

# NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

FALL 2019

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

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

## Bill Lamb Receives Bob Davids Award

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Inside this issue:

*Time of Game in the Amateur Era* 3-4

*Elmira-Scranton Team of 1886* 5-7

*Ed Abbiticchio* 8-9

*News & Notes* 10-11

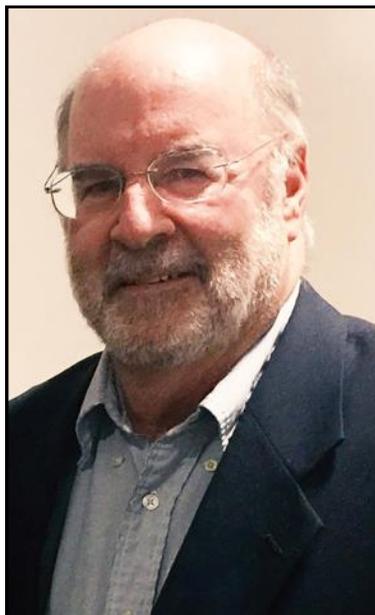
*Minnesota 19th Century Baseball Symposium Information* 12

*Minnesota Symposium Speakers* 13

*Minnesota Symposium Registration Form* 14

**N**ineteenth Century Committee Member Bill Lamb was named the recipient of the Bob Davids Award at the San Diego Convention. The Bob Davids Award is SABR’s highest honor given to individuals for their contributions to SABR.

Bill has been active in Nineteenth Century Committee activities as a presenter at several Fred Conferences, Keynote speaker at the 2017 Fred, contributor to the newsletter, and other Nineteenth Century Committee publications.



In addition, Bill is the editor of “The Inside Game,” the Deadball Committee news-

letter, six articles in various SABR publications, two game stories, and 131 bios for the SABR BioProject.

Bill is the author of “Black Sox in the Courtroom” and was the winner of the 2016 McFarland-SABR Research Award.

Bill currently lives in Meredith, NH, retiring there after serving in the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office for 30 years.

Congratulations to Bill Lamb on his well-deserved recognition.

## Chairman’s Corner by Peter Mancuso

**Again: Deadlines. Deadlines. October 31st and November 8th** are the dates marking two important deadlines in relation to our Committee’s annual events.

**October 31st is the Deadline to submit Research Presentation Abstracts for the 2020 “Fred”.** This

coming Spring the **Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference** will be held on Friday and Saturday, **April 24th & 25th**.

This will be the “Fred’s” 12th year at the **National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum** in Cooperstown, NY and we will, for a second year, have access to

the newly renovated grandstand theater which provides for a larger number of registrants and a program that will include fifteen Research Presentations in addition to our Panel Discussion, Special Presentation, Member Spotlight Interview and Luncheon Key-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Chairman's Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

note Address.

Research Presentations are 20-25 minutes on any topic of 19<sup>th</sup> 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 in late November to all who submit an abstract.

Those who have abstracts chosen will have until December 10<sup>th</sup> to commit to attend (registration \$65.00) and present at the conference. Please, email abstracts (as a Word or PDF attachment) to Peter Mancuso, [pe-terplus4@earthlink.net](mailto:pe-terplus4@earthlink.net) no later than the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**November 8<sup>th</sup> is the Deadline to register for the Minnesota 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium.** The last three pages of this issue of our newsletter contains the Program Details, Further Information and Registration Form for the **Saturday, November 16, 2019** all day symposium. At this juncture, it is suggested that you use the on-line registration option if it is practical for you. The Minnesota 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Symposium is a joint effort of SABR's Nineteenth Century Research Committee, the Halsey Hall Chapter of SABR and the Hennepin County Library. See details

in this newsletter.

**On Saturday, September 14, 2019, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Grave Marker Project** conducted its fifth grave marker dedication at the gravesite of **Hicks Hayhurst** (and wife Elizabeth) in Mount Peace Cemetery, Philadel-

interracial baseball game in the United States between Hayhurst's Olympics Base Ball Club (white) and the Pythian Base Ball Club (African American) captained by civil rights leader, Octavius Catto. Chapter Co-Chairs, **Seamus Kearney** and **Dick Rosen** and member **Matt Albertson** orga-



Seamus Kearney delivers address at dedication of Hicks Hayhurst grave marker and 150th anniversary of the first known inter-racial baseball game

phia, PA. This dedication, headed-up by Project Committee Chair, **Ralph Carhart** was actually a dual event; the other being the **Connie Mack Chapter's** celebration of the 150 year anniversary of the first widely publicized

nized the 150<sup>th</sup> game anniversary celebration.

I hope your team made the post season, Peter Mancuso ...because baseball history, is not only baseball history



# Time of Game in the Amateur Era: 1860-1865

## by Bob Tholkes

**W**hat was the average length of an interclub match in baseball's amateur era, 1845-1865?

The question is unanswerable for most of the era, for lack of data, but publishing of Time of Game (TOG) in game summaries was initiated in 1860 by Henry Chadwick in the nationally-distributed *New York Clipper*, beginning with the games he covered personally. It was consistent with his campaigning for changes in the game which, if not for that express purpose, tended to shorten them. Shorter games were a plus for reporters, who at the time were normally not provided with seating. By 1865 some clubs were apparently also including TOG in the summaries they sent to the press, and TOG from games in several areas of the country can be found in the *New York Sunday Mercury* and *Wilkes' Spirit of the Times*, which were also nationally distributed, and occasionally in newspapers in Philadelphia, the second-largest baseball center.

