

BASE BALL PLAYER'S  
**THE CHRONICLE**  
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION

SUMMER  
2021

V B B A P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

# Mid Summer Greetings

AARON STAAB  
PRESIDENT, VBBA

What a wild ride this year has been. From scheduling without knowing if we would be playing ball, to a summer filled with great events across the country and now serious concerns as to whether things will be locked down again.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 2**





## VBBA PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONTINUED

I hope everyone is able to appreciate the pure joy it is to be out on the ball field any opportunity that they have and not take it for granted. We truly have a great game that can be shared with people of all ages and abilities. Nothing warms your humble president's heart more than to see fathers and sons of all ages taking the field in our vintage game.

I was fortunate to see that in many instances this past weekend at the St. Louis Cup. Two such instances were a young father and his grade school aged son as well as another older father and his grown son with some significant challenges in the hand he was dealt. Our board Trustee Tony Wicker and his crew put together a fine festival with teams from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas and Missouri as well as organizing an outing the night before to see a Cardinals game.

Hats off to all the organizers that keep the vintage spirit strong in the heart of this great country. I have seen photos of some great festivals in Gettysburg and Bethpage. Thank you all for sharing those and for all of the personal sacrifice of time and treasure that it takes to organize and travel for hours to get to these fine events to share the love of our great sport.

It takes so much effort to build a team and hold it together, and even more work to put together these festivals and tournaments. For the love of the game, I would like to challenge each of you to reach out to those that you know that are in an organizing role, and volunteer to help them with a little task that needs to be handled to help keep things going, and growing, as we finish this season strong, and build for an even better 2022 season.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, MAY THE BALL  
ALWAYS BOUNCE YOUR WAY.



AARON STAAB  
PRESIDENT, VBBA



## VBBA Executive board and trustees

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**TRUSTEE**



THE BASE BALL  
PLAYER'S CHRONICLE  
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# What you can do in memory of Marjorie Adams

The best way that the Vintage Baseball Association and our member clubs can support the celebration of the life of Marjorie Adams is to get your members to sign her petition for getting Doc Adams into Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame this December!

In addition also support Marjorie Adam's efforts to get her ancestor, Daniel

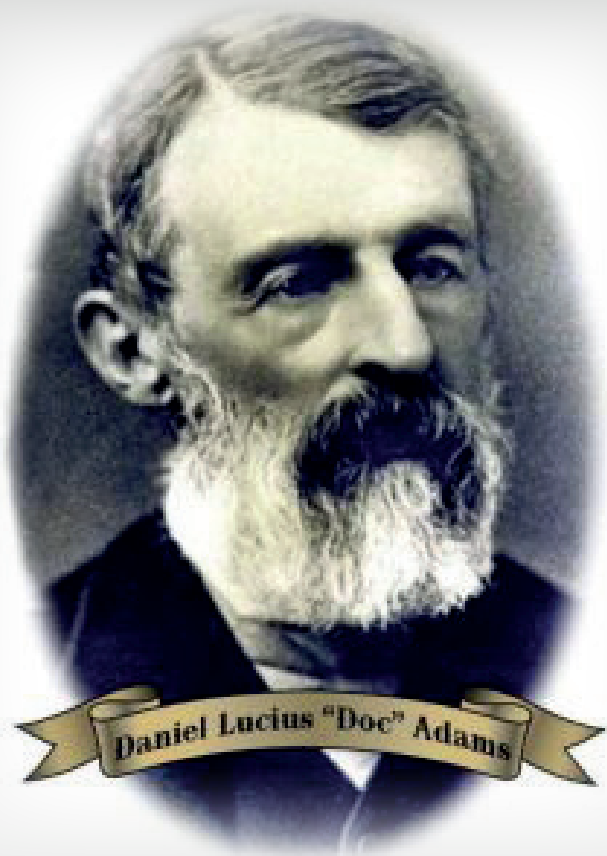
"Doc" Adams, into the Baseball Hall of Fame in December 2021 by using the tagline written with Marjorie's help on your social media:

A Founding Father of Baseball. Vote Daniel "Doc" Lucius Adams into 2021 Hall of

Fame. (Pre integration Era Committee National Baseball Hall of Fame)

Other ways to incorporate the tagline or to include Doc into your club's activities are:

rename a match or tournament in his honor, place the tagline on your brochures. Let this finally be the year that Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams gets into the Hall of Fame!



## AN OPEN LETTER FROM MARJORIE ADAMS

FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE SPRING 2020 VBBA NEWSLETTER

March, 2020

Dear VBBA Friends:

Doc Adams and I are so grateful to ... all of you for your support for this effort to get Doc his rightful place in the Hall of Fame. He was nominated for the first time in 2015 on the Pre-Integration Era ballot and received the most votes of anyone on the ballot but two votes short of the minimum for election. Not a bad showing for a first-timer!!!

The ballot for which Doc qualifies is now called the Early Baseball Era (1950 and prior) and it will be announced in late October/early November; the Hall of Fame website has all the details on how this ballot works. If he makes the ballot, the vote will be held and the outcome announced at the Winter Meetings in mid-December. This Early Baseball Era committee will not meet again for another ten years! So, this is probably my last chance to see this happen.

