

## 2021 SABR Annual Report Appendix 2: Committee Reports

### Ballparks Committee

Committee Newsletters, editor Richard Smiley

- June 2020
- December 2020

*Green Cathedrals VI*

Added two MLB parks:

- TD Ballpark in Dunedin, FL
- Sahlen Field in Buffalo, NY

These two parks are Toronto Blue Jays spring training and AAA affiliate home parks respectively

Facebook Group: SABR Ballparks

More than 5,300 members and several postings each week; Administer-Kevin Johnson (Committee Co-Chair)

Twitter: 1,300 followers

Committee members contributed several ballpark bios as part of the SABR BioProject.

— **Kevin Johnson and Ron Selter**

### 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 historical 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 2020 news: the Records Committee was unable to hold its annual meeting because the SABR Convention was canceled. I expect the future Records Committee meeting will be well attended with an interesting presentation or two.

An issue of considerable debate was how to count stats from the Negro Leagues, at least those leagues and years for which there is a consensus of major-league-quality play. MLB itself has formed a committee to decide whether to incorporate the stats from those leagues with the existing stats from the NL, AL, and other recognized major leagues; and, if so, how to do so. Because some major leaguers played in both the NL/AL and the Negro Leagues, certain players' career stats would change (e.g., Hank Aaron would gain some base hits), and season records would also be affected because the shorter Negro League seasons, combined with inconsistent playing quality, sometimes resulted in especially unusual statistics (e.g., Josh Gibson batting well above .400 in a particular season of less than 100 league games). An even more practical problem is that Negro League statistics are still being collected and combined, often changing as more materials are found. And there are no known official day-by-day stats to use as a starting point. The Records Committee decided to wait and see how MLB ultimately decides to address these issues.

The Committee newsletter has continued its quarterly publication format, still containing the usual interesting lists and recent research that have filled its pages for many years.

— **Trent McCotter**

### **Biographical Research Committee**

We have all had a tough year and the biographical committee is no exception. Over the past year, we only found five missing players. Three of those were players that had been previously misidentified, and the other two were players who had long been on our most wanted list.

Malachi Hogan had been previously misidentified as Harry Sweet Hogan. We proved that the major leaguer was Malachi and were able to fairly easily track down his death date. John Carl had been previously identified as Lewis Carl and Jeremiah Joseph Kane as William Jeremiah Kane.

Our two most wanted guys were Billy Geer and Charlie Hoover. Interestingly enough, both became forgers after their baseball careers ended, and both spent time in prison. Hoover eventually made his way to Shreveport, Louisiana where he died in 1905. Geer had a much more lengthy forgery career and he used a multitude of aliases that made him very hard to find. He died under the name Bruce Barrington in Chicago in 1928.

Perhaps the most significant item affecting the biographical committee was the decision to include various Negro Leagues as major leagues. One of our main projects in the upcoming months will be to incorporate all that Negro League data into our biographical database.

— **Bill Carle**

## **BioProject Committee**

### **Leadership**

Rory and Gregory 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 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 rapidly. As of this writing, there are 5,663 bios on the site, marking an increase of 460 from the same time last year. For some comparison: over the same time the previous year, we had 313 new bios, so our output increased by almost 50%. The base of authors has also widened further. A core of prolific authors maintains a high rate of new submissions.

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 2020, SABR published a few books which featured biographies – three team volumes and the Federal League book.

In the first five months of 2021, SABR has published three new books, one updated book, and a collection of previously published articles. There were few biographies among them, but by the end of 2021, we anticipate four books which will be biography-heavy: *One-Hit Wonders*, *Dominicans in the Major Leagues* (both in English and Spanish), *The 1942 Kansas City Monarchs*, and *The 1883 Athletics of Philadelphia*.

There are some other biography-centric books in the works, one on Venezuelan major leaguers (again, in two different editions), one on *One-Win Wonders*, and one on the 1920 Chicago American Giants.

### **Review Workflow**

#### Assignments:

Lyle Spatz relinquished the role of assignments coordinator in August 2020. Bill Nowlin stepped in on an interim basis to monitor the requests that go to the [bioassign@sabr.org](mailto:bioassign@sabr.org) e-mail address. Bill 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.

#### Vetting:

In March 2019, we added a new first stage to the review process – vetting – as part of the ongoing effort to maintain high standards of quality. This process is working well but more qualified vetters are needed to keep pace with new submissions. Some frequent authors have joined the team, which has helped to a degree.

