

# 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

## ARGYLE LAKE & THE CUBAN GIANTS BY GEORGE ALTEMOSE

**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

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I joined the Army in 1961, and married my wife, Fran, in 1962. I finished my enlistment and we left the Army in 1964, just in time for the birth of our son, Jim. We set up housekeeping in Babylon, a lovely village on the south shore of Long Island, New York. Babylon had a beautiful park, next to Argyle Lake, with a waterfall flowing into the Great South Bay, and we enjoyed taking Jim there to feed the ducks and frolic in the playground.

I had always been a baseball fan, and I was

greatly pleased to discover SABR, which I joined in the early 1980's. I was aware of the old Negro Leagues, and I knew that Hank Aaron, Roy Campanella and Monte Irvin, among others whom I had seen play at Ebets Field and the Polo Grounds, had started there. But I did not know, and was considerably surprised to learn, of the historic connection between the Negro Leagues and Babylon. Argyle Lake, as it turned out, was the site of the old Argyle Hotel, which was built there in 1882, for the purpose of attracting affluent visitors from New York City. The hotel was a very

large and splendid structure, built entirely of wood, with 350 rooms, and was easily reached via the Babylon branch of the Long Island Railroad. In addition to the natural attractions afforded by the Great South Bay, including swimming, sailing, fishing and excursions to Fire Island, the hotel management did their best to provide activities on the hotel grounds, such as bowling, tennis, fireworks displays and fancy balls.

In the 1880's, baseball was the National Pastime. Fans in New

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Chairman's Corner by Peter Mancuso

**E**leventh Annual Fred Conference is just a few weeks off, April 26 & 27, and will include the most attendees ever due to the Baseball Hall of Fame allowing us access to the newly renovated Grandstand Theater. We are looking forward to another

exciting Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19<sup>th</sup> Century Base Ball Conference with a Luncheon Keynote Address, a Panel Discussion, A Special Presentation, our Member Spotlight Interview and 15 Research Presentations.

**Our Tenth Overlooked Legends Selection** is in progress. Co-chairs Adam

**Darowski** and **Joe Williams** made several adjustments last Fall to their Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Legends Project Committee both in terms of protocol and in adding additional committee members. Within this issue of our newsletter, see the results of the re-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Argyle Lake & the Cuban Giants (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

York were particularly blessed, with two teams: the Metropolitans, who won the American Association pennant in 1884 but lost the ensuing three World Series games to Hoss Radbourn and the Providence Grays, and the Gothams, who were renamed the Giants in 1885 and are still with us today.



The management of the Argyle Hotel was not unmindful of the base ball phenomenon, and was always on the lookout for new and exciting activities to entertain their guests. As a result, in July of 1885, they fielded a base ball team composed entirely of professional colored players, which came to be known as the Cuban Giants. That much is clear. However, the source of these players, and the history of how the team was formed, are less well known.

Perhaps the most commonly told version is that the team was put together by Frank P. Thompson, who was the headwaiter at

the hotel, and was assembled from waiters and other men employed there. This story was related in *Sol White's Official Base Ball Guide*, which he (actually King Solomon White, a grand name if ever there was one), had printed in 1907. An alternative version, published in the *New York Age* in 1887, which is probably somewhat more plausible, is that Mr. Thompson organized a team in Philadelphia, known as the Keystone Athletics, which he then moved to the Argyle Hotel in Babylon. Shortly thereafter, he supplemented the Keystone Athletics with outstanding players from the Manhattans of Washington, D.C. and the Orions of Philadelphia to form a new team, which he called the Cuban Giants.

The name "Giants" was a recent invention of Jim Mutrie, who was at that time the manager and also a player on the New York Gothams. In a fit of exuberance following an exciting victory, Mutrie praised his beloved team, calling them "My big fellows! My giants!" This sounded so good that the name Giants became hugely popular and displaced the Gothams moniker, and it was borrowed by Thompson for his team at the Argyle.

The "Cuban" part was a term that was sometimes used, in those times of overt racism, as a sort of euphemism to describe black players, and it seems unlikely that anyone believed that the Cuban Giants were actually from Cuba. Whatever their origin, there is no doubt that the Cuban Giants were a very good baseball team. According to Sol White, their record at the Argyle Hotel during the summer of 1885 was 6-2-1. They then went on the road, playing

against good teams in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York, winning twenty one games while losing only five. During this time, the weekly salaries of the players were set at \$18.00 for pitchers and catchers, \$15.00 for infielders and \$12.00 for outfielders. These munificent sums, thankfully, were in addition to expenses.

Of more lasting historical significance, the payments established the Cuban Giants as the first black professional baseball team. The team was very successful, and other teams and leagues were soon



formed. Major league baseball had an unwritten rule, lasting until it was broken in 1947 by Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson, which denied black ballplayers the opportunity to compete with their white counterparts. This led to the formation of a multitude of Negro leagues, and the development of some truly outstanding players, many of whom would have been stars in the major leagues if given the chance.

