

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

WINTER 2020

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

Editor/VC— Bob Bailey
10223 SW 49th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32608
bobbailey@cox.net

Follow the Nineteenth Century Committee on Facebook at @SABR19thCC.

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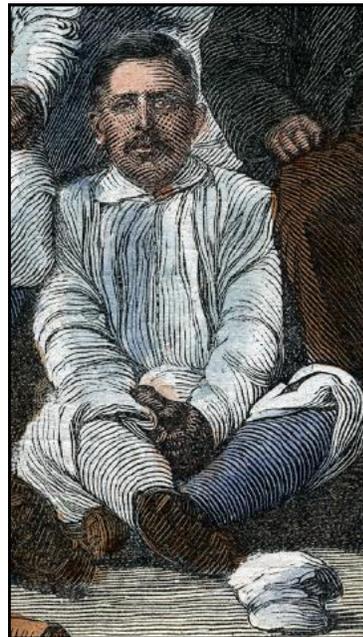
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A Catcher's Mask: Vincent Nava & Baseball's Color Line by Alex Nunez

Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, over seventy years after the establishment of the National League. Although credited with integrating professional baseball, its racial barriers underwent challenges well before Robinson's time. The rigidity of color lines has been a salient subject for Latin Americans, whose own histories are fraught with unique examples of conquest, mestizaje, and ideas about race, often leading them to occupy a tenuous, intermediate status between not just



Vincent "Sandy" Nava

black and white poles.

For nineteenth-century Mexican Americans, this racial ambiguity provided an opportunity to construct and negotiate their racial identities in a way that propelled them closer to the full rights and benefits of participation in the American polity. This ethnic version of racial passing allowed Vincent Nava, the first Mexican American to play professional baseball, to participate at the highest echelons of the sport in the 1880s. Nava, along with the Providence Grays, engaged in

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Chairman's Corner by Peter Mancuso

The 2020 Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference

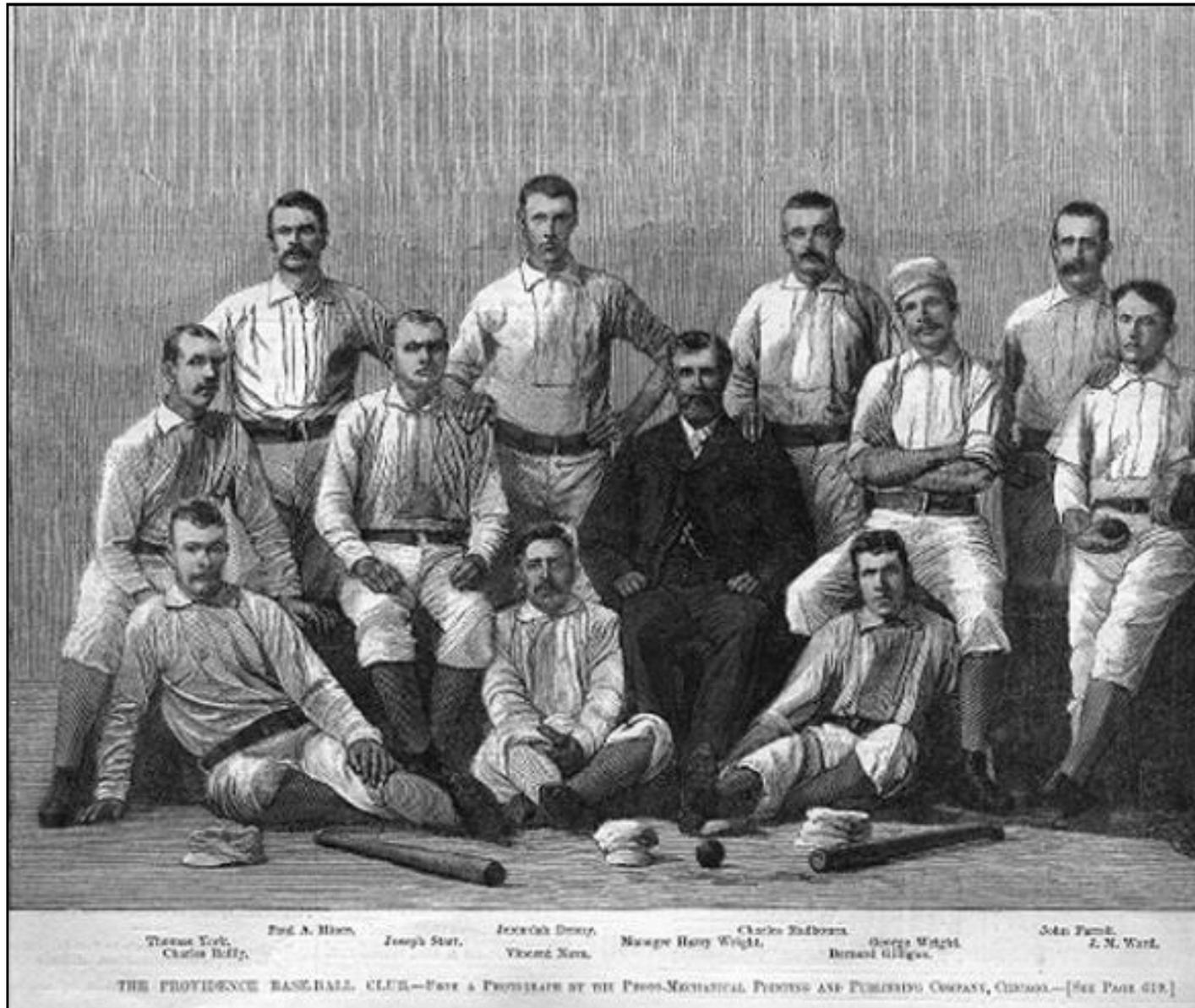
is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 24th and 25th at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. This, issue, of our quarterly newsletter

contains the complete information (last four pages) on "The Fred" including complete instructions (two forms) for registering. Although "The Fred" might seem far off, please, register at your earliest convenience to guarantee your place at this very popular conference and to select which six of the 12 double-

tracked Research Presentations (there are 15 Research Presentations in all) plus our traditional Panel Discussion, Special Presentation, Member Spotlight Interview, Luncheon Keynote Address and, this year, a very Special Presentation by the Hall of Fame on

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Sandy Nava (cont.)



