

2023 Annual Report

Appendix 2: Research Committees

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Committee

The Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Committee was approved by the SABR Board only half a year ago and its impact has already been felt. The mission of the committee is to 1) promote the research and application of AI and machine learning in baseball, and 2) provide a community for SABR members (and attract new SABR members) interested in sports tech. With the mission in mind, several founding members of the Committee attended the 2023 SABR Analytics Conference and conducted a talk on The Future Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Baseball ([video available here](#)). The talk was a success in that it spread awareness of the work being done by SABR members in the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning space and helped connect the larger work of SABR with the SABR Analytics Conference.

The Committee's promotion of its work at the 2023 SABR Analytics Conference also connected new SABR members, many of them younger, and post-conference the Committee has over 80 members. Many of the members of the Committee are those that are more interested in the technical nature and future direction of the sport and less interested in the historical nature. They have PhDs, work as data scientists, engineers, physicists and other areas of science. It has brought together people with more technical skills that will hopefully empower them to collaborate on future projects using A.I. and Machine Learning techniques.

Another accomplishment of the Committee was collaborating with a major defense contractor, Booz Allen Hamilton, the Washington Nationals and the SABR DC Chapter. The event was hosted by Booz Allen Hamilton's Artificial Intelligence Group at its new The Helix, Center for Innovation near the White House and was designed to promote its work in Artificial Intelligence and the work being done in Artificial Intelligence in baseball. The Co-Chairs of the Committee, Professor Allison Levin and Professor Brian Hall, were part of the keynote panel of the event and discussed work being done by SABR and the Committee. The Bob Davids Chapter was very welcoming, with some of its members being part of Booz Allen's Artificial Intelligence Group, and we thank them for their support as well to help with the Committee's mission. This synergy and future collaborations between private sector A.I. work being done and SABR is something we are very excited about.

Last, and perhaps most excitingly, younger members (many college students or recent college grads) of SABR are already engaged in the work of the Committee. Committee members have offered guidance with the work of these young SABR members in the A.I. and machine learning space and we plan to publish the work of many of these younger members later in the year. We hope to connect these younger members to SABR and help develop their technical skills as they

work on projects they love involving baseball. Looking back at the only half-year existence of the Committee, we are pleasantly surprised by all the success and hard work of its members thus far and, being interested in the future of baseball technology, are excited to see what the future will bring.

— **Brian Hall and Allison Levin**

Asian Baseball Committee

The SABR Asian Baseball Committee (ABC) remained active and productive in 2022. The committee grew to 132 members (up from 125 in 2021). We welcomed the return of Rob Fitts as Chair Emeritus, a role created to recognize his leadership in the SABR Editorial Board-approved book, “Nichibeï Yakyu: US Tours of Japan, 1907-1958.” Produced and published in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Japanese baseball, Nichibeï Yakyu was recognized for its excellence with two awards: 1) the 2023 [SABR Baseball Research Award](#) (for Robert K. Fitts, Bill Nowlin, and James Forr); and 2) the 2023 [McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award](#) for an article on “The 1921 Native American Tours of Japan,” from the publication by Yoichi Nagata, Robert K. Fitts, and Mark Brunke.

Shane Barclay and Coop Daley continued to help increase the committee's focus on present-day baseball in Asia and expanded the content available to members through JapanBall.com.

With that, last year the ABC community published multiple articles and participated in several events, including the 150th Anniversary Celebration of U.S.-Japan baseball relations (1872-2002) at the [Japanese American National Museum with Masanori Murakami](#) and at [Citi Field with the New York Mets](#).

Committee members also collaborated with the L.A. Dodgers to develop an exhibit on Japanese American baseball for the 2022 MLB All-Star game. The exhibit was well-received and sparked two new exhibit opportunities: Rebuilding Home Plate at the Arizona Heritage Center in Tempe, AZ (January-May 2023) and at the 2023 MLB All-Star Game FanFest in Seattle, WA (July 2023). For more details on the activities of the SABR Asian Baseball Committee, visit: <https://bit.ly/SABR-ABC-2023>.

— **Bill Staples, Jr., Rob Fitts, Shane Barclay, Coop Daley**

Ballparks Committee

Our semi-annual Ballparks newsletters went out, the last one being the May 2023 issue. The committee has an ongoing “Minor League Ballparks” project (mainly accessing old guides for information systematically by league and year) but that project is on hold and needs a leader who will move it forward. A group project (probably a book project although not required to be) that might bring in multiple contributors is on the table. We are looking for additional ideas before we decide on something and recruit volunteers.

The SABR Ballparks Facebook page has 13,506 members, double the number as of last year’s report. On Twitter, the SABR Ballparks account has 2,224 followers.

A proposed project, in conjunction with the SABR Pictorial Committee, centers around gathering and cataloging or indexing ballpark photos. Another possible future project would be ballpark art and artistic renderings.

— **Kevin Johnson and Ron Selter**

Baseball and the Arts Committee

SABR’s Baseball and the Arts Committee promotes the research, education, and appreciation for the rich history of performance, literary and visual art inspired by the game of baseball and expressed in music, poetry, theatre, cinema, painting, sculpture, and illustration inspired by, or pertaining to, The National Pastime.

The chief focus of the Baseball and the Arts Research Committee has been the publication of *Turnstyle, Issue Number 3* and the review of submissions for *Turnstyle, Issue Number 4*. The Committee is pleased to announce that *Issue Number 3*, after delays attributed to supply chain challenges, has indeed been published. Now *Turnstyle* editors, Joanne Hulbert and Jay Hurd, can begin review and editing of, to date, thirty submissions for inclusion in *Issue Number 4*.

Ongoing discussions shared with Committee members are:

- Newsletter – content? how often?
- Facebook presence – assistance needed from SABR administration and technology.
- Establish protocols for significant ideas, projects, etc. which challenge limited resources of the Committee – e.g. films, screenplays, outreach to school age children, making *Turnstyle* more available/accessible.
- Host ZOOM meetings to engage members.
- Compile indices of poetry, film, theater, music, etc.

