

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

FALL 2017

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

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

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Oscar LeRoy White

by Joe Williams

In an interview with *The Sporting News* published a few weeks before his death in 1939, Hall of Fame baseball player James “Deacon” White was quoted as saying “I learned to play ball from a Union soldier, who returned to my home, Cornish, N.Y., in 1865, and taught the boys the new game of baseball they had played in the Civil War.”

I’m not sure if he said Cornish since he was from Caton, New York which is about seven miles south of Corning, New York, but it



Oscar LeRoy White

is quite possible the soldier that taught him the game of

baseball was his older brother. His brother was Oscar LeRoy White who returned home from the Civil War in 1865.

Oscar went by his middle name and was born in Caton on January 7, 1846. His obituary lists his birth date as June 7, 1846.

LeRoy was the eldest child of farmer Lester Smith White and his wife Adeline Hurd. James White would join the family on December 2, 1847.

On September 15, 1864, LeRoy joined the Union army in Avon, New

(Continued on page 2)

CHAIRMAN’S CORNER by Peter Mancuso

The 2018 Fred deadline for submitting a Research Presentation Proposal Abstract is only 30 days away, **October 31, 2017**.

This is a reminder that abstracts should be 200-400 words for a 20-25 minute research presentation on any topic of 19th-century baseball for the April 20-21, 2018 Freder-

ick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference held at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY.

The abstract should include the proposed presentation’s title and your name and contact information. Person’s submitting abstracts should email them to me, Peter Mancuso at, peterplus4@earthlink.net

as a Word or PDF document attached to the email or in the body of the email.

Persons submitting their presentation proposals will be notified individually in late November if their proposal was accepted for next April’s Fred or not and will have approximately two weeks (early Decem-

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Oscar LeRoy White (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

York as a private, becoming a member of Company H of the 12th Regiment, New York Cavalry. The town paid him a bounty of \$1,000 for a one-year enlistment. His obituary says: "Mr. White took part in the following battles: Action near Kinston, N.C., raid on Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, Smith's Mill Bridge, Swift Creek, Southwest Creek, skirmish at Snead's Creek and Kingston. He was mustered out at Raleigh, North Carolina." Records show he was discharged under General Order No. 83 (issued May 18, 1865) on June 23, 1865.

It has been written that James White helped form a town club in Caton in 1866. If that is true, it is possible that LeRoy more than likely helped form the club too since the Civil War veteran was also a ballplayer. Did LeRoy teach his younger brother how to play baseball? It makes sense that it was him but other soldiers returned home to the area after the war. It is also possible Jim White misremembered and picked up the game from other kids in his town. Jim credited "a Union soldier" and not "my brother, a Union soldier" so it could have been any local Union soldier other than LeRoy. Anyway, I like to think LeRoy taught him. I recently discovered a reference to the Farmers Base Ball Club of Caton defeating the Eagle Club of Lindley, 51 to 26, on September 8, 1866 in Caton (*Corning Journal*, September 13, 1866). I also located a match, played on September 25, 1866, where the Caton Base Ball Club lost against the Second Nine of the Corning Club (*Corning Journal*, September 27, 1866). I'm not sure if the Farmers Base Ball Club of Caton and the Caton Base Ball Club are the same club. There is no

evidence that either brother played in those games.

It is possible LeRoy and Deacon played against the Corning team, because both would join the Monitor Base Ball Club of Corning for the 1867 season.

The first game I located showing one of the brothers in a game is a match played on June 17, 1867 between the Monitors and the Meteor Base Ball Club of Addison, New York. In a 61-29 victory, the Monitors catcher White scored five runs and made six outs. This is most likely Jim White since White is playing catcher.

The next box scores I found appeared in the *Corning Journal* on August 2, 1867. The Monitors traveled to Waverly, New York to play the Cayugas on July 29. The Corning team won 41-34 with three Whites playing. Jim was the catcher and LeRoy pitched, forming a brothers battery. Elmer played second base. The question here is which Elmer played second base? Elmer Melville "Melvin" White was a younger brother of LeRoy and Jim. In some articles I have seen say Melvin, as he was called, was a former player. An article from the *Corning Journal* on April 27, 1876 stated that Melvin joined James in Chicago as an emergency player with the "White Stockings" of the newly formed National League. Melvin ended up being Chicago's groundskeeper and then joined brothers, James and William, in Boston the following year as the groundsman for the Red Stock Willard Elmer White was the first cousin of the White brothers and a future professional player. At this point I cannot be sure, especially since

both Elmers were about the same age, but I believe it is the cousin. If it was Melvin, it most likely would have read "M. White" in the box score. I hope further research will

*** On Friday the Unions of Elmira played a game of Base Ball, with the Monitors of Corning, on the grounds of the latter Club. The Monitors were victorious, as they have been in every contest this season. We append the score:

| Monitors, | n. n. | Unions, | n. n. |
|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| White, c | 1 10 | Ransom, rf | 7 2 |
| Bump, ss | 0 9 | Callahan, cf | 3 4 |
| Brown, 1b | 3 8 | Potter, c | 4 3 |
| Miller, 2b | 7 3 | Backman, lf | 3 4 |
| White, 3b | 7 4 | McNeil, ss | 1 6 |
| Inschon, rf | 2 7 | Miller, p | 2 3 |
| Walter, cf | 3 7 | Mathews, 1b | 1 3 |
| Wolcott, lf | 2 8 | Patrick, 2b | 2 3 |
| White L. p | 2 9 | Millsbaugh, 3b | 4 2 |
| Total, | 27 63 | Total, | 27 34 |