#### Fact-checking:

This phase of the operation, the second stage after the initial vetting, also remains a smooth process. Thanks go to Alan Cohen, who accepted the invitation to become head of the team in December 2020 after the untimely death of Chris Rainey. Since taking over, Alan has received 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. The team reviews up to 40 stories per month and has found authors appreciative of its efforts.

Anyone interested in lending their efforts to this very worthwhile endeavor can contact Alan at [adc0317@comcast.net](mailto:adc0317@comcast.net).

#### Editing:

Still generally works well. We continue to add new and well-qualified reviewers. However, still more would be desirable. Even with the broader team, the load could be shared more widely. The increase in submissions to the Games Project has also led scarce resources to be spread more thinly.

Turnaround time could also be improved. Technical capability of certain authors remains an opportunity for improvement. “Tip sheets” with instructions remain available on the BioProject resources page.

#### **Corrections**

Rory and Gregory apply these as needed, supplementing the efforts of Jacob Pomrenke and his team, using the WordPress admin functionality that now powers the SABR website.

In June 2020, it came to the committee’s attention that the [bioproject@sabr.org](mailto:bioproject@sabr.org) e-mail address, to which many correction notes are sent, was not being actively monitored. Gregory Wolf subsequently took over this task.

In April 2021, Zac Petrillo and Terry Bohn volunteered to help Gregory in responding to the messages that come to this address. This has freed a significant amount of time for Gregory.

#### **Committee Newsletter**

Andrea Long remains editor. The two most recent issues were published in September 2020 and April 2021.

#### **Social Media**

Our presence in this area continues to increase. Follow the BioProject on Facebook (3,400 people do now):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129878527118723/>

J.G. Preston, Gregory H. Wolf, and Rory Costello continue to offer posts on this page highlighting biographies. These continue to draw plenty of interest and interaction. We encourage you to “like” and “share” the posts. We’d still be happy to see more members become active and post their own comments. We have been emphasizing that posts need to make specific reference to the BioProject.

We kicked off the Twitter feed in mid-January 2017. As of May 22, 2021, there were approximately 14,900 followers. That’s a 40% increase from around 10,600 this time last year.

Follow us @SABRbioproject. Like and especially retweet our tweets and help promote SABR.

## **Hyperlinking**

Our efforts to retroactively hyperlink published bios have been slowing. We'd like to find another dedicated volunteer to help.

## **Areas to address: bottlenecks and caveats**

We're still encouraging more bios to be written, so again we must continue to consider whether the volunteer infrastructure is adequate. Despite ongoing efforts to broaden the team, even now we need more vetters, 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 have been updated.

Updating the page concerning endnote format remains a target area. Broader discussion of SABR style has taken place but has not yet come to fruition.

The April 2021 committee newsletter contained two warnings from Rory and Gregory: one concerning plagiarism and the other concerning length of submissions.

Policy continues to evolve and remains subject to further revision.

We'll reiterate our conclusion from last year and the year before: 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. The subject of rejecting submissions (an area that has required much diplomacy on Rory's part) has been broached with SABR leadership. It is possible that the rate of rejection may rise. Quality standards have been buttressed and won't erode.

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

## **Black Sox Scandal Research Committee**

After a whirlwind 2019 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1919 World Series, the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee stepped back from the spotlight over the past year. But there was still plenty of new research published by committee members to highlight.

David Fleitz's book *Eddie Cicotte: The Life & Career of the Banned Black Sox Pitcher* was published in September 2020 by McFarland & Co., and he has appeared on several podcasts and interviews to discuss the book. Don Zminda's book *Double Plays and Double Crosses: The Black Sox and Baseball in 1920* was published in March 2021 by Rowman and Littlefield. Both have received strong reviews, and will help enhance our understanding of the Black Sox Scandal.

Bill Lamb's chapter on the Black Sox Scandal — first published in our 2015 book *Scandal on the South Side* — was selected for inclusion in a special anthology book, *SABR 50 at 50: The Society for American Baseball Research's Fifty Most Essential Contributions to the Game*, published in September 2020 by University of Nebraska Press.

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

In the December 2020 newsletter, we highlighted a rare 1917 spring training photo that shows Eight Men Out together for first time (by Leman Saunders), an analysis of Eddie Cicotte's role in

the fix (by Bill Lamb), more on Ernest Hemingway and the Black Sox trial (by Sharon Hamilton), Boston Braves pitcher Ed Brandt's suspension for playing against the Black Sox (by Jacob Pomrenke), the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum on the move again in South Carolina, and Saunders' discovery of the first post-baseball photo of Fred McMullin.

