

# NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

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SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

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## THE STRANGE CASE OF CHARLEY DEWALD

by David Nemeč

### Committee Contacts

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

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

Follow the Nineteenth Century Committee on Facebook at @SABR19thCC.

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In 1890, Charles H. Dewald became the only pitcher in major league history to hurl complete-game wins over the eventual 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers in his league in his first two appearances and never be seen again in an official big league game. What's more, he went 3-for-8 in his 2-game sojourn and had three RBI in his own cause.

We know he was the oldest of four children born in Newark, New Jersey, on September 22, 1867, to William Carl

Dewald and his wife Catherine (nee Klump)



Charley DeWald

but may never know why he was nicknamed "Schwope" and are not even positive his true first name was Charles since his grave marker deems its occupant Carl H. Dewald, and there is evidence his family called him Carl, Jr. As for his physical appearance, *The Sporting News* in its November 5, 1892, issue refers to him as "the little southpaw." Three weeks later he was described by the same paper as having reddish gold "sunny" hair. While his exact

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## Co-Chairs' Corner

by Peter Mancuso

This Column of this Summer's, 2021 Newsletter is titled differently, for the first time since the Fall of 2007. The reason for that is that **Bob Bailey**, our Nineteenth Century Committee's former Vice-Chair

has graciously (and thankfully) accepted my invitation to become **Co-Chair** of our **Nineteenth Century Committee**. Bob has agreed to remain our steadfast Newsletter Editor, but his new title is a much better reflection of what has been his real role in our

Committee as it has evolved, particularly over these past several years. Now, my "secret weapon" is no longer a secret. We are full partners in the leadership of our Committee, with among our "aging priorities," an

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## Charley DeWald (cont.)

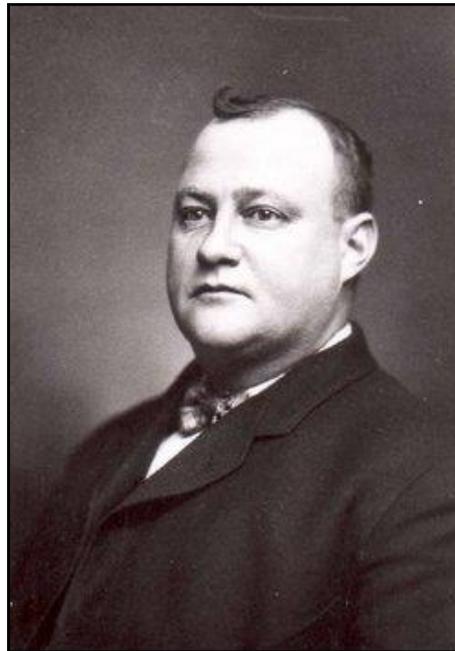
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height and weight are unknown, we speculate from what scant evidence there is that he probably batted right, had good control, was a ground ball pitcher and was an excellent all-around player. Most of all, we would give a ton to learn for certain why he never again pitched in the majors after his brief but meteoric entrance in 1890.

In September of 1890, after New York-Pennsylvania League's year ended, Dewald joined the Cleveland Players League club in Brooklyn after posting a 23-6 record with Jamestown, New York, that season and leading the NYPL in strikeouts and lowest Opponents' Batting Average (as per the January 10, 1891, *The Sporting News*). He proceeded to make his first PL appearance a day or two later on September 20 at Brooklyn in the second game of a doubleheader against the second-place Ward's Wonders. Caught by lefty backstopper Sy Sutcliffe, he topped Brooklyn's ace, Gus Weyhing, 4-3. Five days later, at Boston, he was again caught by Sutcliffe as he cruised past Ad Gumbert of the pennant-winning Boston Reds, 10-4. Both games went only seven innings before they were called by darkness. Of the seven runs that Dewald allowed only one was earned, enabling him to finish both the season and the major league portion of his career with a 0.64 ERA.

The previous year, split between Dayton and Wheeling, Dewald had been reckoned the best pitcher in the 1889 Tri-State League by *The Sporting News* before leaving the latter team in August to attend to family affairs

in Cleveland, his adopted hometown. Supporting this judgment is a note from the January 8, 1893, *Pittsburgh Post*, that Frank Killen, considered by many to be the top southpaw in the game in



Charley DeWald  
In his post-playing days

the 1890s, had his first foray into professional baseball short circuited in 1889 after hurling an early season exhibition game for Dayton when he was "sent home without being given a trial" in favor of Dewald whom Dayton rated the more promising of the pair. Yet, in spite of the little lefty's two stellar seasons to date, in the winter of 1891, after the Players League disbanded, the February 21 *The Sporting News* reported that to the shock of Cleveland pundit Charles Mears the Spiders, Cleveland's National League entry, had let the free agent Dewald sign elsewhere for the coming season without even

giving him a second look. Mears promised Cleveland would live to regret it as Dewald was destined to become "a daisy of a pitcher." Over the next three seasons the left-hander fulfilled Mears's prophecy, starring everywhere he went. If there was a criticism of him, it was that he never stayed any one place very long. . After spending 1891 with Sioux City of the Western Association and posting an impressive 19-12 ledger for the weak-hitting Corn Huskers, in 1892 he appeared with four different teams in three different leagues—the Western League, the Southern League and both the California summer and winter leagues with Oakland and San Jose, respectively--and won a combined total of 24 games. When Dewald finished the 1893 season with Erie, the Eastern League champion under Charlie Morton, after beginning it in the Southern League with Billy Murray's Atlanta club, he could boast that he had pitched on three pennant winners in three different minor leagues in his five pro seasons to date, missing only in 1889 and 1891.

Mears meanwhile could boast in the March 4, 1894, *The Sporting News* that "{Pat} Tebeau {Cleveland's manager} finally took my advice" and signed Dewald for 1894. Before Mears's scoop appeared, however, an Atlanta writer, Charles LaMar, had warned in the February 17, 1894, *The Sporting News*, that: "Dewald is a striking example of a pitcher possessing skill and cleverness without a heart as big as a mustard seed in point of gameness." But Mears countered by pointing out that the pitcher was dissed by LaMar for having tried unsuccessfully

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## Charley DeWald (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

ly to finagle his release in the spring of 1893 from Atlanta by feigning a sore arm so that he could return to the California League, where he had shone the previous year. Amplifying Mears's rave reviews, a Cleveland correspondent announced in *Sporting Life's* March 17 edition: "Dewald's friends in the city are wildly enthusiastic over his action in signing a Cleveland contract. Charley is stout and heavy, but hard at work in a local gymnasium, and will be ready for hard work."