INNING.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---------------|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|-------|
| Unions..... | 5 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 2-34. |
| Monitors..... | 10 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 18 | 11 | 4 | 5-63. |

Fly caught—Unions 10; Monitors 10.
 Flys missed—Unions 8; Monitors 2.
 Left on Bases—Unions 6; Monitors 6.
 Balls called—Unions 44; Monitors 18.
 Passed Balls—Unions 13; Monitors 5.
 Out on Fouls—Unions 4; Monitors 9.
 Umpire—J. E. Jones, Meteor B. B. C., Addison.
 Scorers—A. F. Gibson, Unions; F. B. Brown, Monitors.

Corning Journal, August 2, 1867

answer that question at some point. From the box below, both Jim and LeRoy scored four runs and had four outs.

LeRoy did hit a clean homer, meaning no one was going to get to the ball quick enough to throw him out at home. In other words, it was going, going, gone! Inshoe, the right fielder, had a monster day with two clean home runs, six runs scored and no outs. I wonder what happened to him?

The other box score from the August 2nd *Corning Journal* was for a game played earlier that day

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Oscar LeRoy White (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

(unless it was the previous Friday). The Monitors headed to Elmira to play the Unions. The Monitors remained unbeaten for the season, winning 65-34. LeRoy pitched and scored nine runs with two outs. The catcher, most likely Jim, scored 10 runs and only had one out. The third baseman White scored four runs, but contributed seven outs.

The final box score I have with the Whites playing for the Monitors in 1867 is a game played on August 8, 1867. On a “warm, cloudy and showery” day, the Monitors played in Hornellsville, New York against the Ellicotts of Jamestown for the championship of the Southern Tier of New York counties. Jim played catcher and LeRoy was the left fielder. In the third inning, LeRoy took over as pitcher with a 13-6 lead. In the end, Jamestown defeated Corning, 23-21. A summary of the game in the *Jamestown Journal* included the following statement: “The Monitors are weak in their short-stop, catcher and in general fielding.” Although the game account was bias for the Ellicotts since it appeared in their local newspaper, Jim’s day behind the batter may not have been his best. He ended up with seven passed balls. Still, Jim White must have been a pretty good player because the following year he made his way to Cleveland to play baseball. LeRoy would join him.

Jim and LeRoy became members of the Forest City Base Ball Club of Cleveland in 1868. It can be said that LeRoy White has been overlooked by baseball historians. As recently as 2012, it was written in *Base Ball Pioneers, 1850-1870: The Clubs and Players Who Spread the Sport Nationwide* that “Elmer

White played for the Forest Citys along with his first cousin, Jim White, for a few games in 1868.” Elmer didn’t join Forest City until 1870. Marshall Wright’s *The National Association of Base Ball Players, 1857-1870* does list “L. White” on page 204, crediting him with playing pitcher and third base while participating in seven games and scoring 18 runs.

When the White brothers joined the team, it was mostly made up of local players. Jim, at 5-feet-11 and around 175 pounds, instantly became their best player. Their first game with their new club was on June 4 against the local Railway Union Club. Forest City lost 21-14 with LeRoy pitching and Jim playing shortstop. LeRoy led the team with three runs scored. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* commented on the club: “Some changes have taken place in the Forest City club, but they are certainly as effective as ever. L. White, a stronger pitcher than Stockley, occupies that post this season.”

The second game of the season was in Michigan against the Detroit Club on June 16. Forest City lost 45-28 with LeRoy playing third and Jim catching. LeRoy didn’t score and recorded six outs. Next up was the Athletics of Philadelphia and their star pitcher Dick McBride.

Forest City lost 85-11! McBride scored 11 runs himself. LeRoy played right field and scored two runs. In search of a victory, Forest City next played Maple City of Norwalk on July 2 and soundly beat them 75-9 with Jim White scoring 12 runs. LeRoy played right field and scored five runs.

On July 4, the Forest Citys and the Railways met again. The game was in the 10th inning, with Forest City leading 27-25 and the Rail-

ways already having their turn at bat, when the game was called on account of darkness. The *Cleveland Daily Leader* called out the Railways for stalling and appealing to the umpire to call the game since the team knew the game was already lost. When the game was called, Jim was on second with two out. The Cleveland newspaper stated: “With the game already won and White on second base, the player might have walked recklessly home, obliging the Railways to put him out, and thus made victory sure. But the Forest City club descended to no such trickery, and even their enemies will honor them for it. They won a dearer prize than the bat and ball—the honor of playing an honest, manly game.” As for LeRoy, he played right field and didn’t score.

The next game was played on July 7 against the Allegheny Club of Pittsburgh. The game started at 9:15 in the morning and ended at 11:00 so the Alleghenies could take the 12:10 P.M. train home. The game lasted only five innings with the team from Pittsburgh winning, 12-9. LeRoy played left field with two runs scored. Jim played shortstop. On July 17, Forest City played the Detroit Club and won 44 to 7. LeRoy didn’t play in the game. Jim, playing shortstop, hit a homer and scored six runs.