- Identify players – past and present – who engage in the arts, and who may be willing to speak at Annual Conferences.
- Possible brief theatrical, literary, musical, and comic performances at SABR Annual, and other venues.

The Baseball and Arts Research Committee remains committed to the research, discussion and sharing of art, in its many aspects, with SABR at the national level, with SABR committees, chapters, and members, and with other communities.

— **Joanne Hulbert and Jay Hurd**

Baseball Biography Project (BioProject) Committee

Leadership

Rory and Gregory became co-heads of the committee at the end of 2016. The situation remains the same. Rory maintains his role as Chief Editor. He coordinates with Gregory and other key committee members on questions that may arise. Gregory also remains closely involved in day-to-day operations, for example, with coordination of final posting once the review process is complete. He also continues to publicize assignments that have been freed. These are the result of an ongoing campaign to monitor requests taken on but not completed. In addition, Gregory remains active in promotional efforts.

Volume

The number of biographies continues to grow. As of this writing, there are 6,202 bios on the site, marking an increase of 221 from the same time last year. For comparison: over the same time the previous year, we had 314 new bios, of which 72 came from published book projects. The base of authors has also widened further with new contributors. A core of prolific authors maintains a high rate of new submissions.

Stories about ballparks also continue to go through the BioProject review process. We have published 12 such stories over the past 12 months, bringing the total to 113.

The BioProject remains appreciative of SABR's publishing efforts. Many of the biographies that are written each year are inspired by book projects (and occasionally journals).

In calendar 2022, SABR published nine new books, several of which featured biographies – in particular the 1992 Blue Jays book (with 53 biographies); *Our Game, Too* (on Canadian baseball, with 18 biographies); the 1920 Chicago American Giants book (with 24 biographies); the 1883 Philadelphia Athletics book (with 19 bios); and *Dominicans in the Major Leagues* (with 54 bios, and available both in English and a Spanish-language edition.) In addition to those 168 biographies, there were additional bios in other SABR books, such as ballpark stories.

In the first five months of 2023, SABR has also published books on Yankee Stadium and Willie Mays. The latter book includes an updated bio of Mr. Mays, while the former contains the long-awaited ballpark bio of the original Yankee Stadium.

There are some other biography-centric books in the works. Expected for publication in 2023 are *One-Win Wonders*, a companion to *One-Hit Wonders*, which will contain around 60 new biographies, and a book on the 1934 Philadelphia Stars, with 27 bios.

Also in the pipeline are books on Venezuelan major leaguers (again, in two different editions), which will present about 50 bios; one on the 2004 Boston Red Sox, which will have about 50 bios; and one on the 1939 Baltimore Elite Giants, with 25 bios.

Review Workflow

Depth and breadth of review team

We have welcomed some new and productive team members in the areas of editing and fact-checking. Rory has been providing guidance to the new editors (who may also develop into vetters). He has been directing people who wish to fact-check to the head of that team, Alan Cohen.

The submission window and cap policy, which has been in place since December 2021, continues to work as intended. With more reviewers, the submission window has been more likely to remain open and long closures have not been necessary.

However, a broader base of qualified vetters is needed. Rory still does a large share of this work, backed by a few frequent contributors.

Fact-checking, the second stage of the operation after the initial vetting, also remains a smooth process. Thanks go to Alan Cohen, who became head of the team in December 2020. Alan continues to receive major support from his staff of fact-checkers, some new to the project and others who have been with the team since its inception in 2013. Since December 2020, 38 persons have fact-checked at least one story. The team reviews more than 20 stories per month

and has found authors appreciative of its efforts. Alan has reminded his team to turn assignments around promptly and to focus on finding errors in stories.

Anyone interested in lending their efforts to this very worthwhile endeavor can contact Alan at adc0317@comcast.net.

The editing phase of the process still generally works well. However, even with the broader team, the load could be shared more widely. Much is often accomplished at the vetting stage, and thus – as intended – this stage tends to consist largely of a final polish.

Technical capability remains an occasional concern. “Tip sheets” with instructions remain available on the BioProject resources page.

Assignments

Bill Nowlin continues to monitor the requests that go to the bioassign@sabr.org e-mail address. Bill also still consults with Rory and Gregory when requests to write about subjects who are not major-league players come in, to see whether the subject meets the threshold of notability. The same is true of minor-league ballparks (as noted, ballpark stories go through the BioProject review channel).

Corrections

Zac Petrillo and Terry Bohn continue to help Gregory monitor the bioproject@sabr.org e-mail address, to which many correction notes are sent. They (and Rory to an extent) apply fixes as needed, using the WordPress admin functionality that powers the SABR website. This supplements the efforts of Jacob Pomrenke and his team.

Committee Newsletter

Andrea Long remains editor. The most recent issue, May 2023, was just published. In recent years, the norm has been two per annum.

Social Media

Our presence in this area continues to grow. Follow the BioProject on Facebook (3,800+ people do now): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129878527118723/>

Gregory H. Wolf, Rory Costello, and various other participants continue to offer posts on this page highlighting biographies, along with pertinent items about the BioProject’s effort. As of

January 2023, Paul Proia took on an active role in this area. These posts continue to draw plenty of interest and interaction. We encourage you to “like” and “share” them.

We’d still be happy to see more members become active and post their own comments. We note again that posts need to make specific reference to the BioProject. Posts are still subject to pre-screening and are rejected if they do not comply.

We kicked off the Twitter feed in mid-January 2017. As of May 30, 2023, there were approximately 21,100+ followers. Follow us [@SABRbioproject](https://twitter.com/SABRbioproject). Like and especially retweet our tweets and help promote SABR.

Areas to address: bottlenecks and caveats

Turnaround time has improved with workflow being regulated and the review team having been augmented. The question remains whether we can raise the submission cap if the review team broadens even more. However, that is not contemplated at the moment.

The subject of rejecting submissions is an area that in the past has required much diplomacy on Rory’s part. It is still possible that the rate of rejection may rise, but minimal difficulty has been faced over the past year. However, authors can still (in some cases) do more to format, edit, and fact-check their own work before submission.

