



# Eleventh Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference



March 1<sup>ST</sup> | 2014  
Atlanta, Georgia



# TY COBB MUSEUM

R o y s t o n , G e o r g i a

The Ty Cobb Museum opened its doors on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1998. It fosters an appreciation for the life and career of Tyrus Raymond Cobb, 1<sup>st</sup> in the Baseball Hall of Fame. The Museum provides information about baseball history during Cobb's era, and his impact on the game.

It is housed in one of the many medical buildings owned and operated by the Ty Cobb Healthcare System, Inc., a system that began in 1950 as Cobb Memorial Hospital. The hospital was funded in large part by Ty Cobb and is named in memory of his parents, Herschel and Amanda Cobb. Ty Cobb's philanthropy is another aspect of his life that you will experience at the Ty Cobb Museum. For more information about the Museum, call Sharri Hobbs at (706) 245-1825.



## The Ty Cobb Museum Hours of Operation

**Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**461 Cook Street**

**Royston, Georgia 30662**

**(706) 245-1825**

**[www.tycobbmuseum.org](http://www.tycobbmuseum.org)**



**Cover: 1886 Atlanta Ball Club.** Created in 1885 and originally called the Southern League, the new deep-South minor league loop included in its first 2 seasons 5 Georgia teams: Atlanta, Macon, Columbus, Augusta and Savannah. The Atlanta 9 captured the pennant in both 1885 and 1886.

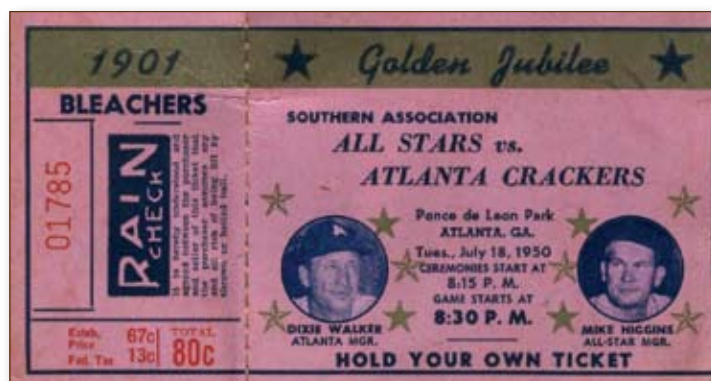
*Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*

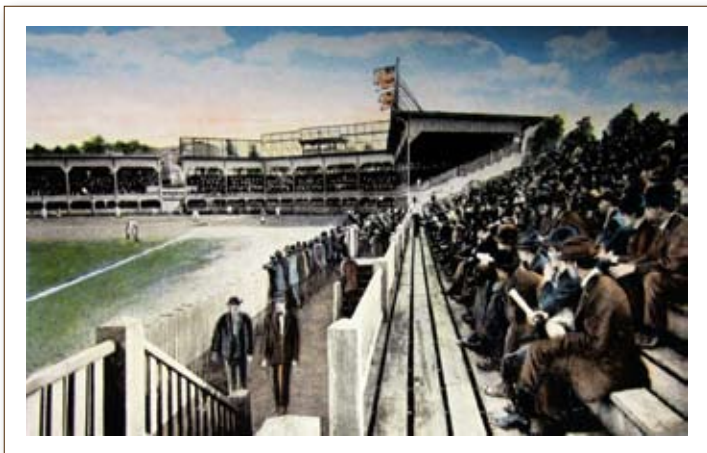
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Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

8:00	A.M.	Morning coffee and light breakfast
9:00	A.M.	Welcome and introductory remarks
9:15	A.M.	Alan Morris
		“Atlanta’s First Base Ball Game & Oakland’s Boys of Summer”
10:00	A.M.	Derby Gisclair
		“Atlanta Baseball During World War II”
10:45	A.M.	Morning break – Collector Exhibits
11:00	A.M.	Wesley Fricks
		“Ty Cobb and Earl Mann: A Southern Association”
11:45	A.M.	Buck Riddle
		“My Experience Playing with the Atlanta Crackers”
12:30	P.M.	Lunch break
1:15	P.M.	Jim Riley
		“Negro League Players With Connections to Atlanta”
2:00	P.M.	Mil Fisher
		“Ty Cobb As Seen Through the Eyes of a Batboy”
2:45	P.M.	Karl Green
		“The Football Coach’s Tenure as President of the Atlanta Crackers, 1908 – 1911”
3:30	P.M.	Clarence Watkins
		“Ponce de Leon Remembered”
4:15	P.M.	Closing Remarks

1950 Southern Association  
All Star Game ticket,  
hosted by league champion  
Atlanta Crackers, at  
Ponce de Leon Park.  
*Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*