1882 Providence Grays— Nava seated on ground in center

(Continued from page 1)

the construction of a whitened racial identity that justified his inclusion in a sport which officially barred people of color from membership. Nava's career represents the fluidity of Mexican American racial identity for many whose pursuit of full citizenship also meant a pursuit of whiteness, along with its corre-

sponding expectations of behavior, masculinity, discipline, and belonging.

Nava was born in San Francisco in 1860 to Josefa Simental, a migrant from Durango, México, and was raised by her and his new stepfather, William Irwin, a migrant himself from England. As he grew up, Nava appeared in city directories and census records as

a dependent of Irwin, eventually holding various working class occupations such as upholsterer and blacksmith, until he officially appeared as "Vincent Irwin, baseball player" in 1880. Baseball had made its way to San Francisco by 1860, and within the next decade, scores of local amateur and semi-professional clubs emerged. Alt-

(Continued on page 3)

Sandy Nava (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

hough players with Spanish surnames occasionally appeared in California's amateur and semi-professional baseball communities, growing up the adopted son of William Irwin and using his namesake allowed Nava to participate in California baseball while minimizing possibilities of racial exclusion. Nava spent several years developing his skills with the San Francisco Renos and earning praise from the press as "one of the best belonging to any club in the league."

Nava's performance earned the attention of professionals back East, many of whom traveled to California during the offseason in pursuit of amateur competition. By 1878, local newspapers such as the *Daily Alta* identified the young Nava as an emerging star, often noting that "Sandy Irwin... deserves special notice for his efforts both as catcher and on the bases." Predating the luxury of modern protective equipment, teams like the Renos valued Nava's toughness and skill as a catcher, often commending him for his contributions as a well-rounded and selfless player. In one 1882 match against the Nationals, a game that lasted twelve innings, Nava posted a "record of nineteen men put out and six times assisting, or a total of twenty-five chances accepted, without an error... and it is more wonderful from the fact that he played the last six innings with a sprained ankle." His assets as a baseball player epitomized the American motifs of masculinity and social mobility sought out by many of his peers, and the attainment of such – under the guise of Vincent "Sandy" Irwin – yielded further baseball opportunities in the spring of 1882.

"A regular catcher is wanted,"

stated a January 1882 issue of the *New York Clipper*, regarding the needs of the Providence Grays professional baseball club of the National League, whose previous season fell short of expectations. The National League abided by similar traditions, rules, and policies as other baseball organizations, trying to work in conjunction with one another to make the sport "a truly national game." When the National Association of Base Ball Players voted to bar any club "composed of one or more colored persons," they cast the national game as a symbol of the racial segregation that had sprouted across the country throughout and after Reconstruction. Like many other segregated spaces, baseball's policy of racial exclusion veiled itself in a cloak of meritocracy, justifying the color line on the grounds that black amateurs lacked the necessary character, skills, leadership, and other traits to compete and uphold the virtues of the sport. Modern industrial society, while recognizing the need for competitive spirit and aggressiveness in its games, also sought the balance of sport as wholesome, disciplined, virtuous, and gentlemanly. Organizations like the NABBP directed its objectives to pursue those qualities, emphasizing the character of its participants and attitude towards the sport as priorities to make the game honorable.

The NABBP and others actively sought to curb instances of misbehavior and replace them with an aura of gentlemanliness, virtue, and disciplined masculinity, traits that also represented the hierarchical construction of white, male, middle class ideals, ones which institutions of power used to justify the exclusion of nonwhite popu-

lations from white spaces. Opponents of racial integration often cited character clauses to protest the idea of inclusion and argued that black players lacked the temperament, skill, and intelligence needed to play the sport honorably and competitively. Baseball restricted opportunities to people of color and actively produced the stereotypes used to justify their exclusion, reinforcing its autonomy over the color barrier. In order to overcome the color line and participate in sport, nonwhite individuals had two options: advocate for racial equality, or find ways to obtain the elements of whiteness that had justified their exclusion.

At the end of Nava's 1881 season, Providence Grays teammates John Montgomery Ward and Jerry Denny identified Nava as a candidate to venture eastward and join their squad. Nava played briefly with Ward and Denny that winter in California, and in a communication back east, the Grays teammates stated how they had found a "catcher in San Francisco who handles Ward's delivery in fine form... Ward wants to bring him East... He is a Spaniard."

Ward and Denny did not label Nava as a Spaniard out of error. This identification confirms the recognition that Nava's race mattered, and reflects the experiences of other Mexican Americans during this time. Providence players and management addressed possible concerns to the thought of signing Nava, owing to his darker complexion, and many ultimately agreed that, in addition to his skills as a catcher, he "could serve as a strong advertising card

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Sandy Nava (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

for the club.” Upon beginning his career with Providence, Nava again underwent another name change, transitioning from “Vincent ‘Sandy’ Irwin” to “Vincent Nava,” a shift noted in the *New York Clipper* when they reported, “Vincent Nava, who is better known in California baseball circles as ‘Sandy’ Irwin, has been on trial with the Providence club, and, having proved himself an excellent catcher, was last week added to the list of men regularly engaged for the season.” Multiple parties, including Nava himself, participated in the construction of a new identity as “Vincent Nava, the Spaniard.”

