

The Base Ball Player's

SUMMER

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Chronicle

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A Quarterly Publication of the Vintage Base Ball Association

BASE BALL IN THE CIVIL WAR

BY Allison Caveglia Barash

"I'm surprised you didn't mention Abner Doubleday," said an attendee at one of my talks on diversions of Civil war soldiers, including baseball. Her accusatory tone made me feel almost un-American, or at the very least, that I had single-handedly and wrongfully shattered a piece of Americana. I proceeded to explain that my omission was deliberate—that while he was a Union general, present at Fort Sumter, Gettysburg and other major Civil War battles, he was not present in Cooperstown, New York in 1839 where he was supposed to have invented baseball—he was training at West Point. I went on to explain that he never claimed to have created the game, and in fact, may never even have attended a game. I don't think she believed me.

The origins of the American game of baseball are unclear, but this we know: the Civil War soldier—Johnny Reb and Billy Yank—played an awful lot of baseball...and therein lies its connection to the Civil War.

Baseball had been growing in popularity in the United States since the 1840's and was quickly becoming something of an obsession. Back in 1846, the poet Walt Whitman, who also served as a nurse during the war wrote: "In our sun-down perambulations of late through the outer parts of Brooklyn, we have observed several parties of youngsters playing 'base,' a certain game of ball...Let us go forth awhile, and get better air in our lungs. Let us leave our

close rooms...the game of ball is glorious."

By 1860, leagues had formed around the country and spectators were paying admission to watch the contests. But with the firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor on April 12, 1861, ball-playing athletes began enlisting by the thousands and it looked like organized baseball

was about to meet an early demise. Fortunately, some recruits took their bats and balls along with them in their knapsacks, unknowingly ensuring that the sport they loved would not die of neglect.

Once in camp, the excitement of enlisting wore off, reality sunk in and the soldiers soon realized that not only did they have

time to play, they had a psychological need to play. "War," said Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes of the 20th Massachusetts Volunteers, "is an organized bore." Thirty years after the war, Chaplain James H. Bradford of the 12th Connecticut expressed his feelings about war this way: "It seems a strange thing to say, in view of sickness, suffering and death always staring one in the face, but nevertheless it is true—I never saw so much merriment in any other three years of my life as in the army... I am not heartless, CONTINUED PAGE 3



Circa 1863, Fort Pulaski, Georgia. Base Ball being played in background. Picture: Courtesy of Transcendental Graphics



VINTAGE
BASE BALL
ASSOCIATION

FEATURES

VBBA
Updates

Vintage
Base Ball
History

Team of the
Month

Match Recaps

Character
Profiles

In This Issue: The Official Grandma of Vintage Base Ball
Results of the Kent Tournament
The First Match in Oregon, 1862

The First Game in Oregon by Henry Chadwick, 1862

Reprinted from Henry Chadwick's Scrapbook Courtesy of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)

Oregon City was lately the scene of a very interesting game of ball, the particulars of which we glean from the Daily Oregonian. The contestants were the Pioneer Club, of Portland, and the Clackamas Club, Oregon City.

The day was very fine, and at 6 o'clock all the party, accompanied by a number of ladies from this city, started out on the Senator. They were met by the first nine of the Clackamas Club and the Oregon City brass band, and escorted to the Barlow House, where the party did

ample justice to a splendid breakfast. They then proceeded to the ground, about a mile from the city, and the game began. A mistake was made in laying out the ground. The pitcher, basemen, and fielders all were stationed facing the sun. This was unfortunate, as the playing was made unpleasant by this disposition of the men. After the game, they returned to the Barlow House for dinner.

The Pioneers returned to Portland on the Senator, much pleased with the courtesy and kindly feeling manifested by the Clackamas Baseball club. This is the first match-game

ever played in the State, and it is a splendid beginning. Much applause is due the Oregon City boys. Their club has been organized but a short time, and they have so well improved their time that we predict that but a short time will pass before they wear the laurels. After the game they offered the winners the ball, which was very properly refused, as the game was a friendly one, and not for blood.

SEE BOXSCORE PAGE 11

O's - outs R's - runs

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

by Captain Mark Heppner, President VBBA

As an avid fisherman and property owner in northern Ontario, I thought I have seen much that Canada has to offer. However, my perception was pleasantly adjusted recently when my wife, Leianne, and I were fortunate enough to have been the guests of the city of London, Ontario. The reason for this invitation was that the city, in particular Tourism London, had decided to hold its first annual "Vintage Sports Days" festival this July. Knowing the rich history of the city, events such as lawn bowling, bicycling and rowing were shoo-ins. However, they also sought to tell the story of yet another "vintage" sport that was key in Canada's history, base ball.

There may be few perks that come with the title of the "President of the VBBA" but when they do come along, one must take advantage of them! This offer to come to London was an unexpected one but one that will not soon be forgotten. In helping the planners of this event, they felt it necessary that I come to London and see firsthand what "they had up their sleeves."

My immediate impression of the city of some 350,000 Canadians was one of awe.

The quaint city was one of modernization intermixed with rich history and culture. Our stay at the Hilton London Hotel (host hotel for the event) was remarkable and a dinner of ostrich and ales - well, what can I say? The tour of the city and outlying areas (Fanshawe Pioneer Village, St. Mary's, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, etc.) was not only fas-

**"WE ARE THE
MESSENGERS."**

inating but truly a lesson in history of which I knew little. One of my most impressionable memories was that of walking around Labatt Park, the oldest existing site of a base ball park in continual use in North America. It is here that vintage ballist will take on London citizens and "celebrities" on the night of July 21! Eight very fortunate clubs have agreed to travel to London in July to bring the game of base ball to our northern brothers (and sisters!). Clubs represent the east (New York), the west (Colorado), the Midwest

(Ohio) and the north (Woodstock, Ontario). Not only is this an opportunity to interpret the game to a new audience but I see it as a chance to bring many different clubs with similar goals together for camaraderie and fellowship.

