

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

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

Committee Contacts

Co-Chairman-
Peter Mancuso
6970 Ely Road
New Hope, PA 18938
peterplus4@earthlink.net

Co-Chair/Editor-
Bob Bailey
10223 SW 49th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32608
bobbailey@cox.net

Follow the Nineteenth
Century Committee on
Facebook at
@SABR19thCC.

Copyright © Society for
American Baseball
Research 2022

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| FRED 2023 Call for Abstracts | 5 |
| The Lake Front Battleground | 6-8 |
| Annual Committee Meeting Agenda | 9 |
| Photos from the FRED | 10-11 |
| 2022-2023 Speakers Series Schedule | 12-13 |
| Orem Citation Project Report | 14 |
| Providence Symposium Material | 15-17 |

Lowell Base Ball Club of 1877:

National Champions? by Woody Eckard

In 1877, the Lowell Base Ball Club of Lowell, Massachusetts rivaled the nearby Boston Red Stockings as the best team in America. Boston was the National League champion with a dominant 42-18 record in League play. As the National League is today recognized as the only major league in the late 1870s, one might presume that Boston therefore would be the hands-down national champion. But one would be

mistaken.

Lowell was an “independent” non-League club. Neither was it a member of the International Association, newly formed in 1877 to challenge the National League’s claim as the dominant professional baseball organization. Lowell’s only competitive affiliation was the proto-minor league New England Championship Association. Nevertheless, its overall record of 74-21-1 may have been the best of all pro teams

that year. Significantly, it was 11-6-0 against the League, including six wins in 11 games against Boston, which should at least render a national championship claim plausible. This articles examines that possibility in detail.

I became curious about the Lowell Club upon discovering its 11-6 League record while conducting other research. Some spot checks confirmed that it was not unrepresentative. I began reconstructing their sea-

(Continued on page 2)

Co-Chairs’ Corner

by Peter Mancuso

The 13th Annual “Fred” Returned to Cooperstown this past April 29 & 30 after a two-year hiatus. The 12th Annual (2020) “Fred” was postponed a year to April 2021 and then presented as a virtual conference then, due to the pandemic. This

year, all was right in Cooperstown again. Beginning with the publication of this newsletter we issue our annual Call for Research Presentation Abstracts for the 14th Annual “Fred,” April 28 & 29, 2023 (See Details on page 5).

Our Annual Nineteenth Century Committee Busi-

ness Meeting will be held at the SABR National Convention at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor from August 17th – 21st. This issue of our newsletter contains an Agenda for that meeting. We hope to see many of you there. See SABR’s website for the

(Continued on page 5)

Lowell Base Ball Club of 1877 (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

son chronologically, game-by-game, using the *New York Clipper* weekly newspaper (hereafter the *Clipper*) and newspapers.com. When October “rolled around”, I encountered an unattributed two-column article in the October 21, 1877, *Boston Globe* that listed every Lowell game, including opponent and final score. I crossed checked the *Globe* game list against mine, correcting errors in both. I am therefore confident the data reported below are reasonably accurate.

LOWELL'S 1877 SEASON

First, it's clear that contemporaries were aware of the Lowell's outstanding season. The above-mentioned *Boston Globe* article was titled “A Remarkable Record”, adding that the “record ...

Boston Herald of July 21, 1902, ran an article titled “It Helped to Make Baseball History: The Famous Lowell Team of the Year '77”.

As noted above, the Lowell's overall record was 74-21-1 in its 96 games, an excellent .766 winning percentage. In July, they had a streak of 19 games without a loss. This may have been the best overall record among professional clubs in 1877, although I'm aware of no such enumeration.

According to data in the above 1878 *Clipper* article, the Lowells outscored their opponents on average by more than two to one, scoring 6.7 runs per game versus 3.0 against. They also were superior fielders, allowing “only” 5.4 errors per game, less than half of their opponents' 11.5 (recall that they were essentially fielding bare-handed).

lis Club, and the Stars (Syracuse). The “Other” group includes minor professionals, semi-pros, amateurs, college clubs, and picked nines. Some newspapers also declared the Lowells as champions of the so-called League Alliance to which it also belonged, although the Alliance conducted no official championship competition and its membership was unclear.

The final standings of the New England Championship Association, shows Lowell claiming the top spot eight games ahead of Manchester. It was a minor league composed of five clubs in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Note that the Manchester and Live Oak clubs were also members of the International Association.

THE LOWELL PLAYERS

Per an April 7 *Clipper* article, Josiah Butler was the club's “general director”, who organized the team. J.W. White was the field manager and an occasional change player. Neither played or managed in the major leagues. The team captain, at least toward the end of the season, was the shortstop Sam Wright, who was none other than the kid brother of the famed base ballist brothers George and Harry.