Nava’s identity as “the Spanish catcher of the Providence Club” is not an anomaly among nineteenth-century Mexican Americans. Owing to their geographically European roots, Spaniards had typically been characterized as white, and throughout their history, Mexican Americans recognized that claiming Spanish ancestry often protected them from the full brunt of racial discrimination due to the security that a white identity could provide. The fluidity of Mexican Americans’ ability to claim whiteness through a Spanish identity allowed them to engage in a form of racial passing, which simultaneously restrained many of the pejorative stereotypes that antagonized Mexican culture. Many white Americans considered Mexicans racially inferior and projected upon them a collective, racial identity as nonwhite. As a result, Mexican Americans faced considerable discrimination in employment opportunities, access to segregated spaces, and carried a negative reputation among whites as lacking the necessary physical, intellectual, and

cultural capabilities necessary to obtain de facto citizenship. Similar to the ban thrust upon black players, the atmosphere in organized baseball and its pursuit of an honorable, national game could not permit individuals whose identity suggested the influx of undesirable characteris-



Vincent “Sandy” Nava

tics, and thus the transformation of “Vincent Nava the Spaniard” propelled Nava toward a more acceptable white identity. This construction showcases collaboration between Nava and the Grays to capitalize on popular racial perceptions, which simultaneously pushed Nava towards whiteness, *and* distanced him away from ideas of non-whiteness.

Once the 1882 season began, the press and fans consumed the identity that Nava and the Grays constructed. Providence increased their attendance that season by utilizing photos and postcards featuring Nava, and newspapers reported how “there was much curiosity to see the Spaniard.” For

the first few seasons, Nava played a utility role for the Grays, primarily playing catcher. Pitchers Lee Richmond, Charlie Sweeney, and Hall of Famer Charles Radbourne were “grandly supported by Nava” and “helped over a few hard places by [his] brilliance.” The Grays also saw an increase in profit by the end of the 1882 season, and won the 1884 championship against the New York Metropolitans, finishing the regular season with a record of 84-28.

Despite Nava’s positive contributions to the Grays, a series of injuries, negative press accounts, and failure to live up to other high expectations eroded his positive reception. The lack of participation due to injury forced the Grays to consider replacements, which disappointed fans who flocked to see Nava play. In addition to his subpar performance as a player, Nava fell victim to what anthropologists call “racial lumping.” Evidence suggests that the press and fans failed to discern ethnic and racial differences between minority populations, despite Nava’s identity as a Spaniard. These phenomena show that despite disparate identities and nationalities, people of color and those whose whiteness was questionable underwent a panethnic confusion that led to a sharing of racial characteristics. For instance, the *New York Clipper* utilized racialized phonetic dialogue to mock Nava’s Spanish identity. In a hypothetical scenario in which Nava’s teammate, Ward, attempted to coach him, the *Clipper* imagined Ward saying, “Hi, Señor! quite offi il firsto basilo et makadagio towardso secundo basilo liki helio! [Hi, Señor! Quit off first base and make a dash to-

Sandy Nava (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

ward second base like hell!].” Nava’s projected whiteness ultimately failed to deflect discriminatory commentary or racialization. These incidents prevented Nava from maintaining the façade of an authentic white identity, and the emphasis on the deviant aspects of his ethnicity began to project the misinformed stereotypes that Nava and the Grays had initially tried to avoid.

Nava signed briefly with Baltimore at the end of his professional career, and ceased playing baseball by the end of the decade. Mexican Americans across the country continued to fight battles for equal recognition during this time, often

using claims of whiteness in order to demonstrate their belonging in the upper echelon of society. This pursuit of whiteness, however, became a double-edged sword. Although it did serve as a form of personal resistance for those individuals, the strategy simultaneously reinforced the white institutions that created those rigid racial hierarchies in the first place. When Nava and the Grays claimed his identity as a Spaniard, they were complicit in enforcing the color line by trying to justify whiteness as the reason for his acceptance. By pursuing whiteness, individuals consequently validated the standards and expectations of white supremacy and substantiated that racial difference should be

acknowledged in the allowance of rights, privileges, and access.

Though Nava did not topple the color barrier, he did succeed in at least circumnavigating it, especially owing to his constructed identity as a Spaniard. His case study as a professional Mexican American athlete at a time when Mexican Americans attempted to find their place within American society provides a tangible example to analyze the complexity of American racial understandings and how those understandings shifted to new challenges over time. For Nava, the pursuit of access to a white space – the baseball diamond – turned the sport into a laboratory of the race-making process.

Chairman’s Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

the 19th-century portion of a recently acquired collection of baseball related sheet music.

The Minnesota 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium was held on November 16, 2019 at the Main Branch of the Hennepin County Library in downtown Minneapolis. The symposium was a joint undertaking of the Halsey Hall Chapter of SABR, the Hennepin County Library and our Nineteenth Century Committee. Please, see a brief report on this 4th Cities-based Symposium in this newsletter. I wish to thank the “Principle Instigator” **Bob Tholkes** (as Chapter Chair), **Stew Thornley** (calls him) our Vice Chair, **Bob Bailey** for representing our Committee at the Symposium and **John Thorn**, MLB’s Official Historian.

I asked John if I might offer a link to his address to the Minnesota Symposium, which he published on his blog, “Our Game.” With John’s permission here is the link: <https://ourgame.mlblogs.com/the-game-of-the-golden-west-f7d8aa1d1ded>

Dorothy Jane (Seymour) Mills, “The First Lady of Women Baseball Historians” and long-time member of our Committee passed away on November 17th. Please, see the SABR website for a detailed obituary. Several years ago, Dorothy was the Keynote Luncheon Speaker at our Nineteenth Century Committee’s “Fred” Conference at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. She will be fondly remembered and dearly missed.

The Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends Project will be releasing the bios and ballots for our 2020 Primary Election in late January/early February.

Renewing SABR Membership and Annual Financial Support is upon us. If you have not done so already, please, renew your SABR membership and, if possible, make a contribution to SABR, particularly our **19th Century Baseball Grave Marker Project** (sabr.org/donate).

About six weeks until “Pitchers and Catchers.” Enjoy the 2020 Pre-season. Best regards, Peter Mancuso, “...because baseball history is not only baseball history.”

Split-Season Championship Format

by Charlie Bevis

During the 2019 season, major-league baseball celebrated the 50th anniversary of its inaugural League Championship Series, which in 1969 pitted the winners of each league's two divisions to determine the championship team. It seems appropriate to look back at how baseball used to determine its champions in the nineteenth century, with a particular emphasis on the split-season format.