When talking to someone about Doc for the first time, I usually grab their interest pretty quickly when I tell them he created the shortstop position in 1849 and did the calculation to set the bases at 90 feet in 1857. ...

Your vintage base ball events are a great opportunity to promote Doc. ...

Again, thanks so much for your support. It means more than I will ever be able to express.

Marjorie and Doc

SIGN THE DOC ADAMS PETITION:

[HTTPS://DOCADAMSBASEBALL.ORG/THE-PETITION/](https://docadamsbaseball.org/the-petition/)



# Muffin Games

BY BOB SAMPSON

Some who've seen me play vintage base ball and know a bit of the game's history often remark that a muffin team would provide a better fit.

In the Midwest, we are familiar with the legendary Ohio Village Muffins and as those who've played them can attest, they aren't muffins.

But the Ohio Village team brought the name back into circulation after a century-plus rest. A bad play or an error was sometimes known as a muff back in the mid-19th century and a player with weak skills could be known as a muffin. In fact, some clubs had a first nine, a second nine and a muffin nine, the latter largely playing in intra-club matches for fun.

Which brings us to muffin teams and games. Peter Morris, in his essential book *But Didn't We Have Fun?*, recounts muffin games arising in the mid-to-late 1860s as a reaction to base ball's increasing competitiveness, bringing with it disputes over rules and player eligibility that roiled the ideal gentlemanly atmosphere.

Muffin games were essentially joke games, contests played for fun, designed to highlight and honor lack of expertise and skill.

Such contests would, it was hoped, remind players and spectators alike of base ball's essential fun.

My own research on Illinois teams found such games beginning at nearly the

same time base ball teams were organized throughout the state between 1865 and 1870.

Like the ones Morris found, these Muffin games, while high on humor, allowed everyone to get in on the new social phenomenon — base ball. Fat versus thin, bachelors versus married men were two of the most common formats.

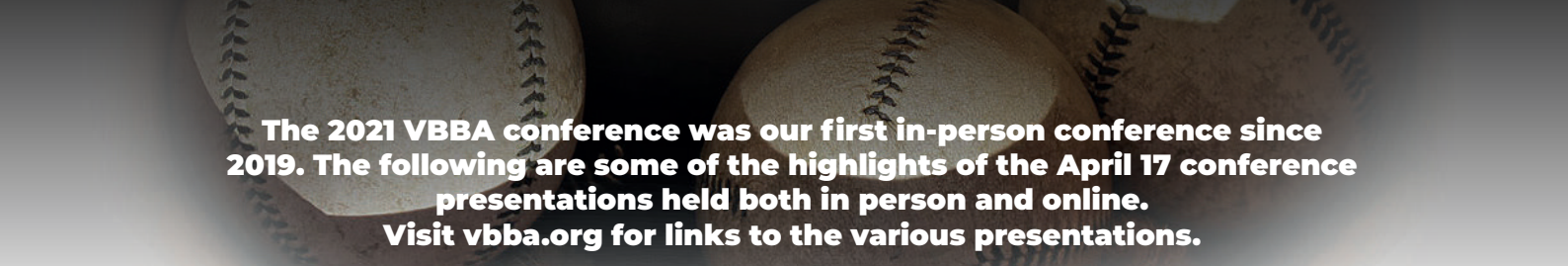
But other games pitted professions and occupations — lawyers against physicians, lawyers against judges, printers against editors, store clerks against counterparts from competing stores. The resulting game accounts gloried in stumbles, split pants, errant throws and sore muscles.

Muffin games were and are a good way to lessen competitive tensions and restore the goodwill essential to the vintage game. And they also happen to be a lot of fun.

*Bob Sampson is VBBA historian. His columns publish regularly in quarterly VBBA newsletters.*







**The 2021 VBBA conference was our first in-person conference since 2019. The following are some of the highlights of the April 17 conference presentations held both in person and online. Visit [vbba.org](http://vbba.org) for links to the various presentations.**

# THE 2021 VBBA CONFERENCE

## Serpents in the garden: Competition, conflict and collapse in early Illinois base ball

Between 1865 and 1870, more than 1,000 teams organized to play a new game, base ball. In Illinois, it cropped up from Chicago to Cairo and places in between, some so small that they no longer can be found on a map.

Examining the new game as a social phenomenon rather than an athletic activity reveals unforeseen problems for Illinois' first players and lessons that may speak to modern vintage base ball.

Understandably, each club whether in DuQuoin or Freeport wanted to win. In a time without leagues or structures for determining the best teams, any club could reasonably envision itself as a championship aspirant.

Quickly, encounters with other local clubs or those from neighboring villages, towns and cities began to sort things out.

But especially in communities with only one club, the base ball team became associated with the town's image.

This was a time when small communities also envisioned greater population and more wealth and influence as they competed with neighbors for railroads, trade and prestige.

In becoming a representation of the community, a club's success or failure took on importance beyond the foul lines.

