

# The Base Ball Player's

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A Quarterly Publication of the Vintage Base Ball Association

## Baseball's Earliest Rules? by David Block

### Today's Trivia Quiz:

When, where and by whom were the first rules of baseball published?

- a. 1845 in New York by Alexander Cartwright (or Doc Adams)
- b. 1839 in Cooperstown by Abner Doubleday
- c. 1834 in Boston by Robin Carver
- d. 1828 in London by William Clarke
- e. none of the above

The answer? Would you be surprised to learn that the earliest printed rules for baseball predate all of the above answers by more than 30 years? Would you believe 1796? Even more surprising is the location. Not in the infant United States where George Washington was delivering his farewell address. Not even in England which was watching nervously as Napoleon's army moved against Austria and Italy. How about that heartland of baseball, the tiny hamlet of Schnepfenthal in the Duchy of Gotha? It's true. Many years before the first rules of baseball appeared in English, German youth, parents and educators were reading about "das englische Base-ball."

The source of these rules is a wonderfully detailed book on games and sports by the German physical education pioneer Johann Christoph Friedrich Guts Muths. To be sure, the early brand of baseball described by Guts Muths is somewhat primitive, and only partly resembles the modern game.

However, his surprisingly detailed seven page description presents a vivid and previously unknown picture of baseball at an early evolutionary moment.

Guts Muths entitled the game "*Ball mit Freystäten (oder das englische Base-ball)*," which literally translates to "ball with free station, or English base-ball." Even though the book was intended for a German audience, there is no indication that the game was actually played in Germany. However, the fact that Guts Muths, working from a small town in central Germany, was familiar enough with baseball to include it in his book suggests that the game was already well established in England.

The version of baseball described by Guts Muths contains some features that have changed considerably over the years. For example, the bat is only two feet long and oddly shaped, the number of bases varies with the number of players, and the batting team is entitled to only one out before the side is retired. Nevertheless, at its core, *das englische Base-ball* is very familiar. A pitcher serves to a batter who has three attempts to put the ball in play. Once striking the ball, the batter runs counterclockwise from base to base as far as possible without being put out. His objective is to complete a circuit of the



VINTAGE  
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## Proposed Amendments to the VBBA Constitution

Though there is a lot of information within, I will try to give a thumbnail sketch of what was proposed at the 2002 Convention in London, Ontario. Items with a line through it will be eliminated from content and items with double lines will be added.

Below are some of the highlights. Look for your ballots in the mail and please vote. -jf

### Article I

**Section 2:** The Association is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio, 1702 et seq., and provision 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, et seq.

**Section 3:** The principle offices of the Association shall be the Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43211.

### Article III: Membership

**Section 1.** Membership in the Association shall be open to any vintage base ball club or individual interested in

the purposes of the Association upon the payment of dues.

### Article III Section 2-C.

It must present itself on the field of play in a set of appropriate uniforms authentic to the mid-nineteenth century period or other historic era being portrayed;

### Section 4. Membership shall be

terminated for non-payment of dues or upon written resignation to the Secretary of the Association. The right to vote and all rights, title and interest in the Association shall cease upon termination of membership. No individual or club shall be entitled to share in the distribution of the assets of the Association upon its dissolution.

### Article V: Executive Commit-

tee

**Section 1.** The business of the Association shall be conducted by an Executive Committee composed of the following officers:

President  
Vice President  
(President Elect)

Secretary  
Treasurer  
Historian

A. Past President

**Six (6) Trustees**

### Article VI: Committees

**Section 2.** The chair of each committee will have the authority and right to form sub-committees and appoint sub-committee chairs as deemed necessary with approval of the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** There shall be five standing committees:

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer,

CONTINUED PAGE 3  
Secretary, Historian and

## Do you enjoy the Newsletter? Join the VBBA

The VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION needs your support. The cost to continue printing this newsletter comes from membership fees.

The VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION exists to try to educate fans about the origins of America's Game.

The VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION is trying to expand the sports' focus, by using tools like the Newsletter

and the VBBA Website (www.vbba.com) to further communicate the "Glory of the Game."

Individual Membership costs only \$10 per year, which includes four issues of the Base Ball Player's Player Chronicle. Even if you play for a team, join as an individual and help support our cause.

Just starting a team? Become an Associate member: it's only \$35 per

year.

Have an established team? Become a Full Member and help us push the VBBA to the next level. Full Membership is only \$50 per year.

Make checks or money orders out to the Vintage Base Ball Association. Mail to the Treasurer of the VBBA: John Wells 40 Winthrop Columbus OH 43214

## Hartford Vintage Base Ball Invitational 2002

This year's third annual Hartford Vintage Base Ball Invitational was held over the July 5-7 holiday weekend with 13 clubs participating representing era brackets of 1861 and 1889.

Played in downtown Hartford's spectacular Bushnell Park setting, the tournament attracted nearly 15,000 spectators throughout the three-day event including a staff photographer from Sports Illustrated for a possible upcoming feature, a host of television and newspaper media and a film crew from AT&T Cable who will present the tournament with a special programming feature to 2.5 million households in August.

Clubs for the 1861 bracket included: Cincinnati Red Stockings, Elizabeth Resolutes, Flemington Neshanock, New York

City Gothams, Rochester's, Bristol Blues, Mystic Oceanics, Hartford Dark Blues, Middletown Mansfields and Melrose Pondfeilders.