Baseball, the oldest of American professional team sports, originally determined its league champion to be the team with the best won-lost record achieved through a round robin against the other teams during the playing season.

In 1876 the measure was most wins, which in the mid-1880s was modified to highest winning percentage.

Major-league baseball used this best-record approach every year from 1876 through 1968 – except one year – before adopting a post-season playoff approach in 1969, as pro football, basketball, and ice hockey had all done many years earlier. The lone exception was 1892, when the National League used the split-season format to determine its champion.

In the split-season format, the season is divided into two halves of approximately equal length. As applied to baseball, the first half begins in April and usually ends near the Fourth of July holiday, with the second half running from July to September. The first-place teams in each half then meet in a post-season series to determine the league champion. The underlying concept of split-season is to generate attendance during the second half in those cities where

the teams fall behind during the first half, i.e., providing a second chance at the championship, so to speak.

For its 1892 season, the National League expropriated the split-season idea from an experiment in the minor-league Eastern



Patrick Powers

League as a way to maintain spectator interest among an expanded 12-team field (due to the merger with the American Association) over the longer 154-game season. The idea was likely pitched by Pat Powers, the newly hired manager of the New York Giants, who the previous year had been the manager of the Buffalo team in the Eastern League.

In 1891 the Eastern League imploded in August because most of its teams dissolved due to bankruptcy. This was a common occurrence in the minor leagues, and usually resulted in the league simply dissolving.

Powers, though, decided to declare a fresh start to the league by continuing to play games against the few remaining teams. In essence, this resulted in a first half to the 1891 season (ending in August) and a second half over the remaining few weeks. While this was a desperation effort to try to salvage some team profits, the split-season format was successful at maintaining spectator interest in the waning days of a dismal season.

During the 1892 National League season, however, the split-season format proved very unpopular. The first-half champion, Boston, played less vigorously during the second half to await the post-season series with the second-half winner, which turned out to be Cleveland. There was also general discontent with the champion being determined in a short series, where luck might play a large part in victory, rather than the robust round robin of the full season. Because of these two significant downsides to the split-season format, the National League in 1893 returned to the best-record format, which major-league baseball utilized thereafter until the leagues were split into two divisions for the 1969 season.

The Eastern League started out in 1892 using the conventional best-record format, but converted to split-season in July after four teams disbanded. In the post-season series, Providence, the first-half winner, lost to Binghamton, the second-half winner. This exposed another downside to the split-season format, though, as Rochester, which had the best record over both halves combined,

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Split-Season (cont.)

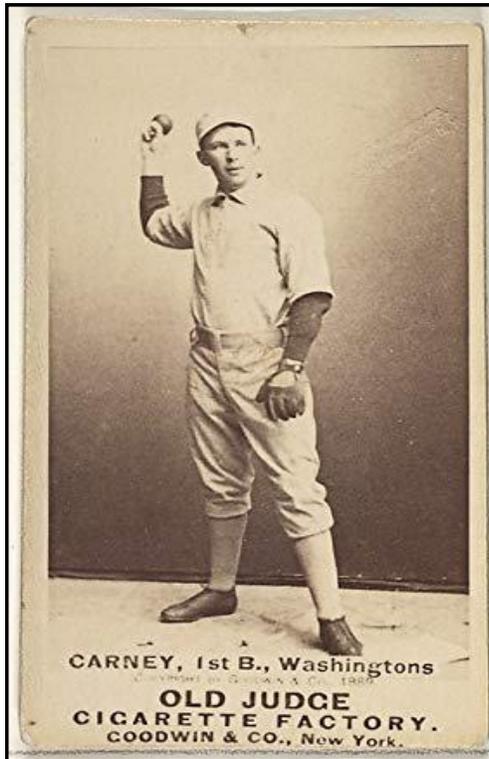
was left out of contention for the championship since Rochester had won neither half of the season.

A few minor leagues in the 1890s used the split-season format in a desperation manner, including the Pennsylvania State League in 1893-94 and Texas-Southern League in 1895-96. Unfortunately, this established the pattern for the split-season format to be a makeshift, created -on-the-fly way for minor leagues to try to economically salvage a season. Shenanigans used by some teams to unscrupulously try to win the second-half title then cast the split-season format as a decidedly low-brow technique.

In 1899 the circus ending to the split-season in the New England League temporarily killed off the idea. Coming into the finale of the second half on Labor Day, Newport was in first place and Manchester close behind in second place. The two teams were not content with a mere doubleheader traditionally played on the holiday. Newport played a tripleheader against lowly Taunton, while Manchester went even further, cramming in six games against Portland (the first-half winner) in a sextuple-header. While Newport and Manchester both won all their games on Labor Day, Manchester's six victories ostensibly moved it into first place for the second half.

Backlash was swift regarding the comedic ending to the season. A Portland newspaper called the day's results "a howling farce ... which cannot help disgusting every true lover of

base ball." One National League official bluntly said, "The whole affair at Manchester last Monday, when Portland gave away six



Jack Carney member of the 1899
Manchesters

games in one day, was a black eye for the sport, as the public is no fool." While the Manchester victories were thrown out and Newport declared the second-half winner, there was no post-season series to determine the champion and the New England League failed to operate for the 1900 season.

With the split-season format in serious disrepute, few minor leagues dared to use this approach from 1900 to 1911, only lower-classification leagues in desperate straits.

In 1912 the South Atlantic

League was the first minor league to arrange a split-season schedule at the beginning of its season. The South Atlantic League demonstrated the functionality of the split-season format in encouraging spectatorship throughout the season, not just the stub second half on a desperation basis. This also elevated the credibility of the post-season series between the winners of the two halves, as a more legitimate mechanism to determine the league champion, to expunge the perception that this series was merely a haphazard way to crown a champion.