In the aftermath of Jackie Robinson's success after joining the Brooklyn Dodgers, most of these players were eagerly picked up by major league teams, and most of the old Negro league teams were soon gone, although a few continued with exhibitions and barnstorming for some time after-

(Continued on page 3)

# Argyle Lake & the Cuban Giants (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

ward. The last of these teams was the Indianapolis Clowns, who were eventually taken over by an amazing man named Dave Clark.

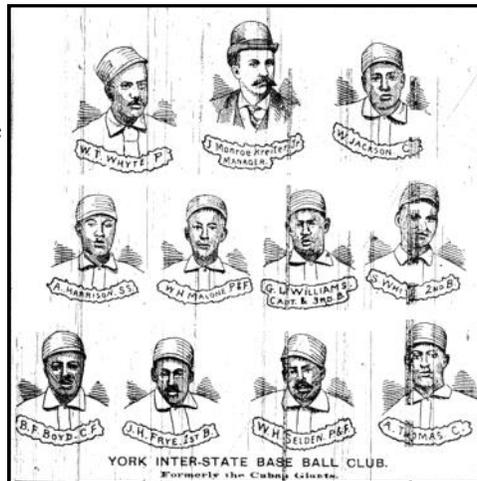
As a child, Dave had contracted polio, which left him on crutches, with virtually no use of his legs. Nevertheless, he learned to play baseball, and was actually able to pitch, play first base and bat in spite of his handicap. With the Clowns, he ran baseball camps in Florida during the winter, and each year formed traveling teams which barnstormed through the country during the summer.

In 1987, I managed and played on an amateur team on Long Island, and we decided to get a head start on our season by going to spring training for a week in February at Dave Clark's camp in Ocala, Florida. Two of our best players, Mark Napoli and Rob Marto, were invited to play on the team for the summer. They accepted, and had the time of their lives. They were paid \$10.00 per day, from which they had to pay for their meals. This was a slight improvement over the wages of the original Cuban Giants, exactly 100 years earlier, but not by much.

Sol White enjoyed a long and happy, if not exceptionally lucrative, career in baseball, beginning in 1886 with the Wheeling Green Stockings of the Ohio State League. He was a very good player for

twenty years.

In 1907, he wrote his *Official Base Ball Guide*, which was an excellent and apparently accurate history of colored (as it was then called) baseball up to that time.



Cuban Giants representing York of the Inter-State League— 1890

At the end of the 1907 season, he wrote an update for that year, which he apparently hoped to continue on an annual basis. That did not happen, but he continued to write columns for various publications, including the *New Amsterdam News* and the *New York Age* until the 1930's. He lived in Harlem, in New York City, at the time of Jackie Robinson's long overdue arrival in 1947, although his reaction was not recorded for posterity.

He passed away on August 26, 1955, at the age of 87, at a hospital

in Central Islip on Long Island, about 14 miles from Argyle Lake.

The hospital is still there, and from it can be seen the Bethpage Ballpark, which is the home of the Long Island Ducks in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball. Rickey Henderson played there in 2003 and 2004, following his Hall of Fame career in the major leagues, when he visited as a member of the Newark Bears. Some people just love to play baseball.

Argyle Lake today has not changed since the Cuban Giants played there in 1885. The same line of the Long Island Railroad still runs adjacent to the lake, and the Babylon station remains in the same location, within easy walking distance of the lake.

The Argyle Hotel is long gone – sort of. Its large size was overly ambitious, and it was seldom filled to more than one third of its capacity. It fell into disuse around 1894, and was demolished in 1904.

However, the wood from its construction was salvaged, and was used to build a number of luxury homes on the site of the hotel, on the west end of the lake, to form Argyle Park, which is still there today.



Patent No. 430,388 (June 17, 1890) awarded to Emile Kinst for an "improved ball-bat." In his patent, Kinst wrote: "The object of my invention is to provide a ball-bat which shall produce a rotary or spinning motion of the ball in its flight to a higher degree than is possible with any present known form of ball-bat, and thus to make it more difficult to catch the ball, or if caught, to hold it, and thus further to modify the conditions of the game...."

## Chairman's Corner (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

cent 2019 Primary Election and a preliminary heads-up for the upcoming Final Election, which is open to all SABR members.

**The Annual Business Meeting** of our Nineteenth Century Committee will take place as usual during SABR's National Convention, SABR 49, scheduled from June 26 to June 30 in San Diego, California. Although, we do not yet know the exact day and time of our committee meeting, I do hope many of you will attend SABR 49. Convention and hotel information is now available on SABR's website, where you can also register for the convention and the hotel.

