

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

FALL 2018

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

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

SABBATARIAN BALLPLAYERS

BY CHARLIE BEVIS

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A dozen nineteenth-century ballplayers refused to play in the Sunday games played by their major-league teams. These ballplayers held such a strong Sabbatarian belief that Sunday was designated to be a day of rest that they would not perform any work that day.

Identifying non-Sunday-playing ballplayers has been no easy task. The more famous ones were noted in my 2003 book *Sunday Baseball: The Major Leagues' Struggle to*



John O'Rourke

Play Baseball on the Lord's Day, 1876-1934. The others were identified largely by fortuitous discovery in various unrelated research projects over the past 15 years. Additional ones likely still lurk hidden in the historical record.

Since the National League banned Sunday baseball prior to the 1892 season, the first Sabbatarian ballplayers were former National Leaguers who transferred to teams in the rival American Association, which permitted Sunday baseball from its founding in 1882.

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Chairman's Corner by Peter Mancuso

Deadlines. Deadlines. October 31st and October 31st is the date marking two important deadlines for our committee members.

October 31st is the deadline to register for the Cleveland 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium. The

last four pages of this issue of our newsletter contain the complete Program & Schedule, Program Details, Further Information and the Registration Form for our Saturday, **November 10, 2018** all day symposium to be held at the majestic Main Branch of the Cleveland Public Library in the heart of Downtown Clevel-

land. There is no on-site registration possible owing to our need to pre-order our luncheon and coffee and refreshment services. So, if you plan on attending this exciting program, please, have your registration form and payment (only \$50.00 per person) **post-**

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SABBATARIAN BALLPLAYERS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

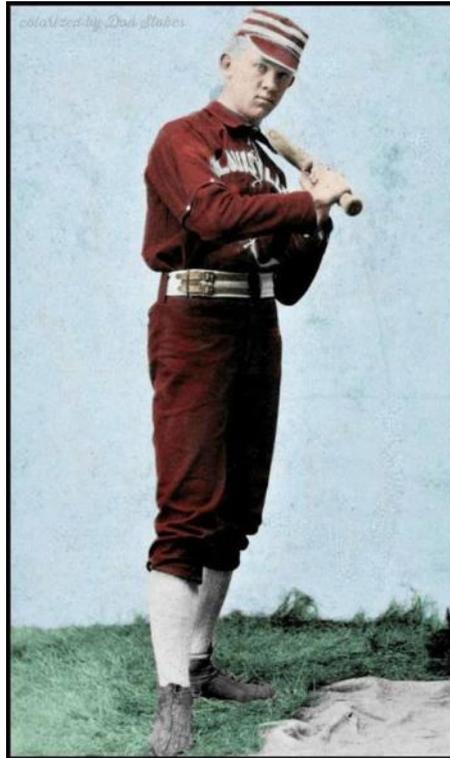
John O'Rourke, an outfielder for Boston in 1879 and 1880, played one season for the Association's Metropolitan team of New York City in 1883. Because he refused to play in his team's Sunday road games in St. Louis and Louisville, the Metropolitans had to use an alternate catcher to replace O'Rourke in the outfield for four games that season.

Will White, a pitcher for five years in the National League from 1877 to 1881, played four years for the Association's Cincinnati team. For the occasional Sunday road games in 1882 and 1883, White's Sunday beliefs were not disruptive. However, when Cincinnati played home games on Sunday in 1884 and 1885, White's Sabbatarian convictions were more problematic, as less-effective Bill Mountjoy usually replaced White during his abstention from pitching on Sunday.

Paul Radford, an outfielder for four years in the National League from 1883 to 1886, joined the Metropolitan team of the Association in 1887. He missed all 10 Sunday games played by the Metropolitans in 1887. With Brooklyn for the 1888 season, Radford's Sabbatarian beliefs were a bigger concern, since the team played on every Sunday that year, 19 Sunday home games (playing at isolated Ridgewood Park in Queens) and seven Sunday road games. Radford's frequent absences on Sunday were tolerated in the Association because he was so adept at playing right field and could capably man several infield and outfield positions.

Scott Stratton was a pitcher

for Louisville in the Association from 1888 to 1891. Stratton, a devote Sabbatarian, lasted four years with Louisville, a perennial bottom-of-the-standings team that was a prolific scheduler of Sun-



Scott Stratton

day home games, because the team needed quality pitching. In 1890 Stratton had his best-ever season (34-14) despite missing two dozen games on Sunday, as Louisville went from worst to first to capture the Association pennant.

