

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

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Society for American Baseball Research

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The Rankin Brothers: Will & June by Pamela Bakker

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William McDowell Rankin and his brother Andrew Brown Rankin V, nicknamed "June," covered sports in New York, combined, from 1870-1930.

Will is best known for his work at the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* and the *New York Clipper*; and June for his work at the *New York Sunday Mercury* and *Herald*. In addition, each contributed copy to a myriad of newspapers in and outside of New York. They began their involvement in baseball as amateur and

semi-professional baseball players in Rockland County, New York from



Two of the papers that featured the Rankin Brothers

1866-1874. Playing for three different clubs, Will served as catcher. June alternated between pitcher, second baseman and left

field.

Will covered baseball for the *Rockland County Journal* in 1870 and then moved to Brooklyn in 1874 to cover baseball for the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. He worked closely with Henry Chadwick, dubbed the father of baseball, until 1883/4. In the spring of 1876, he also wrote for the *New York Daily Witness*, *Tribune*, *Times* and *World*, and became the "first official scorer," for the National League serving the *New York Mutu-*

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER by Peter Mancuso

The Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference was again held at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown for its fifth consecutive year. This year we had the pleasant and exciting addition of being on-hand, at the invitation of the Village of Cooperstown, for Bud Fowler Day and the

Village's dedication of a street named in Fowler's honor.

We have added an extra article to this issue of Nineteenth Century Notes to cover the recent Ivor-Campbell Conference in general and this year's wonderful keynote address by Tom Shieber and Tom's proposal and its possible

implications for a future Nineteenth Century Committee project/s. Suffice it to say here, that next year's Ivor-Campbell Conference will be held, again at the Hall of Fame, on Friday & Saturday, April 11-12, 2014.

By the time you are reading this, you will have already had the op-

(Continued on page 4)

The Rankin Brothers: Will & June (cont.)

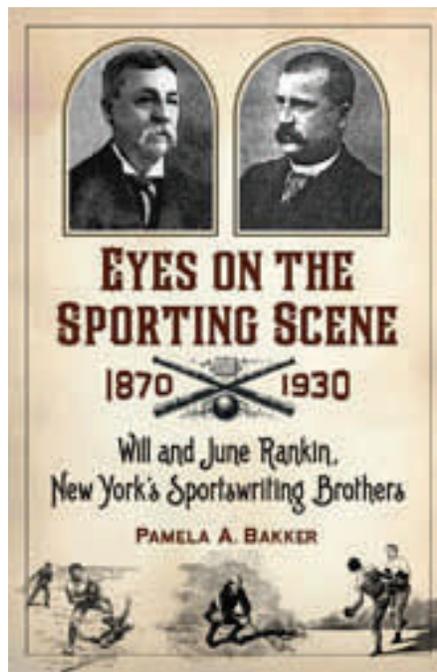
(Continued from page 1)

als, who did not complete their playing schedule. In 1883 and 1884, Will served the Brooklyn Club (Dodger), as official scorer at their inception.

In 1884, Will left the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* and began writing for the *New York Clipper*, and worked his way up to baseball editor remaining there until his death. He also wrote for the *New York Evening Sun*, *Brooklyn Citizen*, *Mail and Express*, *Sporting World*, *New York Press Association*, *Boston Herald*, *Boston Globe*, *Baltimore American*, *Detroit Free Press* and *Evening Journal of Detroit*, *The United*, *The New England*, *The North Western* and *The Associated Presses*. In the 1900s he became the New York correspondent for the *Sporting News* and wrote for *Baseball Magazine*.

June's baseball writing career began in the summer of 1875 when Henry Chadwick named him as his replacement on the *New York Sunday Mercury*. The spring of 1876, June added the *New York Herald*, and then the *New York News* to his writing portfolio, as well as the *Associated Press*. He would become baseball editor of both the *Sunday Mercury* and *Herald* for a total of about 22 years. During his life, June published three sports journals: *Official Record/Official Baseball Record*, which was the first daily dedicated exclusively to baseball in 1885 and 1886; *The Sporting Critic* in 1890; and *The Official Golf Record* in 1903. He

also published two small baseball books in 1887/8: *The New York and Brooklyn Base Ball Clubs: Brief and Authentic Sketches of the Clubs with Portraits of the Managers and Individual Players*; and *The New York Baseball Club: A Brief and Authentic Sketch of the Club, with Portraits of the Managers*



Cover of Pam Bakker's book on the Rankins

and *Individual Players*.