**A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Grave Marker Dedication** is being planned for the September timeframe in Philadelphia, PA. The 19cBB Grave Marker Project Committee's Chair, **Ralph Carhart** is

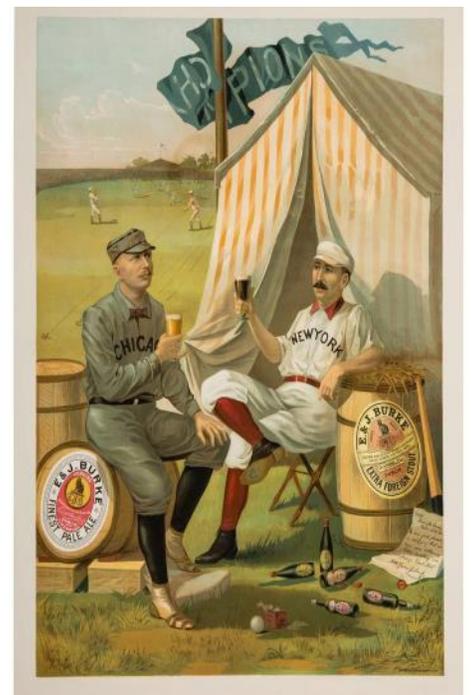
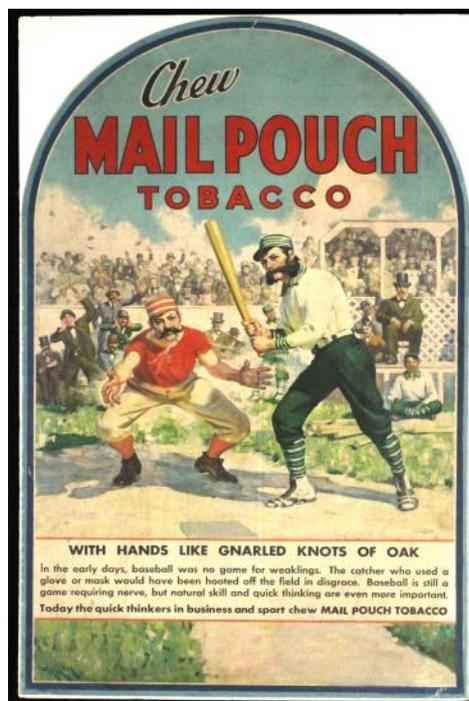
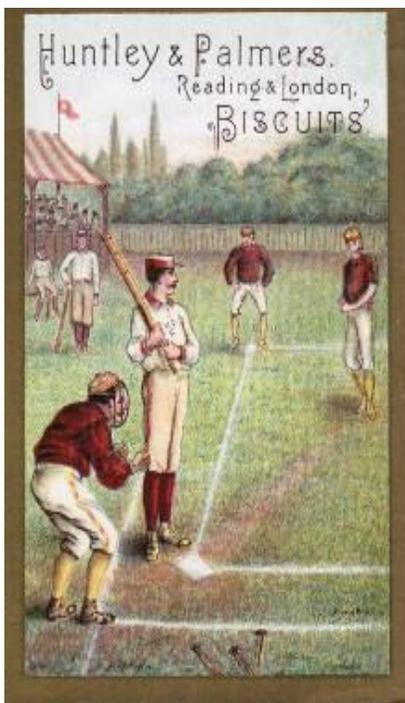
working toward in collaboration with the **Connie Mack Chapter** to conduct the dedication of a grave marker for **Hicks Hayhurst**, President of the all white, Olympic Club and a strong supporter of the all African-American, Philadelphia Pythians. The Connie Mack Chapter is planning on commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first known interracial game played in the United States. That game was played in September 1869 between the Pythians and Olympic Clubs on Philadelphia's Jefferson Street Grounds; those grounds, also the site of the first National League game, is now a Pennsylvania Historic Site, thanks to the efforts of Nineteenth Century Committee and Connie Mack Chapter member, **Matt Albertson**.

**Twin Cities 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium** has been scheduled for this coming **November 16, 2019**. Yes, alt-

hough it is an odd year and our normal bi-annual city specific symposiums take place in even years (our last was only six months ago in Cleveland) we could not pass up on the suggestion and offer of **Bob Tholkes**, the **Halsey Hall Chapter** of SABR and the **Hennepin County Library** (Minneapolis Central Library) to produce our fourth 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium. See the informative SAVE the DATE notice in this issue of the newsletter. Complete Symposium and registration information will appear in this Summer's issue of this newsletter in early July.

**The 2019 Baseball Season** is underway. Enjoy and good luck to your favorite teams.

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



# A Ballpark Grows in Brooklyn

by John Zinn

**W**hile Charles Ebbets is far better known for the ballpark that bore his name, building Washington Park in just 45 days was perhaps an even more impressive achievement. Ebbets became

The result was a ballpark in a location sportswriter John Foster considered the “land of lost hopes” which required “starting out before luncheon and getting home after dinner” to see a game. Not an encouraging prospect for potential

best interest to help the fortunes of the borough’s baseball team. All told there were three possibilities, the Brooklyn Elevated Railroad, the Brooklyn Heights Railroad and the Nassau Electric Company. Unfortunately for Eb-



SCENE AT THE OPENING OF THE WASHINGTON PARK GROUNDS.