Lowell's regular line-up included Frank Whitney, Art Whitney, Curry Foley, Sam Wright, Bill Hawes, Sam Crane, Denny Sullivan, Lon Knight, and John Piggot. These data are from the above mentioned *Boston Globe* season summary, published on October 21. They were young, with an average age of 21.4 years, excluding Wright at 28 and Piggot whose age is unknown. Frank “Jumbo” Whitney was the batting

(Continued on page 3)

Table 1. Lowell's 1877 Record Against Various Groups of Opponents:

| Group | G | W | L | T | PCT |
|----------------------|----|----|---|---|-------|
| Other | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| New England Assoc. | 33 | 26 | 7 | 0 | 0.788 |
| Major Independents | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0.750 |
| International Assoc. | 31 | 22 | 9 | 0 | 0.710 |
| National League | 17 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 0.647 |

is a brilliant one”. A *Clipper* article of October 27, 1877, describes the Lowells as “the strongest nine – except the Bostons – that the New England states have ever placed on the field”. Another *Clipper* article of March 3, 1878, a summary of Lowell's 1877 season, noted that their record “will compare favorably with any team's in the country”. Twenty-five years later, the

Table 1 shows the Lowell's record against various groups of opponents. They did well against them all. As noted above, their National League record was 11-6-0 and they had higher winning percentages against the other groups. The Lowells were 22-9-0 against the International Association. The 6-2-0 record against “major” independent clubs included games against the Athletics (Philadelphia), the Indianapo-

Lowell Base Ball Club of 1877 (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

leader with a .319 average, while two regular players, Wright and second baseman Sam Crane hit un-

against each other. I found three such analyses reported at the end of the 1877 season. One that included 20 clubs, published in the

percentage. That's an excellent performance, but not quite as good as Lowell's. Interestingly, Boston's .730 record in the 61 games against outsiders was not much better than its .700 record in its 60 League games. One of the above-mentioned national championship analyses reported Boston's season record as 83-36-2, also 121 games, and a 0.694 winning percentage. Note that this is very similar to my findings.

The most direct comparison, of course, is the games played between the two clubs, and luckily there were eleven. Lowell won six, although one victory was an end-of-season forfeit. In that game, Lowell took a four-run lead in the eleventh inning and, per the *Clipper* box score description, Boston started playing "disgracefully", apparently protesting a call by the umpire, who then declared a Boston forfeit for "hippodroming".

Overall, Boston outscored Lowell somewhat, 51 to 47, excluding the forfeit that was scored as a 9-0 win for Lowell. The net result is a comparison slightly favoring Lowell.

With all game results available for both Lowell and Boston, we can turn to a more detailed comparison of their performance with various groups of clubs. Table 3 presents such a comparison for five groups, along with both club's total season record. The first group is the five non-Boston League clubs. Similarly, the second is the four non-Lowell clubs of the New England Association. The third is the seven clubs of the International Association, the number two professional league

(Continued on page 4)

Table 2. Major League Careers of 1877 Lowell Players

| First | Last | G | Yrs | |
|-------|----------|-----|-----|---------------------|
| Art | Whitney | 978 | 11 | 1880-82, 1884-91 |
| Lon | Knight | 545 | 8 | 1875-76, 1880-85 |
| Sam | Crane | 373 | 7 | 1880, 1883-87, 1890 |
| Curry | Foley | 305 | 5 | 1879-83 |
| Sam | Wright | 45 | 4 | 1875-76, 1880-81 |
| Bill | Hawes | 117 | 2 | 1879, 1884 |
| Denny | Sullivan | 6 | 2 | 1879-80 |
| Frank | Whitney | 34 | 1 | 1876 |

der .200. Oddly, none of the season summaries presented pitching stats, although Curry Foley was the workhorse. As noted above, the team surrendered only 3.0 runs per game, despite 5.4 errors per game, which suggests quality pitching.

Table 2 summarizes the careers of the eight Lowells who played in the major leagues, per baseball-reference.com. Four had significant careers, with at least five seasons and over 300 games; recall that championship seasons were much shorter back then. So eight of nine of the team's regulars were "major leaguers", which no doubt contributed significantly to its success.

THE NATIONAL CHAMPION: LOWELL VS. BOSTON

First, contemporaries were interested in identifying a national baseball champion. This is not an *ex post facto* concept artificially imposed from a century and a half in the future. In 1877, a common identification method was to specify a set of "leading" clubs, identify all games among those clubs, and compute their won-lost records

Chicago Tribune of October 28, had Lowell in the top spot and Boston second, ranked by winning percentage. This analysis was attributed to Mr. C.G. Yohn, Secretary of the Indianapolis Club. The other two included 14 and 10 clubs and were unattributed. Both had Boston first and Lowell second, also ranked by winning percentage. These were published in the *New York Daily Herald* of October 8 and the *Buffalo Commercial* of October 23. In the number three to five slots in these rankings, the League's Hartford Club appeared in all three and the independent Stars in two.

Thus, based on contemporary evaluation standards, the 1877 national championship apparently was a contest between Boston and Lowell. As noted above, Lowell's seasons record was 74-21-1 for a .776 winning percentage. Researching the *Clipper* and newspapers.com, as was done for the Lowells, Boston's non-League games were identified. Adding these outcomes to its League record, the overall season record in 121 games was 86-34-1 for a .715

Lowell Base Ball Club of 1877 (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

that year. The fourth group is major independents. These clubs are not identical for Boston and Lowell, but have some overlap. The last group is all other clubs, also not identical, which includes minor professionals,

0. Against their non-identical Independent opponent groups, Boston and Lowell had similar results: Boston with a .725 winning percentage and Lowell at .750. Last, against their non-

10-5 record against the top three. But against the International Association, Boston performed much better considering its dominance of the International's top two clubs and Lowell's weak performance, albeit in just three games. In the other three groups, Lowell performed somewhat better in two and Boston in one.

Readers, of course, can draw their own conclusions. But I place greater weight on Lowell's impressive performance in 15 games against the League's top three clubs, than on its weak performance in three games against the International's top two clubs. As the other comparisons, on balance, slightly favor Lowell, my vote is for the Lowell Base Ball Club as the 1877 national champion.

