

# NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

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SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

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

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## Mystery-man Thompson on the 1882 Philadelphia League Alliance Team

by David Matchett

**Y**ou may remember a 1970s crime show called Columbo starring Peter Falk as a Los Angeles homicide detective. This series was the opposite of a whodunit; the audience saw the commission of the crime and identified the guilty party by the opening credits. The joy of the show was urging on the unknowing police officer as he unraveled the mystery and exposed the perpetrator . In an homage to Det. Columbo I will reveal

the answer first then build my case.

The puzzle is to find the identity of an enigmatic player named Thompson who appeared in a handful of games for the 1882 League Alliance team from Philadelphia.

The solution is John Parkinson "Tug" Thompson.

From 1877 through 1882 the National League was not represented in the nation's two largest cities. The unveiling of the American Association forced the hands of the League's executives and

plans were made to groom teams from New York and Philadelphia to join in 1883. Sporting goods entrepreneur Al Reach, a former player himself, ran the Philadelphia team in 1882 and they played over 140 games. Almost half of these were exhibition games against National League teams.

Twenty men played for the Philadelphias and most of them enjoyed at least a cup of coffee in the Major Leagues. Finding an adequate catcher,

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## Chairman's Corner by Peter Mancuso

**T**he 2020 Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference is still on hold until 2021 (April 23 & 24) at its usual venue, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY. Also, rescheduled to that time frame are our tradi-

tional optional dining events, the Friday evening, Welcoming Dinner at Templeton Hall and our Saturday evening, Post Conference Gathering at the Otesaga Hotel. Remaining in place are all ninety-three pre-paid registrations and the confirmed choices (or assignments) of their six research presenta-

tions offered among the twelve double tracked choices provided, which were filled on a first come, first served basis. These choices (or assignments) were communicated to the registrants at the time their registrations were received and confirmed. The only

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## Mystery-man Thompson (cont.)

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however, was an issue as Robert Warrington reported in his Baseball Research Journal article in 2019 *Philadelphia in the League Alliance* “The position that proved most vexing for Reach to fill was catcher. The club experimented with nine different players at the position during the season, all of whom displayed various shortcomings.”

The team’s roster in Baseball Reference lists a mysterious person simply named Thompson and, as we’ll see later, he was one of the nine players to try his hand at catching. This Thompson’s Overview page on the same site shows no biographical information nor any additional playing experience. Even his name is incomplete.

Who is this person?

Contemporaneous publications were reviewed to solve the riddle.

Thompson’s first appearance for Philadelphia was in a game played on August 9 at home versus a team from Atlantic City. Thompson caught and contributed a single and a run scored in Philadelphia’s victory. The local newspapers noted that this game was his debut: “Thompson made his first appearance with the Philadelphias...”. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*).

He played again the next day and appeared in a total of six games for Philadelphia. Consistent with the team’s season-

long revolving door for their backstops The *Philadelphia Sunday Item* reported Thompson was released by the Philadelphia club on Wednesday August 23, two days after his last game and a mere two weeks after his debut with the team. He failed to impress either at or behind the bat and his final statistics included five hits in 23 at bats (.217 average), 45 putouts, three assists, nine errors (.842 fielding average) and eight passed balls.



The 1882 American Association Cincinnati Team  
Long after Tug Thompson was released

Where did Mr. Thompson come from, and where did he go?

Evidence about his origins appeared in the *New York Clipper* when he joined the Philadelphias: “Thompson, late of the Canadian Tecumsehs, made his first appearance with the Philadelphias...”.

The Tecumseh team was based in London, Ontario and a review of the local press found a fond adieu being bid to their local hero as he headed south of the border: “Mr. J. Thompson, who has distinguished himself behind the bat for the Tecumsehs of this city, left to-day to accept a similar posi-

tion for the remainder of the season with the Philadelphia Baseball Club.” (*London Advertiser*).

Thompson started the 1882 baseball season with an amateur team that played at least 16 games. Box scores for nine of them have been found and those summaries show Thompson appearing primarily as the catcher with a few games at third base. He also got into a game for a team from nearby Petrolia, Ontario on July 4 at Port Huron, Michigan,

and he caught for a picked nine who played against London on July 14. He even pulled off the neat trick of catching for both teams in a match between the 7<sup>th</sup> Band and the Philharmonic Society played in London on July 17.