As competition intertwined with community image, controversy followed. Disputes over rules, player eligibility, and when it was dark enough to call a match undermined the customs and rituals of the gentleman's game, creating hard feelings.

Reinforcing these competitive pressures was gambling, with wagers openly made on the sidelines and continued through the game, odds see-sawing as two teams jockeyed for success.

Hard feelings sometimes erupted into fights, further weakening the practices created to tamp down competition.

## Umpiring vintage base ball

BY: ALLEN 'HONEST AL' STARE

Since 2005, I've called more than 400 vintage matches.

Umpiring vintage has given me some amazing opportunities.

If you're considering getting involved with VBBA as an umpire, I highly recommend it. The folks you'll meet are some of the best people in the world and you get to enjoy some fun base ball with a ringside seat.

It took me awhile, but I learned that the most important thing you can do as a vintage umpire is to educate yourself about the game and the era. I know that sounds pretty basic, but you'd be surprised. When I started doing this, there were very few resources available to vintage clubs, and especially vintage umpires. Plus, much of what was out there we now know to be wrong.

I spent my first four or five seasons referring to myself as an arbiter. I make a face now saying that word ... but I didn't then. It's what I'd been told I should call my position, and I accepted it as correct information. That's an important point to keep in mind: newbies trust the veterans, it's in our nature. You look to those with experience to learn the ropes. If the veterans have bad information, they're going to pass it on to you. That's what was happening to me ... but I didn't know it. I was eagerly soaking in all of this wildly wrong information about the gentleman's game. And, of course, I was spreading what I was learning far and wide.

If you're a vintage base ball umpire, or you're hoping to get one for your club, remember this: know a few things that are

right, rather than a whole lot of things that are wrong.

Eric Miklich's 'The Rules of the Game' is indispensable source material, and it's free to download from the VBBA.org website.

Vintage doesn't look exactly right to somebody who's used to watching modern baseball ... they'll want to know why. Have a quick answer ready for the one-bound rule and why the pitcher throws it underhand. They're going to want to know why you don't call strikes and balls ... assuming that's your rule set. If there's enough equipment, have a bat and ball handy just for you to use for show and tell. In 15 years, I'd have to say the number one question I've ever been asked is about the ball. Being able to toss them one for inspection answers a lot of questions. Know sizes and weights ... one more time, a shout out for Eric Miklich's 'Rules of the Game.' I like to compare what we're using for a vintage match to a modern ball. It gives most people a frame of reference.

What we're doing as vintage umpires and sideline interpreters is a cross between a lecture and a show. You're trying hard to be a good teacher. You want to make sure your students are getting the right information. Unlike most teachers, our students can get up and walk out of class anytime they want. That's where the show comes in. In order to get the information to them, you have to keep them there. Be fun, be entertaining, because that's how you're going to get your students to listen to you.



# THE 2021 VBBA CONFERENCE

## Baseball stories of Civil War veterans

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Where was baseball played during the Civil War? It had spread to the South, but mostly in the big cities. There were several clubs in Baltimore, Louisville, St. Louis and the Potomac. There were 22 teams in New Orleans, more than in Washington, DC or in Chicago. See [Protoball.org](http://Protoball.org) for a complete listing.