During the 1920s the split-season format became commonplace in the minor leagues. However, during the Great Depression, the Shaughnessy playoff concept (first implemented in 1933) quickly replaced the split-season format as a better way to attract fans in the minors. Interestingly, the split-season returned to fashion in the minors by the 1960s, when major-league baseball first conducted the League Championship Series to determine its league champions.

Portions of this article are excerpts from the author's e-book "League Champion: How Success in Pro Sports Transformed from Best Record to Playoff Winner," which is freely available content accessible at <https://bevisbaseballresearch.wordpress.com>

News & Notes

In his ongoing perusal of 19th century newspapers committee member Richard Hershberger came across the following Cincinnati reference and posted it to the 19th Century Listserv with a few comments: I may have just, much to my surprise, antedated interracial baseball. The famous Pythian-Olympics game was played September 3, 1869. This is from the Cincinnati Enquirer of August 11, 1869:

"A very interesting game of base-ball was played on the Newtown Grounds on Saturday afternoon, August 7, between the Black Owls (colored), of Africa, and the Alerts (white), of Plainville. Too much praise can not be given our young friend, T. Corwin Bodine, left fielder of the Alerts, formerly a citizen of this place, and recently an active member of the Newtown Baseball Club. He made some very fine plays, muffing only one fly, the first of the season. His fielding was very fine; also his heavy batting was a fine feature of his playing, making a home run in the last inning, and has not been heard of since. The following in

the score: [Black Owls 41, Alerts 16]"

I'm not sure what to make of this. There is a Newtown not far from Cincinnati, so that presents no difficulty. Similarly with Plainville. There is in fact an Africa, Ohio, but it is hundreds of miles away, so I take the identification of the colored clubs being from "Africa" as merely a placeholder: a redundant way of identifying their race. The white club in the first game being the "Temperance" club is interesting. That is an unusual, and overtly political, name for a baseball club. There was a lot of crossover between the temperance movement and abolitionists. They often were the same people. Was Newtown a political hotbed? Heck if I know. But this is a salutary reminder that early baseball "firsts" rarely are. This doesn't diminish the importance of the Pythian-Olympic game. Even if that wasn't quite the first, it was the one that people noticed. These Ohio games were between deeply obscure minor clubs, and came and went without causing a ripple.

-Committee member Charlie Bevis has recently released a e-book enti-

tled *League Champion: How Success in Pro Sports Transformed from Best Record to Playoff Winner*.

The article on Page 7 of this Newsletter covers a small portion of the issues Charlie deals with in the book covering the game from the 19th century to the present. Follow this link to more information: [League Champion: How Success in Pro Sports Transformed from Best Record to Playoff Winner](https://www.amherst.edu/amherst-story/magazine/issues/2009spring/baseball).

-Penelope Corcoran sends along a link to an article on the 150th anniversary of baseball at Amherst College. <https://www.amherst.edu/amherst-story/magazine/issues/2009spring/baseball>.

-Ralph Carhart, our leader in the effort to mark significant graves of 19th century players has begun a blog called Bent Knees & Raised Fists. The blog examines the intersection of sports and politics and can be found at : <https://kneesandfists.com>.

Overlooked Legend Vote for 2020

by Adam Darowski

On February 3, 2020, all members of the Nineteenth Century committee will receive the preliminary ballot for the 2020 Overlooked Base Ball Legend. The ballot will come via email and will feature 25 or more candidates chosen by the Overlooked Base Ball Legends committee. Voting will last three weeks (until Monday,

February 24). During this Primary Election, members of the Nineteenth Century committee will select ten names on their ballot. The ten candidates who receive the most votes will appear on the final ballot. The final ballot will be released to all of SABR on Monday, April 20, 2020. Voting again will last three weeks, closing on Monday, May 11. The

2020 Overlooked Legend selection will be the twelfth we have chosen. This election is an important one because it is the last election before the National Baseball Hall of Fame's Early Baseball Era committee meets in December 2020.

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Overlooked Legend Vote for 2020 (cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

This committee will be voting for candidates from this era for the Hall of Fame. In 2013, Deacon White (2010 Overlooked Legend) was inducted into the Hall of Fame via the Era committee. That year, Bill Dahlen (2012 Overlooked Legend) also came very close. In 2016,

Doc Adams (2014 Overlooked Legend) was nearly inducted. The 2020 Early Baseball Era election is a crucial one because 19th century candidates will not be considered by the Hall of Fame again until 2030. Here's hoping that the committee takes note of our selections and inducts some worthy

candidates to Cooperstown.

The Overlooked Legends committee is headed by co-chairs Adam Darowski and Joe Williams. The committee also includes Ralph Peluso, Sam Reich, Tom Zocco, Matt Albertson, Eric Miklich, and Gary Passamonte.

Monument Honoring the Ball-Playing White Family - Donations Needed by Joe Williams

Joe Williams, David Stalker and Gary Passamonte are working with the Town of Caton in New York to erect a monument honoring the Caton-born, ballplaying White family. Jim "Deacon" White was the premier catcher of the 1870s before starting at third base later in his career. He played on six championship teams and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2013. Will White was a 229-game winner who was the first major leaguer to wear eyeglasses on the field. LeRoy White was the older brother of Jim and Will. He ventured with Jim to play ball for the Forest City Base Ball Club of Cleveland in 1868, playing in seven games before returning home to play for the Monitors of Corning. Elmer White was the first cousin of the White brothers. He joined Forest City in 1870 and played with the club during the inaugural season of the National Association. He became the first professional league player to die when he passed away from tuberculosis on March 17, 1872.

The monument is part of David

Stalker's Baseball Memorial Series (<https://www.facebook.com/David-Stalkers-Baseball-Memorial-Series-286357068668103/>). David has erected two dozen baseball me-



morials throughout the U.S. and has assisted SABR's Grave Marker Project – the most recent being a grave marker dedicated for Elias Hicks Hayhurst at Philadelphia's Mount Peace Cemetery on September 14, 2019.

