

## 2018 SABR Annual Report Research Committee Reports

### Asian Baseball Committee

**Committee Membership count:** 110 members (*per directory search conducted May 2018*)

Members and friends of the SABR Asian Baseball Committee contributed to the following live events/papers, publications, special projects and digital media activities that enhanced our collective knowledge of Asian baseball in 2017-2018. Annual highlights include:

#### **LIVE EVENTS, MEETINGS, PRESENTATIONS & PAPERS**

Feb 20, 2018, Cactus League Luncheon, SABR member Charlie Vascellaro delivered a presentation about Japanese American pioneer Yosh Kawano, long-time club house manager of the Chicago Cubs, who was inducted into the 2018 Cactus League Hall of Fame. Vascellaro also collected items related to Yosh and other Japanese American baseball artifacts for display at the Arizona Spring Training Experience exhibit. <https://www.visitarizona.com/events/competitivespectator-sports/cactus-league-luncheon>

March 1, 2018, “The Legacy of Japanese American Baseball,” Presentation and book signing, Author & baseball historian, Bill Staples, Jr., Scottsdale Center for the Arts, <https://scottsdaleperformingarts.org/event/japanese-american-baseball/>

March 12-13, 2018, “The Integration of Japanese players into MLB” Kerry Yo Nakagawa and Bill Staples, Jr, NAU Road Scholar Spring Training Lectures, Multiple locations, Scottsdale, AZ.

March 13, 2018, “American Pastime” film screening, Q & A with producer Kerry Yo Nakagawa, baseball historian, author, filmmaker, Scottsdale Civic Center Library.

March 14, 2018, ASU vs. Meiji University baseball game (visiting from Tokyo, Japan), Phoenix Municipal Stadium, promotion and fund raiser by Asian SABR committee members.

March 20, 2018, committee chairman Bill Staples, Jr., met with Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame officials in Tokyo, Japan, to discuss honoring Japanese American baseball pioneers in the JBHOF; meeting facilitated by international sports agent Don Nomura.

March 22, 2018, “Baseball’s Bridge to the Pacific” symposium on the history of US-Japanese baseball relations, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan. Presentation and book signing, Author & baseball historian, Bill Staples, Jr.

June 2018, “US-Japanese Baseball History,” by Bill Staples, Jr., Educatius Group, Foreign Exchange Student program, Japanese students in US, Arizona State University (June 6) & University of Chicago (June 21).

June 13, 2018, SABR Asian Baseball Research Committee annual meeting, webinar.

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS/EVENTS**

##### **Research & Exhibits**

Assisted historian Rob Fitts with research on Issei baseball teams for new book on Japanese American baseball history, July 2017.

Conducted research for inquiry on “Heart Mountain at Gila River, Aug-Sept 1943 visit”, July 2017.

Conducted research on inquiry on the history of Japanese-American Baseball Teams Tours in Korea

from James Banfill of Koryo Tours, a Beijing-based British travel company specializing in North Korea, August 2017.

Collaborated with curator at the Ichizo Kobayashi Museum (A founder of the Takarazuka Athletic Club & Hankyu Braves) who published a paper on newly discovered letters in Japan confirming the role of Kenichi Zenimura in laying the groundwork for Babe Ruth's later tour of Japan, September 2017.

Shared research with author Jane Leavy for her new book about Babe Ruth and his 1927 west coast barnstorming tour, interaction with the Japanese American baseball community, and 1934 tour of Japan, October 2017.

Collaborated with JACL National office on historical context of 2017 World Series racial incident, news release "JACL Disappointed by Level of Discipline of Racist Gesture: Statement from JACL National President", Oct/Nov 2017.

Supported image requests from the National Parks Service (NPS) Japanese American Confinement Site Grants, December 2017, See pg. 32 of 52: [https://www.nps.gov/jacs/downloads/Newsletter12\\_2017.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/jacs/downloads/Newsletter12_2017.pdf)

Collaborated on research based on inquiry from John Adams whose grandfather, Jun (and great uncle Kay) Miyakawa, played baseball for Harvard University in 1926, January 2018.

Shared research and participated in interview with Nancy Ukai, project director, for virtual exhibit: 50 Objects/Stories of the American Japanese Incarceration, <https://50objects.org>, April 2018.

Researched articles and secured Japanese American baseball artifacts for the Arizona Spring Training Experience exhibit, March 2018. <https://www.azspringtrainingexperience.com/2018-inductees>

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

NO-HITTERS, Edited by Bill Nowlin, Associate editors: Len Levin and Carl Riechers

<https://sabr.org/latest/sabr-digital-library-no-hitters>

Features the biography of Hideo Nomo and summaries of his two no-hitters.

Our Game Too: Asian Pacific Americans in Major League Baseball (Elevation Book Publishing, LLC, 2017), by Dr. Jennifer A. Simpson.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1943904111>

Asian Pacific Americans in Major League Baseball targets millions of baseball fans around the world who will be captivated by what has, until now, been somewhat invisible in baseball literature.

Baseball Beyond Our Borders: An International Pastime (University of Nebraska Press, 2017) by George Gmelch, Daniel A. Nathan

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1496201035>

This collection of essays tells the story of America's national pastime as it has spread across the world and undergone instructive, entertaining, and sometimes quirky changes in the process.

The Forbidden Temptation of Baseball (SparkPress, 2017), by Dori Jones Yang

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1943006334>

This story dramatizes both the rigid expectations and the wrenching alienation felt by many foreign children in America today—and richly captures that tension between love and hate that is culture shock.

Crossing Borders: International Studies for the 21st Century (CQ Press, 2017), by Harry I. Chernotsky, Heidi H. Hobbs

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1544309988>

Includes special feature on baseball and besuboro in Japan and the United States.

Soft Power Politics - Football and Baseball on the Western Pacific Rim (Routledge, 2017), by Rob Hess

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1351548328>

Soft Power Politics illustrates the momentous expanse and moment of sport in the Asia Pacific region.