president of the Dodger in January 1898 under circumstances that can hardly have been much worse. Not only had founding president Charles Byrne just died, but Ebbets took over a team that was performing poorly both on the field and at the box office. While the lack of on-the-field success partially explained the poor attendance, many felt the location of the Dodgers ballpark was also a major cause of the poor financial results. After spending their first eight seasons at the first Washington Park, the Dodgers had been playing at Eastern Park in East New York, the former home of the Brooklyn Players’ League club since 1891. To this day why Byrne and Ferdinand Abell’s agreed to move to East New York remains a mystery since all they received in exchange from the owners of the Players’ League club was a commitment of \$40,000 not all of which was paid.

ticker buyers considering investing both their time and quarters to witness uncompetitive baseball. Building a new ballpark and a better ball club was a major challenge for Ebbets who had little money beyond what he had invested in the club. Since there was no quick fix to the team’s roster, the new magnate wisely turned his attention to solving the ballpark problem. Time, however, was not on Ebbets side, opening day was only months away.

While making it clear any new facility would require financial assistance, Ebbets publicly discussed a number of possible sites with Eastern Park the regrettable last resort. In looking for possible financing, Ebbets wisely identified the local transportation companies as the best potential source of money. Not only did the commuter trains draw from the same customer base, it was also in their

best interest to help the fortunes of the borough’s baseball team. All told there were three possibilities, the Brooklyn Elevated Railroad, the Brooklyn Heights Railroad and the Nassau Electric Company. Unfortunately for Eb-

As a result on March 15, 1898, just 45 days before the team’s home opener, Ebbets invited the press to a “nice collation” at the Clarendon Hotel where he told the assembled reporters – “we go back to south Brooklyn again, and near our old home.” The news was very well received and according to the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Ebbets “made a veritable tri-

(Continued on page 6)

## A Ballpark Grows in Brooklyn (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

umphant" march to his home on 1<sup>st</sup> Street near the site of the new grounds. Based on the little information that survives it appears the two transportation companies paid the estimated \$25,000 construction cost directly, hoping to be repaid by increased traffic to the new grounds, obviously a great deal for Ebbets. While little was reported about the financial details, there was no shortage of information about the new park which would be located between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> streets, not far from the first Washington Park with an estimated capacity of just over 11,200.

Although Ebbets now had the money to build his new ball park, he had precious little time to do so. However the literal absence of bricks and mortar made it far easier than building Ebbets Field would prove to be just 15 years later. Building Washington Park was also simpler because the site required little preparation with only a few "obstructions" to be removed.

With that quickly taken care of, building a wooden ballpark, while

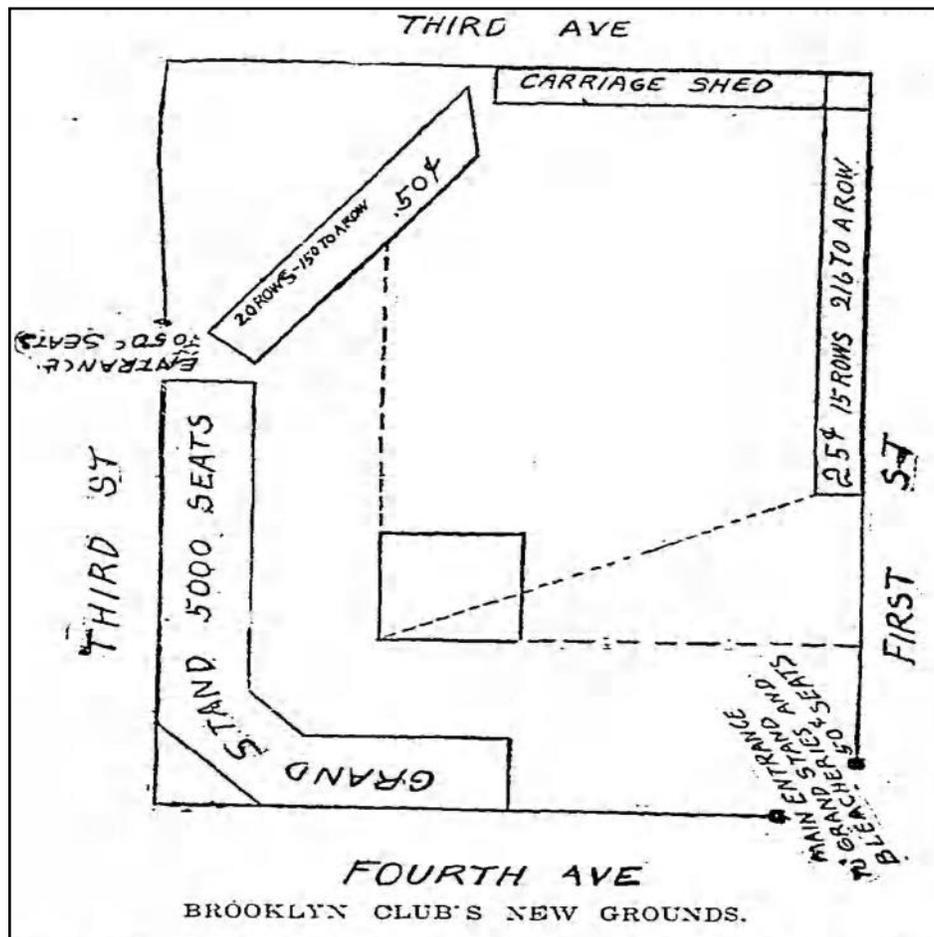
not without challenges, could be done in a relatively short period of time. Also helping was the fact that Brooklyn opened the season on the road which may not have been mere chance since Ebbets, an expert schedule maker in his own right, helped National

