

THE Base Ball Player's CHRONICLE

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Winter 2004

An old fashioned glove story: A review of early glove use, part two

by David Arcidiacano

CONTINUED from last issue:

Catcher, cont'd

- 1875** General reference to gloves included as part of a defense of baseball to people who say the game is "played out." "The professional class are supported by organizations investing an aggregate capital of \$200,000. What with bat and ball factories, manufacturing houses for uniforms, shoes, belts, gloves, colors, etc., a capital exceeding that amount is involved." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 8/10/75)
- 1876** Team photo of Guelph Maple Leafs of Ontario Canada shows one player with what appears to be a half glove on his right hand. No indication that he is a catcher but I assigned this occurrence to the most likely position. (*The National Pastime*, Society for American Baseball Research Spring 1984)
- 1877** Spalding Guide advertises catchers' gloves for sale, "well-padded and good style."
- 1878** Spalding guide advertises the catcher's mask which "came into general use last season" and catcher's gloves, "open back...made of very thick buckskin, and padded...no catcher or player subject to sore hands, (italics added) should be without a pair of these gloves." Reference to other players with sore hands may indicate that other players beside catchers were wearing gloves.
- 1888** Joseph Gunson invents catcher's mitt by stitching the fingers of his left hand glove together to further protect an injured finger. (personal letter from Gunson shown on "The Encyclopedia of Baseball Catchers" website)

First basemen

- 1866** Frank E. Knappen reminisced about his ball playing days at Kalamazoo High School from which he graduated

in 1868: "I remember seeing George C. Winslow during those years, play first base on a large common just south of the Old Union with buckskin gloves on." Winslow graduated in 1866. (Morris p. 177)

- 1875** "In fact the gloves we refer to should be used alike by catchers, first-basemen and pitchers." (See full quote under catchers *New York Clipper* 1/2/75)
- 1875** Al Spalding wrote that first baseman Charlie Waitt wore "the first glove I ever saw on the hand of a ball player in a game." (*America's National Game* Spalding 1911) Liberman speculates that "It's possible that baseball had so thoroughly accepted the catchers mitt in 1875 that Spalding could call Waitt's "the first" and mean it - that the novelty now was a fielder wearing a glove." (Liberman p. 14)
- 1877** Al Spalding wrote that he wore a black glove at first base in 1877. (*America's National Game* 1911) 1884 First baseman Tim Murnane appears in a photo of the Boston Unions with one, possibly, two gloves on his hands. (*The National Pastime* Spring 1984)
- 1887** "The importance of a first baseman's wearing gloves is thus commented upon by a Chicago journalist...A pair of gloves cost Chicago the pennant this year. Anson was too pig headed to wear gloves, and I find that he has made at least thirty-five errors by muffing thrown balls and lost about seven games in this way." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 10/2/87)
- 1888** Sid Farrar - first baseman for Philadelphia Quakers (NL) wears full-fingered padded glove in his Old Judge Tobacco Card (Library Of Congress collection)
- 1892** "The old man [Anson] made his appearance on first yesterday with a new glove. It is not known whether



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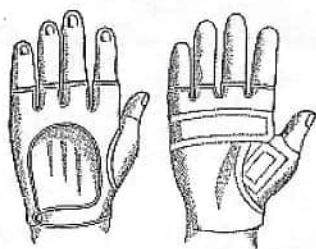
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Putting the base
in base ball

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION

HORACE PARTRIDGE & Co.'s ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE.

CATCHER'S GLOVES.



- No. 1. Professional League Gloves, made of extra heavy Indian tanned buckskin, left hand whole, with open backs, divided pads Warranted to give satisfaction Per pair, \$2.50
- " 2. Same quality as No. 1, but both gloves with short fingers " 2.00
- " 3. Special Buckskin Gloves, both gloves with short fingers, well padded " 1.50
- " 4. Full Left Hand Gloves, good quality, well padded " 1.25
- " 5. Good Quality Buckskin Gloves, with divided pads, open back " 1.00
- " 6. Made of lighter material, but an excellent glove for the money, open backs and divided pads " .75
- " 7. Boys' Open Back Gloves, made of light stock, padded " .50
- " 8. Cheap Quality Youths' Gloves, padded " .25

Gloves sold commercially in the 1888 Horace Partridge & Company catalogue, "general athletic outfitters," of Boston, Mass.

