

## Acknowledgement and introduction

Here's the thing about research: you get to be a kid again. You're innocent. Everything is new. Everything is for the first time. You're the first man on the moon. You're Lewis. Or Clark. Your mission, if you'll pardon the pop culture reference, is to go where no man — or woman — has gone before.

And here's the thing about writing: You get to put your mark on the research. For eternity, really, you are now part of the subject you have researched and reassembled.

I have lived with the subject of this research, Hugh Fullerton III, for a very long time, even though he died two-and-a-half years before I was born. To most people, Fullerton is the man who uncovered the fix of the 1919 World Series, remembered as the Black Sox scandal. For more than a quarter century, Fullerton was the best known and most read sports writer in America. Working out of Chicago between 1893 and 1920 before the City on the Lake ceded the center of the baseball — and therefore the sports — universe to New York, Fullerton had the guts to write about a subject most American journalists, especially sports writers, ignored: gambling.

I always wondered why he did it. Why Fullerton and not Ring Lardner or Grantland Rice, sports writers better and longer remembered than the man who mentor to the former and a role model for the later. A man who, if you know baseball in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, was a combination of Peter Gammons and Bill James. Why did Fullerton fade from most baseball people's memories?

So I started to research. I learned that Hugh Fullerton I had been educated in the 1840's by none other than William Holmes McGuffey, compiler of the famed McGuffey Readers of Middle Border America. The very same schoolbooks that a young Hugh Fullerton III studied from and, my research discovered, returned to later in his later life. My research trail took me to Miami, Ohio, and McGuffey Hall, a library and museum on the Miami University campus. It was there that I discovered Fullerton's correspondence between 1936 and his death in 1945 with Dr. Harvey C. Minnich, perhaps the foremost McGuffey scholar and president of the McGuffey Society.

Finding those letters was like being a kid again.

And then I started to write and become, as my late friend and Black Sox scholar Gene Carney would call me in his book, "Burying the Black Sox," the leading authority on the life and motivation of Hugh Fullerton III.

Like most kids and researchers, I needed direction in completing this project, which became the subject of this master's thesis, "Hugh S. Fullerton, the Black Sox Scandal, and the Ethical Impulse in Sports Writing." That support came from

Michigan State University, where I began pursuit of a Masters in Journalism in 1990, and concluded at George Mason University in 1997. Dr. Stephen Lacy, my friend and advisor, shepherded a lapsed academic and practicing sports writer through my coursework, research and writing every step of the way. But between 1993 and 1996, the writing languished as my career took me from East Lansing to Northern Virginia and USA Today. I needed, to be frank, a good kick in the can, and I got it from the late Rosenzweig, the founder and director of the Center for History and New Media at GMU. How Roy found the time amazes me even today, but he was fascinated by my research, the subject matter, and the connection I had made between Fullerton and McGuffey.

It is to the credit of these two men, professors Lacy and Rosenzweig, that this thesis and bibliographical essay exists. They encouraged my curiosity and interest in a heretofore obscure connection between Fullerton and McGuffey that we all came to believe, as did Gene Carney, was the ethical impulse in Fullerton's life and career that resulted in a heroic act of journalism that for almost a century cost him his reputation.

Hopefully, this paper helps restore that reputation.

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