fence. There were only two negatives to the day, the 6-4 loss to the Phillies and Ebbets realization that he had unwanted competition from the residents of the apartment building behind the right field fence who, for a price, allowed fans

to watch from their living rooms and fire escapes. Ebbets quickly remedied that problem with a screen that would also save money by limiting the number of baseballs lost over the short right field fence.

Not as easy to fix, however, was the on-the-field product and Ebbets first team finished the season in 10<sup>th</sup> place (in a 12 team league) 46 games out of first. That however, took nothing away from Ebbets' accomplishment.

Then as now, providing an attractive, accessible venue was one of an owner's major responsibilities. Ebbets not only met that challenge, he did so in a very short time frame, using other people's money. Not a bad way to start a presidency that would last over 25 years while giving Brooklyn, not one, but two state of the art ballparks.



League president Nicholas Young prepare the 1898 schedule. Although there were some issues along the way, the new park was ready for its grand opening on April 30<sup>th</sup> against Philadelphia.

If attendance was any indication, the new park was a big hit. An overflow crowd of 15,000 put down their quarters and expressed "complete satisfaction" with everything except the short right field

# Batteries From the Great White North by David Matchett

**O**n September 6, 1993 Montreal-born Denis Boucher made his Expos' debut in front of forty thousand hometown fans. The big story in the local media that day was that Boucher was the first player born in Montreal to suit up for the Expos and just the



Tip O'Neill

second Quebecois to do so after Claude Raymond more than two decades earlier. Also notable that day was the fact that Boucher and catcher Joe Siddall from Windsor, Ontario formed an all-Canadian battery. The rarity of the latter event was noted but incomplete information was available at that time about other Canadian pitcher-catcher combos. This gap in the historical record inspired a research project to find every Canadian-born battery in big league history.

The term "Canadian" needs to be defined. People who were born in Canada may have emigrated soon thereafter and others born

elsewhere may have moved to Canada before they could walk. Are they all Canadian? The uncertainty is a complication and, with no disrespect meant to Canadians born abroad, this research is limited to players who were born in Canada. Resources may differ on places of birth so only players who had a Canadian hometown listed in Baseball-Reference.com on December 1, 2018 are included in this review.

Through the 2018 season 250 Canadian-born players have appeared in at least one Major League game; 129 pitched and 38 caught. Once this list was compiled the next step was to align the pitchers' and catchers' careers to see where there were Canadian teammates who could potentially form a battery, then the box scores for those teams' games were reviewed to find batteries. Fifteen pairings of Canadian-born battery mates have been found and forty percent of them involve Russell Martin. But there were four in the nineteenth century and the first was in 1883.

There were only a few Canadian pitchers and catchers in the early seasons of Major League baseball. The first to pitch was Edward Sylvester "The Only" Nolan (born in Canada, city unknown) with Indianapolis of the National League in 1878 and the first catcher was William B. "Bill" Phillips (Saint John, New Brunswick) with Cleveland in 1879. Nolan and Phillips were teammates with Cleveland in 1881 but Phillips only played first base that year and they never formed a battery.

The 1883 New York Go-

thams of the National League were the first team to have Canucks play at both pitcher and catcher. James "Tip" O'Neill (Springfield, Ontario) is best known as an outfielder but he began his career that year in the pitcher's box with a record of 5-12 and a 4.07 ERA in 19 games.



John Humphries

Catcher John Humphries (North Gower, Ontario) played two major league seasons and he made his debut on July 7, 1883 after finishing his studies at Cornell.

O'Neill and Humphries' formed the Gothams' starting battery on July 13 against the Buffalo Bisons. They were not the first international battery, an honour that went to Irishmen Curry Foley (Milltown) and Sleeper Sullivan (city unknown) who accomplished that with the 1881 Buffalo Bisons. But O'Neill and Humphries were the first Canadian-born Major League battery.

The Bisons beat New York 6-3

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Batteries From the Great White North (cont.)

that day with O'Neill pitching a complete game. He gave up six runs, none of which were earned, and he foretold his future hitting prowess by contributing a double. Humphries, in his third Major League game, was the starting catcher and played the full game. He didn't have any hits and he was charged with two passed balls. The winning pitcher was Hall of Famer Pud Galvin, who was in the middle of a 46-win season and fellow Hall of Famers Dan Brouthers, Deacon White and Jim O'Rourke also played for Buffalo. New York was pretty stacked too; their top three hitters were Hall of Famers Monte Ward, Roger Connor and Mickey Welsh and Hall of Famer Buck Ewing was given a day off so Humphries could start. There were 13 Hall of Famers active in 1883 and seven started this game with another one watching from the bench.