From the Collections of The Henry Ford.

the patriarch's hands are getting tender or not, but certain it was that the glove was scarcely smaller than a pillow. It was big and thick and looked as if it might stop cannonballs without injury to the wearer." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 9/2/92)

Other Infielders

- 1867** Liberman gives another secondary source reference with, "Pointers in a 1929 Shapleigh's sporting goods catalog says gloves were invented in 1867 when a third baseman for Rockford Illinois put on a special glove with an "armored" palm."
- 1885** Providence shortstop Arthur Irwin wears a

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padded fielding glove to protect a broken finger. The addition of the word padded indicates use of non-padded gloves earlier by infielders. (*Sporting Life* 7/31/85)

- 1886** Spaulding ad for basemen gloves (*Sporting News* Apr 23, 1887)
- 1887** "Irwin's Improved Infielders' Glove" advertised in *Sporting Life* (*Banana Bats and Ding-Dong Balls - A Century of Unique Baseball Inventions* - Gutman 1995)
- 1887** "Several of the New York players have such badly bruised hands, in consequence of stopping hard hit balls, they are obliged to wear gloves in fielding. Infielders, especially, would do well to save their hands by wearing gloves all the time when in the field." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 5/12/1887)
- 1887** "Ward, O'Rourke and Gore...are too good players, however, to wear boxing gloves when they are in the field, a ridiculous habit which they have and which possibly accounts for the loose fielding they occasionally do. Capt. Ward ought himself to stop this foolish and seemingly childish habit and compel his infielders to do so. It is the only team in the country that uniformly does that sort of thing." (*New York Times* 5/18/87 Ward is SS, O'Rourke 3B)
- 1888** Third baseman Deacon White has sewn a "leather plate on the face of his infielders glove and thereby got good results with liners." (Liberman p. 17)
- 1889** "A.G. Spaulding & Co. had been directed by telephone to send over an assortment of pitcher's and infield gloves [for the Brooklyn players] from which the boys were permitted to make selections." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 3/19/89)
- 1889** Phil Tomney - shortstop for Louisville of the American Association wears full-fingered padded in glove in his Old Judge Tobacco Card. (Library Of Congress Collection)

Outfielders**1880-1886**

Anson remembered Mike King Kelly who played with Anson on Chicago from 1880-1886 as being a heavy drinker. As a result he "sometimes failed to a fly ball correctly, though he would generally manage to get pretty close under it. In such cases he would remark with a comical leer: "By Gad, I made it hit me gloves, anyhow." (Anson p. 115-116)

