

# NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

Summer 2008

Society for American Baseball Research

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

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## What I Did This Summer - A Walk Through SABR 38 by Peter Mancuso

**S**ABR generally chooses quality properties for their conventions and the choice for SABR 38 was no exception. A decent full service hotel at a reasonable price is a great way to start.

Wednesday evening I attended my first Research Committee Chairs meeting as a tenured chairperson. SABR’s new Director of Special Projects, Becky Bristol kicked off the session with a spirited presenta-

tion on working with Research Committees to enhance the overall

ment of websites for individual Research Committees. There

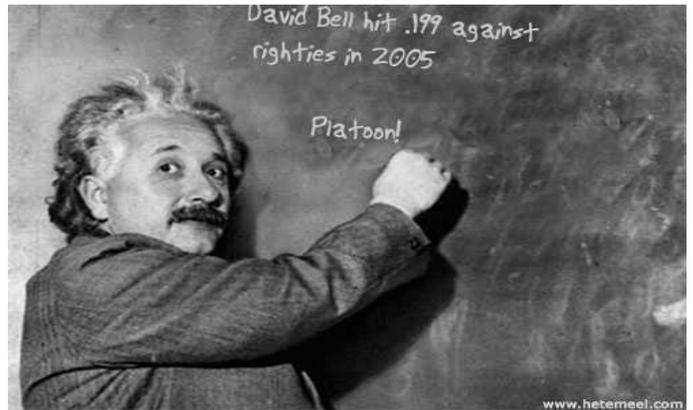


Photo of Unknown Presenter at SABR 38

effectiveness of communications and research capabilities for SABR members, including the develop-

was ample time for each Research Committee represented to critique current prob-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Baseball and Cricket - A Report on SABR 38 Presentation by Beth Hise

**R**eport by Dorothy Seymour Mills

Commonalities and Differences in Play, Equipment, and Custom.” by Beth Hise.

sounding title, Beth Hise’s presentation was enjoyable. Hise, a social historian, is currently working as Guest Curator at the

“Baseball and Cricket: A Preliminary Overview of

Despite the rather academic and stuffy-

*(Continued on page 2)*

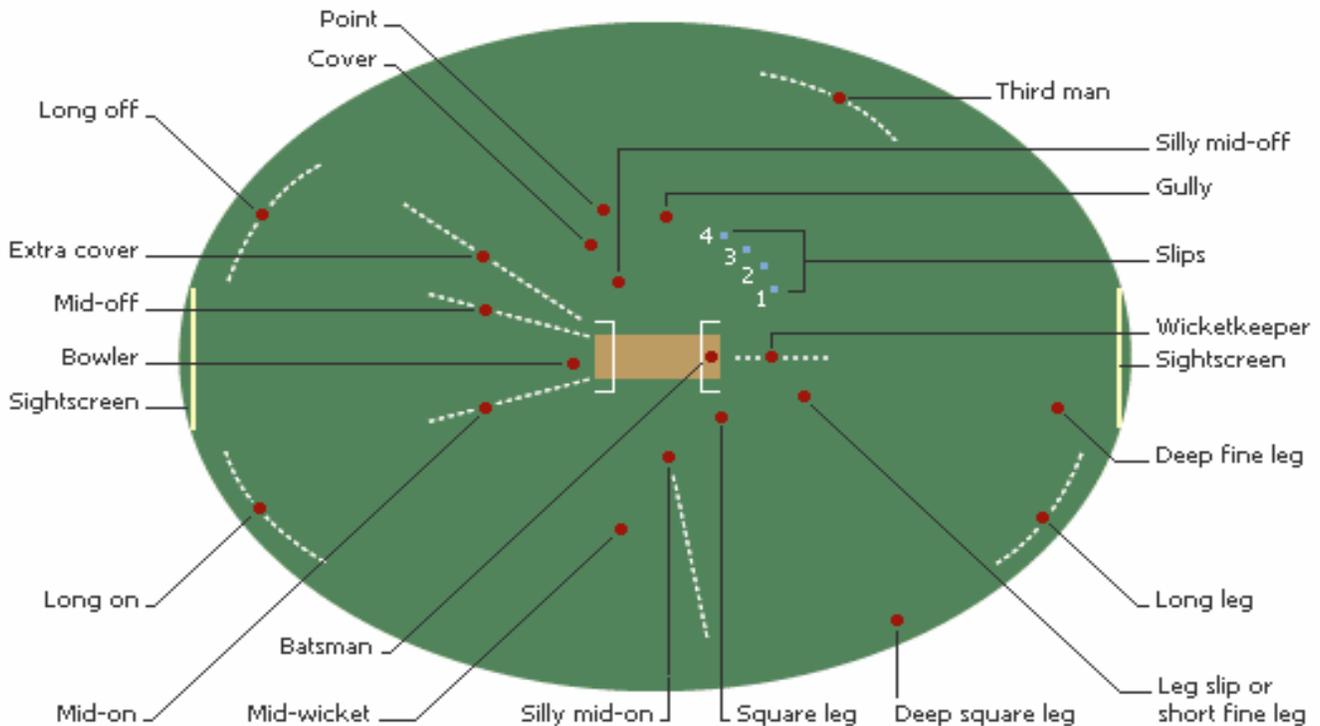
## Baseball and Cricket Presentation at SABR 38— Report by Dorothy Seymour Mills (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Museum of Marylebone Cricket Club, which is housed on the property of the famous Lord's Cricket Grounds in London,

