

# THE CHRONICLE

BASE BALL PLAYER'S  
FALL 2021  
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION

VBBA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## AUTUMNAL GREETINGS

Another season has nearly come to a close for most of the clubs across the country. Here's hoping that it has been a rewarding season for all of the clubs and those who attended a match. It is our goal as an organization to make sure that we are doing what we can to promote as authentically as we can the era of base ball in which our member clubs are representing.

With the off-season at hand, what are you doing to help your club? We all have our individual talents that can be put to use to promote more accurately the teams we represent. Winter is a great time for research into the history of base ball in your area. If your club is a revival of a club that existed previously, get online or go to the local research library that has newspapers archived then read up on them so you can share something new to those in attendance next season. Some historical societies offer free access to national newspaper archives



such as newspapers.com. If research is not your strength, maybe recruiting players is something your team needs. It is never a bad time to work on building depth on the team, or working to add another team. There are so many ways you can keep involved with baseball as we enter the winter months.

Now is the time that most clubs work on locking in their schedule for the next season. Planning is much more work than folks think, but it is enjoyable to get together with teams in our region to see what can be worked out on the schedules. The crew in St. Louis sure makes a great day of scheduling between getting the business handled in the morning then migrating to a nearby establishment for a meal and camaraderie. That can be as enjoyable as a game day.

Hoping you all have a productive and enjoyable off season. Also best wishes to the clubs in warmer climates that are about to start their seasons.

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AARON STAAB  
PRESIDENT, VBBA

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# VBBA loses one trustee, gains another

Matt 'Brandywine' Stone resigns as Western Region Trustee, is replaced by Blaisse 'Freight Train' Lamphier

BY BILL HELM

Whatcom Bay Stars – Pacific Northwest Vintage Base Ball Association

It appears that COVID-19 has caused at least one vintage base ball league to cease operations. And its founder to step down from the VBBA's governing board.

On Jun 22, Matthew Stone, founder of Central Valley Vintage Base Ball (CVVBB)

Board members, resigned his post as VBBA Western Region Trustee.

"Given the current local vintage base ball climate and the very poor likelihood that I can revitalize it any time soon, coupled with some personal reasons, I have decided that it is time for me to resign my responsibilities as VBBA Trustee," Stone wrote to the board. "I wish you all the best and hope to maybe see you on a field somewhere if I can ever do a pickup game during my travels some day. Let me know if I can be of any virtual assistance for anything you all are up to in the future. Cheers and hurrah!"

In his response, VBBA Vice President Gary Schiappacasse thanked the man known as 'Brandywine' "for all you have done to energize vintage base ball in California and across the country."

"Yes, you will still be called on for advice and your help," Schiappacasse wrote.

In September, the VBBA board officially welcomed Blaisse 'Freight Train' Lamphier as Stone's replacement.

Lamphier, captain of the Pioneer BBC Vintage Base Ball club of Portland, Oregon, moved from Rochester, New York to the Pacific Northwest in 2007.

"When I came to Oregon, I was travelling back to New York occasionally and still playing there," Lamphier said. "In 2008, I joined the Occidental club first (didn't know about the Pioneer BBC), but was playing for both the Shermans and the Pioneers before the season was over."

Lamphier has served as Pioneers' captain and catcher of the Pioneers since 2010.



MATTHEW STONE



BLAISE LAMPHIER

## VBBA Executive board and trustees

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**PRESIDENT**

Gary Schiappacasse  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

Bill Helm  
**SECRETARY**

Paul Zeledon  
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Chuck Ciccarello  
**CO-TRUSTEE**

Collin Miller  
**CO-TRUSTEE**

Rick Brewer  
**TRUSTEE**

Tony Wicker  
**TRUSTEE**

Blaisse Lamphier  
**TRUSTEE**



THE BASE BALL  
PLAYER'S CHRONICLE  
LAYOUT BY

**KIDGARCIA.COM**





# VBBA SECURES 9 SPEAKERS FOR 2022 CONFERENCE

## SEARCH FOR KEYNOTE SPEAKER ONGOING

BY BILL HELM

Whatcom Bay Stars – Pacific Northwest Vintage Base Ball Association

As of press time, the VBBA has booked nine presenters for its 2022 conference in Detroit. However, arrangements have not yet been made with the keynote speaker.