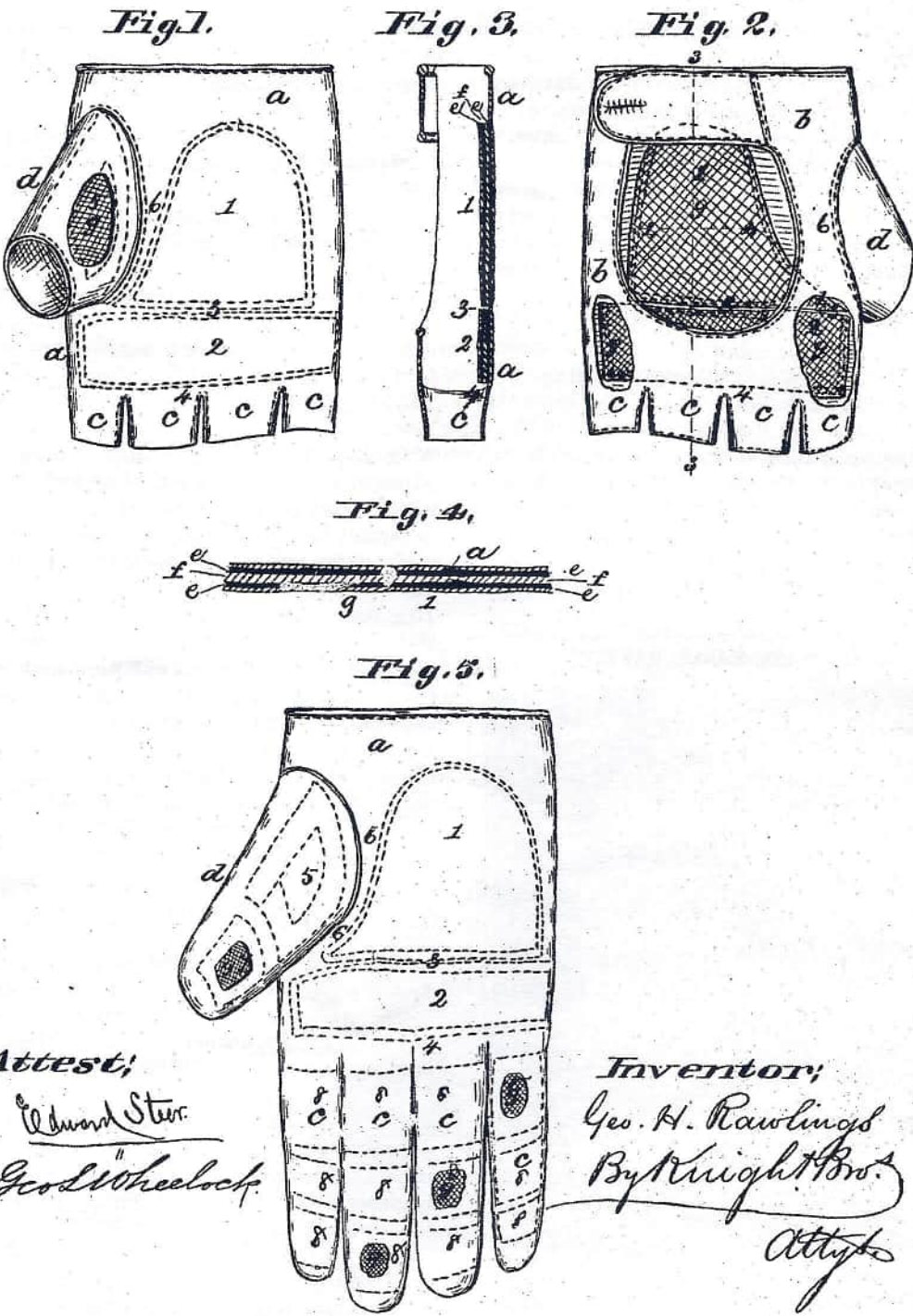
- 1888** "[George] Gore...too good ...to wear boxing gloves when...in the field, (Gore plays center field see full quote above *New York Times* 5/18/87)
- 1889** (date estimated) Reach ad for "Fielder's Full-Fingered Glove...It is almost impossible to miss a fly ball while wearing it. All professionals are wearing the Fielder's Glove." (Gutman p. 197)
- 1890** "Boston's (of the Players League) signing of Mike King Kelly "stamps Kelly as one of the most ungrateful men who ever put on a fielding glove." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 11/13/90)

(No Model.)

G. H. RAWLINGS.
GLOVE.

No. 325,968.

Patented Sept. 8, 1885.



Attest;
Edward Stern
Geo. L. Wheelock

Inventor;
Geo. H. Rawlings
By Knight Bros.
Atty

H. PETERS, Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

The U. S. patent issued to George Rawlings in 1885. Two years later George and Alfred Rawlings opened their retail sporting goods store in St. Louis, where the corporate headquarters remains today.

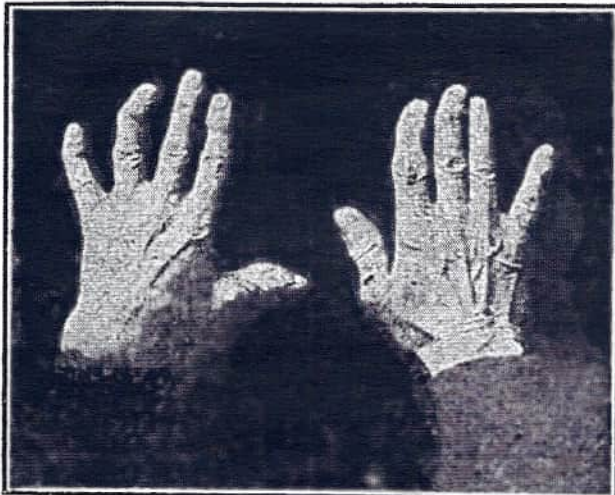
- 1892** "What a ridiculous sight is presented by an outfielder standing in his position with his left hand protected by a mitten the size of a boxing glove." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 10/7/92)