On July 25, the Forest Citys met the Railway Union Club for the third time of the season. Both LeRoy and Jim hit home runs and scored six times each in a 59-25 trouncing of its rival. LeRoy, who was playing in right field, participated in his last game for the club.

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Oscar LeRoy White (cont.)

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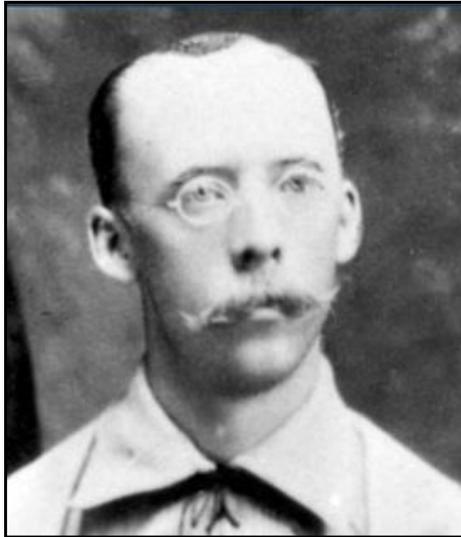
A “White” became the new catcher for the Railway Unions on August 1 when he played against the Union Club of Morrisania. The *Cleveland Daily Leader* wrote “[T]he new catcher, Mr. White, has never before played with the Railways in a matched game and evinced much anxiety and nervousness.” It is possible that their new catcher was LeRoy. His performance in the game on July 25 may have impressed the Railways enough to recruit him to join them. Incidentally, the umpire for the game was “Mr. J. L. White of the Forest City Club of Cleveland.” Hmm...this must be LeRoy or was it Elmer White?

“White” played a few more games for the Railways before being replaced by another catcher. LeRoy White returned home to Caton as his playing days were behind him—or were they? I located a box score with a “White” playing catcher for the Monitors on September 5th against the Livingston Base Ball Club. It is possible it is Elmer White who would catch for the Forest City Club in 1870 or even Melvin White. However, it would seem plausible that LeRoy was the Railways catcher and wanted to keep playing when he arrived home in late August.

As I did further research, I discovered both LeRoy and Elmer playing for the Monitors in 1869. In the two box scores I found, LeRoy and Elmer formed the battery with

LeRoy as the pitcher. In a game on August 3, 1869, the Monitors beat the Amateurs of Owego in a six inning game, 53-13. LeRoy scored eight runs and didn’t get out. Elmer scored six runs with two outs.

In the second game, played on August 23, the Amateurs defeated



LeRoy’s Brothers, Will and Deacon White

the Monitors by a score of 25 to 17. LeRoy scored 2 runs and Elmer just one. Since Elmer was the catcher in this family battery, I assume (for now) the “White” playing for the Monitors in 1868 was Elmer White.

At this point, I do not know how extensively LeRoy White played baseball in 1869. It is known that LeRoy married Sarah M. Boyer, a school teacher, in October 1869 in Caton and then moved to Corning. Sarah was the daughter of William Boyer and Adelia Watrous. William’s obituary in 1885 stated: “Mr. Boyer was a worthy farmer of Caton for over forty years.” At the time of their marriage, LeRoy was a fireman for the local railroad. The young couple purchased a home in Corning that had a real estate value

of \$1,200 in the 1870 Census. They stayed in Corning the rest of their lives.

The couple had three children: James M. White (1870), Burt L. White (1874) and Metta Adelia White (1883). Both James and Burt died of diphtheria in their youth.

James, most likely named after LeRoy’s brother, died in November 1875 while visiting his grandfather, William Boyer, in Caton. About 11 years later, Burt suffered a similar fate when he passed away on November 3, 1886.

Their daughter Metta was born on November 26, 1883 and lived a long life before passing in September 1975.

Metta married Edwin Michael Beck (1883-1949), the son of the owner (Henry Beck) of the local meat market. The couple married on November 30, 1904. Beck worked at his father’s meat market and was a local baseball player. He eventually gained employment at the Corning Glass Works as a clerical worker in the Time and Cost Department for which he received a 30-year pin. (Beck played with Deacon White in a benefit game at Denison Park for the Corning Chamber of Commerce band on August 15, 1917—a story for another time.) The couple had two sons, Oscar L. Beck (1907-2001) and Winfred C. Beck (1908-1945). Win Beck was killed in action during

(Continued on page 5)

Oscar LeRoy White (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

World War II.

LeRoy joined the Fall Brook Railway in either 1868 or 1869. After his stint as a railway fireman, he became a locomotive engineer. His obituary said he was with the railway for 46 years, 40 as an engineer. The obituary went on to say: "He was retired when he reached the age limit of 70 years with the record of never having had his engine in a serious accident."

It is hard to say if LeRoy White kept playing baseball after 1869. His brothers, Jim and Will, and cousin Elmer played professional baseball. Elmer White, at age 22, died of tuberculosis (consumption) on March 17, 1872, becoming the first professional league player to die in baseball history. Will White had a 10-year major league career, winning 229 games against 166 losses. Jim White was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2013 as a pioneering catcher and

third baseman. LeRoy's obituary states he pitched for Cincinnati of the National League during his professional career, which is an obvious incorrect statement. Will, not LeRoy, pitched for Cincinnati, and there is no proof LeRoy was ever a paid baseball player. I did discover a mention in the *Corning Journal* of a game to be played on August 14, 1886. Nine train men of the Fall Brook Coal Company were to play the Fall Brook office nine. The Captain for the train men was engineer LeRoy White.