The Tecumseh team doesn’t appear to have played any competitive games after July 27 and the team disbanded following a friendly game with a picked nine on August 3.

Many of the team’s players eventually wound up on the Major League roll with Curt Welch and Phil Powers having the longest careers. Other big leaguers on the roster were Bill Mountjoy, Billy Reid, James Pirie, Stephen Dunn and Jon Morrison.

After leaving Philadelphia *The London Advertiser* welcomed Thompson back home and revealed his next assignment: “John Thompson, London’s famous catcher, just returned from a short engagement with the Philadelphias, has accepted an excel-

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## Mystery-man Thompson (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

lent offer to play with the Cincinnati team for the remainder of the season. He left yesterday.”

And the Fourth Estate in Cincinnati introduced him to the local cranks:

*“Thompson, the catcher of the Tecumsehs, of London, will join the Cincinnati at Louisville to catch, provided Snyder should get hurt, or Powers is not able to throw yet.” (Cincinnati Enquirer)*

Thompson debuted with the American Association’s Cincinnati team on August 31, playing center field. He caught exhibition games on September 1 and September 3 and then he sat on the bench until his release later in the month:

*“Thompson, who was brought to this city from London, Ont., to take Powers’ place while the latter was laid up, will return home on Monday next.” (Cincinnati Enquirer)*

Thompson played in the Northwestern League in 1883 and then he then joined Indianapolis of the American Association for 1884.

During that latter season the press of the cities for whose teams he played in 1882 acknowledged his return, first Cincinnati in May: *““Tug” Thompson, who was under engagement to the Cincinnati Club in 1882 for several months, and played “one consecutive” afternoon, is now with the Indianapolis Club.”*

And then Philadelphia in June:

*““Tug” Thompson, who caught a*

*few games for the Phillies in 1882 is catching now for the Indianapolis Club.”*

Thompson played his last game with Indianapolis on July 4, 1884 but that didn’t end his playing career. He spent a few seasons with teams in London and Hamilton, Ontario in the Canadian and International Leagues and finished up with a few games with Rochester of the International Association in 1888.

In the words of the memorable Detective Columbo, “...just one more thing”. After concluding my research I found another reference to Thompson playing with Philadelphia in 1882. The following is from *The Rank and File of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Major League Baseball* by David Nemec, published in 2012:

*“He was playing for the Tecumseh club in his home town of London, Ontario, in 1882. When the team collapsed Thompson journeyed to Philadelphia, hoping to play its Eastern Championship Association club. Beginning on August 12, he received a two-week trial but manager Billy Barnie reckoned the Canadian receiver a poor thrower and let him go when the time was up...when Philadelphia cut Thompson, Cincinnati signed him as a backup...”*

In summary:

-A player named John Thompson played with the Tecumseh of London in 1882,

-That team disbanded in early August 1882,

-Mr. Thompson from London then joined the League Alliance team in Philadelphia,

-Thompson appeared in six games for Philadelphia between August 9 and 21 then was released,

-He was signed almost immediately by Cincinnati of the American Association,

-He played a regular season game with Cincinnati on August 31 and exhibition games on September 1 and 3,

-He was released by Cincinnati no later than September 21, and

-When he was playing for Indianapolis in 1884 the Cincinnati and Philadelphia newspapers acknowledged his tenure with their local teams in 1882.

-This evidence points strongly to the conclusion that Thompson, who played for the Philadelphia League Alliance team in 1882, is John Parkinson “Tug” Thompson of London, Ontario.

In the words of one of Det. Columbo’s contemporaries: “Book ‘em, Danno”.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank my follow SABR members Bill Humber, Chip Martin, Justin Mckinney, Andrew North, Dennis Thiessen and Robert Warrington for their contributions and insights.



## Chairman's Corner (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

change at this point in the scheduled program is a substitution of topic and presenter for the Special Presentation that will shift to a detailed illustrated talk on the Hall of Fame's baseball sheet music collection, emphasizing 19<sup>th</sup> century pieces from the larger collection. As of late February, the 2020 "Fred," now to be presented in 2021, remains "sold-out." Therefore, anyone still hoping to attend in April of 2021 may contact me and request to be placed on the waiting list in the event of any registrant(s) cancellations. Currently, we have several names on the waiting list, so there is always a chance. The Winter 2021 newsletter will not offer open registration as normal for the "Fred" but will contain a refresher of the full program and schedule of the conference. Naturally, all registrants will receive the normal List of Registrants and other pre-conference instructions in the immediate weeks before the April 23-24 event.