Efforts are ongoing to secure Negro Leagues Baseball Museum President Bob Kendrick as the conference's keynote speaker, according to VBBA Vice President Gary Schiappacasse.

"In addition, we have contacted another person, who at this time is not available due to concerns about COVID," Schiappacasse said. "Another suggestion is to get a retired Detroit Tigers player to be our conference keynote speaker."

Schiappacasse said the VBBA hopes to have the conference's keynote speaker lined up within the next few weeks.



**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE LIST OF SPEAKERS FOR THE 2022 VBBA CONFERENCE, APRIL 22-24 AT DEARBORN, MICHIGAN:**

### KATIE FLAPJACK BAER

**SWIMMING UP "STREAM": NAVIGATING THE WATERS OF DIGITAL PRESENCE & ONLINE ENGAGEMENT WITH A SALMON**

Join Katie "Flapjack" Baer of the Chicago Salmon for a dive into the vast digital venues available to your VBBA club. Katie will doggy paddle through the basics of social media platforms, generating attention-grabbing content, increasing online engagement, and creating and maintaining a club website. She will also discuss her experience developing the well-received Salmon Spectator newsletter, and the takeaways she's learned this season.

Katie is the Publications Liaison (and 2nd basewoman) for the Chicago Salmon. She holds a degree in Creative Writing from Knox College. She has extensive social media experience and focuses on running both the Facebook page and Instagram for the Salmon (find both @ChicagoSalmonBaseBall), and works with a team to maintain and update the Salmon website, [chicagosalmon.org](http://chicagosalmon.org). Along with her husband, Brennan "Sketch" Probst, she created the Salmon Spectator newsletter, which comes out after each match, and can be viewed on the Salmon website.



### ERIC SQUAREHEAD BERG

**PRINCE HONEYCUTT, MINNESOTA'S FIRST BLACK PROFESSIONAL BASE BALL PLAYER (1873)**

They played barehanded. His story is quite compelling.

Eric Squarehead Berg was a member of the Springfield Long Nine Vintage Base Ball Club more than ten years. Most recently he was the team's captain.



**WWW.VBBA.ORG**







**JIM GLACIER  
BASALA**

Deep River Grinders



**TODD DUTCH  
ESCHMAN**

Belleville Stags



**RYAN FUZ  
PETERS**

Valparaiso Lookouts



**RYAN ACE  
PIERCE**

Milwaukee Grays

### CAN MY VINTAGE BASE BALL TEAM BE SAVED?

Vintage base ball sometimes faces problems and challenges of and off the field. Chances are whatever your team might be experiencing, another team has dealt with the same thing. This panel provides a forum for situations your club might have, be it funding, player recruitment and retention, playing field, team morale or other things. These experienced team leaders will share their stories and welcome your questions and discussion.



### DEBRA REID

#### "WOMEN IN 21ST CENTURY VINTAGE BASE BALL: CHALLENGES AND EXPERIENCES"

History collides with contemporary life on vintage base ball fields. Ask yourself...Is this a white man's game? It became that in the past. Do women play? They did historically. Do non-white players play? They did historically. Who plays on your team? Do you issue an open call for players? Do you stress the historic game as a vehicle to extend your reach and engage broadly, or do you carry along all that white privilege baggage from the past into the 21st century? This session looks at the game as a public program at public sites, and asks what you and your club/team can do to make it as engaging, inclusive, and different from the past as possible.



### JAMIE WRIGHT

#### HISTORIC TENNESSEE VBBA PHOTOGRAPHER

Jamie is one of many photographers that are encouraged to practice their trade at the Tennessee VBBA events. Their matches all take place at historic Tennessee sites.