Clubs for the 1889 bracket include: Hartford Senators, Providence Grays and Homestead Grays.

In front of a Sunday championship game day crowd that attracted nearly 5,000 spectators throughout the day, the 1861 Capitol City Cup championship trophy went to first-year club Melrose Pondfeilders of Massachusetts as they defeated another first-year club, Flemington Neshanock, 6-4.

The upset of the tournament occurred in the 1889 Capitol City Cup championship as the Providence Grays beat the Hartford

Senators 10-8 in a game that featured homeruns, diving catches and superb fielding plays. Hartford had defeated Providence soundly on Friday and Saturday by 14-6 and 23-7 scores.

Players, friends and family were treated to a Friday evening party at the Pump House Grille in Bushnell Park and also enjoyed access throughout into the private Players Hospitality Tent in right field.

A local barber shop quartet sang the National Anthem, God Bless America and Take Me Out To The Ballgame at several junctures during the tournament. On Saturday evening, everyone was entertained by Hartford's fireworks show along the Connecticut River in Downtown.

## Proposed Amendments (Cont.)

Trustees. The committee shall meet a minimum of twice yearly and shall address issues dealing with the ongoing operation (administrative and financial) of the Association. The President shall serve as chair.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of the President Elect, President, Vice-President and Past President, will facilitate the annual election of officers by presenting a slate of candidates for consideration prior to the annual convention. The chair will be appointed by the President; members will be appointed by the chair.

The Education & Interpretation Committee shall address all areas of education and interpretation as it pertains to the Association, member clubs and vintage base ball in general.

The committee will be responsible for fostering the development of prospective clubs.

The Public Relations Communications Committee shall address all matters of communication for the Association, both internally and externally. The committee will oversee the needs and content of the newsletter of the

Association, its internet presence, as well as printed and visual materials related to the Association (e.g., brochures, flyers, letterhead, logo, etc.) The Membership Committee shall address all matters of membership on behalf of the Association. The committee shall address issues of recruitment, retention and membership benefits. The committee will also assist the host site with planning, arranging and operating the annual convention. The chair will be appointed by the President; members will be appointed by the chair.  
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## Ground Squirrels Simmer and Split in Hannibal Round Robin

Jan "Hayloft" Loftus sliced a bound out to left field in the final inning Saturday, sending Chris "Cajun" Dettro scampering across home base and salvaging a split for the Rock Springs Ground Squirrels in a round robin vintage base ball exhibition in Hannibal, MO. Dettro's ace gave the Decatur team nine 4-3 win over the Washington (MO) Eagles after a 14-2 loss to the New York Mutuals, leaving the Ground Squirrels at 7-2 for the season.

In the game of vintage base ball--played with the rules, equipment and uniforms of the 1860 era--a ball caught by a fielder on one bound is an out but the runners may advance at their own risk. Loftus's bound out proved to be the most important and most productive sacrifice of the day for the heat-stressed Ground Squirrels.

The three-team exhibition was part of the National Tom Sawyer Days Festival held annually in Mark Twain's hometown. Temperatures soared at Clemens Field, a stone-walled complex on the south edge of downtown Hannibal where the day's contests were played. The only relatively cool place was found high in the confines of the concrete grandstand that overlooks the diamond. Ground Squirrels' behind Diana "Shameless" Warrick noted that the high stone wall surrounding the site which served as a POW camp in World War II "holds the heat well," which perhaps explains why she stepped onto the field without having her uniform shirt fully buttoned, leading to a 25-cent fine from umpire "Honest" Harold Longbons. Noted for his sense of propriety, Longbons quickly assessed another 25-cent fine against Larry "Root Hog" Crisler when the third baseman uttered "inappropriate" remarks concerning Warrick's state of undress.

Remarks were about the only things the Ground Squirrels could throw and the tallykeeper's fine box the only thing they could hit in the contest with the New York Mutuals. A

few years ago, the Smithsonian magazine published a cover story on the vintage base ball program at Old Beth Page Village park on Long Island, NY, a place where a number of leagues play highly competitive matches with the rules of the late 19th Century.

The Mutuals are an all-star squad from that program and Hannibal was the last stop on a long, barnstorming tour through the Midwest.

After walloping the Eagles 17-3 in the day's first contest, the Mutuals enjoyed steamed squirrel for their next course. Although your correspondent has observed the vintage game played in numerous locations and states over the past decade, he must confess that the style manifested by the Long Islanders was as unique as it was overpowering. Aggressive seems a paltry and weak adjective to apply to the Mutuals method of play, particularly on the base paths. A split-second's hesitation by a Ground Squirrels fielder resulted in a speedy Mutual taking an extra base or two. The New York hurler offered snappy underhand tosses with little pause between pitches and the ball brought by the Mutuals had more bounce in it than the typical State of Illinois check in these times. However, even if the Mutuals had adopted the hurling style and the ball favored in the Midwest vintage game, the all-star squad would have encountered little difficulty in soundly shellacking the Illinois and Missouri team nines. Man for man, the Mutuals team nine was the most athletically-gifted this correspondent has ever seen on a vintage field and hopes never to see again unless the team is wearing the Ground Squirrels' blue and white colors. The details of the thrashing betray the completeness of the Mutuals' win.