**The 2020 Brooklyn (NY) 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Symposium** Program & Schedule and Registration Information materials would normally first appear in this issue of our newsletter, "Nineteenth Century Notes," which you are reading but, these are not "normal times." We still consider ourselves quite fortunate, however, thanks to the efforts of Nineteenth Century Committee Member, **Tom Gilbert**, the symposium's coordinator, to have established a partnership (co-sponsorship with our Committee) with such an esteemed Brooklyn institution of higher learning, **St. Francis College**, which has agreed to provide us with the venue required for the **Saturday, November**

**21, 2020** Symposium which is A/V equipped and has additional ample space for our traditional on-site luncheon.

The College is located in the beautiful and historic neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights in downtown Brooklyn with several lodging and dining options nearby. Also, not far from the Symposium's location are a number of historic 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball sights and locations that make for a very appealing optional Sunday late morning/early afternoon (November 22<sup>nd</sup>) guided tour by mini bus.

However, as we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic makes for very unusual times and the combination of St. Francis College's concern for its student body's health and welfare (and our own similar concerns for our Committee Members and their loved ones) has made it necessary for both St. Francis College and our own Committee to carefully monitor the recommendations of health officials and the College's own officials as to whether the projected state of public health will allow us to go forward with the Symposium or to cancel it to a similar Saturday in November 2021.

Naturally, first we must defer (and we do so quite willingly) to St. Francis College's decision to re-open, or not, its campus fully for the autumn 2020 semester. But in addition to that, we must also, as a SABR Committee, feel confident that the public health situation would be such that it does not present an adverse risk to the demographic base of our Committee Members (older and perhaps more at risk than college

aged students).

With all this in mind, we have not included in this newsletter the Program and Schedule and Registration Information for this November's Symposium, which is focused on arguably baseball's most enriched 19<sup>th</sup> century environment – Brooklyn; where baseball transitioned from an amateur pastime to a professional spectator team sport. Instead, we have decided to rely on our group emails, SABR announcements, and other speedy methods to convey the Program & Schedule and Registration Information in September, if we are able to proceed with the Brooklyn Symposium this year. If not, here is something all Brooklyn baseball fans can relate to, "Wait 'til Next Year."

**We're Going to Become Somewhat Virtual** like so much of the rest of SABR and other institutions (education, entertainment, public and private meetings and events, and other business). Thank goodness my wife is a great cook and one of my sons demonstrated a hidden talent at barbering. Like SABR 50, originally scheduled for mid-July in Baltimore we must go forward where and when we can, virtually.

**The 2020 Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Legends** final election, having just wrapped up as you are reading this in early July, was conducted in its usual on-line fashion for three weeks, June 8th through June 29<sup>th</sup>. The Project Committee put a little extra effort into it with twelve finalist and a number of reminder announcements directed at all SABR members to vote because, this coming December the Baseball Hall of Fame's Pre-1950 Induction Com-

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## Chairman's Corner (cont.)

mittee will consider selections that will include 19<sup>th</sup> century candidates. Unfortunately, this year's Overlooked Legends and all other Overlooked Legends will not be considered again for ten years (!) unless the HOF adjusts its' selection plans in the future.

What will be different with the Overlooked Legends election this year is the announcement of the results of the 2020 final election, which are normally announced at our annual business meeting in person by a member of the Overlooked Legends Project Committee. This year, the election results will be **announced virtually by either, Adam Darowski and/or Joe Williams**, the Project Committee's Co-Chairs. Their announcement which will contain the full results of this year's election will be made as part of our Annual (this year's) **Virtual Nineteenth Centu-**

**ry Committee Meeting** which will take place **in late July, on line**, at a time and date to be announced within several weeks.

Announcements for the virtual business meeting of the Nineteenth Century Committee will be made by both group-emails directly to our Committee Members and will be posted on the SABR website, including directions on how to access the meeting on-line.

This newsletter also contains (as it usually does) a "Meeting Agenda" for the Annual "Virtual" Business Meeting so, please, check it out and feel free to contact me before July 10<sup>th</sup> with any item you would like to add to the meeting's agenda.