Like ballplayers, it looks like locomotive engineers had endorsement deals back in LeRoy's time. The following ad for Doan's Kidney Pills ran in several newspapers from at least 1899-1902. Learning about LeRoy's secretions may be a little more than we need to know.

A closer look at the "evidence" LeRoy provides to the

readers which includes a plug for A. B. Holmes' drug store. Holmes' sister married Will White.

As mentioned earlier, LeRoy and Sarah White spent the rest of their lives in Corning. The couple was married for 64 years before Sarah died on November 12, 1933 following complications from diseases due to old age and aggravated by a fall she suffered two years earlier. Sarah was a religious woman who was very active in her faith. She often recited poetry and sang at church events. Her death must have taken a toll on LeRoy. He died three months later on February 16, 1934. The couple and many other family members are buried in Hope Cemetery in Corning.

[Joe Williams posts items on 19th Century Baseball at: <http://overlookedlegends.com/>

19th Century Broadcast Project: Cincy at Atlantics 1870

by Bill Ryczek

Several decades ago, Ronald Reagan made a reputation re-creating baseball games from telegraphic reports, broadcasting as if he were at the game. A few Nineteen Century Committee members are planning a similar project, broadcasting the epic June 14, 1870 contest at Brooklyn's Capitoline Grounds in which the Atlantics of Brooklyn snapped the two-year winning streak of the Red Stockings of Cincinnati.

The idea was first raised at the New York convention earlier this

year, and later in the summer, a number of volunteers started preparations.

From a number of newspaper accounts, a play-by-play has been created, and a number of ads from "sponsors" have been generated from advertisers in contemporary newspapers.

The broadcast team is scheduled to be Bill Ryczek on play-by-play, John Thorn as the expert analyst, and a sideline reporter whose identity has not yet been determined. Eriel Bacenas will handle the engineering and re-

ording, including taping at a live vintage game to get background noise and a host of "Huzzahs."

David Rapp is planning to write a story on the project. There has yet to be a determination of how the broadcast will be disseminated, but it will be online somewhere.

Be sure to tune in to see if the Atlantics win again, or if Charlie Sweasy makes an accurate throw this time.

The plan is to record sometime during the Fall of 2017.

Chairman's Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

ber) to make a commitment to present at the 2018 Fred or not.

As there is a different combination of jurors scoring the presentations each year, you are encouraged to re-submit a previously submitted Research Presentation Proposal Abstract that was not selected for past Fred Conferences.

All abstracts are judged independently by three jurors, unknown to each other, while the identities of abstract authors will have been removed prior to judging. All scores are kept confidential. Please, note that A/V is available at the Fred conference but it is not a requirement for Research Presentations.

Cleveland 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium to be held **Saturday, November 10, 2018** at the **Main Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (CPL)** (with an optional off-site activity offered on Sunday, Novem-

ber 11th) is now accepting **Research Presentation Proposal Abstracts** on any topic relative to **19th-century baseball in the Greater Cleveland Ohio Region**. The submission deadline is **March 31, 2018**.

Abstracts should be 200-400 words and should include the Research Presentation title and the name and contact information of the person submitting the abstract.

Abstracts should be emailed to Peter Mancuso, at email address peterplus4@earthlink.net as a Word or PDF document attached to the email or in the body of the email itself. A/V is available at the CPL but is not a requirement for Research Presentations no later than the **submission deadline, March 31, 2018**.

Abstracts will be juried anonymously and independently as in the case of the Fred Conference and persons submitting proposal abstracts will be notified individually

in late April 2018 as to whether their Research Presentation Proposal was selected or not for the November symposium in Cleveland and will have until mid-May to confirm their intentions to present at the November 10th symposium.

The full Program and Schedule and complete Registration information and all other details for the **Cleveland 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium** will be contained in the **Summer 2018 issue of Nineteenth Century Notes (July 1st) when registration will begin**.

I hope to see many of you at the 2018 Fred in Cooperstown, SABR 48 in Pittsburgh, 19cBB Symposium in Cleveland and/or anywhere along the SABR trail.

Enjoy the MLB Post Season.

Best Regards,
Peter "...because, baseball history is not only baseball history."

News & Notes

-**"Baseball's 19th Century 'Winter' Meetings"** book project, Part Two (formerly Volume Two) has received a very helpful hand in the person of SABR, V.P. and Bob Davids Award Winner, **Bill Nowlin**. With Bill's guiding editorial hand and Jeremy Hodges' already completed editing of Part One, we may see the full unified volume in print in 2018. Thanks to all authors, associate editors, fact-checkers, and proof readers.