It gives me great pleasure to be involved with this inaugural event. I personally want to thank Bob Graham and Al Taylor (and their staff) for all they have done to promote and encourage this type of event as well as their hospitality. Vintage ballist should be proud to know that what we do has gained so much interest and support that events such as "Vintage Sports Days" are growing. It is my hope that the VBBA's participation in this event will only strengthen our program in Canada and, hopefully, spark the formation of more clubs up north. I encourage you (and many of you do this already) to promote and support these types of "high profile" events whenever the opportunity arises. Whether it is in Old Bethpage Village, NY, a festival in Colorado, or a day or two at the Ohio Cup, it is important to come together and share ideas and friendship. Remember if we don't spread the word of vintage base ball there will be no audience for us to re-create for. Each of us, simply put, are the messengers for America's pastime.

Base Ball in the Civil War (Continued) by Allison Barash

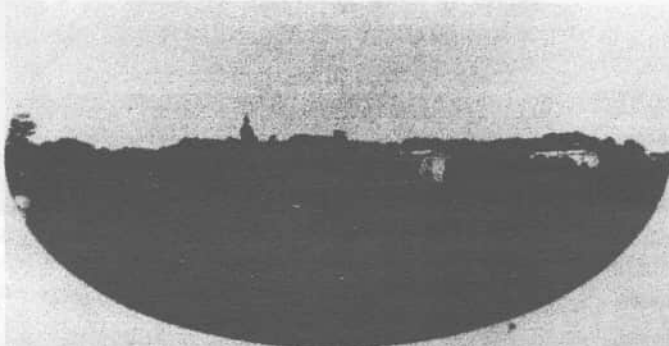
but it was necessary to relax one from the stern realities of wounds, hardship, and exposure, and to maintain a cheerful spirit."

Fortunately for the soldiers, most officers approved of ballplaying and other organized games, as they lifted spirits, reduced stress, encouraged teamwork, promoted camaraderie, and improved physical fitness. And the officers themselves were clearly not immune to baseball fever.

In April of 1863, Captain Patrick H. "True Blue" Sullivan of the 140th New York Volunteers, who had played for Rochester's

Lone Stars Club before the war and was obviously hopelessly addicted to the game, left many written accounts of Civil War ball-games. He writes of an engagement between the officers of his regiment and officers of the 13th New York Volunteers: "We played nearly all day yesterday, our gallant Colonel looking on...with quite a large number of spectators assembled on our parade ground to witness the expertness of our officers, as they were practicing a match-game with the commissioned officers of the veteran 13th...It may appear that we should be engaged in some-

thing else beside playing base ball, but I tell you, it is one of the best things in the world to keep up the



Princeton College Class Album 1861, cricket played at left, base ball at right. Possibly the earliest photo of a base ball game being played. Photo Courtesy: Transcendental Graphics

spirits of the men, and not only that, but it is of vast importance to their health...Amusements are becoming the order of the day, and no sooner

is drill over than you see the boys flocking together to commence their sports."

Private Alpheris B. Parker of the 10th Massachusetts wrote on April 21, 1863:

"The parade ground has been a busy place for a week or so past,

ball-playing having become a mania in camp. Officers and men forget, for a time, the difference in rank and indulge in the invigorating sport with a school-boy's ardor."

In another account, Captain Sullivan

wrote that "The tedium of a soldier's life was somewhat relieved a few days since by a holiday given us by

our Colonel, who believes that the health of a regiment is benefited by amusement and change of labor." The holiday was celebrated "by a match-game of baseball...the game commenced after dinner, the officers of the left wing contending against those of the right. We played but three innings, the right wing being the victors, by a score of 3 to 8...the game was to be renewed on Friday, but the amount of disabled arms, sprained ankles and

lame backs prevented the second appearance of the contestants..."

Lt. Charles P. Klein documented an engagement between officers on January 10, 1863: "Saturday afternoon is allotted the men for necessary washing and cleansing, at which time the commissioned officers of the regiment indulge in a game of base ball on the parade ground." The score was 32-14 "up to the fifth innings, other duty then interfering."

So whether it was for the pure love of the game, to relieve boredom or to distract themselves from the gruesomeness of warfare, baseball served both a therapeutic and

CONTINUED PAGE 7

*"...BALL PLAYING
HAS BECOME A
MANIA IN CAMP."*

Writers, Photographers and Correspondents Needed

Have an interesting story. Know someone with a cool job outside of baseball? Do you take really good pictures at Base Ball games? Well my friend, we need you.

The Base Ball Player's Chronicle is

looking to expand it's information base. We are looking for the following stories to include in our next issue: General Baseball History, Team History, Current Players Profiles, Travelogues, photographs and anything else pertaining

to Vintage Base Ball. Don't be shy about submitting an article. This is definitely not the Reader's Digest.

To submit send to John Freyer at fryorama@aol.com or fax to (708) 499-6181.

New Haven Elm City's Inaugural Match by Ken Weaver

The New Haven Elm Citys played their inaugural game on the 25th day of June 2000 at 11:30 O'clock against the Middletown Mansfields in Middletown Connecticut.

The day was a warm 85 degrees, the field was well groomed and all were anticipating a great match.