Investigation of TOG data with any claim to be comprehensive was rendered feasible when the Register of Interclub Matches (RIM) was compiled (it can now be downloaded from the Protoball website). RIM lists on Excel spreadsheets interclub matches between organized baseball clubs played under the Knickerbocker, and later National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP) rules, from 1845 through 1865, a total of almost five thousand items culled from 157 sources in 24 areas of the United States and Canada. RIM does not include TOG, but lists when availa-

ble the number of innings played.

Given that TOG assumes completion of nine innings, the standard for a complete match since 1857, the search for game summaries including TOG can be limited to known nine-inning matches. For the entire period 1860-1865, RIM identifies 1,730 matches known to have consisted of nine innings. Of those, TOG is available for 438, or 25%. The year-by-year breakdown

### Time of Game 1860-1865

1860: 495 9-inning matches; TOG recorded for 27; average TOG 2:46.

1861: 208 9-inning matches; TOG recorded for 37; average TOG 2:59.

1862: 137 9-inning matches; TOG recorded for 38; average TOG 3:00.

1863: 121 9-inning matches; TOG recorded for 31; average TOG 3:13.

1864: 220 9-inning matches; TOG recorded for 109; average TOG 2:38.

1865: 549 9-inning matches; TOG recorded for 196; average TOG 2:44.

### Data Highlights:

Average TOG increased year by year through 1863. The games of 1863 were an average of 27 minutes longer than the games of 1860, a 16% increase, which is

statistically significant.

TOG plummeted in 1864 to 2:38, another statistically-significant change from the year before of 35 minutes, or 18%. The change remained significant in 1865.

### Data Interpretation

The data are necessarily a fraction of the 9-inning games played under NABBP rules, as TOG is not available for the remaining 75% of known games, limiting the validity of interpretations. The data also have inescapable biases, with immeasurable effects. On one hand, some of the longest games are omitted, because nine innings could not be completed. One of the most notorious amateur-era games, between the Excelsior and Atlantic clubs of Brooklyn in 1860 for that season's unofficial championship and declared a draw during the sixth inning, had already lasted three hours and twenty minutes, well over the 9-inning average for that season. That example aside, nine innings usually were not completed because of darkness, more frequently than in the present day because a large proportion of games in this pre-daylight-savings era began in mid-afternoon in the fall months of September and October. Seemingly in the other direction, the games for which TOG was reported disproportionately involved first-class senior clubs in the Greater New York City area (66%), the games where fielding errors, other defensive liabilities, and incompetent pitching would

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Time of Game (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

least prolong play, though only by six per cent. Also disproportionately available is the number of senior-club vs. junior-club games, 90% compared to 47% for all games. The limited number of junior games recording TOG, and only occurring in 1862, 1864, and 1865, shows times in excess of the average in 1862 and 1864, and less than the average in 1865, leaving a conflicting record. Finally, the data are at least consistent in that the Civil War (April 1861-April 1865) severely curtailed the game's growth, so that a larger share of the games available were played year in and year out between the same cadre of clubs in the same area. Overall, my impression is that the data likely understate the full population's TOG, but that there are grounds for assuming that the effect is not statistically significant.

Chadwick's writings do not mention the significant rise in TOG between 1860 and 1863, but leave no doubt about what would have been his interpretation, had he compiled the data: the increase in fast, wild pitching in the wake of James Creighton's rise to stardom in 1860. Possessed of an unprecedented combination of speed and control, Creighton spawned imitators with speed only, abetted by the lack of any penalty in the rules for "unfair" pitches. Chadwick's solutions, adopted by the NABBP for the 1864 season, were to curtail pitchers' ability to attempt fast pitching by literally boxing them in—adding a back line to the existing line from which pitchers delivered, and the base on balls: allowing batters to take first base, and other runners to move up a base, if three unfair pitches were delivered after a warning by the umpire...and TOG, as

noted above, promptly dropped 18% under the new pitching rules.



Henry Chadwick

Modern researchers have noted that despite a chorus of complaints by Chadwick and other reporters, it became apparent during the 1864 season that umpires in many cases weren't going to enforce the new rule concerning bases on balls, any more than they had called strikes after that notoriously ineffective rule had been added in 1858. Contemporary commentaries consist of complaint rather than analysis, however, and the notion that umpires, who were almost exclusively players, and whose role was primarily to settle disputes between the teams, could be asked for their reasons, which could then be published, was evidently not on anyone's horizon.

In the absence of testimony from participants, deduction must suffice: complaints that balls were not being called were widespread, but complaints that the pitcher was not being confined to

his new box are entirely absent, and must account, in the absence of any other rule changes, for the reduction in TOG in 1864 and 1865. The complaints could have been overdone, of course, as was Chadwick's wont, and pitchers may have been more conscientious about delivering hittable pitches to prevent more umpires from being tempted to actually follow the rule. The combined effect of the changes may even have been greater than the 18%-figure indicates, as in 1864 baseball was already beginning to revive, and more and less skillful clubs were taking the field.