-The 19th Century Committee's Grave Marker Project participated in the placement and dedication of a

memorial stone for former Cincinnati Redstockings player Andy Leonard. Additional support for the marker came from Major League Baseball and SABR's Boston-area Chapter. The dedication was held



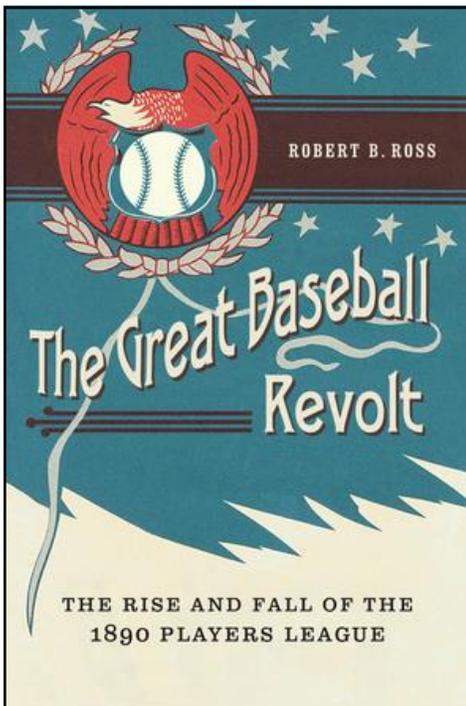
Leonard Grave Marker

September 9 at Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, MA. Project Chairman Ralph Carhart led a tour of other ballplayer graves in the adjacent Mount Hope Cemetery including the final resting place of King Kelly.

-Notre Dame has posted a digital exhibit entitled "Words on Play: Baseball Literature before 1900." It can be viewed at <https://collections.library.nd.edu/2c4a5ed54c/words-on-play>. It was produced by former SABR member George Rugg.

Book Reviews

Ross, Robert. *The Great Baseball Revolt: The Rise and Fall of the 1890 Players League*. University of Nebraska, 2016.



Ross places baseball in the context of the labor unions, urban history and the social movements of the time. He portrays the players as craftsmen, seeking a fair return for their highly specialized skills and wishing to control the conditions of their employment. This was seen in the broader context of the period, which witnessed the development of the surplus theory of value and other interpretations of the roles of capital and labor.

The year the players formed their own league remains one of the most fascinating seasons in baseball history. Ross shows how the players were driven by the manifestly unfair standard contracts which bound a player for life after his first signature and obligated the team for ten days. The Brotherhood of Professional Baseball Players was the

first professional sports union, and their the formation of the Players League (PL) in 1890 was their most dramatic statement. The failure of the league after one year left the players in a weaker position than ever.

The baseball season can be seen as part of the larger war between capital and labor. For the most part, Ross is sympathetic to the players, and he admires their highly specialized skills. Samuel Gompers and others in the labor movement endorsed the PL, but Ross notices that the players had little sympathy for non-playing employees, such as the carpenters who were on strike in Chicago where the players employed non-union labor for their hastily built ball park. John Montgomery Ward was the leader of the movement, serving as head of the union, league president, manager of the Brooklyn club and the public face of the enterprise.

Quoting liberally from “Is a Ballplayer a Chattel,” and Ward’s book *Base-ball: How to Become a Player, with the Origin, History and Explanation of the Game*, Ross sympathizes with arguments Ward made against the reserve clause. The players also resented being bought and sold with no share of the price going to them, but money was not the only issue. Ward insisted on a clean orderly game, opposing drunken behavior and profanity loud enough to be heard in the stands. When the club owners attempted to impose a lifetime ban on players who signed with another club after their contracts expired, Ward argued that such a ban was only appropriate for players throwing games. At the time Ward started playing,

gamblers were playing an increasingly visible role at games. Keeping the game clean was a goal shared by Ward and Al Spalding, whatever their conflicts in other areas were.

Illustrations and photographs display the quickly built ball parks. New rules ended the custom of catching the ball in one’s hat and mandated two umpires per game. Opening day was an occasion for celebration and full houses, but as the season went on bad weather and scheduling conflicts limited the expected success. Strong descriptions of the uniforms, the bands playing “Slide, Kelly, Slide” and the bright spring costumes of the ladies reflect the optimism with which the season began.

There is relatively little description of the play on the field, except for certain dramatic events. A player named Jocko Halligan was struck by lightning during a game, resulting in serious injury, Silver King’s no-hitter in a 1-0 loss was the only game described in detail. Boston, led by King Kelly, won the PL pennant easily. It might also have been the only team to show a profit.

In order to finance the league’s building and in order to guarantee the players’ salaries, the league formed partnerships with capitalists, who quickly assumed the role of owners. Ross is particularly strong on exploring the motives of these businessmen capitalists who funded the league. Some of them were owners of hotels or transit lines likely to benefit from the presence of a ball park. He has also examined the records of the contractors putting together the hastily built ball park in Boston.

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Book Reviews

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The collapse of the league involved a number of factors. Jack Glasscock, a strong union man, jumped his PL contract and signed with the NL, leading a number of other players back. The league backers began meeting with NL and American Association owners, merging some clubs and allowing PL players back into the league. The players' surrender is well documented here, showing how Buck Ewing met with owners to negotiate a return to the league. Ward had clearly been too optimistic about player solidarity and too trusting of the owners. The predictable failure to show a profit in a season where a ball park had to be built was only one of his oversights.