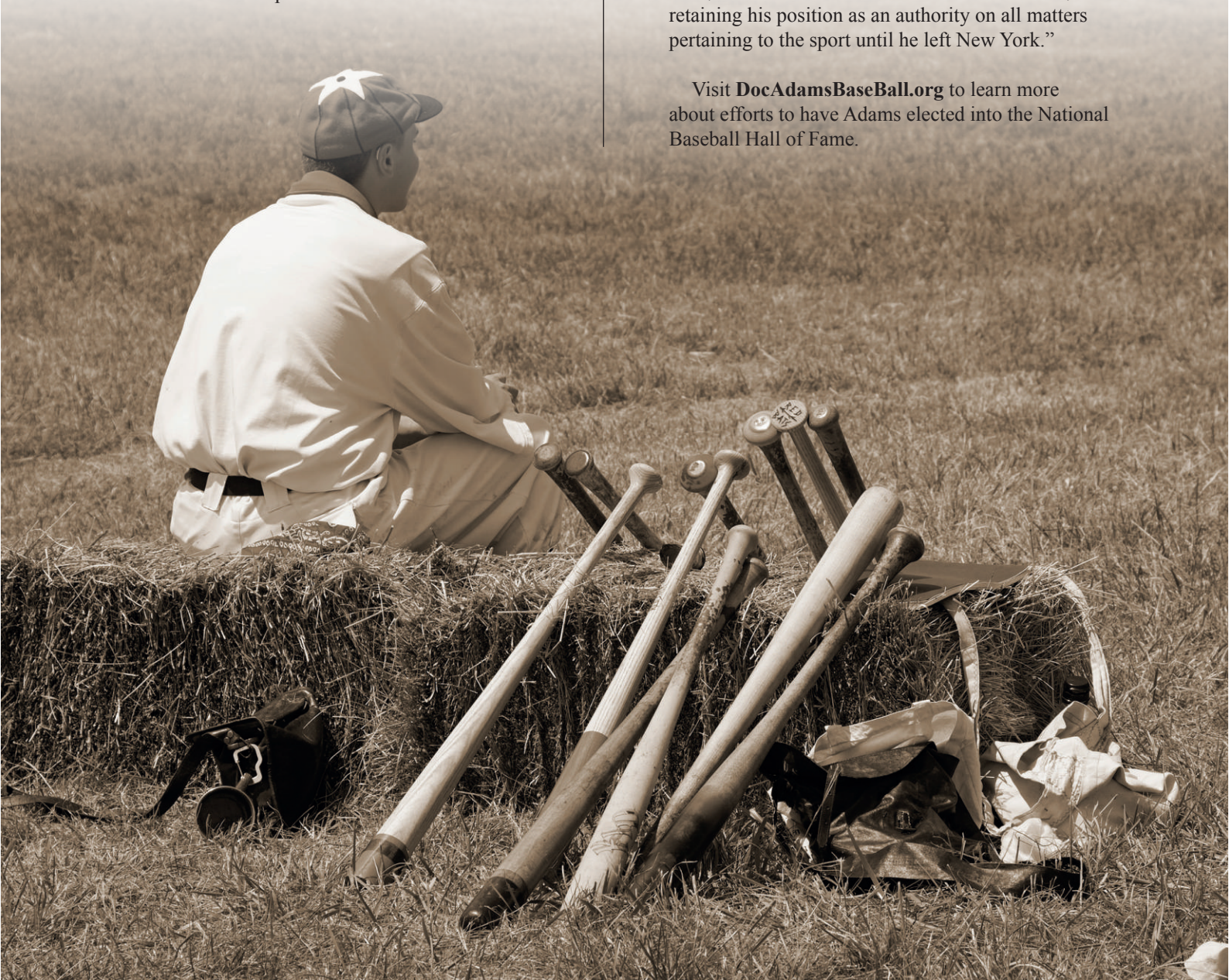
There is evidence that Abraham Lincoln played baseball. One story has him watching a baseball game in Springfield when informed of his nomination for president.

## Doc Adams: A founding father of baseball

In an April 2016 interview with the Associated Press, John Thorn, the official historian of Major League Baseball said that Daniel Lucius ‘Doc’ Adams is the “true father of baseball and you’ve never heard of him.”

In his obituary, Adams is said to have “soon after going to New York became one of the earliest members of the Knickerbocker baseball club, the first organization of its kind in existence. He became president of the club and took the most active interest in its welfare and the development of the game, even giving his personal attention to making bats and balls, articles then unknown to the manufacturer, and retaining his position as an authority on all matters pertaining to the sport until he left New York.”

Visit [DocAdamsBaseBall.org](http://DocAdamsBaseBall.org) to learn more about efforts to have Adams elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.





# Base Ball on Johnson's Island

Do you remember awhile back when you asked if I could get permission from William Vodrey for us to publish this piece in the VBBA newsletter? Well, he gave us permission. He asks we give credit to him and to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. I've added that permission at the bottom of the story in italics.

On August 27, 1864, Confederate prisoners played a base ball (as it used to be spelled) game on Johnson's Island near Sandusky, Ohio, on the grounds of the U.S. Army prison camp there. The Confederate and the Southern base ball clubs took to the field, and when all was said and done, the Southern team won by a score of 19-11.

On August 24, 2014, a century and a half later almost to the day, vintage base ball players reenacted the game on Johnson's Island. Members of the Great Black Swamp Frogs played the the Confederate club, all in red shirts, while the Ohio Village Muffins, in white, portrayed the Southern team. Members of the Army of the Ohio, a Civil War reenactment group including members from the 6th, 30th and 41st Ohio, served as prison guards (and, for those who showed up in gray or butternut, prisoner/spectators).

Base ball historian John Husman spoke to the crowd before the game, noting that the 1864 game is thought to be the first organized base ball game ever played in Ohio. Many of the prisoners were members of antebellum base ball clubs in New Orleans. Base ball lingo was different in 1864; players were "ballists," a batter was a "striker," an error was a "muff" (hence the Ohio Village team's name), a run was an "ace," and you encouraged a striker to run fast by shouting, "Leg it!" And of course, we all shouted "Huzzah!" and

not "Hooray!"

The rules were different back then, too. The umpire stood to one side and back just a bit from home plate ("home base"), not right behind the catcher. He would call foul balls immediately, but not fair ones (hits were presumed fair unless he said otherwise). He also called strikes only after warning a striker who repeatedly let good pitches go by, but would not call balls. A striker would be out after three called or swinging strikes.

Ballists in the field could catch a ball in the air or big difference! after a single bounce to put the striker out. All pitches were underhand. Ballists wore no gloves. (I had the chance to hold one of the balls, which was a little larger and a little squishier than a modern baseball; the wife of one of the ballists told me that the balls are hand-stitched and cost \$40 apiece.)

The 2014 game proceeded with high energy and with everyone in good spirits, as the guards in blue kept a watchful eye around the edge of the ball field ("playground"). The Confederates batted their way into an early lead over the Southerners and never yielded it.