Among the skilled clubs, in the games played by the Evil Empire of the day, the Atlantic of Brooklyn, unofficial champions in 1860-61 and 1864-65, average TOG dropped from 3:31 in 1863 to 2:40 in 1864, a 24% change.

Offense, adding at-bats and time spent baserunning, increases TOG. In noting that TOG for major league baseball now is virtually the same as it was for baseball as a whole in 1860-1865, differences must be acknowledged. As is commonly heard, it's not TOG that is now frequently considered problematical; it is the pace; and by modern standards, the pace of the game in 1860-65 was terrific. In 1860 especially, a handful of detailed game summaries included the number of pitches made; compared to today's typical totals of 290 for both teams in MLB games, totals of 500 to over 700 can be found, and those games played by the Atlantic in 1864 at an average clip of 2:40 produced an average of 50 runs scored. The TOG may have been the same as today, but there was literally always something happening.

# The Elmira-Scranton Patent Double Back Action Combination Base Ball Team by Paul Browne

Baseball's first great economist might have been "Hustling Dan" O'Leary. Many cities in the late Nineteenth Century were willing to support an experienced baseball manager who would bring a winning team to their communities. O'Leary found two such cities and decided to provide them with a baseball team. Not a team each, but the same team shared between the two cities. For awhile during the season of 1886, he almost got away with it.

O'Leary is not well known today but he was appreciated by the sportswriters of his time, as he was usually involved in something that would make an amusing story. *The National Game*, one of baseball's earliest histories includes a tale on Dan, attributed to player, manager and later sportswriter Sam Crane. While managing in Scranton, O'Leary "motivated" his players by betting the payroll on a game. If they won, they would get their pay plus dinner and free drinks all night but if they lost... It's almost needless to say his team played one of their best games ever and slaughtered the opposition.

In early 1886, O'Leary appeared to the citizens of Elmira, New York, bearing plans for a professional baseball club. All the citizens had to do was raise \$2,500 for stock in the team, and O'Leary promised to buy \$500 of those shares.

This city had been looking for an experienced baseball man to restore it to the professional ranks after the previous season's amazing record of being a member of the New York State League from July first to July nineteenth. O'Leary,

who was briefly the manager of the 1884 Cincinnati "Outlaw Reds" of the Union Association as well as managing some "minor league" teams, fit the bill. This in spite of the fact that earlier in March, O'Leary had been the butt



Dan O'Leary

of a joke on the front page of the *Elmira Daily Advertiser*, the same paper which was now heralding him as the savior of the city.

Early efforts to sell stock resulted in a number of subscriptions being taken, some paid for in cash. With these funds, O'Leary headed to New York City in mid-April to hire players.

Although it was late in the season to be organizing a baseball team, O'Leary was successful in signing known players, and Elmira fans started to dream of beating Binghamton. *The Morning Telegram*, another Elmira paper, was screaming about the high salaries paid to obtain these men, the supporters of O'Leary explained this as necessary due to the lateness of the effort. The players O'Leary assembled were impressive for a

small city team.

Among the more familiar names on the team were Frank Devin, Eddie Kennedy, Grayson S. "Gracie" Pierce and John "Dasher" Troy. Devin pitched for Baltimore of the American Association in 1883 and would finish 1886 with New York of the National League. Kennedy was one of the original independent Metropolitans of 1880 that moved to the AA in 1883. He would return to the Majors at the end of the 1886 season with Brooklyn of the AA and then play professional ball until at least 1892. Pierce had spent time with Louisville, Baltimore and Columbus of the AA, went over to New York of the NL, and then returned to the AA with the New York Metropolitans in 1884. Troy played with Detroit, Providence, and New York of the National League before joining the AA Metropolitans for 1884 and 85.

While not stars of the Metropolitans, the availability of so many players from this team may have been due to the speculation between the 1885 and 86 seasons that the AA was going to boot the Metropolitans due to problems with John B. Day's ownership of both the NL and AA New York franchises. The AA allowed the team to stay only after Day sold the Mets to Erastus Wiman and Wiman won a lawsuit forcing the AA to accept his team.

The first game in Elmira was played on April 21<sup>st</sup> against Corning, NY. Troy played shortstop, Pierce second and Kennedy left. Elmira slipped by with a 9 to 8

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Elmira-Scranton (cont.)

*(Continued from page 5)*

victory. In Pennsylvania, the Williamsport GRIT reported later that week that local people were promoting the formation of a Pennsylvania State Association. On April 28<sup>th</sup> it would be cheerfully reported in Elmira that O'Leary had secured the Scranton franchise of this league.



Dasher Troy

By May 5<sup>th</sup> the Scranton area was under the impression that the Elmira team had been moved to Scranton. In Elmira they thought the Elmira team was only playing under the Scranton name in Pennsylvania, and that O'Leary would soon develop a separate Scranton team and their Elmiras would return to playing exclusively for their city. A 23 to 6 victory over archrival Binghamton bought the manager a bit more tolerance from his Elmira supporters. O'Leary explained the need to sign the players to contracts under the Scranton name as a necessity because any player who broke a state league contract could be blacklist-

ed, while the independent status of Elmira left him without such protection.