Japanese Imperialism: Politics and Sport in East Asia: Rejection, Resentment, Revanchism, (Springer, 2017), edited by J.A. Mangan, Peter Horton, Tianwei Ren, Gwang Ok

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=9811051046>

This cutting edge collection presents a political reading of the power of modern sport in Asia.

The Sportsworld of the Hanshin Tigers: Professional Baseball in Modern Japan, (University of California Press, 2018), by William W. Kelly

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0520299426>

This book analyzes the Hanshin Tiger phenomenon, and offers an account of why it has long been so compelling and instructive.

Baseball and the Occupation of Japan: America's Pastime as a Tool to Promote Social Values (McFarland, 2018), by Takeshi Tanikawa

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=147666644X>

During the postwar occupation of Japan, U.S. officials engaged in cultural diplomacy on a grand scale, encouraging the public to watch and play that most American of sports, baseball.

Shohei Ohtani: The Amazing Story of Baseball's Two-Way Japanese Superstar, (Skyhorse Publishing Inc., 2018), by Jay Paris

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1683583035>

With highlights of his best games on the mound and at bat from each month of his rookie season and anecdotes of his life in America, this is the one book that every fan will want.

### **Articles/Blogs**

Yoo: Korean baseball's foreign players thrive with help from SABR member Patrick Bourgo

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/feature/2017/08/22/91/0900000000AEN20170822010700315F.html>

SABR BioProject, Hideo Nomo, by Bill Staples, Jr.

<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/770b6679>

Who was the first Japanese player on an American baseball team? MLB.com Cut4, April 13, 2018 (Gemma Kaneko)

<https://www.mlb.com/cut4/who-was-the-first-japanese-baseball-player-in-the-usa/c-271935604>

Let's look back at the history of Japanese players in MLB, MLB.com Cut4, December 8, 2017 (Gemma Kaneko)

<https://www.mlb.com/cut4/the-history-of-japanese-players-in-mlb/c-262923342>

Too many articles on Shohei Ohtani to list, but worth noting that according to Google Trends this past year – Ohtani, at his peak – surpassed Ichiro roughly 10 to 1 in searches.

### **Book Research/Projects Forthcoming**

The SABR Asian Baseball Research committee members are leading and/or providing assistance on the following writing projects:

English translation of “Gentle Black Giants”, by Kazuo Sayama, edited by Bill Staples, Jr. (NBRP Press, October 2018)

The early history of Japanese-American baseball, by Rob Fitts (in-progress)

### **DIGITAL**

#### **Social media**

Asian Baseball Community, <https://www.facebook.com/asianbaseball>

Nisei Baseball Research Project, <https://www.facebook.com/niseibaseball>

#### **Blogs**

Gary Ashwill (Multi-ethnic Baseball) <http://agatetype.typepad.com/>

Patrick Bourgo (Korean Baseball) <http://myso-calledresearch.blogspot.kr/>

Gary Cieradkowski (Multi-ethnic baseball) <http://infinitecardset.blogspot.com/>

Rob Fitts (Japanese & Nikkei Baseball) <http://blog.robfitts.com/>

Daigo Fujiwara (Japanese Baseball) <http://blog.japaneseballplayers.com/>

Patrick Gordon (Japanese Baseball) <http://blog.philadelphiabaseballreview.com/>

Bill Staples, Jr. (Nikkei Baseball) <http://www.zenimura.com/>

### **CROSS-COMMITTEE COLLABORATION**

SABR Arts Journal – Submission of baseball haikus, by Tetsuo Furukawa (Nisei baseball pitcher, b. 1927) (to be published in 2018)

SABR Diversity and Inclusion Committee – available to support new committee as needed.

— **Bill Staples Jr.**

### **Ballparks Committee**

*Green Cathedrals V*: 592 MLB And/Or Negro L. Parks; All MLB & Negro L. Parks Complete; Status of GC V Word File; Text 100 % Complete ; Correction Noted-Await SABR Editor; Text Turned Over to SABR For E-Book Publication, September 2017; Photos-164 Parks; Not Imbedded in Text File-Supplied to SABR Pubs November 2017.

*Minor Leagues Ballpark Database Project*: Project Leaders: Jim Watson and Chuck McGill; Status: Database Scope and Formats Completed by Sean Lahman in Late 2017; Additions and Revisions Made in Last Nine Months.

*Ballparks Newsletter & Facebook Group*: Last Newsletter Issue-June 2017; Editor: Richard Smiley;

Facebook Public Group; SABR Ballparks Administrator-Kevin Johnson; Started in Late 2017

— **Ron Selter**

### **Baseball and the Arts Committee**

The SABR Baseball and the Arts Committee has spent the past year working on a SABR-produced Arts Journal to be titled: *Turnstile*. The draft was submitted to the SABR media group and we have been awaiting their response and go-ahead for publication. We are waiting to hear if there's enough material, or if anything needs to be cut or changed. There will be a printed copy as well as an e-copy. Last we heard the *Turnstile* is in the pipeline waiting its turn as other publications make their way out. The Committee continues to gather submissions for future editions of the Journal.

Besides the Journal, the Arts Committee continues to provide resources and information for chapters and committees who are interested in adding art, literature, music, history and just great baseball culture to SABR members in need, and the general public with inquiring minds. Just let us know, we'll search art out and enhance baseball knowledge in every way we can.

And in the immortal words of — well, he didn't sign off the byline in November 1907, but the words suffice:

“Baseball is art, not labor. The successful ball player, like the successful artist, pursues his profession because he loves it, not because it pays him, says the *St. Louis Republic*. The riches of the world cannot persuade a great painter or a great poet or a great musician to forego his art. If 'tis in him he must paint or play or sing. So it was with Kelly and all the great ball players. They had to play because play was in them. They played ball when ball offered little.”

And so it is with us, the untiring baseball historians and researchers. Our search among the deep, distant, rewarding and confounding history of baseball is never done. And that is good.

