Abstracts and Biographies of Speakers at the
Symposium on the History of Astronomy and Baseball in Memory of Craig B. Waff
at the Cincinnati Observatory Center, June 27–29, 2014
under the auspices of the
Antique Telescope Society and Vintage Base Ball Association

Bruce S. Allardice (right) with retired *Chicago Sun-Times* sports reporter Joe Goddard (left) and former Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen (middle)

Allardice, Bruce S. (bsa1861@att.net)

Before the Chicago Cubs: Baseball Comes to the Windy City

Building on Craig B. Waff's research into early baseball games, this talk will examine how baseball spread in the Chicago area prior to 1870. The presentation will look at why baseball became popular, what social classes played it, when it spread to the suburbs, where it was played, and how all this compared to baseball's growth in the rest of Illinois. The presentation will end with a look at how Chicago's "Cincinnati envy" led to the formation of the Chicago Cubs!

A professor of history at South Suburban College outside of Chicago, **Bruce S. Allardice** has authored or coauthored six books, and numerous articles, on the Civil War. He has also coauthored two articles on Civil War baseball published in the journal *Base Ball*. Allardice currently heads up the Civil War Baseball subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR), is on the Review Committee for the Protoball (Spread of Early Baseball) website, and is a member of SABR's Biography Committee, specializing in researching the lives of 19th-century ballplayers. His article "The Rise of Baseball in the South" received SABR's 2013 Baseball Research Award. Allardice is a graduate of the University of Illinois and a lifelong resident of the Chicago area.


Barbara J. Becker with Isaac Newton's apple tree, Trinity College, Cambridge

Becker, Barbara J. (bjbecker@uci.edu)

The Correspondence of William Huggins: Putting Meat on the Bones of the Scientist's Account

Near the end of his long career, English amateur astronomer William Huggins (1824–1910) wrote "The New Astronomy," a captivating retrospective essay that portrayed his own career's development as synchronous and near-symbiotic with that of the new science of astrophysics. First published in a popular magazine and later excerpted by biographers, "The New Astronomy" became part and parcel of the traditional "scientist's account" of astrophysics' origins. But to take this essay at face value is to fall into an alluring trap. It is a synthetic account composed of specially selected events recalled many years after the fact by an active participant in them. Huggins's unpublished correspondence and notebooks flesh out the published record and place his pioneering efforts more realistically within the context of Britain's astronomical community during the last half of the nineteenth century. I have recently completed annotating my transcriptions of correspondence related to the life and work of William Huggins in preparation for publication. I will discuss my work on this project and present some of the unexpected discoveries uncovered in the process.

Barbara J. Becker received her PhD in history of science from The Johns Hopkins University. Until her recent retirement, she taught history of science at the University of California, Irvine. Her research interests include the role of the amateur in the development of nineteenth century professional astronomy, the redefining of disciplinary boundaries in the face of new knowledge and new practice, and the role of controversy in shaping the substance and structure of scientific knowledge. She is the author of *Unravelling Starlight: William and Margaret Huggins and the Rise of the New Astronomy* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and editor of the recently completed *Selected Correspondence of William Huggins*, 2 vols (Pickering and Chatto, 2014).

Trudy E. Bell on assignment, atop the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory in Livingston, Louisiana

Bell, Trudy E. (t.e.bell@ieee.org)

'The Gumshoe Historian Strikes Again!' Craig B. Waff's 'Eureka!'

Craig Waff loved what he called "gumshoe" historical detective work—it was what he lived for. He loved systematic nitty-gritty boots-on-the-ground fine-scale cranking through newspapers on microfilm for hours upon hours to uncover treasure troves of new data—and one fruitful project led to another. Once digitized newspapers from the 1845–1860 era became available around 2005, Craig's fundamental research took off—first with new findings about the discovery of Neptune, then reconstructing Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel's lectures from Ohio to New York to New Orleans to "hear" Mitchel's voice and discern what made him such a compelling speaker, and most abundantly with discovering and documenting more than 2,000 pre-Civil War baseball games hitherto unknown. This presentation will reveal Craig's working methods and approaches as well as some personal insights.