Tebeau ultimately agreed with Mears and kept Dewald on the Cleveland roster when the 1894 campaign began but used him only in exhibition games before "loaning" him to Erie in May. Two months later Dewald was recalled by the Spiders but again only to pitch batting practice and exhibitions until early August when he was loaned to the Cleveland Athletic Club for a grudge game against its Detroit counterpart. Even though he won 1-0 over a strong Detroit AC team, he remained on the Spiders' bench along with Frank Knauss, another former highly touted hurler, because Tebeau was still convinced Cleveland had a shot at the 1894 NL pennant and relied almost entirely on his two veteran stalwarts, Cy Young and Nig Cuppy. In early September, Dewald finally gave up the notion of ever playing for the Spiders in a league game that counted and jumped to the powerful independent Findlay Sluggers, an Ohio club that featured Black stars Bud Fowler and hometown product Grant "Home Run" Johnson. On the eve of Dewald's arrival, the September 15, 1894, *The Sporting News* stated the Sluggers sported a

72-10 record that included victories over several Western League and National League clubs.

The Sluggers reportedly eventually finished the 1894 season with 96 wins in 112 games. Dewald's personal record that year is unknown beyond that he hurled 10 games during his stay in Erie while on loan from Cleveland. There is no record of him ever pitching in a recognized professional league again after his last appearance with Erie, presumably before he skipped off to the Sluggers. Indeed the February 16, 1895, *Sporting Life* announced his release by Cleveland. Though the June 16, 1895, *Washington Post* claimed he had recently signed with Peoria of the Western Association, his name is not among those who appeared that season with the Class B Distillers.

By that time politics must have weighed more heavily on Dewald's mind than his fickle treatment by the national pastime especially after *The Sporting News* of October 19, 1895, announced "'Schwope' Dewald' had been elected the Democratic committeeman from the 22<sup>nd</sup> ward in Cleveland after previously, according to the June 27, 1895, *Sporting Life*, being selected as a "gold" delegate from Cuyahoga County to the Democratic State Convention. That summer *Sporting Life* had also taken notice from time to time that "Charley Dewald occasionally dons a false set of whiskers and picks up \$26 by pitching under assumed names (possibly Schwope was one) for 'country' clubs." Thus we know that baseball was still in his blood. But enough to offset his earlier disappointments at the hands of the Spiders and Tebeau? The March 28, 1896, *Sport-*

*ing Life* observed that Tebeau had written to Dewald offering him a chance to make the club that spring, but there was never any mention if Dewald even deigned to reply.

Just before the turn of the century Dewald was working as a bookkeeper when he married Nellie Gertrude Feiss on July 11, 1900. He later was a superintendent of cemeteries for the city of Cleveland until severe heart problems forced him to resign 18 months before his death of myocarditis at his Cleveland home on August 22, 1904.

So ends this rather somber tale of a pitcher good enough to beat arguably the two best teams in the three major leagues in 1890 and then, after years of flirting with the Cleveland National League team, good enough to appear in the Spiders' team pictures in 1894. Yet somehow not good enough to ever be allowed to take the mound in an official National League game. Was it because his ticker in spirit was really no bigger than a mustard seed? A character flaw so grave that no family newspapers of the day dared report on it? With so much evidence to the contrary, we might conclude that Charley Dewald, at age 27, simply decided to lick his baseball wounds and cast his future in local politics, perhaps because he was already sensing it would be an abbreviated one owing to the early throes of the heart ailment that would claim him while still in the prime of life.



## Co-Chairs' Corner (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

eye out for the next (younger) leadership of this committee.

**Our Annual Business Meeting** has previously been announced several times this past June, via SABR Group Emails to our Committee Members, including the Meeting's Agenda. The meeting was held on Tuesday, evening, June 29, 2021, 8:00 Clock pm, ET via a Zoom Meeting. We wish to thank all that attended. Much, of what was discussed at our Annual Business Meeting is contained in the body of this newsletter, such as:

The latest **19cBB Grave Marker** dedication this Summer and our new Project Chair;

The full results of our **2021 Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Legends** election;

**The Complete Schedule** for our **19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Speakers Series, Season II** which will commence, Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 and run through May 2022;

**The Complete Program & Schedule and How to Register For our 2021 Brooklyn 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium**, November 13 & 14, 2021;

The latest report from our newest project committee, the **Orem Citation Project Committee**;

And, our much anticipated, **Return of the "Fred" to Cooperstown**: If you have not done so yet, please, mark your **2022** calendars. Our Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Conference will return to its'

original birthplace (2009) at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in "America's Perfect Village," Cooperstown, New York. I wish to thank the H.O.F. and our two caterers for committing to the Friday and Saturday of **April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>**. A "**Call for Research Presentation Abstracts**" will go out in mid-July of this summer. Registration will commence on or about January 1, 2022.

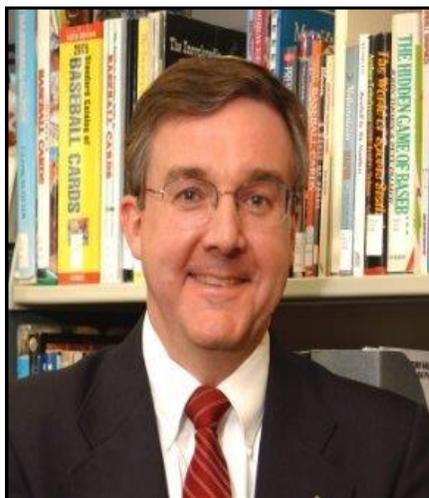
Of course, also included herein are our several research articles by our talented and generous Nineteenth Century Committee members.

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

## Jim Gates Receives 2021 Co-Chairs' Award

**J**im Gates, Librarian Emeritus of the Giamatti Library of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, in Cooperstown, NY has been named the recipient of the 2021 Co-Chairs' Award for service to our Nineteenth Century Committee.