O'Neill's next start was a 10-2 loss in Cleveland on July 18. Humphries began in right field with Buck Ewing catching but, as noted in *The Sporting Life*, "*Ewing hurt his fingers in the eighth inning and took right field. Humphries finished the game behind the bat.*" Cleveland batted first that day so Humphries caught O'Neill for part of the eighth and all of the ninth innings. Bill Phillips was the Blues' first baseman and he may have been the first Canadian-born batter to face a Canadian battery. Further research into that game's play-by-play is needed to confirm if he indeed batted after Humphries started catching in the top of the eighth.

O'Neill started again on July 28 in a 4-2 loss at Detroit as he and Humphries were battery mates for the third time. George Albert "Dandy" Wood (Pownal, Prince Edward Island) was the Wolverines' leadoff hitter so if Bill Phillips wasn't the first Canadian-born batter to face a Canadian battery, then George Wood was.

O'Neill didn't play again until September 8 in Philadelphia. After falling behind 3-0 in the first two innings the Gothams scored 13 runs in the third in a 16-6 drubbing of the Quakers that was mercifully ended after seven innings due to darkness. O'Neill pitched the full game and Humphries started behind the plate, although he switched positions with right fielder Mike Dorgan after committing seven passed balls in the first two innings.

O'Neill pitched only one more time in 1883, on September 18, and Humphries was benched that day so the game in Philadelphia was the last one in which they appeared as teammates.

Humphries began the 1884 season with Washington of the American Association then he returned to the Gothams for the last two months of the schedule after the Nationals folded. He spent the following three seasons with teams in Syracuse, Toronto and Rochester then ended his career and moved to California where he spent most of the rest of his life as a teacher.

O'Neill also switched to the American Association in 1884. He pitched better, going 11-4 with a 2.68 ERA for St. Louis, and he raised his batting average eighty points while playing most of his

games in left field. He never pitched again after 1884 but he became a star outfielder in the Association including hitting .435 and winning the Triple Crown in 1887. He remains one of the greatest Canadian-born Major Leaguers and an annual award presented by the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame is named in his honour.

There were three other Canadian batteries in the nineteenth century, each for only a single game: The Detroit Wolverines in 1885 (George Wood and Jerry Moore), the Buffalo Bisons in 1885 (brothers Pete and Fred Wood) and the 1898 Louisville Colonels (Bill Magee and Cooney Snyder). A few more Canadian batteries appeared over the years but O'Neill and Humphries' total of four games together was the record as recently as 2010 when the Milwaukee Brewers' George Kottaras (Scarborough, Ontario) caught John Axford (Simcoe, Ontario) twenty times.

In the first few seasons of Major League baseball the most common homeland of foreign-born players was Ireland. They were passed by the Canadians in 1884 and Canada remained the top source of foreigners for over a century until they were passed by the Dominican Republic in 1994. Canada has since fallen behind Venezuela and Puerto Rico in supplying Major Leaguers but the country still produces a few every year. Sixty Canadian-born players appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and two of them made history in 1883 as their nation's first home-grown battery.

# The Poet Son of John Humphries

The previous article on Canadian batteries introduced us to catcher John Humphries. Ten years after completing his major league career John sired a son, George Rolfe Humphries.

The Poetry Foundation tells us: "Poet, critic, and editor Rolfe Humphries was born in Philadelphia in 1894. He earned a BA at Amherst College and was a mentor to poet [Theodore Roethke](#) and friends with the writers [Louise Bogan](#) and Edmund Wilson.

Interested in Welsh formal constraints, [aren't we all?] Humphries explored loss and the natural world. He wrote six collections of poetry...and translated [Virgil's Aeneid](#) (1951) [among others]

Humphries's honors included fellowships from the John S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Academy of American Poets. Humphries taught high-school Latin for 30 years before returning to teach at his alma mater. He died in Redwood City, California, in 1969. The Amherst College Archives and the Stanford University library hold selections of his papers. Amherst College awards the Rolfe Humphries Poetry Prize in his honor. "

Humphries did delve in baseball as a theme for one of his poems. In 1942 his poem "Polo Grounds" ran in the *New Yorker* on August 1942. His father is the last player mentioned'

## POLO GROUNDS

Time is of the essence. This is a highly skilled  
And beautiful mystery. Three or four seconds only  
From the time that Riggs connects till he reaches first,  
And in those seconds Juges goes to his right,  
Comes up with the ball, tosses to Witek at second  
For the force on Reese, Witek to Mize at first,  
*In* time for the out—a double play.

(Red Barber crescendo. Crowd noises, *obligato*;  
Scattered staccatos from the peanut boys,  
Loud in the lull, as the teams get set again.)

