

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

Spring 2009

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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19th Century Overlooked Legends Project – And the Candidates are.... by Joe Williams

June 12, 1939 was a glorious day in sports history. Baseball celebrated its "Centennial" in Cooperstown, New York with the dedication of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. The first gathering of Hall of Famers took place that day.

July 8, 1939 was to be a joyful day in Aurora, Illinois. James "Deacon" White was to be honored for his contributions to the national pastime during a centennial baseball celebration. The celebration didn't take place. The pioneering baseball player died the day before at the age of 91.

Election to the Na-

tional Baseball Hall of Fame is regarded by many as the ultimate honor in sports. To date, 289 individuals have been elected. Missing from the roll call of baseball legends are many of the Nineteenth Century's greatest stars. As mentioned in the Winter 2009 issue of *Nineteenth Century Notes*, a sub-committee of the Nineteenth Century Committee was formed to honor the most overlooked baseball personality of the Nineteenth Century each year until the Hall of Fame addresses these oversights in an organized way similar to the way the overlooked legends of

black baseball were addressed in 2006.

The 19th Century Legends Project Committee is comprised of Charles Faber, Bob Gregory and myself. After much debate, the committee came up with ten candidates for the membership of the Nineteenth Century Committee to vote on to determine the Overlooked Nineteenth Century Legend for 2009. Besides Deacon White, three other candidates were still alive on June 12, 1939. They eventually died as forgotten stars. The ten names that follow are names that should be recognizable to all that receive this newsletter.

(Continued on page 3)

Chairman's Corner By Peter Mancuso

Spring is here. Our regular major league baseball season is about to open and our in-

augural 19th Century Baseball Conference will take place in just a few weeks. The Conference has

rounded out nicely with the final selection of three research presenta-

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Chairman's Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

tions completed at the beginning of last month. Paul Dickson will present "The Vocabulary of 19th Century Baseball," Jerry Casway will explain "The Relationship Between Ted Sullivan and Charles Comisky and Ben Robinson will describe 19th-century fandom with his presentation "Grandstands and Knotholes: A Portrait of the Spectator in New York City, 1883-1887." I look forward to reporting fully on our conference in the summer issue of our newsletter.

If you wish to attend this year's conference, please contact me directly, as we are filled to capacity, but I will be glad to add you to our waiting list in the event of any cancellations.

As you can see, this issue of "Nineteenth Century Notes" has considerable space dedicated to our committee's Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legends Project. The core project committee has done an excellent job of bringing before our entire committee membership the 2009 candidates for most Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legend. Please, take the time to carefully consider each of these candidates.

Take the time to add to your knowledge of each with your own research in the next eight to ten weeks. Then, in early June, when you receive your ballot (Nineteenth Century Committee Members only)

waste no time in returning your vote. Your ballot will come to most of you via email (I will mail paper versions to the several dozen members without email).

Perhaps your favorite 19th-century legend is not on this year's ballot. That may frustrate you. But, don't despair, because you will also have the opportunity to help shape the ballot for 2010. The top vote



getters in this year's election will remain on the ballot for 2010, but new names will be added for 2010's selection with your help; details will follow.

The top selection of the 2009 Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legend will be announced

and made public to the larger baseball world during SABR 39 in Washington, DC this summer.

Note that I said that only Nineteenth Century Committee Members will be allowed to vote. Because you are receiving this newsletter does not mean that you are a full committee member. "Nineteenth Century Notes" is sent to all "Committee Members" and "Potential Committee Members," about one-thousand people in all. Of that one-thousand, just over half are full committee members. To make sure that you receive a ballot in June, as soon as possible, go to the SABR website, use the member log-in and click on "My SABR." If your membership profile describes your status for the Nineteenth Century Committee as "Potential Member," change it to "Member."

By doing this you will receive a ballot and will be able to vote in June. So get off the bench and get into the game, check your membership status, change it if necessary and vote. Hope to see you all in Washington, DC at SABR 39. In fact, I just learned that our Nineteenth Century Committee has been scheduled to meet on Friday, July 31st, from 11:30AM to 12:30PM at the Convention, so mark your calendars."

Best Regards,

Peter Mancuso

Profiles of 19th Century Overlooked Legends

by Joe Williams

(Continued from page 1)

And the candidates are...

Ross Barnes

Born: May 8, 1850
Died: February 5, 1915
Played: 1866-77,79,81
Position: Second Base



Barnes may have been the most exciting all around player of the 1860s and 1870s.