The New Yorkers scored three tallies in their first at-bat, added five in the second inning, four in the sixth and two in the seventh, punctuating the rallies with extra-base hits and blazing speed. The Ground Squirrels did not record a hit until Ralph "Poco Loco" Graczyk's fourth-inning double. In the sixth, the Decatur team nine managed to score a run on hits by Robert "Paydirt" Grindy, Bob "Droopy Drawers" Sampson, "Hayloft" Loftus, and Graczyk. Another tally was added in the seventh when "Shameless" Warrick hit safely and then scored on hits by "Gentle" Ben Loftus, Crisler, and Doug "Pappy" Dowell.

Although the Ground Squirrels defeated the Eagles 22-6 on June 15 at Washington, the meeting of the two Saturday in Hannibal featured a different script. Both team nines seemed likely to fall before the heat and humidity as surely as they had to the Mutuals. If anything, the Eagles had the advantage of a 90-minute break between their contests, while the Ground Squirrels had about 15 minutes to lie in the shade and hide their ruddy faces behind cold cloths. Ground Squirrels' bats remained cold, however, as the team failed to tally three baserunners in the first inning and went down in order in the second. Sampson led off the third with a single, advancing and tallying on hits by Graczyk and "Shameless" Warrick. Graczyk also recorded an ace, giving the Ground Squirrels a 2-0 lead. In the sixth, the Eagles rang the tally bell for the first time and the Ground Squirrels answered with one in their portion of the inning. "Gentle" Ben Loftus hit safely and scored on successful strikes by Crisler and Clarence "Mad Dog" Landers. In the top of the seventh, however, the Ground Squirrels infield was struck by a strange and contagious malady that turned

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# Historic Jefferson College Needs Two Teams

Historic Jefferson College in Washington, Mississippi is seeking teams to play in their annual vintage base ball game. It will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2002.

Rooms in our local Days Inn will be provided to the first two teams to sign up. Ten rooms with 5 rooms for each team. Lunch will be provided the day of the game. For more information see below: e-mail [hjc@bkbkbank.com](mailto:hjc@bkbkbank.com)

Phone calls should be made between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. central time

Wed. - Saturday.

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H. Clark Burkett, Historian II  
Historic Jefferson College  
P. O. Box 700  
Washington, MS 39190  
Fax: 601-442-2902  
Telephone: 601-442-2901

## SWEEPERS BREAK HEARTS BATS AND BONES AT THE LEDGES

By Ann Haines

The true spirit of base ball was displayed by the gentlemen of the Hoover Sweepers and the Akron Black Stockings in a meadow at The Ledges in Cuyahoga Falls on Sunday, August 4. Players sweltered in a meadow with no trees for shade and respite from the heat.

The Sweepers broke the hearts of their competitors as they left the Black Stockings lead of 5-0 of the first two innings in the chalk dust as they feverishly played to take the lead and chalk a final winning tally of 13-9!

The victory assessed the Sweepers a broken bat and two injuries that will possibly short them two players for the remainder of the season. "Babe" Vander pulled a calf muscle in the second inning and hobbled to the sidelines which will likely remain his vantage point for the remainder of the season. He won't be alone, however, as "Beetle" Bailey will keep him company as he mends a broken collar bone.

Beetle's injury brought a chilling experience to the sweat-covered ballists. Sometime in the second or third inning, with his avid spirit, he dove for a ball and by all accounts he was hit in the head and seemed dazed, when actually he was down from the effects of what he thought was a dislocation of his shoulder. All the players scrambled to his side and the intense heat of the sun was no longer the issue of focus. Everyone was concerned for "Beetle's" well-being. Paramedics were called and a trip to the hospital brought him the true diagnosis of the broken collar bone.

With the interruption of "Beetle's" injury, it took one hour to play three innings, and the Sweepers' mission to win the competition became intensified. "Hayseed" McElroy said, "Capt. 'Lightning' Cross played a great game! Sweeper sub, Luke 'The Duke' hit three for three and scored twice! 'Brother' Brother's son Ian filled in on the Sweepers' roster and hit a home run!" And sometime throughout the 9-inning competition, when the

Black Stockings' hurler's ball met the bat of an intensely-striking "Sweeper," ("King" Fisher) the crack of the bat resulted in a broken bat!

A new bat will be made, the cramped muscle and the collar bone will heal and the record of the Hoover Sweepers victory over the Black Stockings will, thus far, remain the Sweepers' fifth victory of the season with only one defeat for the 2002 season!

Editor's note: "Beetle" phoned the Center the day following his injury with apologies that his shirt was cut off of him by the paramedics, and "could I possibly get another shirt to wear? Even if I can't play, I want to dress for the remainder of the scheduled competitions!" Never let it be said, that our Hoover Sweepers lack spirit and love of this great American pastime! The Center wishes "Beetle" and "Babe" swift and smooth recoveries!

## SIMMERING SQUIRRELS (CONT.)

hands to stone and throwing arms to unreliable instruments. When the dust settled and the errors were tallied, the Eagles had tied the game with two aces, setting up "Hayloft" Loftus's sacrifice bound in the seventh. As luck would have it, the batters due up for the Ground Squirrels included some of the oldest--and slowest--base ballists. Grindy--not in the aforementioned category--led off with a single but was forced at second on Dettro's hit.