Since our first 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Conference ("The Fred") in 2009, up through our planned 12<sup>th</sup> Annual "Fred" in 2020 at the Hall of Fame, **Jim Gates**, who is also a longtime member of SABR and our Committee has not only acted as the HOF's host of "The Fred," but has worked tirelessly to help our Committee build "The Fred" into an informative, fun and popular event.



Jim Gates

Despite his recent retirement and move to Florida, Jim Gates accepted our invitation to be the "Special Presenter" at our virtual "Fred" conference this past April. In doing so he assembled and delivered a blockbuster presentation on early baseball sheet music. He will receive a personalized, engraved, reproduction 1880's Burlingame Model Baseball Bat, as has been given to all past recipients of this award.

# Brazen Gamesmanship Backfires: An Egregious 19<sup>th</sup> Century Base Ball Episode

## July 25, 1893, Cleveland (37-29) at Cincinnati (34-38)

### By Dixie Tourangeau

Cleveland's game at Cincinnati on July 25, 1893, was completely irrelevant to the other 10 National League clubs. The Ohio rivals were ensconced in their fourth and sixth positions in the standings, and quivered very little for the next two months. Neither posed any legit threat to League leaders, defending champ Boston and Philadelphia and were merely playing for Buckeye State base ball bragging rights. (Cincinnati won six of 12 scheduled games, one rainout was never made up.)

Starting innocently on July 24, umpiring was the catalyst for all the shenanigans that occurred over two games. The Reds had been in St. Louis for a quick four-game series after spending a homebound 14-12-1 month. Veteran umpire John Jack McQuaid was assigned pitch-calling duties both at the end of the long home stand and in St. Louis and had returned to Cincy. But he took sick and couldn't leave his hotel on the 24<sup>th</sup>. National League president Nick Young had a contingency rule that allowed non-used players to umpire in certain situations, but the home club also had the prerogative to supply an outside umpire if he was approved by the opposition. When McQuaid couldn't work, Reds captain (for that series) thirdsacker Arlie Latham (.282), picked George Hogleiver to handle the game. Charlie Comiskey, manager-1b, was on the bench but was soon to leave town on a search for new talent in the south and had left the Reds reins to Latham. Young Cincinnati native

Hogleiver was on a self-imposed



George Hogleiver

leave from his Birmingham (Alabama) Southern League squad and had never been a diamond arbiter. Cleveland's feisty field boss Oliver Wendell "Patsy" Tebeau (.329, 1b-3b) said nothing about the choice. It was 90-plus degrees when the teams took the field, with Frank Dwyer (18-15, full season mark) pitching for the Reds and John Clarkson (16-17) for the Lake Erie frenemies.

Star Spider shortstop Ed McKean smacked a solo home-run in the first frame and by the seventh it was 3-3. In that fatal inning three clean hits and three McKean errors plated four Reds. The usually reliable infielder had five fumbles that afternoon, possibly McKean's worst defensive exhibition during his exemplary

career. In the eighth inning normalcy turned to chaos. Tebeau, now losing 7-3, then decided to show the telegram he had received from president Young saying that the managers could select players to umpire the game. Patsy wanted Hogleiver relieved; Latham countered that the request was ridiculous. Arguments ensued, tempers flared, the game stopped cold and eventually the police were called in to "assist" Tebeau back to his bench for the duration. Onlookers later claimed that novice Hogleiver had given the better of his calls to the plaintiff Spiders and that Dwyer simply outpitched Clarkson, which he had, allowing five hits to 11, not to mention McKean's fielding collapse. Enough decorum prevailed to finish the game at 7-3.

It was just as hot the next day, and hotter under Tebeau's uniform. Right from the outset he would not permit Hogleiver to be "behind the bat" a second time. Meanwhile president Young had ordered "Parisian" Bob Caruthers to be the umpire for July 25. Caruthers had been a fill-in ump twice in his career but was looking for work, playing just 13 May games (.292) for the Ohio's Queen City club and then basically retiring by May 20. His employment would replace that of Mike McLaughlin, who was dismissed from NL umpiring duties the week before. But

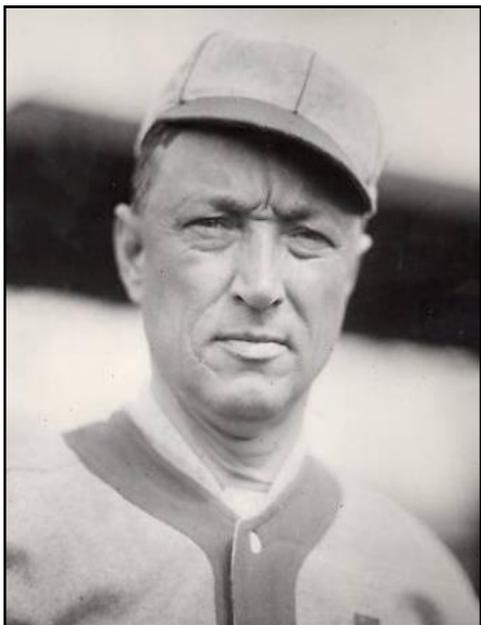
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## Brazen Gamesmanship Backfires (cont.)

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Caruthers, a 10-year vet who twice won 40 games, didn't show up and that gave Tebeau a perfect reason to decree that players would umpire the contest.

Bad feelings from the day before quickly stoked the ball yard with needless vitriol and in the end Patsy got his wish. He select-



Jimmie McAleer

ed his clever-fielding, seldom-hitting, flychaser Jimmie McAleer (.237, 70% playing time) while Latham opted for his winning hurler Dwyer. Each would judge balls and strikes when his team was hitting. The other man was responsible for base decisions on the clear, sweltering afternoon.

What could possibly go wrong?