— **Joanne Hulbert and Jeff Campbell**

### **The Baseball Index Committee**

The Baseball Index ([www.baseballindex.org](http://www.baseballindex.org)) continues to grow and be used by SABR members with their research.

I am attempting to find a programmer who can improve our current software. The database needs a search system which will allow more than one term to be searched at a time. The software needs to be able to distinguish between terms when one search term is included in another (i.e. a search for World War I will turn up everything about World War II). And, the database needs a user-friendly data entry system with appropriate filters to ensure the integrity of the search terms. I am working with F.X. Flinn of the board of directors to find such a programmer, but if you know of someone, please inform me.

When we do find a programmer, we will be seeking donations to pay him. This past year, I designated my regular donation to SABR to be used only for improvements to TBI. You might consider doing the same.

While all this is going on, we continue to add content. Last year at this meeting, I reported to you that we had 251,472 entries in the database. As of May 1, we had 253,572. I'd especially like to thank Joe

Wancho for all of his contributions, especially keeping track of SABR publications and to Bill Lamb for entering several of SABR committees newsletters. All SABR publications through history are contained in the database. Unfortunately, Joe, Bill and I are the only people who contributed new entries in the past year. New volunteers are a critical need for the project. Our main targets for further entries are Sports Illustrated, Sport and Baseball Digest. There is also a need to ensure that online-only SABR projects such as BioProject, the Games Project, the Team Ownership project and similar efforts should be included in the database as well.

— **Andy McCue**

### **Baseball and the Media Committee**

We have just completed the fifth full year of existence for the Baseball and the Media Research Committee. The committee continues to be chaired by Chuck Hildebrandt.

The mission of the committee continues to be providing research pertaining to the media's coverage of baseball as both news (i.e., the story of baseball journalism and its impact on the evolution of baseball as a cultural and commercial phenomenon) and as an event (i.e., the story of the in-game coverage of baseball games, from telegraph to radio to television to Internet). We are currently at 221 members as of May 15, 2018.

We continue to maintain four key databases:

- ! MLB Broadcaster/Flagship, detailing all radio and TV flagship stations as well as broadcasters for each MLB team back to 1921. This database is currently being updated through the 2018 season.
- ! Network TV Broadcasts, with details for every one of those back to 1947. This database is maintained independently by Committee member Tony Miller.
- ! Radio Station Affiliates, for every MLB team starting with 2013, and will soon be updated through 2018.
- ! Baseball Writers, a new database of beat writers, columnist and sports editors stretching back to 1909 that commenced late last summer, with the help of several volunteers, and which is roughly 95% completed.

We provide relevant baseball media content through our website, [SABRmedia.org](http://SABRmedia.org), and we continue to maintain our Twitter feed [@MediaSABR](https://twitter.com/MediaSABR), which is used primarily to inform followers of new content as well as tweet and retweet interesting items related to baseball media, as well as baseball in general.

Our goal is to build on the content we have developed for the Committee so far and hope to identify other projects that will spur the interest and activity of not only those SABR members who have signed up for the Media committee, but also of other SABR members who have an interest in contributing to the building of a rich and substantial store of information, analysis, insight and reference material about baseball media. In particular, we hope to interest members of other SABR research committees to undertake projects or feature stories that contemplate the baseball media angle to the committee of which they are already a member.

— **Chuck Hildebrandt**

## **Baseball Records Committee**

The Baseball Records Committee was created in 1975 to help reconcile differences and pursue a greater degree of accuracy in baseball's "historical record." The word "record," as we use it, has two meanings. We use it in the sense that some player, or some team, has the most or least of something for an inning, or a game, or a season, etc. For example, Red Schoendienst holds the Major League record for Most doubles in three consecutive games, with 6.

We also use the word record to refer to a player's game-by-game, season-by-season and lifetime accomplishments. For example, Baltimore's Scott McGregor allowed 34 home runs in 1985; or Jim Viox had 24 triples in his major league career. Both aspects of baseball's historical record are of equal importance to us, and we are as diligent with regard to accuracy for the "unknown" players as we are for the Hall of Famers.

Beginning with our formation, committee members have contributed countless corrections, additions, and deletions to the record books. Over the past few years the major source of these changes have come from the work done by the volunteers at *Retrosheet*. Our ultimate goal of finding all the errors in the historic record, or at least achieving a full reconciliation of differences among all the record books and encyclopedias, remains unlikely; nevertheless, we will continue to pursue a narrowing of the gap. Our role as SABR's Baseball Records Committee is strictly to make the numbers as accurate as we can.

In 2018 news: the Records Committee meeting at the 2017 SABR Conference in New York was likely the highest-attended of all time, as Official MLB Historian John Thorn interviewed David Neft about all his work on early statistics recordings, culminating in the MacMillan encyclopedia ("Big Mac"). The 2018 meeting should prove to be another interesting one, as Herm Krabbenhoft has agreed to give a presentation on the batting equivalent of Vander Meer's consecutive no-hitters.

The Committee newsletter has been transitioned to a quarterly publication and welcomes longer research articles, in addition to the usual interesting lists and statistical errors that have been a signature of the newsletter for decades.

— **Trent McCotter**

## **Biographical Research Committee**

In the past year, the biographical committee made some incredible finds, but also experienced great sadness as we lost two of our most vital and irreplaceable members.

Before I had left the 2017 SABR convention in New York, I learned that committee vice-chair David Vincent had died of cancer. Aside from being the curator of the home run log, David kept a copy of the biographical committee database and notified me of any discrepancies we may have had. He also compiled the list of rookies every year and provided those for the October newsletter.

Richard Malatzky was one of SABR's finest researchers and was relentless when it came to tracking down biographical data. Many of the finds this committee has made were the results of Richard's diligent research. Richard left us in January, passing away of a sudden heart attack.

