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Press  
Release

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***Casey at the Bat* as Read by Cincinnati Reds Broadcaster Steve Stewart**  
Green Township Branch Library October 16, 11 a.m.



The legendary story *Casey at the Bat* will be read by Cincinnati Reds Broadcaster Steve Stewart to children of all ages at the Green Township Branch Library, 6525 Bridgetown Road, on Saturday, October 16, 11:00 a.m. An autograph session will follow the program, and refreshments will be served.

Steve Stewart is a 12-year baseball-broadcasting veteran and has worked approximately 80 regular-season games during his rookie season with the Reds while filling in for Joe Nuxhall. Next season, he is slated to broadcast

full-time as Nuxhall's successor alongside Hall of Famer Marty Brennaman.

Before joining the Reds, Stewart worked for WBAL-AM 1090 in Baltimore, the flagship station of the Orioles. During the past four seasons, he covered 25 – 30 games a year as the team's third radio broadcaster. Stewart previously broadcast baseball games for Class-AAA Calgary (1987), Class-AAA Richmond (1993 – '95), the University of South Carolina (1996 – '99), and filled in as a play-by-play announcer for the St. Louis Cardinals on KMOX Radio in 2002.

**The Story Behind *Casey at the Bat***

In the spring of 1888, Ernest L. Thayer wrote the poem "Casey at the Bat" and submitted it for publication. It appeared in the *San Francisco Examiner* in the June 3, 1888 edition and was signed "Phin" as usual. When Casey made its first appearance, nobody hailed it with shouts of joy or suspected that it would become immortal. A few weeks later, the New York *Sun* published the last eight stanzas of the poem — but signed its author as "Anon." Other than the *Sun*, it was just plain ignored by the public.

To become immortal, everyone (or thing) needs a press agent. Archibald Clavering Gunter, an author of novels, was “Casey’s” press agent. Always on the look out for incidents to base some of his novels on, Gunter, living in New York, sought and actively read newspapers from around the country on a regular basis. When he read Casey for the first time, he clipped it out to save. He wasn’t sure just what he would do with it, but he clipped and saved it anyway.

Many weeks later, in August of 1888, Gunter read that both the New York and Chicago baseball clubs would be attending the performance of the comedian De Wolf Hopper at the Wallack Theater in New York. Upon reading the announcement, Gunter instantly knew what he wanted to do with the clipping of Casey he had saved. He approached Hopper, a good friend, and offered the poem for him to recite as he felt the baseball teams would enjoy a comic baseball recitation. Hopper agreed and recited it that night. The rest, as they say, is history. From that point forward in time, Casey become immortal — while a good poem to begin with, it took a recital before a group of “famous” baseball players by a professional comedian to bring it to life.

After reviews for Hopper’s performance were published, three people came forward to claim authorship and demanded Hopper pay a royalty to use “their” poem. None could prove authorship, so Hopper kept it in his repertory.

Four or five years later, Thayer, living in Worcester, Massachusetts at the time, attended a performance of Hopper in Worcester. After the show, Thayer sent a note backstage requesting to meet Hopper. Thayer gave him the rights to perform it without paying any royalties.

Information: (513) 369-6095.

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