Since June 2011, **Trudy E. Bell** has been Senior Writer for the University of California High-Performance AstroComputing Center. Before that, she was an editor for *Scientific American* magazine, senior editor for *IEEE Spectrum* magazine, and communications specialist in the Operational Effectiveness Practice of the management consulting firm McKinsey & Co. She has published more than 500 articles on astronomy, instrumentation, and history of science, 19 of which have captured top journalism awards, including the 2006 David N. Shramm Award of the American Astronomical Society. Her master's degree is in the history of science and American intellectual history from New York University. She and Craig were married 1993–1997; after their divorce, they reconciled in 2001 and remained close personal and research partners until his death in 2012—indeed, Craig collapsed two days after the pair had observed the transit of Venus together at Mount Wilson Observatory.

Andrew J. Butrica

Butrica, Andrew J. (abutrica@earthlink.net)

Craig Waff: Historian of Space and Astronomy, Colleague, and Friend

Our relationship grew out of Craig's (unfinished) contract histories did for the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory for NASA/JPL on the Deep Space Network and Galileo mission to Jupiter, and when I was working on a book on planetary radar astronomy. I will discuss how I met Craig on the planetary radar astronomy project, followed by a "tour" of the Goldstone tracking facility. Then I talk about Craig in terms of the Notre Dame history of astronomy conferences. I also talk about Craig's dissertation, his work on the 18th-century French mathematician Clairault, the importance of his work for the history of space navigation, and some anecdotes about Craig staying at my place in Paris while he did research there. I'll also highlight his many publications on space history and their importance.

Andrew J. Butrica received a Ph.D. in the history of technology and science from Iowa State University in 1986. After the Thomas A. Edison Papers Project and the Center for Research in the History of Science and Technology at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris, he began working as a historical consultant. Butrica has researched and written *Out of Thin Air*, a history of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., a Fortune-500 firm, and *To See the Unseen*, a history of planetary radar astronomy, which won the Leopold Prize of the Organization of American Historians. He edited *Beyond the Ionosphere*, a history of satellite communications based on an international conference that he organized at NASA Headquarters. More recently, he was the historian on NASA's X-33 Program, for which he wrote a book manuscript, *Single Stage To Orbit: Politics, Space Technology, and the Quest for Reusable Rocketry*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2003, which won the 2005 Michael C. Robinson Prize of the National Council on Public History. He also has written a number of monographs for NASA on the agency's role in the manufacture of integrated circuits during the Apollo era and its contributions to the early history of MEMS (MicroElectroMechanical Systems). Additionally, Butrica has researched and written for the Department of Defense on weapon acquisition history, including several chapters, white papers, and a monograph on drones. When not otherwise engaged, Butrica enjoys researching and writing about the history of technology, science, and industrialization in 19th-century France.

Leo Bradley, Xavier University

Bradley, Leo, Ed.D. (bradley@xavier.edu)

The Lost Reds Champions of ’39 and ‘40

My latest baseball research was the story of the 1939–40 Reds, who won consecutive pennants and one world series. For my book, *Underrated Reds*, I interviewed eight of the players, plus the front office personnel (Warren Giles and Gabe Paul) and researched the papers and periodicals of the time. I would be glad to present on the findings of both the primary and secondary research. This team was the only Reds team other than the Big Red Machine to win consecutive pennants. They have been basically ignored by historians. Their story needed to be told. My presentation will not center around a recall of the records of the team or the players. Instead, I will present letters and other documents, accompanied by photos, that recall interesting incidents from the two glorious years.