During mid-May O'Leary pressured Scranton area supporters to provide his team with adequate playing grounds. He wetted the appetite of the Scranton fans with a victory over Wilkes-Barre in their first meeting, drawing a crowd of 1,000. Scranton also won an exhibition game, the first home game on an improvised field at the driving park. They also beat Wilkes-Barre 9 to 8 the next day in Wilkes-Barre. O'Leary's team was so superior to their main Pennsylvania State Association rival the latter would have to recruit a whole new team to hope to match it.

The Elmira papers reported these games, although what was called the Scranton team in Pennsylvania was referred to as the Elmira team in New York. It was also reported in Scranton and Elmira that the team would play their next three games in the New York community. Scranton fans were reassured that, as soon as suitable grounds were provided, the team would play its league championship games in their city.

At the end of May O'Leary secured grounds off Providence Road in Scranton from the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad for his ball field. Being in coal country, a frequently commented-on feature of this field would be a culm (anthracite coal waste) pile from which un-paying spectators would view games. The Scranton team was doing well in the state league, and O'Leary expressed his opinion that the locals should support his efforts to develop a ballpark in

order that his team might bring them a pennant. The local press supported his request.

Back in New York, the team was still referred to as the Elmiras, but the inability to identify the next date on which they would play in that city was becoming a concern.

The first game on the new



Gracie Pierce

Scranton field took place on June 8. Scranton beat Lewistown 16 to 5. Two thousand people were reported in attendance. Improvements for the grounds were recommended so that balls would not go down into the Lackawanna River or a nearby mine.

The Elmira press reported the game and expressed hope that games in that city would be arranged that week or the next, stating, "The vacation has been long enough". O'Leary responded by stating that attempts to arrange games with New York teams were not be-

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Elmira-Scranton (cont.)

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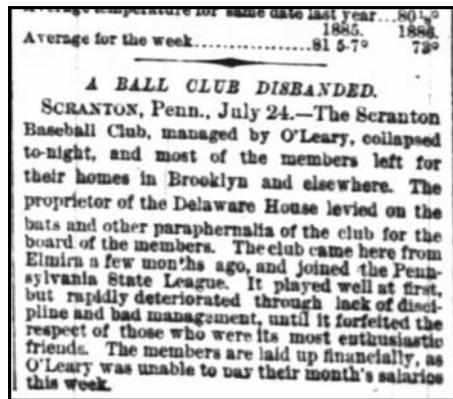
ing well received but he hoped to play in Elmira on June 16 and 17. His Elmira supporters expressed their thanks to Scranton for providing another source of income and support for O'Leary's efforts so the manager's undertakings might be profitable, a shared team apparently being preferred to no team.

By June 14<sup>th</sup> Elmira's impatience was beginning to show. The team playing in the Pennsylvania league began to be reported as the "O'Leary's" instead of the Elmiras. By June 21<sup>st</sup> the Elmira press would start to refer to the team as the Scrantons. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the article appeared which gives this piece its title. In attempts to get games in New York, O'Leary contacted the Hornellsville manager and offered terms that were in O'Leary's favor. To add insult to injury, O'Leary sent the telegram collect. No game was scheduled.

The Scranton people were basking in their series lead over Wilkes-Barre but the local press was beginning to complain of a lack of accommodations for them to comfortably report on the games. The term "O'Leary's Indians" was also beginning to be used in Pennsylvania to identify the team; similar to the way the Elmira press began to distance the community from the team.

O'Leary's need for funds led to a Fourth of July weekend which included an exhibition game in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday, two games in the Brooklyn area on Sunday, a train trip back to Scranton, another train trip to Wilkes-Barre on Monday morning and a return trip to Scranton

and another game with Wilkes-Barre in the afternoon. When both championship games with Wilkes-Barre were lost, Scranton fans felt misused and Troy, Kennedy and Devin demanded their release, which they were granted. O'Leary blamed the Scranton club's directors for his problems with his players, making a bad situation worse and leading to



News of Scranton's Demise  
New York Times  
July 25 1886

the president of the club calling the manager a liar in print. The situation diffused somewhat when Troy and Kennedy changed their minds and returned to the team. Criticism surrounding this incident was strong in both cities but Elmira's feelings against O'Leary were expressed more bitterly. Local coverage stated "Elmira no longer has a ball club".

The team continued to win games but was struggling. Criticism of team discipline and the condition of the players began to circulate more regularly, a situation first raised by the club directors following the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend dispute with O'Leary.

On July 24<sup>th</sup> the roof caved in

on O'Leary. He could pay neither his room and office rent nor his players, and the landlord seized the bats and other available assets of the club. O'Leary was dismissed by the Scranton club Directors and the "O'Learys" disbanded. The Scranton Directors were successful in getting the State Association to accept their new team and allow it to pick up where the old team left off.