Radford, back in the Association in 1891 with the Boston team, joined Stratton as Sabbatarians who transferred to the National League for the 1892 season, when the Association merged into the older league. Since the National League now sanctioned Sunday baseball, both

players extended their tenure as Sabbatarian ballplayers, Radford with Washington for three years and Stratton with Louisville and Chicago for four years. Stratton had the longest stretch (eight years) of any Sabbatarian ballplayer in the nineteenth century.

In 1892, the four Association teams that were absorbed into the National League continued to play Sunday baseball, while two of the existing eight League teams did as well (Cincinnati both at home and on the road; Cleveland on the road). Two additional League teams adopted Sunday baseball in 1893 (Chicago at home and on the road; Brooklyn on the road).

Cy Young, a pitcher for Cleveland, abstained from pitching on Sunday for three seasons, 1892 to 1894, before retreating from that Sabbatarian stance in 1895 for the remainder of his baseball career. His initial Sunday game in 1895, a late-season relief appearance, became one of Young's favorite anecdotes later in life, when he conflated a draft animal with the Cleveland manager. "The Bible stated that rescuing your neighbor's ass from the pit on the Sabbath was not a sin," Young would begin his retelling. "Well, I'll be darned if I know any bigger ass than [Patsy] Tebeau anywhere, and he certainly was in an awful hole. So I helped him out." The namesake of today's Cy Young Award had 511 career victories, many of which occurred in Sunday games.

Bill Hutchison, a pitcher for the Chicago team, was revealed to be a Sabbatarian ballplayer in 1893 when Chicago adopted Sunday baseball that year. Hutchinson had led the National League in pitching victories each season from

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SABBATARIAN BALLPLAYERS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

1890 to 1892. However, he lasted only four more seasons in the major leagues, as the lengthening of the pitching distance in 1893 to 60 feet, 6 inches, curtailed his pitching career.

Addison Gumbert, a pitcher on non-Sunday-playing teams for seven years (primarily Chicago and Pittsburgh) from 1888 to 1894, refused to participate in Sunday games in 1895 when he played for Brooklyn. Gumbert was a Sabbatarian ballplayer for just two years, though, as his antagonistic stance to contract negotiations resulted in his departure from the National League after the 1896 season.

Walter Woods, a rookie pitcher-outfielder with the Chicago team in 1898, was an avowed Sabbatarian ballplayer. During spring training, wire-service articles appeared in newspapers nationwide about his unabashed Sabbatarian stance: "Walter Woods, Chicago's model man, will not play Sunday ball, either at home or on the road. The conscientious youngster, who neither smokes, drinks nor swears, also has scruples against participating in games on the Sabbath." After playing with Louisville in 1899, Woods played in the minor leagues from 1900 to 1915. He was able to have a 16-year career in the minors because he converted into a utility player who could play all nine field positions and, for a large majority of the time, played for teams that did not conduct Sunday home games.

In 1898 New York and Pittsburgh began playing Sunday road games, leaving Boston and Philadelphia as the only teams in the National League with a policy to abstain from Sunday baseball (both would adopt Sunday play on the

road in 1903). One player from each team in 1898 was later revealed to be a Sabbatarian when they switched leagues in 1901 to play in the American League.

Dave Fultz, an outfielder with



Ted Lewis

Philadelphia in 1898, played for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1901, which worked around his Sabbatarian beliefs. Fultz played five years in the American League, where, "according to a clause in his contract, it is said he is not compelled to play in games on Sunday." After graduating from law school, Fultz in 1912 became president of the Fraternity of Baseball Players, an early players union.

Ted Lewis, a pitcher for Boston from 1896 to 1900, also played in the American League in 1901, where the staunch Sabbatarian declined to pitch on Sundays. Lewis left the game in 1902 to work as a college professor, eventually becoming the president of the Uni-

versity of New Hampshire in the 1930s.

Christy Mathewson, a Hall of Fame pitcher with the New York Giants from 1900 to 1916, was the most renowned player to object to playing on Sunday. When he pitched in the minor leagues from 1897 to 1900, Sunday baseball was not an issue for Mathewson. In the majors with New York beginning in 1901, the Giants accommodated his Sabbatarian convictions because he was such an effective pitcher. His Sunday absences only impacted New York road games, since Sunday baseball was illegal in New York before 1919.

Mathewson had a different perspective after his playing days were over. "Personally, it always has been a little against my grain to play Sunday baseball, and in the past I never did so," Mathewson wrote in the *New York Times* in 1920. "When I became manager of the Cincinnati club, my viewpoint changed somewhat, because I looked at the problem from another angle," that being the good of the community that enjoyed watching baseball.