Leo Bradley is a baseball historian, songwriter, musician, and singer. He has written and recorded over 40 songs for Fraternity Records including the 1999 album “One Bounce and You’re Out, the history of baseball in song,”(16 original songs) and the 2003 album, “Remembering the Reds, the history of the Cincinnati Reds in song.” (18 original songs) he has also written a play, *Bleachers, a musical.* His 2009 book, *Underrated Reds, the Story of the 1939-40, the Team’s First Undisputed Championship,* is being widely acclaimed as a most comprehensive and accurate look at a long forgotten Reds era. When not pursuing baseball history, Dr. Bradley is professor/chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Human Resource Development in the College of Social Sciences, Health, and Education at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. He has written six professional books and numerous articles on educational leadership, and has served as a consultant to school systems and organizations on a national level.

Gene Cross, “optics wizard”

Cross, Gene (optixwiz@yahoo.com)

Newton’s Secret Telescope Developments

Isaac Newton designed three types of telescopes, not just the one type that bears his name. Newton devised means, using available materials, to conceive and likely build not only the first metal-on-glass reflector, but also the first catadioptric telescope and the first using a liquid lens. Newton describes the “isoplanatic patch” modern physicists use to describe atmospheric seeing. Newton advocated mountain-top sites for telescopes more than 150 years before others. The “secret” telescope developments of Newton will be described, with perhaps some speculations as to what Newton successfully hid from us to this day.

Gene Cross has had a six-decade love affair with astronomy and telescopes, thanks to his third grade teacher, who sparked his interest in astronomy, and his dad, who sparked his interest in telescopes. Since then, he has trained in both astrophysics and optics, and built and used telescopes as an amateur, as well as a professional engineer. He has worked on many, many telescopes, some as large as 10 meters, performed stray-light baffle analysis for the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), did the original design of the Kepler mission’s Schmidt telescope, and worked on the James Webb Space Telescope’s most important science instrument: the Near Infrared Camera (NIRCam).

Lawrence D'Antonio, Ramapo College

D'Antonio, Lawrence (ldant@ramapo.edu)

You Seem Familiar? The Comet of 1744

One of the best known examples of the power of mathematics was the prediction in 1705 by Edmond Halley that a comet, previously seen in 1682, would return in 1758. It was a wonder that gripped the imagination of Europe when, as predicted, the comet reappeared in December 1758 (although Halley was unaware of the praise given his prophecy, having died in 1742).

In this talk I will mostly focus on a much lesser known comet prediction. In 1738 Martin Knutzen, a teacher of Immanuel Kant, predicted that a comet, earlier observed in 1698, would reappear in the winter of 1744. When a quite spectacular comet did appear in 1744 as predicted, Knutzen was widely celebrated and his reputation as a scientist and scholar was firmly established. But then why is this comet, and its predicted return, not at all commonly known today? Later in 1744, the great mathematician Leonhard Euler showed that the comet that appeared that year was not the same as the comet of 1698. In this talk I will examine this interesting controversy. Craig Waff wrote extensively about Halley's Comet and was also very interested in the work of Euler; therefore it is in his honor that I give this talk.

Lawrence D'Antonio is Professor of Mathematics at Ramapo College of New Jersey. His primary area of research is the history of mathematics, particularly the work of Leonhard Euler and his relationship to the Enlightenment, serving as an editor of the work *Euler at 300*, published in Euler's tercentenary year of 2007. He and Craig Waff became friends while attending the annual meetings of the Euler Society. Craig was very interested in Euler's major contributions to lunar theory and comet theory. Besides his academic interests, Professor D'Antonio has an eclectic taste in music, ranging from jazz to punk rock. He is also a sports enthusiast (still celebrating the Red Sox World Series victory).

Steven J. Dick, Library of Congress and NASA

Dick, Steven J. (stevedick1@comcast.net)

Keynote talk:

From the Earth to the Moon, and into Deep Space

Craig B. Waff's work in history of astronomy spanned both classical and modern themes, ranging from early work on the motion of the Moon to planetary probes in the Space Age. Whether studying the trajectory of a baseball or (in his final days) observing a rare transit of Venus across the face of the Sun, he had a keen eye for detail, an appreciation for humor, and a down-to-Earth attitude even with his eye on the heavens.