**No Baseball** this season, among other abnormalities must give us pause. Perhaps, it is an opportunity to reflect on things

that we are mostly too busy to give the thought and reflection they deserve. We SABRites may be luckier than most baseball and other sport fans because we have SABR and its multi-faceted aspects of the game to research, read about and write about. But the pandemic, and our most recent attention to grave societal issues, have led me to reflect not just on the virus and injustice but, more optimistically on what may lie ahead. As author Arundhati Roy has observed, perhaps the pandemic and all else is a portal of sorts, perhaps it will take us to a brighter future. I hope she is right and I hope it takes us to an even better and more honest game of baseball, among so many other and more important things.

## Paul Mac Farlane and the Preservation of Baseball's Nineteenth Century History

by Lawrence S. Katz

**L**ong before the internet upended the book industry, an assortment of handbooks, guides and registers dominated the baseball world as authoritative resources for facts and figures. And long before oversized encyclopedias, the gold standard of record books was *Daguerreotypes of Great Stars of Baseball*, distinguished from the others in scope, size and style.

The now-defunct Sporting News -- known since 1886 as the "Bible

of Baseball" -- released the first edition of *Daguerreotypes* in 1934, featuring the records of 52 retired baseball stars. New editions followed in 1951, 1958, 1961, 1968, 1971, 1981, and 1990. Throughout the long run of this strangely titled publication, the universe of "superstars" was steadily expanding.

Beginning with the 1968 edition, Sporting News official historian Paul MacFarlane was asked to devise standards for inclusion

of modern era stars within the original "handbook" concept. The '68 edition was 240 pages and by 1971 that number had grown to 256.

As the decade of the '80s dawned, MacFarlane sat in his cluttered cubbyhole in the Sporting News Building in St. Louis, Missouri, contemplating the increasingly daunting challenge of picking winners and losers for a new edition still subject to spatial limita-

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## Mac Farlane (cont.)

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tions. His decisions reflected both a sense of history and editorial skill. The book-sized 1981 edition was now up to 320 pages – including 35 pages of photographs – and now featured brief biographical summaries, major and minor league records and facial images of 432 personalities. His research had resulted in 3,000-4,000 statistical corrections, the most notable being the reduction of Ty Cobb's prodigious hit total from 4191 to 4190 and dropped his all-time best career batting average from .367 to .366. But *Daguerreotypes* could still be pulled off the shelf with one hand.

The book's introduction stated in part:

“This revised edition of *DA-GUERREOTYPES* is a complete departure from its early predecessors. Records carried in the smaller-sized editions prior to 1968 represented the top players, the not-so-great and many of the more obscure performers who played major league baseball. There were no guidelines in the selections.

“This book is a first of its kind in the history of the game. The editor pared the all-time list of those no longer active as major league players to an All-Star group which is supreme in categories which lend themselves to accurate rating.

“The standards were chosen to weed out the merely good player and include the genuine standout whose feats will stand – or have stood – the test of time....

“Every player in *DA-GUERREOTYPES* meets at least one of the following criteria:

-Batting – A lifetime average of .300, with a minimum of ten years in the majors; [or] 2,000 major league games; [or] 2,000 hits; [or] 200 homers.

-Pitching – 175 victories; [or] 4,000 innings; [or] 2,000 strikeouts.



Paul Mac Farlane

“In addition, all Hall of Fame members are in the book.”

I wrote to MacFarlane back then, praising his work but questioning several criteria as bearing no relationship to any standards of greatness. I received a typewritten letter from him, typed on newsprint and filled with handwritten notes, dated March 15, 1982, reading in part:

“...How would you like to be in my shoes and know personally or have known [Phil] Rizzuto, [Minnie] Minoso, [Pepper] Martin, [Hoyt] Wilhelm, Joe Wood (who is alive in New Haven) and

[Glenn] Wright?

“Here in St. Louis, Marty Marion cries each time he sees me. If I would put him in *Dag*, he'd die with a smile.

“The criteria [were] determined by demand that there be fairness in all periods. Thus, the hits, singles if you may, would include the old-timers, plus 2,000 games. And the .300 BA over ten or more years in career average, is far more helpful to the ancients than the more moderns.

“Carl Furillo people raise a storm, particularly those east of Newark. But the idea was not to contain the number in the book.