It would be unconscionable for the author to egotistically write about this game and inadvertently douse the tonal fire of the local media. So, submitted for your approval, the hometown *Cincin-*

*nati Inquirer's* own 19<sup>th</sup> century style and lingo in reporting on this contest because it was so spot-on, with seemingly little expected bias and paragraphs containing justifiable, colorful sidebar comments and common truths. Sit back and pretend you are having breakfast while reading about yesterday's wild game at Findlay and Western. The pitching box adversaries were Big Mike Sullivan (then 5-6, on a 0-3 negative trend for the 5-7 Reds in their last dozen) and Cy Young (18-11, who had a 4-0 run for the 7-5 Spiders). Spoiler alert: there were 13 hits and 16 mayhem-inducing walks but only seven base runners scored. Despite being mired in the sudden economic downturn sparked by the Panic of 1893, some in attendance at League Park likely wished they had spent their entertainment dollars on travel to the World's Fair, the spectacular Columbian Exposition, some 260 miles northwest in Chicago's man-made "White City."

*INQUIRER* Headlines: BLOOD RAW. Patsy Tebeau Beaten at His Own Tactics. There Will Be an Umpire for This Afternoon's Games. "It wasn't base-ball that the 1,464 spectators at the Cincinnati Park saw yesterday afternoon.

"It would be a libel on the grandest of all outdoor sports to call such an exhibition as that put up by the Reds and Spiders a base-ball contest. It was a noisy, ill-timed, disgusting and disgraceful brawl. It was a mouth-to-mouth, knock-down argument between two partisan umpires, with a pandemonium finale, with eight-

een players quarreling and tongue-lashing each other and the spectators in a turmoil of excitement. It is a little short of miraculous that the game did not wind up in a riot.

For once in his life Tebeau, who prides himself on winning games by bulldozing and highwayman's tactics, was outgeneraled at his



Frank Dwyer

own game. The Reds were forced to get down on his level. It was either stand by and be robbed or fight the devil. This state of affairs was all due to Nick Young's emergency double umpire system and the greediness of the Cleve-

lands. Tebeau would not allow Hogreiver, who umpired such a good game the day before, to again don the mask. Dwyer was to rule on balls and strikes when the Reds were at bat while McAleer was to look after the base decisions. When the Cleve-

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## Brazen Gamesmanship Backfires (cont.)

*(Continued from page 6)*

lands were on the inside, the umpires were to change places. “As the Reds took the outs, McAleer had the first chance. The second man up was (Jesse) Burkett and he came to the plate intent on getting his base on balls. Sullivan put one ball after another across the plate, but McAleer refused to allow them. He sent Burkett to first on balls, when Sullivan and others who were in a position to see just how the balls were delivered claim that he was honestly struck out. This base on balls resulted in a run. “When the Reds came in for their turn at the bat Dwyer had a chance to even up on the bases with (Cy) Young. He gave two men bases on balls but claims they were justly entitled to them. Young and other members of the Clevelands claimed it was unjust. The bases on balls together with three clean hits netted the Reds three runs.

For a while both umpires did fairly well, and gave their decisions as they saw them without showing any partisan feeling. The Reds held their lead up to the fifth, when Burkett got another base on balls. Sullivan again insisted he was not entitled to it. This together with two hits netted the visitors two runs and tied the score. “Then it was a fight for the winning run. McAleer sent men to bases on balls in every inning after this, while Dwyer sent but one. ...In the ninth inning, before the Reds came in for their turn at bat, McAleer had sent eight men (actually nine) to first

on balls, while only five (four) of the Reds had reached by that means.

“(The Circus Resumes) In the Reds final half ... (Jim) Canavan was given his base on balls. Germany Smith bunted a ball down the first base line. Tebeau came in on the ball and picked it up. He struck at Smith to tag him as he passed and hit him rather hard on the arm. The jostle knocked the ball out of Tebeau’s hand and it rolled out past first base. Smith kept at first, while Canavan reached third. Cincinnati patrons were now jubilant. After the cheering had died out, what was everybody’s surprise and disgust to hear (sic) McAleer decide Smith out at first and order Canavan to return to second. There was a great howl. Latham refused to comply with this unjust and unheard-of decision. The Clevelands refused to go on with the game. McAleer had supreme control of the base decisions and had the best of it. Latham finally came to the conclusion that he would have to submit. He ordered Canavan back to second, but Canavan would not go. A fifteen-minute squabble continued. “All this time Latham had been figuring on a scheme to treat the Clevelands to a dose of their own medicine. Canavan was induced to return to second, and Dwyer then paid Cleveland in their own coin. He sent (Morgan) Murphy to his base on balls (some were strikes) and did the same with Sullivan and the bases were filled. (Jack) O’Conner threw the ball to (Cupid) Childs who touched Murphy standing squarely on the bag. McAleer declared him out. It was a bald-headed decision and Mur-

phy would not leave the bag. The Clevelands left their positions, the Reds stuck to theirs. Finally the Clevelands returned and Young threw the ball to Tebeau who pushed Sullivan off the base and touched him. McAleer called Sullivan out but no one paid any attention. The Clevelands again stopped playing but then resumed. (Frank “Piggy”) Ward (.280), instead of waiting for his base on balls as instructed, hit down to Childs, and Canavan was thrown out at the plate. “(Lead off man) Latham came to the bat. He fouled off two pitches and then deliberately got in front of a pitched ball. He was hit on the thigh and trotted down to first forcing the winning run (Murphy) across the plate. The Reds had won the game by questionable means, but after the Clevelands had opened the gate there was no other way to do it.”

### BASE-BALL GOSSIP

(Adjacent *Enquirer* column)  
“Ordinarily the means adopted by the Cincinnati to win yesterday’s game would call for condemnation and severe censure. Under the circumstances the team was justified in resorting to measures, no matter how severe, to attain victory. [Thirty-six game-descriptive lines later]... Every one of the three runs made by the visitors were gifts from McAleer and it wouldn’t do for the home team to be robbed on its own grounds without taking a stand for its rights. Everybody endorsed Dwyer’s action.”

### EPILOGUE

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Brazen Gamesmanship Backfires (cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

CLEVELAND Media. Two hundred miles north the loser's news outlets were also unhappy with the embarrassing play. "A ROARING FARCE, Stealing on Both Sides" blared the *Plain Dealer*. "It was a burlesque in which the star roles were played by the subs who acted as umpires. All that the autocrats of the diamond needed were sandbags, but they played their little game of knock down and drag out very well without weapons. All the life and action was (sic) furnished by the two gentlemen delegated per order of your Uncle Nicodemus to sort over balls and strikes." It added, "...when the ninth inning commenced every one of the six runs then equally divided could be charged to umpirical (sic) errors." *The Leader* had this headline, "NOT BASE BALL, But Disgraceful Fraud Under the Name of Base Ball." It took time to quote the angry crowd chant, "Give the robbers some of their own medicine," and noted, "every ball that Dwyer called was cheered." In a glitch of stat transmission the box scores in the Cleveland press were reversed as to the walks allowed, charging Cy with nine and Sully with only seven.