Rory has also introduced a stage of workflow called “In Development” for stories that need additional work. Typically this is flagged at the vetting stage, in some cases even before vetting begins. One of the aims of this category is to free valuable submission slots.

Otherwise, where possible, BioProject Resources web pages have been updated. Policy continues to evolve and remains subject to further revision. Rory and Gregory continue to emphasize that the quality standards that have been buttressed in the past will not erode.

— **Rory Costello and Gregory H. Wolf**

Baseball Landmarks Committee

Launched in January 2022, the Baseball Landmarks Committee is continually striving to compile the most complete and accurate list of baseball-related sites across North America and beyond. This comprehensive list includes: active ballparks (for levels of play from summer college wood bat leagues to the Major Leagues); historic ballparks; statues; historical markers; museums; gravesites; and a host of other places that baseball fans might like to visit.

Tireless work done by over fifty committee members helped confirm location data from an initial list and to add missing sites. The culmination of these efforts was the launch of the SABR Baseball Map in July 2022. The SABR Baseball Map is an interactive and highly

Following an introductory Zoom meeting on January 25, 2022, nearly fifty committee members volunteered to help. The committee's efforts, in conjunction with approval from SABR national and the Board of Directors, has allowed the committee to create the SABR Baseball Map, which will be introduced to all SABR members during the summer of 2022.

— **John Racanelli, Chris Kamka, and Mark Armour**

Biographical Research Committee

Once again, it has been a pretty slow year for tracking down missing players. These last ones are pretty tough. We did manage to identify and locate a Louisville player from 1895 previously known only as Childers. The was shown to be Billy Childress who eventually died in St. Louis. Also, one of the four mystery players who played the last game of the season for the 1890 Philadelphia (AA) club was identified as John Sterling who died in Gloucester, New Jersey.

We were able to adjust the playing records of two nineteenth century players named John Farrell, who had their records erroneously intertwined. Birthdates were adjusted for an older player named Harry Jacoby and a much more recent player, Roman Mejias. Mejias was quite a bit older than his listed age.

Finally, congratulations were in order for one of our member, Justin McKinney, who won the SABR Baseball Research Award for his wonderful book on the Union Association.

— **Bill Carle**

Black Sox Scandal Committee

For the fifth consecutive year, the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee continued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of a major event in “baseball's darkest hour.”

Committee chair Jacob Pomrenke and SABR member David J. Fletcher will soon publish the complete transcript of Shoeless Joe Jackson's 1924 civil trial against the Chicago White Sox. The book will be available as an e-book download and in paperback from Eckhartz Press in Chicago. Pomrenke and Fletcher will host a panel discussion about the trial at the upcoming SABR 51 convention in Chicago.

As Fletcher writes:

Before the publication of this book in 2023, fewer than 10 people alive had seen the entire transcript of *Joe Jackson v Chicago American League Baseball Club* — a dramatic trial between an exiled baseball superstar and his former team — which was held from January 29 to February 14, 1924, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

“The transcripts from the Milwaukee trial are a treasure trove of material that will force many assumptions about the Big Fix of 1919 and its aftermath to be re-evaluated,” declared author Gene Carney, the late founder of SABR’s Black Sox Scandal Research Committee who was the driving force behind much of the modern scholarship about the scandal in the early 21st century.

This trial marked the final chapter in the complex legal proceedings that became known as the Black Sox Scandal. These hearings held over 18 days in Milwaukee offer anyone interested in the ongoing saga more detail than ever before about baseball’s “darkest hour.”

The trial transcript includes never-before-seen testimony under oath from Joe Jackson; White Sox executives Charles Comiskey, Harry Grabiner and Alfred Austrian; ballplayers Eddie Cicotte, Lefty Williams, Happy Felsch and Red Faber, gamblers Sleepy Bill Burns and Billy Maharg, and others. Future researchers and historians will now have an opportunity to read through the testimony of key insiders and help expand our knowledge of the Black Sox Scandal.

In the fall of 2022, the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission organized two performances of the “History on Trial” series focusing on the 1919 Black Sox Scandal. The first event took place on October 25 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, and the second event was on November 2 at the Spertus Institute in Chicago.

After the dramatic re-enactment — written by Scott J. Szala and using Bill Lamb's *Black Sox in the Courtroom* and SABR's *Scandal on the South Side* as its primary source material — a panel

discussion focused on the legal and ethical issues of the Black Sox trial. Panelists included SABR's Pomrenke and Lamb, Raymond Doswell of the Negro Leagues Museum, attorney Mary Robinson, and Cook County Circuit Court Judge Neil Cohen. The Springfield performance was narrated by attorney and former Miss America Erika Harold and the Chicago performance was narrated by attorney and TV anchor Irika Sargent.

The Black Sox committee has also published two newsletters with a number of interesting and informative articles.

In the December 2022 newsletter, we published stories on a 1919 World Series baseball discovered in a time capsule buried inside the Tribune Tower building in Chicago; ethical shortcomings in Black Sox courtrooms, by Bill Lamb; Charles Comiskey's induction into the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame, by Brian Flaspohler; a scholarship set up in Honest Eddie Murphy's name in Hancock, New York; and the 1920s White Sox "ultimate rebuilding project," by Bruce Allardice.

The upcoming June 2023 newsletter will include stories by Bill Lamb on Hal Chase's role in the Black Sox Scandal, Bruce Allardice on Billy Maharg and a 1915 Phillies sign-stealing scandal, Allardice on "English Tommy" Gilchrist's connection to the 1919 World Series fix, a preview of Gary Cieradkowski's Black Sox "outlaw baseball" booklet series, and Peter J. Wilt's completed quest to visit all eight Black Sox gravesites.

— **Jacob Pomrenke**

Business of Baseball Committee

In the past year the Business of Baseball Committee published two issues of its newsletter, *Outside the Lines*. Each issue contained abstracts of related research published in academic journals, and articles on team biographies and significant off-the-field events from 100 years ago. The newsletter also began publishing book reviews of recently published books focused on the business of baseball.