States. She briefly traced the spread of cricket around the globe with the development of the British Empire. In addition, she stated that women have

David Block on the early origins of baseball, stool ball, and trap ball, explaining briefly that these games are all distant relations. In response to questions, Hise



England. The Club currently has 23,000 members.

Hise described the growth of cricket and its parallel in the rise of the M.C.C., founded in the 1780s for aristocratic cricket players. She expounded on the club setup typical in England and showed that such clubs supported several teams at various skill levels. The difference of the club system to American sporting groups is striking.

She also pointed out that workmen eventually embraced the game, forming neighborhood clubs, just as workmen did with baseball in the United

States. She briefly traced the spread of cricket around the globe with the development of the British Empire. In addition, she stated that women have

played cricket from the 1700s onward in separate leagues, with a heavier cricket ball. Hise said little about the American system, however; nor did she really compare it with the cricket structure or give any opinion as to which system works better and why. I think she assumed that we would rather just learn about the structure of English cricket. She said very little about equipment and could have explained her terminology better, since Americans are unfamiliar with “overs” and other cricket terms.

Hise knew of the research of

David Block on the early origins of baseball, stool ball, and trap ball, explaining briefly that these games are all distant relations. In response to questions, Hise talked about a current change in playing style, used particularly by clubs in the subcontinent of India. Players there have designed a shortened form of the game, which no longer takes five days to watch but can be played in an afternoon. It's a faster game and seems more suited to modern life. The New York Times has featured this change in recent articles.

Hise's voice is a little low and fast but clear. The images she showed were attractive and supported her statements well.

## What I Did This Summer (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

lems and to suggest solutions.

Immediately following this meeting, I met with Origins Committee Chair, Larry McCray, and Committee Member David Block to discuss various mutual committee interests and the potential of our members' contributions being part MLB on-line and broadcast efforts in the future. Depending largely on MLB's progress in these areas, I'm hoping to have more to report in the future.

Early Thursday morning I met with an independent film crew producing a documentary about SABR. My interview was centered on our Committee, its interests, the work of its members and its goals. I did my best to show the past contributions of our Committee to our current understanding of the game while trying to convey how much fun and interest 19<sup>th</sup>-century baseball research is.

After an opening general session by SABR's Jack Graney Chapter of Cleveland (which did an excellent job as convention host) I viewed the Poster Presentations and hit the book vendors. One of those Poster Presentations was an excellent display by Jon Daly, "A Glorious Victory for Brooklyn: 06/14/1870," At 12:30 pm I presided over our Nineteenth Century Committee

Meeting (see Chairman's Corner this issue).

That evening we boarded trolley-style buses for a combined vintage game and picnic. There was fun and plenty of food and an opportunity to visit the adjacent Western Reserve Historical Society's baseball exhibit and library. A thunderstorm shortened the game and picnic but did not dampen our SABR spirit.

Friday morning began for me with the Origins Committee Meeting which featured a comprehensive update on Committee endeavors, particularly the ongoing development of the Proto-ball list of pre 1850 references to baseball and its ancestor games. This session was followed immediately by the Baseball & the Arts (formerly Music & Poetry) Committee Meeting which featured an excellent overview of baseball films and intellectual property rules applicable (and not applicable) to show such films at SABR type functions.

Next, I attended Norma Macht's back-to-back Research Presentations, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Coliseum," an absorbing account of the obscure report that the St. Louis Browns were on the verge of moving to Los Angeles for the 1942 season, followed by the equaling interesting and entertaining presentation, "Potholes and Land Mines on the

Research Trail." This was followed by a stop at the Bioproject Committee Meeting which included a summary of recent team projects.

