

McLean County Museum of History

Charles (“Old Hoss”) Radbourn Collection

Processed by  
Judy Brown  
Summer 2016

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1857-2011
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	<p><i>See also:</i> Anecdote. <i>Journey of Families in Faith</i> (Holy Trinity History), pp. 19-20. Available in Museum stacks. Call # IL (McLean) HOLT 2005 Book. <i>Fifty-Nine in '84: Old Hoss Radbourn, Barehanded Baseball &amp; the Greatest Season a Pitcher Ever Had</i> by Edward Achorn (Smithsonian Books, 2010). Available in Museum stacks. Call # B RADBOURN 2010 Book <i>Old Hoss : a fictional baseball biography of Charles Radbourn</i> by James W. Bennett &amp; Donald Raycraft (McFarland &amp; Company, 2002). Available in Museum stacks. Call # 813.54 BEN</p>

## Brief History

Charles (“Old Hoss”) Radbourn was born in Rochester N.Y. December 11, 1854. In 1855, the Radbourn family moved to Bloomington, IL. During his teen years in Bloomington, Radbourn worked as a butcher for his father, and also worked as a brakeman for the Indiana, Bloomington and Western Railway. In 1880, he made his major league baseball debut with the Buffalo Bisons. In 1884, Radbourn set baseball records, winning the Major League’s pitching Triple Crown with an unbeaten record of 59 wins in a single season. During his career, he also played for the Providence Grays, Boston Beaneaters, and Boston Reds; he last appeared with the Cincinnati Reds on August 11, 1891. He returned to Bloomington in retirement, opening a billiard parlor and saloon. He died February 15, 1897 and is interred in Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomington. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939.

## Scope

The collection includes newspaper articles and advertisements from 1857 to 2011, magazine articles, miscellaneous items including a Radbourn family genealogy, notes, letters, emails photocopies, an original play *Old Hoss: Ornerly, belligerent, and just maybe the best pitcher who ever lived* by Jared Brown (2014), images, baseball cards and legal papers.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Program

- 1.1 Souvenir program of banquet honoring Clark Griffith, May 1941, following placing of plaque on grave of Charles “Old Hoss” Radbourn.

### Folder 2: Newspaper Articles and Advertisements, 1850 - 1869

- 2.1 “New Market,” *Pantagraph*, May 19, 1857,
- 2.2 Advertisement for Charles Radbourn’s new meat market, *Pantagraph*, June 1, 1857 (Old Hoss’ father?).
- 2.3 “Fine Show of Meat” (Charles Radbourn’s [*sic*] meat market), *Pantagraph*, December 27, 1867, p. 4.
- 2.4 Box score, Bloomington Juniors vs. “Star” (singular?), “Radburn” listed as pitcher for the Juniors, *Pantagraph*, June 24, 1869, p. 4.

### Folder 3: Newspaper Articles and Advertisements, 1870 - 1889

- 3.1 “The Verdant Diamond,” *Pantagraph*, June 26, 1876, p. 3.
- 3.2 “Base Ball Matters,” account of game between Bloomington and the Stone Citys [*sic*] of Joliet, *Daily Leader*, August 21, 1876, p. 4.
- 3.3 “Ball and Bat. The Springfield and Bloomington Nines Meet ...” *Daily Leader*, September 1, 1876, p. 4.
- 3.4 “A Crooked Game,” *Pantagraph*, September 2, 1876, p. 3.
- 3.5 “Ball and Bat. A Second Game With the Springfields,” *Daily Leader*, September 2, 1876, p. 4.