June had been a delegate to the newly formed International Association of Professional Base Ball Players in 1877 and served on their judiciary committee during the 1870s. He then served as official scorer for the New York Metropolitans from 1880-1883. Both brothers were reported to have practiced with that club. June then moved with the best

players to be official scorer of the New York Gothams (Giants), from 1883-1889, as they joined the National League. He also played left field on the New York Reporters Base Ball Club during this period, and later joined the New York Newsmen's Golf Club (1903-1905).

However, June's support of the Player's Union in the 1880's, and his dislike of what he saw as a "clique" in the National League management put him in the direct path of the National League's War Committee during the Baseball Wars between the Players League and the National League. The leadership of the Player's League was on the New York Giants Base Ball Club, and one of the three members of the National League's War Committee owned the Giants; John B. Day. June was removed as baseball editor of the *New York Herald* at the end of the 1889 season by James Gordon Bennett, Jr., *Herald* publisher, who also owned the club's Polo Grounds field, which was being taken over by the city. The move from baseball editor to general sporting editor was felt to have been orchestrated by Day as many newspaper publishers received visits from him during that period with the message that the Player's League was not good for capitalism; support the National League. June no longer served as official scorer for the club either, even though he was always seen as one of the most honest reporters and scorers in the business, especially

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The Rankin Brothers: Will & June (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

by Henry Chadwick. He, and a number of other reporters in New York, left baseball coverage in 1890; never to return. June went on to cover boxing as it developed into a gentlemen's sport, and was in the first group of New York golf writers at the time of the formation of the USGA, PGA and the MGA. He covered golf for the *New York World*, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* and *The Rider and Driver*.

Will weathered the Baseball Wars better, however, his views on the origin of baseball were contrary to those accepted by the later Mills Commission, which was established by the National League to investigate the origin of the sport. Will began his investigation the summer of 1877. July 27, 1877, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* covered a reunion game between the old members of the Excelsiors and Knickerbockers who had gathered in Brooklyn. Will may have written the article. In a 1905 *Sporting News* article he

mentioned this as the time he began his research into the origin of baseball, following a conversation with Duncan Curry of the early New York Knickerbockers who was present for the reunion. Will questioned early players, baseball writers, and those associated with the sport for a period of almost ten years, publishing his findings in 1886, titled *Our National Game* or *Early History of Baseball*. It was carried in newspapers throughout the country. He did not find a link between rounders or townball, and the New York style of baseball. The early players in New York and Brooklyn did not seem to know either of those games, though townball was played in other states. His article, as the first to counter Henry Chadwick's 1860s theory of baseball from rounders, pointed towards the men organizing the Knickerbockers as baseball's creators. He pointed towards Manhattan Island as the epicen-

ter of baseball's beginnings. Will also was the first to investigate the theory of Abner Doubleday as founder of baseball, and found the theory to be false, but the myth was propelled and accepted by the Mills Commission. His views were dismissed, as were Henry Chadwick's. Modern researchers, however, have found references to the term "base-ball" which pre-date all three theories.

At his death in 1913, Will had amassed the largest baseball library in existence with scrapbooks of game scores, guides, original minutes and books. June died in 1930, after covering a golf game, and was called, at the time, the oldest living baseball writer in America, and the most well-rounded news man of his day. He had watched baseball evolve beginning in 1866 and golf from 1895. Both Will and June Rankin were inducted into the Helms Hall of Fame in 1952; honoring their extensive contribution to sports.

The Ever-Popular Harry Wright? from Richard Hershberger

Harry Wright was a base ball icon in the 19th Century. But Richard Hershberger found this less conventional view of Harry as posted on the 19thC listserv:

"[Athletics vs. Xenia 6/11/1868] Harry Wright was selected as umpire, but not until Father Hayhurst has posted him upon the rules, in which Wright is decidedly rusty.