Session talk:

Cosmic Encounters: The Impact of Finding Extraterrestrial Life

The discovery of thousands of planets beyond our solar system, combined with a robust NASA astrobiology program and recent Congressional interest in life beyond Earth, all give urgency to the question of the societal impact of finding extraterrestrial life. How can we even approach such a far-out question? At least three approaches may be explored: 1) history, in which we examine the reaction when people *thought* life had been discovered beyond Earth, including the Moon Hoax/Satire (1835), the Orson Welles "War of the Worlds" broadcast (1938), the interpretation of pulsars as signals from Little Green Men (1967), and the claimed discovery of nanofossils in the Mars rock ALH84001 (1996); 2) discovery, in which the anatomy of past scientific discoveries suggests that any discovery of extraterrestrial life will likely consist of lengthy periods of detection and interpretation before understanding dawns; and 3) analogy, in which past events in terrestrial history are used as guidelines to study possible reactions to the discovery of microbial or intelligent life beyond Earth. Some of the best science fiction writers have also posed thoughtful scenarios of impact. All of these approaches combined may provide guidelines (not predictions) to the impact of finding life beyond Earth. In the process our conceptions of life, intelligence, culture, civilization and communication will need to transcend anthropocentrism.

[For Steve Dick's bio, see separate biographies of the two keynote speakers]

Chris Eckes, Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame

Eckes, Chris (CEckes@reds.com)

Baseball's Oldest Professional Team?

One of the Cincinnati Reds' most oft-cited claims to fame is that the team is the oldest in professional baseball. But the decision by the Red Stockings to cease operation as a professional club after 1870 resulted in the first of several gaps when no professional baseball team called Cincinnati home. According to statistical references and encyclopedias, the Reds team of today dates its history to 1882, yet signs reading "Established 1869" are prominently displayed at the Reds home ballpark and appears on numerous officially-licensed merchandise items sold throughout the park. This presentation explores the debate that surrounds the question of whether the Reds team we know today can in fact claim to be baseball's oldest professional team.

A native Cincinnatian, **Chris Eckes** graduated from the College of Mount St. Joseph with a degree in history in 2000. He was a manager of Visitor Services at the Cincinnati Museum Center before joining the Reds Hall of Fame staff in 2004. As the Hall of Fame's Chief Curator and Operations Manager, his responsibilities include daily management of all museum operations, oversight and care of the museum's artifact collection, and the design of museum exhibits, including "Edd Roush and the 1919 World Series," "PETE: The Exhibit," "Signature Reds," and "Kings of the Queen City."

Nick Kanas, University of California, San Francisco

Kanas, Nick (nick.kanas@ucsf.edu)

Who Invented the Solar System?

To the ancient Greeks, there was no concept of a Solar System. The Earth was the center of the cosmos, and the Moon, Sun, visible planets, and fixed stars all revolved around it in perfect spherical orbits. Gradually, Sun-centered models were developed, but these simply substituted the Sun for the cosmic center. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries, the notion of our Sun's retinue of planets being just one of many star systems took hold, and around the turn of the 18th century the term "Solar System" was coined. The components of the Solar System have continued to expand, and today they include distant bodies far beyond Neptune and demoted Pluto, in the Kuiper Belt and Oort Cloud halfway to the nearest star. Based on research done for a new book on celestial mapping, the conceptual history of our Solar System will be illustrated by both antiquarian and spacecraft images.