- 3.6 "The Floating Evidence on the Crooked Game Friday," *Pantagraph*, September 4, 1876, p. 4.
- 3.7 "Ball and Bat," *Daily Leader*, September 4, 1876, p. 4.
- 3.8 "Base Ball," *Pantagraph*, June 30, 1877, p. 3.
- 3.9 Notice of a throwing match, *Democratic News*, September 7, 1877, p. 1.
- 3.10 "Baseball, Box score", *Pantagraph*, September 17, 1877, p. 3.
- 3.11 Local, Radbourn visits friends, *Pantagraph*, July 24, 1878, p.4.
- 3.12 Notice of street brawl, *Democratic News*, September 13, 1878, p. 1.
- 3.13 "Brawling Boys," *Daily Leader*, September 13, 1878, p. 4.
- 3.14 Note on Albert Radburn [sic], injured in a brawl early in the month, *Daily Leader*, September 20, 1878, p. 4.
- 3.15 "Radbourn to Dubuque", *Pantagraph*, December 18, 1878, p. 3.
- 3.16 Notice detailing letter from Buffalo, NY club, *Pantagraph*, January 9, 1880, p. 3.
- 3.17 "Boston Telegram to the Times", *Pantagraph*, February 3, 1881, p. 3.
- 3.18 Radbourn Pitched for Providence" *Pantagraph*, August 16, 1881, p. 4.
- 3.19 "Charley Radbourne. A Bloomington Base Ballist of Fame, Who Thinks he Can Outshoot the World," *Pantagraph*, January 15, 1883, p. 4.
- 3.20 "Radbourne's Challenge Accepted," *Bulletin*, January 20, 1883, p. 4.
- 3.21 "Radbourne Finds a Shooter," *Pantagraph*, January 22, 1883, p. 4.
- 3.22 "Eleven to Ten", *Pantagraph*, October 16, 1883, p. 3.
- 3.23 Note on Radbourne and Cliff Carroll going "east," *Weekly Leader*, November 8, 1883, p. 4.
- 3.24 "A Pitcher Suspended," *New-York Times*, July 17, 1884, p. 2.
- 3.25 "Close of the Baseball Season," *New-York Times*, October 26, 1884, p. 14.
- 3.26 "Charley Radbourne Last Year Received \$5,000 From the Providence Club," *Pantagraph*, February 16, 1885, p. 3.
- 3.27 "Radbourn Hit Very Hard," *New-York Times*, September 12, 1885, p. 3.
- 3.28 "Notes of the Game" (Radbourn suspended), *New-York Times*, September 13, 1885, p. 2.
- 3.29 Notice, Radbourne spending winter in Providence, RI, *Daily Bulletin*, December 19, 1886, p. 1.
- 3.30 "Home Again," *Daily Bulletin*, October 26, 1887, p. 4.
- 3.31 "Rad. And Boston," *Sunday Bulletin*, April 22, 1888, p. 1.
- 3.32 "Joined the Bostons," *Pantagraph*, November 14, 1889, p. 4.

#### **Folder 4: Newspaper Articles and Advertisements, 1890 - 1919**

- 4.1 "Comiskey Is Here," *Daily Bulletin*, March 20, 1891, p. 4.
- 4.2 "He Quit the Business, Charlie Radbourn Has Forsworn Base Ball," *Weekly Leader*, August 28, 1891, p. 3.
- 4.3 "A Courageous Act," *Pantagraph*, July 13, 1892, p. 5.
- 4.4 "Loss of an Eye," *Weekly Leader*, April 19, 1894, p. 7.
- 4.5 "Old Hoss' Radbourne," *Weekly Bulletin*, May 4, 1894, p. 3.
- 4.6 Note on Radbourne selling saloon and billiard room, *Daily Leader*, February 21, 1895, p. 8.
- 4.7 "Charles Radbourn Very Ill," *Pantagraph*, February 5, 1897, p. 7.
- 4.8 "Rad has Passed Away," *Daily Bulletin*, February 5, 1897, p. 1.
- 4.9 "Radbourn Is Dead," *Pantagraph*, February 6, 1897, p. 7.
- 4.10 "Reminiscences Recalled," *Pantagraph*, February 8, 1897, p. 8.
- 4.11 "Talk of Radbourne," *Sunday Bulletin*, February 7, 1897, p. 6.
- 4.12 "Why He Looked Sad," *Pantagraph*, February 9, 1900, p. 5.

- 4.13 "Widow of Famous Ball Player Dead," *Daily Bulletin*, August 3, 1903, p. 4.
- 4.14 "Says He Discovered Charley Radbourn," *Pantagraph*, April 6, 1914, p. 13.
- 4.15 "Great Pitchers of the Past," *Pantagraph*, November 27, 1915, p. 5.
- 4.16 "Cincinnati plays in Bloomington," *Pantagraph*, July 3, 1916, p. 5.
- 4.17 "To Visit Radbourne's Grave," *Pantagraph*, July 6, 1916, p. 5.
- 4.18 "Knew Radbourne as Boy," *Pantagraph*, July 6, 1916, p. 5.