However, that was not to be for the New Haven Club the Mansfields held them scoreless until the 5th inning when the Elm Citys scored

their first and only ace of the match.

The Mansfields scored every inning except for three. At the end of nine, the score was Middletown 9, Elm Citys 1.

The only bright spot for New Haven is that they are doing a fine job of following in footsteps of the original New Haven Elm Citys they



"Sweet Cakes" Weaver zeros in on a hurl.

portray.

NHBBC Match Stand Outs:

Charles Brooks (LF) - 3 for 5 (only game RBI)
Brad Stern (SS) - 1 for 4

Steve Sonleiter (RF) - 1 for 4

Geoff Viscount (1B) - 1 for 4 (only player to score)

SWEEPERS MAKE NOTABLE SHOWING AT AKRON CUP by Anne Haines

On Sunday, June 10 the *Hoover Sweepers* participated in the Akron Cup at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The other vintage clubs in attendance

were the Akron Black Stockings, Canal Fulton Mules, Columbus Capitals, Lorain County Buckeyes and the Summit County Merinos.

The *Sweepers* started the day's program by falling to the Columbus Capital with a tally of 10-3. As the temperatures sweltered throughout the day, the *Sweepers* heated up to defeat the Mules from Canal Fulton 3-1! The *Sweepers* third match was an intense contest that ended in

a tied tally of 1-1 with the Lorain County Buckeyes.

The matches were not the only story of the day. In addition to competi-



tions of the organized vintage clubs, matches of "pick nine" (All Stars) from all clubs in attendance were held. A notable ballist, President Abraham Lincoln (actor unknown)

was on the "pick nine" club headed by *Sweeper* Jeff "Wildman" Slaughter. By virtue of President Lincoln's presence, umpire Ed Searle "declared" Mr. Slaughter's "pick nine" victors.

Competitions of various skills were performed throughout the programme, and *Sweeper* Marc "Babe" Vander won a hurling (pitching) accuracy contest.

Background music throughout the day's events was provided by a quartet of strings and wind instruments known as *Unexpected Party*. All present enjoyed the day!

Feel free to
make copies
and pass out at
your matches.
We won't get
mad.

What makes vintage base ball fun for you?"

That was a question posed by Deano Thilgen of the St. Croix Club. The following are the themes and their votes.

A quick analysis of the themes presented:

1. -history (general)/presentation of game in historic context/interpretation 7
2. -camaraderie/friends/good guys in the club 6

3. -watching cranks learn the game/great cranks 5
4. -values of the original game/great game/tradition/pure form 5
5. -competition 4
6. -personal achievement/ good play 2
7. -just about anyone can play 2

To vote: e-mail Deano at
StCroixBBC@aol.com

Team profile/ The Lah De Dahs of Greenfield Village by Tom Stoll

Lah-De-Dahs Historic Base Ball at Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

An amateur base ball team called the Lah-De-Dahs played during the 1880's and 1890's in Waterford, Michigan. Researchers working for the museum discovered the existence of that team while researching the history of the J. R. Jones General Store. The general store, which today sits restored in Greenfield Village, also operated in Waterford during the same time period. Through more in-depth research and practice, and with the help of already-established vintage base ball teams, the team was brought to life again. The modern Lah-De-Dahs have played nineteenth century base ball in Greenfield Village since 1994.

The team today consists of 30 players about half of whom are

employees of the museum who participate in their free time, and about half are not employees. The museum's curators of agriculture and transportation play on the team, as do several historical presenters and program planners, and our umpire is also the Greenfield Village blacksmith. Our players, like those of most vintage teams, range in skill from excellent to muffin. Enthusiasm, however, is uniformly high. We have players who travel from Toledo, Chelsea, Rochester Hills, and even East Lansing just to play on our team!

Each summer, the Lah-De-Dahs play eight or nine home games against teams visiting from elsewhere. These home games are played on the Activities Field in Greenfield Village and are part of the public programming offered to

our visitors for the day. A shady, green hill slopes up and away from the third base line and provides a comfortable place from which to watch the match. The Dodworth Saxhorn Band, a recreation of a typical nineteenth-century, community brass band, provides musical entertainment during the matches. We have hosted teams from Michigan, Ohio, Colorado, and New York.

In addition to our schedule of home games, we play in two to five away matches and/or tournaments. We have traveled to Toledo, Columbus, Tiffin, Sycamore, and Akron, Ohio; Monroe, and Rochester, Michigan; and Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Our uniforms, which are provided by the museum's Period Clothing Team, consist of off-white, Continued on Page 8

Ludington, Kent, Go Undeclared at Kent BBC Tournament by Gordon Olson

Here are the results of the Grand Rapids Michigan, Sesquicentennial Vintage Base Ball Tournament. The tournament was held on May 20 at John Ball Park in Grand Rapids, with eight teams playing 12 games on two fields. After a week of steady rain that threatened to cancel the days festivities, Saturday, May 20 dawned warm and sunny and only got better as they day progressed. At the end of twelve games, the Ludington Mariners and Kent Base Ball Club # 2 had identical 3 win and 0 loss records. Their names will be placed on the Silas K. Pierce Founders

*The Ludington Mariners
hammered out 37 runs in the
three game set.*



A Mariner rounding third on his way to the dish.

Cup, named after the man who founded the original Kent Base Ball Club in 1867.

All games were seven

innings or 1 hour 30 minutes, which ever was shorter.