Branch Rickey, a backup catcher, has received the most publicity surrounding his objection to Sunday games, based on his Hall of Fame career as general manager with the St. Louis Cardinals and Brooklyn Dodgers. As a college player from 1900 to 1903 and minor leaguer in 1903 and 1904, Rickey avoided a confrontation with Sunday baseball. In 1904, however, when he signed with the Cincinnati Reds, a major promoter of Sunday home games, Rickey informed the team that he wouldn't appear

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Sabbatarian Ballplayers (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

at the ballpark on Sunday. Rickey was quickly shipped off to another team and, as a Sabbatarian ballplayer, had a 120-game major-league career before finding greater suc-

cess in management.

As the acceptability and legality of Sunday baseball gradually spread throughout the entire United States, the Sabbatarian ballplayer was an endangered species at the

major-league level by 1917, when Mathewson retired from pitching, and by the 1920s was confined to a few minor leagues.

Chairman's Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

marked no later than October 31st. Registrations have been arriving at a good rate since before August 1st so don't wait for the last minute to guarantee a place at the symposium.

October 31st is also the deadline to submit a Research Presentation Abstract for the 2019 Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference. This year, "The Fred" is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, **April 26 & 27, 2019.** This Spring's Fred will mark the Conference's eleventh year and will for the first time allow us to **offer seats to the largest number of registrants** since its inception, due to the completed renovation of the **National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Grandstand Theater.** Research Presentations are 20-25 minutes on any topic of 19th century baseball. Abstracts should be 200-

400 words and should include a title and the name and contact information of the presenter. Abstracts will be scored in a double blind system by a team of jurors with individual results given to all who submit an abstract to present in late November. Those, whose abstracts are chosen, will have until December 10th to commit to attend, register (\$65.00) and present at the conference. Please, email abstracts to Peter Mancuso, peterplus4@earthlink.net. General Registration for the 2019 Fred will commence approximately January 1st with the publication of the Winter 2019 issue of this newsletter, "Nineteenth Century Notes."

Nineteenth Century Committee Projects are in motion as I write this, with some having additional details contained in this issue of our newsletter. **The Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends Project** is undergoing several initi-

atives in both activities and personnel (see the article in this issue). **The 19th Century Grave Marker Project** is scheduled to dedicate its fourth grave marker, that for Bob Caruthers in Chicago, just days before this newsletter was published (see details in the next issue) and plans are just beginning for a fifth dedication, tentatively scheduled for Philadelphia, next year. **"Baseball's 19th Century 'Winter Meetings'" Book Project** is nearing completion and should be going to publication by the close of this year. In the meantime, I am wishing all our members an exciting MLB post season.

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

1880s Baseball Bat

The National
Museum of Play,
Rochester, New York



Early Player's League Contract Wrangling

by Rob Bauer

What follows is an excerpt from chapter fifteen of the third book in Rob Bauer's new series, *Outside the Lines of Gilded Age Baseball: The Origins of the 1890 Players League*. After explaining all the reasons why National League players attempted to secede in the first fourteen chapters of the book, this chapter describes the final two months of preparations and maneuvers.

October 20 was a very important day. That was the first day that League teams could negotiate with players for 1890 and the day on which League teams could send new contracts to their reserved men. If that day came and went and the players took no action or returned the contracts unsigned, it was not quite a sign that the revolt had begun, but it did signify a plan to take action of some kind. At that point, the only things standing in the way of a baseball rebellion against the National League was the Brotherhood meeting scheduled for November 4 and the National League meeting planned for November 13-14. If the two sides could not reconcile by that point, there would be war.

When October 20 came, National League owners sent contracts to their players as usual. At last, baseball observers everywhere were about to find out what the players meant to do. The initial returns were not promising for the League. In Chicago, Al Spalding received but one signature, that of Cap Anson. Typical of the response of Chicago players was that of outfielder

George Van Haltren. When a writer asked him where he would play next year, he answered, "In Chicago." To the inevitable follow-up



W. A. Nimick.

Pittsburgh Owner William A. Nimick from *National Police Gazette*, May 19, 1888

question, "Under Anson?" Van Haltren replied, "I can't say about that." When a reporter asked Spalding whether he would try court injunctions to retain his players for 1890, he backtracked a bit from earlier statements, claiming, "We may decide to let such of our reserved players as may refuse to sign play their string out as they see fit. I don't say we will enjoin them, and I don't say we will not. At any rate, such action would not be taken before next spring."

In Pittsburgh, meanwhile, team president William Nimick could not muster even one commitment to play on his nine in 1890. When Nimick met outfielder Billy Sunday and asked if he was ready to

sign, Sunday answered, "If the Brotherhood matter is settled satisfactorily I will; otherwise I will stick by the Brotherhood." His teammates agreed, stating their intent to abstain from signing anything until the League met with the Brotherhood in November. One unnamed Brother told the press, "If our requests are complied with then I suppose that will end the matter. If not, why, then I guess the League will be shown that the Brotherhood means business." Nimick responded by stating, "Well, the brotherhood has shown its teeth at last. I was expecting it or something similar all along. Sunday was the only man I asked to sign. The rest of them will have to come to me when they are ready to do business."