On the more positive side of the ledger, our committee has made some terrific finds. Many are players we thought would never be found. We discovered a new player named Thomas Tinney. Tinney's record had originally been credited to Fred Tenney. In turn, some of Tenney's playing record had been credited to Arthur Thompson. We were able to sort this mess out, but we are still looking for the whereabouts of Thomas Tinney. Rip Ragan, a 1903 player, had been completely misidentified. We

were able to determine the true identity of this player and locate his death information. Likewise, Willis Wyman had previously been identified as Frank Wyman.

We found Daniel McGarvey, the last missing replacement player from the Ty Cobb strike game in 1912. We found 19th-century players with the incredibly common names of Ed Smith and David Jones. We also found Hiram Wright, John Mullin, William Price, James Morris, Thomas Gorman, Patrick Larkins, Fred Wood, Joseph Dorsey, and Frank Thompson. Several of these guys played in the National Association and it is always a rarity to find those players. We are now down to about 170 missing players out of the over 19,000 that played major league baseball.

— **Bill Carle**

### **BioProject Committee**

**Leadership:** Rory Costello and Gregory H. Wolf became co-heads of the committee at the end of 2016.

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 fact-checkers have done their job. He has also been publicizing the list of assignments that have been freed as the result of a campaign to review the list of requests that had been taken on but not completed

**Volume:** The number of biographies remains impressive. As of this writing (May 15), there are more than 4,500 bios on the site, a considerable increase over last year. The base of authors has also widened.

More biography book projects have been published in 2017 and 2018, increasing both volume and authorship. Bill Nowlin deserves credit for his efforts. Another book with Latin American subjects is being translated into Spanish.

Rory has contacted other chapters overseas to suggest that SABR members there may be interested in writing bios of players from those nations. Even if they don't wish to write, they may be able to provide contacts and other information.

Local chapters will also be encouraged to think about writing about more players from their area. Writing about players who went to a particular college or university is another avenue. These won't be concerted campaigns, just something for members to think about.

**Editing:** This process is generally working well. As we did last year, we have added a couple of new and well-qualified reviewers. However, still more would be desirable – especially since we're encouraging more bios to be written, and since even as it stands, a few people do the bulk of the work. Nonetheless, turnaround time is respectable, though some stories may wait for a while. Quality standards are good.

Technical capability of certain authors remains an opportunity for improvement. "Tip sheets" with instructions remain available on the BioProject resources page,

**Fact-checking:** This phase of the operation, which comes after the initial reviews, also remains a smooth process thanks to Warren Corbett and his team. This stage is also helpful in identifying occasional quality lapses. However, Warren notes a "continued shortage of eyeballs."



**Committee newsletter:** The transition from Stew Thornley to Andrea Long as editor has been completed. Andrea's first issue was published in April 2018. The gap between issues should be shorter in future

**Social media:** Our presence in this area remains visible. Follow the BioProject on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129878527118723>. J.G. Preston continues to serve as our resident Facebook guru, offering daily posts highlighting biographies. These continue to draw plenty of interest and interaction. We encourage "liking" and "sharing" the posts. As before, we'd like to see members become active and post their own comments.

Follow the BioProject on Twitter, too: <https://twitter.com/SABRbioproject>. We kicked off the Twitter feed in mid-January 2017 and as of early May, there were 3,685 followers, a fourfold jump from nearly 900 this time last year. Our goal is now 10,000 followers – double what we were aiming for previously.

**Hyperlinking:** We continue to equip all bios with hyperlinks to players named. This includes those who have just "stub" BioProject pages as well as those with completed bios. Authors have been willing to do this, either upon submitting their drafts or before the fact-checking stage.

A group of volunteers (overseen by Gregory) is retroactively inserting hyperlinks into all previously published bios on the BioProject website. This helps readers navigate the site and move seamlessly from one bio to the next. It is also another way for readers to determine if a bio has been assigned.

**Areas to address – bottlenecks:** We're encouraging more bios to be written, so we have to consider whether the volunteer infrastructure is adequate. Even now we need more editors and fact-checkers – qualified people who do a thorough job.

Authors can in some cases do more to format, edit, and fact-check their own work before submission. BioProject Resources web pages need to be updated.

If capacity remains as it is and volume increases, then authors must recognize that turnaround time will be longer – at each stage of the process. Quality standards will not erode.

— **Rory Costello and Gregory Wolf**

### **Black Sox Scandal Committee**

Since our last annual report, the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee has begun to plan a special research symposium, to be held in Chicago, for the 100th anniversary of the 1919 World Series. The event is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2019 and will be open to all interested attendees; more details will be available as they are confirmed.

The committee has also published two newsletters with a number of interesting articles that help enhance our understanding of "baseball's darkest hour."

In the December 2017 newsletter, Jacob Pomrenke explored the 1922 barnstorming tour led by Eddie Cicotte and Swede Risberg following their banishment from organized baseball, along with an examination of one player's claim that he was blackballed by Judge Landis for playing with the Black Sox. The newsletter also included a comprehensive list, provided by *Beckett Vintage Collector* magazine, of every baseball card produced of the Black Sox players during their professional careers between 1908 and 1920. Another article uncovered the answer to an enduring mystery: Where exactly did the Black Sox and the jurors who acquitted them celebrate in Chicago on the night the not-guilty

verdict was announced? The discovery of a new Charles Comiskey interview helped lend credence to sports writer Hugh Fullerton's claim that the White Sox owner was aware of the World Series fix before a single game had been played.

The upcoming June 2018 newsletter will include articles on the: a full-life biography of Helen Cook Weaver, wife of Buck Weaver; profiles of Black Sox defense lawyers Henry Berger and Morgan Frumberg by Bruce Allardice and Bill Lamb; biographical sketches of the 12 men who comprised the Black Sox trial jury; NL president John Heydler's visit to Cooperstown, New York, during the middle of the Black Sox investigation; and Ron Coleman's account of the 1921 Black Sox "outlaw" tour of Oklahoma.

— **Jacob Pomrenke**

### **Business of Baseball Committee**

The Business of Baseball Committee activates and supports new baseball research through resources, including publications.