Gary Passamonte is a Ross Barnes historian who led the project to erect the Ross Barnes monument in Mount Morris, New York in 2017. The White monument will look like the front of the Barnes monument. More about the Barnes monument can be located here: <http://>

seamheads.com/blog/2017/09/10/ross-barnes-is-first-baseball-pioneer-honored-in-monument-series/.

Joe Williams has researched the White Family extensively and wrote the most recent bio on Deacon White. The bio can be located at:

<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/99417cd4>.

The monument text is being written and an image of Deacon White will appear on the front of the monument. Fundraising has begun. Joe, David and Gary are seeking donations and need your help to raise the final \$2,000 towards the monument. To make a donation, please reach out to Joe Williams at:

overlookedlegends@gmail.com and he will provide the information to send a check.



IMPORTANT & TIMELY: What's New and Different for the 2020 "Fred":

But as in all previous years, ACT QUICKLY!

The 2020 Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference (The "Fred") will again be held in its new digs within the Baseball Hall of Fame (HOF) this coming April 24th & 25th, the Grandstand Theater, Bullpen Theater and HOF Learning Center. The Grandstand Theater renovation was completed in May 2018 and we got to use it for the 2019 Fred. It is roomy, comfortable and equipped with state-of-the-art A/V. We will again conduct: our morning Welcoming Sessions; our Special Presentation; our Panel Discussion; our Member Spotlight Interview and three Research Presentations (those that received the highest cumulative scores by our jurors) all in the Grandstand Theater. The remaining time when the Grandstand Theater will not be available to us (when open to HOF visitors) we will be able to utilize both the Bullpen Theater (the traditional past Fred venue) and the HOF Learning Center Room as two distinct "break-out rooms" for our remaining twelve (12) Research Presentations that will be double tracked in six (6) timeslots (see page two of the registration forms).

Providing for a 50% increase in Research Presentations over Fred Conferences prior to 2018 remains the plan for this April but **we can now allow for an even larger increase in the number of Fred attendees, up to 100 persons** due to our realization of the larger capacity afforded us for the Friday evening Welcoming Dinner (optional) and the Saturday Luncheon (included) venue, Templeton Hall. Our Saturday evening optional Post Conference Gathering (Otesaga Hotel) does have a limit of 75.

Yes. There will again be fifteen Research Presentations. Three, will be heard by all our 2020 attendees in the Grandstand Theater, while the remaining twelve Research Presentations will be double tracked using the Bullpen Theater for six and the HOF Learning Center Room for six (all spaces are A/V equipped).

Act quickly. Again, this year it is important to register in a timely fashion. As always, the Fred will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis, so that's the first reason to register quickly. The second reason to act quickly (for yourself and up to two guests if applicable) is that everyone registering will have to choose their (and their guest[s]) preferred Research Presentations that they would like to attend (one from each of six timeslots). Those Research Presentation selections will again be filled on a "first come, first serve" basis, and once the set capacity is reached (larger this year), registrants will be assigned the alternate Presentation for that timeslot. **This is why, "Registration Form" is again TWO PAGES, BOTH PAGES MUST BE SENT TOGETHER TO COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION.**

So, please, read the following pages pertaining to the 2020 Fred. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you in Cooperstown this April as space permits. I will notify each registrant if they registered on-time or not within 72 hours of receiving their paperwork and payment (you may be placed on a waiting list for the conference if you wish). I will also notify all accepted registrants as to which of the double-tracked Research Presentations they made it into during the first week in April.

Finally, a Special 20 minute HOF Presentation has been added to Friday afternoon's program (5:00PM – 5:20PM) in the Grandstand Theater. We will be treated to an exclusive visual (covers) presentation of the 19th century portion of the Hall's recent acquisition of an outstanding baseball sheet music collection.

Remember, whether you are new to The Fred or, a Fred veteran attendee or, are part of this coming April's program, act quickly for your best chances of securing your preferred choices among the twelve Research Presentations that are double-tracked in six timeslots. **Thank you.**

2020 Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference Additional Details:

Optional Friday Evening Welcoming Dinner: 7:00PM, Friday April 24, 2020

Our conference will again include our optional **Welcoming Dinner** that will provide not only the wonderful cuisine of **Townsend Catering** but also, the cozy ambiance of historic **Templeton Hall** (the site of our Saturday conference luncheon adorned for formal dining). There are three main entree selections to choose from, (Prime Rib, Salmon Filet or Spinach Lasagna (no Mushrooms) – see the conference registration form to make your selection) salad, three side dishes, iced tea or lemonade, desert, coffee /decaf/tea, all service charges, and room fee are included for one set **price (\$45.00 per person)** to be paid with conference registration. A cash bar will be available as the only individual cost variable.

We will have the room from 7:00PM until 10:00PM, Cash Bar and gathering at 7:00PM, dinner seating is 7:30PM. Templeton Hall is located 5 minutes walk from HOF at Pioneer & Church Streets.

Optional Saturday Evening Post Conference Gathering: Saturday, April 25th, 6:30PM – 9:00PM

(REQUIRES PRE-REGISTRATION and payment with registration). We will continue our tradition of a Post-Conference Gathering of attendees and their guests within an hour of the 5:00PM conference close on Saturday. You will enjoy the Historic **Otesaga Hotel's** delicious "Cookout Buffet" in the **historic Otesaga Hotel**. (Banquet Room TBA, use ground level entrance adjacent to parking lot). **Cash Bar 5:45PM, Seating 6:30PM, \$35 per person** inclusive with gratuity. The room is ours to 9:30PM.

Travel Directions, Hall of Fame Information:

Complete travel directions to the Hall of Fame, Museum hours and special exhibitions can be found on the HOF's comprehensive website: www.baseballhalloffame.org.

Lodging, Dining, Sightseeing:

Complete information on lodging, dining and area attractions can be obtained through the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce (607) 547-6006 or on their website: www.cooperstownchamber.org.

Hall of Fame Research Library:

To make an appointment with the HOF's Research Library, open Mon. – Fri., 9:00AM -5:00PM (but not on Fri of The Fred). Call: (607) 547-0330 or 0335 during their operating hours, EST, about a week or two in advance..