Pitchers

- 1875** "In fact the gloves we refer to should be used alike by catchers, first-basemen and pitchers." (See full quote under catchers *New York Clipper* 1/2/75)
- 1889** "A.G. Spaulding [sic] & Co. had been directed by telephone to send over an assortment of pitcher's and infield gloves [for the Brooklyn players]..." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 3/19/89)
- 1893** Nig Cuppy becomes first pitcher to wear glove. (Lieberman p. 17)
- 1895** "Pitcher [Nig] Cuppy of the Cleveland team wears a glove on his left hand to stop hard hit balls. So does [Kid] Nichols of the Bostons." (*Brooklyn Eagle* 5/18/95)

The above list represents a first attempt at fitting together all the pieces of the glove puzzle and as such gaps still remain. For instance, between 1877 and 1884 no instance of first basemen wearing gloves is cited, however it is quite unlikely that no first basemen wore gloves in the interim. Further research will undoubtedly provide the missing information.

EVIDENCE OF MANY EARLY BATTLES.



Copyright, 1908, by Harris-Ewing.

A 1908 photograph of Doug Allison's battered hands was published in the Washington Post. The tale is that Allison had a protective mitt made for him in 1869-70 when he was with the Cincinnati Red Stockings. The photo suggests it was not so much a "want" than a "need." He played for various clubs in the National Association from its inception in 1871, in the NL until 1879 and a single game with Baltimore in the American Association in 1883.

It was a 30-40 year process for gloves to evolve from isolated experiments to universal use. As such, any given point during that developmental period is open to interpretation by vintage clubs. If a team is inclined to not wear gloves they could cite the fact that not every player used them until the mid-1890's. On the other hand, a team can rightly justify glove use by citing documentary references back to 1860. Remember, the 2003 Greenfield Village tournament used Pete Morris' references to substantiate allowing gloves for games played by 1867 rules.

In my opinion the majority of the vintage community is partial to barehanded play largely because it distinguishes the game from modern baseball. As a result, historical evidence is generally interpreted in favor of barehanded play. A brief non-scientific survey of five vintage teams indicates that no player, not even catchers(!), wears gloves for games prior to 1884. For games from 1884 on, only the catcher will wear gloves. The lone exception among the surveyed teams is the Hartford Senators whose entire team wear gloves for late 1880's games.

With this apparent preference for the barehanded game, it would probably take overwhelming evidence for some teams to use gloves. That level of documentation is rapidly being approached in two eras; catchers in the mid-1870's and all players except pitchers in the late 1880's. To summarize the historical record in the mid-70's, manufacturing companies were producing gloves, Henry Chadwick was consistently urging catchers to wear gloves, and several catchers were clearly availing themselves of the protection. We also know the catchers' hands were taking increased punishment as pitchers were throwing harder and catchers were playing much closer to the batter. Thus to believe that most catchers were wearing gloves at this time does not seem illogical. In the late 1880's, many infielders and outfielders were wearing gloves and even huge mitts which led to an outcry from many newspapers and then finally the 1895 National League rule limiting their size.

So more research obviously needs to be done but there appears to be ample documentary evidence that would allow teams to interpret the historical record as allowing glove use far earlier than what is currently displayed by most vintage clubs.

I'd like to thank fellow Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) members Tom Sheiber, David Ball, Gary Goldberg O'Maxfield, and Greg Martin, also Paul Salomone and the vintage clubs that responded to the survey for their help.

David Arcidiacono is a resident of East Hampton Connecticut and is the author of *Middletown's Season In The Sun - The History of the Middletown Mansfields and Grace, Grit and Growling - The Hartford Dark Blues Base Ball Club, 1874-1877*, both of which are available from the Vintage Base Ball Factory web site at www.vbbf.com.