Lunch and meeting with our newsletter editor, Bob Bailey about our Committee Meeting and future possibilities for our Committee was valuable and enjoyable. We later caught up with each other at Trey Strecker's Research Presentation, "Frank Pidgeon of the Brooklyn Eckfords."

I next attended The Oral History Committee Meeting, which included a comprehensive presentation by Rod Nelson about the organization, transcription and preservation of this committee's valuable body of work. Chairman, Dave Paulson affirmed that Nineteenth Century Committee researchers should know that the Oral History Committee welcomes interviews of relatives or others who may have a unique knowledge or ties to 19<sup>th</sup>-century baseball personalities.

Friday evening, we saw the Indians beat the Reds 6-0 behind eleven strikeouts by C.C. Sabathia and a catch by Grady Sizemore that will likely become a 2008 ESPN Web-Gem season finalist.

Saturday morning's first activ-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Still More of “What I Did This Summer (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

ity for me was the Biographical Committee Meeting chaired by Bill Carle. Bill explained the responsibility he has to evaluate proposed changes to the biographical record by assessing the sources presented by his Committee Members. This was valuable information for documenting resources.

At 10:00 am, one of the highlights of SABR 38 took place in a packed ballroom, the World Premiere screening of “Baseball Discovered,” an hour long documentary written and directed by Sam Marchiano of MLB.com. The film presented the search for baseball’s roots and featured the work of Committee Member, David Block and his recent research exploits in the United Kingdom. It received a pro-

longed applause upon its conclusion. The screening was followed by a panel discussion comprised of Marchiano, Block, John Thorn and Tom Shieber. The Awards Luncheon followed. Attendees had the opportunity to acknowledge former Bob Davids Award winners and this year’s recipient, Mark Amour, Chairman of the Bioproject. This was followed by speaker Ron Shapiro, who gave a baseball laced talk on his recent book, “Dare to Prepare.”

Saturday afternoon completed the Convention for me with baseball talk among SABR friends, most of who are members of this committee. It is during these informal gatherings where many of the thoughts and ideas become the projects of committees and collaborations

between and among individual members.

For me, SABR National Conventions are always a big highlight of being a SABR member. They whet my appetite. The Annual Convention, however, offers just one-hour for our Committee to meet and, in this case, only one Poster and one Research Presentation devoted exclusively to 19<sup>th</sup>-century topics. This is understandable given the size and diversity of interests of SABR. This all serves, however, to keep me energized to plumb the depths of our Committee Membership to develop a National 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Baseball Conference. See you at SABR 39 or, hopefully before.



## Frank Pidgeon - A Report on SABR 38 Presentation by Trey Strecker

**R**eport by Ed Heckenfluss  
 “Frank Pidgeon of the Brooklyn Eckfords” by Trey Strecker

Late on the morning of June 12, 1884, an employee of the New York and Northern Railway Company was walking along the company's tracks in northern Manhattan. Deep in thought, he struck by an oncoming train and died instantly. A tragedy by any standard, Pidgeon was more than a railway employee. The 60-year-old man was also a contractor, businessman, inventor, musician, artist, and, an early base ball player and club organizer.

One of the most interesting contributions SABR researchers make to our understanding and love of the game is to shine a light into a few dark corners and teach us things we didn't know. This is what Trey Strecker, editor of the periodical “NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture” does with his profile of Fran Pidgeon.

As a young man Pidgeon sailed “around the horn” to California in 1849 to seek his fortune in the gold fields. Apparently prospecting was not his calling but he did make at least one other trip to San Francisco and could tell tales of crossing the isthmus of Panama to his compatriots in New York. When he entered business in New York, he became a ship builder with a solid reputation for design-

ing yachts and subsequently expanded into building other types of ships.

But our interest in Pidgeon starts when in 1855 when he was 30-years-old. In that year Pidgeon gathered a group of shipbuilders together to form a baseball club, a popular and growing pastime. The group took the



Frank Pidgeon

name Eckfords in honor of Henry Eckford, a talented and successful New York shipbuilder of an earlier generation.

The Eckfords team is one of the better-known in the period before organized leagues came to the fore. Pidgeon was not just an administrative force behind the founding of the team, he was also the star pitcher. Before Jim Creighton rose to prominence as a pitcher, the gold-standard in the pitcher's box was Frank Pid-

geon. His reputation was built more on pitching with intelligence rather than unhittable speed or stuff.

Pidgeon was also present when the National Association of Base Ball Players was formed. And when the best of Brooklyn challenged the clubs of New York City to a series of games, Pidgeon was selected to play in all of the three games of the series held in 1858, pitching Brooklyn to their only win of the series.