As happened back in the 1860s, players loudly made bets with each other as to this or that ballist getting on base or scoring an ace. Not all of the action was on the playground, either.

Ballists occasionally tried to escape, but only one -an outfielder from the

Southern team - got away from his guards for long. He was captured out in the scrub brush beyond left field after just a few minutes, and was marched back by three guards. The guards also intercepted a young woman in hoop skirts who was apparently trying to kiss her prisoner beaux.

There was no scoreboard, but the score was announced from time to time once, a member of the Southern team declared mournfully, "The Confederates have scored too many runs to count, and the Southerners, too few to admit." The final score was Confederates 23, Southerners 9, so history did not quite repeat itself. Fortunately, I had no money riding on the Southerners!

About 3,000 people are reported to have watched the 1864 game. It was a smaller but still appreciative crowd of 200-some fans, including, I was glad to see, CWRT members Jean Rhodes and Kirk Hinman, who enjoyed the 2014 game under clear skies and brisk Lake Erie breezes.

The event was sponsored by the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island, on the board of which Kirk and I have the honor to serve.

More information can be found on the website of the Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison.

- Published in the Summer 2021 VBBA Newsletter with permission from William F.B. Vodrey and the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

BY WILLIAM F.B. VODREY · THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
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# Whose Path Are We Following?

Thanks to newspaper digitization and the availability of local newspapers on micro-film, we can sometimes reach back and touch those who played our game 150-plus years ago.

Finding information about players is not easy. One obstacle I encountered in Illinois (and I suspect it is true in other states) is anonymity. Often, sparse news accounts of games fail to name the players — or, if they do, they use only last names.

But accounts of club formation and the rare roster with at least first initials can lift slightly the opaque window into the past. City directories and U.S. Census reports can flesh out the names, providing us occupations, social/economic status, and other information.

Every so often, one encounters a G.W. Blake, a member of the Ottawa, IL Shabbona Base Ball Club whose later life was colorful.

We learn about his disastrous idea to keep a pet squirrel in the office in which he worked in the county courthouse. One night, the squirrel got loose and literally

chewed up valuable records. Or Blake's later career as an attorney — a teetotaler, he was also the attorney for the county's liquor dealers. And a search engine brought details of his death while giving a campaign stump speech.

Or how about Robert R. Montgomery of the McPherson Club of Decatur, Illinois? The club was ineffective on the field and short-lived, but Montgomery won minor fame and more in the future for inventing a handy device — the fly swatter.

And then there's Victor James, a member of Bloomington, Illinois' Independent Club, a Black team. A barber, he ended up living out his life in a small town, Heyworth. During his last illness, white neighbors brought coal and other supplies to his home.

Perhaps there are similar stories about the players whose paths we follow today in countless communities around the country. You can find them. All it takes is luck, followed by persistence.

— Bob Sampson is VBBA historian. His columns publish regularly in quarterly VBBA newsletters.





# VBBA Chat Room

This is the Vintage Base Ball Association's new Chat Room, a place for VBBA members to find additional players, teams to join, for start-up teams to seek guidance, or simply to ask questions of the vintage base ball community.

If you would like your content to post onto the VBBA chat room page in our newsletter, email VBBA Secretary Bill Helm at [bch.cameraeye@gmail.com](mailto:bch.cameraeye@gmail.com). Please limit your posting to 300 words and include for the benefit of readers your name, name of team (if applicable), city and state you live in, and email for correspondence.

Thank you.

Recently relocated, trying to start vintage baseball teams in Pacific Northwest

I used to live in Arizona where I played in an eight-team vintage base ball league that played ball by rules from 1860. I'd like to bring vintage baseball movement to the PNW, but I need players. If you live in or anywhere near Bellingham and would like to play, we'd love to have you. We also need equipment. Anyone out there, any team out there with a surplus of balls, bats, bases, anything to help our team get started, please let me know. Anything will help. Thank you.

Bill Helm  
CAPTAIN

Whatcom County Vintage Base Ball Club  
Pacific Northwest Vintage Base Ball Association (PNWVBBA)

## A message from VBBA Treasurer Paul Zeledon

A quick reminder that 2021 dues are due. Thank you if you have paid them already.

We at the VBBA understand that each club has its own unique issues putting together a team and playing a full schedule during this pandemic and, hopefully, in 2021 your team will get back to playing a full schedule.

We are here to serve you in any way that we can regardless of any issue or issues you and your club may be facing.

Payment can be issued via check and should be made payable to the Vintage Base Ball Association and sent to Paul Zeledon, VBBA Treasurer, 1880 Stockton Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169. Full member club dues are \$50, associate member club dues are \$35, and individual member dues are \$10.

Payments can also be made through our website, [vbba.org](http://vbba.org), via PayPal. If this is your first time paying via PayPal, please advise me of it, and let me know if you have any issues. Please make sure that you include the team that you are submitting payment for and the applicable year.