Rock Springs Ground Squirrels 5
Kent Base Ball Club # 1 4
Ludington Mariners 16
Berrien Cnty. Cranberry Beggars 4
Kent Base Ball Club # 2 8
Rochester Grangers 3
Deep River Grinders 9
Carriage Hill Clodbusters 2
Berrien Cnty. Cranberry Beggars 7
Kent Base Ball Club # 1 3
Ludington Mariners 17
Rock Springs Ground Squirrels 3
Kent Base Ball Club # 2 7
Deep River Grinders 6 (8 innings)
Carriage Hill Clodbusters 11
Rochester Grangers 5
Ludington Mariners 4
Kent Base Ball Club # 1 2
Berrien Cnty. Cranberry Beggars 15
Rock Springs Ground Squirrels 9
Kent Base Ball Club # 2 10
Carriage Hill Clodbusters 7
Rochester Grangers 5
Deep River Grinders 1

The Great American Pastime by Brian Hulka

If you're at the B & O Railroad Museum on Main Street and you see a man waiting for a train, dressed in an old wool base ball uniform, don't be alarmed. It's just Richard D'Ambrisi, who plays Left Scout for the Baltimore Pastimes Base Ball Club, on his way to D. C. To play the Washington Nationals. In fact, he might think the clothes you're wearing look funny because, according to him- the year is 1863.

Richard, who is a baseball historian as well as a volunteer at the museum, creates an impression of what it was like to play for the Baltimore Pas-

times, who were formed in 1861, and are believed to be the first organized base ball club to play in Maryland. (Left Scout was the equivalent of Left Field: and in the 1860's, 'base ball' was two separate words.)

Researching and replicating the origins of baseball began as a hobby for Richard, but has quickly become a passion. He is, to his knowledge, the only man in Maryland doing a vintage baseball impression. And it's something you have to see to appreciate.

"If you research baseball history, you'll see that as much as people think baseball has changed- it really hasn't changed that much," said Richard.

After investigating at places such as the Babe Ruth Museum and the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Richard has put together an ensemble of Baltimore Pastimes apparatus- everything from the heavy wool uniforms used in those days, to a reproduction of a 'home plate' from the 1860's; (It was circular and made out of cast iron).

The Island at Bonneyville Mill by Joanna Shearer

Sunday past, the Deep River Grinders played on a unique field.

The Grinders traveled to Bristol, Indiana to meet the Elkhart County Prairie Rattlers in a vintage match. These two teams played for the first time in 1999, when they met at Oxbow Park in Dunlap, Indiana. This new field had not yet been discovered nor tested in play. Upon seeing the field, named Feedlot Field by the Prairie Rattlers, for the first time, one had trouble comprehending where all the bases and the fields were. It was not until it was pointed out to us that, indeed there were four bases and three outfields for players to cover. The interesting part was that left field was not visible! Whoever

was assigned to cover left field must first go to midfield, cross over the mill race on a wooden foot bridge, turn left and walk a short distance to

left field. Left field was an island!

Play commenced, but not before the entire Grinders

team walked over the bridge and surveyed left field. As balls were struck toward left field, one of two things happened. Either the ball landed in the Bonneyville Mill race (that's water for you non-millers) and was retrieved by a net fastened to a loooooonnggg pole or the ball cleared the water and landed on the island, where the left fielder could

catch the ball on the fly or on one bound. And with the trees also coming into play, this became the field of choice to which strikers aimed their hits.

The game was truly one in which players had fun beyond comprehension. The other point to note was that the Prairie Rattlers had a female behind, Kim "Slugger" Hicks, who repeatedly caught foul ties, leaving a few Grinder batters mumbling under their breath at the plate, some more than once. Any vintage team within playing distance of Elkhart County, Indiana, should look into contacting "Big John" Jenney of Bonneyville Mill at (219) 825-9324 for a match there in 2001. The Deep River Grinders thank the Prairie Rattlers for a most interesting game.

... "cross over the mill race on a wooden foot bridge, left field was an island."

Where's Your Favorite place to play? Let us know and you'll see your name in print

Muffin Meadow? Grinder Field? Old Bethpage? Where do you think the most interesting fields are?

Let us know. Send us a description

and possibly a photo, if you know of a unique place to play.

Don't feel like writing? How about voting? Vote for your favorite field

and cast your by sending an e-mail to Stinky Freyer at Fryorama@aol.com.

Results will be tallied in our next issue.

Base Ball in the Civil War by Allison Barash (Continued)

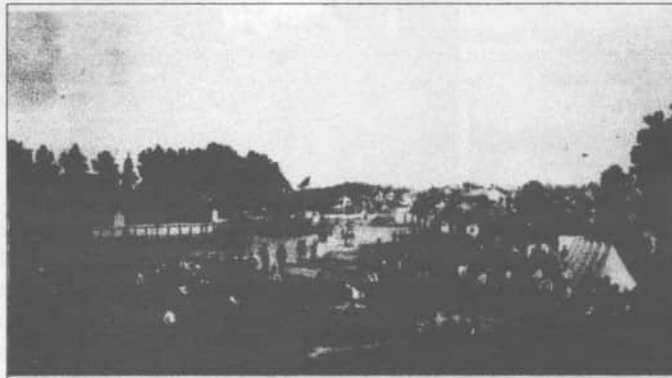
recreational purpose for these young men so far away from home. Because playing fields and proper equipment weren't readily available, baseball-playing soldiers often improvised by constructing rudimentary grounds and primitive equipment for their games. The bat may have been a barrel stave, and the ball a walnut wrapped with twine or yarn.