Prior to the establishment of the National Association, Barnes was a star player for the Forest City Club of Rockford, Illinois. In 1871, he joined the Boston Red Stockings of the new professional league and quickly established himself as one of the league's shining stars. Over the next five seasons, Barnes would lead the league in at least eighteen offensive categories while becoming the National Association's career leader in runs, hits, doubles, base on balls, stolen bases, batting average and on-base percentage. Barnes, the premier fair-foul hitter, won batting titles in 1872

(.432) and 1873 (.425). Also a defensive standout, Barnes was one of Boston's "Big Four" that led the Red Stockings to the league championship each year from 1872 to 1875. When the National League was formed in 1876, he became a member of the Chicago White Stockings and led them to the league's best record. He also led the league in almost every offensive category including batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, runs, hits, doubles, triples and total bases. After the 1876 season, he was never the same player. Both an illness, limiting Barnes to just 22 games in 1877, and the banning of the fair-foul hit were contributing factors in his demise. He finished his career by playing in the International Association in 1878, followed by two seasons as a shortstop for Cincinnati in 1879 and Boston in 1881.

Pete Browning

Born: June 17, 1861
Died: September 10, 1905
Played: 1882-94
Position: Outfield

Called the "Gladiator" Browning played 13 major league seasons and is considered to be one of great batsmen of the Nineteenth Century. Staring primarily for Louisville of the American Association, he won three batting titles during his career, including one for Cleveland of the Players League in 1890, and finished his career with a .341 lifetime batting



average. The powerful slugger finished second or third in six other batting title races and also finished in the top five in on-base percentage and slugging percentage eight times each. His career .403 on-base percentage and .467 slugging percentage were among the best of his era. According to bat-maker Hillerich & Bradsby legend, the first custom bat made by the now-famous firm was for Browning. H&B still manufactures Louisville Sluggers for major leaguers. Throughout his life and playing career, the eccentric outfielder suffered from an inner ear condition known as mastoiditis which left him deaf. His battle with alcoholism is thought to be related to this painful malady that ultimately played a part in his early death at the age of 44 in 1905.

Profiles of 19th Century Overlooked Legends (cont.)

Bill Dahlen

Born: January 5, 1870, Died: December 5, 1950

Played: 1891-1911

Position: Shortstop



Known as "Bad Bill" for his extreme temper, Dahlen played for 21 seasons and is considered one of the great defensive shortstops in baseball history. With excellent range and a tremendous arm, he set numerous fielding records. It has been almost 100 years since Dahlen last put on the uniform as a player and yet he is still among the all-time leaders at shortstop in games played (tenth), assists (third) and putouts (second) as well as errors (second). As a hitter, Dahlen was among the best hitting shortstops of his era and had excellent power. In his career, five times he finished in the top seven in home runs and when he retired, only Herman Long had more homers as a shortstop. He also led the league in RBI in 1904 with 80 and finished in the top nine three other times. His career offensive numbers include 1,589 runs, 2,457 hits, 413 doubles, 163 triples, 84 home runs, 1,233

RBI, 547 stolen bases and 140 hit by pitches. In 1904, Dahlen hit in 42 consecutive games to set a major league record which has since been surpassed but is still fourth best in history. Dahlen played his entire career in the National League, playing for Chicago, Brooklyn, New York and Boston. Dahlen's fiery style of play was a key factor in the success of the teams he played on, including NL championships in 1899 and 1900 with Brooklyn and 1904 and 1905 with New York. New York went on to win the World Series in 1905. Dahlen appeared on the Hall of Fame's 2009 Veterans Committee ballot for pre-1943 players but failed to gain election.

Jack Glasscock

Born: July 22, 1857

Died: February 24, 1947

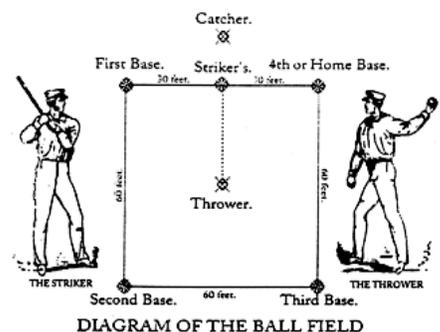
Played: 1879-95

Position: Shortstop



Considered by many historians as the greatest defensive shortstop of the Nineteenth Century, "Pebbly Jack" played the majority of his career without a glove. He received his