The Elmira Telegram of August 1<sup>st</sup> printed a scathing yet accurate article regarding O'Leary's adventures in Scranton and Elmira. This paper took a bow for its earlier warnings against O'Leary.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup> O'Leary's arrest in New York City on a warrant sworn out by an Elmira landlord was reported. O'Leary was brought back to Elmira to settle the debt after failing to raise the needed funds from his City friends. A reluctant landlord accepted forty dollars, his watch and overcoat from O'Leary after it became apparent that other Elmira creditors with superior lien positions were about to secure warrants for O'Leary. The "Hustler" was left enough money for train fare to NYC and left the upstate community in a hurry.

While O'Leary was clearly looking out for himself in his 1886 adventures, the people of Elmira, who got major league players in a minor league town, and Scranton, which got a solid team for the price of a playing field, may have been victims of their own wishful thinking as much as "Hustling" Dan O'Leary.

## Edward Abbaticchio by Lou Parrotta

**E**dward James Abbaticchio, commonly referred to as “Batty”, was born on April 15, 1877 in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Abbaticchio was a major leaguer from 1897 until 1910, playing a total of nine years in baseball’s National League. He was a member of the Philadelphia Phillies, the Boston Beaneaters, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Boston Doves. More interesting about Abbaticchio was that he is generally considered to be the first person of Italian descent to play in the major leagues.

Abbaticchio got his start in baseball by playing for a semi-pro team in Greensburg, Pennsylvania in 1897. On September 4, 1897, he made his major league debut. He played in three games for the Philadelphia Phillies. He returned to play 25 games in 1898, and then went to play in the “Beer and Whiskey” League which had frequently courted National League players with more money to jump leagues and play with them. He played with the Minneapolis team in 1899 and then played for manager Connie Mack in Milwaukee in 1900. For the 1901 and 1902 seasons, Abbaticchio moved on to play with the Southern League’s Nashville team where he ended up leading the league in batting average both his seasons there. He accomplished this feat with clips of .360 and .367, respectively. From 1903 until 1905, he was a member of the Boston Beaneaters.

Losing his desire to play, “Batty” was out of baseball for the 1906 season. Abbaticchio

decided to open a hotel upon his retirement announcement, and he did so in 1906 in his hometown Latrobe. He purchased the hotel from his father and named it *The Latrobe House*. After he officially finished his playing career in 1910, Abbaticchio returned to Latrobe to run his hotel until his



Ed Abbaticchio

eventual retirement in 1932.

The Pittsburgh Pirates convinced Abbaticchio to return to the playing field for the 1907 season. After a great deal of haggling over money, Abbaticchio decided to stage a comeback. He joined the Pirates for the 1907 season and remained there until the beginning of the 1910 season. He finished the year with the Boston Doves, and then retired to run his hotel on a full-time basis until 1932.

Abbaticchio often played with below average teams. Five of the nine seasons he played, he played for teams that had sub-.500 records, and were an average of 45 games out of first place. He

played for two teams above .500; one above .600; and one above .700 – the 1909 World champion Pittsburgh Pirates.

Defensively, Abbaticchio was an infielder for most of his career. He logged 419 games at second base, 388 games at shortstop, and 20 games at third base. He also appeared in 3 games in the outfield. In total, he was a starter for five out of the nine seasons he played.

Abbaticchio led the National League in putouts for infielders twice – once in 1903 and 1905. He led the National League in fielding in 1908 with a .969 fielding percentage. But Abbaticchio was not without flaws. He dubiously led the league with the most errors committed three times in his career – once in 1904 with an astonishing 75, again in 1905 with another astonishing 75, and finally in 1907 with a more earthly 36.

He also took part in the turning of over 200 double plays throughout his career. With a hand in over 4,150 putouts, he participated in an average of almost five putouts in every game he played during his career, a solid feat for sure.

At the plate, Abbaticchio was a decent hitter. He was not noted as a power hitter, but one of the contact and clutch variety. He only hit a home run once every 276.7 at bats giving him a total of 11 in his career. His season high was 3, which he achieved twice – first in 1904 and again in 1905. On the flip side, throughout his career he smacked 99 doubles and an above-average 43 triples. His

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Ed Abbaticchio (cont.)

*(Continued from page 8)*

best season was the 1905 season where he pounded out 25 doubles and 12 triples.

Other highlights in Abbaticchio's career include leading the National League in at bats in 1905 with 610 and knocking in 82 runs in 1907. The 82 runs scored tied him for second in the league in that category. The best season of his career was 1905 when with the Beaneaters he had 170 hits and a respectful batting average of .279.

On the basepaths, Abbaticchio was simply terrific. He stole more than 20 bases three times during his career and more than 30 twice. He finished his career with nearly 150 stolen bases in only 855 games played. Also, he scored over 350 runs throughout his career, topping out with 76 in 1904. In today's language, Abbaticchio would be known as one who "created runs well," a very desirable quality to possess in the game.

Although Edward Abbaticchio played in only 855 games over a 13-year period, he did get to participate in every ballplayer's dream – a World Series. In 1909, the Pittsburgh Pirates closed out their season at an amazing 110-42 with a .724 winning percentage. They won nearly seventy-five percent of their games that year, and they earned themselves a trip to what is more commonly known as "The Fall Classic." Abbaticchio made only one appearance in that Series when he pinch hit and struck out. No matter, he can still lay claim to be one of a select few who have actually participated in a World Se-

ries. Even some of the game's greats like Ernie Banks cannot. The Pittsburgh Pirates won that World Series four games to three, and Abbaticchio's good friend, Hall of Famer Honus Wagner, led them to victory. This allowed Abbaticchio to be part of a team that earned the coveted World Series title which is the dream of every baseball player in the country. Even Hall of Famer and baseball immortal Ted Williams is unable to say that.