Jamie is a local Nashvillian and has been shooting for 24 years. You will find him out at Tennessee Vintage Base Ball Association events, photographing all of the action. He photographs special projects, animals, children, weddings, and product.



### MICHAEL COPADO

#### UMPIRES AS SHOWMEN & EFFECTIVE RE-ENACTORS

Michael Preacher Copado has umpired at Navin Field and Hamtramck Stadium.

He understands and will share what it takes to be both a historically authentic, and an entertaining vintage base ball umpire. He will also share how to be a side line re-enactor at a vintage base ball game.



### JEFF PINE TAR KORNHAAS

#### WHAT IS A HISTORIC BASE BALL BAT? HOW WAS IT SWUNG?

With about a decade of experience as a vintage base ball player, and having thoroughly reviewed the history of the development of the base ball bat and how it was used over the years,

Pine Tar will confront the issue of what model base ball bats the vintage base ball clubs should be using to be historically accurate. In addition he will share the evolution of the correct batting stance and swing.



### GRANT MORE

#### TOWNBALL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

First played the game in Newberg, Oregon – Deputy Director of Enrollment at Professional Development Academy



### DANIEL JONES

#### DEVELOPED 21ST CENTURY TOWNBALL – MATH TEACHER, VERITAS HIGH SCHOOL, NEWBERG, OREGON

What is vintage base ball? How far back do we have to go to be really considered vintage?

Most vintage base ball clubs only go back as far as the civil war when the New York Game was the dominant bat-and-ball game played in the United States. However, before the war, there were more versions of bat-and-ball than there were daisies under a blue moon. No foul balls? No baselines? One out per inning? Pegging the runners? No obligation to run until the third strike? Five bases instead of four? Each of these rules and many more existed among the myriad of bat-and-ball games all referred to as "town ball" in the nineteenth century and earlier.

Townball, as now played in the twenty-first century, borrows elements from all of these variants (especially those of Massachusetts) to make the perfect game that has been played on the West Coast since 2012. Come to our talk and learn about how your vintage base ball club can teach history by partaking in this modern twist on a collection of old ideas.

[https://protoball.org/21st\\_Century\\_Townball](https://protoball.org/21st_Century_Townball)