nickname for his dutiful inspection of the field for pebbles and tossing them away to avert bad hops during the game. He led the league in fielding percentage and assists six times, double plays four times, putouts two times and had the most range of any shortstop of his era. He retired as the career leader for shortstops in games, assists, double plays, putouts, total chances and fielding percentage. At the bat, he got better with age. A career .290 hitter, he led the National League in hits in 1889 and 1890, winning the 1890 batting title with a .336 average after finishing second the previous year with a .352 average. He finished his career with 1,163 runs, 2,040 hits and more than 825 RBI. Striking out just 196 times in his career, Glasscock was also one of the toughest hitters to strikeout, leading the league three times in at bats per strikeout. The "King of Shortstops" played for nine teams in seventeen years, including a brief stint in the Union Association. He continued playing in the minors until 1901.



Profiles of 19th Century Overlooked Legends (cont.)

George Gore

Born: May 3, 1857
 Died: September 16, 1933
 Played: 1879-92
 Position: Outfield

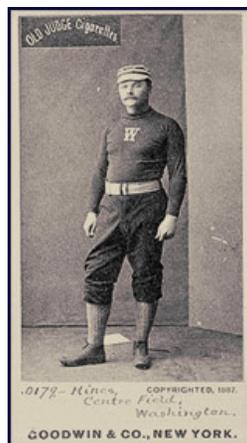


Gore was a speedy center fielder that had the knack for getting on base and scoring runs. In 1,310 games, "Piano Legs" scored 1,327 runs, including seven seasons of 100 or more and two other seasons of less than 100 but leading the league. He was a hard hitter that also took a walk, leading the league in bases on balls three times and finishing in the top seven in on-base percentage ten times. In 1880, he led the NL in batting average (.360), on-base percentage (.399) and slugging percentage (.463). Gore retired a .301 career hitter with a .386 on-base percentage. On defense, he was talented with a good arm but at times was not focused rendering himself an average fielder at best. His prowess at the plate kept him on the field. He was the table setter for many championship teams. He played on NL championship teams in 1880,

1881, 1882, 1885, 1886 with Chicago and world championship teams with the New York Giants in 1888 and 1889, beating the American Association pennant winners while batting .455 and .333 respectively. Gore also set some remarkable single game records, including five outfield assist, seven stolen bases and five extra base hits in game.

Paul Hines

Born: March 1, 1855
 Died: July 10, 1935
 Played: 1872-91
 Position: Outfield



Hines, an outstanding defensive center fielder, was among the best all-around players in the game for 20 seasons. He started his professional career with Washington of the National Association before becoming a member of the Chicago White Stockings in 1874, playing for the first National League champion in 1876. In 1878, he joined Providence and became baseball's first triple crown winner when he led the league with 4 homers, 50 RBI and a .358 batting average. He

followed his historic season with another batting title in 1879 (.357), while also leading the league in games, hits and total bases as the Grays won their first NL championship. In 1884, along with Old Hoss Radbourn, Hines led the Grays to the NL pennant before defeating New York of the American Association to win the first "World Series." Hines played for the Grays during their entire existence (1878-1885). He returned to Washington for the 1886 and 1887 seasons before bouncing from Indianapolis (1888 and 1889), Pittsburgh and Boston (1890) and back to play in Washington for the Statesmen of the AA in 1891. Hines finished his career with 1,217 runs, 2,134 hits, 549 extra-base hits, 855 RBI and a .302 batting average.

Bobby Mathews

Born: November 21, 1851
 Died: April 17, 1898
 Played: 1869-77,79,81-87
 Position: Pitcher



Mathews, a pioneer pitcher in the development of both the spitball and the curveball, won 297 games, including the National Association's first game in 1871. Listed as

Profiles of 19th Century Overlooked Legends (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

five feet, four inches and 140 pounds, Mathews played amateur ball in Maryland before joining the Fort Wayne Kekiongas in the NA. In 1872, he joined Baltimore as their ace, winning 25 games and leading the league in strikeouts. Mathews moved again in 1873 and joined the New York Mutuals, where he would stay through the 1876 season.