Nick Kanas is an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, where he directed the group therapy training program. For over 20 years he conducted research in group therapy, and for nearly 20 years after that he was the Principal Investigator of NASA-funded psychological research on astronauts and cosmonauts. He is the co-author of *Space Psychology and Psychiatry*, which won the 2004 International Academy of Astronautics Life Science Book Award. In 2008, he received the International Academy of Astronautics Life Science Award. Dr. Kanas has also collected antiquarian celestial maps for over 30 years and has given talks on the history of celestial cartography to amateur and professional groups. He is the author of *Star Maps: History, Artistry, and Cartography* and *Solar System Maps: From Antiquity to the Space Age.* He has been an amateur astronomer for over 50 years and has given talks at numerous World Science Fiction Conventions. He has written two science fiction novels: *The New Martians* and *The Protos Mandate*.

Rob R. Landis, NASA

Landis, Rob R. (rob.r.landis@nasa.gov)

Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel and the Blossoming of Astronomy in the United States

Born at a time when the fastest means of conveying information depended upon the speed of humans and their fleet-footed animals, Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel came into this world near present-day Morganfield, Kentucky on 20 July 1809. His nascent curiosity about the world and nature propelled him out of the wilderness. Upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy (West Point, New York) at the age of 19, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. The Academy faculty immediately selected him as an assistant professor in mathematics. Following a remote assignment to Ft. Marion, Florida, Mitchel resigned his commission in 1832 with no definite plan other than to be west of the Allegheny Mountains, settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a polymath with superb communications skills. Within a decade Mitchel would lay the foundation for the first professional observatory in the United States in Cincinnati. In 1859, he accepted the directorship of the Dudley Observatory, (while not relinquishing his role at the Cincinnati Observatory). Mitchel was the spark of the 1840s that not only popularized astronomy for the public; his efforts initiated the first permanent American observatories dedicated to astronomical research.

Rob R. Landis is currently assigned to NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., in the Science Mission Directorate, Planetary Science Division as a program officer in the Near-Earth Object Observations Program. He has an eclectic set of science and mission operations leadership experience ranging from space-based observatories (the *Hubble Space Telescope* and the *Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer*); deep space missions (*Cassini-Huygens* and the Mars Exploration Rovers [MER]); planetary surface operations (MER - *Spirit* and *Opportunity*); and, the International Space Station (ISS). Landis has lived abroad for extensive periods to support ISS mission operations in Russia and Germany. His decade-long passion for O.M. Mitchel has taken him on a quest to historical observatories around the world: Greenwich, Pulkovo, Kharkov, Paris, and Munich.

Greg Rhodes, Cincinnati Reds Team Historian

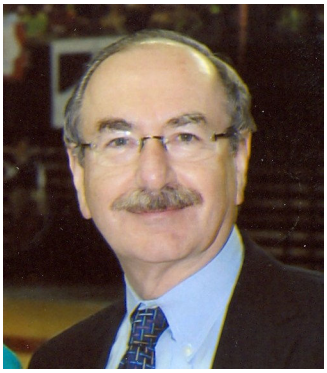
Rhodes, Greg (roadwest@me.com)

Red Stocking Revolution

The 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings baseball team became the first openly professional club after the 1868 rule change permitting clubs to pay players. The success of the team's performance against the established and more experienced East Coast clubs, plus their ambitious and unprecedented itinerary which took them coast to coast, helped legitimize professionalism and popularize the young sport of baseball. This presentation will touch on these matters, as well as take the audience back in time to a "front row seat" at an 1869 game.

Greg Rhodes will also be leading Sunday's tour of the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Crosley Field.

Greg Rhodes was the founding director of the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum, which opened in 2004. He retired from full-time duties in 2007, but continues his association with the Reds and the Reds Hall of Fame in his role as Team Historian. He is the author of seven books on the Reds, including *Redleg Journal* and *Reds in Black and White*, both winners of The Sporting News-SABR Baseball Research Award. Four of his books have been nominated for the Casey Award. Rhodes holds an Ed.D from Indiana University, and has previous experience in teaching and in the museum field. He is previous chair of the Cincinnati chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) and has participated in 1869 baseball recreation matches, as part of the Cincinnati Red Stockings vintage baseball team.