Sampson slapped a line drive into left field and upon reaching second looked up to observe Dettro dashing toward third base. Hoping to draw a throw, the reputed slowest man in vintage base ball lumbered toward second base and the Eagles were so dumb-founded by the audacity and snail-like progress of the dash that they retained the ball and all hands were safe. Loftus's bound out was deep enough in

left for Dettro to easily score, ending the game

The Ground Squirrels were happy to emerge with a win, although several were 25 cents poorer as umpire "Seldom Sober" Morrow went on a fining rampage during the contest, even threatening to fine one Decatur striker for not stepping to the line quickly enough to suit the arbiter's pleasure.

## Recollections of the Hartford Tournament by Brooklyn Shaw

The 2002 Hartford Vintage Base Ball Tournament held on July 4th, 5th and 6th was a wonderful spectacle of excellent base ball, enthusiastic cranks and great teams. The City of Hartford was an accommodating host and the weather was terrific; sunny and cool. If not for the smoke from the wildfires in Canada, which affected us mostly on Sunday, the weather would have been spectacular.

The weekend was superb as my team, the Flemington Neshanock, and our families enjoyed Bushnell Park with its landscaped grassy areas, Carousel and base ball related concessions. I'd like to give some personal observations of the tournament and Hartford in general.

Last year, there was only one field at Bushnell Park. All other games were held at Trinity College, about two miles from Bushnell. Though the fields there were excellent, it was like being sent to the minors, with very few cranks and very little attention. This year, they tried to bring more action to the center of town and added another field to Bushnell. My team played its first three games on this diamond (?) which we dubbed the "Skinny Field".

To fit the field in the desired space, they had to elongate it a bit. The bases were about 90' apart (someone told me they were 85'), but at such strange angles, that rounding first in a normal manner would bring you somewhere in the middle of the pitcher's position and second base. (A crank asked me, "Did ALL the fields look like this in 1861?") I saw someone overrun first (remember, not allowed in 1861) by about twenty feet, make a left turn, and wind up at second, only a few steps

away. Balls hit up the middle were usually fielded by the third baseman, the shortstop and second baseman were only needed to take throws to second. Stealing second was easy because it was about 400' feet from the catcher. Stealing third was almost impossible. The center-fielder was also redundant, with the left and right fielders very capable of handling all the out-field duties.

However, with all of its intricacies, I think I liked playing in Bushnell on that field with the heightened attention, than I did at Trinity College. Huzzah to the organizers on a good try, but next year maybe you can try to angle it a little differently and widen the field a bit.

Being in the middle of a city, you get some interesting characters roaming around. Bushnell Park was no different. In one game, after hurling three in a row not to the striker's liking, a very loud (and a little (strange) crank yelled about 10 times "C'mon, what are you afraid of? Get it over the plate". He was able to say it 10 times because I was laughing too hard to pitch after the first three. In another game, a shirtless (and also strange) crank tried to catch a high foul ball hit right at him beyond third. He settled under it (as the third baseman and left fielder ran full speed in his direction), the ball went through his hands, hit him square on top of the head, bounced once on the ground and then was caught by the leftfielder. "Striker is out", the umpire correctly called. The man, apparently none the worse from the beaning, wandered aimlessly away.

Hartford is a great little city (I'm from New York), with terrific restaurants. If you go there next

year, try City Steam, a brewery and restaurant situated in an old department store. An interesting atmosphere with good food and beer. Another great place is the Trumbull Kitchen, which serves what I can only describe as American Dim Sum. Noodle dishes, interesting pizzas and other appetizers that are a little unusual and taste great.

My nine, the Flemington Neshanock, was lucky enough to make it to the 1861 Championship game on Sunday. The game was a lot of fun with much fanfare and many cranks lining the field and in the stands. I found myself a little nervous as the game was about to begin. When the game started, the nervousness left me and I went about the joyous task of trying to win the coveted Capital City Cup. Though we lost to the splendid and extremely skilled Melrose Pondfielders 6-3, I thoroughly enjoyed the entire weekend and look forward to returning next year for another crack at the Cup and those Massachusetts ballists. (Hey, they probably won't win another championship for 90 years...just like the Red Sox!)

Huzzah to all the teams and the fine ballists at this year's tournament! Huzzah to the organizers for staging this worthy and enjoyable venue for Vintage Base Ball. I hope it gets bigger and better in the coming years.

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## Earliest Baseball Rules (Cont.)

bases and return to home. Outs are recorded by CONTINUED PAGE 7 catching the ball, touching the runner with the ball, or throwing to a base.

Dimensions and scale of *das englische Base-ball* were smaller than in today's game. The pitcher stood only five or six steps from the batter and lobbed the ball in an arc. The bases were 10 to 15 paces apart, and the short bat had a four inch flat face at the hitting end. Home base was an area rather than a specific spot, and apparently all players from the hitting team gathered there, not just the individual who was batting.

However, as strange as they seem, the features described by Guts Muths are generally consistent with the few other known descriptions of early baseball. These, of course, all preceded the introduction of the "modern" Knickerbocker rules in 1845, and can be summarized as follows:

--The description of *La balle empoisonnée* (poisoned ball) which first appeared in the French book *Les Jeux des Jeunes Garçons* about 1815. This variety of early baseball also had the entire batting team standing at home plate, and featured "one out, all out." Unlike *das englische Base-ball*, the number of bases was limited to four. Baserunners could be retired by being struck with the ball (the poisoned ball). This feature, also known as "soaking," was common to all versions of early baseball prior to 1845.