Regardless of whether you are paying via check or PayPal, I would appreciate it if you would include the following information with your payment: club name, primary contact person, address, phone number(s), e-mail address(es), and the name, and same information if the

club has a secondary contact person. Ideally, each club has one person who oversees the entire operations, and one person who is responsible for game operations. Similar to the modern day version of a general manager, and field manager.

We truly do thank you for your VBBA membership. It is because of you and our member clubs that we are able to support vintage base ball and bring it to different parts of the country.

VBBA benefits include vendor discounts, team VBBA liability insurance, historical accuracy support, access to a national network through the [VBBA.org](http://VBBA.org) website, and 501(c) (3) support.

Whether you are an established club, a young club, or a brand new club, we are glad that you have chosen to be a part of the VBBA. It is our sincere desire that we serve you to the best of our abilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have any questions about your club's membership status.

I can be reached via cell phone at 847-373-2328. I am also accessible via e-mail at either [scootertreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:scootertreasurer@gmail.com), [zeledonp@aol.com](mailto:zeledonp@aol.com), or my work account of [pzeledon@icarehc.com](mailto:pzeledon@icarehc.com).

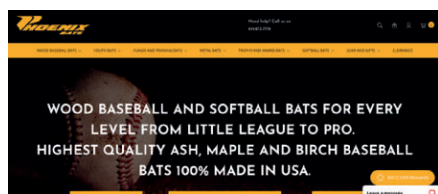
Paul 'Scooter' Zeledon

# VBBA vendor spotlight



Stockbridge Sewing Works has all of your 19th century needs for hats and other sewing projects. Contact Norma Hildebrand to discuss hats, banners, and any other items she may be able to make for you. No head to big or too small. Fit and quality guaranteed. Hand crafted one at a time in the USA.

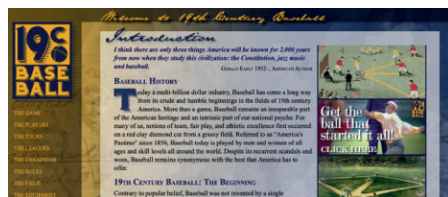
Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [stockbridgesewingworks.com](http://stockbridgesewingworks.com) for more information.



Phoenix Bat Company has been crafting wood bats outside of Columbus, Ohio since 1996. Phoenix Bats starts by purchasing only pro-grade wood to deliver a quality bat to you and pros alike. Their bats are only made from American top-grade woods like rock maple, yellow birch and northern white ash. History and Background of Phoenix Bat Co.

Founder and former owner Lefty Trudeau started playing 19th Century baseball for the Ohio Historical Society in 1991. In 1996, he was restoring old houses for a living and had a small wood shop. "The Historical Society knew my shop included an old lathe and they asked if I could make some bats typical of the 1860s," Trudeau recalled. "I agreed. Little did I expect how much I would have to learn or how much fun I would have. Not only did my team like the bats but the teams we were playing started asking me to make bats for them as well."

Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [phoenixbats.com/vintage-bats](http://phoenixbats.com/vintage-bats) for more information.



If you want to get the ball that started it all, then you want 19th Century Base Ball. Call Eric Miklich at 631-796-5200 or e-mail [info@19cbaseball.com](mailto:info@19cbaseball.com). Said Ron Swoboda, star of the 1969 New York Mets, 19cBaseball.com is "truly a one-of-a-kind resource for in-depth information related to the history of our great sport. I encourage all baseball

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enthusiasts to visit the site to learn more about how the game really began.

Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount.



USA Smacker Bats makes all its bats by hand, not by machine.

"If a vintage ballist wants to be true to the time period of play, we are the company to use," proprietor Brian Carter says.

Smacker Bats are handmade by craftsmen (including Carter) behind a lathe ... shaping, sanding, staining/ painting and striping the bats just like the originals back in the 1800s.

With a quick turnaround between 1-2 weeks, these bats are all American, with all American tools and materials.

"We believe in quality of quantity," Carter says. Their pricing is competitive as well.

"We love the history of the base ball bat, which bleeds into our passion for making them. We are obsessed with base ball bats."

Contact Brian Carter at [smacker@comcast.net](mailto:smacker@comcast.net) or visit [smackerbats.com/vintage](http://smackerbats.com/vintage).

Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount.



Since 1981, Cooperstown Bat Company has specialized in game bats for play, custom personalized engravings and autographed bats. Their pro model bats are available for players of all levels from the beginner through to the Major Leagues. Cooperstown bat is being used in several MLB organizations, American Legion, Babe Ruth, travel team, and high school players.

Cooperstown Bat Company also makes various vintage base ball bats, including acorn, knobless, bottle bat and split grip (double knob). You can see their bats being turned at the company's factory location in Hartwick, just 15 minutes from Cooperstown. Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [cooperstownbat.com](http://cooperstownbat.com) for more information.



James Country Mercantile started life in 1985 as James Country Muzzleloading, right in the heart of the area which bred and nurtured Frank and Jesse James. James Country Mercantile is now one of the largest sutleries in existence, offering a full line of historically accurate goods, custom sewing, research, consultation, and associated services. Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [jamescountry.com](http://jamescountry.com) for more information.