But things change with time. The pure amateur ethic of the 1850s gave way to the professional ethic that developed in the 1860s, Pidgeon lost interest in the game. He was of the founding generation that looked with a jaundiced eye at playing for pay.

Returning to his shipyard he expanded his business into contracting building roads and bridges in the New York area.

In 1862 he moved to a residence up the Hudson Valley with his family, but a series of financial reverses in the 1880s left him bankrupt.

Strecker, also an English professor at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana took his audience through the fascinating life of Frank Pidgeon in a conversational and professional manner, giving us a view to one of the founders of organized baseball. A man who unknowingly put some of the key building blocks in place for the growth of organized baseball.

## Pioneer Project Update

**O**ur goal is to create a readable reference source that will stimulate more research on this fascinating era and that will place names and faces on the game's earliest players.

The above citation was shamelessly stolen from Peter Morris' website ([www.petermorrisbooks.com](http://www.petermorrisbooks.com)) where he describes a project that has drawn 19th Century committee members into the research world of baseball before the National Association. Peter, Richard Malatzky, and John Thorn began this effort several months ago to fill in the many gaps concerning the history and personalities involved with teams that have become mere but dimly obscure over the decades.

The effort involves pouring through musty newspaper files for events, games, names, and miscellanies about early teams across the country. The hope is that it will lead to a book, monograph, or some other publication. But the value of pushing back the time curtain and bringing alive these important links in the evolution of our favorite sport can only spur further research in this era.

The trio of project leaders have identified the teams of primary interest and others that are the targets. Here is a list with those

who have already volunteered to participate and those still needing work.

### PIONEER PROJECT CLUBS AND AUTHORS

Here are the clubs we're hoping to include and the author who will write about them, if one has volunteered. The clubs in roman type with their own lines are ones we consider important enough that we want to include them if at all possible. The ones in italics are ones we'd consider if someone expressed interest. We're also very willing to consider including clubs not listed if someone is willing to write about them, so don't hesitate to ask about a club you don't see here. And if you're interested in a club that has already been assigned, feel free to inquire; the person working on them may be happy to join forces with you or to exchange information or even to step aside.

#### REGION: NYC AND VICINITY

Knickerbocker: John Thorn  
 Gotham (Washington): John Thorn  
 New York Club: John Thorn  
*Eagle*  
*Empire*  
*Active*  
*Mutual*  
 Magnolia: John Thorn  
 Union of Morrisania

Candidates: Jefferson, Baltic, Social, Eclectic, Sparta, M.M. Van Dyke, Metropolitan, Harlem, Alert (all of New York City), Oriental of Greenpoint, Pacific of New Utrecht, Long Island, Atlantic of Jamaica, Long Is-

Farms, Mystic of Yorkville, Undercliff of Cold Spring, Hudson River Club of Newburgh

#### REGION: BROOKLYN

Excelsior: Trey Strecker  
 Eckford: Trey Strecker  
 Brooklyn Base Ball Club: John Thorn  
 Atlantic: Craig B. Waff and Richard Malatzky  
 Charter Oak  
 Putnam: Trey Strecker  
 Pastime: Peter Morris  
 Star  
 Enterprise

Candidates: Contest, Resolute, Powhatan

#### REGION: NEW JERSEY

Irvington Base Ball Club  
 Olympic of Paterson: John Zinn  
 Eureka of Newark: John Zinn  
 Newark Base Ball Club: John Zinn

Candidates: Riverton Base Ball Club, Americus of Newark, Kearney of Rahway, Liberty of New Brunswick, Union of Camden, Elizabeth Base Ball Club

#### REGION: PHILADELPHIA

Olympic: Richard Hershberger  
 Keystone  
 Athletic: Richard Hershberger  
 Merion: Richard Hershberger  
 Pythian: Trey Strecker

Candidates: Minerva, Equity, Geary, Swiftfoot, Henry Clay, Quaker City

#### REGION: REST OF PENNSYLVANIA

Neptune of Easton: Richard Hershberger  
 Allegheny Base Ball Club

Candidates: Mountain of Altoona, Alert of Danville

#### REGION: UPSTATE NEW YORK

Union of Lansingburg (Haymaker of Troy): Peter Morris

## Pioneer Project Update (cont.)

Niagara of Buffalo: Peter Morris  
Clifton of Buffalo: Peter Morris  
Flour City of Rochester: Priscilla Astifan  
Utica Base Ball Club: Scott Fiesthumel