**Folder 5: Newspaper Articles and Advertisements, 1920 - 1939**

- 5.1 "Death Summons John Radbourn" (brother), *Pantagraph*, April 6, 1920, p. 6.
- 5.2 "True Story of 'Old Hoss' Radbourne," *Pantagraph*, March 25, 1921, p. 10.
- 5.3 "Radbourne, Baseball's Immortal Hero Died, Broken Hearted, When Arm Fails," *Pantagraph*, July 19, 1922, p. 11.
- 5.4 "Henry Radbourne, Bloomington "Reds" Old Pitcher, Dies," *Pantagraph*, June 5, 1925, p. 14.
- 5.5 "Death Takes John C. Flynn," *Pantagraph*, November 15, 1930, p. 3.
- 5.6 "Radbourn Won 60 Games for Providence in Season of 1884," *Pantagraph*, October 31, 1932, p. 7.
- 5.7 "Young's Yarns" note on University of Illinois coaching opportunity, *Pantagraph*, April 14, 1933, p. 14.
- 5.8 "Hoss Radbourne Added to Hall of Fame," *Pantagraph*, May 3, 1939.
- 5.9 "Bloomington Honored in National Baseball Shrine," *Pantagraph*, June 25, 1939, p. 9.

**Folder 6: Newspaper Articles and Advertisements, 1940 - 1959**

- 6.1 "Normal Plans Stirring Welcome for Griffith," *Pantagraph*, April 25, 1941, p. 14.
- 6.2 "Committee Will Show Him Boyhood Scenes," *Pantagraph*, April 25, 1941, p. 14.
- 6.3 "Develops Change of Pace," *Pantagraph*, May 1, 1941, p. 14.
- 6.4 "Griffith Rates Radbourne No. 1," *Pantagraph*, July 19, 1943, p. 7.
- 6.5 "27 Straight Shortened Radbourne Career," August 24, 1948, p. 10.
- 6.6 "Young's Yarns" column on donation of Radbourne cane to historical society, *Pantagraph*, November 8, 1948, p. 9.
- 6.7 "Who Was Old Hoss?" *Pantagraph*, December 18, 1949, p. 27.
- 6.8 "Turning Back Pages. Remember When West Side Grounds Housed Baseball," *Pantagraph*, December 23, 1950, p. 11.
- 6.9 "75 Years Ago, Feb. 4, 1880," *Pantagraph*, February 4, 1955, p. 4.

**Folder 7: Newspaper Articles and Advertisements, 1960 - 1984**

- 7.1 "Baseball Hall of Fame Member" Grave stone photo, *Pantagraph*, July 14, 1966, p. 11.
- 7.2 "Hall of Fame Roll Call," *Pantagraph*, June 6, 1969, p. 4.
- 7.3 "Longest Game Ever Played," *Pantagraph*, February 5, 1971, p. 18.
- 7.4 "Old Hoss': No Curveball Without Him," *Pantagraph*, July 4, 1976, p. 53.
- 7.5 "The Greatest Season a Pitcher Has Ever Had," *New York Times*, June 24, 1984, sec. 5, p. 2.

**Folder 8: Newspaper Articles and Advertisements, 1990 - 2011**

- 8.1 "100 Years Ago February 7, 1891," *Pantagraph*, February 7, 1991, p. 30.
- 8.2 "Baseball legend long forgotten," *Pantagraph*, November 1, 1998, A3.

- 8.3 "Lost and found, a piece of McLean County history comes home as the Radbourne will is returned," *Pantagraph*, December 2, 1998.
- 8.4 "No charges yet in Radbourne will theft," *Pantagraph*, January 14, 1999, p. 3.
- 8.5 "Suspect in will case faces Massachusetts charges," *Pantagraph*, February 10, 1999, p. 3.
- 8.6 "This Old Hoss," *Pantagraph*, April 30, 2002, p. D5.
- 8.7 "Matthews Not Only Local in Baseball's Hall," *Pantagraph*, February 23, 2007, p. 17.
- 8.8 "Famed 19th century ballplayer 'Old Hoss' came from Bloomington," *Pantagraph*, April 6, 2008, p. B4.
- 8.9 "Why Can't Buffets Make It in Dining-nutty B-N?" *Pantagraph*, April 25, 2003, p. 33.
- 8.10 "113 Years Later, Bloomington's best hurler Getting his due," *Pantagraph*, May 30, 2010, p. 1.
- 8.11 "Talk on Hall of Famer set; Belters game will follow," *Pantagraph*, June, 17, 2011, p. 52.