Mathews was their workhorse and led the league in strikeouts in 1873, shutouts in 1874, and ERA, games started, complete games and innings pitched in 1875. Despite the Mutuals being a subpar offensive team, Mathews managed to become the third winningest pitcher in the NA's existence, behind only Albert Spalding and Dick McBride, winning 131 games. At the end of the 1876 season, the Mutuals failed to play out their schedule and were removed from the National League, which was the beginning of an uncertain future for Mathews. From 1877 to 1882, Mathews bounced around from team to team, which ultimately cost him the three wins he needed for 300. He won just 39 games in those six seasons, although he was a key contributor as the change pitcher for the champion Providence Grays in 1879. Among his stops were the Columbus (1877) and Lynn (1878) teams of the rival International Association (considered a minor league) and a trip to the West Coast (in protest of the new reserve clause) to play for an independent team out of San Francisco in 1880. His career

was rejuvenated in 1883 when he joined the Philadelphia Athletics of the American Association and led them to the championship. It was the first of three consecutive seasons of 30 wins for the hurler. Mathews finished his career with nearly 5,000 innings pitched and a 2.89 ERA.

Tony Mullane

Born: January 20, 1859
Died: April 25, 1944
Played: 1881-84, 86-94
Position: Pitcher



Born in Ireland, Mullane won 284 games in thirteen major league seasons. Nicknamed the "Count" and the "Apollo of the Box" for his good looks and polished appearance, Mullane was a popular player who was often called to pitch on "Ladies' Day" to get more fans to the field. He was a right-handed thrower who occasionally pitched from the left side as one of the few ambidextrous pitchers in baseball history. After a brief five-game stint in 1881 with the Detroit Wolverines of the National League, Mullane joined Louisville of the American

Association the following season. Mullane won 30 games with a 1.88 ERA in over 460 innings pitched for the second place Eclipse. In 1883, he joined the St. Louis Browns and led them to a second place finish in the AA, winning 35 games with a 2.19 ERA. After flirting with playing for the St. Louis Maroons of the Union Association, despite being under contract with the Browns, he ended up in Toledo of the AA in 1884. He led the mediocre Blue Stockings with 36 wins, 325 strikeouts and 567 innings pitched. Mullane's revolving finally caught up with him in 1885. Toledo folded and he became property of St. Louis once again. Mullane decided to sign and play with Cincinnati instead. For his actions, Mullane was suspended for the entire 1885 season which ultimately cost enough wins to leave him short of 300 victories. In 1886, he joined Cincinnati and stayed with the team until June 1893, when he was traded to Baltimore. With the Red Stockings (team changed their name to the Reds when they joined the NL in 1890), Mullane won 20 or more games five times, including 33 in 1886 and 31 in 1887 even though the Reds were usually in the bottom half of the standings. In 1892, he left the team to protest his salary being cut which cost him a few more wins. Mullane was a fine all around player who played the field in over 200 games when he didn't pitch and hit a respectable .243 for his career, scoring

Profiles of 19th Century Overlooked Legends (cont.)

over 400 runs and stealing over 100 bases. He played minor league ball as late as 1902.

Harry Stovey

Born: December 20, 1856

Died: September 20, 1937

Played: 1880-93

Position: Outfield and First Base



Stovey was a great all-around player and one of the game's first power hitters. He finished in the top four in home runs ten times, leading the league in five of those seasons. In 1883, he set the single season record with 14 homers. When he retired in 1893, he was the all time leader in home runs with 122 and was third on the list as late as 1920. Stovey's other offensive numbers include 347 doubles, 174 triples, 908 RBI, over 500 stolen bases (records are not available for six of his seasons so he may have stolen more than 800 bases) and 1,492 runs in 1,486 games, including nine seasons of 100 or more runs. Besides home runs, he led the league in over twenty other offensive categories, including extra-base hits five times, runs scored and triples

four times, slugging percentage and total bases three times, stolen bases twice and RBI once.

Stovey's first three seasons were with Worcester of the National League. In 1883, he became a member of the Philadelphia Athletics of the AA, spending seven seasons with the team which included the pennant that first season and four seasons hitting .300 or better. In 1890, he joined the Boston Reds of the Players League and led them to the pennant. He then spent the next three seasons playing for the Boston Beaneaters (1891 and 1892 NL champion), Baltimore Orioles and the Brooklyn Grooms.