No other National League presidents reported signing their reserved men, either, although the Indianapolis club did sign a new face, pitcher Ed Eiteljorge, who had turned only eighteen years old a few days prior, while Boston signed Bobby Lowe. In the Quaker City, when the fateful day passed and management was bereft of signed contracts, Philadelphia management finally began taking precautions, signing a trio of new men, catcher Jake Virtue, outfielder Eddie Burke, and pitcher Tom Vickery, although Virtue ended up in Cleveland by the time the 1890 season began.

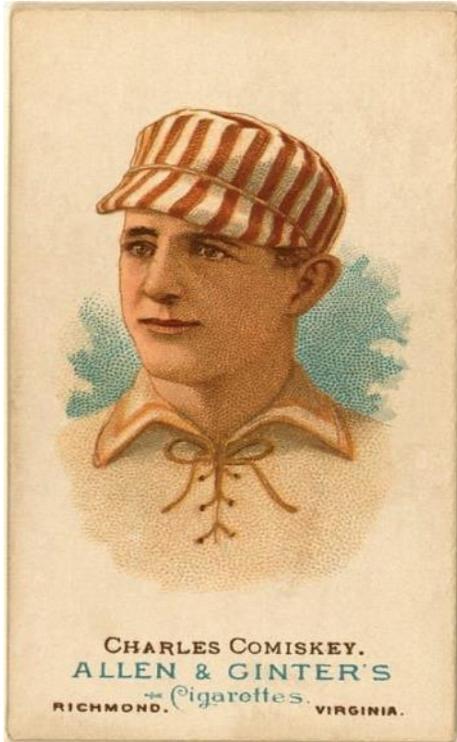
The League's leading men soon began to suspect that their worst fears might come true. While the Brotherhood's leaders continued to repeat their intentions to meet with the League in

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Early Player's League Contract Wrangling (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

November, a few members of the organization struggled to keep the cat in the bag. One Chicago Brother, unable to hold back, stated, "The brotherhood will not make any demands of the league at the



Charlie Comiskey

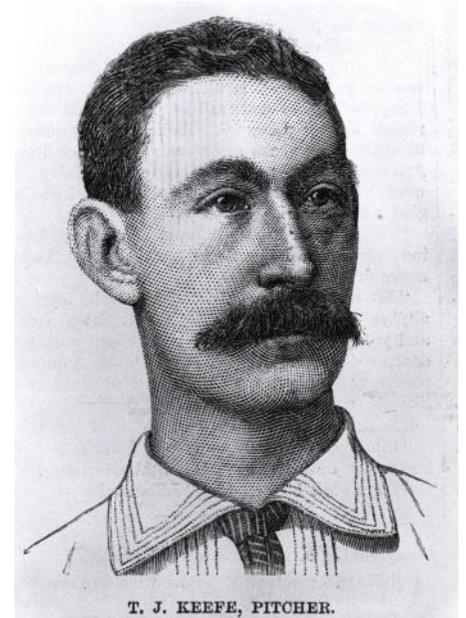
league meeting . . . because one week from tomorrow . . . the brotherhood will hold its meeting at the same hotel, uncover its work, declare its intentions and begin business on its own account. These men will be astonished at the magnitude of the scheme." The unnamed source also confirmed another rumor that had circulated over the last week, saying that while Anson would never join the Brotherhood's league, "It is true that one of the best men in the association is to take Anson's place on first base for the Chicago

team next season." Nor was it hard to guess who that man might be. The most highly regarded captain and first baseman in the American Association was Charlie Comiskey of St. Louis. The players in St. Louis disliked their owner, Chris Von der Ahe, intensely. Comiskey was from Chicago. Enough said.

In addition to claims that the Brotherhood might not even open negotiations after all, another unnamed member of the BPBP declared it might up its demands, almost as if it wanted to make sure the League would never agree to a deal. Although the players agreed that the reserve rule should remain, now this source said the Brotherhood wanted the right of reserve to last four years only, at which point the player could either leave his club or negotiate to stay, and at that point the club might reserve him up to four more years. Furthermore, having completed the initial four-year period, any player released by his team in mid-season would still get the pay called for in the rest of the contract, instead of only what he had earned up to that point.