Andy McCue continues to oversee the franchise biography project, which added several new biographies. An update on that project is listed below. The committee also continued its efforts to catalog the front office personnel for all years for all franchises. An update on that project is listed below.

Team Ownership History project

The project (<https://sabr.org/bioproj/topic/team-ownership-histories>) continues to grow and evolve. Recently we added work that reflect the breadth of the project: Bruce Allardice's essay on the 1884 Richmond Virginians of the American Association and Andy McCue's piece on the Seattle Pilots.

In the beginning, we set out to do ownership histories of the current 30 major league franchises. We've gone well beyond that. Our researchers have created pieces on franchises from the Negro Leagues, AAGPBL, defunct 19th-century teams and those from leagues that are long past. There are a lot of possibilities out there.

The newest work joins earlier essays on the Mets (Leslie Heaphy), the Boston Braves (Bob LeMoine), the Red Sox and Yankees (Dan Levitt and Mark Armour), the Indians (Dave Bohmer), the Dodgers (Andy McCue), the New York Giants (Bill Lamb), the Diamondbacks (Clayton Trutor), San Francisco Giants (Rob Garratt), Miami Marlins (Steve Keeney), Philadelphia Phillies (Rich Westcott), Blue Jays (Allen Tait), Mariners (Steve Friedman), St. Louis Browns (Greg Erion), both versions of the Washington Senators (Andy Sharp), the Montreal Expos (Joe Marren), the St. Louis Cardinals (Mark Stangl), Kansas City Royals (Dan Levitt), San Diego Padres (John Bauer) and the Minnesota Twins (Gary Olson). Mike Hauptert has written the Cubs before the Wrigleys and is working on the later years.

Also working on drafts are Brian Ertz (Reds to 1968), Steve West (Rangers), Nick Waddell and Jeff Samoray (Tigers), Ed Edmonds (Reds from 1968), Ken Carrano (White Sox), Colorado Rockies (Dana Berry), Houston Astros (Brian Axell), Baltimore Orioles (John Bauer), Milwaukee Brewers (Dennis Degenhardt) and Washington Nationals (Jason Horowitz).

That leaves the Milwaukee Braves, Atlanta Braves, Pittsburgh Pirates, Los Angeles Angels, Philadelphia/Kansas City/Oakland Athletics, and the Tampa Bay Rays.

Charlie Bevis has done three 19th century NL franchises that have left the tracks (Worcester, Providence and Troy) as well as Boston teams of the 1884 American Association and the 1890 Players league which moved into the 1891 American Association. John Zinn did the Brooklyn

Players League team of 1891. Bill Lamb has written the Newark Peppers and Indianapolis Hoosiers of the Federal League. Mike Hauptert has done the Negro Leagues' Hilldale Club and is working on the South Bend Blue Sox of the AAGPBL. Duke Goldman is working on the Negro Leagues' Newark Eagles.

Anyone interested in the un-assigned teams or those of defunct franchises should contact Andy McCue at mccue@sabr.org.

MLB Team Employee Directory Project Update

The [Business of Baseball Committee](#) has embarked on building a historical database of major league baseball employees. Sean Lahman has been helping compile the data, and we are working to turn our efforts into a more formal database.

We have a terrific group of volunteers who have made this project possible: to date we have completed roughly 1600 team-seasons and have another 100 or so assigned. Nearly all the media guides that we have access to either electronically or in hard copy have been either assigned or entered (other than a number of teams from 2020 to 2023, which are available in pdf). If you are willing to enter data for some of these recent seasons, please let us know.

— **Mike Hauptert and Dan Levitt**

Century Committee

SABR's [Century Research Committee](#) was approved for formation by SABR's Board in June 2020. This SABR committee provides a research hub for SABR research and activities to memorialize the anniversaries of important milestones in baseball history. Although the Century Committee is designed to primarily focus on 100th anniversary events, its work encompasses other significant anniversaries — e.g. 25th, 50th, 75th — as well.

Committee Membership count: 75 members (*per directory search conducted May 30, 2023*)
In the period from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 members and friends of the SABR Century Research Committee contributed to the following activities:

Baseball and the Supreme Court: Our newest web project was launched Summer 2022 at [SABR.org/supreme-court/1922](https://sabr.org/supreme-court/1922)

As a follow-on to successful web projects on the 100th anniversary of the pivotal year of [1921](#) in baseball—when the game moved from dead ball to lively ball era play—and a retrospective on the 75th anniversary of [Jackie Robinson's re-integration of baseball](#), in the summer of 2022 the Century Committee launched a web project on [baseball and the Supreme Court](#) to provide a SABR research focus on the anniversaries of [The Federal Baseball Club v. National League](#) decision of 1922 and [Flood v. Kuhn](#) of 1972. The former effectively granted baseball its controversial antitrust exemption. The latter represented Curt Flood's courageous challenge to this exemption and the infamous reserve clause that effectively bound a player to his team for as long as the team wanted him.

This site showcased previous SABR publications such as Justice Samuel Alito's SABR article on [the baseball antitrust exemption](#) along with new SABR research articles on topics such as the legacy and relevance of these trials on the sport today, and on free agency, labor history in the sport, and the eventual [signing of the Curt Flood Act of 1998](#). A highlight of the project – which emphasizes the breadth of SABR research interests – was a section devoted to Supreme Court justices on [trading cards](#).

What's Next?

In 2024 the Century Committee will, jointly with the Women in Baseball Committee, launch a web project on the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (1943-54), with Project Leaders Sharon Hamilton and Leslie Heaphy.

This project will be a tightly focused web-based multimedia project to be launched in early 2024 on the 70th anniversary of the final season of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball

League (AAGPBL). This project's planned collaboration with the Women in Baseball Committee draws upon their purpose, to promote research and study of the roles of women in all aspects of baseball, including the AAGPBL.

This SABR web project will be used to provide contextual information on the ground-breaking league and its pioneering women, while showcasing important new SABR research. The 1992 movie [*A League of Their Own*](#) triggered significant public interest in the women's circuit and the [Amazon television series](#) of the same name, released in 2022, had a similar effect. This web project will provide an effective means for SABR to promote itself as an organization, attract new members, and encourage more of our existing members to engage in baseball research. This initiative will also help fulfil the aspirations outlined in SABR's [Diversity Statement](#).