We did it! The second volume of the History of the Winter Meetings book was published in December 2017 — make sure you have obtained your copy of this unique work on an under-explored topic. Also, be sure to obtain your copy of Volume 1, published in December 2016. These two volumes, seven years in the making, are treasure troves of baseball history and awareness. And ... the Nineteenth Century Committee is hard at work on producing a Volume 3, covering Baseball's 19th Century Winter Meetings. A SABR salute — as well as an incredible amount of gratitude and pride directed from the committee chairs — to each author, editor, supporter, and all others who came together to make Volume 1 and Volume 2 an overwhelming success. Special thanks again go to Bill Nowlin, Marshall Adesman, and Len Levin. You can access your copy of either Winter Meetings book at <https://sabr.org/ebooks>

Another larger-scale project is also underway. Andy McCue leads up the Team Ownership Histories project, which is a cool subset of the BioProject and the Business of Baseball committee. Here is a link to the project (and a link to your opportunity to get involved in something that you will look back on fondly.) <https://sabr.org/bioproj/topic/team-ownership-histories>

Also, a quick callout to committee research completed a few years ago: the 1915 Federal League Case Files. If you haven't pored through the more than 2,000 pages, you're missing out on a unique chance to gain new perspectives on baseball history through research. Here's the link that will guide you to the case files <https://sabr.org/research/business-baseball-research-committee>

The committee produced two new editions of its long-standing foundational publication, Outside the Lines. Thanks to regular contributors Bill Lamb and Andy McCue, Douglas Gladstone, Leslie Heaphy, Alex Harvey and the still inimitable Mike Hauptert for their contributions to a continuing shared research stream via Outside the Lines. A quick callout to the Recently Published Research section of the newsletter, a recurring feature that keeps us abreast of academic research being published under the realm of business of baseball research. This section is a fantastic offering at the core of the committee, and discussions are underway to possibly build upon what we currently offer around the recently published research in 2018-19. Current and past editions of the newsletter can be found at <https://sabr.org/research/business-baseball-research-committee>

One last note ... if yinz (Pittsburghese for "you ones") are seeing this prior to the 2018 Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, we are thrilled to have Dick Bosman as a scheduled speaker at the committee

meeting on Saturday. In addition to being a former Major League pitcher and no-hitter author, Dick was a player rep, including during the 1972 strike. His 1994 involvement in negotiations as a pitching coach is also a fascinating story. All are welcome to join us for this labor-driven story time. Here's a link to Dick's SABR BioProject entry: <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/0a88eccf>

All SABR members are welcome to join and participate in the committee. We get pretty excited when the committee produces "big hits". If you are interested in getting involved, or believe there is a cross-committee opportunity, please contact one or both the committee chairs.

— **Steve Weingarden and Michael Hauptert**

### **Collegiate Baseball Committee**

The Collegiate Baseball Committee held its Annual Meeting at SABR 47 with approximately 15 attending. The main focus of the meeting was the topic of making the Committee's data available to other researchers, the information to present, and presentation format.

A post-meeting discussion with Sean Lahman and then Jacob Pomrenke calls for the Research portion of the SABR website to host the information. The process of creating files to upload has started.

It was decided that Baseball-Reference and the "Bullpen" section did not provide a suitable host site as no easy means for limiting updates existed.

The Fall Newsletter became available for distribution in February 2018.

The Spring Newsletter will be available for distribution around June 15, 2018.

The Fall newsletter published all collegians who attended either a Senior or Junior college making their Major League debuts in 2017.

We continued publishing a "necrology" of former collegiate baseball coaches who passed away.

No change in the status of committee records before 2010 with previous chair Rick Benner (and no longer a member) storing the Committee files.

In preparing the Spring newsletter, discrepancies were uncovered in Augie Garrido's career W-L record. The final school he coached, University of Texas, shows him with 1,975 victories. However, 3 schools, San Francisco State, California Poly – San Luis Obispo and California St.-Fullerton all have seasons where Garrido's record is different than what is shown by Texas. We have reached out to the schools to determine which numbers are correct, and hope to have resolved by SABR 48.

— **Karl Green**

### **Deadball Era Committee**

Now in its eighteenth year of existence, the Deadball Era Committee continues to grow while fulfilling its mission of researching and chronicling baseball history from 1901 through 1919. With close to 500 members, the Committee remains one of the largest in SABR.

The Committee is chaired by John McMurray. It publishes a newsletter, *The Inside Game*, four (and often, five) times each year under the editorial direction of newsletter editor Bill Lamb and Assistant Editors Mark Dugo and Bob Harris. Newsletter issues typically are about twenty-five pages in length

and often include original research. The newsletter is distinguished by the depth of its book reviews, which are overseen by Book Review Editor Dan Levitt, and critiques of the period.

Under the supervision of Doug Skipper, the Deadball Era Committee presents the Ritter Award annually to the best book focused primarily on the Deadball Era published during the year prior. This year, the seven-member Ritter Award subcommittee selected Jim Leeke's *From the Dugouts to the Trenches: Baseball During the Great War* (University of Nebraska Press) as the seventeenth winner of the Ritter Award.

The DEC anticipates publication this year of a coffee-table book chronicling the World Series of the Deadball Era primarily through photographs. This effort was begun in 2011 by Steve Steinberg and DEC Chair Emeritus Tom Simon.

Dialogue on matters of interest to members occurs on the Committee's active online discussion group.

Committee members remain committed to fulfilling the mission of the Deadball Era Committee and to continuing in the same free-spirited vein which characterizes both our Committee and the baseball era to which it is devoted.

— **John McMurray**

### **Educational Resources Committee**

In last year's report, I noted that the Educational Resources is continuing to seek its mission and niche among SABR Committees. That observation continues to hold true. The Committee Meeting in 2017 at the New York SABR Convention drew only 11 attendees. A discussion was held about the direction of the committee with no clear resolution.