“Rather I attempted to keep a closer balance as per roster makeup. This is why I lessened the victory requirement from 200 games to 175. Pitchers were being far outnumbered by hitters....

These values seem harsh, but Larry, there is nothing anywhere harsher than the percentage of the dugout. The value of a batter or fielder or pitcher is not a general value – they are specific – he hits this pitcher, he doesn't. He's a strong glove, he's a donkey. He can fan any batter, batters hit him (even though both may be 20-game winners). He can get one out, he can't. He'll get a piece of the ball, he won't. He can lose a ball, he's a wet spaghetti.

“I am quite familiar with these judgments and the ballplayers live with them.... My buddy Birdie Tebbetts....called me about the Hall of Fame Vet[eran's] Committee and we were mentioning how the committee consults *Dag* each time. I mentioned how tough it is. "You know, Birdie, your stats didn't make it." "Hell, Mac, I

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## Mac Farlane (cont.)

know that. My strengths were more off the field than on, my work with the staffs is not measurable." No pain, just facts, man...

"We who are fans get more bent out of shape than the players do... Sit in my seat a while and you let this one in and that one in outside the base criteria, and someone in Patagonia writes, "Since you made some exceptions with Harry and John and Pepper etc, I ask you to make a similar exception for my candidate, Pete Suder..."

"There is a push on in the Vet Committee to put in the glove men.... Biddie McPhee was the second baseman selected by his peers as the top 2b man in the entire pre-1900 period, bar none. Biddie who?"

"Know why you know about Biddie? Biddie also could hit.

"...The reliever has come into a position in the game, and the game thus is changing. There is no pattern yet.... IP [Innings pitched] were longer for the early men, but the moderns work only 1/3 inning. Games? The early men, pitching longer, couldn't work as often, so their game totals are lower. The ERA is unreal because men on base can score and they are not charged. A starter gets all the grief as well as the glory. The reliever is responsible only for his actions – the game can be lost and [he] does his job retiring the batter -- on a long fly that scores the man from third. He is shutout pitching. There has to evolve a better pattern. And what do you do with the middle-inning reliever? He gets no wins or saves and has plain

pitching totals and leaves without getting bombed usually – for a pinch hitter.

"As I say, Larry, sit in my seat awhile and realize that you have a book to put out and the men in it have to qualify in some way – or else you are attempting an ency-



clopedias — and you know the problems there.... Please believe me when I tell you I have great empathy for your position. All of us have ideas, if we count a wee, and any baseball fan who delves is my kind of fan. The ones who take anything and question not – these are not my people. I'd rather stand the gaff of penetrating logic than accept the slobbery of the uninformed.... [T]hat's the key, integrity.... "

I eventually understood Mac Farlane's objective. The Sporting News had handed him total editorial control. His criteria were standards of exclusion, not inclusion. He had drawn a circle which left the vast majority of big

leaguers on equal footing – on the outside looking in. These included many friends. But Mac Farlane had also drawn that circle very large, leaving plenty of room for discretion – which he exercised with a sense of balance and respect for the game's heritage. Ironically, one of the most respected stats gurus of the time had published a painstakingly researched record book featuring subjects he had selected, not solely for their records, but for their contributions to the game. He had resisted the temptation to pander to friends inside the game or to casual fans by producing a book of "modern" baseball records.

Mac Farlane's fidelity to the game came from a place deep within his core. His father had been a minority shareholder in the Boston Red Sox, and he had grown up around the clubhouse, pitching batting practice to Joe Cronin and talking to Harry Hooper as Hooper shagged fly balls. He had gotten to know late 19th Century greats Jesse Burkett and Hugh Duffy – a scout for the Bosox in the 1940s – very well. He even knew George Wright, star shortstop of the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings, baseball's fully professional team, and leader of the Boston Red Stockings, who won six league championships from 1871 to 1878. As a semi-pro player in Arlington, Massachusetts in 1937, Mac Farlane had batted against Satchel Paige, striking out on three pitches.