--Portrayal of the game Rounders in William Clarke's *The Boy's Own Book*, second London edition, 1828. This was the first description of a base-

ball-like game to appear in English. It introduced the diamond shaped layout of the four bases. Baserunners, however, ran in a clockwise direction. Similar to *das englische Base-ball*, the pitcher stood close to the batter and lobbed the ball. A team batted until all its players made out.

--Description of "base or goal ball" published in Boston by Robin Carver in *The Book of Sports*, 1834. These rules were cloned from Clarke's depiction of Rounders. After being re-edited, this description appeared again the following year in the children's chapbook *The Boy's Book of Sports*, under the heading "base-ball," with the notable change that baserunners ran counterclockwise. Both books featured a woodcut illustration of children playing ball on the Boston Common. The image shows a tiny bat similar in length to the one described in *das englische Base-ball*.

--Purported observation of Native Americans playing a game similar to baseball which appeared in the fictional work *Female Robinson Crusoe* published in New York in 1837. This detailed account is the earliest portrayal of a bat and ball baserunning game that is of uniquely American origin.

Taken together, these various descriptions reveal early baseball as a work in progress. From the appearance of Guts Muths' rules in 1796 to the Knickerbocker rules in the 1840's, the game went through a process of refinement and standardization. Some colorful features were dropped altogether. For example, one quirky rule in both *das englische Base-ball* and *La balle empoisonnée* allowed the batting team, after making out, to retain their bats. All they had to do was

run onto the field, grab the ball, and then either tag or throw the ball at one of the fielders before the team was able to get off the playing field. Of course, the defenders, if the victim of this maneuver, then had the opportunity to return the favor to the batting team before they made it back to the home plate area, and so on. Guts Muths clearly enjoyed this feature of baseball. He said: "In this way a fun, short-lived fight ensues, and the team that wins at the end is the one that has the last throw. This is the reason why, when one catches the ball, one must throw it backwards, and why when one burns or touches a runner for an out, the ball must be thrown such that no one from the opposing team can grab it and thus throw it again."

But while this feature has been long forgotten, other aspects of *das Englische base-ball* are curiously familiar. For example, consider this passage from the rules regarding baserunning (keeping in mind that the number of bases often exceeded four): "When several hitters have already hit and run, then several bases are occupied. Let us assume that this is the case with bases 3 and 4. Thus it sometimes happens that when a new hit occurs, the person on 3 runs further, whereas the person on 4 stands still (either due to inattentiveness or because the serving team is too near to him with the ball) the result of which is that two people are standing on base 4. This once again calls for the order of the game: there can only be one person at one base at any time. If, in this case, the person at base 4 does not quickly run to base 5, or if the recently arrived runner does not return to base 3, then the best positioned member of the serving team in possession of

## The Etymology of the Word, Huzzah!!! Compiled by Deano Thilgen

This is the modern listing from M-W:

**Main Entry:** *huz-zah*  
**Variant(s):** or *huz.za* /(")h&-zā/  
**Function:** noun  
**Etymology:** origin unknown  
**Date:** 1573

: an expression or shout of acclaim — often used interjectionally to express joy or approbation

My 1869 dictionary lists this:  
**Huz-zā**, *interj.* expressing joy or exultation.—*n.* A shout of joy.—*v. i.* (137) To shout in joy.

The age-old question is how does huzzah differ from hurrah. *The Watchdog* magazine once published an article on this question, but I am still looking for a copy.

My copy of Langenscheidt says Hurra in German is Hurrah in English.

A current theory is the word "Hussar" --- my 1869 dictionary says it is a mounted soldier. If I lived during Medieval times and I saw a mounted soldier I would shout Hussar! The only problem is that the modern M-W provides an etymology... it comes from the Hungarian word and was applied to the 15th century Hungarian light cavalry.

Now my old friend Bartleby.com

has become a help.... <http://www.bartleby.com/81/8650.html>

From:  
 E. Cobham Brewer 1810-1897.  
 Dictionary of Phrase and Fable. 1898.

Huzza!

Old French, *huzzer*, "to shout aloud;" German, *hussah!* (See HURRAH.) 1

And that is: <http://www.bartleby.com/81/8633.html>  
 Hurrah',

the Hebrew \??\ Our "Old Hundredth Psalm" begins with "Shout joyfully [hurrah] to Jehovah!" The word is also of not uncommon occurrence in other psalms. See *Notes and Queries*, October 16th, 1880. (Norwegian and Danish, *hurra!*) (See HUZZA.) 1 The Norman battle-cry was "Ha Rollo!" or "Ha Rou!" (French, *huzzer*, to shout aloud; Russian, *hoera* and *hoezee*.) 2 "The Saxon cry of 'Out! Out, Holy Cross!' rose high above the Norman sound of 'Ha Rou! Ha Rou, Notre Dame!'"—*Lord Lytton: Harold*, book xii. chap. 8.

Wace (*Chronicle*) tells us that *Tur aie* (Thor aid) was the battle cry of the Northmen. 3

Then we keep going: <http://www.bartleby.com/81/8296.html>

html

Hip! Hip! Hurrah!