**Folder 9: Magazine Articles**

- 9.1 "'Old Hoss' Radbourne," by E.E. Pierson, in *Baseball Magazine*, August 1917, pp. 423-24; 456-57.
- 9.2 "The Illustrated History of Flipping the Bird," *GQ*, February 1997, pp. 168-173.
- 9.3 "Charles G. Radbourne The Greatest Pitcher of the Nineteenth Century," in *Illinois Historical Journal*, Vol. 81 (Winter, 1988), pp. 255-68.

**Folder 10: Miscellaneous Materials**

- 10.1 Notes from 3x5 cards & Picture. "Charlie Radbourne / Charlie Radbourne's Major League Record".
- 10.2 Letter to Fred H. Young from "Red" Ringlisen, 1963.
- 10.3 Photograph (photocopy), Bloomington Baseball Club, 1874.
- 10.4 Chapter, "Great Players: 1869-1900," from *Baseball: The First One Hundred Years* (1969), pp. 98-103. Includes image of Radbourne's Hall of Fame plaque.
- 10.5 Family Group Sheet (Radbourne genealogy), compiled by Museum volunteer Peggy Fuller, January 2006.
- 10.6 List of Radbourn-related objects in the Museum's collections.
- 10.7 Email from Radbourn biographer Edward Achorn to Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, April 24, 2009.
- 10.8 "Old Hoss Day," Pawtucket, Rhode Island, McCoy Stadium, *Providence Journal*, May 15, 2010.
- 10.9 *Old Hoss: Ornerly, belligerent, and just maybe the best pitcher who ever lived*, an original play written and directed by Jared Brown, March 7-9, [2014], playbill, 2 copies.
- 10.10 Bibliography of Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourn materials available in the Museum stacks.

**Folder 11: Images**

- 11.1 Postcard from National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.
- 11.2 Postcard of Radbourn in Boston uniform, watercolor by Perez Steele Galleries, 1980

**Folder 12: Baseball Cards**

- 12.1 B. F. Callahan, c. 1950, including enlargement of digital scan, 2 p.
- 12.2 Baseball Wit, 1990.
- 12.3 McLean County Museum of History card, created for the Trailblazer youth program.

**Folder 13: Legal Papers**

- 13.1 Photocopy of chattel mortgage for horse, pigs, butcher wagon, etc., July 20, 1880. 2 p.
- 13.2 "I, Charles Radbourn Jr. . . ." will dated 19 February 1895, 2 p.
- 13.3 "J.H. Rowall. . ." form dated 13 February 1897, 1 p.
- 13.4 Summons, dated 17 March 1897, 2 p.
- 13.5 Note from Mayne Pollock to the Circuit Court, McLean Co., dated 17, March, 1897, 1 p.
- 13.6 Certificate of Mailing Notice, dated 18 March 1897, 2 p.
- 13.7 Note from A.J. Barr to Sheriff of Cook County, dated 19 March 1897, 1 p.
- 13.8 Summons, dated 25 March 1897, 2 p.
- 13.9 Bill to set aside deed and will. The answer of Carrie Radbourn, April Term 1897, 3 p.
- 13.10 Bill to set aside deed and will. The separate answer of James S. Neville, April Term 1897, 3 p.
- 13.11 In Chy. to set aside deeds and will. To the Honorable Thomas F. Tipton, April Term 1897, 8 p.
- 13.12 Affidavit for Continuance. In Chancery, no. 7194, 14 May 1900, 2 p.
- 13.13 No. 7194 Chy. To the above named complainants, 1 April 1901. 4 p.
- 13.14 State of Illinois, McLean County, Deposition of Anna Hunter, 31 May 1901, 10 p.
- 13.15 No. 7194 Chancery. To the above named defendants, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1902, 1.
- 13.16 Stipulation. In Chancery, 19<sup>th</sup> May 1902, 2 p.
- 13.17 No. 7194, To set aside deed and will, n.d., 1 p.

**Folder 14: Radbourn Homes and Places of Business**

- 14.1 "Let Mr. and Mrs. Freese Tell You Of Old Hoss Radbourne," *Pantagraph*, January 15, 1939, p. 8.
- 14.2 "George Freese, Ill Year, Dies," *Pantagraph*, June 5, 1944, p. 3.
- 14.3 "Bloomington-Normal Deaths. Mrs. George Freese," *Pantagraph*, December 15, 1951, p. 3.
- 14.4 Two interior views of William Radbourn's saloon (prints from digital images), sent via Mitch Anheier to Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, 2013.
- 14.5 City directory listings for Diamond Saloon, 1891-1919.