Candidates: Victory of Troy, Live Oak of Rochester, Active of Rochester, National of Albany, Knickerbocker of Albany, Poughkeepsie Base Ball Club, Clipper of Iliion

### REGION: MASSACHUSETTS

Tri-Mountain of Boston  
Lowell of Boston  
Chemung of Stoughton: Peter Morris  
Eagle of Florence  
Upton  
Medway

Candidates: Harvard, Kearsarge of Stoneham, Adriatic of Middleboro

### REGION: REST OF NEW ENGLAND

Mansfield of Middletown: David Arcidiacono  
Charter Oak of Hartford: David Arcidiacono

Candidates: Portland (Maine) Base Ball Club, Eon of Portland, Maine, Waterbury Base Ball Club, Uncas of Norwich, Chester of Norwich, Osceola of Bridgeport, Agallian of Middletown, Monitor of Waterbury

### REGION: DC AND MARYLAND

National of Washington  
Olympic of Washington  
Excelsior/Pastime of Baltimore: Trey Strecker  
Maryland of Baltimore: Trey Strecker

Candidates: Potomac of Washington, Jefferson of Washington, Alert of Cumberland

### REGION: OHIO

Independent of Mansfield: Peter Morris  
Forest City of Cleveland  
Cincinnati Base Ball Club/Red Stock-

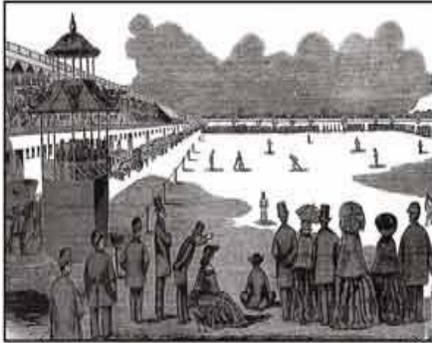
Stockings: David Ball  
Buckeye of Cincinnati: David Ball

Candidates: Live Oak of Cincinnati, Baltic of Cincinnati, Indianola of Cincinnati, Avondale Base Ball Club, Mount Auburn Base Ball Club, Pickwick of Walnut Hills

### REGION: MICHIGAN

Detroit Base Ball Club: Peter Morris  
Franklin of Detroit: Peter Morris  
Early Riser of Detroit: Peter Morris  
Central City of Jackson: Peter Morris  
Kent of Grand Rapids: Peter Morris  
First National of Hancock: Peter Morris

Candidates: Aetna of Detroit, Cass of Detroit, Empire of Detroit, Ogema of Flint, University of Michigan, Custer of Ionia, Mutual of Jackson, Continental of Kalamazoo, Wolverine of Benton Harbor



### REGION: ILLINOIS

Excelsior of Chicago: Peter Morris  
Forest City of Rockford  
Pecatonica Base Ball Club: Peter Morris

Candidates: Blue Stocking of Chicago, Lake View of Chicago, Aetna of Chicago, Liberty of Chicago, Union of Chicago, Atlantic Jr. of Chicago, Dreadnaught of Chicago, Active of Chicago

### REGION: REST OF MIDWEST

Marshalltown Base Ball Club: Jeff Sackmann  
Kekionga of Fort Wayne: Robert Gregory  
Janesville Base Ball Club

Olympic of Beloit  
Capital of Madison: Jeff Sackmann

Candidates: No Name of Davenport, Cream City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Base Ball Club

### REGION: ST. LOUIS

Union: Jeff Kittel  
Empire: Jeff Kittel  
Cyclone: Jeff Kittel

Candidates: Red Stocking, Elephant

### REGION: SOUTH

Gate City of Atlanta

Candidates: Lone Star of New Orleans, Louisville Base Ball Club, Pioneer of Savannah, Ludlow of Covington

### REGION: PACIFIC COAST

Eagle of San Francisco: Angus Macfarlane  
Pacific of San Francisco: Angus Macfarlane

Candidates: Cosmopolitan of San Francisco, Pioneer of Portland (Oregon), Red Rover of San Francisco, Boston of San Francisco

### REGION: CANADA

Maple Leaf of Guelph: Bill Humber

Candidates: Tecumseh of London, Young Canadian of Woodstock, Young Canadian of Hamilton, Atlanta of Halifax, Nova Scotia

### REGION: CUBA

Habana Base Ball Club: Cesar Gonzalez

While there are a solid group of teams with volunteers in place there are many without a champion. If you can help in ways large or small contact Peter at [moxbib@comcast.net](mailto:moxbib@comcast.net).