Hip is said to be a notarica, composed of the initial letters of *Hierosolyma Est Per'dita*. Henri van Laun says, in *Notes and Queries*, that whenever the German knights headed a Jew-hunt in the Middle Ages, they ran shouting "Hip! Hip!" as much as to say "Jerusalem is destroyed." (See NOTARICA.) 1 Timbs derives Hurrah from the Slavonic *hù-raj* (to Paradise), so that *Hip! hip! hurrah!* would mean "Jerusalem is lost to the infidel, and we are on the road to Paradise." These etymons may be taken for what they are worth. The word *hurrah!* is a German exclamation also. 2 "Now, infidel, I have thee on the hip" (*Merchant of Venice*); and again, "I'll have our Michael Cassio on the hip" (*Othello*), to have the whip hand of one. The term is derived from wrestlers, who seize the adversary by the hip and throw him. 3

"In fine he doth apply one special drift, Which was to get the pagan on the hip, And having caught him right, he doth him lift my nimble sleight, and in such wise doth trip, That down he threw him." *Sir J. Harington*.

That entry puts a whole new spin on things...

## Proposed Amendments (Cont.)

**Section 2.** Therefore **Thereafter**, amendments proposed by member clubs must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of votes by the member clubs **present at the annual meeting**, with each club eligi-

ble to cast two votes.

Adopted February 11, 1996  
 Corrected February 23, 1996  
 Amended February 9, 1997  
**Proposed April 1, 2001**

Again, if you have not received your ballot by the time you have received the newsletter, please contact:  
 Stinky at [Fryorama@aol.com](mailto:Fryorama@aol.com).

I will make sure that you get the proper balloting and full set of changes.



## Earliest Baseball Rules? (Cont.)

the ball can run toward them and either touch one of the individuals or burn one of them  
CONTINUED PAGE 9 in  
the manner described above, in  
which case the at bat is lost."

The title of the book containing *das englische Base-ball* is a mouthful in any language: *Spiele zur Uebung und Erholung des Körpers und Geistes für die Jugend, ihre Erzieher und alle Freunde Unschuldiger Jugendfreuden*. This roughly translates as: *Games for the Exercise and Recreation of Body and Spirit for the Youth and His Educator and All Friends of Innocent Joys of Youth*.

The 492 page book also includes coverage of many other ball games and youth activities, including a lengthy description of *das Deutches ballspiele* or "the German ball game," a cousin of baseball, also known as *ball-stock*. The German ball game was popular in the late 18th century, and while it continued to be played through the mid-1800's, it is now apparently extinct. Guts Muths dwelt on the relative merits of *das englische Base-ball* and the German ball game. He said English baseball "is smaller in scale and requires less strength in hitting, running, etc. At the same time, it demands an equal amount, if not more, attentiveness, and is much more bound by numerous small rules." He observed, "The German ball game will never be able to fully repress English base-ball, as pleasant as ours may be." Anybody keeping statistics on under-

statements?

Guts Muths went so far as to devote a separate short chapter to promote his ideas for an improved hybrid game that would "unite both forms." He said it would be based upon the superior rules of English baseball, but would adapt the longer, stronger bat of the German ball game so that the ball could be hit with greater power. He also recommended, in addition to a home base, a fixed layout of four bases arranged in a square pattern. (In fact, his proposal is similar to later Rounders and town ball configurations.) He believed these improvements would make the game more appealing to German players.

### Baseball, Rounders and Robert W. Henderson

While uncertainties remain about baseball's complex evolution, the discovery of Guts Muths' rules helps untangle one major misconception. Many of the game's historians, from Henry Chadwick to the present day, have postulated that baseball descended from the old English game of *Rounders*. Chadwick, who was born in 1824 in the town of Exeter in western England, recalled playing Rounders as a child. Because baseball reminded him of his childhood pastime, he naturally concluded that Rounders was the ancestor of the American game. Beginning in 1860, Chadwick included his baseball-from-Rounders theory in virtually every one of the innumerable

writings on baseball he produced over the next 40 years.

Of course, it was this "un-American" theory that provoked Albert Spalding into convening the Mills Commission, which ultimately saddled us with the Doubleday myth. Then in 1939, New York librarian and pioneer baseball researcher Robert W. Henderson, in his essay "Baseball and Rounders," disproved the Doubleday fiction. Using sources such as the 1828 rules for Rounders that appeared in *The Boy's Own Book*, he demonstrated conclusively that baseball derived from that particular old English game. Or did he? While most baseball historians since Henderson have repeated the baseball-from-Rounders theory, few have conducted fresh research on the subject.

Let's take a closer look at what Henderson actually uncovered. In his "Summary: How Baseball Developed" he said research showed that a children's "bat-and-ball base-circulating game" called *base-ball* emerged in England in the early 18th century. "It continued to be played, and be called base-ball until well after 1800." He said that the game was also introduced in America "at least as early as 1762, growing in popularity until well after 1800, when it was played, and called base-ball, in many parts of the country." Then he described some name  
CONTINUED PAGE 10

## I NEED HELP in Nebraska, Colorado and New York

I need volunteers to send me information on any of the following associations: Nebraska VBBA, Colorado

VBBA and the Old Bethpage Program on Long Island. Any info, box scores, summaries, pictures, etc. will

be used in the newsletter. Contact: Stinky Freyer at: Fryorama@aol.com

## Earliest Baseball Rules? (Cont.)

changes. In England in the early 19th century, Henderson said similar games were played in different localities, with the name *base-ball* **CONTINUED PAGE 10** changed to *feeder* in some places and *Rounders* in others. In the United States after 1800, he said "as primitive baseball developed in different localities, the name *base-ball* survived, but forms of the game were known as *round-ball* and *town-ball*."