Thanks to the portability of the game and its equipment, it could be played just about anywhere. Legend holds that soldiers played behind the White House, and that sometimes President Abraham Lincoln and his son Tad came to watch. Lincoln, himself, is purported to have played the game back in Springfield. In 1860, when notified by a messenger that the Committee of the Chicago Convention has arrived at his home, Lincoln responded: "Tell the gentlemen, that I am glad to know of their coming; but they'll have to wait a few minutes till I make another base hit."

Determined baseball-playing soldiers literally risked their lives to play the game they loved: "It is astonishing how indifferent a person can become to danger," an Ohio private wrote home from Virginia in 1862. "The report of musketry is heard but a very little distance from us...yet over there on the other side of the road is most of our company, playing Bat Ball and perhaps in less than half an hour, they may be called to play a Ball game of a more serious nature."

George Putnam, a Union soldier, recounted playing between the lines when "suddenly there came a scattering fire of which the three outfielders caught the brunt; the center field was hit and captured, the left and right field managed to get back into our lines. The attack...was re-

pelled without serious difficulty, but we had lost not only our center field, but...the only baseball in Alexandria..."



1863 "Union Prisoners at Salisbury, NC by Otto Boetticher
1st Color Litho of Base Ball
Photo Courtesy: Transcendental Graphics

Even back in the 1860's there were potential All-Stars—early day Nolan Ryans, tom Seavers or Randy Johnsons, perhaps Private James A. Hall of the Texas Rangers (the regiment, not the major league team!) remembered: "Frank Ezell was ruled out of the game. He could throw harder and straighter than any other man in the company. He came very near knocking the stuffing out of three or four of the boys, and the boys swore they would not play with him."

Surprisingly, baseball was even permitted in certain Union and Confederate prison camps. At Johnson's Island, Ohio, confederate prisoners learned the New York game from their Northern captors. Union soldiers in Confederate prisons, like the one in Salisbury, North Carolina, taught the game to their Southern guards. Boys from the western states of Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin watched and learned.

The coming of the Civil War did not portend the end of baseball. In fact, it may have been the direct catalyst that caused it to flourish. The men

brought it with them, played it in camp, learned from each other, and then brought it back home again after the war. Those who fought against each other on battlefields during the war played with and

against each other on baseball fields after the war. Some speculate that baseball may actually have played a role in helping to heal sectional wounds during Reconstruction.

No one claims that baseball was the solution to all of the problems produced during and after the Civil War, but it unquestionably served a very important purpose for

the individual soldier. One soldier wrote that the game totally "erased from their minds the all absorbing topic of the day."

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Spalding, Albert G. (Samm Coombs and Bob West, editors), "Baseball; America's National Game," 1911 Ward Geoffrey, and Burns, Ken, "Baseball: An Illustrated History," Alfred A. Knopf Publishers, 1994
Ward, Geoffrey, Burns, Ric and Burns, Ken, "The Civil War," Random House, Inc., 1990

Editor's Note: Allison is a Psych professor by day and a rabid reader of Civil War baseball accounts, by night. She would be interested in any accounts of baseball in the Civil War, preferably first person accounts and photographs. She can be reached by e-mail at : allisonb1023@gateway.net.

The Official Grandma of Vintage Base Ball by Droopy Drawers Sampson

Vintage base ball teams are often known for their colorful player nicknames, unique uniform design, or style of play. One team, however, is probably most identified with none of these. Instead, when the Rock

Springs Ground Squirrels of Decatur, Illinois travel the first question they face upon arrival is, "Where's Grandma?"

"Grandma" is 86-year-old Ruby Longbons, whose powerful lungs and tart tongue have encouraged the Illinois team nine since 1993. From Muffin

Meadow to Grinder Field to the small towns around Decatur where the Ground Squirrels often play exhibitions, Ruby is a familiar figure. "Well, I've got to stir them on," she explains of her persistence despite heat, rain, and cold.

Recognizing her fame, Doug Smith, manager of the Ohio Village Muffins, proclaimed her "The Official Grandma of Vintage Base Ball" dur-

ing 1999's Ohio Cup Tourney. The hardest part was getting Ruby to walk out onto Muffin Meadow to receive the



Grandma Longbons receive the Official Granny Award from Muffin "Birdhouse" Smith.

award—unaware of the surprise honor, she wanted to get on to the site of the next game.

As the mother of "Honest" Harold Longbons, Ground Squirrels umpire, and the mother-in-law of both Lee Slider, who as 1860-character "Joseph Trobaugh" owns the team nine, and Karen Longbons, the team's tally-

keeper, Ruby came by her involvement with the team naturally.

At first, she was on the sidelines to encourage her family members, including grandson Matt Longbons who once played for the team. As she came to know the other players, she became a one-woman vocal incentive department, a role that goes beyond games.

"I come to just about every practice," she says. "I think they are interesting and really enjoy them. Sometimes, to tell the truth, they are more interesting than the games." It is a rare Ground Squirrel that hasn't received a verbal reproof from Ruby after a particularly awkward fielding play or swing in practice—all given and taken good-naturedly. Though time has slowed her down a bit, Ruby still takes to the crank role with vigor. And one could make book that the reign of "The Official Grandma of Vintage Base Ball" has many years to run.

Lah De Dahs Continued from Page 5

flannel knickers and tie-placket shirts, red ties, red knee stockings, and white pill-box caps with red stripes. The uniforms are quite typical of those popular in the 1880's.

Though our uniforms are better suited to the 1880's, we play by the rules of 1860. We pre-

sent the history of base ball as an example of American innovation, ingenuity, and resourcefulness, and the rules of 1860 dramatically illus-



The Lah De Dahs, looking quite naive for their team picture. Well, Lah De Dah!

trate the differences between nineteenth century and modern baseball. Also, when we began to search for opponents in 1994, we found many

more teams playing by 1860's rules than any other era's rules.