## Chairman's Corner by Peter Mancuso

This issue's Chairman's Corner is devoted to our recent Nineteenth Century Committee meeting held during SABR 38 in Cleveland. I had prepared in advance eighty copies of a meeting package to hand out on site. I now have fewer than thirty folders left, attesting to approximately fifty committee members and potential members in attendance. This made for a lively affair with plenty of exchanges of ideas, laughs, SABR fellowship, and we even got through nearly the entire agenda before we were interrupted by a faulty fire alarm. Many members did make their way back to the meeting room after the "all clear" to finish up with some final comments and exchanges of contact information.

High on the meeting agenda were three topics: The Pioneer Project, a research / book publication effort to amplify and share our knowledge of approximately one-hundred teams and their players and other base ball personalities in the pioneer era-1845-1870; Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Players, a proposed project, attempting to have our Committee establish and institutionalize a regular selection of 19<sup>th</sup>-century baseball personalities that have yet to receive "official" recognition by the

HOF and; A National 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Baseball Conference, an annual or bi-annual conference devoted to our committee's focus on the 19<sup>th</sup>-century phase of our National Pastime. Following are brief summaries of the discussions surrounding these topics.

The Pioneer Project: Supported by a handout supplied from Peter Morris' web page, the attendees were told more about the project (including its unique research challenges) by Project contributors in attendance, including one of the Project's leaders, Richard Malatzky. Trey Streckler reported that he has taken on the research pertaining to the Pythian Base Ball Club of Philadelphia in addition to the teams and cities he has already been identified with on Morris' website. Larry McCray reported that Morris' is seeking research contributions which particularly center on teams in Boston, Washington, DC and San Francisco. Pete Palmer suggested revisiting the work of Richard Puff. In summary, the goals of The Pioneer Project, although very challenging, are more attainable now, than in the past, due to the growing archive accessibility available on the internet, with several internet sources being cited by members in attendance. All Committee

Members and Potential Members are invited and encouraged to contact Peter Morris for further information, including team rosters.

Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Players, Managers & Others: The complete results of the Committee-wide survey conducted in Fall '07 were provided in the handout package distributed at the meeting. All seventy-one players named in the survey results by our members were made available. Our discussion started with several senior members of our Committee (including Bob McConnell) recounting prior efforts (some in conjunction with the HOF) to supply the Hall with the names of 19<sup>th</sup>-century players worthy of induction. Most, if not all of these past individual efforts seemed to have fallen by the wayside. Several members reminded us that there is new leadership at the Hall and that the Hall has shown a willingness to revisit the past for new inductions, as recently witnessed by the Negro Leagues and pre-Negro League inductions. I raised the notion that the Hall's acceptance or non-acceptance of recommendations of overlooked 19<sup>th</sup>-century baseball people might be viewed as a secondary issue to the more immediate issue of having SABR, lead by our Committee members, institution-

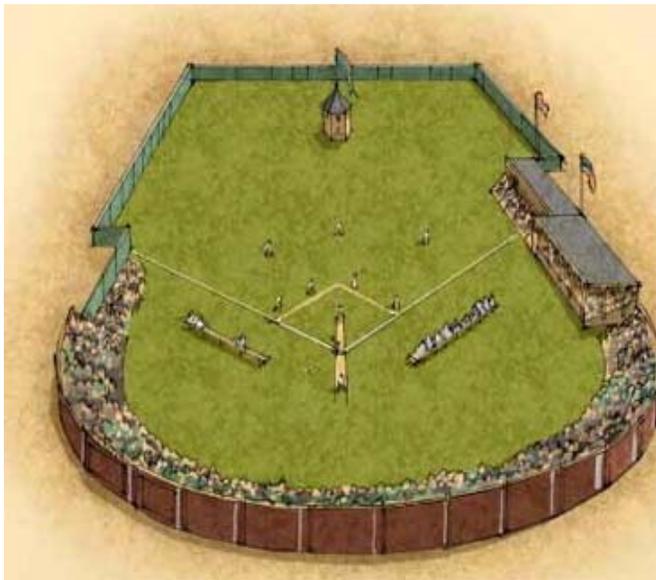
## Chairman's Corner (cont.)

alize a method to select and recognize a 19<sup>th</sup>-century person on an annual basis, with the additional goal of giving the selection high profile publicity. There seemed to be a general consensus among attendees that our Committee should move forward with the creation of a sub-committee for this project. Several Committee Members and Potential Members (some not attending SABR 38) have expressed interest in joining this sub-committee; one, being in attendance at the meeting was Bob Gregory. Anyone interested in joining this sub-committee please, contact me.