He is looked upon as the great "I am" in ball circles in Ohio—or at least this section of it, and that by people who should know better, or at least, who are intelligent enough to give a correct interpretation of the rules, if they would only take the trouble to read them. Singular enough he presumed to teach Asa Brainerd, Johnny Hatfield and Freddy Waterman how to play the game,

either being his superior in the points of the game, as well as in the matter of head work. However, he kept remarkably shady after Hayhurst had given an ambiguous rule an interpretation, and the Atlantics and Mutuels will still further open the eyes of the friends of the national game in demanding a correct understanding of the rules." [Philadelphia

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

portunity to vote in this year's recent (and greatly enhanced) Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends election. Normally, we have approximately 25% of our entire Nineteenth Century Committee cast their vote for our annual selection of an Overlooked Legend. But we took it a few steps further this past year. Our committee members now had far more say in developing a list of potential candidates, twenty-five in all, (each with a biographical profile) that became the slate for a committee-wide primary election back in the January-February timeframe. From that primary election, our committee voted to determine the top ten candidates (with enlarged bios) for this June's election, which for the first time, was opened to all SABR members to vote.

The 2014 Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend will be announced at our Committee's Annual Business Meeting Sched-

uled for 11:30- 12:30, Thursday, August 1st, during SABR 43. An agenda for that meeting is contained in this newsletter.

Talking about SABR 43, this is a SABR National Convention you will not want to miss. Nineteenth Century Committee members are involved in nearly every facet of the program, from research presentations, poster presentations, panel discussions, book signings, you name it. So, if you have been sitting on the fence trying to decide whether to attend, I can only say that this should be a great convention, with a game in one of MLB's best stadiums and tons of things to do and see. And best of all, it's jammed packed with your SABR colleagues. It's all just a light-rail ride from Philadelphia International Airport or a quick subway or taxi ride from Amtrak's Philadelphia 30th St. Station to the beautiful Marriott Hotel, which has on-site parking for a fee.

One item on this year's annual business meeting agenda is our 2014 NYC 19th-Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium. Whether you are hoping to attend or be part of the NYC Symposium, or are hoping to be part of one of the future symposia in this series in your own city you will not want to miss the opportunity to get the latest news and to voice your ideas.

Finally, remember, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Weekend is July 26th-28th in Cooperstown, NY. I hope many of you will be able to make your way to Cooperstown, the weekend before SABR 43 to witness the induction of our own 2010 Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend James "Deacon" White. Check out the Hall of Fame's website to get detailed information regarding Induction Weekend.

Harry Wright Comments (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

Sunday Mercury June 14, 1868]

This is an interesting perspective. A year later he would firmly establish himself as the great "I am" with his reputation surviving to this day. But in 1868 he had been away from the northeastern centers of baseball and was managing a mere country club. Note the incoherence of the assertion that all needed to arrive at a correct interpretation is to read the rules, followed two sentences later

by the admission that at least one rule is ambiguous. The rules of this era were a spectacular mess, particularly with regard to called balls and strikes and restrictions on the movement of the batter.

The previous year, a preliminary draft of a rule was printed in the official rulebook, and had to be corrected in mid-summer. The upshot is that there was a constant stream of inquiries asking for clarifications. It is entirely understandable if Wright

had arrived at a different interpretation than that used in New York and Philly.

It also seems to me that Harry Wright never had a particularly outstanding reputation as a player. He was with the Knickerbockers when they had more social prestige than playing ability, and switched to the Gothams, who were respectable but unspectacular. Nowadays, anyone who is paying any attention at all knows that playing ability and managing ability don't necessarily go together, but I suspect this wasn't appreciated at the time.

Nineteenth Century Committee Agenda in Philly

2013 Nineteenth Century Committee Meeting, SABR 43, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel, Philadelphia, PA

Thursday, August 1, 2013, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

11:30 AM – 11:40 AM: Welcome and Introductions. Members

11:40 AM - 11:50 AM: Announcement of the 2012 Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend election results – Joe Williams, Chair of the Overlooked Legends Committee.