The upcoming June 2021 newsletter will include stories by Bruce Allardice on Charles Comiskey's options to turn over his 1919-20 White Sox roster, Bill Lamb on Shoeless Joe Jackson's vaudeville days, Jacob Pomrenke on the Black Sox's barnstorming tour in the weeks before their 1921 criminal trial in Chicago, Leman Saunders on newly discovered interviews by White Sox pitcher Shovel Hodge, and other articles.

— **Jacob Pomrenke**

### **Business of Baseball Committee**

In 2020, co-chair Steve Weingarden stepped down and was replaced by Dan Levitt, who joined Mike Haupert as co-chairs of the 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.

Andy McCue continues to oversee the franchise biography project, which added 11 new biographies and expanded its scope to include defunct franchises as well as franchises of the Negro Leagues and All American Girls Professional Baseball League.

The committee also contributed two articles to the SABR Centennial Project 2021. Dan Levitt added "The Coming of Judge Landis," and Mike Haupert wrote "Bonus Performance: Babe Ruth and His 1921 Contract."

The committee also continued its efforts to catalog the front office personnel for all years for all franchises.

The major league baseball employee database project is coming along nicely thanks to many volunteers. To date we have completed roughly 1,500 team-seasons. We are currently in the queue with SABR's web consultant to turn our efforts into a more formal database. We hope to have a beta version to preview by late summer.

— **Mike Haupert**

### **Century Research Committee**

SABR's [Century Research Committee](#) was approved for formation by SABR's Board in June 2020. This new 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: 60 members (*per directory search conducted May 19, 2021*)

In 2020 members and friends of the new SABR Century Research Committee contributed to the following activities.

### **August 16, 2020: Special Event**

#### **Inaugural SABR Century Research Committee panel on the 100th anniversary of the fatal beaming of Ray Chapman (August 16, 1920)**

Video link: [Listen to SABR Century Committee's 100th anniversary panel on Ray Chapman](#)

Chapman, the popular Cleveland team shortstop, suffered a fatal blow after he was hit in the head by a pitch from New York's Carl Mays on August 16, 1920. He died hours later from his injuries. Chapman's death remains the only on-field fatality in major-league history. To mark this occasion the Century Research Committee held a zoom panel discussion on Sunday, August 16, 2020. All SABR members were invited to attend this free virtual event on Zoom.

Our guest speakers were:

- Mike Sowell, author of *The Pitch That Killed*;
- Don Jensen, editor of *Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game*;
- Kevin Trusty, who writes on baseball history at *RadbournsRevenant.com*

47 SABR members joined this discussion via zoom while it was being held. Subsequently (as of May 2021) over 300 viewers have watched this presentation via the recording on SABR's YouTube site.

Some comments from SABR members on this inaugural Century Research Committee event:

"I recently attended your zoom session on the death of Ray Chapman and enjoyed it immensely. I read Mike Sowell's book years ago and enjoyed returning to a tragic but fascinating episode in baseball history. The presenters were all very knowledgeable.... Whatever you decide to do next I'm looking forward to it."

"I wasn't able to watch the live Ray Chapman panel last weekend, but saw it last night. It was excellent. Compliments on your preparation (the questions were insightful) and moderating. I had enjoyed Mike Sowell's book several years ago. It was interesting to see and hear him in person, not only his thoughts on Chapman/Mays, but his perspectives on writing (and re-writing) for publication. The Century Committee appears to be off to a great start."

"Just wanted to extend my compliments on the outstanding presentation commemorating the 100th anniversary of Ray Chapman's passing.... The panelists were knowledgeable and the proceedings nicely paced. All in all, a great debut for the Century Committee."

### **November 18, 2020: Special Event**

#### **SABR Century Research Committee panel on 100th Anniversary of 1st Cleveland World Series Win (1920), in collaboration with MLB's Cleveland Indians and SABR's Jack Graney Chapter**

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/PXcuWOfN51M>

In conjunction with SABR's Jack Graney Chapter, on November 18, 2020 SABR's Century Research Committee co-hosted a special panel discussion on the 100th anniversary of the 1920

World Series. Guest speakers included: Mike Sowell, author of “The Pitch That Killed”; Scott Longert, author of “The Best They Could Be: How the Cleveland Indians became the Kings of Baseball, 1916-1920”; Jeremy Feador, Cleveland team historian; Jacob Pomrenke, chair of SABR's Black Sox Scandal Research committee; and moderator Sharon Hamilton, co-chair of SABR's Century Committee.