Mac Farlane loved the human element of the game and understood its 19<sup>th</sup> Century personali-

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## Mac Farlane (cont.)

ties, not as a collection of reconstructed and incomplete numbers, but as real people. He enjoyed telling their stories, describing slugger Pete Browning as an odd fellow who refused to slide, thought every bat had only a certain number of hits in it, and thought it was smart to stick his head out of a train window so the soot from the smoke would make his eyes water and clean out his sight. Mac Farlane liked to tell the story of the game between St. Louis and Louisville on September 8, 1886, with 6,000 in attendance, pitcher Dave Foutz picked Browning off first without making a throw. Or the one about outfielder Paul Hines, who lost his hearing in one ear after getting hit in the head by a pitch. Rumors were that Hines had invented the “electrical acoustical cane” to help the hearing impaired maintain their balance and then died

of shock after getting caught shoplifting while using the cane.

Having created criteria which gave him the necessary latitude, MacFarlane made sure his work encompassed records dating back to the 1860s. In addition to baseball pioneers Alexander Cartwright, Henry Chadwick, Harry Wright and Morgan Bulkeley, the likenesses and complete records of over 100 greats who played during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century graced its pages, 80% of whom had spent all or a significant part of their careers playing in the years before 1900. *Daguerreotypes* featured not only all 19<sup>th</sup> Century figures inducted into the Hall of Fame through 1981, but also featured every 19<sup>th</sup> Century major leaguer who was later inducted: Pitcher Vic Willis (1995), shortstop George Davis (1997), his beloved Bid McPhee (2000),

and third baseman Deacon White (2013). Moreover, it recognized the place in history of dozens of stars who would have been immediately recognizable to fans back then, but not to the casual fan in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

His legacy was not simply in his attention to detail but in his understanding of which details matter the most. His passion and integrity in recognizing the contributions of baseball’s progenitors set an example for future generations of baseball historians and researchers.

SABR’s 19<sup>th</sup> Century Committee, free of the physical constraints imposed on Paul Mac Farlane, honors his memory as it continues its work preserving and advancing knowledge of organized baseball’s earliest era.

## What Girls Cannot Study

Editor’s Note: This article appeared in the *Chicago Daily Tribune* February 3, 1870, page 12 and was forwarded by Joanne Hulbert.

President Bascom, who presides over a Western college to which young ladies, as well as young men, are admitted, has recently expressed his warm approval of co-education of the two sexes and has asserted that girls are better students than boys, for the reason that they are better adapted to sedentary pursuits. In other

words, he claims that girls can sit down more successfully than boys, and that this fact enables them to surpass the other sex in study and in whatever business or profession involves a large amount of sitting down. Far be it from us to dispute the learned President’s facts. Doubtless he knows whereof he affirms, and we should cheerfully concede that the members of the gentler sex are unequalled in the capacity for sitting down. Still, the inferences which President Bascom draws from this fact are not necessarily true. A person, of whatever sex, may be able to sit down to an

immense extent and may, nevertheless, be wholly unable to study. The professional fat man and fat woman spend the greater part of their lives in the sedentary occupation of being looked at and pinched by curious people, but they have never, in a single instance, been noted for scholarship.

While girls unquestionably have their uses in the economy of nature, and possess merits exclusively their own, it may be boldly asserted that they are totally unfit to

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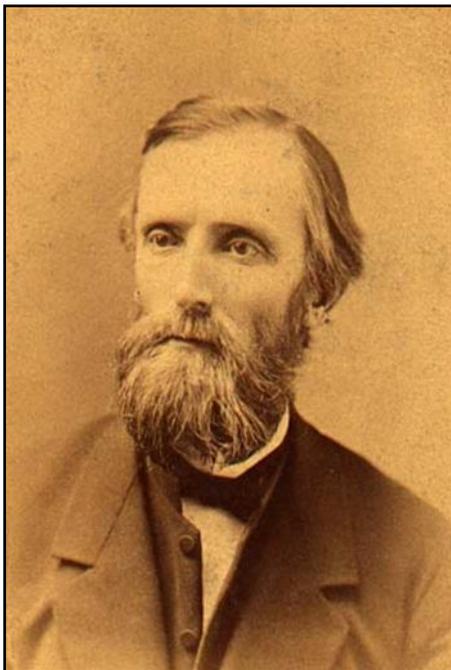
## What Girls Cannot Study (cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

pursue in company with young men the studies which constitute the curriculum of every respectable college. One of the earliest studies of the Freshman year is the art of getting the janitor's cow into the fourth story of the dormitory. This can be readily mastered by any young man of good abilities and habits of industry and perseverance; but between girls and cows there is a great gulf fixed. The girl, from her earliest youth, looks upon the cow as a ferocious beast, prone to keep young ladies in positions fatal to the proper arrangement of the back hair. To suppose that three or four young lady students are capable of the complicated pushing and pulling necessary to induce a cow to climb several flights of stairs is to suppose that the natural feminine fear of cows can be eradicated by the mere process of matriculation. Thus we see that one of the very easiest of college studies is quite beyond the range of the female intellect.