The Century Committee with the Women in Baseball Committee wishes to approach this as a cooperative project designed to excite and engage SABR researchers across a number of additional SABR committees such as the Negro Leagues—by also discussing the professional women players who played on Negro Leagues teams during the years of the AAGPBL's existence—and Baseball and the Arts.

As with the SABR Century 1921 project, we also wish with this project to highlight the great work of SABR committees that perhaps do not normally get as much attention. For example, we would like to draw attention to AAGPBL baseball cards, including [the relatively unknown “Star Sets”](#) created before the release of *A League of Their Own* and the mass-produced Fritsch cards from 1995-96. The Business of Baseball Committee / BioProject may be interested in creating ownership histories for AAGPBL teams and / or research the league's unique administrative features (e.g., initial non-profit status and player allocation procedures).

— **Sharon Hamilton and Bill Nowlin**

Collegiate Baseball Committee

The Collegiate Baseball Committee held its annual meeting in conjunction with SABR 50 at 8 am, August 19, 2022. Committee accomplishments since SABR 49 were reviewed.

It was announced that Perry Keith, head coach at Connors State College, has the most career victories as of the completion of the 2022 season with 1,757. Denney Crabaugh, Oklahoma City University, held the second spot with 1,601 but passed away after the end of the 2022 season.

Issues facing the Committee include the following:

Minimal interaction between committee members other than at the Annual Meeting.

The Committee does not appear on the radar of anyone within collegiate baseball at either the school, conference, or governing body level.

The possibility of SABR offering an associate membership to CoSida (College Sports Information Directors) members was raised.

The need for assistance with newsletters and the assistance for establishing and maintaining a social media presence was raised.

Members present were asked to identify themselves and any specific areas of interest.

As of May 31, 2023, new files have been created for a total of 1,449 college programs, an increase of 37 over June 1, 2022. The breakdown by category:

Category	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Sr. College active	780	765	723	691	660
Jr. College active	520	515	471	429	336
Sr. College inactive	98	86	65	59	58
Jr. College inactive	51	46	43	38	35
TOTAL	1,449	1,412	1,302	1,217	1,089

An ongoing effort to convert historical college program files in Word format to Excel remains in progress. All of the active junior college programs have an Excel file with updates through 2021 or 2022. (Files are updated every other year.)

A total of 720 of the 780 active senior college program files have been data covering the past 10 years. Once the remaining files are updated, a cross-reference with historical files will start.

The only newsletter awaits a final edit for distribution.

The “necrology” of former collegiate baseball coaches who passed away continues in each newsletter, as does the annual list of collegiate players making their Major League debut each season.

— **Karl Green**

Educational Resources Committee

We currently have 124 registered members. We met at SABR 50 to discuss the plans for the research committee and the consensus was to continue to work on building a syllabus reservoir for use by our members. There was also discussion on putting together a list of members who would be available to act as guest speakers in classes. These will continue to be our ongoing projects and members are encouraged to email Allison with syllabuses.

— **Allison Levin**

Games Project Committee

The SABR Baseball Games Project was formed in 2014 to research, write, and publish accounts of regular season, postseason, and All-Star major-league games, along with other games of historical significance from Black baseball, minor leagues, exhibition play, or amateur or international competition. Posted articles complement Retrosheet and Baseball-Reference box scores, as well as SABR Bio Project essays on players, ballparks, and other figures involved.

As of May 27, 2023, the Games Project has completed 4,440 game essays, including articles contributed by individual SABR members or authored for SABR book projects. Of that total, 4,262 essays are posted on the [Games Project website](#), representing an increase of 770 posted essays in the past 12 months. (Approximately one year after book publication, game essays are posted onto the Games Project website.)

John Fredland has served as committee chair since October 2020. Steve Weiner maintains a spreadsheet to manage article assignments, track work from assignment to publication, and provide a historical record of Games Project writing. Bruce Slutsky leads the fact-checking team, and Len Levin handles all copy-editing.

Games Project authors assist Jacob Pomrenke, SABR Director of Editorial Content, in posting completed articles to the Games Project website. Many Games Project authors also support the fact-checking team. Experienced authors provide coaching and assistance to other members.

The Games Project contributes to SABR's baseball research mission in two major areas. First, the Games Project provides SABR members a forum for writing about games and matters of individual interest. Subjects covered in articles posted in 2023 include [a game from the National League's 1876 debut season in which one club borrowed a player from its opponent to avoid a forfeit](#); [a 1905 minor-league game involving Ty Cobb and Ed Cicotte](#); [the circumstances of the American League banning the emery ball in 1914](#); [a 20-inning tie game from the Negro American League in 1946](#); [the first hit by an AL pitcher in the designated hitter era](#); and [a minor-league "home run cycle" from 2022](#).

The Games Project also supports other SABR initiatives. In addition to regularly providing game articles for SABR publications, the Games Project has contributed articles to three web-based initiatives in the past two years: the Century Committee's projects on the 1921 season and the 75th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's debut with the Dodgers, and SABR's overall project on games attended during SABR conventions.

The Games Project has also developed significant online initiatives, enabling SABR to celebrate the various highlights of baseball's calendar and showcase existing SABR writing. In 2023 the Games Project's fourth annual Opening Day project included [13 new articles on Opening Day games from 1923 to 2013](#), while also allowing SABR to highlight the existing article on the first game played at Yankee Stadium in 1923. In April, we also provided a set of articles to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the American League implementing the DH in 1973. Other online initiatives have highlighted All-Star Games, Hall of Fame inductees, the 1986 Mets, and games played on the final day of the regular season.

Of the articles the Games Project posted in CY 2022, 443 were "non book" articles, proposed and developed by individual SABR members or coordinated as part of Games Project online initiatives. A total of 70 SABR members were credited as authors or co-authors on those articles.