87 SABR members joined this discussion live while it was being held. Subsequently (as of May 2021) over 500 viewers have watched this presentation via the recording posted on SABR's YouTube site.

### **Other Century Research Committee-related activities**

One of the purposes of the Century Committee is to inspire anniversary-related activities by existing SABR committees – in other words, not always to organize events or publications itself but to help inspire anniversary research or other forms of celebration from others. We were happy to participate in, or to promote to our members, for example, the following events:

- **“Stay Home With SABR: Sharon Hamilton and Bill Nowlin” (Discussion about the Century Committee with the Chicago SABR Chapter)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT6L46ia7zw>
- **2020 SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball: Negro Leagues Centennial Celebration**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRfq-fIwoQU&t=51s>
- **Detroit Negro Leagues Centennial Symposium**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97nhYn7hUsw>
- "Across the River: Black Baseball in Windsor & Detroit in the 1930s" - Heidi Jacobs & Miriam Wright" - Virtual presentation for the Detroit Negro Leagues Centennial Symposium in September 2020 (Shared with the Century Research Committee by Pete Hoyos, SABR Detroit Chapter)

Local SABR chapters have responded warmly to the idea of a Century Research Committee by independently drawing attention to anniversary events. For a lovely example, please see this message [shared with the Boston Chapter by Joanne Hulbert](#) of baseball news from 1920, including speculation that in the future teams might travel by air to away games, “who knows?”

**Where does the committee go from here?** It has been our pleasure to help stimulate the research and writing of a number of games played in the 1921 season – regular season games from each of the 24 teams in the three major leagues: National League, American League, and Negro National League. As of the writing of this report, 61 different SABR members have written, or undertaken to write, various games or “year in review” articles from the 1921 season. Many have written more than one.

The important work of the Games Project Research Committee in “recreating” the 1921 baseball season has already been promoted via a blog post by Century Committee chair, Sharon Hamilton, for the International Ernest Hemingway Society, which was posted by them on May 24, 2021 (see: “EXPERIENCE THE 1921 BASEBALL SEASON AS HEMINGWAY LIVED IT” <https://www.hemingwaysociety.org/experience-1921-baseball-season-hemingway-lived-it>).

One of the things we wanted to do is to liaise with other research committees and try to inspire each committee to consider ways in which they might contribute something in their area of



research interest. To date, toward the commemoration of 1921 baseball milestones, we have received completed work from members of the following committees: Baseball and the Arts, Baseball Cards, Baseball and Media, Business of Baseball, Games Project, Minor Leagues, Statistical Analysis, and Umpires and Rules. Some of these committees have additional projects planned for the coming months.

These committees have projects in the works: Asian Baseball, Ballparks, Black Sox Scandal, Games and Simulation, and Negro Leagues.

We hope that in years to come, more committees will collaborate on other projects.

— **Sharon Hamilton and Bill Nowlin**

### **Collegiate Baseball Committee**

With the cancellation of SABR 50 scheduled for 2020, the Collegiate Baseball Committee has not held an Annual Meeting in 2 years. With the cancellation of the 2021 meeting, the Committee will go three years without holding an Annual Meeting..

As of June 1, 2020, new files have been created for a total of 1,217 college programs an increase of 128 over June 1 2019. The breakdown by category:

Category	2021	2020	2019	Change since 2019
Sr. College active	723	691	660	63
Jr. College active	471	429	336	135
Sr. College inactive	65	59	58	7
Jr. College inactive	43	38	35	8
TOTAL	1,302	1,217	1,089	213

Over the past 2 years a concerted effort has undertaken to create files on all active junior college programs, particularly at the DIII level. Over 200 files have been created as part of this effort.

Distribution of newsletters occurred on June 19, 2020, and March 18, 2021.

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 107 registered members. Over the past year, we had two Zoom meetings where members could debrief on the challenges of pandemic teaching and work together to develop teaching resources as needed.

Many of our ongoing projects have been put on hold for the time being and will be picked up during the next year as we return to a more typical teaching environment. During the upcoming year, we will revisit the curriculum project to launch a website with links to helpful baseball teaching resources for all grades and subjects.

Over the summer, I will be scheduling a Zoom meeting in place of our typical convention meeting to discuss the ongoing projects and get feedback from members on possible speakers for the 2022 convention.

— **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 BioProject essays on players, ballparks, and other figures involved.