Past Selections: Pete Browning, 2009; Deacon White, 2010; Harry Stovey, 2011; Bill Dahlen, 2012

11:50 AM - 11:55 AM: 2013 Chairman's Award Recipient/s.

Past recipients: Bob Bailey, 2009; Joe Williams, 2010; Jerry Kuntz, 2011; Bill Felber & Peter Morris, 2012

11:55 PM – Noon: 2014 Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference dates: April 11th & 12th – Peter Mancuso

Noon – 12:05 PM: Committee Book Projects, Editors

12:05 PM – 12:15 PM: “The 19th Century Baseball Cities Interdisciplinary Symposia Series” (working title) Prototype, Autumn 2014, NYC

12:15 PM – 12:20 PM: New Business, Members

12:20 PM – 12:25 PM: Vice-Chairman/Newsletter Editor, Bob Bailey

Shieber Keynote Address at Ivor-Campbell Conference May Offer New Committee Project

Our 5th Annual **Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference** was named for Fred by the second year it was held. Why wouldn't it be? Fred helped plan the first conference we held at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown and accepted my invitation to him to serve as moderator for that first year's panel discussion, "From Baseball Research, To Writing, To Publication" with panelists, Peter Morris, Bill Ryczek and John Thorn. Wow, talk about an all-star lineup being managed by an all-star manager! Then tragedy struck a few months later and Fred was killed in an automobile accident.

In a large way, with Fred's guidance, both the quality and demeanor of all future conferences were set that very first year and have held up throughout. This year was no exception, great information imparted by all the presenters, panelists and interviewees in a warm and friendly atmosphere made all the more pleasurable by the combined company of conference veterans and first time attendees, indistinguishable.

This year's Luncheon Keynote Address was given by Tom Shieber, who upheld the fine tradition of all of his keynote predecessors; he presented a thoughtful and provocative talk on the theme that I have asked all of our keynote speakers to address, encouraging baseball research. Tom, like all those before him, who each in their own way accomplished their

mission, had a little bit more in mind; however, he had a specific proposal to make.

In his address, Tom explained his nearly lifelong hobby of annotation, something of a family hobby, particularly, early on for Tom, the annotating of photographs. Is there any wonder that



Tom Shieber delivers 2013 Keynote Address

Tom would end up working at the Baseball Hall of Fame. We have supplied below a link to Tom's original draft of his Keynote Address at this year's Ivor-Campbell Conference. Although, it was not intended for publication (its primary purpose was to give Tom prompts to his presentation) I convinced Tom that he should share it with our membership. I encourage all of you to read it. I think you will find it a wonderful mix of SABR history, Tom's own story and most importantly his proposed project, all presented with verve and wit.

In a nutshell, Tom has developed an on-line method for a group to collectively annotate any early baseball artifact, but specifically, he is suggesting the annotation of an early (19th-century) baseball book, one that is in the public domain. So, imagine this. Imagine our committee members having the opportunity to take an early classic baseball book, one revered by baseball historians, and to produce from their research a new fully annotated edition of that baseball classic.

Tom Shieber feels he has the web-based tool to accomplish this and we both feel that our Nineteenth Century Committee has the talent among its members to accomplish this exquisitely. I am planning on furthering a discussion of this new potential committee group project at our annual business meeting during SABR 43 in Philadelphia. Before, that meeting (Aug. 1st) I hope you will read Tom Shieber's Keynote Address at the following link: <http://sabr.org/content/shieber-annotating-our-way-future-baseball-research>. Tom's blog is at: <http://baseballresearcher.blogspot.com>.

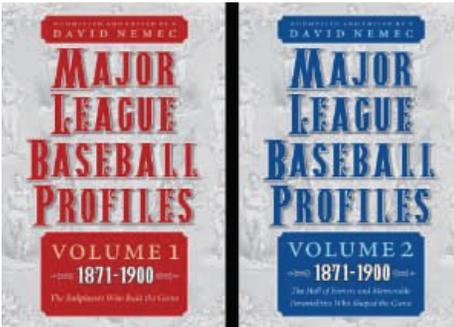
Whether you are planning on attending SABR 43 and being at our annual committee business meeting or not, I welcome anyone of you who may be interested in this potential project to contact me, peterplus4@earthlink.net or Tom, tshieber@yahoo.com before SABR 43 with your thoughts and ideas so that we have them in time for the meeting.