<https://youtu.be/YCqbGyigMrE>

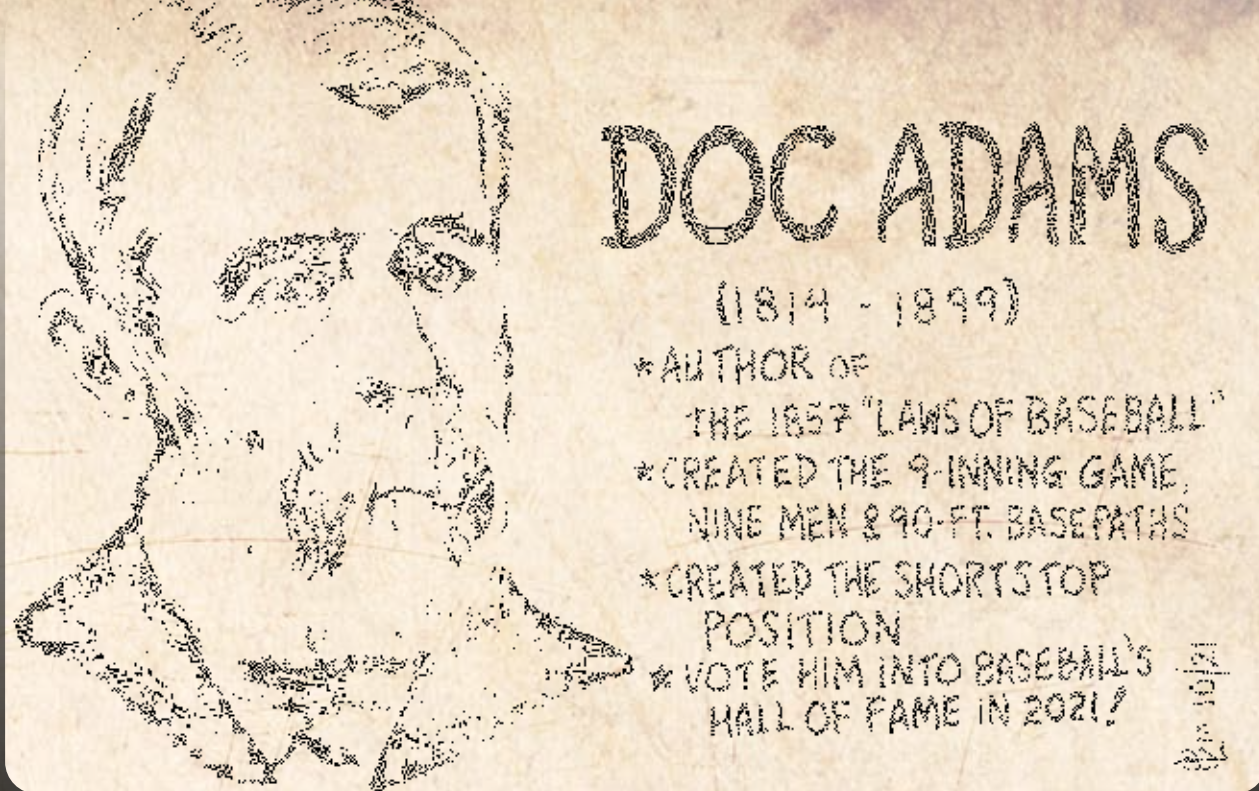


### SOUTHERN MICHIGAN (DETROIT) SABR

THE STORY OF THE 1880'S DETROIT WOLVERINES AND THEIR 1886







**The VBBA was disappointed to learn that Doc Adams was not placed on the 2022 ballot by the Early Baseball Era Committee. We will continue to support Doc Adams nomination for 2032.**

November's first week brought sadness on the personal front with deaths, serious illnesses, and problems among family and friends. Fittingly, it dropped another surprise on Friday with news that Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams was left off this year's Baseball Hall of Fame ballot. He has no chance of being considered again until 2032. For those keeping score at home, Adams played for the New York Knickerbocker club from the mid-1840s until 1862, inventing the shortstop position. But his efforts went far beyond that and the two leading historians of baseball's (then spelled as two words) early days rank him among the fathers of the game. From organizing the game's first national association to standardizing play at nine innings and 90-foot basepaths to the "fly rule," Adams' fingerprints are all over the pre-Civil War game. A few years ago, in no small part due to the tireless efforts of his great-granddaughter the late Marjorie Adams, he came within two votes of election to the Hall. I suspect the reason he did not make it is because the Hall keeps sticking old players and coaches on its selection committees, who it appears know little and care less about the game's

pioneers. But this year promised to be different as Adams' cause was taken up through petitions, letters and the continued support of the early game's experts—Peter Morris and John Thorn. It was not to be. The ballot announced yesterday for the Early Baseball Era Committee does not include Adams and has only two 19th century players, one of them Bud Fowler, the first Black major leaguer. Looking at the make-up of the committee picking the ballot help explains this. There were 10 members—five noted historians and five active or retired sportswriters. Closer examination, however, reveals that the historians—talented and conscientious scholars—were experts on the Negro Leagues. None have the knowledge of Morris, Thorn or other researchers and writers on the early game. The ballot does reflect a committed effort to recognize Black players who endured hardship, hate and neglect to play the game. And that is long overdue. Yet, the man who along with sportswriter Henry Chadwick, comes nearer being the "father" of baseball than any other figure was left out.