Townball is another of our historical base ball presentations. On Saturday nights in July and August the village is open late into the evening. During those extended hours we invite our visitors to participate in a game of ball the way it was played in the 1820's. Two historical presenters, dressed in period clothing of the time, set up the townball field on the village green, recruit players (it's never very difficult), explain the few rules, then each captains a team. Children and adults of all ages have played, learned, and loved it.

Continued on Page 10

"Ace's" Andersen Gets a Birthday Present by Big Bat Andersen

Saturday June 24th was a day where Lady Luck was smiling at the Muffins.

The first bit of good fortune for Aces was the list of players for the match he received from Manager Birdhouse Smith. By chance the volunteers

for the day comprised one of the strongest squads fielded this season to

face the always potent Clodbusters of Carriage Hill. With three Frias's, it would have been four if young Rudy had remembered to bring his uniform

along, (Candidate for the Nightwine award?) two Andersen's, Bennett, Nightwine, Thompson, Martin, Yontz, and Sullivan. The second bit of luck

was Captain Andersen winning the stone toss, usually a rare occurrence for

our club. Over the first four innings Mr. Bennett kept the Clodbuster bats

in check holding them to one ace while the Muffins displayed some clockwork

fielding to aid the cause. Aces always

appeared to be at the right place at the right time be it at rover or in the right field. Meanwhile the Muffins were taking advantage of their strong lineup which produced five Aces over

the same period. A four base hit by Ian Frias and a two

run double from Choo Choo Nightwine were key hits during that stretch. Big Bat hurled the 5th and 6th innings and held the Busters

scoreless. The Muffins also failed to bring in any more through the seventh, thanks in part to some fine fielding displayed by Mr. Rick Rodgers who was revolving at the third base

for Carriage Hill who arrived with only eight players. Mr. Rodgers started

a third to second to first double play as well as making several other outstanding plays. Rain started to fall at the beginning of the eighth inning as the Busters made the match close by plating three aces



before the

rain halted play for about twenty minutes. When play resumed the Muffins

responded to the challenge by scoring three aces of their own making Muffin

History in the process. Aces reached base on a hit then scored as Ian

Frias hit his second four bagger of the afternoon.

The third ace of the inning scored immediately thereafter as Fearless Frias followed his

son's

four base hit with one of his own thereby becoming the first Father/Son

combo on the Muffins to hit back to back home runs. Mr. Bennett closed out

the Clodbusters in their ninth allowing no more aces. The Muffins declined

their at bats in the ninth thereby concluding the match with the final tally being 8 - 5. It was a fine day for a fine Muffin Squad.

Letter to the Editor

BALLISTS!

When D.L. Adams called for a Base Ball Convention in 1856, he understood that to facilitate play among far-flung teams, an agreement on rules of play and rules of conduct was imperative. Yet here we are, one hundred forty-four years later, facing the same issues. The question is: Do we understand that we must have a Convention - one empowered to set the rules of play and conduct for the following season or number of seasons?

One thing Mr. Adams likely did not foresee was the boom in the game that was to happen in the 1860s. It

wasn't long before teams from the Indian Territories were requesting entry to the National Association of Base Ball Players. Organizations in the 1990s have grown in the same way. Today we have teams in Canada, and from Washington State to Florida, from Maine to Southern California. With brothers playing three thousand miles apart, we need to move forward. We need codification, a sense of unity, and a national focus to the organization. Provincialism in the 1860s was the main problem, and the same is true today. In the 1860s lower quality teams always voted for the bound rule, while higher quality said "Catch it on the fly!" The same is true today. Local

organizations, bent on maintaining an identity that would be altered by rule codification, don't want change. When teams and leagues play by a mish-mosh of rules, borrowed from this season's regulations and then another's, what do we have? Are the games historical in nature? No. These are fantasy games, concocted to highlight various rules from various times, to make the contests more colorful and Victorian. Is this good base ball? Maybe, but if you want real entertainment - play town ball! The crowds love it. It's a more creative game, and lots of fun to play. Why put on a 'historical' event when the history is incorrect? The Continued Page 10

Editorial (Continued)

Civil War reenactors don't do it. They are very attentive to accuracy in everything they wear and do. We should be the same.

This being said, I call for a National Convention to be scheduled and organized for VBBA members before the start of the 2001 season, in order to establish rules of both conduct and rules of play, to be agreed upon as standard from coast to coast, border to border. In addition I propose that three different years' rules be adopted for play. For example, playing by the Rules of 1857 could be choice one, the Rules of 1868 could be another, and the Rules of Town Ball 1855, could be the third. We would then be presenting base ball to the public that is both very entertaining (depending, of course, upon our play) and historically accurate. That sounds like a combination that can keep the organization growing for many years.

Mark Rucker

Member
Mastodon Mines Minstrels
Boulder County, Colorado

To send an editorial; e-mail John Freyer at Fryorama@aol.com.

The opinions of the editorials submitted, do not reflect the opinions of the this publication or the VBBA..

Lah De Dahs

(continued from Page 8)

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, in Dearborn, Michigan, is an indoor/outdoor museum of American history. Founded and built by Henry Ford in 1929, its exhibit space includes 12 acres under the roof of Henry Ford Museum and 80 acres outside in adjacent Greenfield

Historic Base Ball Festival at Old Bethpage Village

If you want to experience baseball the way it was meant to be played, on real grass for the love of the game, come on out to Old Bethpage Village Restoration on Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6 for the Historic Base Ball Festival. Vintage "base ball" (it was two words back then) teams from Ohio, New England, and other areas of the

country will join the Old Bethpage Village Restoration Old Time Base Ball clubs in a weekend celebration of the history of base ball.