Our inability to define a clear mission stems from the fact that we are a small committee (particularly of members who play any active role) and the interests of the committee are diverse. Some are college educators, others are high school or junior-high school instructors, others are interested in educational outreach.

We do have a listserv now for Committee discussions. I have used the listserv to solicit syllabi and other resources for courses that deal with aspects of baseball or use baseball as examples in broader courses but the response has been disappointing.

I would welcome feedback on the direction of the committee. Many Committees (Statistics, Women in Baseball, Latino, Negro Leagues and Science of Baseball Committees spring to mind as a start) play important roles in providing information that can be used by educators. In some ways, the Educational Resources Committee overlaps with the activities of those Committees listed.

I also concluded negotiations with our Provost at Colby College on my retirement. This fall will be last semester of teaching. I will not be able to teach my Science of Baseball class this fall because of other departmental needs. Therefore, I have decided to step down as Chair of the Educational Resources Committee, effective at the conclusion of the 2018 meeting. I plan to seek my successors at our annual Committee Meeting in Pittsburgh.

— **Herb Wilson**

## Games Project Committee

The Games Project Research Committee has been publishing game articles online since 2014. We are gaining momentum with interest among SABR members. The committee was ably chaired last year by Greg Erion, until his death in December 2017. At that time, the structure and leadership of the committee was changed. Mike Huber provides information about the project and manages game assignments for book projects. Steven Weiner assigns and manages the status of games for publication to the SABR website. Len Levin oversees editing of articles and he has been assisted by Laura Peebles. Bruce Slutsky manages a team of fact checkers, to include Kevin Larkin, Brandon Lewis, Tom Brown, and Jack Zerby. Other individuals support the Games Project on a routine basis. We maintain a spreadsheet to manage committee flow work and account for all article work from assignment to publication/posting.

The mission of the committee is to support those who wish to research, write, and publish accounts of major-league regular season, postseason, and All-Star games, along with other games of historical significance such as in the Negro Leagues, minor leagues, or international or exhibition contests. These game accounts complement Retrosheet and Baseball-Reference box scores, as well as SABR BioProject essays on the players involved.

As of May 1, 2018, there have been 2,240 games assigned to individuals or editors of book projects. Some articles are posted both to the website and are part of book projects. Of the total number, 941 completed articles are posted on the SABR Games Project website. An additional 353 articles have been completed and published in books. Approximately one year after publication, these articles are then posted onto the SABR website. This means that about 950 games have been requested and are either awaiting publication in a book project or have not yet been submitted to our team for editing and fact-checking. More completed games are added to the website each week.

Our team is actively engaged in supporting the Games Project in several ways. An average of one book is published each month, and another book project is started each month, providing SABR members with research and writing opportunities. Many of the recent SABR book projects incorporate a larger number of games than previous books. Other members pursue opportunities for direct posting to the Games Project website. This means that there continues to be a large number of games which we manage.

A major undertaking in the past year resulted in every article that is posted online becoming hyperlinked, connecting player names in the article to their biography pages on the SABR Biography Projects website. Our spreadsheet has been updated and improved to better manage our objectives. Several committee members stepped up for this massive effort. Authors now submit articles with names hyperlinked. In addition, all articles contain links to both Retrosheet.org and baseball-reference.com box score and play-by-play pages. In June 2018, SABR will send Retrosheet a list of all posted articles, linked to the Retrosheet box scores.

In the next year, we hope to minimize the number of articles that have been requested but not written. Any articles with assignment dates older than six months will be reviewed and we will discuss games with the assigned authors.

We are working with SABR to renew and revitalize the Games Project's presence on Facebook. We have a volunteer who wants to undertake this effort.

Finally, we have requested a joint Biography Project / Games Project meeting at SABR 48 in Pittsburgh, to explain to members how each works and to discuss writing techniques and opportunities. A secondary goal is to get more SABR members involved in all aspects of the Games Project – writing, editing, fact-checking, and supporting.

— **Michael Huber**

### **Games and Simulations Committee**

With Hal Richman (Strat-O-Matic) and Keith Avallone (History Maker Baseball) as speakers, the meeting at the annual convention drew a responsive and attentive audience, some of whom stayed on for well over thirty minutes after the meeting officially ended. After the meeting we attempted to assemble a newsletter and find enough content. The struggle with formatting and structuring ended when Richard Bergstrom joined as co-chair and moved the newsletter to a blog format ( <http://sabrbaseballgaming.com/> ) and we have a presence on Twitter (@SABRbballgaming). Richard's experience with computer simulations also significantly broadens our experience base with baseball games and simulations. Richard will chair this year's committee meeting in Pittsburgh.

— **Joseph Runde**

### **Official Scoring Committee**

The Official Scoring Committee now has 138 members, including many who are official scorers at different levels of baseball.

The committee met at the convention in New York last year and will have special guests at its meeting at the 2018 convention: Bob Webb and Evan Pattak, who are official scorers for Pittsburgh Pirates games.

The committee continues to work with the SABR Oral History Committee to encourage members to conduct interviews and oral histories as well as articles about official scorers. Committee member Sarah Johnson wrote an article on Minnesota official scorer Gregg Wong for the SABR BioProject.

The committee maintains a number of documents and files and has updated them through the year, including links to more stories that have been done on official scorers.

The committee issued a newsletter (<http://sabr.org/research/official-scoring-research-committee-newsletters>) after last year's convention and will have a newsletter out before the convention in Pittsburgh.

— **Stew Thornley**

### **Negro Leagues Committee**

The Negro Leagues Committee (NLC) had another banner year. Its quarterly newsletter, *The Courier* goes out to roughly 600 members. Since our last convention in New York City, we have lost eight Negro League veterans: Cleophus Brown, Deacon Billy Vaughn, Bob Motley, Cal Irvin, Archie "Dropo" Young, Bill Stewart, Willie Lee, and Mamie "Peanut" Johnson,

The NLC continues to raise funds to purchase headstones for unmarked graves of former players and executives. Efforts are underway to recognize the burial site of the National Baseball Hall of Fame's *J.*

*G. Taylor Spink Award* winner **Sam Lacy** who is buried in a family plot in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Suitland, Maryland.