As of May 24, 2021, the Games Project has completed 3,119 game essays, including articles contributed by individual SABR members or authored for SABR book projects. Of that total, 2,762 essays are posted on the [Games Project website](#), representing an increase of over 750 posted essays in the past 12 months. (Approximately one year after book publication, game essays are posted onto the Games Project website.)

In October 2020, Mike Huber completed a successful tenure of two and a half years as chair of the committee; John Fredland became the new chair at that time. 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. A cadre of experienced authors provides coaching and assistance to other members, most often when submitting their essays as first-time authors.

The Games Project contributes to SABR's baseball research mission in two major areas. First, the Games Project supports SABR members in writing about games and matters of individual interest. Subjects covered in articles posted in 2021 – or currently in the posting queue – include [a 19th century minor-league game with two notable Native American participants](#); [a 1935 exhibition game in Winnipeg between a racially-mixed team, featuring Satchel Paige, and the Kansas City Monarchs](#); [Jackie Robinson's first game in Cincinnati, referencing research debunking a widely-circulated story about Pee Wee Reese](#); [a minor league team's unusual "two](#)

[catchers' alignment](#); the sequel to Cleveland's infamous "Ten Cent Beer Night"; and [an exhibition game between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Australian National Team with a tribute to a noteworthy moment in Australian baseball history](#).

The Games Project also contributes game articles to other SABR initiatives, including the longtime practice of providing articles for SABR publications. In 2020 the Games Project contributed to SABR's [First Games Back](#) online initiative. This year the Games Project is supporting the Century Committee's celebration of the 1921 season's centennial with articles on significant games from that year. The "1921 Project" game articles, involving American League, National League, Negro National League, and minor league teams, are posted in chronological order as the 2021 season progresses.

The Games Project has also developed smaller online initiatives, enabling to SABR to celebrate the various highlights of baseball's calendar and showcase existing SABR writing. In 2021 the Games Project's second annual Opening Day project included [13 new articles on Opening Day games from 1914 to 2020](#), while also allowing SABR to highlight the 75th anniversary of [Leon Day's Negro League opening day no-hitter in 1946](#). Upcoming online initiatives will highlight All-Star games and, on the occasion of their July 2021 inductions into the Baseball Hall of Fame, games involving Derek Jeter, Ted Simmons, and Larry Walker.

The recent Games Project article drawing the widest interest was Gary Belleville's article, posted in December 2020, on [Pete Dowling's 1901 no-hitter for the Cleveland Blues](#). The game was unrecognized among major-league no-hitters until Retrosheet published play-by-play data for the 1901 season in 2020, but contemporary newspaper coverage supports the conclusion that it was the first no-hitter in American League history. Because of the article's potential for high visibility, it received an enhanced publication review, including feedback from SABR Editorial Director Jacob Pomrenke. The discovery – and Gary's article – received coverage on several baseball websites, including a feature article on MLB.com.

Jacob Pomrenke provided page views of our ten most viewed articles for the 2020 calendar year. They were:

1. May 25, 1935: [Babe Ruth's final 3 HR](#) (13890 views)
2. August 24, 1919: [Ray Caldwell struck by lightning](#) (7236)
3. July 2, 1963: [Juan Marichal outduels Warren Spahn in 16 innings](#) (5596)
4. August 16, 1920: [Ray Chapman suffers fatal injury](#) (5039)\*
5. May 17, 1979: [Phillies outslug Cubs, 23-22](#) (4849)\*
6. January 26, 1919: [Flu Mask Baseball Game](#) (4364)\*\*
7. October 15, 1986: [Mets win NLCS thriller in 16 innings](#) (4275)\*
8. August 4, 1983: [Dave Winfield's errant throw kills seagull](#) (3521)
9. September 6, 1976: [Steve Yeager suffers near-fatal accident](#) (3219)
10. April 15, 1947: [Jackie Robinson's major league debut](#) (3177)

\* *Did not appear on Top Ten for 2019*

\*\* *Newly published article in 2020*

Games Project pages represent about 10 percent of overall traffic at SABR.org, with over 484,000 total page views in 2020. In comparison, there were 305,000 page views in 2019.

As part of SABR's 50 at 50 celebration, the Games Project compiled a list of the 50 greatest games played during SABR's existence, with brief summaries of each game. The list was published on SABR's website in April 2021.