A postscript: At a January 30, 1878, meeting, the Lowell Club decided "that it was inexpedient to contest for next season's [National] League championship", and instead joined the International Association. They finished the season with a no doubt disappointing 13-19 record in the official standings, then elected not to rejoin in 1879.

Table 3. The Boston and Lowell Records Against Various Groups of Opponents

| | Boston | | Lowell | |
|-------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | G | PCT | G | PCT |
| All Games | 121 | 0.715 | 96 | 0.776 |
| vs. NL w/o Boston | 60 | 0.700 | 6 | 0.833 |
| vs. NE w/o Lowell | 12 | 0.667 | 33 | 0.788 |
| vs. IA | 10 | 0.900 | 31 | 0.710 |
| vs Independents | 20 | 0.725 | 8 | 0.750 |
| vs. other | 8 | 1.000 | 19 | 0.947 |

semi-pros, amateurs, college clubs, and picked-nines.

Against the five non-Boston League clubs, per Table 3, Lowell had a better winning percentage than Boston, .833 vs .700, although Lowell only had six such games. Nevertheless, it was 4-0-0 against the second- and third-place League finishers, Louisville and Hartford, and therefore was 10-5-0 against the top three League clubs. The next group is the four non-Lowell New England clubs. Again, Lowell had the higher percentage at 0.788, compared to Boston's 0.667 in 12 games.

However, against the seven International clubs, Boston outdid Lowell, winning 9 of its 10 games versus Lowell's 0.710 winning percentage in 31 games. Also, Boston was 8-1-0 against the top two International clubs, Tecumseh and Allegheny, while Lowell was only 1-2-

identical "other" groups, Boston won all eight of its games and Lowell won all but one of its 19, again very similar. Lowell's significantly more games against the weakest group did not affect its position relative to Boston in terms of their overall records. Removing these games leaves Lowell at 56-20-1 and 0.734, compared to Boston's 78-34-1 and 0.695.

CONCLUSION

So, who was the national champion in 1877: Lowell or Boston? It's clearly a close call. Lowell had a slight lead in head-to-head game competition with Boston, and a somewhat better overall season won-lost record. In competition against the five "control" groups, Lowell's 4-0 record against the second and third place League clubs gives it an overall



Co-Chairs' Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Convention.

Season III, 19th Century Baseball Speakers Series to kick-off Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 8:pm as a Zoom Meeting. See complete details in this issue of our newsletter for the upcoming nine-presentation series that will run through May 9, 2023 (See pages 12-13).

The SNE (Southern New England) 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium will take place on **Saturday, November 12, 2022 at Rhode Island College (RIC) in Providence, RI.** The

19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium is the sixth in our Committee's series of City or Region-specific symposiums (NYC, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Minnesota and Brooklyn, NY) which began in 2014.

The **SNE 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium**, is a collaboration of **SABR's Southern New England / Lajoie – Start Chapter** (Providence) and **Nineteen Century Committee** and **Rhode Island College's Department of History**. See, inside this newsletter for the complete "Program & Schedule" and on "How to Register" for this, live-only,

event (See pages 15-17). This is truly a meeting of 19th century baseball and 19th century history in Southern New England, which includes on-site continental breakfast, luncheon and refreshments.

Peter and Bob, Co-Chairs, "... because, baseball history is not only baseball history."



Cap Anson
Ginger Beer
Bottle

FRED 2023 Call For Abstracts

After a successful revival of the Live Fred, believe it or not, the time has come to begin planning the 2023 Fred. We have set the dates for the 2023 Conference with the Hall of Fame. The 2023 Frederick Ivor-Campbell Conference will be April 28-29, 2023.

We are now calling for Research Presentation Abstracts for the 2023 Fred. All presentations should address some aspect of 19th Century baseball. Abstracts should be 200-400 words in length with a presentation time of 20-25 minutes. The Abstract should provide a sufficient description of the presentation so the committee that reviews all abstracts can make informed decisions in selecting presentations for the Conference.

Please include the name of the

presenter and contact information (email please).

Slides or Audio/Visual components to the proposed Research Presentation are not required but are encouraged, and need not be prepared before an abstract has been selected for inclusion in "The Fred" Conference.

In all, there will be fifteen (15) Research Presentations offered at "The Fred" Conference. The three Abstracts given the cumulative top three scores by the jurors will be presented in the HOF's Grandstand Theater before all "Fred" attendees. The remaining twelve (12) Research Presentations will be "double tracked" in six (6) timeslots that will be presented in the Bullpen Theater or HOF Learning Classroom, to those attendees who opt

for one of two selections in each timeslot.

Please, email your Abstract, no later than October, 31, 2022 to Peter Mancuso, email address: peterplus4@earthlink.net.

Jury selection results will be conveyed separately to each person submitting an Abstract by the end of November and, then, each person who submitted a selected abstract will have up to ten days to commit to Register for the "Fred" Conference, and give their Research Presentation there.

Thank you.



The Lake Front Battleground

by Bill Ryczek

The Chicago White Stockings had occupied their Lake Front Grounds on Michigan Avenue since 1878 and intended to play there in 1884. On January 2, 1884, how-

The railroads intended to construct a depot on the property, which meant that the White Stockings would have to leave. The latter hung their hopes of remaining on the fact that there

War of 1812, a second fort was constructed on the site. By 1839, the rebuilt fort was decommissioned and most of the property subdivided into a number of lots, which were sold individually. A



Lake Front Park circa 1883

ever, Chicago mayor Carter Harrison, Sr. made their prospects very uncertain when he signed a contract with Michigan Central Railroad and Illinois Central Railroad to sell the parcel of land on which Lake Front Grounds were located.