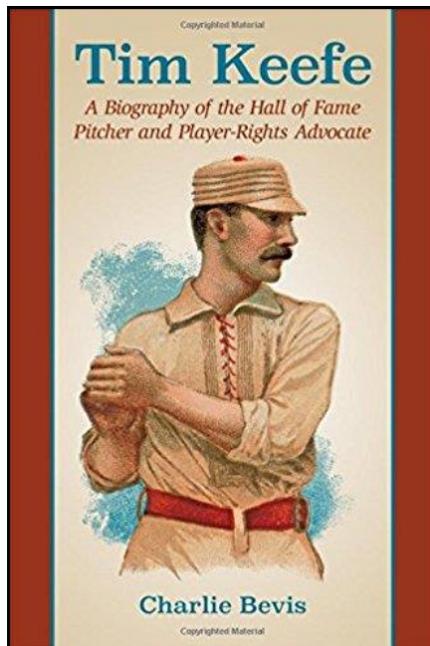
Ross has told his story well with a few inaccuracies. For instance, the players on the Spalding tour threw baseballs at the Sphinx, not the pyramids, a far more disrespectful act of vandalism. Granted, this is nit-picking, but SABR has a grand tradition of nit-picking.

Review by James Hawking

Bevis, Charlie. [Tim Keefe: A Biography of the Hall of Fame Pitcher and Player-Rights Advocate](#). McFarland, 2015.

Second only to Ward, in the development of the Players League was his brother-in-law Tim Keefe. (They had married sisters.) Bevis traces Keefe's ancestry back to Ireland. Census records and prop-

erty transactions are used to show where he lived and what houses he built. Keefe is seen as a journeyman carpenter, raised in the system of small independent tradesmen. Bevis shows how craft unions were



part of Keefe's environment and influenced his thinking.

Keefe's career in baseball began with the semi-pro Androscoggin and progressed to a team called Our Boys. His minor league career led him to the New York Giants, where he was one of the tall players who brought about that nickname. He switched to the Players League New York Giants for the 1890 season. His time in the PL was followed by a return to the NL Giants, followed by joining Harry Wright in Philadelphia. His sporting goods business which provided the lively ball the PL used is described as is his lawsuit against the PL for the money he was owed for the balls. After his playing days were over, he continued his career as an umpire in the NL and the Eastern League, but

he resigned in the middle of a game, preferring not to take any more of the abuse that was common then. His service as a baseball coach at Harvard supplemented his construction business. His subsequent life as one of the builders of Cambridge influenced the development of that city.

As secretary to the union, Keefe was in some ways as instrumental in organizing the Brotherhood as Ward. Keefe studied shorthand and kept records of the Brotherhood meetings. Keefe's easy-going personality and generally acknowledged affability helped expand the reach of the organization. He stayed loyal to the principles of the BPPB to the end of his admirable life, which is well-described here.

One appendix quotes extensively from Keefe's writings, describing the straight ball, the out-curve - slow, the swift drop ball, the swift out-curve, the in-shoot, and the rising ball.

Another appendix tracks changes in the pitching rules over Keefe's career. One would have liked to have seen more about his rocky marriage to Clara Gibson, but this book is another worthy addition to the literature of the experiment that was the Players League.

Review by James Hawking

Casway, Jerrold I. [The Culture and Ethnicity of Nineteenth Century Baseball](#). McFarland, 2017

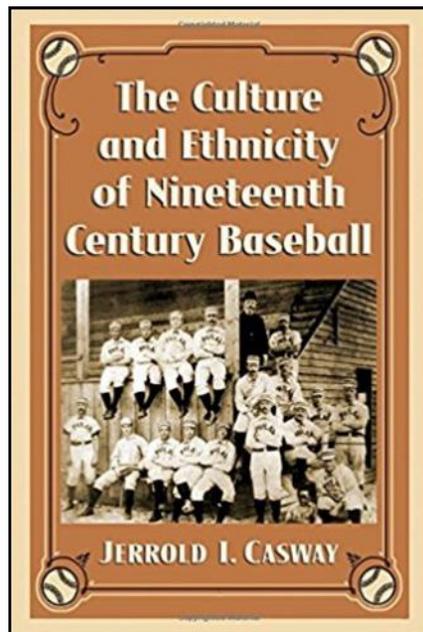
Author Jerrold Casway takes

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Book Reviews

his readers through a neat and thorough tour of both 19th-century baseball from its early structured-team origins of the 1840s up through the turn of the 20th-century, and the changing ethnicity of North America that did much to transform a recreational/fitness activity, played locally, into the Nation's dominate professional spectator team sport, managed as a business enterprise.

Along the way, Casway tells many of the back stories of persons of various ethnicities, that despite their near obscurity today, were, in the last half of the 19th-century the movers and shakers of what quickly and enthusiastically became known as America's National Pas-



time. You will meet many, some you never heard of: from fiery Irish players and managers; to demanding German beer-baron team owners; to pioneer African-American teams, players and organizers; to a Jewish homerun king. The reader will come to understand the interconnectivity of

many of these individuals and more importantly how an ascendancy of players, managers and owners developed to eventually give rise to many of the legendary figures of major league baseball's first half of the 20th-century.

Casway explains the development of styles of play leading to winning baseball and the paths those styles took through a family tree of baseball field managers. The author also presents well organized chapters that speak to other developments of the sport, from grounds keeping, to ballpark and stadium development, to business practices and player-owner and player-league salary disputes and discipline based tensions and, to the role of women as spectators and the challenges (often not met) of managing the free hours of young celebrity-athletes on the road with every night to themselves.