— **John Fredland**

### **Negro Leagues Committee**

The Negro Leagues Committee (NLC) had another banner year. Its quarterly newsletter, *The Courier*, goes out to roughly 625 members. Since my last annual report, we have lost the following Negro League veterans:

- Ernest Leon (Ernie) Westfield, Sr., 80
- Charley Frank (Minnie) Pride, 86
- George Herman Spriggs, 83
- Eugene (Earthquake McGoon) Golden, 95
- Ernest D. (Schooley) Johnson, 92
- Henry Louis (Hank) Aaron, 86
- Louis Brown "Sweet Lou" Johnson, 86
- Robert Eugene "Bob" Scott, 90
- James Edward "Jim" Robinson, 91
- Walt "Coach O" Owens, 87
- Roy Lloyd Chapman Jr., 89
- Philip Nathaniel Edwards, 93
- Samuel Fulton, 80
- Rev. Earl Harry, Sr., 83
- Leroy "Pirate" Miller, Jr., 78
- Rev. Hank Mason, 88
- William Reginald Bell, 90
- Charles Leroy Means, 92
- Frank "Lefty" Marsh, Jr., 90
- Milton Edward Tiddle, 86
- James "Jake" Sanders, 86

The NLC continues to raise funds to purchase headstones for unmarked graves of former players and executives. Efforts are well underway to install customized headstones in 2021 for **Newt Allen** at Union Baptist Cemetery in Cincinnati, OH; **Elias “Country Brown” Bryant** at Frederick Douglass Memorial Park Cemetery in Staten Island, NY. **Peter “Creole Pete” Robertson** at Pinelawn Cemetery in Farmingdale, NY; **Henry “Harry” Bridgewater** at St. Peter’s Cemetery in St. Louis, MO; **Stanislaus Kostka Govern** at Eden Cemetery in Philadelphia, PA and **William Bill “The Kansas Cyclone” Lindsay** at Forest Grove Cemetery, Lexington, MO.

**Allen** played from 1922-44, 1947 as a second baseman for several teams including the K.C. Monarchs, St. Louis Stars and the Homestead Grays. He died in 1988. **Bryant** played from 1918-34 for the Bacharach Giants, Brooklyn Royal Giants and the Lincoln Giants. He died in 1937. **Robertson** managed the New Orleans Crescent Stars in 1933-34. He died in 1980. **Bridgewater** managed the St. Louis Black Stockings from 1882-1890. He died in 1904. **S.K. Govern** was a manager in 1886-88, 1891 and 1896 for the Philadelphia Pythians, New York Gorhams and the Cuban Giants. He died in 1924. **Lindsay** played for the Kansas City (KS) Giants, Leland Giants and the Chicago American Giants. He died in 1914.

Thanks to **Dr. Jeremy Krock**, **Paul Debono**, **Brandon Stradford**, and **Lee Longstreth** of Memorial Consultants, LLC for their gallant contributions to this worthy deed of a final recognition to these men. Donations are always welcomed. 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>

In 2020 the **Thomas R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship** essay winners were:

- **Irena Petryk** to Northwestern University
- **Sarah Harper** to the University of Central Florida
- **Sierra Kinsler** to Cornell University
- **Marlo Towle** to University of Utah

**Tweeb Webb Lifetime Achievement Award:** James A. Riley and John B. Holway

**Robert Peterson Recognition Award:** Todd Peterson, for *The Negro Leagues were Major Leagues: Historians Reappraise Black Baseball*; James E. Overmyer for *Cum Posey of the Homestead Grays*

**Fay Vincent Most Valuable Partner (MVP) Award:** Dr. Leslie Heaphy – North Canton, Ohio

No awards for Art Competition and Library Grants were given in 2020.

**The 2020 recipients of SABR’s Henry Chadwick Award:** Gary Ashwill and Robert Peterson, posthumously

Noteworthy publications this year included:

- *From Rube to Robinson: SABR’s Best Articles on Black Baseball* by John Graf with editors Duke Goldman & Larry Lester
- *The Bona Fide Legend of Cool Papa Bell: Speed, Grace and the Negro Leagues* by Lonnie Wheeler

- *Baseball's Leading Lady: Effa Manley and the Rise and Fall of the Negro leagues* by Andrea Williams
- *Negro Leagues and the Hall of Fame: The Case for inducting 24 Overlooked Ballplayers* by Steven Greenes
- *SABR 50 at 50: The Society for American baseball Research's Fifty Most Essential Contributors to the Game* edited by Bill Nowlin and Foreword by John Thorn
- *The Negro Leagues Book, Volume 2: The Players, 1862-1960* by Larry Lester and Wayne Stivers
- *Queen of the Negro Leagues: Effa Manley and the Newark Eagles, Negro Leagues Centennial Edition*, by James Overmyer
- *Black Baseball's National Showcase: The East-West All-Star Game, 1933 – 1962, the expanded version*, by Larry Lester.
- *Pride of Smoketown: The 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords* by Frederick C. Bush and Bill Nowlin with associate editors Len Levin and Carl Riechers
- *My Path Through Beisbol* by Pedro Sierra
- *The Baltimore Black Sox: A Negro Leagues History, 1913-1936* by Bernard McKenna