*CINCINNATI POST*. The other home paper was terse but direct. "TABLES TURNED. Patsy Tebeau and his gang of hoodlums have succeeded in getting away with many a strong-arm play but they swallowed a dose of their own bitter medicine Tuesday. Tebeau practiced one of the boldest and most open pieces of robbery

ever seen in base ball. This is not new to Tebeau, but Tuesday's work was so flagrant it is a miracle that the Cleveland Club was not mobbed.



Patsy Tebeau

George Hogreiver. Umpired the next day's single game when Charles "Silver" King beat George "Nig" Cuppy, 2-0 in six innings sweeping the Clevelands out of town. Also did Pittsburgh's 8-3 loss to the Reds the day after that. He never umpired another game but did play the outfield for Cincinnati in 1895 (.272). Veteran, multi-team catcher over 18 seasons, Charlie "Pop" Snyder, then took over plate duties for several games. Caruthers finally umped eight times in mid-August and then 193 games in 1902 -03."

Mike Sullivan. Lost five of his next six games, giving up nine runs on average. He had spastic control his

whole career (54-63) and normally walked four or more batters per outing. That July day he was charged with nine, one below his career high of 10, which happened in Baltimore, a game he won by allowing only five hits (7-5, Sept. 5, 1892). An ambitious and charismatic Bostonian, he went into politics after playing for the Beaneaters in 1899. He beat Louisville 7-6 on August 18, the only game he pitched that season. A sudden replacement for Ted Lewis, Sully walked four, three in the first inning with his old pal Latham working home plate. Big Mike died suddenly on June 14, 1906.

Cy Young. Looking through 22 years of his pitching stats you will find that Ohio's "Cyclone" icon walked seven batters in a game only once in his career. He free-passed six, 10 times, mostly in his early years, but the "tainted" seven walks in this game was his high. Cy is charged forever with seven on the stat paper from which we now research his games. His arm and aim didn't walk that many, but the official record says he did. In the eighth inning of this infamous game, Young fanned John "Bid" McPhee (.281), Jim "Bug" Holliday (.310) and Henry "Farmer" Vaughn (.280) on 12 pitches, receiving a "vigorous round of applause" from the Porkopolis crowd. Those were his only strikeouts.

Jimmie McAleer. This was the only game he ever umpired. After his playing days (.253) he managed Cleveland, St. Louis

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## Brazen Gamesmanship Backfires (cont.)

*(Continued from page 8)*

and Washington over 11 years, and later became a crafty baseball executive in Boston before being ousted because of questionable dealings. McAleer was a Youngstown, OH, native. He fell ill with cancer and committed suicide there in April 1931. His belligerent manager Tebeau, a saloon owner in his native St. Louis late in life, died via a self-induced pistol shot in May 1918.

Frank Dwyer. The righty hurler finished up in 1899 (177-151, 10 solid campaigns) and made it as an umpire for three seasons (1899-1901-1904). He ran a successful

coal business for a half century and was a New York State Boxing Commissioner for several years. He was from the western Massachusetts, Berkshire town of Lee. Trying to wipe a bit of the dishonest smudge from Dwyer's performance, the *Inquirer* had this sidebar comment. "Dwyer is one of the most honest, conscientious players in the profession. He is a Christian and attends church twice a day every Sunday. He umpired yesterday's game up until the ninth inning to the best of his ability. He did not favor the Reds or give the Cleveland

the worst of it wittingly until McAleer deliberately robbed the Reds of a chance for scoring by declaring Smith out at first and sending Canavan back to second. This was too much to stand and it is no wonder he lost his head and favored the Reds in the wind-up."

*This glimpse of 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball could not have been exhumed and written about without the informational assistance of Retrosheet.org, Newspapers.com, Genealogybank.com newspapers and Cassidy Lent at the National Baseball Library.*

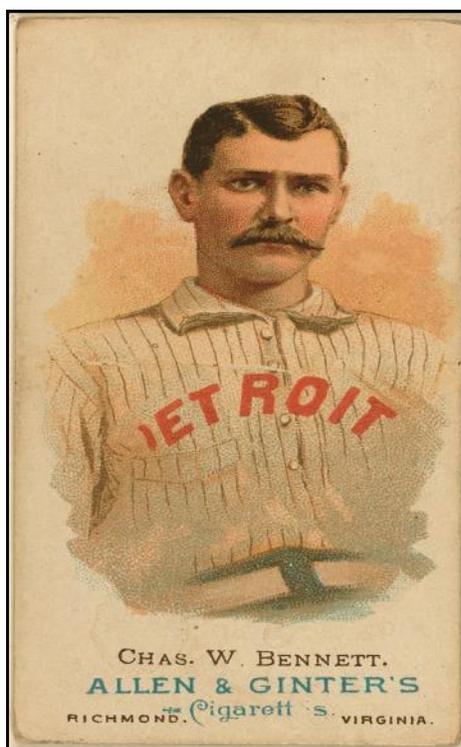
## Charlie Bennett 2021 Overlooked Legend

by Adam Darowski

Charles Wesley "Charlie" Bennett has been selected as SABR's Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend for 2021. The announcement was made on Tuesday, June 29 at the Nineteenth Century Committee's annual business meeting, held virtually through Zoom.

In the Spring, a record-tying total of 341 SABR members submitted their votes for the 2021 Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend — a 19th-century player, manager, executive or other baseball personality not yet inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Previous Overlooked Legends were Pete Browning in 2009, Deacon White in 2010, Harry Stovey in 2011, Bill Dahlen in 2012, Ross Barnes in 2013, Doc Adams in



Charlie Bennett  
1888

2014, Tony Mullane in 2015, Jack Glasscock in 2016, Bob Caruthers in 2017, Dummy Hoy in 2018, Jim Creighton in 2019, and Bud Fowler last year. White became the first Overlooked Legend to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2013.