On November 1, just a few days before the Brotherhood's meeting, Tim Keefe announced its program to the baseball world. One writer summed up the program by stating, "The League magnates will not be consulted. In other words, the players intend to go it alone." Keefe made an official statement to that effect just a couple days later, remarking, "Yes, the players are through with the present owners of the League clubs, and will have no further intercourse with them. We

have gone too far to retreat now, so we will carry, or at least try to carry, our plans through." Papers also announced the distribution of players for the teams of the new league, and while some individ-



Tim Keefe

ual assignments eventually proved wrong due to the occasional defection from the ranks and because many American Association players eventually joined the revolt, for the most part, the lists were on the mark.



Protoball Update

Bob Davids Award winner Larry McCray sends along news on expansion of the data on the Protoball website (protoball.org).

[1] BOB'S BIG NEW REGISTRY OF GAMES

Bob Tholkes has provided to Protoball his impressive new data base, the "Registry of Interclub Matches (RIM)," which comprises over 5000 interclub matches from 1845-1865. This, of course, represents a major addition to Protoball's PrePro data base, which started with the late (great) Craig Waff's "Games Tab,"—about 2300 earliest modern games -- then added many more found in SABR's "Spread of Base Ball" project (many, many were unearthed by Bruce Allardice) and then many more from Peter Morris' fine tomes on Base Ball Pioneers and Base Ball Founders. Bob's RIM files contains about 250 additional games from 1845-1857, and about 4900 other matches from 1858-1865. He also supplies a key and introduction, and a list of sources where game accounts can be accessed.

The wizardly Dave Anderson is now setting forth to integrate RIM games into Protoball's PrePro data base, but if you want to scan or download the RIM Excel file at this point, go to <http://>

protoball.org/Bob_Tholkes%27_RIM_Tabulation.

Bob will be maintaining the RIM data, and Protoball will update his data periodically.

Bob's format covers most of the data in Craig's original Games Tab, but adds many additional sources covering 24 regions in the U. S. and Canada, extends the coverage through 1865, and includes data on the match officials. It lists inter-club games that were played under Knickerbocker ("New York") and later by National Association of Base Ball Players rules.

[2] BRUCE'S DEEPER LOOK INTO BALLPLAYING IN THE CIVIL WAR

Due primarily to new digging by Civil War and Baseball historian Bruce Allardice, Protoball now has collected nearly 400 reports of ballplaying by soldiers in the Civil War. This is ten times the number available in those good books on the subject by Kirsch and by Millen in the early 2000s. (A 2009 Protoball analysis had reflected fewer than 200 accounts, but sorely lacked the insights of a Civil War specialist.)

Professor Allardice's new finds, often discovered in far-flung newspaper accounts, give a much sharper picture of the extent and significance of military play. He reports, for example:

- ballplaying is found in all the major POW camps;
- nearly half the accounts are from northerners' play in winter camps in the state of Virginia;
- the clear game of choice was

the modern (Knickerbocker/New York) game;

- while the game had already spread in US northeast before the war, military play is a plausible factor in the spread of the game to the rest of the country, via homecoming soldiers (local civilians did not commonly observe the soldiers' play);
- 87% of such accounts are of play by Union army soldiers, 13% by Confederates.

Version 1.0 of Bruce's writeup is at protoball.org/Balplaing_in_Civil_War_Camps--_Version_1.0,_Sept._2018.

Bruce can be reached at bsa1861@att.net.

[3] BILL JOHNSON TO HELP FACILITATE NEW SITE FEATURES

Bill Johnson, who served as Chair of SABR's Origins Committee a while back, has agreed to help design and implement some joint projects between Protoball and key SABR units, including the assorted local chapters and the Negro Leagues Committee.

Local chapters might help fill in local data for our PrePro data base of pre-1872 clubs and games, for example, and we might help put together a free-standing chronology reflecting evidence on the early evolution of African-American ballplaying.



Book Review: *Baseball Rowdies of the 19th Century*

By Andrew Milner

Baseball Rowdies of the 19th Century: Brawlers, Drinkers, Pranksters and Cheats in the Early Days of the Major Leagues

Eddie Mitchell

McFarland 233 pp, \$29.95

Eddie Mitchell has made the most out of his retirement. After coaching high school baseball, he began impersonating Hall of Famer Mike “King” Kelly before local audiences. His interest in the 19th century game led him to start a considerable private library on the subject, and the result of this research is a fascinating new book on the less savory aspects of the early days of professional baseball.

After reading this book, it would hard for anybody to sustain the notion that pre-1900 major league baseball was bucolic and innocent. Player/manager Arthur Irwin, we learn, was a bigamist. Providence catcher Sandy Nava was fined \$100 in 1884 – 10% of his salary – for intoxication. St. Louis team captain Tip O’Neill once threw his bat at a teammate in the on-deck circle.