Abbaticchio was by no means an outstanding baseball player. However, he was a steady contributor for parts of thirteen seasons. He showed flashes of excellence on the basepaths and truly created runs well. In the field, he was like a human vacuum cleaner. He helped to make, or actually did make, nearly twenty percent of his team's put-outs. That is a wonderful sign of his desire to play the game.

As previously stated, Abbaticchio was a good friend of the great Honus Wagner. They played along side each other in the Pirate infield that went on to win the 1909 World Series. In a letter to a fan, Wagner summed up what "Batty" truly meant to the Pirates and to the game of baseball itself. He called "Batty" a "great second baseman" with whom he "had the honor to play with."

Wagner, in the letter, went on to say that "'Batty' was one of the best of his day as a player and one of the finest of any baseball era as a man and a true friend.... Any way you measured him, Ed was one of the best.... He was an everlasting credit to baseball, to Pittsburgh, and his home section of Latrobe...."

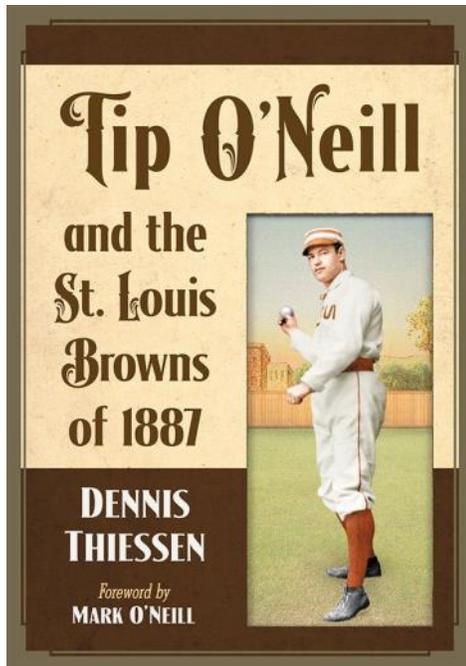
These were some very strong accolades that were paid to Abbaticchio from arguably one of the top five players to ever grace the game. It was truly a tremendous tribute.

When Abbaticchio died in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on January 6, 1957, he left behind a very respectable career. He was the first man of Italian descent to play Major League Baseball, and he proved to be a worthy groundbreaker. Adding to his legacy as a breaker of barriers, "Batty" was also known as a fairly good football player. In fact, he was a member of the first professional football team in the United States. In 1895, Abbaticchio was a member of the Latrobe Volunteer Firemen football team where he starred as a fullback. He quite possibly could have also been the first man of Italian descent to become a professional football player. Simply put, he more-than-likely broke barriers in the United States' top two professional sports.

Players like Joe DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto, and Rocky Colavito owe a lot to the first Italian-American to play Major League Baseball. If it was not for Abbaticchio's persistence, it may have taken a lot longer for Italians to play the game affectionately known as "America's Pastime." All Italian athletes should be proud of Edward James "Batty" Abbaticchio and the road he paved for them.

## News & Notes

-Committee member Dennis Thiesen has had his book *Tip O'Neill and the St. Louis Browns of 1887* released by McFarland. The book delves into O'Neill's .492 batting average for the season and the rowdy St. Louis Browns defending their championship of 1886.



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Bibliographic Info: 27 photos, appendices, notes, bibliography, index

Copyright Date: 2019

pISBN: 978-1-4766-7290-8

eISBN: 978-1-4766-3667-2

Imprint: McFarland

-We have several research requests. First is from Jay Stout.: "I have been trying to find any references to this bat. It was presented to Harry Wright in a wooden presentation box by the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings.

I have found a Currier and Ives print of a large presentation bat, but have not found any reference to this particular bat.

I purchased the bat from an East Coast Auction house last fall. You can contact Jay at:

stoutjs@comcast.net<stoutjs@comcast.net>.

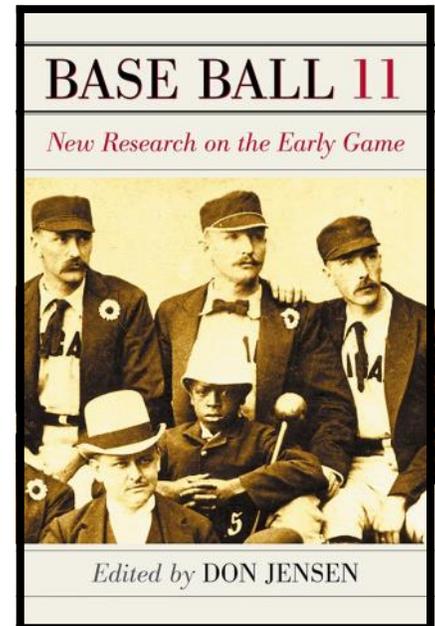
-Committee member Bill McMahon is attempting to provide more details on games in the 19th century for RetroSheet. His aim is to collect play-by-play accounts from newspapers and other sources of the era. Please contact Bill if you have interest in the effort or would like to see some of Bill's current outlines. Bill's e-mail is: mcmahon@uakron.edu.