Since 1994, K & P Weaver, LLC features reproductions of historic vintage base ball uniforms of the 19th Century and early-20th Century, equipment and more.

K & P uniforms, clothing and accessories can be found across the ballfields of America to historical landmarks and museums such as the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Smithsonian Institution, MLB All-Star FanFest, and they've been seen in the HBO Documentaries "The Curse of the Bambino," "Hitler's Pawn," and films such as "Dummy Hoy" and "Cop Out". Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA

Member Code vbba1996 to get your 10% discount due to rising material costs for the purchase of team shirts, and knickers and trousers. Visit [baseballamericaspastime.com](http://baseballamericaspastime.com) for more information.





# VBBA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2021 – 7 P.M. EST; 6 P.M. CST; 4 P.M. PST

Call to Order: 4 p.m. Pacific; 6 p.m. Central; 7 p.m. Eastern

## ROLL CALL:

\_\_\_ Brewer, Rick, Hog 'N Hominy 9, Trustee, Southern Region  
\_\_\_ Dubuque, Dustyn, Menomonie Blue Caps, Trustee, Northern Region  
X Helm, Bill, Prescott Champions, Secretary  
\_\_\_ Jacobson, Evette Griffore, Early Risers, Trustee, Midwest Eastern

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Trustee, Midwest South Eastern Region  
X Sampson, Bob, Rock Spring Ground Squirrels, Historian  
X Schiappacasse, Gary, Chicago Salmon, Vice President  
\_\_\_ Staab, Aaron, Topeka Westerns, President, Great American Desert  
\_\_\_ Stone, Matt, Athletic Base Ball Club of Woodland, Trustee, Western Region  
\_\_\_ Wicker, Tony, St. Louis Brown Stockings, Trustee, Midwest, Southwestern Region  
X Zeledon, Paul Scooter, Chicago Salmon, Treasurer

## SECRETARY'S REPORT: April minutes, Summer VBBA Newsletter

Summer VBBA newsletter copy will be in sometime in July. April minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Membership Update, Financial Report, New Member Clubs, Membership Renewal Notices, Conference Donations, and more.

Scooter emailed treasurer's report. Confirmed Dan 'Gunner' Genovese is new VBBA member team. Scooter said he would do analysis of teams renewing and not renewing.

## OLD BUSINESS: Update

I. VBBA Zoom Events Ideas Update: Guest Interviews, Expanding interviews beyond MW is good for VBBA agenda of growing beyond MW. Maybe do it like a podcast.

Dustyn not present.

## II. 2021 Board Elections Results

Member teams allowed to vote twice. If that counts as two votes, then 19 votes were counted in this year's election. "Not a real sense of being able to connect with their members," Gary said. Contested election between Miller and Ciccarello. Miller won by 4 votes. Scooter asked if all new members are posted on the VBBA website. Gary said NO.

## III. Regional Reports

Tony Wicker, St. Louis Brown Stockings, Trustee, Midwest, Southwestern Region: As of right now, it seems all teams are moving forward with a complete schedule of games. St. Louis has relaxed their COVID regulations and permits are being issued again. The Barclay Festival two weeks ago hosted by St. Louis Perfectos at Lafayette Park was attended by six clubs, the St. Louis Cup at Forest Park on July 31 is now being held with 16 clubs attending, and the Gateway Arch has opened up to play games under the Arch starting on June 27 with three clubs participating. Some clubs are hurting for members but other clubs are filling in when they can with players that just want to play.

**Rick Brewer, Hog 'N Hominy 9, Trustee, Southern Region:** The Central Florida Awkwards are in town for games June 19-20. Great group of gentlemen and great games today. Two more games tomorrow before they head home. Tennessee Base Ball is going well. We have plans to play at the St Louis Cup and the Ohio Cup. We also have a team playing in Lexington tomorrow. Again, I'm sorry to have missed tonight's meeting.

**Bill Helm, Prescott Champions, Secretary:** Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League planning July 4 games at Warren Ballpark in Bisbee, precursor to mid-November season opening

tournament, also in Bisbee. In Washington, researching possible team names, meeting people and soliciting vintage base ball interest.

## Bob Sampson, Rock Spring Ground

**Squirrels, Historian:** On May15, Bob went to Danville, had a good event. Two close games. Some teams however are struggling to get their full rosters on the field. "We have some uncertainty with our July schedule," Bob said. Bloomington team mixing in some 1922 action with their 19th century games.

Two weeks after the Danville games, Bob found out one of the Danville players came down with COVID-19.

## Gary Schiappacasse, Chicago Salmon,

**Vice President:** Helen DeGetano's (sp) problem is that her team captain isn't communicating with her players. There will be some fallout from this.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Recommended New Member Club Program: Georgetown Gentlemen

VBBA board votes 4-to-0 to allow Georgetown Gentlemen to join VBBA.

2. Certificates of Insurance Issued: Doc Adams Festival

3. Marjorie Adams health update and VBBA support

Marjorie Adams had a stroke, "should we do something to let her know we're thinking of her?" Discussed sending flowers or sending a plant. No decision made during discussion.