Deacon White

Born: December 7, 1847

Died: July 7, 1939

Played: 1868-90

Position: Catcher and Third Base



White, nicknamed "Deacon" for his virtuous life and his leadership on the field, was one of baseball's first superstars. He began his playing career with the Forest City Baseball Club of Cleveland in

1868 and was still with the team when the first National Association game was played. In the first inning of that first game, he doubled off Bobby Mathews for the first "major league" hit. Considered to be the first catcher to move up under the batter, White was the premier catcher of the 1870s. Playing without a glove, he caught more games (409) than anyone else during the decade while being one of the game's most feared hitters. White won two batting titles (.367 in 1875 and .387 in 1877) and three RBI crowns (1873, 1876 and 1877). In 1873, White became a member of the Boston Red Stockings that went on to win the championship in 1873, 1874 and 1875. The famed "Big Four" of Ross Barnes, Cal McVey, Al Spalding and White moved onto the Chicago White Stockings in 1876 to win the first NL pennant. In 1877, he returned to Boston as a first basemen and won another pennant. From 1878 to 1880, he played for Cincinnati, forming a battery with his brother Will, before joining Buffalo for five seasons. By 1882 he was a regular third baseman and a member of the second famous "Big Four" with Dan Brouthers, Hardy Richardson and Jack Rowe. In 1886, the Buffalo franchise was purchased by the owner of the Wolverines, bringing the "Big Four" to Detroit. In 1887, the Wolverines, with White hitting .303 at the age of 39, won the NL pennant and defeated St. Louis of the American Association to become world champs. White finished his career with Detroit in 1888, Pittsburgh in 1889

Profiles of 19th Century Overlooked Legends (cont.)

and Buffalo of the Players' League in 1890. White's career totals include 1,140 runs, 2,066 hits, 977 RBI, a .312 batting average and just 221 strikeouts. Like Dahlen, White appeared on the Hall of Fame's 2009 Veterans Committee ballot for pre-1943 players but failed to gain election.

Others receiving strong consideration but did not make our top ten include Bob Caruthers, Mike Griffin, Dick McBride, Dickey Pearce, Jimmy Ryan and George Van Hal-tren.

Voting Process

The voting process will be quite simple. Sometime in June, every member of the Nineteenth Century Committee will receive a ballot either in electronic format or via U.S. mail. Each member will be asked to rank their top five candidates with 5 points for first place, 4 points for second place, etc. The person with the most points will be the Overlooked Nineteenth Century Legend for 2009. There will also be an opportunity to submit one or two names to the subcommittee for consideration in 2010. The votes

will be tabulated by subcommittee member Bob Gregory in July and the winner will be announced in Washington, D.C. during the convention. Over the next few months, please take a good look at these candidates. We look forward to your ballot submission in June.

To request a copy of the preliminary list of candidates or to contact me for any reason concerning the project, please feel free to drop me an email at: jwilliams22@snet.net.

Baseball's First World Series Goat by Dennis Pajot

Almost one hundred years to the day before Bill Buckner's error in game six of the 1986 World Series--forever blaming him for losing the series in some people's mind, even though another game was played--a similar incident happened to Chicago's Abner Dalrymple.

The following is taken from the December 31, 1898, *Sporting News*, remembering the series and game:

The 10,000 St. Louisans that were lucky enough to get into old Sports-men's Park that afternoon will never forget the event. It was the greatest thing in a base ball way that ever happened in this burg.

Comiskey's Browns had won the championship of the American Association. Anson's White Stockings were the League pennant winners. The clubs had played a world's

championship series. Chicago had won two games, St. Louis three. On that eventful Saturday the teams came together for the last time. If St. Louis lost the series would have been tied, as it was the year previous with Chicago, and the year before that again with New York.

Despite the encouragement of the crowd the score was 3 to 0 against the Browns until the eighth innings. At this stage Comiskey opened with a safe hit to right. Old Curt Welch made one of his famous bunts toward third and easily beat the ball to first. Tom Burns, now the manager of the Chicagos, made an unnecessary throw to first. The ball went wild, and so did the spectators when they saw Comiskey tearing for home. He made the plate and Welch reached second. The game was stopped for several minutes

until the pandemonium eased up. Foutz and Robison flew out. Then Doc Bushong got his base on balls.

Then Latham came to the bat. Arlie had been unusually quiet during the game. Old "Uncle Anse" had picked him out for a mark, and when the Browns were in the field stationed himself near third base and kept up a running fire of "Here's the soft spot!" ... Arlie made no reply...

The first ball John Clarkson pitched was low and straight. Latham cracked it on the nose and it sailed far and high into left field. Had Dalrymple caught it the game was won. But "Dal" failed. He misjudged the ball and Welch and Bushong scored. There was another pause for enthusiasm, for Dalrymple's error had tied the score.