National 19<sup>th</sup> Century Base Ball Conference: I reviewed the findings of our Fall '07 survey regarding the worthiness of a National conference, hosted by our committee. Both the survey consensus and geographical demographics of the respondents suggested a one-day (Saturday) all-day conference in the Northeast. There seemed to be little interest among respondents that the conference offer access to a baseball game – Major or Minor League or vintage. The inclusion of oral presentations, a panel discussion and a

keynote speaker all received high marks in the survey results. I received a gracious and generous offer by one of our members, Scott Fiesthumal, to explore the prospect of holding the conference in Cooperstown. I am currently exploring this possibility. If you are interested in being part of the conference committee, please, contact me.

Our newsletter editor, Bob Bailey gave the committee a brief overview of the upcoming issues



of Nineteenth Century Notes including future articles that will be appearing and the type of items and submissions most appropriate to the newsletter.

Reed Howard reminded the Committee of the continued efforts of the Minor League Committee, and asked us to contribute 19<sup>th</sup>-century minor league findings to that committee.

Fred Ivor-Campbell reminded members of the valuable by-product of their research, by continuing to add to the Bibliography Committee's TBI (The Baseball Index).

Trey Streckler proposed a modest project for a joint Nineteenth Century / Bioproject effort to produce biographies of all Union Association player, managers and owners.

Bob McConnell offered to be a pivot man in this effort by supplying UA teams and rosters.

In the best SABR tradition of modesty, David Block passed on my request to give a reminder that the documentary film, *Baseball Discovered* would be shown on Saturday morning at the Convention, so I reminded our committee of the screening of what proved to be an astonishing film based

largely on David's seminal work on the origins of the game.

I thank all who attended, apologize to anyone I may have omitted in this report and wish the rest of our membership could have been there. Please, write or call our chairman, he's looking for a few good men and women to take part in the exciting projects of our committee. Bring your skills, talents, experiences

## Research Requests

At the 19th Century Committee Meeting in Cleveland Bob McConnell discussed an ongoing project that members of the Committee have been involving with for several years. This is creating a definitive list of Minor Leagues in the 19th Century. The working definition of a legitimate league is those leagues that played a set schedule; did not play only on weekends; and used paid umpires. While some leagues did not sign on to the National Agreement, a league can be considered legitimate even if it was not a member of the NA.

The following is a partial list of possible leagues. While some have some research completed (such is noted on the list) questions as to a league's actual operation, cities in the league, W-L records, managers, transfers, and the like are still open questions. All possible leagues on this list do not appear in the 3rd Edition of the Minor League Encyclopedia. If you have any data on one of these leagues please pass it on to Bob McConnell at [homerbobmcc@aol.com](mailto:homerbobmcc@aol.com).

1878: California: Operated  
 League Alliance  
 New England  
 Pacific (aka Pacific Coast)  
 1879: California  
 League Alliance  
 Pacific  
 1880: Pacific  
 1881: California  
 East'n Champ'nship Assn  
 1882: American Alliance  
 Eastern Assn  
 Northwestern

Western  
 1883: California  
 Eastern Assn  
 Mass. State Assn  
 West'n InterState Assn  
 1884: California  
 Eastern New England  
 Georgia State– Operated  
 InterState Assn– Disband  
 NY State– No operations  
 Rhode Island Assn  
 Western  
 Western Ontario  
 1885: California– Operated  
 Colorado State  
 Hudson River– Semi-Pro  
 New England  
 NC State– Semi-Pro  
 Northwestern  
 Virginia  
 1886: Canadian  
 Gulf  
 Inter-State  
 Michigan State– Operated  
 NH State  
 Three I– Operated  
 1887: Central  
 Central Inter-State  
 Montana State  
 Mountain  
 Red RiverValley–SemiPro  
 1888: Hudson River  
 Indiana State  
 Inter-State  
 NE Inter-State  
 NY State  
 Ohio State Non Operating  
 Saginaw Valley  
 Texas-Southern  
 Upper Peninsula  
 Western PA  
 1889: Delaware State  
 Eastern Inter-State  
 Illinois-Indiana  
 NE– Non Operating  
 Rhode Island– Semi-Pro  
 Upper Peninsula