Brief News & Notes

The Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita, Kansas is taking up the game this summer, presumably by 1870s rules. Family Fun Days is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 7 & 8. Contact: Anthony Horsch at 316-264-0671 *Links:* www.old-cowtown.org/events.html

The ALHFAM All Stars will be playing the Lah-De-Dahs in an exhibition 1867 rules base ball match during the 33rd ALHFAM Annual Meeting and Conference. The conference is hosted by The Henry Ford and the game will be played on the grounds at Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan, Sunday, June 20 at 1:30 p.m. The Association for Living History, Farm & Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) brings together staff and volunteers of living historical farms, agricultural museums and outdoor museums of history and folk life that engage visitors with "living history" programming. If you wish to see museum folks get "scooped out hollow" by some real ball players, stop on by. *Links:* www.alhfam.org
www.thehenryford.com/alhfam2004/

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) will be holding its annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri at the end of September. Baseball is part of their schedule. They have asked the Washington B.B.C., also known as the Eagles, to demonstrate the game. *Link:* aaslh.org/am03.clsd.htm

Slow and steady growth, filling the needs of his customers, combined with an ability to find quality billets and designs, has proven to be a successful formula for Charlie "Lefty" Trudeau and his Phoenix Bat Company. Venture capitalists have now aided the company to become a limited liability corporation and plans to relocate to a larger, updated factory are still in place for this summer. This bat maker who began by making 19th century reproductions for his fellow Ohio Village Muffins and Diamonds, has now grown to be a seri-

ous option for MLB players. *Link:* phoenixbats.com/

Congratulations are in order for the Greater St. Louis Base Ball Historical Society. They have partnered with Lafayette Square, a neighborhood association where the Perfectos play their games, and this association arranged for a wine tasting fundraiser to aid the Society. Nearly \$5,000 was raised for new Perfectos and Unions uniforms. *Links:* www.perfectos.org/
www.lafayettesquare.org/

"Frenchie" Buckner writes, "We are in the process of moving our field at Carriage Hill Farm. This event [2004 Clodbuster Cup] will kick off the Clodbuster 2004 season as well as officially open Arnold Field." This is good news for the Clodbusters and

their invited opponents, who have had to dance in the pasture. *Link:* carriagehillfarm.org/baseball

The Living History Society of Minnesota has chosen base ball as its theme for the annual Harvest Hop, to be held October 30, 2004 at Saint Paul, Minnesota. This group depicts life in Minnesota during the years prior to and during the Civil War. Several members of the Saint Croix Base Ball Club are expected to attend the "Base Ball Hop" in uniform. *Link:* lhsmn.org

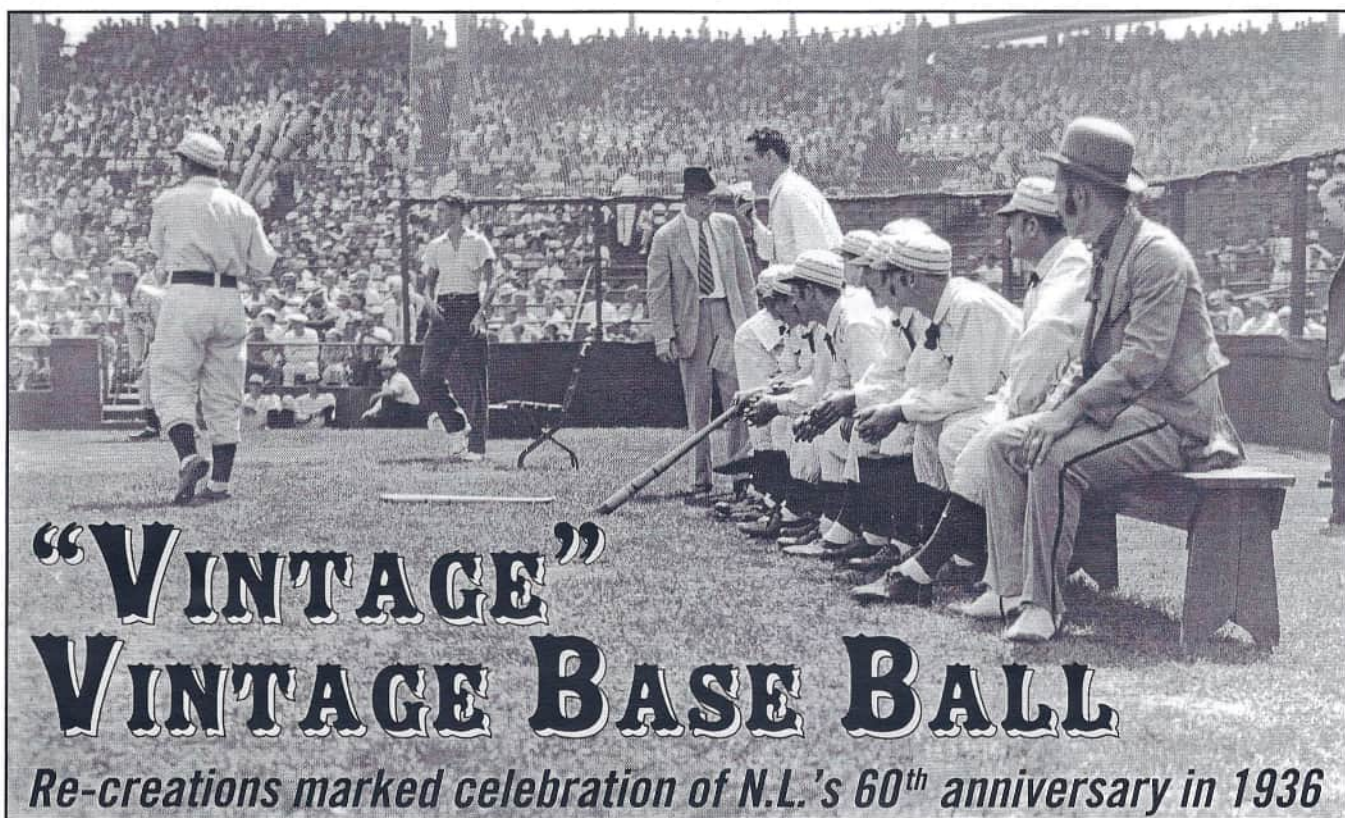
Gary R. Hetzel of the Milwaukee Public Museum writes that they are planning a "Celebration of Baseball in Wisconsin." The program includes the revival of the Milwaukee Cream Citys, and will play by the 1860 rules. *Link:* www.mpm.edu