The Grave Marker Project is led by Dr. Jeremy Krock of Peoria, Illinois. Donations can be made to the SABR office. More information about this project can be found at:

<http://www.larrylester42.com/grave-markers.html>

Last year the **Thomas R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship** four essay winners were: for Robert Peterson Award to **Jabez Smith** from Winterville, NC; for Tweed Webb, to **Isabella Baynard** from Chicago, IL, for Rube Foster; **Sophia Dossin** of Eugene, Oregon, and **Nijer Reaves** from Livingston, NJ was the winners of the **Jimmie Crutchfield Scholarship**, created by Dr. Charles Crutchfield from Eagan, Minnesota.

The winner of the Trivia/Significa Contest was **Rich Puerzer**, of Metuchen, NJ, at the Malloy Conference that celebrated 150 Years of Black Baseball in Harrisburg, PA.

The Malloy Conference's meet-and-greet featured author Michael G. Long of Elizabethtown College narrated his efforts toward his new book, *Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography*, about Jackie's religious convictions and how he applied them during his career.

**Tweeb Webb Lifetime Achievement Award:** Jim Overmyer, Calobe Jackson and Bryan Steverson

**Robert Peterson Recognition Award:** Duke Goldman for *The Black Press & Black Baseball, 1915-1955*; Makayla & Jeff Klein for *Daddy's Scrapbook: Henry Kimbro of the Negro Baseball Leagues, a daughter's perspective*

**John Coates Next Generation Award:** Sherman Jenkins and Courtney Michelle Smith

**Fay Vincent Most Valuable Partner (MVP) Award:** Dr. Charles Crutchfield III – Eagan, Minnesota

**Noteworthy publications this year included:**

*Bittersweet Goodbye: The Black Barons, the Grays, and the 1948 Negro Leagues World Series* by Frederick C. Bush and Bill Nowlin

*The Culture of Sports in the Harlem Renaissance* by Daniel Anderson

*Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography: The Faith of a Boundary-Breaking Hero* by Michael G. Long and Chris Lamb

*Ed Bolden and Black Baseball in Philadelphia* by Courtney Michelle Smith

*J.L. Wilkinson and the Kansas City Monarchs* by William A. Young

*The Anatomy of Baseball Nicknames* by Ken Melley

*The Cornfield Boys* by Douglas Quinn

*Biz Mackey: A Giant Behind the Plate, the Story of the Negro League Star and Hall of Fame Catcher* by Rich Westcott

*Baseball's Brotherhood Team* by Bryan Steverson

*Singles and Smiles: How Artie Wilson Broke Baseball's Color Barrier* by Gaylon White

*The Page Fence Giants: A History of Black Baseball's Pioneering Champions* by Mitch Lutzke

*The Pitcher and the Dictator: Satchel Paige's Unlikely Season in the Dominican Republic* by Averell

"Ace' Smith

**Other notable events included:**

The Theatre for the New York presented "Josh: The Black Babe Ruth." The play was directed by Michael A. Jones.

The World Series MVP is renamed for former Birmingham Black Baron Willie Mays. George Springer of the Houston Astros is the first winner.

Umpire Bob Motley completes the Field of Legends with his own statute at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

John Donaldson is inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame

Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright is inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame

The newest recipient of the Buck O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award was Rachel Robinson

Former Monarch Jim Robinson speaks at the Paterson (NJ) Museum

The release of the vintage 1911 Gold Border Giants of Early Black Baseball Card series by Ken Mars.

— **Larry Lester**

### **Nineteenth Century Committee**

SABR's Nineteenth Century Committee continued its history of sponsoring and supporting a broad array of Committee projects and activities.

The 2017-18 year kicked off with the Committee's Annual Meeting at the New York SABR Convention. At this meeting Bob Caruthers, standout pitcher for St. Louis and Brooklyn in the 1889s and 1890s was announced as the ninth selection of the Overlooked Legend Project. The Overlooked Legend Project is chaired by Adam Darowski.

The 2017 Chairman's Award was given to Jeremy Hodges for his work supervising and editing the first part of "Baseball's 19th Century Winter Meetings" book. This project was stalled when the editor of the second part of the book had to be replaced. Bill Nowlin assumed the responsibility for the completion of the effort. We anticipate a 2018-19 publication date.

The 10th annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell Nineteenth Century Baseball Conference (The Fred) was held in April 2018 at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The conference again sold out all spaces early with a crowd of 65 at this year's meeting. Highlights include the Keynote Address by Don Jensen, Member Spotlight Interview with Bob Tholkes, and a John Thorn-moderated panel entitled "A Tribute to Tom Altherr." The panel consisted of David Block, Larry McCray, and honoree Tom Altherr. The panel discussed Tom's pioneering work in discovering references to bat and ball games (and other games that provide possible antecedents to baseball). Other presentations were made by: Bill Humber, Joanne Hulbert, Gary Gillette, Jerry Casway, Marty Payne, Herm Krabbenhoft, Craig Brown, Roger Hadix, Ken Mars, Paul Browne, Jon Popovich, Richard Herschberger, David Matchett, Tom Gilbert, and Eric Frost.

The 2010 Fred will be held at the Hall of Fame on April 26-27, 2019.

Two members of the Committee received awards worth mention. Bill Humber was named to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and will be inducted on June 16, 2018 at the Canadian HOF in St.



Mary's, Ontario, along with Pedro Martinez and Lloyd Moseby. Also, Committee member Tom Shieber was named recipient of the Chadwick Award for his work in nineteenth century baseball research. Both Bill (2016) and Tom (2013) have been Keynote Speakers at The Fred.