Bennett was one of the greatest catchers of the nineteenth century, starring for the Detroit Wolverines in the National League (and playing every season of the franchise's existence). He was a powerful hitter who often ranked among the leaders in home runs and slugging percentage while finishing in the top 10 in bases on balls six times. His .256 batting average was below the league average, but his .340 on-base percentage and .387 slugging percentage were both well above average.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Charlie Bennett— 2021 OLL (cont.)

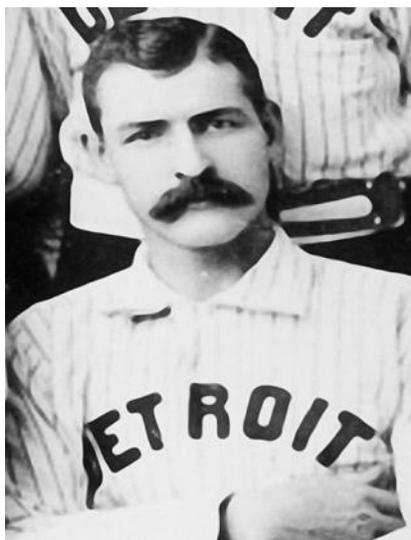
*(Continued from page 9)*

Bennett, a leader on the field, also provided stellar defense behind the plate. He led NL catchers in fielding percentage seven times, putouts three times, and ranked in the top five in games caught 10 times. He caught Lee Richmond's perfect game on June 12, 1880, the first perfect game in professional baseball history. Bennett was also an innovator in the use of equipment by popularizing the use of a chest protector and the catcher's mitt. He is credited with inventing the chest protector in 1883 when he wore a cork pad to protect himself from foul tips. He deflected much of the credit for the innovation to his wife, Alice, who was in constant worry of her husband being a target for the speed merchants of his day.

While traveling on a hunting trip with John Clarkson during the offseason in 1894, Bennett suffered a terrible train accident and lost both of his legs. He ended his career with the most games caught in history with 954. In 1896, Detroit's new ballpark (Bennett Park) was named after the city's beloved hero. Bennett

caught the ceremonial first pitch at the stadium every year from 1896 until 1926.

Bennett also stands out from a



Charlie Bennett

sabermetric perspective. He has a very impressive wins above replacement (WAR) total of [38.8](#) despite playing in only 1,062 games. While he was a very strong hitter (76 batting runs above average), his 136 fielding runs above average are [second all-time among catchers](#) (behind Ivan Rodriguez's 147). When you consider that Rodriguez played 2,543 games,

Bennett's total looks even better. Gary Carter, Gabby Hartnett, and Charlie Bennett are the only three catchers in history with [75+ batting runs and 75+ fielding runs](#).

Bennett was an Overlooked Legend finalist from 2015 to 2021, finishing as runner-up in 2020. Here are the final election results, with their point totals:

Charlie Bennett: 563 points  
 Chris Von der Ahe: 494  
 Bobby Mathews: 449  
 Al Reach: 444  
 George Stovey: 440  
 Tommy Bond: 391  
 Jim McCormick: 372  
 George Van Haltren: 372  
 Grant Johnson: 341  
 Paul Hines: 258  
 Cal McVey: 254  
 Lave Cross: 248  
 Joe Start: 184  
 Mike Tiernan: 131  
 Jack Stivetts: 68

For an extended biography of Charlie Bennett see [his SABR bio](#) written by Paul Hofmann and Joe Williams

## News & Notes

-Starting this coming September 2021 and running through May 2022, we will resume our 19cBB Speakers Series on the second Tuesday of each of those nine months. Each Research Presentation of 45-50 minutes will again

be given on-line via a Zoom Meeting at 8:pm ET (7:pm CT; 6:pm MT and 5:pm PT). A link to the Zoom Meeting will be sent to all Nineteenth Century Committee Members on the preceding day (a Monday) for the Tuesday presenta-

tions. Here is the line-up of the presenters and their topic titles for Season II. Sept. 14, 2021, **Bruce Allardice**- "Baseball in the Wild West;" Oct. 12, 2021, **Michael Haupt**- "William

*(Continued on page 11)*

## News & Notes (cont.)

(Continued from page 10)

Hulbert and the Birth of the Business of Baseball;" Nov. 9, 2021, **Larry Phillips**- "The Beginnings of Baseball in Cincinnati;" Dec. 14, 2021, **Rob Bauer**- "The Decline and Fall of the American Association;" Jan. 11, 2022, **Alan Cohen**- "Never on a Sunday: Baseball and the Sabbath;" Feb. 8, 2022, **Monica Nucciarone**- "Alexander Cartwright: The Life and the Baseball Legacy;" Mar. 8, 2022, **Dennis Thiessen**- "Tip O'Neill: Champion Batsman of 1887;" Apr. 12, 2022, **Terry Bohn**- "Bushels of Fun: Early Baseball in the Black Hills;" and May 10, 2022, **Eric Frost**- "Arthur Irwin: The Crazy Life and Crazier Death of a Forty-Year Baseball Man"

-Philadelphia Chapter Co-Chair, Matthew Albertson set up a Go-fundme for the 1871 Philadelphia Athletics historical marker. This will be part of Dave Stalker's (also a Nineteenth Century Committee Member) Baseball Memorial Series and the first to be placed in Philadelphia.

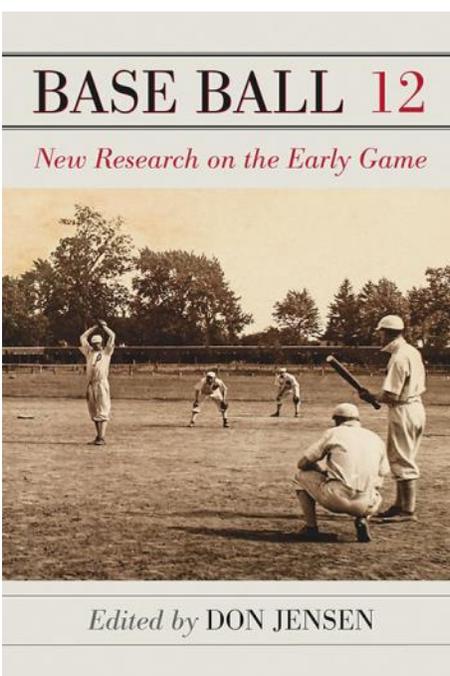
Matt is currently in conversation with the Athletic Recreation Center and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation to gain permission to place the marker at the Athletic Recreation Center, which sits on part of the old Jefferson Street Grounds. This is the same location where Matt dedicated the Jefferson Street Ballparks Pennsylvania Historical Marker in September 2017. Ideally they will be able to place the marker near one of the baseball diamonds at the recreation center where local youth baseball is being played.