Both teams were whitewashed

Baseball's First World Series Goat (cont.)

in the ninth, and Chicago met the same fate in the tenth. Welch opened for St. Louis with a single. Foutz got in a single. "Robbie" advanced them with a bunt and the runners were on second and third. As Doc Bushong walked to the plate Mike Kelly knelt and presented him with the bat. Then the king spread his legs wide, anchored himself firmly and signaled Clarkson for a low inshoot.

Clarkson delivered the ball, but it was a high rising outcurve. Kelly's legs were anchored down so far that he could not rise to get it and he laughed as the ball sailed by over his head. Some where along the third base line a cloud of dust arose and shortly the crowd saw Welch slide full length across the home plate with the winning run. In his anxiety he had started to slide while half way from third.

It was a great game of base ball, the like of which has not been seen here in St. Louis in over a decade, but Dalrymple's error lost it for Chicago and made the St. Louis Browns world champions.

While the Chicagos were leaving the field Anson said to his left fielder, "You can't play ball for me any more, Dal," and he was as good as his word. The old man never forgot that costly error, and Dalrymple's base ball degeneration dated from that day.

Let us now go back to October 1886 for what had happened.

The National League champion Chicago White Stocking owner Albert Spalding and the American Association champion St. Louis Brown's Chris von der Ahe settled on a post season championship se-

ries of six games (seven if a tie series after six). The first five games resulted in a three game to two game lead for the Browns.

Game 6 started on Saturday, October 23, at 2:30 p.m. earlier than usual so the game would not be called by darkness--at Sportsman's Park in St. Louis. Despite threatening clouds overhead, a large crowd attended the game, occupying all the seats and encroaching onto the field. The local betting line favored Chicago.

Chicago scored single runs in the 2nd and 4th innings to take a 2 to 0 lead. Sensing a defeat, the home crowd began to grow disorderly prior to the fifth inning. In the 6th inning Chicago scored another run, while St. Louis continued with zeros.

The following description of the later innings is taken from the *Sporting News* of the October 30, 1886. In the 8th inning, as reported above, Charlie Comiskey singled. Curt Welch then bunted toward third, and easily beat the bunt out. However, Chicago's Tom Burns made "*an unnecessary throw to first, and the ball went wild.*" Comiskey scored and Welch advanced to second. After two batters were retired on fly balls, Doc Bushong was walked. The Browns now had runners on first and third, with two outs. Arlie Latham then tripled over Dalrymple's head in left field, driving in two runs. According to the *Sporting News*, "*Dalrymple made a very bad attempt to judge the ball, but it is doubtful if he could have reached it*". The score was now tied, still with two outs.

Bob Caruthers ended the inning by grounding to third.

In the 9th inning Burns doubled with one out and went to third on a ground out. Dalrymple had a chance to redeem himself, but struck out for the third out. The Browns went down one-two-three in the bottom of the ninth. The White Stockings were retired quickly in the tenth, setting the stage for the winning Brown's run in the bottom of that inning. Curt Welch led off and was awarded first base after "*getting in the way of the ball and being hit by it*". But the umpire [National League umpire Gracie Pearce] changed the decision after a "*vigorous kick by Chicago*". Welch came back and smacked a single to right field. Dave Foutz reached on an error. After a sacrifice bunt by Yank Robinson, runners stood at second and third with one out. Clarkson's wild pitch brought home Welch with the championship.

St. Louis had won the game, 4 to 3, in 10 innings—and the World Series. According to the *Chicago Tribune*: "*[After the win] the excitement was absolutely uncontrollable among the people, who carried the Browns bodily off the field in triumph. The crowd was packed in thousands around the Browns' dressing-rooms, and the grandstand shook and trembled like a leaf. Fifteen minutes after the game the cheering and excitement had not subsided.*" The *Sporting News* reported the total receipts for the six games were \$13,920.10 (half going to the players, half to Von der Ahe to

Baseball's First World Series Goat (cont.)

pay expenses), which each Brown collecting \$580.

Almost all the White Stockings seemed to think Dalrymple should have caught the ball, and it was reported *"in fact every one of the Chicagoans blamed Dalrymple for the defeat they had sustained that day."*

The 1911 edition of Alfred H. Spink's "The National Game" gave this account of the Dalrymple play: *It was Latham's quick wit and resourcefulness that won an important World's Championship game for St. Louis one day from Chicago.*

With Welch on third and Gleason on second Latham came to the bat. A hit meant the game for St. Louis and Latham knew it.

"Play a little farther out Mr. Dalrymple", said Latham to the Chicago's left fielder. "I am going to make a long hit to left and if you don't play a little farther out it will get away from you and go sailing over your head".