Jacob Pomrenke provided page views of our 10 most viewed articles for the 2022 calendar year. They were:

10. [April 21, 1972: Rangers fans celebrate arrival of major-league baseball in North Texas](#) (2559 views)

Author: [Duane Keilstrup](#). Posted November 7, 2019.

9. [May 17, 1979: Schmidt's Phillies outslug Kingman's Cubs, 23-22](#) (2722 views)

Author: [Mike Huber](#). Posted March 25, 2016.

- #5 on 2020 "Most Viewed" list

8. [July 2, 1963: Marichal outduels Spahn in 16-inning thriller](#) (3315 views)

Author: [Lou Hernandez](#). Posted August 29, 2014.

- #3 on 2020 "Most Viewed" list, #3 on 2021 list

7. [July 1, 1990: Andy Hawkins no-hitter is 'no winner' for Yankees](#) (4007 views)

Author: [Stew Thornley](#). Posted October 18, 2018.

6. [August 16, 1920: Ray Chapman suffers fatal blow to his skull on pitch from Carl Mays](#) (4417 views)

Author: [Joseph Wancho](#). Posted December 4, 2018.

- #4 on 2020 "Most Viewed" list, #8 on 2021 list

5. [August 31, 1990: Ken Griffey Jr. and Sr. get back-to-back hits in father-son debut with Mariners](#) (4566 views)

Author: [Richard Cuicchi](#). Posted November 5, 2021.

4. [September 6, 1976: Dodgers' Steve Yeager suffers near-fatal on-field accident](#) (5571 views)

Author: [Frederick C. Bush](#). Posted July 12, 2018.

- #9 on 2020 "Most Viewed" list, #6 on 2021 list

3. [May 8-9, 1984: White Sox, Brewers play for 25 innings, longest game in major-league history](#) (6015 views)

Author: [Ken Carrano](#). Posted October 29, 2020.

- #1 on 2021 "Most Viewed" list

2. [May 30, 1935: Babe Ruth plays his final major-league game with Boston Braves](#) (6236 views)

Author: [Thomas J. Brown Jr.](#) Posted November 30, 2020.

1. [July 4, 1939: Lou Gehrig says farewell to baseball with 'Luckiest Man' speech at Yankee Stadium](#) (6245 views)

Author: [Paul Hofmann](#). Posted November 30, 2020.

- #9 on 2021 "Most Viewed" list

Games Project pages represent about 12.7 percent of overall traffic at SABR.org, with over 509,000 total page views in 2022.

— **John Fredland**

Games and Simulations Committee

At SABR 50 we asked for a time and a meeting for this committee to see if there was any interest in reviving the committee. Our goal is to support individuals with any research or information they were seeking while sharing our group's enthusiasm for the broad spectrum of baseball gaming and simulation research. We believe that this year has been successful as we hosted 7 successful virtual events that included special guests Mark Cohen (Digital Diamond Baseball), Clay Dreslough (Baseball Mogul), John Herson (APBA), F.X. Flinn & Doug Garr (Rotisserie League Baseball) and Brian Haferkamp (On Base Baseball).

Our Twitter page (@SABRbballgaming) currently has 514 followers, and a new Facebook page has 93 members. In both these cases the people involved are not limited to SABR members. We have been told that some people have either joined or have re-joined SABR with this committee being the catalyst.

Since SABR 50 our members have posted 30+ articles on our blog sabrbaseballgaming.com. The content is varied and informative, sharing season replays, reviews of computer, console and tabletop games, and the use of games and computer algorithms to enhance pre-game and in-game strategy such as lineup optimization. We created a Baseball Gaming Questionnaire and shared the link in various social media forums, asking respondents to list the games that they have owned or played and whether they would be willing to create content for our site. Through May 2023, 91 individuals responded to the survey and 86% replied that they were willing to write articles or create video demos for their favorite games.

Our website, which was averaging around 100 views per month leading up to SABR 50, is now logging 1500+ views per month since November 2022 with a high water mark of 2,437 views in April 2023. We would like to express our appreciation to former G&S co-chair Richard Bergstrom for his original work with the website and Twitter accounts along with facilitating our access to both sites.

In January 2023 we reached out to SABR members to gauge interest in starting up a SABR-members-only fantasy baseball league. Based on the positive response, we now have three 12-team "SABR G&S" fantasy leagues utilizing the ESPN Fantasy Baseball online program.

At SABR 51 in Chicago we will have a larger presence than before. The Exhibitors Room will feature an interactive display of handheld, tabletop and computer-based games. We are planning to host a discussion panel consisting of Mike Cieslinski (Dynasty League Baseball), Geoff Reiss (ESPN/Starwave, Yahoo Sports) and Rob Neyer (author, ESPN, SABRcast) at our committee meeting. Mike has graciously agreed to host a 64-team "All-Time Greats" tournament on the Dynasty League Baseball website that will be open to both attendees and non-attendees.

Several members say they either have ideas for games or have been working on them, both physical and software. We look forward to supporting them anyway we can, and even being the guinea pigs for their testing phase.

— **Derek Bain and Mark Wendling**

Latino Baseball Committee

The Latino Baseball committee continues its role in seeking to educate the public on the rich and illustrious history of the Latin contribution to the game of baseball. The committee provides interesting research on the many nuances of baseball's history. From Latinos in the Negro leagues and professional baseball in the Caribbean, to the ever-growing number of Latinos in baseball today, there is much work to be done as we continue to explore new stories to tell.

Coming this year is the resurrection of our long-dormant committee publication, *La Prensa del Béisbol Latino*. We encourage members from other research committees to work with the Latino baseball committee, where our interests intersect. Please join our discussion and make your contributions.

— **Anthony Salazar**

Minor Leagues Committee

The committee was one of the first working groups created by SABR. There are currently 581 members, a drop of 20 members over the past two years.

Communication is the key to keep members involved. This is done through the Committee's twice-yearly newsletter "Beating the Bushes," which is superbly produced by Chuck McGill. In addition, I sent three letters to members during the year with time-sensitive information.