Conference Registration \$65: 2-Day Conf. Includes Sat. Luncheon and AM & PM Refreshments both days.

Who: Conference Registration is open to all SABR members and up to two non-SABR family members or friends (18 years old or over). See Registration Form (two pages), Friday evening "Welcoming Dinner" and Sat. "Luncheon Only" and "Post Conference Gathering" options

When: Registration commences soon after January 1, 2020 and will continue until Feb. 28, 2020 or until registration is announced "closed" due to space constraints. The Grandstand Theater can accommodate 100 plus persons, the luncheon and the Friday evening Welcoming Dinner up to 100 persons, and the Saturday Post Conference Gathering up to 75 persons, so, please, register early.

How: Registrations can be accepted by mail only: send completed 19th-Century Base Ball Conference Registration BOTH Forms to: **Peter Mancuso, 6970 Ely Road, New Hope, PA 18938**. Enclose your personal check for the appropriate amount and made **payable to: "SABR."** and write **"Fred 19cBB Conference"** on check's memo line. Please, mail prior to **February 28, 2020**. If you miss the registration mailing deadline contact: Peter Mancuso: peterplus4@earthlink.net or (215) 862-2887 to see if space is still available or if other information is required.

Book Signings: Conference attendees who are baseball book authors will have an opportunity to submit their title/s, publisher/s and ISBN/s when registering so that the HOF bookstore can stock your book for purchase through their store for signing. All books for signing during the conference must be purchased through the HOF bookstore except; those previously own by attendees, OP books or books that the HOF bookstore cannot or chooses not to acquire may be brought to the Fred conference by authors who are attending. Submit book info back of reg. form.

SABR, Nineteenth Century Committee
Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, “The Fred”
Friday and Saturday, April 24 & 25, 2020, National Baseball Hall of Fame,
Cooperstown, NY
Program & Schedule

For full subject titles of all double-tracked Research Presentations, see page two of our two-page 2020 Fred Registration Form, make your selections and, return both pages when registering.

Friday, April 24, 2020

- 9:00am- 9:45am– Lobby of Giamatti Research Center, Check-in and Morning Coffee Service
9:45am-10:00am– Grandstand Theater – Welcome and Introductions, Part 1
10:10am-10:40am– Bullpen Thtr-RP#1 Dennis Thiessen & Learn Ctr-RP#2 Justin McKinney
10:50am-11:20am– Bullpen Thtr-RP#3 Bill Humber & Learn Ctr-RP#4 Edward Scahill
11:20am–11:30am– Break, 3rd Inning Stretch
11:30am–12:00pm- Bullpen Thtr-RP#5 Marty Payne & Learn Ctr-RP#6 Lauren Tuiskula
12:00pm–1:30pm – On Own: Lunch in “America’s Perfect Village” and/or Explore HOF
1:30pm– 2:30PM – Grandstand Thtr - Panel Discussion: “How Did Wm. Hulbert’s Early Death Impact the Development of MLB to 1900”; Moderator, Bill Ryczek: Panel: Jack Bales, Richard Hershberger and Bill Lamb.
2:30pm – 3:00pm – Grandstand Thtr RP#7 Craig Brown “Elegant & Oddball, 19th Century Team Photos”
3:10pm – 3:40pm – Bullpen Thtr-RP#8 Chris Jones & Learn Ctr-RP#9 Matthew Leib
3:40pm – 4:10pm – Giamatti Research Center, 7th Inning Stretch, Afternoon Coffee Service
4:15pm – 5:00pm – Grandstand Thtr - Member Spotlight, Bob Bailey Interviews, Tom Gilbert
5:00pm – 5:20pm – Grandstand Thtr – Special H.O.F. Presentation – 19th Century Baseball Sheet Music
7:00pm -10:00pm –Templeton Hall – Welcoming Dinner (Optional, Pre-Reg. required, see Reg. Form)

Saturday, April 25, 2020

- 9:00am- 9:45am- Giamatti Research Center – Check-in, Morning Coffee Service
9:45am -10:00am-Grandstand Theater – Welcome and Introductions, Part 2
10:10am-10:40am- Bullpen Thtr-RP#10 Jon Popovich & Learn Ctr-RP#11 Jack Bales
10:50am-11:20am- Bullpen Thtr-RP#12 Gregory Wolf & Learn Ctr-RP#13 Larry Phillips
11:30am- 1:40pm– Templeton Hall – Luncheon (included): Keynote Speaker, John Thorn, “A Retrospective: Baseball Research in the Last Decade or So”
1:50pm – 2:50pm– Grandstand Thtr- Spec. Pres: David Block, “Baseball’s Origins: A Progress Report”
3:00pm - 3:30pm- Grandstand Thtr.-RP#14 Tom Gilbert, “Baseball’s Man in Phila. Col. Tom Fitzgerald”
3:30pm – 4:15pm– Giamatti Research Center – Book Signings, Afternoon Coffee Service 4:25PM–
4:55pm- Grandstand Thtr-RP#15 Greg Gajus, “The Year After: The 1870 Cinn Red Stockings”
4:55pm—5:00pm – Grandstand Theater Closing Remarks
5:45pm – 9:30pm – Otesaga Hotel – Post Conference Gathering Buffet (Optional, Pre-Reg. required, see Registration Form)

Following the conference on Saturday you are invited to our Optional Post Conference Gathering (Pre-Registration is required, see “Fred” Registration Form page 1). Enjoy a delicious “Cookout Buffet” and Good Cheer at the Historic Otesaga Hotel, (use ground level hotel entrance adjacent to the parking lot). Cash Bar is 5:45-6:30p.m., Buffet 6:30-9:30PM (Banquet Room TBA, Limited to 75 persons).