The New York *Times* philosopher points out several of the regular college studies which girls cannot pursue: The Sophomore year in most of our colleges is devoted to base-ball. Will President Bascom have the temerity to assert that this is a sedentary pursuit, or that it is one in which it is possible for girls to excel? We all know that nature has so constructed the girl that she cannot throw a ball with any force

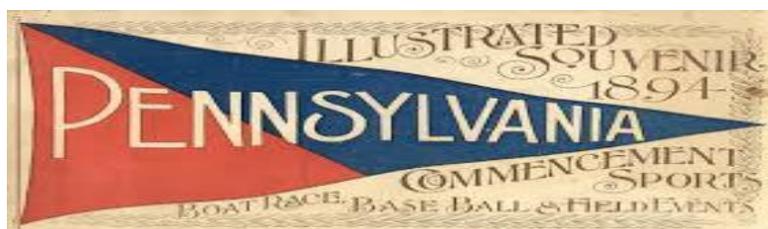
or accuracy. If the most accomplished of President' Bascom's young ladies were to attempt to pitch a base-ball, the chances are



John Bascom, President University of Wisconsin from 1874-1887

that, instead of coming within reach of the batsman, it would describe a parabolic curve and smash the President's front window. Neither can young lady students strike or catch a ball when thrown with the proper degree of force. In short, base-ball is a study in which it is morally impossible that girls should ever successfully compete with men. The same may be said of foot-ball, which, in some colleges, is

an optional study, which those who do not fancy base-ball are permitted to substitute for the latter. It is barely possible, judging from the remarks which Chicago and St. Louis newspapers constantly make in regard to the feet of the ladies of those cities, that Western girls are better adapted for foot-ball than are the girls this side of the Alleghenies; but it may be safely asserted that no girl can graduate in foot-ball, especially in colleges where the Rugby method is studied, with any honor, or, indeed, with any standing in her class. By far the most important study pursued at any American college is that of rowing. From this study girls are virtually debarred simply by reason of their sex. Man is so constituted that he can reduce his clothing to a close-fitting undershirt and a pair of attenuated trousers, which add scarcely anything to his weight in a six-oared shell. It is asserted by all scientific authorities that girls are incased in many successive layers of clothing, which are believed to be permanently affixed to them, and the aggregate weight of these is enormous. This would alone render girls unfit to pursue the fascinating and improving study of rowing, but there are other obstacles equally impossible to overcome. Girls cannot run to any extent worth mentioning; and are hence unable to run along the shore



...because, baseball history is not only baseball history.

**Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)  
Nineteenth Century Committee Annual Business Meeting  
Mid- Summer, 2020, Date and Time To Be Announced  
On-Line Virtual Meeting Agenda**

**10 Minutes:** Welcome and Introductions, Peter Mancuso, Chair, Bob Bailey, Vice Chair and Meeting Attendees.\*

**15 Minutes:** 2020 Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Legends, Complete Final Election Results to be announced by Adam Darowski and/or Joe Williams, Project Committee Co-Chairs. The 2020 Overlooked Legend is....

**10 Minutes:** Chairman's Award(s) Presentation(s), Bob Bailey and Peter Mancuso announce this year's two recipients who will each receive an engraved replica 1880s Burlingame Model vintage baseball bat. This year's recipients are...

**5 Minutes:** "Nineteenth Century Notes" our Committee's Quarterly Newsletter, A Report by the Newsletter's Editor and Vice Chair, Bob Bailey.

**5 Minutes:** Update, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19<sup>th</sup> Century Base Ball Conference, "The Fred" (rescheduled from 2020 to April 23 & 24, 2021) A Report by Peter Mancuso and Bob Bailey.

**5 Minutes:** Update, 2020 Brooklyn 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Symposium, November 21, 2020, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY; A Report by Bob Bailey, Peter Mancuso and Symposium Coordinator, Tom Gilbert (if available).