The marker itself is on order and Dave and Matt aim to dedicate it

sometime in late summer/early autumn. The reason for their ambitious dedication date this year is to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the team's championship (the 19th century Philadelphia Athletics were the first champions of the National Association's inaugural season). Considering the timing of the anniversary in relation to the pandemic, They are hoping for 150 individuals to donate \$20 to the cause. Of course they won't discourage larger donations but they understand that money in this time can be tight.

We hope our Nineteenth Century Committee members will be able to contribute to this historic marker for this historic team. Here is the link to the Go-fundme site:

1871 Philadelphia Athletics historical marker Go-fundme: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/1871-philadelphia-athletics-historical-marker>



-Base Ball 12: New Research on the Early Game is available from McFarland Publishing. Order at: <https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/base-ball-12/>

-SABR's Origins Committee has issued their May 2021 Newsletter. It is chocked-full of all sorts of pre1871 base ball items. You can find it at file:///C:/Users/Owner/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(DESKTOP-6P527JD)/Downloads/SABR-Origins\_Cmte-newsletter-2021-05%20(2).pdf

-SABR has provided another member benefit with the addition of access to Newspapers.com. This site gives researchers access to a wide range of large city and small town newspapers. Check it out at: <https://profile.sabr.org/general/custom.asp?page=research-resources>.

-Recently published is *The Lost Art of Baseball Humor (1860-1900)*. This is an off-beat, annotated collection of humorous 19th Century baseball writing, embellished with period baseball illustrations and cartoons. Order at: <https://www.amazon.com/Lost-Art-Baseball-Humor/dp/1929763816>.

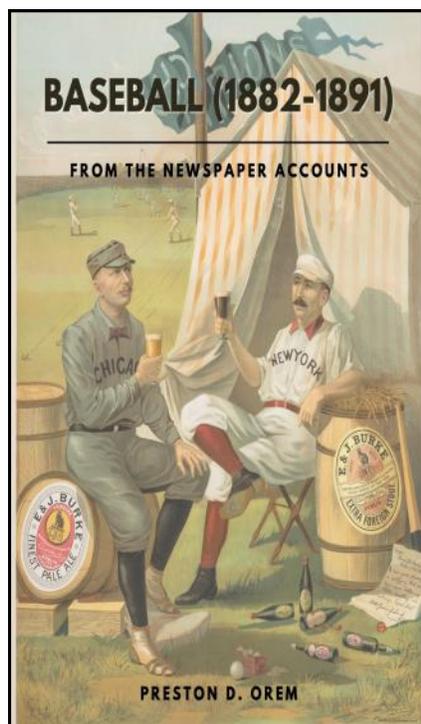
-The quarterly Beg-A-Thon continues seeking Newsletter articles. It's summer, it's hot outside, so repair to the comfort of air conditioning and bang out that article you have been meaning to submit for the past two years. Your humble editor will be ever so grateful. Forward in a Word document format to: [bobbailey@cox.net](mailto:bobbailey@cox.net).

You'll be glad you did.

## Orem Citation Project Report

by Bob LeMoine

A few of us have taken on the task of locating the original sources contained in the research of Preston D. Orem. His 19th century baseball research, [now available to us](#) courtesy of John Thorn and Bob Bailey, has assisted researchers for decades, particularly those living in the dark ages before the Internet. Our task is to improve upon his original work by providing citations to his direct quotes. We have so many resources available today which Orem, who depended on scrolling through microfilm, did not. Many of us are familiar with historical newspaper digitization web-



sites, such as those provided by SABR and others available on the Internet. If you like hunting through sites like these, then this is the project for you! At last check, our team had 26 pages of (mostly) completed citations, going chapter by chapter through Orem's work. Some are easy; others painfully frustrating. If you would like to jump on board, let me know. There are plenty of chapters no one has yet claimed. We work independently with no hard deadline, so this might be a fun summer excursion for someone who has a few days or a few hours free. Drop me an email if you are interested or would like to know more. My e-mail address is: [librarybobl@gmail.com](mailto:librarybobl@gmail.com).

## 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Grave Marker Project Report

by Ralph Carhart

The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Grave Marker Project is excited to announce the dedication of their latest stone, for Luis "Jud" Castro, will be July 20, 2021 at Mount St. Mary Cemetery in Flushing, Queens. A semipro standout in the northeast during the final years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Castro, born in Medellin, Colombia, has the distinction of being the first Latino to play in the Majors, when he made his debut for the Philadelphia Athletics on April 23, 1902. His arrival was a portent of the future of professional baseball. Today, roughly 30% of Major League rosters are made up of Latinos. In attendance at the dedication

will be John Thorn, official historian of Major League Baseball, as well as State Senator Jessica Ramos, New York's first Colombian-American Senator. Check in at the SABR website for more details soon.

After five years at the head of the 19<sup>th</sup>CBGMP, project chair Ralph Carhart is stepping down to make time for some of his other SABR passions. We are pleased to introduce Sam Gazdziak, the Project's new incoming chairman. Sam is a member of the Magnolia (Georgia) Chapter of SABR and a contributor to the SABR Bio Project. He is also the writer for RIPBaseball.com and writes obituaries for recently deceased ballplayers, as well as stories about the baseball-related gravesites he's visited.

Sam's already at work on the next target for the Project, attempting to secure approval for a marker for Ned Williamson. Williamson, who held the record for most home runs in a season with 27 (until a fellow named Ruth came along) died on March 3, 1894 in Arkansas, while recuperating from a number of ailments. He was just 36 years old and is buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago. If you know of a 19th Century ballplayer, executive or pioneer who has an unmarked or badly deteriorated grave, please send an email to [samgazdziak@gmail.com](mailto:samgazdziak@gmail.com) and let us know! We are working to compile a list of candidates for future projects.