Teams committed to date are: * From Old Bethpage Village Restoration: Mineola Washingtons, Hempstead Eurekas, Brooklyn Excelsiors, Huntington Suffolks, Westburys, Bellmore Seminoles, Glen Head Zig Zags, Cold Spring Harbor Spiders, Hicksville

Ozones, Rockville Center Observers, Sea Cliff Idlewilds * Visiting Teams: 1922 Giants, OH; NY Mutuals, NY; Elizabeth Resolutes, NJ; Mansfields, CT; Mystic Oceanics and Elm City, CT; Providence Grays, RI; Black Swamp Frogs and Clodbusters, OH. An exhibit of 19th century baseball cards and other artifacts will be on display in the lobby of the Reception

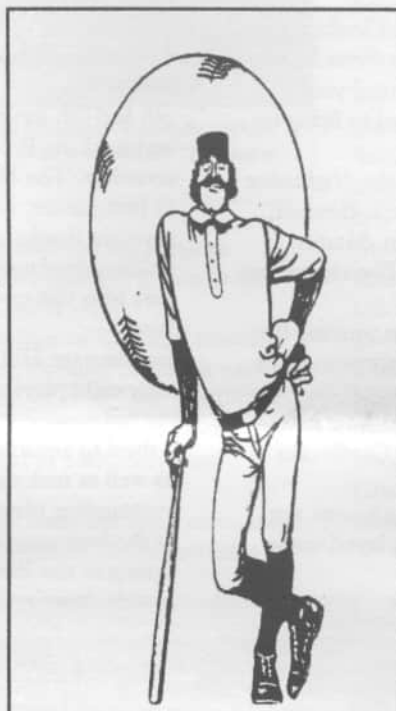
Center at Old Bethpage Village Restoration. Actual newspaper accounts of local baseball matches will also be on display along with a listing of local baseball clubs from the second half of the 19th century. Visitors can look up the colorful names of clubs from their hometown.

The game evolved and grew in

popularity in the second half of the 19th century. The yearly changes in rules, the uniforms, and the on-field appearance of the baseball demonstrate the importance of the game to 19th century Americans. The roots of baseball go back to an English children's game called rounders. Cricket and a competitive adult version of rounders called townball were early influences on baseball as well. A demonstration cricket

match is planned for the Festival, and children will be invited to join in games of rounders between baseball matches. Old Bethpage Village Restoration is located on Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage. For directions, please call 516-572-8400. Village admission is free for most

Friends' members.



Village. Our mission is to provide unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, stories, and lives from America's traditions of ingenuity, resourcefulness, and innovation. Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village is a not-for-profit

institution not affiliated with Ford Motor Company or the Ford Foundation.

For more information about the Lah-De-Dahs, please contact Tom Stoll at TomS@hfmvgv.org or (313)982-6049.

National Road Festival by Big Bat Andersen

For the second year in a row the Ohio Village Muffins were invited to participate in the National Road Festival in Addison, Pa. This year they were joined by the Columbus Capitals. Addison is about 225 miles southeast of Columbus on what is now US 40 but which was originally the

Cumberland Road and is recognized as the country's first national highway. It was also a toll road. Addison has one of the few remaining Toll Houses that were built along the road. Nearby attractions are Mt. Davis, the highest point in Pa. and the Castleman's River

Bridge in Grantsville, Maryland. It's an 80 foot stone arch span built in 1813 (largest in America when built) and used until 1933. Highlights of the weekend were Saturday and Sunday matches between the Ohio and Pennsylvania

Clubs and a Parade and cookout on Saturday. The matches were spirited with good camaraderie between the clubs and active participation by the local cranks.

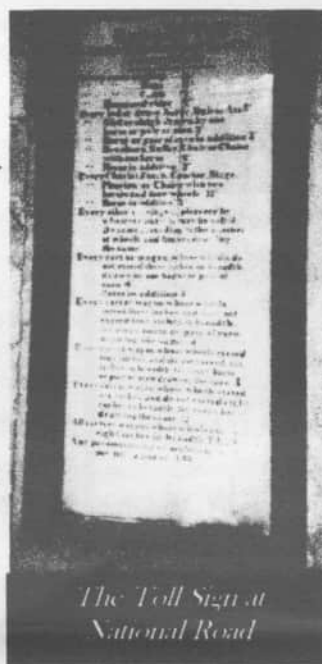
Steampower striking and clockwork fielding were displayed by all the clubs. Saturday saw the Capitals take the measure of the Addison Old Pike Boys while the Muffins prevailed in the match with the Altoona Mountain Stars. On Sunday the tables

were reversed as the Old Pike Boys soundly beat the Muffins and the Altoona Stars were victorious against the Capitals.



The Capitals and the Muffins pose for a Kodak moment.

Lefty Trudeau became the first player this season to break a finger while attempting a manly catch in left field. He is on the road to recovery and after an operation has a mechanical device on his knuckle that allows him to adjust the position of his finger so he can still continue to make those great Phoenix Bats!



The Toll Sign at National Road

After the Saturday matches we lined up for the Parade through the center of

town. The parade route conveniently ended at a local tavern where both teams regaled each other with vintage base ball stories while sampling local vintage ales. That evening at the cookout the Muffins were awarded a trophy for being the "Best Non-performing" unit in the parade. They vowed that next year they are going to move up in class by sing-

ing the Muffin Song as they march.