Colorized view of Ponce de Leon crowd on game day.  
*Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Atlanta native and talented first baseman, James Red Moore (far right) sits with Newark Eagles teammates Lennie Pearson, Willie Wells, and Dick Seay.  
*Courtesy of James Riley.*



Sydney "Syd" Smith played 1st base, roamed the outfield, and caught for the pennant winning 1909 Atlanta Crackers.  
*Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Gate City Base Ball Club, 1867. Originally appearing in the October 21, 1906 edition of the *Atlanta Constitution*. 6 of the 9 players shown are buried in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery. *Courtesy of Alan Morris.*



Ty Cobb in spring training as Detroit Tigers' manager, San Antonio, TX, March 16, 1921.  
*Courtesy of the Ty Cobb Museum*

Talented outfielder Roy Moran played 13 seasons of professional baseball, including 8 with the Crackers. His career also included a season with the Washington Senators, 2 with Chattanooga, and 2 with Sacramento of the Pacific Coast League.  
*Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*





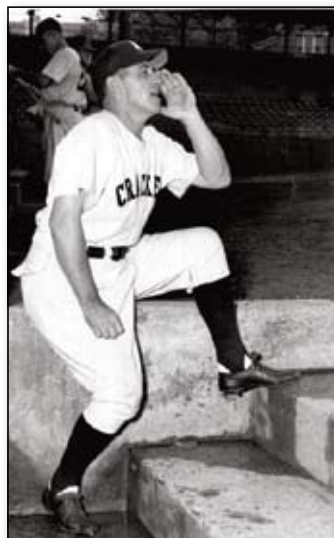
1917 Atlanta Crackers, Southern Association league champs. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins*



Hall of Famer **Eddie Mathews** (left) enjoyed 17 seasons in the Majors and 3 in the Minors, including 2 seasons with the Crackers (1950 and 1951). He returned to Atlanta in 1972 for 3 seasons as Braves' manager. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins*



The 1950 Crackers, with Manager Dixie Walker, captured the Southern Association pennant, finishing 4 games ahead of Birmingham. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Under the guidance of former Major Leaguer **Kiki Cuyler**, the **Crackers** captured back-to-back Southern Association pennants in 1945 and 1946. Cuyler was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1968. *Courtesy of Derby Gisclair.*



Atlanta native, **Cannonball Dick Redding** (right) stands with **Smokey Joe Williams**. Redding's career included both playing and managing, and spanned nearly three decades. *Courtesy of James Riley*



Atlanta batter at Ponce de Leon Park, opening day, 1940. The Crackers finished the season in second place, 9½ games behind Nashville. *Courtesy of Derby Gisclair*



Veteran of 7 Minor League seasons, **Clarence "Buck" Riddle** was part of the 1956 and 1957 pennant winning Crackers ball club, as well as the 1958 third-place Atlanta team. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*

## Eleventh Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference | Presenters:

**Dr. Millard Fisher** The past President of the Georgia (Magnolia) SABR Chapter, Dr. Millard Fisher is a devout baseball fan who reads extensively all types of baseball material, and particularly enjoys biographies and history of the game. An avid Braves fan, he is a frequent speaker at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. When not cheering for his favorite team, he speaks internationally on health issues and medicine, and has had numerous articles and research presentations related to these subjects. He also serves as a consultant to several national and international organizations, including the World Future Society, the Centers for Disease Control, and the National Institutes for Health.

**Wesley Fricks** Ty Cobb historian Wesley Fricks grew-up in Royston, GA, on Cobb Street, near the old Cobb home place, and has since 1998 been instrumental in the success of the Ty Cobb Museum. A 2004 graduate of Florida Metropolitan University, he has assisted with the development of numerous museum exhibits, and has worked closely with the Ty Cobb Educational Foundation. A frequent participant in baseball symposiums, he has also contributed to numerous Cobb-related television productions.

**S. Derby Gisclair** A lifelong resident of New Orleans, S. Derby Gisclair is an active SABR member, a Sustaining Member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and is a member of the Nominating and Selection Committees for the Greater New Orleans Professional Baseball Hall of Fame. A noted speaker at regional and national baseball conferences, he has published articles in *New Orleans Magazine*, *Bleacher Creature*, BaseballLibrary.com, and in a variety of other publications. In addition to his role as webmaster for three sites on the history of baseball, he is also the author of *Baseball in New Orleans* and *Baseball at Tulane University*, and is currently compiling material for a history of the New Orleans Pelicans and an expanded history of baseball in 19th century New Orleans.

**Karl Green** Finance executive Karl Green joined SABR in 1977 while attending Georgia Tech, and currently serves as Chair of SABR's Collegiate Baseball Committee. In addition to collegiate baseball, his research also involves southern baseball from the first professional teams in the mid 1880's through the end of the Deadball Era. A life-time resident of Atlanta, his interest in baseball history stems from hearing stories from his father's uncle who pitched several years in the minors from 1929 – 1934, including brief Southern Association stints with Knoxville, Little Rock and Nashville.