On January 7, Harrison sent the contract, which included a purchase price of \$800,000, to the City Council for its approval.

were several complications that might prevent the transaction from being consummated. The biggest impediment was that the City of Chicago didn't own the parcel it had agreed to sell. The land was part of the old Fort Dearborn, constructed on the shore of the Chicago River in 1803. After the original fort was destroyed by the British in the

portion of the site, three blocks between Randolph and Monroe Streets, was reserved for public use. Two blocks were owned by the federal government and one by the State of Illinois. The role of the City of Chicago was to maintain the public portion of the land and give the lot owners an open view of Lake Michigan and

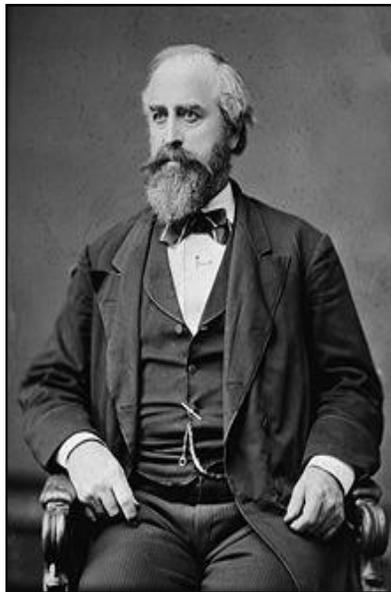
(Continued on page 7)

The Lake Front Battleground (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

the “benefit of the fresh, pure, and invigorating breezes therefrom.”

Selling property one doesn’t own is a tricky business. Chicago



Chicago Mayor
Carter Henry Harrison

go attempted to sell the Lake Front parcel in 1869 and convinced the state legislature to enact a law granting it the right to do so. Their efforts were frustrated by the adjoining property owners, who claimed the sale would violate the open space requirement, and by the federal government, which obtained an injunction against the sale. The 1869 act was repealed in 1873, in the wake of the devastating Chicago fire. A second sale attempt was made in 1881, but the U.S. Congress wouldn’t consent to the sale of the federally-owned portion of the land.

In 1884, the city and the railroads determined to try again.

To further cloud an already complicated scenario, the sales contract allowed the city to retain title to a one-inch strip along the shoreline in order to preserve riparian and other underground rights.

Captain John F. Stafford, Chairman of the Citizens Committee of Lake Front property owners, apparently played a role in arranging the sale and was the most vocal advocate for the eviction of the White Stockings. He sent a letter to the mayor in mid-February telling him the White Stockings must be removed, and in April he appeared before the Judiciary Committee of the city council with a petition signed by a number of property owners urging the council to terminate the baseball club’s occupancy. Stafford claimed he had an injunction that would oust the White Stockings, while the club denied that any injunction existed.

Stafford claimed that the baseball club and the local militia, which occupied a portion of the grounds, were using political influence to stymie his efforts to eject them. White Stocking president A. G. Spalding denied he had done anything untoward. “But,” he added, “some zealous and over officious member or friend of the club may have done a little buttonholing on his own hook and without my knowledge.” Apparently, someone *was* on their own hook, for the aldermen reported a vigorous lobbying effort.

Although Chicago has a long history of corruption, Mayor Harrison was relatively free of stain, other than a minor scandal

involving fraudulent Civil War pensions. He had an aristocratic heritage (he was a distant cousin of the late President William Henry Harrison) but was considered a friend of labor and the working



Judge Henry
Williams Blodgett

man rather than subservient to special interests.

Harrison was not the one who wielded the power in this case; the aldermen needed to approve the sale and then seek the approval of Congress. As opening day of the baseball season approached, the alderman had done nothing. The *Tribune* urged them to get moving, since pocketing \$800,000 for land the city didn’t even own was a windfall. The railroads were probably the only buyer the federal government would approve, since rail travel was at least a quasi-public function. A sale to private parties wouldn’t have a chance.

(Continued on page 8)

The Lake Front Battleground (cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

“The city is confined, therefore,” the *Tribune* stated, “to the alternative of selling to the railroad at the price they are willing to pay, which is believed to be a fair one, or of retaining the property for the benefit of squatter, circuses, and baseball players, who give little or no compensation for the use thereof. . . it is a question between allowing the property to remain in its present unproductive and unsightly condition or accepting \$800,000 in cash and adding largely to the taxable property of the city and at the same time beautifying and improving that particular locality”

“The interest of the public undoubtedly favor the sale,” the *Tribune* said later, “but the Aldermen are not accustomed to yielding to that consideration.” When the Aldermen continued to dawdle, Stafford claimed it was because Spalding had given them all season tickets, plus all the free tickets they desired. Spalding said he did that every year and Stafford was merely upset that he hadn’t gotten one.

The *Tribune* thought the delay was due to a hope that the railroads were sufficiently interested to come up with a bit of graft. In the meantime, the Illinois Central withdrew from the proposed purchase and the Michigan Central, controlled by the Vanderbilts, proceeded alone.