**5 Minutes:** 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Grave Marker Project; Sept, 2019 Hicks Hayhurst dedication in Philadelphia, PA, and future prospects; A Report by Ralph Carhart, Project Chair (if available) or Peter Mancuso and Bob Bailey.

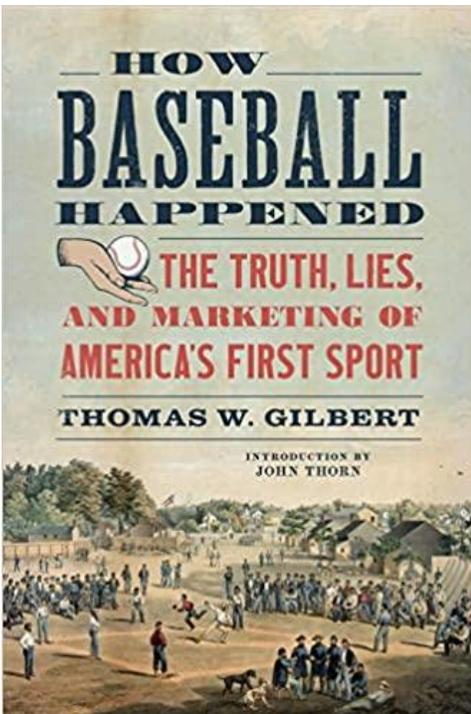
**10 -15 Minutes:** New Business, Projects, Feedback Etc.\*\*

\* Between each agenda item, any new guests joining the on-line meeting will be prompted to introduce themselves

\*\* If you have a specific item you would like to add to this agenda, please, contact Peter Mancuso, [peterplus4@earthlink.net](mailto:peterplus4@earthlink.net) prior to July 10<sup>th</sup>.

## News & Notes

-Committee member Tom Gilbert has written a book on the origins of baseball titled "How Baseball Happened." Published by David R. Godine, the book presents facts and stories about how baseball came to be a national sport in the 1800s. The book's release date is September 8, 2020 and is listed on Amazon at: [https://www.amazon.com/How-Baseball-Happened-Outrageous-Revealed/dp/1567926770/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=thomas+gilbert&qid=1592308564&s=books&sr=1-2](https://www.amazon.com/How-Baseball-Happened-Outrageous-Revealed/dp/1567926770/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=thomas+gilbert&qid=1592308564&s=books&sr=1-2).



-We have a research request from Stephen Katz:

"Would anyone have box scores or game reports for the games listed below? I've checked the NY Clipper as well as newspapers on a couple of online services for the relevant time frames but have come up empty.

Games:

New Haven (Hartford) vs. Prince-

ton College, May 22, 1878;  
New Haven (Hartford) vs. Lafayette College, May 24, 1878;  
New Haven (Hartford) vs. Baltimore, May 27, 1878;  
New Haven (Hartford) vs. Eagle (Washington, D.C.), May 28, 1878;  
New Haven (Hartford) vs. Rosedale (Washington, D.C.), May 29, 1878.  
E-mail Stephen at [mekart-me@gmail.com](mailto:mekart-me@gmail.com).

-Justin Mckinney sent along a note on a team name project he is involved with.

"I hope you all are doing well in the midst of all the turmoil. I thought I would follow up on this project and I have created a google spreadsheet with every major league season from 1871 to 1900 and populated it with each team city and nickname as per bb-ref..

"The spreadsheet can be found at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/104c0ZxVWM1wNmzE1CD0Qt20dfbb0PeRViQtcrOhW7bA/edit#gid=332344392>

"The idea would be to find the most commonly used name for each club during each season and provide a contemporary source to confirm. Please have a look if you are interested in this and let me know if you have any questions. I've populated the Union Association season since I've spent a lot of time researching it already for a book I am working on."

You can reach Justin with any questions, additions, corrections or grant money at: [just.mckinney@gmail.com](mailto:just.mckinney@gmail.com).





Harper's Weekly cover of July 28, 1888. Illustration entitled "A Ball or A Strike— Which? Illustration by Thure de Thulstrup a Swedish-born veteran of the French Foreign Legion. A prolific illustrator in New York for many years, is today a forgotten figure. He died in 1930 and is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery in the same section as pre-1871 players Samuel Goodwin (Putnam Club), Fraley Niebuhr (Knickerbocker Club), and Anson Taylor (Mutual Club).