**Alan Morris** Atlanta native and State retiree, Alan Morris is the Chairman of the Fulton County Grand Jury Commission, and also serves on the Atlanta Citizens Review Board, monitoring grievances against the Atlanta Police Department. A career employee with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Program, he is a recognized advocate for persons with disabilities. The holder of Master's degrees from Georgia State University in Counseling and Public Administration, he is an avid Braves fan and longtime season ticket holder, and remains active in retirement conducting tours of Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery and judging bar-b-que competitions.

**Buck Riddle** Pensacola, NC native Buck Riddle played collegiate baseball at Wake Forest University, before embarking on a 7-season professional baseball career. Beginning in 1951, with Hagerstown, MD, of the Interstate League, and with stops in Raleigh (Carolina League) and Evansville (Illinois-Indiana-Iowa League), he earned a spot on the 1954 Jacksonville roster (Sally League), before being drafted into the Army. Following discharge from the Army, he was a member of the 1956 and 1957 pennant winning Crackers ball club, as well as the 1958 third-place Atlanta team.

**James A. Riley** A foremost authority on the Negro Baseball Leagues, James A. Riley is a prolific researcher and writer. The author of seven books, including his landmark volume, *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*, and, most recently, *Of Monarchs and Black Barons* (2012), he has also contributed to many compilations and periodicals, including the *All-Star Game: Official Major League Baseball Program*, *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia* and *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives*. A seasoned speaker on the lecture circuit, he has also applied his expertise to numerous television documentaries and programs concerning the Negro Leagues. A past-president of SABR, he currently serves on the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame Advisory Council, and is the former recipient of numerous scholarly awards and honors.

**Clarence Watkins** Author of *Baseball in Birmingham*, Clarence Watkins is a member of the Friends of Rickwood Board of Directors and is a long-time collector of Southern Association history. A 1972 graduate of Memphis State University, he is a member of Birmingham's Triple Play Club and SABR. He presented his research at the 2010 SABR National Convention and the 2010 Jerry Malloy Conference. His second book, *Baseball in Memphis*, was released in April 2012.

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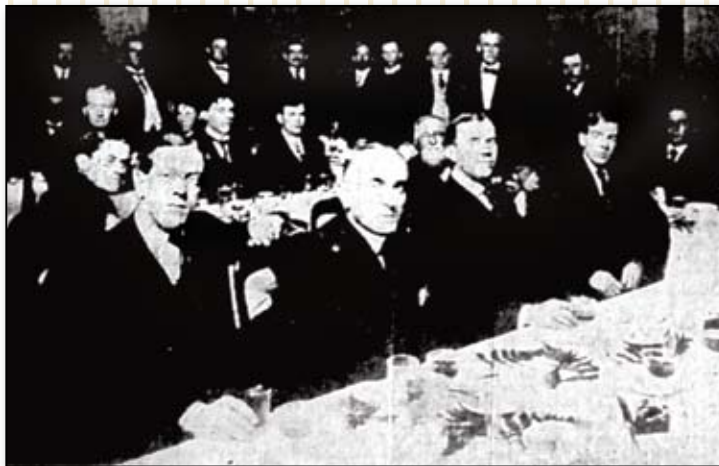
1939 Opening day, Atlanta vs Chattanooga. Left to right, Chattanooga's Joe Engel, league president Trammel Scott, Crackers' player & manager Paul Richards, and Atlanta owner Earl Mann. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Ty Cobb Memorial Baseball Commission appointment meeting. Seated: Governor Ernest Vandiver; Left to Right: Parker Purcell, Reeder Tucker, O. Earl Mann (President of the Atlanta Crackers), Dr. Stewart Brown, Jr. (Chairman, Ty Cobb Memorial Baseball Commission). *Courtesy of Ty Cobb Museum.*



Jimmy Lanier and Mil Fisher: Longtime Ty Cobb bat boy, Jimmy Lanier (left) stands with friend and author, Mil Fisher. *Courtesy of Mil Fisher.*



December 16, 1907 Southern Association executives attending a banquet held in conjunction with the league's winter meeting in Atlanta, including Crackers' team president, John Heisman, back row, sixth from left.

*Courtesy of Karl Green*



1910 Southern Association meeting in Atlanta. Pictured 1. John Heisman, president Atlanta Crackers; 2. Judge W. M. Kavanaugh, president of the Southern Association of Baseball Clubs; 3. Charles Babb, Memphis manager; 4. Charles Frank, president of the New Orleans Baseball Association; 5. Otto Jordan, Atlanta manager; 6. William Bernhard, Nashville manager; 7. Carleton Molesworth, Birmingham manager.

*Courtesy of Karl Green*

Special thanks to:

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