John Ford Evans of Cleveland

by David Nemeč

Committee stalwart David Nemeč has been busy in recent years. He has published a pair of books focusing on the players and others involved with Major League Baseball in the 19th Century. His two volume *Major League Baseball Profiles 1871-1900* comes from Bison Books and *The Rank and File of 19th Century Major League Baseball* was published by McFarland.

David has sent along one of the profiles from *The Rank and File* book. This is a profile of Cleveland owner John Ford Evans of the 1871 Forest Citys. As you read the tale of Evans you may wonder what happened to poor Al Hall. Hall is profiled in *Major League Baseball Profiles*.



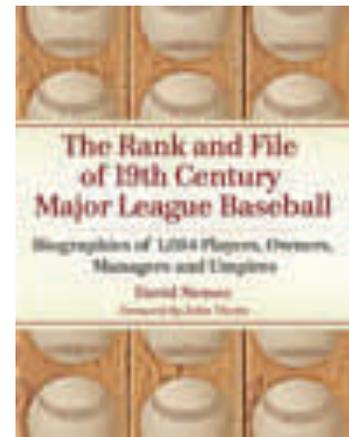
- J. Ford Evans
- b. 1844
- d. Dec 15 1884,
- Akron, OH

An obit said that Ford Evans was a nephew of David Tod, Ohio's Civil War governor, but the connection has proven difficult to substantiate. He spent

most of his life in Cleveland, where he became a partner in Evans, Van Epps and Company, a firm that sold books and newspapers, ran a circulating library and published maps. In the late 1870s the firm adding sporting goods acquired from the Spalding Brothers Company to its line of wares. Evans was involved with the Forest Citys, Cleveland's first professional ball club, representing the team at the organizational meeting of the NA in March, 1871, and serving as its first vice president. The Forest Citys folded before the 1872 season finished, however, leaving Cleveland without pro ball until 1878 when Evans joined William Hollinger in organizing a pro club to represent their city. With Evans as president, the team played as the independent Forest Citys for a season and then snared a NL franchise and became known as the Blues. Although he didn't run the team on the field and isn't credited with the title in modern encyclopedias, he was often labeled Cleveland's manager at the time because he oversaw the team closely and sometimes traveled with it.

Clevelanders of his generation perhaps knew Evans best for being on the charter committee that organized the Cleveland Gatling Gun Battery, the pride of Cleveland's military community in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. He was a Mason as well. Nick Young, the

long-time NL official, remembered him in 1906 as "dear old Ford Evans" and Opie Caylor recalled him as a "great chum" of NL president Will Hulbert. Not everyone thought so kindly of Evans, however. He was accused of taking over the reborn Forest Citys in 1878 by seizing them in a coup while their principal organizer Hollinger was out of town signing players. Jack Glasscock, a star infielder with the club, still remembered him less than fondly decades later. "Our manager was named Evans. A high hat man. He would put our club up at a hotel and he would go to a better one. I didn't think he [knew] much about the game."



When outfielder Al Hall suffered a career-ending leg fracture in a game at Cincinnati early in the 1880 season, Evans created for himself a definite, although unenviable place in baseball lore. He is reputed to have announced that he couldn't attend a benefit game played to raise funds for Hall be-

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John Ford Evans of Cleveland (cont.)