Hubbell takes the sign, nods, pumps, delivers—  
A foul into the stands. Dunn takes a new ball out,  
Hands it to Danning, who throws it down to Werber;  
Werber takes off his glove, rubs the ball briefly,  
Tosses it over to Hub, who goes to the rosin bag,  
Takes the sign from Danning, pumps, delivers—  
Low outside, ball three. Danning goes to the mound,  
Says something to Hub, Dunn brushes off the plate,  
Adams starts throwing in the Giant bullpen,  
Hub takes the sign from Danning, pumps, delivers,  
Camilli gets hold of it, a *long* fly to the outfield,  
Ott goes back, back, back, against the wall, gets under it,  
Pounds his glove, and takes it for the out.  
That's all for the Dodgers. . . .

Time is of the essence. The rhythms break,  
More varied and subtle than any kind of dance;  
Movement speeds up or lags. The ball goes out  
In sharp and angular drives or long, slow arcs,  
Comes in again controlled and under aim;  
The players wheel or spurt, race, stoop, slide, halt,  
Shift imperceptibly to new positions,  
Watching the signs, according to the batter,  
The score, the inning. Time is of the essence.

Time is of the essence. Remember Terry?  
Remember Stonewall Jackson, Lindstrom, Frisch,  
When they were good? Remember Long George Kelly?  
Remember John McGraw and Benny Kauff?  
Remember Bridwell, Tenney, Merkle, Youngs,  
Chief Meyers, Big Jeff Tesreau, Shufflin' Phil?  
Remember Matthewson, and Ames, and Donlin,  
Buck Ewing, Rusie, Smiling Mickey Welch?  
Remember a left-handed catcher named Jack Humphries,  
Who sometimes played the outfield, in '83?

Time is of the essence. The shadow moves  
From the plate to the box, from the box to second base,  
From second to the outfield, to the bleachers.

Time is of the essence. The crowd and players  
Are the same age always, but the man in the crowd  
Is older every season. Come on, play ball!

—ROLFE HUMPHRIES

# Interdisciplinary Symposium Goes Annual

Over the past five years the Nineteenth Century Committee has sponsored a Interdisciplinary Symposium in New York, Philadelphia, and Cleveland. Each event has been a success and we are now moving this event to an annual conference. This year the Symposium will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Twin Cities 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium will take place in Minneapolis on **Saturday, November 16, 2019** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The symposium is a joint project of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Committee, the Halsey Hall Chapter of SABR, and the Hennepin County Public Libraries.

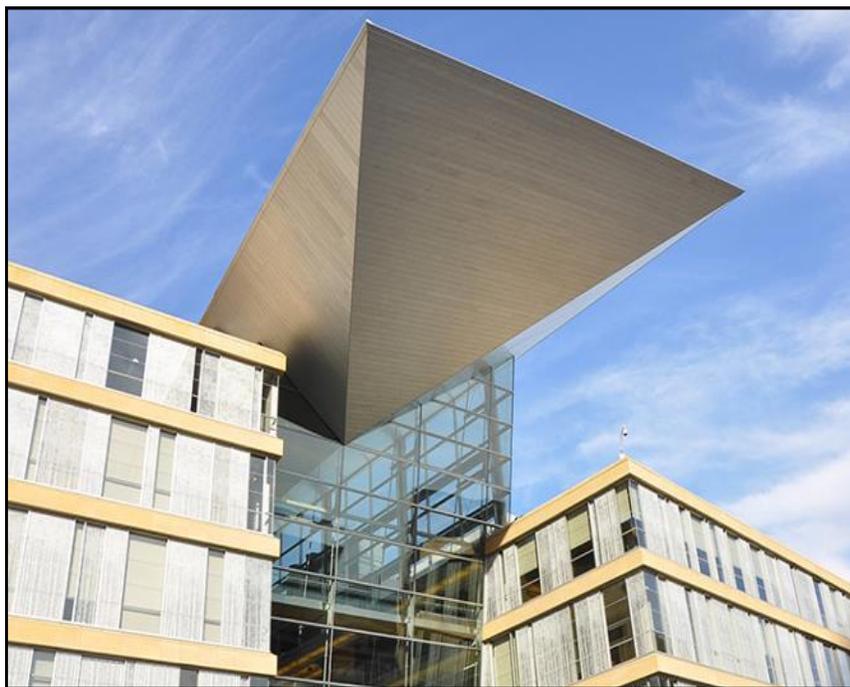
The site will be the Minneapolis Central Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis.

The Library, an elegant, modern, Cesar Pelli-designed building, has made spacious Pohl Hall and adjoining meeting rooms available for the symposium.

The day-long Saturday symposium will be devoted to base ball (two words at the time) as it was played and as it evolved in the Twin Cities in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. An interdisciplinary presentation by popular Twin Cities author and his-

torian Larry Millett will provide an overview of the architectural and historical setting in which the game developed in the North Star State.

Millett is a journalist and author who served as the architectural critic for the St. Paul Pioneer Press until 1992. He is known for his book *Lost Twin Cities* which deals with the loss of buildings in the Twin Cities



Minneapolis Central Library ,300 Nicollet Mall,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

and the history of the area.

There will be a 9:00 a.m. continental breakfast before the 10:00 a.m. conference start and, an on-site catered lunch and mid-afternoon beverages and snacks will be provided.