It's bracing just how blunt early sports writing could often be. Forty years before Golden Age reporters blithely ignored Babe Ruth's off-field escapades, a Washington *Post* article flatly stated that Ned Williamson got a \$100 bonus "for having abstained from intoxicating drinks and orgies" during the 1885 season. Pete Browning was called by one sportswriter “Pietro Redlight District Distillery In-

terests Browning.” An 1883 Chicago *Tribune* sportswriter suggested that umpire Stewart Decker "ought to write a book about what he knows about umpiring -- it would only take a second -- and then go jump in the lake." Three years later the same newspaper titled a poem “Mother, May I Slug the Umpire?” There’s probably an entire separate book to be made out of the editorializing within 19th century baseball reporting.

Two and a half pages are devoted to newspaper coverage of John McGraw’s less-than-honest on-field play. “McGraw used every low and contemptible method that a brain could conceive to win a play by a dirty trick,” concluded a writer in 1893 from McGraw’s hometown newspaper, the Baltimore *Sun*. In a game three seasons later McGraw spiked a Red catcher, who “then grabbed McGraw by the head and hit McGraw in the jaw. McGraw broke free and grabbed a bat when police stepped in.”

Mitchell closes his book with an unofficial list of “Rowdy Ball Player Awards.” “Dirty Jack” Doyle wins for “Best Wrestler,” Hugh “One Arm” Daily for “Foulest Mouth” and Boston owner Arthur Soden is named the “Stingiest” for charging his players \$20 for uniforms.

And amid the more irreverent anecdotes, the author doesn’t flinch from the game’s more tragic elements. One player Mitchell writes about is catcher Marty Bergen, who would ultimately kill his family and himself: “Bergen had hallucinations that other players

were trying to poison him. He would walk sideways to avoid contact with others. While catching, he once missed two pitches, then said, ‘I was avoiding a knife.’”

Mitchell’s sources include over 80 newspapers, taken from the Hall of Fame Library as well as the Internet, and he wisely documents the name and date of the papers used in his anecdotes. A central, if not fatal, drawback to *Baseball Rowdies* is that Mitchell doesn’t provide similar attributions for anecdotes taken from books. His thorough bibliography lists a wide cross-section of books -- some of the 70 titles are impeccably researched, while others are simply more rollicking than accurate. It would have been easier for the reader had Mitchell properly sourced his anecdotes from books as well.

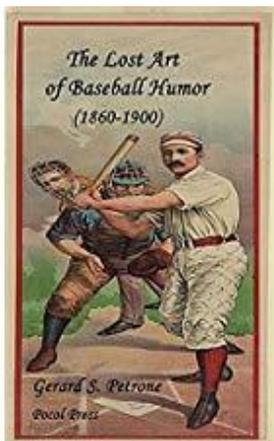
That caveat aside, Mitchell has done a thorough job conveying what it must have been like to play and follow 19th century baseball. *Baseball Rowdies* is an obvious labor of love towards the game and the imperfect men who played it.

ANDREW MILNER was a lead researcher for *The World Series in the Deadball Era*, and has also written for *The National Pastime*, *Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game*, and *The Cooperstown Review*. He also regularly contributed to the Philadelphia *City Paper* for 20 years. A SABR member since 1984, he lives in suburban Philadelphia.

News & Notes

-This is the last Newsletter for 2018. Around January 1 we will begin 2019 with the issuance of the Winter 2019 edition of Nineteenth Century Notes. The last two issues have had very good submission of articles but once again we are looking as an empty tank of research articles. So before Christmas begins to occupy your thoughts, send along a riveting piece of research that will enthrall our Committee members. Heck, even if it's not enthralling, send it along to bobbai-ley@cox.net.

-Procol Press has recently published Gerard Petrone's *The Lost Art of Baseball Humor*. It fea-



tures examples of the era's colorful sports writing from familiar names like O.P. Caylor, Ren Mulford, Charles Dryden, and others. Available through Amazon.com.

-The SABR Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legends Project began in 2008 when Peter Mancuso introduced Joe Williams as chair of a new project; its purpose was to "bring long overdue recognition to those 19th-century players and other 19th-century baseball persons who

have yet to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York." Charles Faber and Bob Gregory (both have since passed away) quickly joined the cause to develop the process that the committee uses today to hold annual SABR elections and select the Overlooked Legends.

After five Overlooked Legends elections — highlighted by 2010 winner Deacon White being elected to the Hall of Fame in December 2012 — Joe turned the reins over to Adam Darowski, who added a sabermetric slant to the project bios from his work at hallofstats.com. Darowski has led the project for the past five elections, which included the first non-professional player winning in 2014, when Doc Adams was selected. Adams missed election to the Hall of Fame by just two votes in December 2015 before the "Laws of Base Ball" (which Adams authored in 1857) were made public and sold for \$3.26 million at auction. Adams will be eligible again for a December 2020 vote by the Early Baseball Era Committee at the MLB Winter Meetings.