-Andy McCue, Chairman of the Baseball Index Project (among other activities) is looking for some folks with an interest in 19th century ball clubs. He writes: "For some years, a cooperative project of SABR's Business of Baseball Committee and BioProject has been producing histories of the ownership of major league franchises. See:

(<https://sabr.org/bioproj/topic/team-ownership-histories>). This past year, Charlie Bevis of this committee began producing essays on some 19<sup>th</sup> Century clubs and inspired us to expand the project to other areas of baseball history. We're looking for people willing to research and write ownership/business histories of the teams of the American Association, Union Association, Players League and defunct teams of the National League." If interested, please contact Andy McCue at [amccue@sabr.org](mailto:amccue@sabr.org).

-Committee member Don Jensen, editor of *Base Ball* has announced the the 11th edition of *Base Ball* has been issued by McFarland. This edition has articles by committee members Richard Hershberger, Jerry Casway, Tom Gilbert, and John

Thorn among others.



Ordering information at:  
<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/base-ball-11/>

Format: softcover (6 x 9)

Pages: 263

Bibliographic Info: 66 photos, notes, bibliography, index

Copyright Date: 2019

pISBN: 978-1-4766-6386-9

eISBN: 978-1-4766-2333-7

Imprint: McFarland and others.

-Don also notes that work on *Base Ball 12* has begun and he is seeking several book reviews for the coming edition. Don can be reached directly at: [donald.jensen8@earthlink.net](mailto:donald.jensen8@earthlink.net) if you are interested in providing a book review to *Base Ball 12*.

-A question from Corky Gaskill popped up on the 19th century listserv recently asking about when during the 19th century was a ball hit over the fence went from being a "ground rule decision" to an automatic home

## News & Notes (cont.)

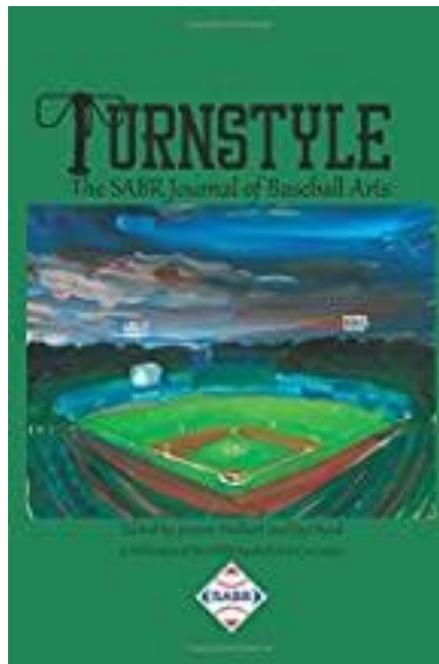
run. Richard Hershberger responded: "1889 a ball hit over the fence is a double if the fence is less than 210 feet from home. In 1892 a ball hit over the fence is a home run if the fence is at least 235 feet from home and a double if less. In 1931 a ball hit over the fence is a home run if the fence is at least 250 feet from home, a double if less; a ball that bounds over the fence is a double. So the answer to your question is 1892, but the 1889 rule clearly shows the presumption that a ball hit over the fence is in all likelihood going to be a home run, which undoubtedly had been the rule for some time." So the next time this question comes up at a cocktail party, you will be prepared to respond.

-Craig Brown writes: "In my email last month I asked the question, how many 19th-century team photos are lost? I speculated then that it is more than we realize. This came to mind again last week when researcher Ken Samoil sent me a newly discovered gem --- one I'm sure none of us has seen before. It's a team photo of the 1892 Washington Nationals, published in a Washington newspaper in 1924, some 32 years later. It's easy to assume team photos like this never existed---but now we know they did---especially in the 1890s, there surely was a team photo for almost every team and every year. For the '92 Nats, what once was lost is now found. See the uniform photo here: [Www.threadsofourgame.com/1892-washington-dc/](http://www.threadsofourgame.com/1892-washington-dc/).

-Another recently published

item is the first effort by the Baseball and the Arts Committee. It is titled *Turnstyle* and contains original stories, poetry and reprints of some 19th century literature. Ordering information can be found at <https://sabr.org/latest/turnstyle-sabr-journal-baseball-arts-inaugural-issue-released>.

-SABR has initiated a new commu-



nication tool for all members. It is actually more than a communication medium. It has many features that will allow Committees to conduct business through the SABR website, allow members easier access to other members, and encourage members to eat healthier. Well the dietary advice may be sparse but if you want to know everyone who is a member of the Nineteenth Century Committee, or send five of them a message, or send all 630 of us a message, the new system will let you do that and other things. The application is called Social-Link and can be accessed through

the SABR website ([sabr.org](http://sabr.org)).

Head first to [profile.sabr.org](http://profile.sabr.org) and review your personal profile (well, not too personal). This section also allows you to set up preferences for receiving and sending various types of messages.