Given this analysis, It is perplexing that in his conclusion to "Baseball and Rounders", Henderson made a statement that has since sent baseball history amiss. He said: "baseball as played in America today is the descendant, remotely, of the older English game of *base-ball*, and directly of the English game of *Rounders*."

What did Henderson mean to convey by this statement? All his supporting arguments point to a conclusion that modern baseball descended from early baseball, with Rounders being one of several regional names that emerged at a midpoint in the game's development. This is supported by a passage from Henderson's landmark study of ball sports, *Ball, Bat and Bishop*, published in 1947. In discussing the rules for "Rounders" that appeared in the original English edition of *The Boy's Own Book*, he said: "The fact that the name 'Rounders' was selected, instead of the earlier name 'base-ball' indicates that the former name was in more general use about the year 1829." Henderson's only point in saying that baseball developed "via the Rounders route" was to trace the brief five years when the published rules were labeled "Rounders" before being renamed "base-ball." Taking everything into account, it seems improbable that Henderson would take much joy in having his research reduced to the phrase "baseball descended from Rounders". This simplification has renewed and nourished the historical fallacy that Rounders was a separate older game which preceded baseball, and gave rise to baseball.

perhaps the discovery of the 1796 Guts Muths book can help set the record straight. Now it can be shown that a set of kindred rules for a game called "base-ball" preceded the well known 1828 rules for Rounders, which have long propped up the baseball-from-Rounders hypothesis. Also instructive is the fact that the name "Rounders" cannot be found in the historical record prior to the year 1828, whereas the word "base-ball" shows up at least five times in 18th century writings. Within the pantheon of baseball mythology, Abner Doubleday may reign supreme. Yet, in terms of longevity, the Rounders ancestry myth is a formidable challenger.

### Early Baseball, the Last Frontier

While the discovery of baseball rules in the 18th Century is surprising, an even greater surprise is the fact that they had not been unearthed earlier. Guts Muths' book, while not exactly commonplace, is not exceedingly rare. Several copies have been located in American libraries and more can be found in Europe. Perhaps the common assumption that baseball's ancestry resided exclusively within English and American folklore has deflected researchers from examining books in other languages.

One notable exception to this was Harold Peterson, author of *The Man Who Invented Baseball*, a 1973 book on the life of Alexander Cartwright. Peterson delved into numerous European and African predecessors of baseball, and, remarkably, even devoted several pages to a discussion of Guts Muths' book. However, while he talked about the German ball game and its significance to the origins of baseball, he never mentioned Guts Muths' specific description of a game called base-ball! Perhaps Peterson never studied the German book first hand and was using material he had received from another

source. We may never know the actual explanation because Mr. Peterson has, unfortunately, passed away.

The uncovering of 1796 rules for *das englische Base-ball* is at least the second notable revelation about baseball's early history to be reported in the past year. In a front page story on July 1, 2001, The New York Times described the amazing discovery by researcher George Thompson Jr. that an organized form of baseball was being played by young men in Manhattan in the year 1823. Thompson came across this information buried in an obscure New York newspaper from 1823, and first reported the discovery in SABR's research journal "The National Pastime." His find advances by more than 20 years the earliest known record of adults playing organized baseball.

In a sport as heavily studied and researched as baseball, discoveries like Thompson's and the Guts Muths' book reveal an interesting phenomenon: We really don't know that much about the game's early history. The late 18th and early 19th centuries weren't that long ago. Historical research of that era for other fields of endeavor is fairly mature. Could baseball's history still be suffering from the legacy of the Doubleday myth? Baseball's start date was frozen at 1839 for nearly a half century. Is it possible that the game's archeologists still haven't made up for the lost time? Whatever the reason, these recent discoveries show that the terrain of baseball's early years is still prime for study and exploration. Few areas of baseball research are so fertile. Comments and questions are encouraged. Please send to:  
old\_ball\_game@hotmail.com

## From the Telegraph Wire

Hartford Senators 14  
Providence Grays 6

New York City Gothams 2  
Middletown Mansfields 1

Providence Grays 14  
Homestead Grays 5

Flemington Neshanock 7  
Rochester (NY) BBC 4

Elizabeth Resolutes 10  
Cincinnati Red Stockings 1

Mystic Oceanics 5  
New York City Gothams 5

Melrose Pondfeilders 14  
Bristol Blues 7

Rochester (NY) BBC 10  
Cincinnati Red Stockings 2

Elizabeth Resolutes 5  
Bristol Blues 4

Flemington Neshanock 9  
New York City Gothams 2

Hartford Senators 17  
Homestead Grays 5

Cincinnati Red Stockings 10  
New York City Gothams 3

Melrose Pondfeilders 14  
Hartford Dark Blues 0

Middletown Mansfields 13  
Mystic Oceanics 1

Hartford Senators 23  
Providence Grays 7

Bristol Blues 11  
Rochester (NY) BBC 4

Melrose Pondfeilders 13  
Cincinnati Red Stockings 5

Flemington Neshanock 6  
Elizabeth Resolutes 0

Rochester (NY) BBC 12  
Middletown Mansfields 9

**1861 Championship**  
**Melrose beats**  
**Flemington 6-4**

**1889 Championship**  
**Providence beats**  
**Senators 10-8**

1861 Bracket

Melrose*	4-0
Flemington	3-1
Elizabeth	2-1
Rochester	2-2
Middletown	1-2
Bristol	1-2
NYC Gothams	1-2-1
Cincinnati	1-3
Mystic	0-1-1
Hartford Dark Blues	0-1