(SABR) Nineteenth Century Committee, Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, "The Fred", Friday & Saturday, April 24 & 25, 2020

To register, SABR members mail Pages 1 & 2 (Photocopies are OK) and Payment, PAGE 1 of 2

Name _____ Nickname for Name Badge _____

Address _____

City _____ St (Prov.) _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephones: Home _____ Mobile: _____

Email _____

Optional Friday Eve Welcoming Dinner (up to 3 persons total) \$45.00 X ___ person/s = \$ _____

Conference Reg (Incls Sat. Lunch & Conference, 3 persons total) \$65X ___ person/s = \$ _____

Luncheon Only (companion/s not attending conf. Ltd. 2 additional) \$35X ___ person/s = \$ _____

STOP: DO NOT PAY FOR LUNCHEON FOR PERSONS ALREADY PAYING FOR CONFERENCE

Optional Saturday, Eve. Post Conference. Gathering (limited 2 guests) \$35X ___ person/s = \$ _____

Total conference registration fees & evening meal options &/ or luncheon-only guest = \$ _____

(Check made payable to: "SABR" – write "Fred 19th BB Conference" on check memo line)

Name/s of person/s attending conference: _____

Name/s of guest/s for Sat. Luncheon (but not conference) _____

Persons for Fri. Eve. Welcome Dinner, Include Conference Attendees, Guests & Entree selection

_____ (___ Prime Rib), (___ Salmon), (___ Veg. Lasagna)

_____ (___ Prime Rib), (___ Salmon), (___ Veg. Lasagna)

_____ (___ Prime Rib), (___ Salmon), (___ Veg. Lasagna)

NEW: Name/s of all Conference Attendees and Guests for Sat. Eve. Post Conference Gathering:

Attention conference registrants who are also baseball book authors. We invite you to sign copies of your book/s during conference breaks. Note, book purchases must be made through the HOF Bookstore unless book is OP or the HOF cannot or chooses not to stock it. **If you wish to do book signings, please, list book title/s and ISBN on reverse side.**

Payment and Mailing: (CHECK PAYABLE INFORMATION and NEW DEADLINE)

Please, make check or M.O. in US dollars, payable to: "SABR" and write on check memo line: "Fred 19cBB Conference". Please, mail check and **BOTH PAGES** by **February 28, 2020** to: **Peter Mancuso, 6970 Ely Rd, New Hope, PA 18938, Ques. 215-862-2887** or peterplus4@earthlink.net. **SEE PAGE 2**

Registration Form, PAGE 2 of 2 (must be returned with Page 1)
(SABR) Nineteenth Century Committee, Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, "The Fred", Friday & Saturday, April 24 & 25, 2020

To register, SABR members, please, mail this form (Photocopies are OK) & payment with Page 1

Directions: Please, indicate your preferred choice of Research Presentation for each of the six pairs of Research Presentations that are double-tracked by placing one of the two RP#s that are offered in each Time Slot on the choice line (one number for yourself and, one number for each of your guests, if applicable). **NOTE:** Research Presentation #s: 7 (Craig Brown); 14 (Tom Gilbert) and 15 (Greg Gajus) are Single Tracked, no choices offered. See titles of single-tracked RPs; and the titles & names for Spec Pres.; Panel Disc., Keynote Speaker and Interview on Program & Schedule.

NAME of SABR Member Submitting this form: _____

NAME of Guest "A": (attending Conf. in HOF): _____

NAME of Guest "B": (attending Conf. in HOF): _____

Double-Tracked Research Presentations in Time Slot, Friday, 10:10am-10:40am, pick #1 or #2

RP #1, Dennis Thiessen, "Sunday as The Day of Rest, Riot and, Revolt."

RP #2, Justin McKinney, "Season on the Brink: The Finances of the Union Association"

CHOICE (#1 or #2): SABR Member RP#____; Guest "A" RP#____; Guest "B" RP#____.

Double-Tracked Research Presentations in Time Slot, Friday, 10:50am-11:20am, pick #3 or #4

RP#3, Bill Humber, "Baseball's Roots Revised: Lessons from Hockey and Football's Modern Creation"

RP#4, Edward Scahill, "Hugh Jennings, John McGraw, Allegany College (Class of 1894)"

CHOICE (#3 or #4): SABR Member RP#____; Guest "A" RP#____; Guest "B" RP#____.

Double-Tracked Research Presentations in Time Slot, Friday, 11:30am-12:00pm, pick #5 or #6

RP#5, Marty Payne, "What's in A Name (Individuals and Teams)"

RP#6, Lauren Tuiskula, "Frank Bancroft and the Blackstone Valley's 19th Century BB Legacy"

CHOICE (#5 or #6): SABR Member RP#____; Guest "A" RP#____; Guest "B" RP#____.

Double Tracked Research Presentations in Time Slot, Friday, 3:10pm-3:40pm, pick #8 or #9

RP#8, Chris Jones, "Wolverines vs. A Wildcat Stand: A Battle Over Barn-Top Bleachers"

RP#9, Matthew Leib, "Wringing Truth from Tragedy in the Life of Jim Devlin, "Terror of the West"

CHOICE (#8 or #9): SABR Member RP#____; Guest "A" RP#____; Guest "B" RP#____.

Double Tracked Research Presentations in Time Slot, Saturday, 10:10am-10:40am, pick #10 or #11

RP#10, Jon Popovich, "GL Werth: The Growth of Reconstruction BB in Montgomery, AL 1865-75"

RP#11, Jack Bales, "He Will Do Just What is Best, No Doubt': William Hulbert's Dismantling of the Chicago Base Ball Association"

CHOICE (#10 or #11): SABR Member RP#____; Guest "A" RP#____; Guest "B" RP#____.

Double Tracked Research Presentations in Time Slot, Saturday, 10:50am-11:20am, pick #12 or #13

RP#12, Gregory Wolf, "Bill Hutchison: A Forgotten Star, Standing 55 ½-Foot from Home Plate"

RP#13, Larry Phillips, "The Beginnings of Base Ball in Cincinnati"

CHOICE (#12 or #13): SABR Member RP#____; Guest "A" RP#____; Guest "B" RP#____.