Marc Rothenberg, National Science Foundation

Rothenberg, Marc (mrothenb@nsf.gov)

Teaching Astronomy in Ante-Bellum American Colleges

Craig's research on Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel illuminates what in current language would be called informal science education. This presentation will discuss the formal counterpart to Mitchel's lectures during the period he was active—the teaching of astronomy in U.S. colleges from about 1840 until the Civil War. During those years astronomy was part of the required curriculum at most U.S. colleges, either as a stand-alone subject or part of the natural philosophy course. The focus will be on Denison Olmsted of Yale, who taught astronomy to more students during this period than any other U.S. professor. He was also a widely recognized spokesperson for one side in the debate over the relationship between research and teaching in the American college. Olmsted also stood as an advocate of the importance of generalization by science professors at a time when specialization was growing among U.S. scientists. The talk will conclude with content comparisons with Mitchel's lectures.

Marc Rothenberg is the agency historian for the National Science foundation. Prior to coming to the National Science Foundation in 2006, he spent 31 years on the staff of the Joseph Henry Papers Project at the Smithsonian Institution, becoming editor in 1985. In addition to overseeing the publication of six volumes of *The Papers of Joseph Henry,* and participating in three additional volumes, he has published essays on the history of the Smithsonian, the history of the National Science Foundation, American astronomy in the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century, international scientific cooperation, and exploration. He was one of the three co-founders of the Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop at Notre Dame, a venue in which he frequently had the pleasure of talking to Craig and listening to his presentations. Rothenberg is currently the Vice-Chair and Chair-elect of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society.

Robert W. Smith at Athabasca Falls outside Jasper in the Canadian Rockies

Smith, Robert W. (rwsmith@ualberta.ca)

A `most spirit stirring event' : The Discovery of Neptune And Why It Sparked a Firestorm of Controversy

The discovery of Neptune in 1846 is one of the most famous events in the entire history of science. It marked not only the second occasion that a Solar System planet had been found in recorded history, but it was also the first time that astronomers had discovered a major planet after a search had been started in a specific area of sky as the result of predictions that such a planet existed. The find also led to a sometimes bitter and hard-fought battle for credit that involved scientists from Britain, France, and the United States. In this talk I will examine the discovery and the resulting controversy as well as why the find mattered so much to mid-nineteenth century scientists.

Robert W. Smith is a Professor of the History of Science in the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta. He has been a Fellow at the National Humanities Centre, the Lindbergh Chair of Aerospace History at the Smithsonian Institution, and a Killam Annual Professor and McCalla Professor at the University of Alberta. He has written extensively on Big Science as well as nineteenth and twentieth century astronomy, including the books *The Expanding Universe: Astronomy's Great Debate 1900-1931*, *The Space Telescope: A Study of NASA, Science. Technology and Politics* and the best-selling *Hubble: Imaging Space and Time* co-authored with David DeVorkin. He has long been fascinated by the discovery of Neptune, a fascination he shared with Craig Waff, whom he first met in the mid-1980s when the two of them were researching topics to do with the history of the U.S. space program, Craig the Galileo Program and Robert the Hubble Space Telescope.

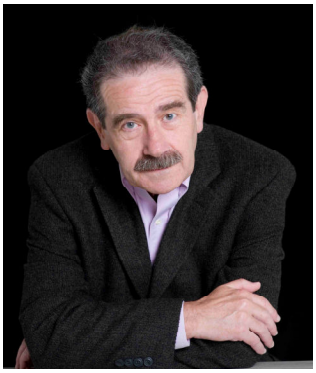
Robert Tholkes in a vintage base ball game

Tholkes, Robert (rjtholkes@gmail.com)

Poised to Grow: The Knickerbocker Base Ball Club, the Knickerbocker Rules, and the New York Game, 1845–1854

The New York Knickerbockers' 1845 code of playing rules are the foundation of the modern game of baseball. After first presenting Robert W. Henderson's summary of baseball's evolution (from Henderson's 1947 classic book *Ball, Bat and Bishop*), the presentation introduces some of the chief actors in the Knickerbocker story (Alexander Cartwright, Daniel "Doc" Adams, William Wheaton) and presents and discusses the most significant of the Knicks' 1845 code of playing rules that underlie the modern game. Discussion of the further changes in the rules in 1854 and of the factors which left the game poised for the dramatic expansion which began in 1855 conclude the presentation.