Watch for the publication of

the complete **Program & Schedule and Registration Information** which will be published in **early July** in the Summer issue of **Nineteenth Century Notes** and on the Society for American Baseball Research website.

**We hope to see you there!**

**Further information and later updates** are available by email at **sabrM-N19c@gmail.com**.

Several presenters are already confirmed as presenters for the conference:

**John Thorn**, Historian for Major League Baseball.

**Larry Millett**, popular Twin Cities author and local historian.

**Stew Thornley**, SABR award-winning author and leading Minnesota baseball historian.

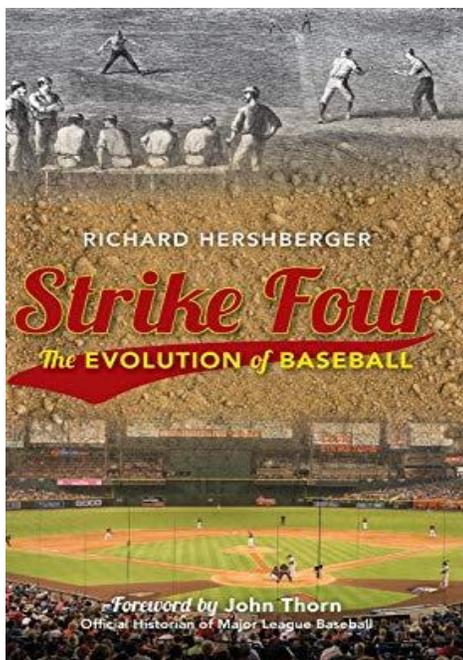
**Dan Levitt**, SABR award-winning author

**Mike Hauptert**, SABR Doug Pappas Award winner in 2014 for best convention presentation.

**Kristin Anderson**, award-winning teacher at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and expert on Twin Cities sports architecture.

## News & Notes

-Richard Hershberger has a new book out. *Strike Four: The Evolution of Baseball*. The book discusses the evolution of baseball rules from called strikes to video replay.



- **Hardcover:** 320 pages
  - **Publisher:** Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (March 8, 2019)
  - **Language:** English
  - **ISBN-10:** 153812114X
  - **ISBN-13:** 978-1538121146
- Product Dimensions:** 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches  
**-Price: \$38.00**

-Committee member Don Jensen is the Editor of McFarland's annual Base Ball. Volume 11 is currently seeking articles to include in the next edition. Contact Don at [donald.jensen8@gmail.com](mailto:donald.jensen8@gmail.com)

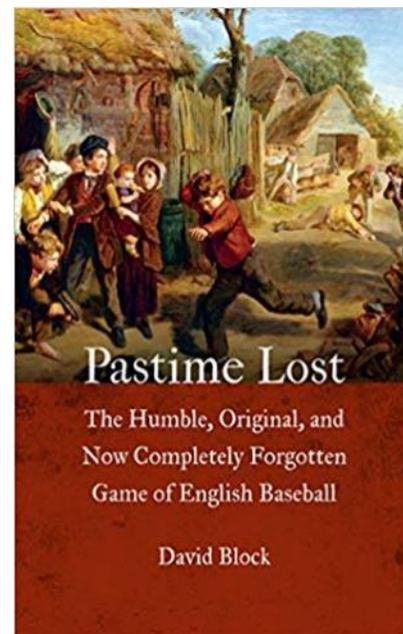
-The Nineteenth Century Committee's Overlooked Legend season is well underway. The preliminary voting by the 19CC ran from February 11 to March 4. The 19CC voters reduced the 25 candidates down to 10. Two additional candidates were added to the final ballot under a new process that allows each chairman to select a candidate. Adam Darowski selected Joe Start and Joe Williams selected Dickey Pearce.

The final 12 for the summer ballot to name the 2019 Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Legend consists of the following names: Charlie Bennett, Tommy Bond, Jim Creighton, Bud Fowler, Paul Hines, Bobby Mathews, Dickey Pearce, Al Reach, Joe Start, George Stovey, George Van Haltren, Chris Von der Ahe

The voting will begin April 29 and end on May 20. The winner will be announced during the 19CC's annual business meeting during the SABR convention in June.

To learn more about the project, please visit <https://sabr.org/overlooked-19th-century-baseball-legends>.

-David Block follows up *Baseball Before We Knew It* with his new volume, *Pastime Lost: The Humble, Original, and Now Completely Forgotten Game of English Baseball*. David illuminates baseball history describing the game as it existed in the time of Jane Austen and King George III.



- **Hardcover:** 328 pages
  - **Publisher:** University of Nebraska Press (April 1, 2019)
  - **Language:** English
  - **ISBN-10:** 149620851X
  - **ISBN-13:** 978-1496208514
- Product Dimensions:** 6.5 x 1.2 x 9.5 inches  
**Price: \$29.95**  
**Available April 1, 2019**



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30,  
Friday, Saturday and Monday, May 2, 3 and 5.

PLAY BEGINS AT 2:00 O'CLOCK  
**ADMISSION 25 CENTS**