In an effort to get more members of our committee involved, we launched work in August 2022 on our first publication since 1993, when we produced volume three of *Minor League Stars*. Our book, still unnamed, focuses on the 1946 through 1962 seasons, when minor league baseball achieved one of its highest highs and lowest lows.

As of June 1, I have received 21 articles with at least nine more promised over the next few months. I have recruited six content editors who are currently reviewing 14 of the submissions. Before July 1, I expect to line up our fact checkers. Len Levin has volunteered to be the final reviewer. I'm hoping to complete the project by January 1, 2024.

I've been very pleased with the give-and-take discussions that I've had with the authors and content editors since the start of the project. I feel that the book is a positive way to get our younger members involved and hopefully this will lead to further committee initiatives.

Chuck McGill plans to begin discussions with interested members about a Retrosheet-like project for the minor leagues.

— **George Pawlush**

Nineteenth Century Committee

Annual Business Meeting

The Nineteenth Century Committee held its last annual business meeting on August 18, 2022 at SABR 50 in Baltimore, MD. We are meeting again on July 6, 2023 at 1:00–2:00 p.m. in the Adams Ballroom of the Palmer House hotel during SABR's 51st national convention in Chicago, IL.

Newsletter

Our Research Committee has continued to publish its regular quarterly newsletter, "Nineteenth Century Notes," since the fall of 2007 (which is never fewer than 12 pages) in a timely manner thanks to Co-Chair / Editor Bob Bailey. Our summer 2023 issue of our newsletter will be published in mid-July in order to include information about the Nineteenth Century Committee's Annual Business in Chicago.

Use of Digital Communication

During 2022-2023 we have continued one of our virtual committee activities, the 19cBB Speakers Series that began in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will enter our fourth season this summer/fall with the announcement of speakers and topics, moderators and books being made at the Chicago convention and in the summer issue of our newsletter. We have also decided to hold future 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposiums as virtual events.

Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference

For the second year since the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum (HOF) was shuttered due to the pandemic we held our 14th annual “Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, (“The Fred”) on April 28-29, 2023 at its traditional venue, in Cooperstown, NY. “The Fred” hosted 78 registrants and guests, which is a typical pre-pandemic attendance. We have started preliminary planning for the April 19-20, 2024 “Fred” Conference.

19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposiums

Our committee’s sixth city-specific interdisciplinary symposium, the Southern New England 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium, was held at Providence College on Saturday, November 12, 2022, in Rhode Island. We were fortunate to have been invited and assisted by the Southern New England chapter, which brought a very strong program together of both baseball historians and others who focused on 19th century life in the area. Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), the RI Historical Society and others were all represented. We had approximately 45 persons attend, fewer than we had hoped for given the quality of the program. In comparing and contrasting our six Interdisciplinary Symposiums, we have concluded that future Interdisciplinary Symposiums are better attended when given virtually because as one-day events, they tend to be of a lesser value for persons who want to attend but must travel (transportation, food and lodging) greater distances.

Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends Project

Thanks to Co-Chairs Adam Darowski and Joe Williams and the Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends Project Committee the Committee completed its 15th annual Overlooked Legends Primary Elections (Nineteenth Century Committee members only) in February/March 2023, which produced 12 Finalist for a SABR-wide election this May/June (2023). Among the 12 finalists there were equal numbers of 19th century: “Players,” “Pioneers,” “Managers, Executives or Umpires,” and “19th century African Americans.” The full 15th annual (2023) Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend election results will be announced at our annual Committee Business Meeting, July 6, during SABR’s National Convention. The 2022 OL Selection, Moses Fleetwood Walker, was announced at our 2022 Annual Committee Business Meeting. Our 2020 OL selection, Bud Fowler, has been voted for induction into the National Baseball HOF in July of this year. Fowler is the second SABR selected Overlooked Legend to be selected for induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame during the past fifteen years; the other was James “Deacon” White.

19th Century Baseball Grave Marker Project

Our Nineteenth Century Committee’s, 19th Century Baseball Grave Marker Project Committee, undertook its eighth 19cBB Grave Marker placement in the autumn of 2022, under its’ new

Chair, Sam Gazdziak. Sam has successfully had a new Grave Marker put in place of a badly deteriorated stone on the grave of Bobby Mathews, a perennial 19th Century Overlooked Legend candidate who is buried in Baltimore. Sam is continuing to coordinate with the Baltimore Regional Chapter of SABR to run a baseball burial tour and a dedication for Mathews' stone before year's end. Two other dedications are in Sam's sights; "Slithers" the premier baseball clown (Queens, NY) and Lizzie Arlington, a woman pioneer in men's 19th century baseball who is buried in Pennsylvania. Thanking John Thorn and MLB for their support.

Orem Citation Project

Another of our newer Nineteenth Century Committee activities is a research and resources project, the "Orem Citation Project," Chaired by Bob LeMoine, which got underway in March of 2021. The project came into existence after an independent project by two Committee members, John Thorn and Bob Bailey completed the first ever digital publication of mid-20th century baseball researcher Preston Orem's "1882 – 1891 Annual Supplements of Baseball According to the Newspapers." LeMoine realized, as did the editors who digitized the supplements and others, that like Orem's original publication, "Baseball by the Newspaper Accounts, 1845-1881" the supplements contained few citations. LeMoine continues to lead a small contingent of Nineteenth Century Committee Members to search out and publish a companion digital publication of citations to Orem's Supplements, also for SABR's Research Resources collection.

Co-Chairs Award(s)

Two Co-Chairs' Awards were formally announced at our Annual Committee Meeting last year in Baltimore, during SABR 50. Co-Chairs' Awards are presented to Nineteenth Century Committee Members for their service to the Committee. First, Richard "Dixie" Tourangeau (who was present) for his years of taking and providing photographs of our annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference in Cooperstown, NY. And. Second, Tom Gilbert for his highly successful coordination of our Brooklyn 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium (November, 2021) conducted virtually due to the pandemic. Tom also pre-recorded a video tour of Brooklyn historic baseball sites that was presented in conjunction with the symposium. Both honorees received an engraved replica 1880s Burlingame Model trophy bat.