Other notable events included:

- Effa Manley wins the 2020 SABR Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award
- Legislative action taken on coins honoring the National Negro League Centennial
- Charley Pride Gets CMA's Lifetime Achievement Award
- Roadside marker honoring baseball's Spot Poles installed in city of Harrisburg, PA
- Caribbean Baseball Hall of Fame Honors 3 Negro Leaguers; Bus Clarkson, Roberto Vargas and Bob Thurman
- David Montgomery Named Buck O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award Winner by the HOF
- Bud Fowler Selected as SABR's Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legend of 2020
- John Donaldson Statue & Field Dedication Day in Glasgow, MO
- Celebrating African American Women in Baseball at Rockford University
- Rube Foster is elected to the Shrine of the Eternals in Los Angeles, CA

— **Larry Lester**

## **Nineteenth Century Committee**

The Nineteenth Century Committee held its last annual business meeting virtually during what would have been SABR 50 on July 29, 2020 and we will meet virtually, again, this June 29, 2021 at 8:00 pm ET via a Zoom Meeting.

Our Research Committee has continued to publish its regular quarterly newsletter, "Nineteenth Century Notes" (which is never fewer than 12 pages) in a timely manner thanks to Co-Chair / Editor, Bob Bailey. Our summer 2021 issue of our newsletter will be published in early July, after our June 29 annual business meeting.

Since last summer the Committee organized what was to be our 12th annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference, a.k.a. "The Fred" which was to take place originally on April 24-25, 2020 at its usual venue, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (HOF) in Cooperstown, NY. "The Fred" was able to accept another record number of attendees (84 registrants along with another nine guests). Unfortunately, the 12th Annual "Fred" had to be completely re-scheduled for April 23-24, 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

By the fall of 2020, with the future status of the Hall of Fame in terms of capacity still in doubt, we had to shift gears and present the 12th annual "Fred" as a virtual event, which we accomplished during April 22-24, 2021. We were able to achieve this due to the cooperation of our body of presenters and registrants who allowed SABR to hold their Conference and Dinner Fees to be applied to the April 2021 dates, and then in turn, with the help of SABR HQ who processed refunds, and partial refunds (excepting a much smaller registration fee for the virtual conference, and/or donations to SABR). Thus the entire 12th Annual Fred Conference (with the exception of two Research Presentations) took place last April with a record 166 online attendees.

We have already reserved Friday and Saturday, April 29-30, 2022, for the 13th annual "Fred" live in Cooperstown with the cooperation of the Hall of Fame and our two caterers.

Our Committee's fifth city-specific symposium, the Brooklyn (NY) 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium, a collaboration between SABR's Nineteenth Century Committee and Saint Francis College and scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2020, had to also be postponed due to the pandemic. Again, our postponement to the fall of 2021 forced us into a virtual symposium, again due to the pandemic (sans St. Francis College).

Our virtual 2021 Brooklyn Symposium will take place via a Zoom Meeting on Saturday, November 13 and will include a virtual, pre-recorded historic baseball tour via Zoom Meeting for approximately 90 minutes on Sunday, November 14. The tentative program includes Welcoming Remarks from John Thorn, a Keynote Address by Dr. Thomas Campanella of Cornell University on Brooklyn's 19th Century development culturally and politically and its connection to the development of baseball in the city, a panel discussion addressing the question "Was Brooklyn the Actual Birthplace of Baseball, and four research presentations focused on Brooklyn's baseball history. Registration materials for the symposium will be available with the release of this summer's Nineteenth Century Committee's newsletter in early July. Committee member Tom Gilbert is spearheading this symposium.

Thanks to Co-Chairs Adam Darowski and Joe Williams and the Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends Project Committee the Committee completed its 11th annual Overlooked

Legends selection, Bud Fowler in 2020. SABR-wide voting for our 2021 Overlooked Legend was completed by May 24. The full Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend election results will be announced at our virtual meeting during on June 29, 2021, a date that will fall within SABR's larger "convention" events.