This sort of thing is nothing new. Look at Bill James' history of the Hall of Fame,

a wonderful institution but one founded in the supposed birthplace of baseball. And the "birthplace" lie was part of a greater deception cooked up and driven through by Albert Goodwill Spalding, the first in a series of thoroughly unlikable baseball moguls. It was Spalding who insisted Abner Doubleday created the game though there was plenty of evidence available at the time, 1908, showing this to be untrue. Not the least reason being that there is no record of Doubleday EVER playing or seriously talking about the game. For details, read Thorn's "Baseball in the Garden of Eden." And this was compounded years later when the son and grandson of Alexander Cartwright took the old Knickerbocker's diary and transcribed it. In the process, they added (made up) entries purporting to show Cartwright promoted the game in San Francisco and Hawaii. This was all nonsense, but it got Alexander Cartwright into the Hall of Fame. Even after the forgeries were exposed, his plaque remains in Cooperstown though the only true thing on it is his name.

Adams' cause offered the Hall of Fame to strike a blow for historical accuracy. As it does so often, it swung and missed.

**BOB SAMPSON, VBBA HISTORIAN**



# LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Vintage Base Ball Association is a strong advocate for getting “Doc” Lucius Adams into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams contributions to the game have been documented in the “Laws of Base Ball” first presented to the New York area ball clubs on January 22, 1857.

Doc Adams played the game, created base balls and bats, was the President of the Knickerbockers, and was elected as the presiding officer of the first



conventions and Rules Committees to standardize the rules of the game. In addition he created the shortstop position, advocated for nine innings, and nine players per side, set the distance between bases at ninety feet, and advocated for the “fly game.”

Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams as a significant pioneer of baseball deserves to be voted in to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He is truly the father of the modern game of baseball.

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GARY SCHIAPPACASSE

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Vice President                 | President                      |
| Vintage Base Ball Association, | Vintage Base Ball Association, |
| 2020-2021                      | 2017-2020                      |

## Doc Adams: the fourth infielder

BY BOB SAMPSON

Today, in all forms of baseball from the sandlot to the vintage field to a major league stadium, our eyes are accustomed to seeing an infielder between second and third base, positioned a little deeper than his flanking colleagues but nevertheless one of them.

We take the shortstop for granted. Yet, as true with many things, it was not always that way.

In the birth years of the game, we know today as “baseball,” there was a short fielder, like the 10th man in slow-pitch softball, who patrols the space between the infield and deep outfield.

On Elysian Fields and other early fields, this player relayed throws from the deep outfielders into the infield or home plate. It might have remained that way save for technological change.

“We had a great deal of trouble in getting balls made,” remembered former New York Knickerbockers player Daniel Lucius “Dock” (as the name spelled in his time) Adams late in his long life.

For several years, Adams made balls for his club, but the sphere was too light to carry any distance.

Dissatisfied with the status quo, Adams sought help, finally locating a Scotch saddler in Manhattan, who showed him a way to make a better cover, the same horsehide used for whips.

Eventually, Adams’ experimentation led to a tighter-wound ball, which was harder and contained a core of cut up rubber.

The evolved ball could not only bit hit for greater distance but carried farther on throws.

Then, the position we know in slow-pitch softball was no longer needed. And Adams likely was the first to slide into the gap between second and third to establish the fourth infielder — the shortstop.

This fact alone would ensure the physician’s place among the game’s founders, but he wasn’t done.

His fingerprints are over a number of key rules, including the distance between bases, the number of innings played, and the eventual adoption of the “fly rule,” eliminating bound catches for outs on fair balls.

These and more contributions are recounted in John Thorn’s *Baseball in the Garden of Eden: The Secret History of the Early Game*, essential reading for not only

baseball fans but especially vintage base ballists seeking to understand the roots and evolution of the game they play.

Perhaps by the time this appears in print, Daniel Lucius “Dock” Adams will be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, an overdue honor he narrowly missed a few years ago.

As Thorn points out in his book, and other researchers have confirmed, Adams was the key figure in creating the game we know today. There was no single ‘inventor’ or ‘father’ but there were many, many shapers, among whom Adams ranks first.

For years, Dock’s great granddaughter, Marjorie Adams, worked tirelessly, traveling around the country, making contacts, talking up her ancestor wherever and whenever she could.