Quite naturally following the old rule, Dalrymple believing that Latham was going to do the very opposite of what he boasted he would do, came in from the field, stationed himself right back of the Chicago short fielder and then shouted to Latham that he knew his game.

Latham hit the next ball with all his might and it sailed to left field. Dalrymple would have captured the ball had he been playing deep as Latham had advised him to do. But instead it sailed over Dal's head and the game was won for St. Louis.

Of course this could fall into the category of legend, as we know the ball hit over hit over Dalrymple's head occurred in the 8th inning and

only tied the game. Also, Welch and Bushong (not Gleason) were on base and scored on Latham's hit. With all the bantering going on between players, something like this talk might have happened. But the special report to the *Chicago Tribune* the day after the game only told of Latham shouting to Bushong and Welch: *"Move up now, and I'll bring you in"*. The *Tribune* report only stated the runs scored on Latham's *"three bagger to the left field fence"*, not mentioning any misplay by Dalrymple. The *Sporting Life's* report of the game stated of the play: *"He [Welch] stole third, Bushong got to first on balls and both scored on Latham's three-base hit, tying the score amid the greatest excitement."* One source, the *Denver Daily News*, did report that Latham *"knocked a long fly to left field, which according to all accounts, Dalrymple misjudged in a style that would have disgraced an amateur."*

As to the 1898 report that Cap Anson told Dalrymple as they left the field: *"You can't play ball for me any more, Dal,"* I did not see anything like this in the *Sporting News*, *Sporting Life*, or *Chicago Tribune* coverage. In his book "A Ball Player's Career: Being the Personal Experiences and Reminiscences of Adrain C. Anson", the White Stocking's manager said of Dalrymple: *"He was only an ordinary fielder, and a fair base runner, but excelled as a batsman. I have said that he was a fair fielder, and in that respect I am rating him too high, as his poor fielding cost us several*

games that in my estimation we should have won." Anson, of course, did not specify this championship game.

However, as seen from the above comments in the *Sporting News*, it was apparent shortly after the game Dalrymple was being made the scapegoat for the loss. It was being reported *"the feeling against Dalrymple is growing more bitter with time. The boys without an exception, lay the blame for losing the last Chicago-St. Louis game on him, and have talked about it so freely 'Dal' has heard their remarks and feels so blue over them that he threatens never to play ball again."* Mike Kelly was quoted as saying to a Chicago reporter: *"I am heartily sick and tired of being made the victim of such monkey business as is tolerated in base ball, and the monkey business which lost me \$500 as my share of the receipts of the world's championship series has completely broken my back. Do you wonder at it? For six games I stood up behind the bat and suffered myself to be pounded into a jelly without making an error; I played the best I could for I wanted my share of the stakes. At the very critical moment of the sixth game an unexcusable piece of 'monkeying' on the part of a fielder who had done one percent as much work as I had, deprived me of the reward which my patient labor had fairly gained."*

In November 1886 the *Sporting Life* reported the players who had signed contracts with Chicago for the 1887 season, and a sentence following these names stated *"Dalrymple has not yet*

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signed for 1887." The next issue of the Philadelphia weekly reported "Dal is still here [Chicago] awaiting Al's return so that he may talk business for the coming year." [Spalding and Anson were "popping away at duck and prairie chickens in far distant Dakota" the Chicago correspondent informed his readers.] It is possible Dalrymple was waiting for the Chicago management in order to obtain his release. It was later reported by the *Sporting Life* that Dalrymple was upset about his being replaced by Jimmy Ryan after his hitting fell off; then his being blamed by his fellow players for the game six loss. The paper reported "since then he has tried by every means in his power to induce Mr. Spalding to release him, even offering a cash consideration for the same".²⁰ The *Sporting News* was also to report that Dalrymple was seeking his release, saying "that he seemed to have come to a standstill in his play, and that if he went to another club he hoped to get back his old time strength."

Around this time the *Pittsburgh Commercial* reported it was probable Pittsburgh would go into the National League, and that Chicago would give Dalrymple to Pittsburgh. Within a week Pittsburgh was admitted to the National League. Dalrymple was released by Chicago to Pittsburgh on November 26 "for a moneyed consideration," reportedly \$2,000. Albert Spalding was reported as having "a good deal of hesitancy about giving up Dalrymple, but the latter felt that a change would be beneficial and his wish to withdraw was granted." However, it must be

noted that after the White Stockings sold Dalrymple, two other stars were sold. George Gore's release was sold to the New York club for \$3,500, and Mike Kelly's was sold to Boston for \$10,000.