# **Brooklyn 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium to Feature Professor Thomas J Campanella of Cornell University, Author of “Brooklyn: The Once and Future City” and John Thorn, MLB’s Official Historian**

We are most pleased and excited to have **Dr. Thomas J. Campanella**, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and City Planning at Cornell University and Historian-in-Residence of the New York City Parks Department give our Keynote Interdisciplinary Address and, to have our own, distinguished member, **John Thorn**, the Official Historian of Major League Baseball provide the Welcoming Address at our virtual 2021 Brooklyn 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium.

**Professor Campanella** is the author of several books: *Republic of Shade; The Concrete Dragon*; and most significant to this symposium, *Brooklyn: The Once and Future City*, which is “An unprecedented history of Brooklyn, told through its places, buildings, and the people who made them, from the early seventeenth century to today.” This year’s 19<sup>th</sup> century city-specific symposium’s coordinator, **Tom Gilbert**, having read Professor Campanella’s book is delighted to have him speak about Brooklyn’s mid-19<sup>th</sup> century development and environment and how it may have interfaced with our growing National Pastime.

**John Thorn**, who will speak early in the day’s schedule, will do what he has so effectively done at three of our last four symposiums with his Welcoming remarks; that is, to put us on the right track to take in all of what is to follow. Thorn is hardly new to the origins of the “New York Game” having authored the highly regarded, *Baseball in the Garden of Eden: The Secret History of the Early Game*. He might be the first to tell us of Brooklyn’s indelible mark on baseball as we know it.

**“Was Brooklyn the Actual Birthplace of Baseball?”** (Which is the title for our Symposium’s afternoon Panel Discussion) just a rhetorical or trick question? Don’t try to answer that, however, until you have had the opportunity to hear and pondered all that will be presented on **Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:45am to 5:45pm Eastern Time**. Then, come back on-line the following day, **Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm ET** for a virtual 60-90 pre recorded video tour of Brooklyn’s historic baseball places, with producer and host, Tom Gilbert.

There are Thorn’s Welcoming remarks and Professor Campanella’s Keynote Address; our Panel Discussion featuring David Dyte, Tom Gilbert and Bill Ryczek; and four Research Presentations by: Ralph Carthart, Brian Sheehy, Tom Gilbert and Justin McKinney.

All combined the 2021 Brooklyn 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium the fifth in our city-specific series, should be a day of learning and fun, and through the meeting’s chat button, an opportunity to exchange questions and comments among both presenters and symposium attendees. Please, see the following pages for the Program & Schedule, Further Details and How to Register for this virtual symposium and tour. You must pre-register.

**Program & Schedule**  
**2021 Brooklyn 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball**  
**Interdisciplinary Symposium**  
**Saturday, November 14, 2021 via SABR**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Saturday, November 13, 2021, 11:45am ET (10:45 CT, 9:45  
MT, 8:45PT)**

**11:45 – 1200 – Login**

**12:00 – 12:10 – Welcome, Peter Mancuso, Bob Bailey & Tom Gilbert**

**12:10- 12:40 – Research Presentation, Ralph Carhart – “A Perfect Marriage (19<sup>th</sup> century Brooklyn Baseball and Newspapers)**

**12:40 – 1:20 – Welcoming Address, John Thorn**

**1:20 – 1:30 – Pause & Break**

**1:30 – 2:00 – Research Presentation, Brian Sheehy – “When Brooklyn Showed Boston How to Play: The 1860s Tours of Brooklyn and Boston”**

**2:00 – 2:30 – Research Presentation, Tom Gilbert – “The First Baseball Fans”**

**2:30 – 3:00 – Pause and Break for Lunch, on own**

**3:00 – 3:40 – Keynote Address: Dr. Thomas J. Campanella, Prof. of History, Cornell, University; author of, “Brooklyn: The Once and Future City”**

**3:40 – 3:50 – Pause & Break**

**3:50 – 4:50 – Panel Discussion, “Was Brooklyn the Actual Birthplace of Baseball”: Moderator, Ralph Carhart; Panelists: David Dyte, Tom Gilbert and Bill Ryczek.**

**4:50 – 5:00 – Pause & Break**

**5:00 – 5:30 – Research Presentation, Justine McKinney – “The Original Bums: Tracking Down the Atlantics of 1875”**

**5:30 – 5:40 – Closing Comments**

**Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm- 2:pm ET (11:30am, CT; 10:30am, MT; 9:30am,PT) Virtual Zoom Tour of Historic Brooklyn Baseball Places**

# How to Register for the 2021 Brooklyn Virtual 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium



John Thorn is the Official Historian of Major League Baseball. He is the author of books on baseball including *Baseball in the Garden of Eden*, *The Hidden Game of Baseball*, along with producing the various volumes of *Total Baseball*. John is a long-time SABR member and co-founder of the Nineteenth Century Baseball Committee. He received SABR's Bob Davids Award in 2006.



Tom Campanella is an urbanist and historian with a keen interest in landscape, place and the built environment. He splits his time between the Brooklyn neighborhood where he grew up and Ithaca, NY, where he is a professor at Cornell University and director of the Urban and Regional Studies Program. Campanella also currently serves as Historian-in-Residence of the NYC Parks Department.

To receive the Zoom Meeting Links on your email for both the Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> (main symposium program) and the Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> (ninety-minute virtual historic tour) for yourself and up to three additional guests be prepared to supply the name, address, telephone number and, most importantly, a Zoom Meeting compatible email address for yourself and each additional person you wish to register. Registration closes Thursday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, midnight local time.

Also have your VISA, MC or Discover Card information available. The Registration Fee is \$15.00 per person. This is a flat fee for both Saturday's and Sunday's events (there is no individual daily fee). The Link to Zoom Meeting for the Brooklyn Symposium will be emailed to you on Friday, November 12, 2021.

Hope you will join in. When you are ready to register, go to the following link:  
<https://profile.sabr.org/events/register.aspx?id=1528947>