27	9	5	4	0	0	1
1895	35	13	2	8	2	5	1
1896	31	13	2	8	2	5	1
1897	18	6	2	1	0	8	1

OTF– Over the Fence

IPHR– Inside the Park Home Run



Eastern Park– Opening Day 1894

News & Notes

-David Stalker reports a monument honoring the Rockford (IL) Forest City Club (1865-1871) will be unveiled in Rockford. The backside of the two-sided monument goes on to tell about Spalding and Barnes championship years in Boston, and their championship team in Chi-



cago, with 1871 Rockford player Adrian Anson. The majority of the funding came from royalties received by SABR book "Base Ball Pioneers 1850-1870" which will be inscribed on the stone. Many thanks to all who contributed. A large event is be planned, with more details to come. You can contact David at : theballyard@yahoo.com.

-SABR Vice President, Bill Nowlin has informed us that he is editing a book on the 1871-1875 Boston Red Stockings. He writes, "Hopefully, those of you who were at the SABR Convention are charged up and ready to take on a bio for this publication. Or, not having yet written one, are ready to dive in. Those of you who couldn't make it to the Convention, maybe you're ready to write up something, too. We need

biographers for Fred Cone and Sam Jackson. There are also nine games which need game accounts written." Anyone interested in contributing to this project can contact Bill at bnowlin@rounder.com.

-Sean Lahman is SABR's Data Manager and he sends along the following: For those who don't know me I serve as SABR's Data manager and one of my missions is to help members and committees digitize their research and get it online. One project I've undertaken is an online archive of pre-1930 baseball guides. I think there is tremendous value in compiling an archive of raw research material. I'm happy to assist in this effort in any way that's helpful—whether it's scanning documents or providing access to web space or online tools. You can contact Sean at seanlahman@gmail.com.

-Proposals for The 2016 Fred research presentations are now being accepted. All SABR members are invited and encouraged to submit a Research Presentation Proposal Abstract of 200-500 words for a 20-25 minute presentation on any topic of 19th century baseball for the 2016 "Fred". **The New Deadline for Research Presentation Proposal Abstracts is October 31, 2015.**

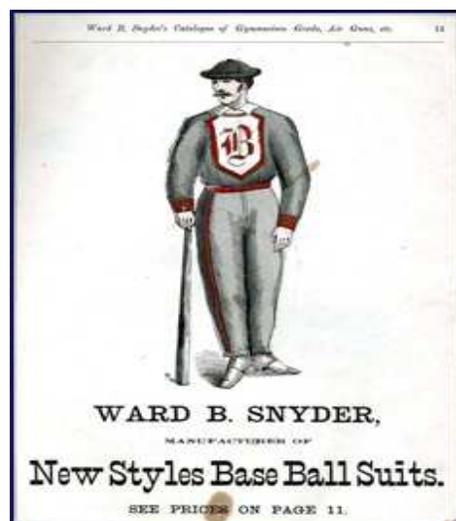
Proposals must be part of an email or in the form of a Word or PDF document attached to an email sent to my email address no later than the new deadline. My email address remains: peterplus4@earthlink.net.

This new deadline will allow us to publish the complete Program & Schedule in time for the release of our 2016 Winter Issue of our quarterly newsletter, on approximately January 1st 2016 when Registration for "The Fred" begins.

This new timeline will allow people whose Research Presentations having been accepted (before the end of November) to acknowledge their intentions to present their research at the following April's "Fred" in time for the winter issue of our newsletter.

This in turn provides SABR members interested in registering for "The Fred" a much earlier look at the complete program before deciding to attend or not.

I look forward to receiving proposals from all hoping to present at the April 2016 "Fred" by or before **October 31, 2015**. Please, include your name and contact information. Your identity will be removed before your abstract is submitted to the Research Presentation selection jurors. Thank you, Peter Mancuso



Photos From The Fred 2015



Chairman Peter Mancuso opens the Conference



James E. Brunson III presents "Black Baseball: 1858-1900"



John Thorn leads a panel of George Thompson, Bob Tholkes, and Jim Overmyer



Dr. Jerry Casway delivers the Keynote Address



Dennis Thiessen presents "1887 St. Louis Browns: Anything To Win"