Her death this summer robbed her of the opportunity to celebrate Dock’s induction. But “Dock” is celebrated silently every time a man or woman, adult or child, trots out to that once-vacant spot between second and third bases, taking the position of shortstop.

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





# **MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC CLUB**

**CONTINUING A BASE BALL TRADITION SINCE 1895**  
**FLEISCHMANN'S, NEW YORK**

Secretary/Treasurer BBWAA  
Chair, BBWAA Historical Overview Committee  
membership@bbwaa.com

Dear Mr. O'Connell,

My name is Collin Miller. I am President/Captain of the Mountain Athletic Club, an 1895 rules baseball team located in the Catskill Mountains of Upstate New York. I write to you today on behalf of 40 nineteenth century baseball clubs from ten states in the Northeast United States regarding the inclusion of Daniel Adams on the 2022 Early Baseball Era Committee ballot for the Hall of Fame.

As you well know, Derek Jeter recently entered the Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2020 as one of the game's elite shortstops. Coincidentally, not far from where Jeter captained the New York Yankees to many post-season championships, are the Elysian Fields in Hoboken, New Jersey where the origins of baseball in America was furthered by several New Yorkers including the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club (KBBC) and the inventor of the shortstop (the first man to play the position for the KBBC), a Harvard-educated physician from New Hampshire named Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams, MD.

According to numerous reputable baseball historians, the creation of the shortstop position by Adams in 1849 – primarily to relay a lighter-weighted, hand-sewn ball thrown from the outfielder – was one of several pioneering innovations he contributed to the development of the sport long before it became our national pastime. Adams also made the baseballs by hand and supervised early manufacturing of the bats. Although the concept of the game as an adult endeavor (not merely a child's game) was in its infancy, he insisted that players attend regularly and believed strongly that the game could be developed into a popular sport. In that sense, some opine that he may have "saved baseball" in the fledgling days of the KBBC.

Adams' influence on the early game continued. In 1857, during a special convention to standardize the rules for the thirteen clubs in New York City and Brooklyn, Adams drafted the "Laws of Baseball." The following year, Adams was elected chairman of the Rules and Regulations Committee for the newly established National Association of Base Ball Players – a post he held while strongly advocating for the "fly game" until his retirement from the Knickerbockers in 1862. The "Laws of Baseball" were written by Adams in pencil on three separate papers and are referred to by MLB Historian John Thorn as "baseball's Magna Carta." They sold for \$3.26 million in Spring 2016, still a record for a baseball related document and were later displayed at the Library of Congress as the feature attraction in the "Baseball Americana" exhibit. Thorn recently explained Adams' pivotal role in baseball history in his MLB Our Game blog (5 Inventors - July 26, 2021): "He is baseball's most important figure not in the Hall of Fame...With the recent discovery of his "Laws of Base Ball" we have tangible primary evidence of his genius. More than anyone else, he created our game of nine innings, nine men, and ninety-foot base paths."

Unfortunately for Adams, the reveal of these papers happened just a few months too late. Although he was the top-vote getter in the Pre-Integration Era Committee vote in 2015, Adams fell two votes shy of being elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2016. Before the "Laws" document surfaced, historians had already credited Doc with having strong influence in the rules that are currently credited to another early KBBC member that is already in the Hall of Fame. However, as with any substantive research project, new information has come to light and therefore, it seems that Adams' time has officially come.

Doc's biggest advocate for the Hall of Fame was his great-granddaughter Marjorie Adams, who passed away in July (See Marjorie Adams, Who Went to Bat for a Baseball Pioneer, Dies at 72, NY Times 7/20/21). Marjorie made thousands of friends through her involvement in SABR and the "vintage" baseball community – a cadre of men and women who display baseball throughout the country as it was played in the nineteenth century. In 2012, a petition was established at docadamsbaseball.org and is now approaching 2,000 signatures (and counting) from people who would like to see that Adams get the credit he deserves. Marjorie lit the fire that has enabled us to carry the torch in her absence. Therefore, we of the following 40 nineteenth century baseball clubs from ten states in the Northeast, respectfully request that Daniel L. "Doc" Adams be included on the 2022 Early Baseball Era Committee ballot as a pioneer of early baseball in America.