As is always the case when you go on the road in Vintage Base Ball, a good time was had by all. We will be looking forward to the Pennsylvania clubs appearance at the Ohio Cup Festival in September.

First Game in Oregon (Continued from Page 2)

CLACKAMAS NINE	O.	R.	PIONEER NINE	O.	R.
Randall, C.....	0	8	Witherell, 1st b.....	4	9
Pope, P.....	.4	6	Miner, C.....	2	9
Shepherd, 1st b.....	3	6	Steel, c.f.....	2	8
Bridges, s.s.....	.3	3	Upton, s.s.....	2	8
Hartling, l.f.....	4	4	Wadhams, 2d b.....	3	7
Barclay, 3d b.....	.4	4	Quackenbush, P.....	4	8
Zigler, r.f.....	2	5	Konchtell, l.f.....	1	11
Mason, c.f.....	3	4	Huff, r.f.....	5	8
Charman, 2d b.....	4	5	Warren, 3d b.....	3	9

Clackamas Nine.....2 / 7 / 4 / 6 / 1 / 1 / 3 / 11 / 10 - 45
Pioneer Nine.....20 / 22 / 8 / 7 / 8 / 6 / 6 / 0 / 0 - 77

Umpire - Mr. Anderson
Scorer - Mr. Lowins
Time of Game - Two hours and forty minutes
Flycatches - Clackamas, 7; Pioneer, 3
Outs on Fouls - Clackamas, 7; Pioneer, 4



Vintage Base Ball Association
Communications Committee
John Freyer
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CONTRIBUTORS

"Stinky" Freyer
"Capt'n" Heppner
"Doc" Lawson
"Foots" Walker
"Deano" Thilgen
"Flawless" Shearer
"Big Bat" Andersen
"Sweet Cakes"
Weaver
"Droopy Drawers"
Sampson

"Birdhouse" Smith
Gordon Olson
Henry Chadwick
John Wells
Allison Caveglia
Barash
Anne Haines
Richard D'Ambrisi
Tom Stoll
Mark Rucker
Brian Hulka

Look For Your
Next Issue in
October

Known Vintage Base Ball Teams

Arkansas
Fayetteville Roysters

California
Pacifica BBC

Canada
Woodstock, Ontario Actives #

Colorado
Broomfield Sweepers #
Broomfield Swans
Littleton Rough and Readies
Colorado Vintage Base Ball Assoc. *
Denver Pacifics
Central City Stars
Colorado Territorial All Stars
Colorado Lady Columbines
Denver Blue Stockings
Mastodon Mine Minstrels

Connecticut
Middletown Mansfields *
Mystic Oceanics *
New Haven Elm Citys
Hartford Dark Blues

Florida
Dunedin Railers *
Largo Crackers *
Tampa BBC

Georgia
Westville Craftsmen & Biscuits #

Iowa
Ghost Ballplayers
Walnut Hill Blue Stockings

Illinois
Mackville Mudcats #
Chicago Salmon
Rock Springs Ground Squirrels *
Chicago Knights

Indiana
Deep River Grinders *
Indianapolis Freetowns
Door Village Prairie Dogs
Elkhart County Prairie Rattlers
Conner Prairie BBC #

Michigan
Berrien County Cranberry Boggess *
Greenfield Village Lah De Dahs *
Kent Base Ball Club *
Ludington Mariners *
Salt City Base Ball Club *
Rochester Grangers *

Minnesota Vintage Base Ball Assoc.
Saint Croix Base Ball Club *
Quicksteps Base Ball Club #
Roosters BBC *
Winona Lumber Barons

Nebraska Vintage Base Ball Assoc.
Railroad Town Roadies #
Ord Tigers
Fort Hartstuff Company C

Platteville Valley Bugeaters

New Jersey
Elizabeth Resolutes #

New Mexico
Albuquerque Telegraphers #
Ft. Bayard Centennial Assoc.
Ft. Seldon Leasburg Boys

New York
Old Bethpage Program*
Brooklyn Excelsiors
Cold Spring Spiders
Glen Head Zig Zags
Hempstead Eurekas
Hicksville Ozones
Rockville Centre Observers
Sea Cliff Idlewilds
Bellmore Seminoles
Mineola Washingtons
Huntington Suffolks
Westbury Base Ball Club
Cooperstown Leather Stockings
New York Mutuals #
Freeport Athletics
Brooklyn Atlantics *
Syracuse Stars

Ohio
Akron Black Stockings *
Summit Merinos*
Lorain County Buckeyes *
Aurora Base Ball Club
Forest Citys Base Ball Club *
Canal Fulton Mules *
Hoover Sweepers *
Sharon Woods Shamrocks *
Ohio Village Muffins *
Columbus Capitals *
Preble Aces *

1922 Giants *
Lake County Pirates *
Middletown Laurels
Carriage Hill Clodbusters *
Pember Villains
Newtown Barnstormers
Sycamore Grasshoppers *
Great Black Swamp Frogs *
Piqua Sterlings#
Canal Dover Red Legs
Big Ditch Boys

Rhode Island
1884 Providence Grays
Bristol Blues

Texas
Ft. Davis Base Ball Club
Ft. Bliss Cannonballs #
Ft. Concho Base Ball club

Utah
Salt Lake City Base Ball Club #

Virginia
Charlottesville Ragga Muffins

West Virginia
Parkersburg Base Ball Club

Wyoming
Laramie Lawmen

Looking for Teams

If you know of a team not on this list,
please pass along any information to:
John Freyer e-mail: Fryorama@aol.com

* Indicates member of VBB A

Indicates associate member