One of the many highlights of the 2018 Fred was a presentation of a radio recreation of the June 14, 1870 game where the Brooklyn Atlantic handed the Cincinnati Red Stockings their first defeat in two years. The idea for this project, the 19th Century Baseball Play-by-Play Project, was first raised by Bill Ryzcek at the Committee's 2017 Annual Meeting. Bill organized the effort serving as play-by-play announcer with John Thorn providing color commentary and Joanne Hulbert serving as the reporter on the field. The recording was painstakingly supervised by Eriel Barcenas. The presentation was a 40-minute excerpt of the entire game broadcast and was exceedingly well-received by the Fred audience.

In July 2017 the Committee launched its Facebook page. The page title is SABR Nineteenth Century Committee (SABR19thCC). The page was developed by committee members Matt Albertson, Joe Williams, Eriel Barcenas, and Trenton Morton.

During the year the 19th Century Grave Marker Committee hosted two grave marker placements. The committee installed a replacement marker for Pud Galvin, HOF pitcher, at Calvary Cemetery in Pittsburgh, and participated in the placement of a marker for Andy Leonard, member of the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings, at Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Massachusetts. The Grave Marker Committee is headed by Ralph Carhart who is currently working to place a marker on the grave of Bob Caruthers at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago.

Final plans are underway for the biennial Interdisciplinary City Symposium. The event is scheduled for November 10, 2018 at the Cleveland Public Library (CPL). Speakers on the program are: David Goldberg, Professor of History at Cleveland State University, John Thorn, Official Historian of MLB, John Skrtic, Director of Public Service at the CPL, Jeremy Feador Cleveland Indians Historian with 19th century presentations by SABR members David Fleitz, John McMurray, Joseph Wancho, Ken Krsolovic, and Bryan Fitz.

During the year since the last SABR Convention, the Committee has continued to issue quarterly newsletters (Nineteenth Century Notes) to all committee members.

— **Peter Mancuso and Bob Bailey**

### **Oral History Committee**

The mission of SABR's Oral History Committee is to collect, preserve, and make available recordings which provide insight into the people and events in baseball. As Jonathan Mahler noted in *The New York Times* in 2008, "Bart Giamatti, the former commissioner of baseball, was fond of saying that the history of the game was oral." Given its focus on interviewing former major league players, the Oral History Committee serves a role central to SABR's mission.

John McMurray has served as Chair of the Oral History Committee since 2014. Mark Pattison, Paul Ringel, and Paul Rogers serve as committee Vice-Chairs, and Mark Ruckhaus is Newsletter Editor. A primer to assist interviewers as well as a release form which outlines rights retained by interviewers are also both posted on the committee website, as is a list of completed interviews.

This past year, the Committee released The Oral History Collection ([oralhistory.sabr.org](http://oralhistory.sabr.org)), made up of nearly 600 interviews, many of which were completed by members of the Oral History Committee. Some of the interviews date from fifty years ago, and the Collection includes interviews with baseball

players, authors, broadcasters, and others associated with the game. This compilation is the largest ever released by the Oral History Committee.

The mission of the committee is to interview anyone with connections to Major League Baseball. That includes, for instance, journalists and official scorers, among others. It also released a newsletter in March 2018 which included perspectives on interviewing and reviews of baseball oral history books.

The Oral History Committee also serves as a resource for interviewers. The scope and depth of the Oral History Committee's work invites the participation of both new and veteran interviewers, as we aim to augment and preserve baseball's historical record.

— **John McMurray**

### **Women in Baseball Committee**

Members and friends of the SABR Women in Baseball Committee contributed to the following live events/papers, publications and digital media activities that enhanced our collective knowledge of women in baseball and their participation in 2017-2018. Annual highlights include:

#### **New Projects:**

\$500 and \$250 scholarship for a high school senior writing about women in baseball was awarded for fall 2017 to Josh Staples and Sara Tobias.

Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award inaugurated and the first winner was Perry Barber and award will be presented in Pittsburgh.

2nd year of Women on the Diamond Art Competition in cooperation with the International Women's Baseball Center.

#### **Presentation/Panels:**

##### Individual/Group Presentations

Kat Williams, Presentation on WWII era Women's Baseball at 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Lifescape Senior Expo, Rockford, IL, Sept. 13, 2017.

Kat Williams, Presentation and book signing, Louisville Slugger Museum, August 2017 and Midway Village Museum, April 2018.

Donna E. Cohen, Panel Participant, 7<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Physical Activity and Sports, Cuba, November 2017.

#### **Publications:**

##### Articles

Heaphy, Leslie. "Joan Whitney Payson: Pioneer for the New York Mets," *The National Pastime*, summer 2017.

Jenkins, Sally. "Seventy-Five Years Ago, Women Baseball Players took the Field," *Smithsonian Magazine*, June 2018.

Pickles, Cathy and Elizabeth Blattman. "Jackie Mitchell and the Bloomer Girls." June 2017, <https://www.nwhm.org/articles/jackie-mitchell-and-bloomer-girls>.

Shattuck, Deb. "Women's Baseball in Nineteenth Century New York," *The National Pastime*,

Summer 2017.

Books

Boris, Laurie. *The Call*. Sept. 2017 (Novel about female umpire)

Gregorich, Barbara. *Women at Play*—reissued as a kindle edition in 2018.

Ignatofsky, Rachel. *Women in sports: 50 Fearless Athletes who Played to Win*. July 2017.

Lang, Heather and Cecilia Puglesi. *Anybody's Game: Kathryn Johnston, the First Girl to Play Little League Baseball*. March 2018.

Leonoudakis, Jon and Kelly Holtzclaw. *The Sweetspot Presents Baseball Pioneers*. March 2018.

**Newsletter(s):** 2 issues sent out

**Other:** Variety of articles and radio broadcasts featuring members and friends discussing their research, historical information, [Mamie Johnson](#), Ila Borders, [Claire Smith](#), [Jessica Mendoza](#), the 25th anniversary of the movie “A League of their Own” and the 75th anniversary of the start of the league.

A number of members attended the Annual Red Sox Women’s Fantasy Baseball Camp.

— **Leslie Heaphy**