Other Overlooked Legends made recent Era Committee ballots, including Harry Stovey, Tony Mullane, and Bill Dahlen (who missed election by two votes in December 2012.)

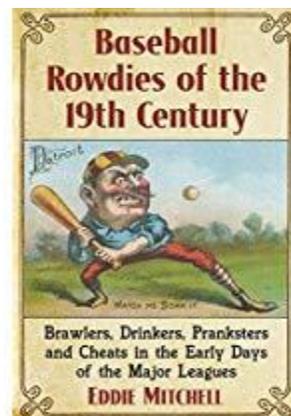
There are a few changes to announce as the Overlooked Legends project enters its second decade. Adam and Joe have decided to be co-chairs of the project, so they can share the workload and expand the activities of the project. Ralph Peluso, Sam Reich, and Tom Zocco make up

the rest of the team that helps determine the preliminary candidates and oversees the annual election of the Overlooked Legend.

A second group has been created under the project to bring attention to 19th-century pioneers of the game. Matt Albertson, Eric Miklich, and Gary Passamonte are joining Adam and Joe to participate in education and promotion of overlooked pioneers. Pioneers will be considered for their contributions to the game, not just statistical metrics. Our plan is to research and write a quarterly Pioneer Profile for Nineteenth Century Notes, which will also be published online at SABR.org. The group has started communicating to select their first Pioneer Profile subject.

For more information about the Overlooked Legends project, contact Adam Darowski at adarowski@gmail.com or Joe Williams at overlooked-legends@gmail.com. Also, feel free to email Joe information about potential Pioneer Profile subjects.

-Cover art from *Baseball Rowdies of the 19th Century* by Eddie Mitchell. See Andrew Milner's review on page 8.





Representatives of Professional Base Ball in America
Advertising piece from P. Lorillard Company, Jersey City, N.J.

**Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)
Nineteenth Century Committee & Jack Graney Chapter
Cleveland 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium
Saturday, November 10, 2018, 9:AM – 5:PM
Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH**

Program & Schedule:

9:00 -10:AM - Check-in and Continental Breakfast

10:00 - 10:15 - Introduction and Greetings

10:15 - 10:45 – Welcoming Address: John Thorn, Official Historian, Major League Baseball

10:45 – 11:00 – Mid-morning Break

11:00 – 11:30 – Research Presentation: Ken Krsolovic & Bryan Fritz, “League Park: The Wooden Era”

11:30 – 12:00 – Research Presentation: Jeremy Feador, “Cleveland Forest Cities”

12:00 - 2:00 – Luncheon and Keynote Speaker: Prof. David Goldberg, Professor Emeritus of History at Cleveland State University, “Mark Hanna, Tom Johnson and the Cleveland Trolley Wars of the Late 19th Century.”

2:00 - 3:00 - Special Presentation: John Skrtic, Director of Public Service, Cleveland Public Library, “Baseball Research at the Cleveland Public Library”

3:00 - 3:15 - Break & Book Signings

3:15 - 3:45 - Research Presentation: David Fleitz, “The Cleveland Spiders of the 1890s: Why Did They Always Fall Short”

3:45 - 4:15 - Afternoon Break Snacks and book signings.

4:15 - 4:45 - Research Presentation: Joseph Wancho, “Ed McKean, Never Heard of Him?”

4:45 - 5:00 – Closing Remarks

There will be informal evening meal gatherings on Friday and Saturday, November 9th and 10th at nearby restaurants. These will be optional activities, individual pay at the conclusion of dinner. Details will be announced in the months and weeks ahead.

Cleveland 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium: Presentation Details

Jeremy Feador, “Cleveland Forest Citys”: Though base ball was played in Cleveland sporadically before the Civil War, organized clubs did not emerge in the city until the formation of the Forest Citys in September 1865. As the city grew, the ball club evolved from a group of amateurs into a club consisting of stockholders and paid players challenging the likes of the Red Stockings. With the formation of the NA in 1871, the Forest Citys, with Hall of Famer “Deacon” White, took the field against the Fort Wayne Kekiongas in the inaugural game. By 1872, the Forest Citys imploded, with several players leaving for distinguished careers while others left the sport all together. However, the Forest Citys created the foundation for baseball in the city.

David Fleitz, “Cleveland Spiders of the 1890s: Why Did They Always Fall Short?”: The Cleveland Spiders of the 1890s, during Patsy Tebeau’s seven full years at the helm, finished in second place twice, posted a winning record each season, and never finished lower than sixth in the 12-team NL. They boasted the best offensive keystone combination in the league, Cupid Childs (2b) and Ed McKean (ss), a multiple batting champion in Jesse Burkett (1f), a brilliant defensive player Jimmy McAleer (cf), and a pitching staff led by Cy Young. The Spiders won the second half of the 1892 split season (but lost the pennant to Boston in a post-season series) and won the 1895 post-season Temple Cup against first-place Baltimore. Still, the coveted NL title eluded them. This presentation will examine the strengths and weaknesses of the Spiders.