The application will also host forums for each committee and group recognized within SABR. It may take some time for the dinosaurs that are you Chairman and Vice Chairman to get this all set up, but ultimately I expect that this will replace the current listserv sponsored by the committee.

This wouldn't really be all that great if it didn't have an app you can download to your phone. But it does have this option, so we can claim some level of sophistication with all things technically oriented. Here is the link to that app: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/social-link-mobile-app/id1175810293>.

There are other benefits built in to the new system that will take some time to delve into. Until that happens you can still contact Peter & Bob via e-mail or a Western Union Telegram.



**Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)  
Nineteenth Century Committee  
Minnesota 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium  
Saturday, November 16, 2019, 9:00 A.M.-4:40 P.M.  
Carl Pohlard Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401**

The Symposium is a project of the Nineteenth Century Committee, the Halsey Hall (Minnesota & Western Wisconsin) Chapter of SABR, and the Hennepin County Public Libraries.

*A multi-media display of exhibits from Minnesota's 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball past will be presented for viewing during the lunch break.*

### **Planning Your Visit**

**Symposium Venue:** Minneapolis Central Library, located at 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

**Parking:** Information about the library's parking ramps is available at <https://www.hclib.org/about/locations/minneapolis-central-parking>. The library also is surrounded by other surface parking lots and parking ramps.

**Local & Regional Public Transportation:** Metro Transit bus and light rail provides 24/7 service to downtown Minneapolis and stops one block from the Library.

**Lodging:** Visit your preferred online booking site to make your individual booking. Hotel rates in downtown Minneapolis may be affected by a Sunday Minnesota Vikings football game on the weekend of our Symposium.

## Speakers & Topics

**Kristin Anderson, “Twin Cities Ballpark Architecture in the 1800s”** Dr. Anderson teaches courses on the history of art and architecture at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. In 2005, she received the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Learning Award for Excellence In Teaching. Kristin’s current writing and research is focused on sports architecture.

**Mike Hauptert, “The Serious Business of Play: Developing Professional Baseball in the Upper Midwest in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century”** Mike Hauptert is Professor of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He is currently co-chair of the SABR Business of Baseball Committee. His 2014 presentation on William Hulbert received the Doug Pappas Award for best oral presentation.

**Dan Levitt, “Economics of Baseball in Minnesota in the 1800s”** An award-winning writer, Daniel R. Levitt is the co-author (with Mark Armour) of [Paths to Glory, How Great Baseball Teams Got That Way](#). For their research in producing Paths to Glory, in 2004 Dan and Mark Armour won the SABR Baseball Research Award.

**Brian Madigan, “Baseball Research Methodology Development”** Brian Madigan is an associate librarian for the Hennepin County Libraries, working out of the Minneapolis Central branch. He has been an active member of SABR since 2013. His areas of research in baseball touch on baseball uniforms, the St. Paul Saints, social justice in baseball, the Chicago White Sox and Bill Veeck.

**Larry Millett, “The Booming 1880s: The Twin Cities Come of Age”** Larry Millett has successfully combined his interest in journalism, architectural history, and mystery fiction. His *Lost Twin Cities*, which has been in continuous print for more than twenty years, runs frequently in documentary form on Twin Cities Public Television. His latest book, about the lost Metropolitan Building in Minneapolis, was published this year.

**John Thorn, “Welcome Address”** John Thorn is the Official Historian of Major League Baseball, a SABR 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.

**Stew Thornley, “Professional Baseball in Minnesota: The Early Years”** In 1988, Thornley received the Macmillan Publishing/SABR baseball research award for *On to Nicollet: The Glory and Fame of the Minneapolis Millers*. Thornley’s presentation on the Polo Grounds at the 1998 SABR convention was voted the convention’s best. He is an official scorer for the Minnesota Twins and a member of the Major League Baseball Official Scoring Advisory Committee.

**Frank White, “Black Baseball in Minnesota in the 1800s”** Frank M. White currently coordinates the RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) program for the Minnesota Twins. Frank is also the author of articles, including for Ramsey County History magazine, and *They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota*.

*S. A. B. R. Nineteenth Century Committee  
Halsey Hall Chapter and Hennepin County Library*

**MINNESOTA 19TH CENTURY BASE BALL  
INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM**

*Minneapolis, Minnesota  
November 16, 2019*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname for  
Badge \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St./Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$40 per person. You may add up to 3 guests at \$40 per guest.  
Number of registrations: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Fee includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and afternoon beverages and snacks.

Indicate lunch entrée choice(s): Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Taco bar: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate any special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

***There will be informal, optional evening meal gatherings on Friday and Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at nearby restaurants. Details to be announced.***

Please indicate if you are interested in attending on: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:** Please make check or M.O. (U.S. Dollars) payable to: "SABR". **NOTE:** On memo line of check, please print: "Minn. 19cBB Symposium". **Mail:** Send check and this form (photocopies OK) before November 8, 2019 to: **Peter Mancuso, 6970 Ely Road, New Hope, PA 18938. Questions: peterplus4@earthlink.net or 215-862-2887. Online registration will be available through the SABR website by August 1, 2019. To receive announcements regarding online registration and other symposium news, please email [sabrMN19c@gmail.com](mailto:sabrMN19c@gmail.com) to join our distribution list.**