Robert Tholkes of Minneapolis is a veteran contributor to Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) publications and to *Base Ball*, a journal of the early game concentrating on the game's amateur era. His past activities include several years as an officer of SABR's Halsey Hall Chapter (Minnesota), biographical research on major leaguers with Minnesota connections, and service as newsletter editor for SABR's Origins of Baseball Committee.

 John Thorn, Official Historian, Major League Baseball

Thorn, John (jthorn@newworldsports.org)

Keynote talk:

What's a Heaven For?

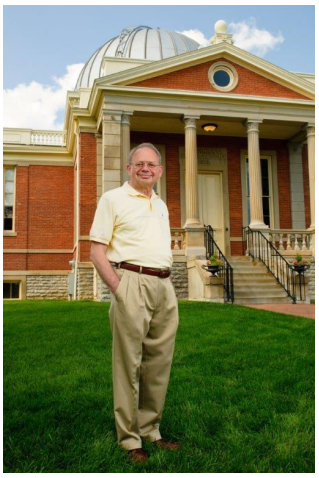
The fault may not be in our stars, but that is at least one thing that astronomy and baseball have in common. Craig Waff's pioneering work on the origins of baseball captures the dim light of baseball's dawn, when national stars began to emerge from a nebula of aspiring players. Prime among these early stars were Jim Creighton, whose fame, rather than dimming upon his death at age 21, only grew; and George Wright, the dashing shortstop of many clubs who gained national renown with the Cincinnati Red Stockings. But before either of them, in the 1850s—Waff's favorite period—some amateur players excelled, only to be forgotten once the professionals came to dominate the field. Thorn will look toward such distant stars as Joe Leggett, Charles DeBost, Pete O'Brien, Louis Wadsworth, and Frank Pidgeon.

Session talk:

Does Baseball History Matter?

Why would baseball, as a multibillion dollar business thriving in the internet age, care about its origins? Until recent years, most academic historians regarded baseball history as merely rattling off of pennant winners, batting champions, and heroic exploits—and after all, without past records, no player would know where he stood, no fan could measure his or her heroes against those who have gone before. In the hands of nearly all its practitioners today, baseball history is a moated activity, in which "what happened" is all that matters. Only occasionally will the drawbridge drop down to connect with not only "what use might it be to know this" but also with what it might mean in some larger analytical or social context. Myth and mythmaking will always be far more **useful** to the public understanding than mere findings of fact. And from the perspective of the historian of ideas and attitudes, what a man believes to be true, or purports to be true (including willful lies) may reveal more about himself and his era than the truth itself.

[For John Thorn's bio, see separate biographies of the two keynote speakers]



John Ventre in front of the main building of the Cincinnati Observatory

Ventre, John E. (jeventre@ix.netcom.com)

John Ventre, the Cincinnati Observatory Center's Historian, will conduct a walking historical tour of the Observatory—highlighting its rich history as it relates to astronomy, science, the City of Cincinnati, and the University of Cincinnati.

John Ventre's first exposure to the Cincinnati Observatory was in the late 1940s when he visited it while on a Boy Scout field trip. Eventually he taught astronomy at the University of Cincinnati, was one of the principals who saved the Observatory from the wrecking ball, served as the Cincinnati Observatory Center's (COC's) first administrator/director, and currently is working as the Observatory's Historian while restoring the COC to a working 19th-century astronomical observatory. He also is the resident "Luna-tic": everything about the Moon fascinates him.