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cause he had a champagne breakfast to attend and then released Hall, leaving the injured man stranded in a hospital miles from home with his own medical bills to pay and deprived of the means to support his wife and three children. Contemporary coverage in the Cincinnati press suggests this story may have become somewhat overstated, but Evans's conduct was certainly shabby. Releasing Hall was not considered exceptional at a time when a day's work for a day's pay was the watchword and a financially strapped club like Cleveland had enough difficulty paying its able-bodied players without keeping disabled ones on the payroll as well. But while modern standards of workman's compensation might not apply, normal human compassion demanded more from Evans, especially in the case of a player who had been injured in service to his own team. Yet according to the Cincinnati papers, it was the Reds' club president Justus Thorner, not Evans, who saw to the needs of the injured Hall and

proposed the idea of a benefit game. Evans was singularly uninterested. He suggested that Buffalo, the next team to come to Cincinnati, should play the Reds on an off-day, "though what the Buffalos have to do with it," the exasperated *Cincinnati Enquirer* exclaimed, "instead of the Club to which the hurt man belonged, is a mystery." Be that as it may, Evans did indeed go off to a champagne breakfast, but no game was played that day. Some Cincinnatians stood ready to pay for 20 tickets or more, and the two teams' players announced that they themselves would make up a purse for Hall if no game was played. Either his better nature or bad press finally swayed Evans, and Cleveland played Cincinnati in a benefit game a few days later. Most of the Buffalo players were in attendance; whether Evans was present is not recorded.

By the spring of 1882, Charles Bulkley had succeeded Evans as president and George Howe became VP, for the simple

reason that the pair were the only remaining stockholders, while Evans and the others, having found ML baseball too expensive and unprofitable a luxury for their taste, had sold out one by one. Evans, Van Epps and Company disappears from the Cleveland city directory after 1881, so perhaps financial difficulties may have compelled Evans to dispose of his stock in the ball club. If so, he seems to have landed on his feet, for by 1883 he was managing the Valley Coal Company and living at the Weddell House, the finest hotel in Cleveland and one where he would probably not be troubled by the presence of ball players among his fellow boarders. He may subsequently have moved to Akron, for it was there in the fall of 1884 that he became ill with heart trouble and was confined to his rooms in the home of coal dealer Alfred Brewster. Although he had been ill for three months, his death only ten minutes after his examining doctor had left him came unexpectedly.



Photos from the Fifth Frederick Ivor-Campbell Conference



Joanne Hulbert delivering a research presentation on the term “Crank”



Richard Hershberger discusses baseball’s Creation Myth.



A jocular moment during Tom Simon’s interview of Peter Morris



Standing: David Block, Richard Hershberger, Marc Appleman, Peter Mancuso, Joseph Mancuso, Penelope Corcoran. Seated: Tom Shieber, Bob Tholkes



The Firehouse Five break into song. Jeff Katz, Tom Shieber, John Thorn, Marc Appleman, Peter Mancuso



Joe Williams, Joanne Hulbert, Dennis Thiessen, Paul Ringel, Bill Ryczek, Bill Lamb

More Photos from Ivor-Campbell Conference



Hugh McDougall models the last Hat Day promotion at Olympic Stadium in Montreal



Standing: Judy McGruph, Jim Overmeyer, John Thorn, Bob Mayer. Seated: Eric Miklich, David Nemec, Larry McCray



The new street sign for Bud Fowler Way in Cooperstown



Tom Heitz (facing camera) and Hugh McDougall at Bud Fowler Dedication Ceremony



Standing: Lisa Hirschfield, Irwin Chusid, Jim Gates. Seated: Joanne Hulbert, Maggie Thompson, George Thompson, Peter Morris



Seated clockwise from lower left: Erica Freudenberg, John Thorn, Marc Appleman, John Popovich, Jonathan Popovich, Bob Mayer, Larry McCray, David Block

Committee News & Notes

The first volume of the Pioneer Project, *Base Ball Pioneers, 1850-1870*, received a 2013

SABR Research Award. Our thanks to committee members Peter Morris, Bill Ryczek, Jan Finkel, Len Levin, and Richard Malatzky for their work producing this volume. The second volume is estimated to be released this summer...