Stafford filed a suit asking that the White Stockings, who he repeatedly referred to as squatters, be evicted. The club was represented by W.I. Culver of McCagg and Culver, whose primary arguments were that the club had occupied the site since 1878 without harming anyone, had invested a substantial sum in property improvements, and that an eviction at this late date would cause undue hardship. “It is safe to

say the club will play there this season at least,” Culver said.

“No one is objecting but Stafford.”

When Culver said the White Sox would be unable to find an alternative site if they were evicted, Stafford countered by saying that Spalding had known of the prospective sale since the beginning of the year and done nothing. He produced a letter from Chicago’s Union Association club offering to let the White Stockings use their field at Wabash and 39th.

Chicago was scheduled to spend the first month of the season on the road and did not have a home game until May 29. On May 1, Controller Gurney, without any authority to do so, signed a lease with the White Stockings for the 1884 season. Mayor Harrison said he knew nothing of the matter.

Prior to the White Stockings’ scheduled home opener, the U.S. District Attorney filed suit to evict them. Culver was out of town and asked that the hearing be postponed until June 4. The D.A. agreed, clearing the way for the White Stockings to hold their opening game. On May 29, Chicago and the Detroit Wolverines inaugurated the home season with a 15-5 Chicago win before a crowd of roughly 2,000.

On June 10, the case was delayed for another week. At that point, the White Stockings offered to leave after the season, which was somewhat disingenuous since their lease expired anyway. Judge Blodgett was looking for a way out and that gave him the graceful exit he was looking for. After noting that the White Stockings had played at Lake

Front Park for many years without incident, Blodgett ruled that they could play there in 1884 if they agreed to leave at the end of the season.

“They have occupied [the grounds] six or seven seasons,” Blodgett said, “and the city has been allowed without complaint from the United States, and without complaint from the abutting owners of the ground, to permit these parties to occupy the ground. It therefore seems to me it would be a great hardship at this time to impose unnecessarily on these parties a loss of their season’s campaign because the United States and certain property-holders at this late day arouse themselves to the conviction that they must assert their rights. . . No harm can come now to the United States, and no special harm to those abutting-property owners that I can see, to allow these parties to use the grounds for the present season; and therefore I shall have to deny an injunction as against the base-ball club for the use of the ground during the season.” “The base-ball people were pleased at the result,” reported the *Tribune*.

Chicago was able to use the Lake Front grounds for the entire 1884 season, and fashioned an impressive 39-17 home record. The home field advantage, however, was never more evident than in the case of the Lake Front Grounds.

Note: This article is excerpted from Bill’s upcoming book on the 1884 season, which is untitled at the present time.

Annual Committee Meeting Agenda

**“...because, baseball history is not only baseball history.”
Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)
Nineteenth Century Committee Annual Business Meeting
Held During SABR 50, Aug. 18, 2022, Noon-1:00PM
Calvert/Pratt Ballroom
Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor**

5 Minutes: Welcome and Introductions, Peter Mancuso and Bob Bailey, Co-Chairs

10 Minutes: 2022 Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends, Complete Final Election Results announced by Tom Zocco, Member, Overlooked Legends, Committee

5 Minutes: Co-Chairs' Award: Bob Bailey & Peter Mancuso announce this year's recipients who will receive an engraved reproduction of an 1880s Burlingame model bat.

5 Minutes: “Nineteenth Century Notes” our Committee's Quarterly Newsletter, A Report by the Newsletter's Editor, Bob Bailey.

5 Minutes: Update, 14th Annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, “The Fred” has been scheduled for April 28 & 29, 2023. Call for Research Presentation Abstracts with our summer newsletter this July. Peter Mancuso

5 Minutes: Season III, 19th Century Baseball Speakers Series, Bob Bailey

5 Minutes: The 2022 SNE 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium, November 12, 2022, Peter Mancuso

5 Minutes: 19th Century Baseball Grave Marker Project; Project Chair, Sam Gazdziak, Project Chair, Bobby Mathews, San Diego Chapter and beyond

5 Minutes: “Orem Citation Project:” Bob LeMoine, Project Chair.

5 Minutes: New Business, Projects, Feedback Etc.*

***To discuss any other Committee business beyond the agenda, email Peter Mancuso, pe-terplus4@earthlink.net and/or Bob Bailey, bobbailey@cox.net by August 12, 2022**

Photos From The Fred

photographer: Dixie Tourangeau



Conference Opening in the Grandstand Theater at the Hall of Fame



Joanne Hulbert presents on Wicket



Jonathan Popovich delivers Special Presentation on Elysian Fields



Grandstand Theater during Popovich Elysian Fields Presentation



Member Spotlight Interview with Dixie Tourangeau (Photo by Dave Newman).



Tom Shieber and Bob Tiemann solve the problem of the missing doughnut.

More Fred Photos



Co-Chair Peter Mancuso make presentation to Keynoter Tom Gilbert. Gilbert makes sure Peter does not have his wallet.



Von der Ahe Panel: Dennis Thiessen, J Thomas Hetrick, Paul Browne, and Moderator Bill Ryczek.



Thursday Night Dinner at Nicoletta's



Each Day opens with Breakfast in the HOF Library



Dinner at Templeton Hall. We like to eat at the Fred.



Greg Gagus closes the conference presentations and these photos

19th Century Speakers Series Schedule for 2022-2023

The third season of the 19th Century Speakers Series via Zoom will begin on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 8 PM Eastern Time. Zoom logins will be distributed from the SABR National Office the morning of the program. Below is a brief description of each program.