The reader is reminded that these latter 19th-century decades represented the birth and systemic growth of our Nation's "Temperance Movement" which often clashed with the lifestyles of ballplayers young and old and, with many owners whose profits were linked to the sale of beer and other alcoholic beverages to fans. Also, described are the harsh realities of the times in terms of economic depressions, labor-ownership contracts, the treatment or lack thereof of injuries, (some career ending) alcoholism, and the off-season lives and work activities of both stars and journeyman players.

The inclusiveness of the author's vast knowledge of the subjects, baseball, ethnicity and 19th-century culture are certainly the book's strength. This inclusiveness does not, however, come without risk of pitfalls. In attempting to explain the complex stories of team ownerships and multiple ballpark leases and purchases across a-half-dozen large cities and several

decades, there arises an inevitable chance for an error. The only mishap in this regard that I came across was in regard to the extremely complicated ownership and venue arrangements of two New York City based teams of the 1880s, the Gothams ["Giants" after April 1885] of the National League (NL) and the Metropolitans of the American Association (AA).

The movement of these teams to several playing fields including one they shared during a few seasons and another which they both used as their home parks several years apart, if not confusing enough, becomes complicated further by the fact that the two teams, in separate major leagues, had the same owner for three years, John B. Day, not James Gordon Bennett the owner of the original field they used; a field that the City of New York cut a street through shortly before the start of play in 1889, not 1887. This relatively minor missed fact-check does not in any way impinge upon the book's worthiness as an important history of baseball; it is mentioned here only as an attempt to reduce its chances of being promulgated.

Casway, provides something of a bonus to his readers by taking a noteworthy step with the book's closing chapter by helping readers understand how and why some 19th-century players' legacies managed to live on to some degree by virtue of their selection and induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, particularly in the decade spanning 1936-1945. More importantly, though, he also explains why some very worthy 19th-century players, baseball pioneers and early executives were overlooked, some to this day; this being an excellent way to conclude a work that has introduced

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Book Reviews (cont.)

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to its readers so many important and fascinating figures from baseball's formative past. This book is highly recommended for anyone who wishes to more fully understand the frequently overlooked forces that actually shaped baseball, beyond what is usually contained in most traditional "storybook type" baseball histories; while still satisfying those seeking an enjoyable

read on the topic .

Review by Peter Mancuso

[Editor's Note: These are the first book reviews we have had submitted in quite a while. If you have a review, please forward to bobbailey@cox.net for inclusion in the Newsletter]



Ross Barnes Memorial Dedicated

by Gary Passamonte

On Saturday August 19th a memorial was dedicated honoring Mount Morris N.Y. native and early baseball pioneer and star Roscoe C. (Ross) Barnes. The ceremony took place at the pocket park on Main St. in Mount Morris. The memorial dedicated is part of a series of monuments honoring 19th century and early 20th century baseball players and teams. David Stalker, the driving force behind the monument series, and fellow SABR member Gary Passamonte collaborated on the project. The monument was funded almost exclusively by businesses, organizations, and individuals from Mount Morris. In 1871 Barnes was recruited to play for the Boston Red Stockings of the newly formed National Association of Professional Base Ball Players. With Boston, Barnes rose to national prominence. In the five year existence of the NA, Barnes batted over .400 three times, winning two batting championships.

The National League was formed in 1876 and Barnes joined the Chicago club and hit .429 that



Barnes Memorial in Mount Morris, New York

season.

Barnes was a master of the fair foul hit. With this tactic eliminated in 1877 his statistics declined. Barnes was also slowed by illness.

Barnes played for the 1878 Tecumsehs of London, Ontario and returned to the NL in 1879 Cincinnati. He was out of baseball in 1880 and finished his professional career in 1881 back in Boston where it all began. Barnes finished his major League career with a .360 batting average. He remains the only player to have batted .400 in four separate seasons.

His only association with baseball following his playing career was as an umpire in the Players League of 1890.

Following his baseball career, Barnes would hold various white collar jobs in the Chicago area and die there on February 5, 1915. He is buried in Rockford at Greenwood Cemetery in the family plot.

Links to 19th Century Base Ball Music

A few moths back Committee member John Thorn posted a list of 19th Century baseball-themed songs. Below are links you can paste into your browser and see the sheet music so you can be ready of the sing-along at the next Committee function.

The Baseball Polka 1858

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/ahas.200033353.0?q=the+baseball+polka&st=gallery>

The Live Oak Polka 1860

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/ahas.200033411.0?st=gallery>

The Home Run Quick Step 1861

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033390/>



Tiger Polka 1861

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033452/>

Base Ball Fever 1867

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033310/>

Base Ball Polka 1867

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.09564/> [Cover Image Only]

Base Ball Quadrille 1867

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033318/?q=base+ball%21>

The Bat and The Ball Song 1867

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033358/?q=The+Bat+and+The+Ball+Song+>

Home Run Polka (1867)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033389/>

Union Base Ball Club March (1868)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033455/>

Hurrah for Our National Game (1869)