Athletic Base Ball Club of Philadelphia (PA)  
Liberty Base Ball Club (CT)  
Atlantic Base Ball Club (NY)  
Liberty Base Ball Club of New Brunswick (NJ)  
Boston Union Base Ball Club (MA)  
Lisbon Tunnelmen (CT)  
Bovina Dairymen Vintage Base Ball (NY)  
Lowell Nine (MA)  
Brandywine Base Ball Club (PA)  
Lynn Live Oaks (MA)  
Connecticut Base Ball Club of Hartford (CT)  
Mohican Base Ball Club of Kennett Square (PA)  
Delhi Base Ball Club (NY)  
Monmouth Furnace (NJ)  
Diamond State Base Ball Club of Delaware (DE)  
Mountain Stars Base Ball Club of Addison (PA)  
Dirigo Base Ball Club (ME)  
Mudville Base Ball Club (MA)  
Eclipse Base Ball Club of Elkton (MD)  
Mutual Base Ball Club of New York (NY)  
Eckford Base Ball Club of Brooklyn (NY)  
Newburyport Clamdiggers (MA)  
Elizabeth Resolutes (NJ)  
New Hampshire Granite Vintage Base Ball (NH)  
Essex Base Ball Club (MA)  
Portsmouth Rockinghams (NH)  
Fleischmanns Mountain Athletic Club (NY)  
Providence Grays (RI)  
Flemington Neshanocks (NJ)  
Rising Sun Base Ball Club (MD)  
Clubs of the Genesee Country Village (NY)  
Talbot Fair Plays (MD)  
Gettysburg Generals (PA)  
Thames Base Ball Club (CT)  
Ipswich Brewers (MA)  
Weathersfield Red Onion (CT)  
Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg (PA)  
Westfield Wheelmen Vintage Base Ball (MA)  
Lewes Base Ball Club (DE)  
Woodstock Hilltoppers (CT)

SINCERELY,  
Collin Miller

President Fleischmanns Mountain Athletic Club

Vintage Base Ball CC: Josh Rawitch, President  
Baseball Hall of Fame jrawitch@baseballhall.org



# Getting the word out

## DRUMMING UP FAN INTEREST IN VINTAGE BASE BALL



Lawman on the Base  
Path at Grinder Field,



Flapjack at Bat at  
Methodist Campground,



Pipes Fielding







(PHOTO COURTESY GIANT'S MOM)

**The Lah-de-dahs of Greenfield Village, part of The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, produce a weekly newspaper during**

### **BY BILL HELM**

CAPTAIN, FOUNDER, WHATCOM BAY STARS  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION

It's been four months now since my wife and I moved roughly 1,700 miles northwest from Arizona to the Pacific Northwest.

After eight years playing ball for the Fort Verde Excelsiors and the Prescott Champions of the Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League, I learned before our big move that there were no vintage base ball teams north of Portland. Something had to be done about that.

So I have placed classified ads in my local paper, a paper I fortunately work for – as editor. I also have written a few columns and have dutifully mentioned my quest to bring vintage base ball to the area. At our second practice

and recruiting event, held in early September, 10 people showed up.

For vintage base ball to flourish in the PNW, it won't be enough to put together a team, or even two teams. We must cultivate some sort of fan base. Or else, we'll be in danger of entertaining only ourselves.

Recently, three teams told the VBBA what they do to create fan interest.

The Lah-de-dahs of Greenfield Village, part of The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, produce a weekly newspaper during their season. The single sheet publication called The Lah-de-dah Times, contains a write-up of the previous week's games, as well as history, rules explanations, and important events.

Marcus Dickson, who plays ball with the Lah-de-dahs, says the team distributes about 500 copies of each issue, and also posts it to



the team's Facebook page.