September 13, 2022- Title: “The Union Association's 10 Biggest Mistakes”; Presenter: Justin McKinney. The Union Association is a familiar organization but not well understood. McKinney will examine the poor choices the league made during its existence including franchise locations, player acquisitions, and philosophical approaches. This exploration will reveal the reasons for the league's failure, discuss its historical significance, and demonstrate some possible alternatives that may have enabled the Union Association to take the field in 1885. McKinney's book *Baseball's Union Association: The Short Strange Life of a 19th Century Major League* is scheduled for publication November 2022.

October 11, 2022- Title: True Triple Crowns for the 19th Century; Presenter Gary Gillette. This presentation will propose a set of Triple Crown criteria for the 19th century game that parallels the modern Triple Crown in terms of the contemporaneous emphasis on its components. It will replace RBIs and home runs with stats that were then viewed as more significant. The talk will examine significant statistics in the 19th Century and propose a format for a 19th century-centric Triple Crown before home runs and RBIs were key measures of major league production. Gillette has written or con-

tributed to dozens of baseball books and Websites and was the Editor-In-Chief of the ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia.

November 8, 2022- Title: “The Douglasses, the Catts and the Age of Hope for Blacks in Base Ball;” Presenter: Paul Browne. In the immediate post-Civil War period black baseball continued to be a forgotten corner of the sport. Browne looks at the efforts and impacts of Charles Douglass and Octavio Catto in Washington and Philadelphia, respectively, to examine progress, disappointment, and hurdles facing black baseball during the 19th Century. Paul Browne is the author of *The Coal Barons Played Cuban Giants: A History of Early Professional Baseball in Pennsylvania, 1886 – 1896*. He has also contributed to the Committee's publication *Inventing Baseball*; SABR's *The National Pastime*; and *Black Ball*.

December 13, 2022- Title: “John G. ‘Long John’ Reilly: Ballplayer and Artist.” Presenter: Daniel M. Linnenberg. Long John Reilly had a 10-year major league career that included hitting for the cycle three times, collecting 26 triples in 1890, and a league-leading 13 home runs in 1888. But in addition to his baseball renown, Reilly was an accomplished artist working for Strobridge Lithographic Company in Cincinnati into the 1930s. He produced numerous Circus Posters (a specialty of Strobridge) and numerous landscapes, a collection of which are housed at the Cincinnati Historical Society. Linnenberg will examine Reilly's life

including his artistic efforts during and after his baseball career.

January 10, 2023- “Elysian Fields;” Presenter: Jonathan Popovich. Over three years in the making Jonathan has exhaustively traced references to the Elysian Fields of Hoboken, New Jersey to attempt to discover the lay-out of the park and the locations and orientations of the various athletic grounds housed there. Prompted by a c.1865 photograph reflecting a baseball scene attributed to Hoboken, Jonathan went on to examine all the pictorial renditions of the park and has put together probable locations and usage of each ball field mentioned in newspaper accounts of the period. Jonathan has been a frequent presenter at the Fred Conference exploring 19th century equipment, baseball's role in the 7th Calvary at the time of the Little Big Horn and the roots of baseball in Montgomery, Alabama.

February 14, 2023- “Baseball's Man in Philadelphia, Col. Tom Fitzgerald;” Presenter: Tom Gilbert. Casey Award winning author Tom Gilbert (*How Baseball Happened*) will present Philadelphia newspaper owner and editor Tom Fitzgerald and his various baseball connections and adventures. A founder of the Athletic Club and promotor of expansion of the game in Philadelphia, Fitzgerald was the gentleman who convinced Al Reach to relocate from Brooklyn to Philadelphia by covering his travel expenses, often (incorrectly) said to be baseball's first professional player. Fitzgerald was also a supporter of the

(Continued on page 13)

19th Century Speakers Series Schedule for 2022-2023

(Continued from page 12)

Pythians, a black ball club in Philadelphia, led by Octavio Catto. Gilbert will trace Fitzgerald's baseball involvement and his importance to the development of the game beyond New York City.

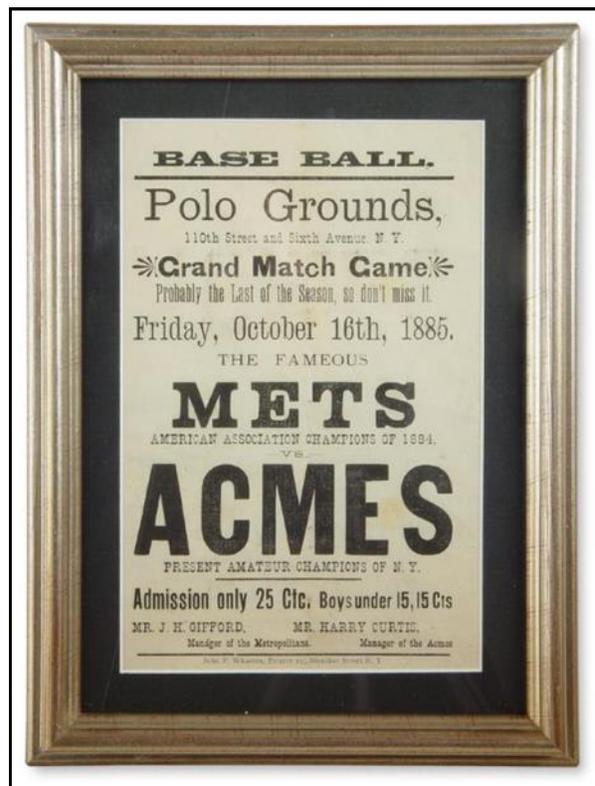
March 14, 2023- "Beer Beats Them: The Chicago White Stockings 1886 Season and the End of a Base Ball Dynasty;" **Presenter: Jack Bales.** The presentation examines the end of the Chicago dynasty of the 1880s. Between 1876 and 1886 Chicago won six pennants. They were a roaring success on the field and at the box office. Bales presents material showing owner Al Spalding's growing intolerance of drinking by his team and his attempts to curb the

practice. But lack of success against the American Association's St. Louis Browns started Spalding on a year of battling drinking on the team and the loss to the Browns in the 1886 World Series saw Spalding continue his unpopular crusade and the club did not win the pennant again until 1906.