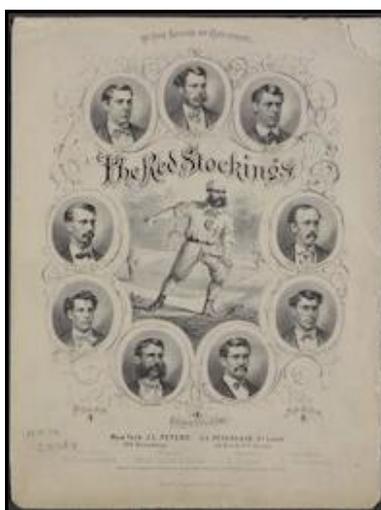
<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033393/?q=hurrah+for+our+national+game>

Home Run Galop (1869)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033388/?q=home+run+galop>

Red Stockings Schottisch (1870)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033432/?q=Red+Stockings+Schottisch>



The Atlantic Polka (1870)

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/sm1870.00504.0?q=The+Atlantic+Polka&st=gallery>

Baseball! (1874)

37. BASE BALL! Smith, John (m & w). Chicago, IL: Root & Cady, 1870.

This is the only song that I could not find in the Library of Congress holdings. I am sure someone will correct me very soon.

Base Ball Song (1874)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033323/?q=Base+Ball+Song>

Una Schottische (1877)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033454/?q=Una+Schottische>

Tally One for Me (1878)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033445/?q=Tally+One+for+Me>

The Day I Played Base Ball (Irish Comic Song) (1885)

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/ahas.200033369.0/?sp=3>

<http://www.evergreentrail.com/the-day-that-i-played-baseball/>

<https://mnheritagesongbook.net/the-songs/texts-and-additional-notes-on-printed-songs/the-day-that-i-played-baseball/>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033369/?q=the+day+i+played+>

Base Ball Quickstep (1885)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033320/?q=Base+Ball+Quickstep>

Base Ball Waltz (1886)

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/ahas.200033324.0/?sp=1&q=Base+Ball+Waltz>

Base Ball (1886)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ahas.200033299/?q=Base+Ball>

(Continued on page 12)

Links to 19th Century Base Ball Music (cont.)

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Base Ball March (1888)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033315/>

Angela: or The Umpire's Revenge (1888)

Library of Congress Note

ANGELA: OR THE UMPIRE'S REVENGE. Eaton, Paul (m & w). Washington, D.C.: R.O. Polkinhorn, 1888.[Note: A comic opera in three acts. The Music Div. holds only the libretto. Three works included in this opera, "He Stands in the Box with the Ball in His Hands," "The Umpire and the Dude," and "An Umpire I, Who Ne'er Say Die," were scored by John Philip Sousa.]

Ball Club March (1888)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033296/>

The Baseball Song (1888)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033355/?q=The+Baseball+Song>

Our Champions March (1889)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033424/?q=Our+Champions+March>

Slide, Kelly Slide! (1889)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033463/?q=Slide%2C+Kelly+Slide%21>

Steal! Slide! Anyway! (1890)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033441/?q=Steal%21+Slide%21+Anyway%21>

Clancy Wasn't in It (1890)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033363/?q=Clancy+Wasn%27t+in+It>

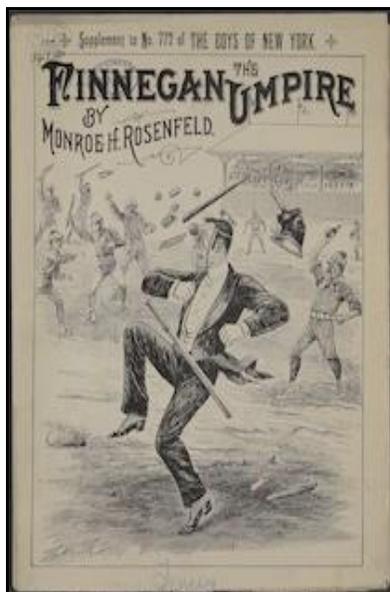
For We Were Boys Together (1890)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033375/?q=For+We+Were+Boys+Together>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033373/?q=Finnegan+the+Umpire>

Finnegan the Umpire (1890)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033373/?q=Finnegan+the+Umpire>



I'm a Jonah (1890)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033400/?q=I%27m+a+Jonah>

Silver Ball March (1891)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033437/?q=Silver+Ball+March>

O'Grady at the Game (1892)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033419/?q=O%27Grady+at+the+Game>

The Base Ball Fan (1893)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033308/>

Baseball Days (1894)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033342/>

Our Orioles March (1894)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033426/?q=Our+Orioles+>

The Temple Cup Two-Step March (1895)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033446/?q=The+Temple+Cup+>

At the Game of Ball (1895)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033289/?q=At+the+Game+of+Ball>

The Game the Phillies Play (1895)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033382/?q=The+Game+the+Phillies+Play>

Games We Used To Play (1895)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033379/>

The Giant's Mascot March (1895)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033381/?q=The+Giant%27s+Mascot+March>

Who Would Doubt That I'm a Man? (1896)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033458/?q=Who+Would+Doubt+That+I%27m+a+Man%3F>

"Win Mercer" Caprice (1897)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033459/?q=Win+Mercer+>

The Ball Player March/Two-Step (1897)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033297/?q=The+Ball+Player+March%2FTwo-Step>

Magnates March: Two-Step (1897)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033412/?q=Magnates+March>

Our Ball Team: March and Two-Step (1897)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033423/?q=Our+Ball+Team>