- Committee member Hugh McDougall has unearthed a copy of a play written by Bud Fowler. Hugh discovered the play at the Library of Congress and transcribed the legible portions of the hand-written manuscript. Contact the Newsletter editor via e-mail for an electronic copy of this drama...
- *Inventing Baseball*, the committee project to tell the stories of the 100 greatest games of the 19th century will be available for purchase as an e-book in the next few months. We will notify members via the newsletter when we have details about the release...
- Although, nearly all of David Block's research can be characterized as pure Origins work, it is certainly of interest to nearly all SABR members and certainly to members of our Nineteenth Century Committee, of which David is a highly regarded member. Early in June of this year, while in England, David made a significant 18th-century discovery of the Prince of Wales, at an adult age, playing "bass (sic) ball" in 1749. This pre-dates David's find of several years ago of base ball be-

ing played in the same basic location in England in 1755 through a diary entry by a William Bray...

- Just weeks after David Block's discovery, John Thorn stumbled on a facsimile of an early baseball tournament broadside in the lobby of a steakhouse while he was in Beloit, Wisconsin attending a college class reunion at his alma mater, Beloit College. John wasted no time after making several local inquiries he located the Real McCoy in the Beloit Historical Society. Much to that society's surprise, John informed them that it is the earliest known baseball broadside in existence...
- In May of this year, Nineteenth Century Committee member and vintage baseball player and expert, Eric Miklich answered a long unanswered request by his committee colleague, Cliff Blau to serve as a back-up as the technical moderator of our critical on-line chat site, 19cBB@yahoogroups.com. Blau, who still remains its primary moderator since forever, finally has a back-up. Thank you, Cliff and Eric...
- Jonathan Frankel has passed on some research material he has developed. From his e-mail: "I have set up a Google Docs library with a number of various newspaper game accounts (play-by-play, game write-ups, game notes, box scores) that I collected and used during my recent research project. They cover the years from 1897-1912.

"It can be accessed from the SABR Resources page on the "1897-1912 newspaper scans" link.

"I have included some scans of the New York Evening Telegram that can be found in FultonHistory.com.

"I had these before I discovered that site and should provide you much easier access to the information than using the FultonHistory.com site.

"The newspaper titles listed with a yellow indicator have play-by-play to at least some extent.

"Also note that not all games are covered for a given paper/year - they are the dates that I needed for my research.

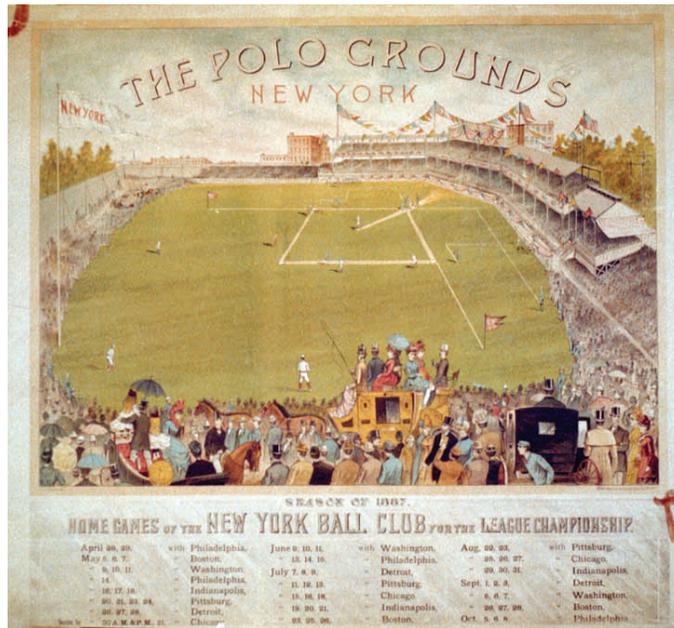
"If anyone has any hardcopies or scans that they would like to add to this library, please let me know."...

- The Rucker Archive is the new name for Mark Rucker's Transcendental Graphics. They describe their holdings as "Wild and Wonderful Images of the 19th & 20th Centuries." Their website is TheRuckerArchive.com. Look around the site a bit. Mark will be posting a baseball blog about the images he has available...

- Frank Ceresi is working on a book about the Washington Nationals (1960s version). He is looking for photos or drawings of the team and their national tour of 1867. Also information on black teams from DC like the Mutuals and Alerts. Pass along data to Frank at ceresi@fcassociates.com.



Map of Hoboken showing Elisian (Elysian) Fields



Polo Grounds Illustration 1887