April 11, 2023- "Bill Hutchison: A Forgotten Star, Standing 55 ½-Foot from Home Plate;" **Presenter: Gregory Wolf.** From 1890 to 1892 Bill Hutchison was a star pitcher of the first magnitude with Chicago. In three seasons he won 121 games topping 40 wins twice leading the league in innings pitched three times. Wolf will examine Hutchison's career, statistics, and comparison with

other star pitchers of the period to demonstrate that Hutchison was the NL's dominant pitcher during his glory years.

May 9, 2023- "Dubuque – An Early Cradle of Baseball History;" **Presenter: John Pregler.** As baseball spread across the country in the 1800s many cities could claim significance in the process. John Pregler will present the contributions of Dubuque, Iowa from its first games in the 1850s to joining an early minor league (Northwest League) to its personalities like Ted Sullivan (with a pair of stops in Dubuque), Charlie Comiskey (a Dubuque resident for over a decade), Hoss Radbourne, and Tom Loftus. Two other 19th century Dubuquers made a mark in the 20th century major leagues, Red Faber and Pants Rowland.



Orem Citation

There are many scholars on this 19th century committee who continually amaze us with the research discoveries they have made. How many have ever discovered malaria in unknown. But I did just that while doing research for the Orem Citation Project.

This project entails examining Preston D. Orem's *Baseball (1882-1891) From the Newspaper Accounts*, (free digitally to SABR members courtesy of Bob Bailey and John Thorn) and locating citations for the direct quotes Orem found in newspaper accounts. We are supplementing Orem. The task is easier for us than Orem's original work. We can grab a laptop and search newspapers.com or another digital newspaper database instead of spinning through a microfilm wheel. But some quotes are easier to find than others.

I was quite happy when I found malaria. The original quote from Orem described the World Series game of 10/25/1890 in which the weather was cold, raw and full of "malaria, mud and water." Finding malaria was quite easy because Orem mentioned the piece came from the *New York Tribune*. By checking the 10/26 account, the

quote was found. Not every quote is this easy. If I didn't have the *Tribune* given as a source, I would have been desperate looking for malaria anywhere. By searching for "malaria mud and water" or some combination of those terms, I would not even have found it in the *Tribune* because the quality of the text is not the best and the terms wouldn't be found. There is nothing worse than failing to find malaria when you really want it.

A group of us have taken on this task. Sometimes it is detective work: what newspaper would have that account? How do I find that paper? What cities were involved? Sometimes Orem erred and the quote was mistyped, or the wrong date given. You never know what you will run into. They ain't no tellin. Actually, that was a quote Orem gives from Pete Browning addressing his team: "They ain't no tellin' how these games will come out. All the Brooklyn's might get killed in a wreck and then Louisville would have to win." Now there's an inspirational speech! The quote from Orem is not exact, but by looking for "Pete Browning"

and concluding the *Courier-Journal* would publish that over a certain timeframe brings me to his speech printed on 10/22/1890.

A group of us have been working on this for the past year, and each of them could tell a similar story. At a quick glance, I realize we just surpassed 300 citations, either identified as found or declared unknown. There are plenty more to go, and if you have a love for this kind of digging, why not join us? Here are some sections of Orem needing researchers: 1882 (postseason exhibitions), 1885 (six chapters), 1886 (five chapters), 1887 (four chapters), 1888 (four chapters), and 1889 (six chapters). Maybe you are an expert on one of those years and could dive right in? Or maybe you just want to try a small chapter and see how it goes? There is room for you.

You can email me LIBRARYBOBL@GMAIL.COM and I can help answer questions or get you set up on this new journey. They ain't no tellin' what you might find. Including malaria.

1880s Baseball Mantle Clock



Southern New England 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium
Saturday, November 12, 2022
Rhode Island College and the RIC Department of History, Providence, RI
110 Alger Hall (Multi Purpose Room)