"I do know that the Canton Cornshuckers (Canton, Michigan) video every game," Dickson says. "They get nice results just with a high (15 feet or so) tripod and an iPhone."

In Chicago, one player does double duty as the team's photographer.

"He posts all of our photos on our club's Facebook page, and I also post them on our Instagram," Katie "Flapjack" Baer says of her husband, Brennan "Sketch" Probst. "We also put out a newsletter together after each match called The Salmon Spectator. The Spectator gets sent to our mailing list, and all issues are also posted on our website, [chicagosalmon.org](http://chicagosalmon.org)."

PDFs of The Salmon Spectator can be down-

loaded from the team's website, [chicagosalmon.org](http://chicagosalmon.org).

Chicago Salmon's Instagram page is @chicagosalmonbaseball.

New to vintage base ball are the Georgetown Gentlemen. Tommy "Molasses" Druen, Gentlemen captain, says starting a team was "something I wanted to do, but had put on the backburner."

"When I turned 43 last year, I decided that if I was ever going to do it, this was the time," he says.

Druen says he's been fortunate to secure 15 players ranging in ages between 24 to 44, each excited to play ball.

"We've been working on fundraising and

COURTESY PHOTO

**The Georgetown Gentlemen made its debut at a tournament in Fairfield, Ohio earlier this year.**



I've been pleased with the response," Druen says. "We've treated this season as a soft opening, since we didn't receive our uniforms until the last week of August."

So far, the Kentucky outfit has played four games, winning one.

"However, we've lost to the Cincinnati Red Stockings, the Early Riser Base Ball Club of Detroit and a group of Ohio all stars at the Heart of Vintage Base Ball Tournament," he says. "Considering the strength of those teams, we feel optimistic, as we were able to hold each of them under 20 runs."

The Gentlemen are also making plans to have a professional photographer attend the team's home games "when we begin those."

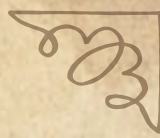
"He's a friend of one of our ballists, and is donating his services," Druen says.

As far as writing game stories, or human interest stories, Druen sends after each game a press release to his local newspaper, The Georgetown News-Graphic.

"They have been great about helping us promote the team," he said. "Our team is looking forward to being an active part of the VBBA. The organization is already helped us out immeasurably as we have worked to get this off the ground. (VBBA Vice President) Gary Schiappacasse has been a great resource for me to pick the brain of as we move forward."

Although the Gentlemen are a new squad, this isn't Druen's first experience with the vintage game.

"I serve on the board of a historic home in Georgetown," he says. "For the past 10 years, we have hosted a game typically featuring teams from Indiana and Ohio. The guys up there have always mentioned how we draw the biggest crowds they play in front of each season. They kept encouraging me to start a team, but with two small kids I wasn't sure I had the time."



**Remember as your club plans for the future that the VBBA in addition to liability insurance, offers its member ball clubs up to 15% discount on seven vendors' 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)

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

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

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

**Cooperstown Bats:**  
[www.cooperstownbats.com](http://www.cooperstownbats.com)

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





# VBBA vendor spotlight



## COOPERSTOWN BAT COMPANY

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 for more information.



## JAMES COUNTRY MERCANTILE

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 for more information.



## K&P WEAVER

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."

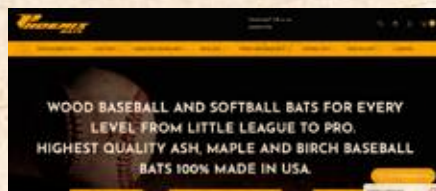
Member Code vbba1996 to get your 10% discount due to rising material costs for the purchase of team shirts, and knickers and trousers. Visit baseballamericaspastime.com for more information.



## STOCKBRIDGE SEWING WORKS

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 too 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 for more information.



## PHOENIX BAT COMPANY

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 for more information.



## 19TH CENTURY BASE BALL

19th Century Base Ball 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.

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 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. Visit 19cBaseball.com for more information.



## USA SMACKER BATS

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.