Our committee's 19th Century Baseball Grave Marker Project Committee, chaired by Ralph Carhart, who has previously dedicated five grave markers in as many years, is about to dedicate his sixth monument as this Project Committee's Chair this July at the unmarked grave of Luis "Jud" Castro, who began his professional career in the late 19th century and became the first Latino player to compete in the Major Leagues (AL or NL). Carhart will then be stepping aside as the Chair of the 19cBB Grave Marker Project Committee (although he will remain a member of this Project Committee) and will be handing over the reins of this Project Committee to Sam Gazdziak, who maintains a blog and website at RIPBaseball.com devoted to deceased players. In addition to SABR members' donations, the 19cBB Grave Marker Project maintains a strong support from MLB and its Commissioner's Office and has received a sustaining grant from MLB.

Our 2020 Nineteenth Century Committee Chairman's Awards were announced at last year's virtual annual business meeting. The 2020 recipients for service to our Committee were John Thorn, who in addition to co-founding our Nineteenth Century Committee in 1982 and being one of its first Co-Chairs, has also been an active participant at all 12 "Fred" Conferences and at all five city-specific 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposiums. The second recipient of the 2020 Chairman's Award was Nineteenth Century Committee member and SABR Minnesota Chapter Member Bob Tholkes. Tholkes was the "mover and shaker" behind the November 2019 Minnesota 19cBB Interdisciplinary Symposium. The 2021 Co-Chairs' Award recipient(s) will be announced virtually at our Annual Business Meeting on June 29, 2021. Co-Chairs' Award recipient(s) receives an engraved vintage reproduction of 1880's Burlingame model baseball bat.

First among our two newest Nineteenth Century Committee undertakings was initiated and brought to life by our now Co-Chair, Bob Bailey in late summer / early fall 2020. The 19cBB Speakers Series began in October of 2020 and ran through May of 2021. The project included eight monthly Research Presentations by committee members, on the second Tuesday of each via a Zoom Meeting. For those months, all SABR members who logged into the Zoom Meeting heard and saw a different 19th Century Research Presentation of up to 50 minutes in duration. Between 40 and 80 people participated in each session.

The design of the program was to have a regular event on the calendar for committee members to be involved with during the period when in person gatherings were not possible. This allowed the committee to remain active during the pandemic and open an additional avenue for members from around the country (and a goodly number from Canada) to be involved in the Committee's actions. We are already well into the planning of Season II of the Speakers Series which will run from September 2021 through May 2022, and which will also remain virtual Zoom Meeting Events. The full Season II schedule will be announced in the Summer Newsletter.

Finally, and not least, the second of our two newest Nineteenth Century Committee activities is a research and data project, the "Orem Citation Project," chaired by Bob LeMoine, which got underway in March 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 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 is leading 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.

Thanks to all our committee members and to the SABR HQ staff (particularly, Scott Bush and Jacob Pomrenke) who helped our committee through this past year’s undertakings ... because, baseball history is not only baseball history.

— **Peter Mancuso and Bob Bailey**

### **Women in Baseball Committee**

Listed in this report are contributions from members and friends of this committee throughout the past year: June 2020-May 2021. These contributions include publications, presentations, conferences, scholarships, tournaments and other efforts to promote and preserve the history of women’s contributions to the game.

#### **New projects**

Launched an effort to create a list of all firsts for women in baseball. Creating as a calendar to be shared. Have about 75 entries so far.

Creating a new women in baseball academy — details being worked on by committee.

#### **Sample Presentations/Panels, Podcasts and Zoom discussion with authors**

Co-hosted the second Women in Baseball Conference with the IWBC in September 2020 — a virtual conference with over 170 attendees.

Hosted two zoom sessions – talking about female umpires with Perry Barber, Lisa Turbitt-Baker and The Fairlady, and talking with children’s/YA authors Dr. Sabrina Brinson and Andrea Williams.

IWBC podcast StepuptotheSport had numerous SABR guests and hosts. Check it out on YouTube for guests such as: Shakeia Taylor, Lauren Meyer, Kat Williams, Rachel Folden, and Megan Cavanagh.

A Pod of their Own on May 26 talked with Dr. Meredith Wills and on May 12 talked with Dr. Kat Williams and Dr. Leslie Heaphy.

Pandemic Baseball Book Club: on March 27, 2021, Anika Orrock interviewed Andrea Williams; on February 10, 2021, Anika Orrock talked with Malaika Underwood.

The winner of the Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020 was Effa Manley. The announcement for the 2021 winner will be forthcoming this summer.

— **Leslie Heaphy**