Program & Schedule

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 9:00 – 10:00AM | REGISTRANT SIGN-IN/ CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST |
| 10:00 – 10:15 AM | INTRODUCTION |
| 10:15 – 10:55 AM | WELCOMING ADDRESS / SPECIAL PRESENTATION Ed Achorn – Author, <i>Fifty-Nine in '84: Old Hoss Radbourn, Barehanded Baseball and the Greatest Season a Pitcher Ever Had</i> |
| 10:55 – 11:15 AM | BREAK AND MORNING REFRESHMENTS |
| 11:15 – 11:45 AM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 1 Robert Cvornyek – (Prof. Emeritus of History, RIC) “Black Baseball in 19th Century Rhode Island” |
| 11:45AM - 12:15PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 2 Howard Chudacoff - (Prof. American History, Brown University) “Brown University Baseball in the 19th Century” |
| 12:15 – 12:25PM | BREAK |
| 12:25 – 1:05PM | KEYNOTE ADDRESS Morgan Grefe, Executive Director, Rhode Island Historical Society |
| 1:05 – 2:05PM | BUFFET LUNCHEON |
| 2:05 – 3:05PM | INTERDISCIPLINARY TALK Elizabeth Williams, PhD, (RISD Museum, Curator of Decorative Arts & Design) “Gorham Silver: Winning Designs for the Victors” |
| 3:05 – 3:15PM | BREAK |
| 3:15 – 3:45PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 3 Lauren Tuiskula, (Content Manager, The GIST Sports) “Frank Bancroft and the Baseball Legacy of the Blackstone Valley” |
| 3:45 – 4:15PM | BREAK AND AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS |
| 4:15 – 4:45PM | RESEARCH PRESENTATION 4 Rick Harris, “19th Century Rhode Island Ballparks” |
| 4:45 – 5:00pm | Closing Comments |

Southern New England I9cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium

Rhode Island College (RIC) Providence, RI

Speakers



Welcoming Address/Special Presentation– Edward Achorn author of two critically acclaimed books of baseball history– *The Summer of the Beer and Whiskey League* and *Fifty-Nine in '84*. His new work is the celebrated *Every Drop of Blood: The Momentous Second Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln*. He is a Pulitzer Prize finalist and recipient of the Yankee Quill Award for lifetime achievement in journalism.



Robert Cvornyek is an assistant teaching professor at Florida State University Panama City and former chair of the History Department at Rhode Island College where he specialized in sport history. He has written extensively on the intersection of race, sports, and cultural expression.



Howard Chudacoff is the George L. Littlefield Professor of American History and Professor of Urban Studies at Brown University. His recent interests focus on relationships between sports and cultural aspects such as race and gender, as well as intercollegiate athletics. In 2015 he published *Changing the Playbook: How Power, Profit, and Politics Transformed College Sports*.



The Symposium Keynote Address will be delivered by C. Morgan Grefe, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Her work as a historian focuses on U.S. social, cultural and public history, with special attention on R.I. She holds a Ph.D. in American Civilization from Brown and a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.



Elizabeth A. Williams is the David & Peggy Rockefeller Curator of Decorative Arts at the Rhode Island School of Design. Prior to coming to RISD she served as Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.



Lauren Tuiskula is the Content Manager for The GIST Sports, an on-line sports information site. She is a graduate of Amherst College where she was a member of the varsity softball team. Lauren has been a featured presenter at the Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference at the HOF in Cooperstown, NY and has published work on MiLB.com.



Rick is the author of *Rhode Island Baseball: the Early Years (2008)*, *Brown University Baseball: A Legacy of the Game (2012)*, *Newport Baseball (2014)* and four self-published books on baseball. He has presented at numerous baseball research conferences, provided countless public talks, written many articles and made several appearances on local television news shows. He also has to his credit an appearance as a historic baseball expert in the documentary film by David Bettencourt, *You must Be this Tall: the Story of Rocky Point*.

Southern New England 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium Details
Rhode Island College and the RIC Department of History, Southern New England/ Start – Lajoie Chapter, Society for American Baseball Research and the Nineteenth Century Research Committee of SABR present: “SNE (Southern New England) 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium”

DETAILS: Saturday, November 12, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908,
110 Alger Hall, on RIC Campus

How to Register for the SNE 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium: Please, see the directions provided below that will supply you with the [on-line link](#) to the SABR site that allows all SABR members and up to two (2) of their guests to register for this Symposium. The registration fee is \$45.00 per-person (on-line and credit card only) which includes: continental breakfast, buffet lunch and AM & PM refreshments. There is a limit of eighty registrant spaces for this event so, please, register at your earliest convenience. Please, register before Nov. 2, 2022 or until there is a “Registration Closed” announcement.

Directions and Arrival Information: Please, arrive before or as close to 9:00 a.m. as possible at 110 Alger Hall (Multi Purpose Room) for our hour-long Pre-Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast. Our Continental Breakfast Buffet will remain open until our 10:00 a.m. program start.

Visit this link for directions to Campus and to secure a parking permit at 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave. (Main Gate) and a Campus Map showing [Alger Hall](#) (Building 19 and Parking Lot C), the Symposium venue.

https://w3.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/directions/ric_facultycenterlotkl.pdf

The City/Region Specific 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium Series has completed five previous Symposiums since 2014 (NYC, Phila, Cleveland, Minnesota and Brooklyn, NY) with the SNE Symposium being the sixth in the series. We have included this event’s **Program & Schedule** and **Speakers and Presenters Profiles** on adjoining pages and are excited to work with both **Rhode Island College’s Department of History** and the **SNE Chapter (Providence, RI) of SABR** to bring about this event. Please, see the “**How to Register**” instructions below.

HOW TO REGISTER (ON-LINE ONLY) for the SNE 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium:

A specific link to the SABR website has been created and dedicated to register yourself and up to two (2) additional non-SABR guests for the Saturday, November 12, 2022, “SNE 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium,” to be held at Rhode Island College in Providence, RI. You have until Nov. 2, 2022 to Register unless you see a Registration Closed message beforehand, limit 80 registrants. Here is the link to Register for a fee of \$45.00 per person (have your credit card ready).

The SABR Link to Register: <https://profile.sabr.org/events/register.aspx?id=1647830>