19th Century Baseball Speaker Series

Our Nineteenth Century Committee's 19th Century Speakers Series is now approaching its Season IV (Sept. 2023 – May 2024). This undertaking, which was initiated and brought to life by our Co-Chair, Bob Bailey, in late summer / early fall 2020 has provide nine, 45-50 minute, virtual Research Presentations (via Zoom Meetings) by Nineteenth Century Committee Members each year. All SABR members who log into the Zoom Meetings at 8:pm ET, from September through May) will continue to hear and see a different 19th Century Research Presentation of up to 50 minutes in duration. Between 35 and 80 people participated in each session to date. The

full Season IV schedule (presenters and topics) will be announced at our Annual Business Meeting in July, and in the 2023 Summer Newsletter.

19th Century Baseball Book Club

Finally, Our Nineteenth Century Committee's NEWEST project will commence within weeks (mid July 2023). Hopefully, many of our Committee Members will find it both interesting and fun. The 19th Century Baseball Book Club (19cBB Book Club) has been designed to have five (5) book discussion moderators (19cBB Book Club Moderators) provide at least one to five book titles each quarter of the year (in sync with our quarterly newsletter). To date those Moderators are: Matt Albertson, Jack Bales, Jim Chakulski, Kevin Kreiner and Susan Lantz. The 19cBB Book Club is designed to be as active as members and moderators wish it to be. The first titles selected are: "Level Playing Fields," "Spalding's World Tour," "Blackguards and Red Stockings," "A Sporting Time.." and "Baseball's 19th Century 'Winter' Meetings." All SABR members are invited to participate, however, authors of books to be discussed are asked not to participate if the session is dedicated to a title they authored or edited (except if authors only contributed a small portion of chapters to a collective work, like "Baseball's 19th Century "Winter' Meetings." These discussions will be conducted on SABR's Zoom Meeting site and will commence during the summer of 2023.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to all our committee members; SABR's CEO and Staff Members, Scott Carter, Jacob Pomrenke, Ken Carrano and Jessica Smyth; SABR's President, Mark Amour and members of SABR's Board of Directors who helped our committee through this past year's projects and other undertakings, "... because, baseball history is not only baseball history.

— **Bob Bailey and Peter Mancuso**

Pictorial History Committee

The SABR Pictorial Committee has taken on a lot of new projects this year as well as continuing one of its main ongoing projects.

We have been working to identify and catalog photographs from the SABR-Rucker Archive. Twenty-five volunteers worked on Wave 1 of this project which looked at photographs of Hank Aaron, Roberto Clemente, Ty Cobb, Martin Dihigo, Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, and Ted Williams. Over 1,400 photographs were fully cataloged and 10,040 images were published online at [SABR.org/rucker-archive](https://sabr.org/rucker-archive).

In October we launched the Pictorial Committee blog at [SABRPictorial.com](https://sabr.com/pictorial). We had five posts and are looking for more. Some of the posts included features on Reggie Jackson, Stan Hack, and the 1910 Brooklyn Superbas.

The Committee has continued to work on the Baseball Player Photograph Index to find an image of every major league player, coach, manager, and umpire since 1871. This year with a major contribution from Bill Hickman we were able to start trying to find players from the Negro Leagues that fall into the Major League classification.

The Committee's Twitter account at [@SABRPictorial](https://twitter.com/SABRPictorial) has continued to grow with 231 new followers in the last year and 4,706 overall.

— **Cary Smith**

Scouts Committee

The SABR Scouts Research Committee has enjoyed a great renewal of activity in 2023!

Jason Sigler of Ohio State University has been selected to be the SABR Scouts Research Committee Co-Chair.

The 20-to-80 Newsletter, edited and designed by Jeff Stanger, was resurrected in time for distribution prior to SABR 51. Contributions were received from Jason Sigler & Anne Enos, Chairman Emeritus Bill Clark, John Klima and the first of a series by Christopher Phillips

Virtual Meeting #1 as held on Saturday, April 29 via Zoom. Author Lee Lowenfish was interviewed by Dan Taylor about his University of Nebraska Press: *Baseball's Endangered Species: Inside the Craft of Scouting by Those Who Lived It*. Bill Nowlin facilitated Q&A.

Virtual Meeting #2 was held on Saturday, May 27 via Zoom. Author Paul Scimonelli presented on his latest book from McFarland and Company, Inc.: *Joe Cambria: International Super Scout of the Washington Senators*. The session was moderated by Rod Nelson.

The 2023 Roland Hemond Award will be presented to White Sox Special Assistant to the General Manager for International Operations Marco Paddy at SABR 51, at the Annual Meeting of the SABR Scouts Research Committee on Saturday, July 8 at 10:00 am in the Adams Ballroom on the 6th floor of the Palmer House Hotel.

Progress is being made toward building out a state-of-the-art website hosting the revised and expanded Historical Scouts Registry linking to the Who-Signed-Whom Database and the effort will gain steam in the Fall of 2023. The Committee seeks volunteers to compile signing scout data from over 100,000 questionnaires from the Bill Weiss Collection, linking to Scouting Reports from the 2013 Diamond Mines exhibit at the Hall of Fame (a collection donated by the Scout of the Year Foundation), the Branch Rickey Papers at the Library of Congress, SABR Biographies and Oral History Interviews and other unique content.

P.J. Dragseth Oral History Collection: Digitization of over eighty interviews (audio and transcripts) are currently in progress by interns at SABR HQ and facilitated in conjunction with the SABR Oral History Committee.

— **Rod Nelson**

Women in Baseball Committee

Since last year's Annual Convention the committee has continued to be active in a few areas. We co-hosted the 4th Women in Baseball conference with the IWBC in September. We are currently working on the plans for the 5th conference in September 2023. In addition to research presentations the conference also included a media panel, a player panel, a 21st century baseball panel and an umpires panel.

We awarded the 2022 Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award to Justine Siegal. The committee is currently reviewing nominations for the 2023 award.

Periodic newsletters are produced.

The committee is starting a project with the Centuries Committee focused on the stories of the AAGPBL.

— **Leslie Heaphy**