David J. Goldberg, (Interdisciplinary Keynote Luncheon Speaker) “Mark, Hanna, Tom Johnson and the Cleveland Trolley Wars of the late 19th Century”: **Bio:** David J. Goldberg is a Professor Emeritus of History at Cleveland State University where he still teaches. He has authored “A Tale of Three Cities: Labor Organization and Protest in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Passaic and Paterson, New Jersey”, 1916-1921 (Rutgers Univ. Press, 1989); “Discontented America: A History of the 1920s” (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1999) and numerous articles. A lifelong fan, he belonged to SABR for many years and saw his first game at Braves Field in 1952.

Ken Krsolovic & Bryan Fritz, “League Park: The Wooden Era”: The co-authors of the definitive book on the venerated Cleveland baseball venue will present an illustrated talk on its 19th century, “Wooden Era.”

Joe Wancho, “Ed McKean”: Many fans may not recognize that before Cleveland became a charter member of the AL, they had an entry in the American Association and the NL in the 19th century. One of the stalwarts of the franchise was shortstop Ed McKean, from 1887 through 1899. His lifetime batting average in a Cleveland uniform was .304. A player who was born and raised 30 miles from downtown Cleveland, he spent 12 seasons in a starting role for that team.

John Skrtic, “Baseball Research at the Cleveland Public Library”: The Director of Public Service of the CPL will discuss what is available for the baseball researcher at the CPL and how to access it.

John Thorn, “Welcoming Address”: The Official Historian of Major League Baseball, SABR’s Bob Davids and Chadwick Award winner, author of “Baseball in the Garden of Eden”, author and editor of numerous baseball and sports books and reference works; and co-founder and original co-chair of SABR’s Nineteenth Century Committee will set the tone for our day-long symposium.

**SABR, Nineteenth Century Committee & Jack Graney Chapter
Cleveland 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium
Saturday, November 10, 2018, 9:AM – 5:PM
Registration Form**

To Register: Prepare and mail this form with payment (see below).

Name _____

Nickname for Badge _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ St or Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephone Home _____ Mobile _____

Symposium includes morning & afternoon coffee service and buffet luncheon with interdisciplinary Keynote.

Registration Fee: \$50 per person, include up to 3 guests: \$50 per. X# _____ persons = \$ _____ Total Enclosed

Guest Information:

Name _____ City _____ State or Prov _____

Nickname for Badge _____ Email _____

Name _____ City _____ State or Prov _____

Nickname for Badge _____ Email _____

Name _____ City _____ State or Prov _____

Nickname for Badge _____ Email _____

Payment and Mailing:

Payment: Please, make check or M.O. (U.S. Dollars) payable to: "SABR"

Important: On memo line of check, please, print: "Cleve. 19cBB Symposium"

Mail: Send check and this completed Registration Form (photocopies OK) before November 1, 2018 to:
Peter Mancuso, 6970 Ely Road, New Hope, PA 18938. Questions: peterplus4@earthlink.net or call:
(215) 862-2887.

Cleveland 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium

Further Information

Symposium Venue:

The Cleveland 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium will be held at the Main Branch of the Cleveland Public Library located at 325 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114, two blocks from Cleveland's Public Square.

Parking: Downtown Cleveland an array of parking options in walking distance to the Cleveland Public Library. Websites at <http://parking.downtowncleveland.com/erieview-district/> and www.bestparking.com/cleveland-parking/ list options.

Local & Regional Public Transportation: The website <http://www.downtowncleveland.com/play/getting-around/public-transportation> has information on bus lines, trolleys and rail travel.

Cleveland Hopkins Airport: There is rail service to downtown from Hopkins Airport. The fare is \$2.50.

Meeting Food Package:

Continental Breakfast, 9:am-10:am (during Symposium Check-in)

Buffet Style Lunch, 12noon-2:pm

Afternoon Break Snacks, 3:45-4:pm includes

Hotels: Due to a Sunday Cleveland Browns football game on the weekend of our Symposium it is impossible with a group our size to secure even a small block of rooms at a competitive rate. However, there are individual rooms available at reasonable rates at various size properties in the downtown Cleveland area. Visit your favorite online booking site to make your individual booking.

John Skrtic of the Cleveland Public Library has kindly sent along a link to a local website that offers lodging options in Cleveland. If you are in need of lodging while attending the Symposium check: <http://www.thisiscleveland.com/hotels/>