Western PA  
 1890: Colorado State  
 East'n Int'nat'l– Part Year  
 Inter-State  
 New Brunswick  
 NE– Non Operating  
 Rhode Island  
 Western Inter-State  
 Western New York  
 Western NY & PA– Op  
 Wisconsin State–Operated  
 1891: Central New Jersey  
 Colorado State  
 Inter-State  
 Michigan  
 Ohio Valley– Semi-Pro  
 PA State  
 RedRiverValley– SemiPro  
 Rhode Is.– Semi-Pro  
 Southwestern  
 Tri-State  
 1892: FL State Winter  
 Illinois-Indiana  
 Iron & Oil– Part Year  
 New Jersey State  
 Ohio State– Non Operate  
 Western Assn  
 Wisc– Mich  
 1893: Canadian  
 Mich State– Non Operate  
 Miss. State  
 Western Assn  
 1894: Beaver Valley– Amateur  
 California  
 Canadian  
 Canadian Midland  
 Colorado State  
 Connecticut  
 Inter-State  
 Merrimac Valley– Non Op  
 Mich State– Non Operate  
 Miss. State  
 Puget Sound– Amateur  
 Tri-State  
 West'n Ontario– Operated

1895-1900 in next issue.

## Trophy Ball

It was common in the 1860s to award winners of important games a silver base ball. If you have never seen one below are photographs of an 1865 ball that came up for auction in early 2008.

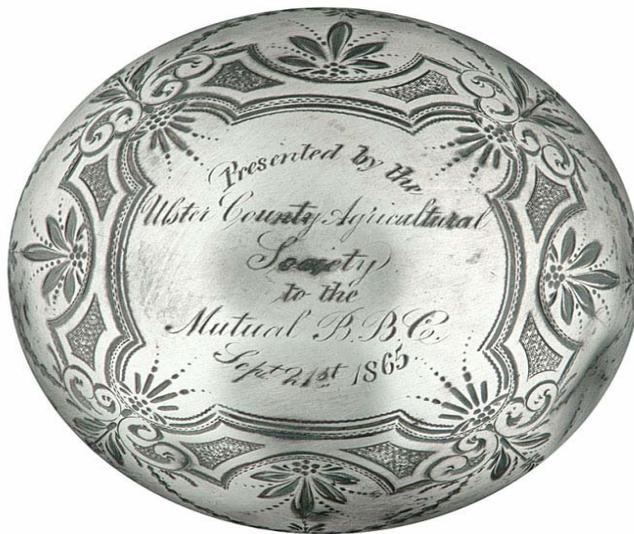
A Summary of the auction catalogue recounts the following:

The Mutuels and Actives of New York City were invited to play at the Ulster County Fairgrounds in Kingston, NY on September 21, 1865. This was part of the annual Ulster County Agricultural Fair.

The Trophy Ball is nine inches in circumference and is thought to have cost \$10 in 1865.

When the Mutuels bested the Actives 26-20 Mr. C.S. Stillwell, Secretary of the Fair to an official of the Mutuels, Supervisor Tweed. William Marcy Tweed was better know for other activities outside the baseball arena, but apparently he took the morning train with the team up the Hudson Valley to watch the games.

About a week following this victory the Mutuels lost a game to the Eckfords 23-11. This game kicked off one of the early gam-



bling scandals as Thomas Devyr, William Wansley, and Edward Duffy were accused and later admitted, taking payments to throw the game. They were banished from the game but in proper Tammany Hall style were reinstated within a few years.

The ball was found as part of an Estate in Ulster County in 2007. It is not clear how a ball awarded to a New York team in 1865 found its way back to its original home county 143 years later.

The image in the upper right portion of the bottom photo shows a hole in the bottom of the ball that is thought to have been uses to mount the ball on some sort of base.

The ball had an auction reserve price of \$5,000 and a pre-auction estimate of \$10,000. There were 19 bids in the auction and the final price was \$21,150.

There is no report as to its current location, although we would be interested in hearing from any readers who might have additional information about the ball.

## More Research Requests

Marty Payne

[martyp4@verizon.net] is seeking information on the pre-career, off season employment and post careers of 19<sup>th</sup>-century major league players.

Rory Costello

[rcostello@nyc.rr.com] has information about a photocopy of a turn of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century scrapbook that may be made available to Nineteenth Century Committee members for research pur-

poses.

Glenn Drinkwater

[liveoak.nine@gmail.com] is interested in past research findings of Nineteenth Century Committee Members who worked on the Committee's Early Rules and Practices project.

Richard Hershberger

[rrhersh@yahoo.com] is the Nineteenth Century Committee's representative to SABR's Digiti-

zation Project. He will represent our Membership's interest regarding the digital preservation and future accessibility of 19<sup>th</sup>-century research material. You may contact him with your recommendations in this area.

Alain Usereau

[althetiger@hotmail.com] is continuing to collect information on all baseball brawls (on and off the field) including 19<sup>th</sup>-century incidents.