1889 Bracket

Providence Grays*	2-2
Hartford Senators	3-1
Homestead Grays	0-2

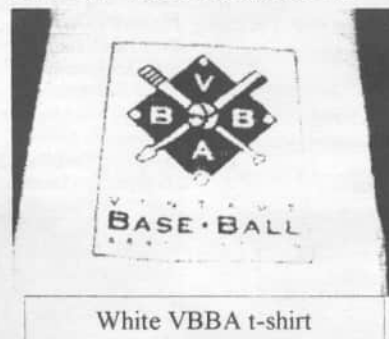
## VBBA T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

The Vintage Base Ball Association has t-shirts available through John Freyer and the Vintage Ballist website.

Shirts can be ordered directly from the site, which will be launched August 26th, 2002. The web address is **[www.vintageballist.com](http://www.vintageballist.com)**.

T-shirts come in two styles, long and short sleeve. Long sleeve is forest green with the VBBA logo emblazoned on the front, in black, white and light green.

The short sleeve comes in black or white. These also have the



White VBBA t-shirt

Vintage Base Ball Association logo on the front in black, white

and green.

The long sleeve is \$20 per shirt + \$5 priority shipping. The short sleeves are \$15 + \$5 priority shipping.

For those that don't have the ability to order on-line. Send a check or money order to:

John Freyer  
9209 S. Central  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Sizes L-XL-XXL

Please make checks payable to John Freyer.





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www.  
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## Known Vintage Base Ball Teams

### Canada

Woodstock, Ontario Actives -a  
London, Ontario, Tecumsehs

### Colorado

Colorado Vintage Base Ball Assoc.  
Broomfield Sweepers -i  
Littleton Rough and Readies  
Central City Stars  
Colorado Territorial All Stars  
Colorado Lady Columbines  
Denver Blue Stockings  
Mastodon Mine Minstrels  
Berthoud Blues

### Connecticut

Middletown Mansfields -f  
Mystic Oceanics -f  
Hartford Dark Blues -i  
Hartford Senators -f  
Homestead Grays

### Florida

Dunedin Railers -a  
Largo Crackers -a  
Nielsen Monitors  
Medicine Men

### Georgia

Westville Craftsmen & Biscuits -i

### Illinois

Mackville Mudcats -a  
Chicago Salmon -i  
Rock Springs Ground Squirrels -f  
Elk Grove Bucks  
Creston Regulators -i  
Midway Village Marauders

### Indiana

Deep River Grinders -f  
Indianapolis Freetowns  
Door Village Prairie Dogs  
Bonneyville Millers  
White River BBC -f  
Indianapolis Blues -a

### Kentucky

Shaker Village Bully Boys

### Massachusetts

Melrose Pondfeilders -f

### Michigan

Berrien County Cranberry Beggars-f  
Greenfield Village Lah De Dahs -f  
Kent Base Ball Club -f  
Ludington Mariners -f  
Salt City Base Ball Club  
Rochester Grangers -f  
House of David -a  
Sterling Uptons -a

### Minnesota

Saint Croix Base Ball Club -f  
Quicksteps Base Ball Club -a  
Roosters BBC -f  
Winona Lumber Barons -i  
Afton Red Stockings

### Mississippi

Historic Jefferson College -i

### Missouri

Washington Eagles  
St. Louis Perfectos

### Nebraska Vintage Base Ball Assoc.

Railroad Town Roadies  
Ord Tigers  
Fort Hartstuff Company C  
Platteville Valley Bugeaters  
Beatrice River Bats  
Wahoo Plowboys  
Grand Island Old Glories

### New Jersey

Elizabeth Resolutes -f  
Flemington Neshanock -f

### New Mexico

Albuquerque Telegraphers -i  
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 -f  
Freeport Athletics  
Brooklyn Atlantics -f  
Webster Spiders  
New York Gothams  
Roxbury Nine BBC -f  
1876 Silver Base Ball Park League -f  
New York Knickerbockers  
New York Excelsiors  
Rochester Live Oaks

### Rochester BBC

### Ohio

Akron Black Stockings-f  
Akron Lady Locks -i  
Summit Merinos -f  
Lorain County Buckeyes -f  
Forest Citys Base Ball Club  
Canal Fulton Mules -f  
Hoover Sweepers-f  
Ohio Village Muffins -f  
Columbus Capitals -f  
Preble Aces -a  
Lake County Pirates  
Carriage Hill Clodbusters-f  
Sycamore Grasshoppers -f  
Great Black Swamp Frogs -f  
West Central Ohio BBC -f  
Piqua Sterlings -f  
Loudon County Stars-f  
Amherst Sandstone Masons  
Cincinnati Red Stockings-f  
Cincinnati Buckeyes

### Pennsylvania

Addison Pike Boys  
Altoona Mountain Stars

### Rhode Island

1884 Providence Grays -f  
Bristol Blues -f

### Texas

Ft. Davis Base Ball Club  
Ft. Bliss Cannonballs -f  
Ft. Concho Base Ball club  
Sam Rayburn Museum

### West Virginia

City of Nitro -f  
Wisconsin  
Heritage Hill Base Ball Program