4. Other New Business

Discussed 2022 VBBA conference speakers. Considering Negro League Museum Director Bob Kendrick as keynote speaker for 2022 conference. Also considered 'Stitches' as conference presenter.

**Adjourn:** 8 p.m. EST; 7 p.m. CST; 5 p.m. PST

# MINUTES

## VBBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 11, 2021

**PRESENT:** Dustyn Dubuque, Evette Griffore Jacobson, Chuck Ciccarello, Bob Sampson, Gary Schiappacasse, Aaron Staab.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bill Helm was unable to attend and there was no report. Motion to accept June Minutes. Passed

Brief discussion of Summer VBBA Newsletter.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the absence of Paul Zeledon, Gary Schiappacasse brought the group up to date on a few items. Balance in account \$1,171.77. Gary reported on ongoing minor problems with billing from law firm handling trademark. Insurance is paid. Newsletter cost \$300.00. Brief discussion of situation involving a team's payment of \$50 membership fee. Some confusion as to whether this was a legitimate submission. Delay in response resulted in complaint by individual to PayPal which was resolved by Paul Zeledon. Attempts to contact individual to clarify situation have been unsuccessful.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. VBBA Zoom Events Ideas Update: no report.

2. 2022 VBBA Convention Presenters:

--Lengthy discussion on potential presenters. Among those suggested are: Peter Morris, Bob Kendrick, Erick Miklich, Louise Chadha, Debra Reid, Michael Copado and Roger Ratzemberger.

--Discussion of sending message to clubs and individuals seeking suggestions on topics that would be of interest to them. Dustyn Dubuque said the Menomonie Blue Caps would provide a prize for entries.

### NEW BUSINESS (agenda modified)

1. Gary Schiappacasse reported on results of 2021 Board Elections. Collin Miller and Chuck Ciccarello will serve jointly as co-trustees for Eastern Region but with one vote.

2. Gary sent out the "Board of Directors Responsibilities to remind Board of duties. He hoped that upon reading the document, trustees would take on some of the duties outlined.

3. Discussion of replacement for Matt Stone, trustee for Western Region. One potential candidate discussed. No action.

4. Passing of Marjorie Adams. The VBBA sent a plant which was received before her death. Chuck Ciccarello

reported on visiting with Marjorie the night before her passing. Corky will devote an upcoming Tuesday Night Zoom to Marjorie Adams. Chuck Ciccarello noted that the best way of honoring Marjorie Adams would be for the VBBA and its members to continue pushing for Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams' election to the Hall of Fame in December.

### REGIONAL REPORTS

--Chuck Ciccarello, Eastern Region: The Westfield Wheelers of Massachusetts joined the VBBA. Reported that there are about 40 vintage clubs in his area.

--Evette Griffore Jacobson: The Early Risers Club has been busy playing. Overall, Michigan is quiet in terms of vintage base ball activity. Some teams are playing. Hamtramck Stadium was re-opened on July 3. She encouraged Board members to visit the Hamtramck Hussars Facebook page.

--Dustyn Dubuque, Northern Region: game quiet in upper Midwest. His club hosted a festival at end of June. It appears that some teams in the region are trying to recoup lost momentum from 2020 season. His club is going to the St. Louis Cup at end of July.

--Bob Sampson, Historian: reported on limited activities in central Illinois.

--Aaron Staab, President, Western Region: His club played two games at Jacksonville, IL in early June and plans to participate in St. Louis Cup.

--Tony Wicker, I will not be able to make this meeting. My area report: All teams seem to be playing games; however, teams seem to be short on players for several games. The big notice I see with some teams is getting enough players to play a game and recruiting new players to join a team. I have not really heard from too many teams about canceling games as other players seem to be stepping in to help out, so that is a plus. If teams continue to communicate when short of players, good things seem to happen most of the time.

The Brown Stockings next major event is July 31st when we hold the 7th Annual St. Louis Cup at Forest Park. We have 16 clubs participating this year and I'm working on the schedule now. All in all, this summer has been a much better time than last summer.

Motion to adjourn by Dustyn Dubuque, seconded by Chuck Ciccarello, Passed.

Meeting adjourned, 7:03 P.M. CDT

Bob Sampson, VBBA Historian



**Remember as your club plans for the future that the VBBA in addition to liability insurance, offers its member ball clubs a 15% discount on seven vendor's products. The merchant code for VBBA members is vbba1996.**

**They include:**

**Phoenix Bats:**  
[www.phoenixbats.com](http://www.phoenixbats.com)

**Stockbridge Sewing Works:**  
[www.stockbridgesewingworks.com](http://www.stockbridgesewingworks.com)

**K&P Weaver, LLC:**  
[www.baseballamericaspastime.com](http://www.baseballamericaspastime.com)

**19cbaseball:**  
[www.19cbaseball.com](http://www.19cbaseball.com)

**James Country Mercantile:**  
[www.jamescountry.com](http://www.jamescountry.com)

**Smacker Bats:**  
[www.smackerbats.com](http://www.smackerbats.com)

**Cooperstown Bats:**  
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