Now to the 1898 statement "Dalrymple's base ball degeneration dated from that day" (October 23, 1886). This is not accurate, as he already had slumped both in 1885 and 1886--prior to the championship series with St. Louis.

Dalrymple was a first class hitter his first seven years in the league. Then in 1885 Abner slumped to .274 in 113 games. In 1886 he hit only .233 in 82 games, being replaced by Jimmy Ryan in left field. After 1886 he continued to drop, hitting .212 in 1887 and .220 in 1888, both years with Pittsburgh. His last season with a major league club, was back in Milwaukee for 32 games at the end of the season with the Brewers in the American Association, hitting .311.

Already in 1886 it was seen that Dalrymple (and the Chicago team) was past his prime. The *Sporting News* of October 30, 1886, commented: "As another evidence that the Chicagos are not the team they were a few years ago it may be well to call attention to the fact that in 1878 Dalrymple led the League in batting. In the recent series, however, that gentleman did nothing but fan out and he could not even play a fair game in the field. His comrades, in fact, attribute their defeat to his poor fielding". It further reported

How did Abner Dalrymple do overall in the 1886 Championship Series? He was 4 for 21 with two

runs scored and seven total bases.

In the field Dalrymple had 9 chances and made 3 errors (By the way, he was not given an error for the ball Latham hit over his head). He had 4 put outs and 2 assists in the six games.

Was Abner Dalrymple unfairly blamed by the owner, his manager and teammates for the loss of the championship in 1886? Let's go back to 1886, for some contemporary answers.

On November 3, 1886, the *Sporting Life* wrote of the mounting comments that Dalrymple's misjudging of the fly ball, and his striking out in the 9th inning with a runner on third, cost Chicago the game and the series:

However true this may be, it forms but a slim basis for an issue so far as the loss of the contest is concerned. Chicago had no business to permit the battle to become so close that its result would hinge upon the work of a single player in any particular game. Yet we find, through an analysis of the work of the two teams, that the White Stockings were out-batted, out-fielded, out-generated and practically snowed under in every point of play from beginning to end of the series.

The *Sporting News* of November 20, 1886, laid the blame elsewhere, as it wrote:

A question of national importance has just arisen. Half of the base ball world are claiming that Dalrymple lost the world's championship for Chicago, while the other half do not appear to care whether he was responsible for the loss of it or not. Now, as a matter of fact, Dalrymple did not

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lose the championship for Chicago. The hit which Latham made was scored in the eighth inning, and it seems to be an open question as to whether Dalrymple misjudged it or not. It did not win the game for Chicago [correctly St. Louis], however. It simply tied the score. The game, according to the real facts, was lost in the tenth inning. The Chicagos, it will be remembered, were blanked in their half. For St. Louis, Welch, after getting in the way of the ball and being hit by it, was given first by the umpire, but the decision was changed on a vigorous kick by Chicago. Welch, however, lined the ball past second for a base hit, and victory was scented in the air. Foutz hit a difficult grounder, which Williamson failed to handle, the error being excusable. Then Robinson purposely bunted the ball in order to make a sacrifice, and was thrown out by Burns. There

was now one out and runners on second and third. Only one run was wanted to win the game. As Bushong walked up to the plate Kelly very comically got down on his knees and reverentially handed that individual his bat. Kelly saw that the critical point had been reached. He got clean down in the dirt, as it were, and signaled to Clarkson to send in a very low ball. At such a stage Kelly's action was most foolish and hazardous. Had he assumed a regular position he could have stopped almost any ball sent in. As it was, however, he got way down low and when Clarkson pitched a ball no higher than Bushong's shoulder, Kelly, instead of stopping it, just tipped it with the tips of his fingers. As the ball shot by him, Welch trotted home with the run which decided the World's

*Series. The run which decided the game was scored wholly through the poor judgment of Kelly. We make this statement simply that justice be done Dalrymple, and that the credit for the loss of the series should be placed where it is due. Perhaps we should remember the 1886 World Championship Series as one of the great ones. In the end the *Sporting News* issue of October 30, 1886, summed it up best: "The Chicagos made a grand fight and they only fell after ten innings had been played. Finer work on the field we never saw than on that day. Perhaps the world never saw. From the opening call until the end every man did his best. If the Chicagos were beaten it was because they were not so good as the St. Louis."*