Jason Cruse is working to bring vintage base ball to Northwestern Iowa. Stay tuned for more.



If you have wondered what gentleman ball players looked like, here is a fine example. This is the ball club of LeRoy, New York, circa 1862. Identified are four sons of Philo Pierson, Dwight, front row, second from left, Myron, far right in front row, Daniel and Hobart, second and third from left in the back row.

Courtesy LeRoy Historical Society.



"VINTAGE" VINTAGE BASE BALL

Re-creations marked celebration of N.L.'s 60th anniversary in 1936

By Bob Tholkes, founder and manager, Quicksteps BBC

The history of vintage base ball acquired an interesting footnote when Columbus, Ohio, SABR member Cindy Thomson, in the course of chronicling the career of Chicago Cubs' deadball-era ace pitcher Mordecai (Three-Finger) Brown, found a note in the *Chicago American* that Brown and other old-timers had attended a celebration at Wrigley Field that featured a re-creation of baseball "as it was played in 1876". The exhibition took place at Wrigley Field on Saturday, August 22, 1936, more than 40 years before two historical villages, Bethpage Village of Long Island, New York and Ohio Village of Columbus, Ohio, inaugurated regularly-scheduled vintage matches.

The occasion was the 60th anniversary of the founding of the National League, which the *Chicago Tribune* hailed (inaccurately) as "The Start of Baseball". Chicago's, the *American* noted, was one of two franchises which had existed continuously for those 60 years, and the Cubs, the National League, and the Chicago Park District cooperated on

staging the celebration. Officials mentioned were National League Publicity Director Bill Brandt, Charley Drake of the Cubs, and Park District Baseball Director Jack Sheehan.

Further research revealed more. According to the 1937 *Spalding Official Base Ball Guide*, between June 24 (Boston) and September 10 (Brooklyn), all eight National League teams hosted celebrations which included two- or three-inning re-creations of 1876 play before regularly-scheduled games. Publicity Director Brandt was in general charge. A.G. Spalding & Co., using its tailoring archives, provided authentic reproduction uniforms with padded pants and "double breasted blouses", that is, shirts fronted by button-on shields bearing the legend "1876". No protective gear was used "in accordance with the 1876 rules". The *Boston Evening Transcript* added that reproduction bats and balls were specially made for the occasion (presumably by Spalding), and that both were substantially lighter than their modern counterparts.

The *Spalding Guide* noted that the

60th anniversary exhibitions were different: instead of oldsters trying to play the modern game, as at old-timers' games, young, modern players were trained to illustrate old-time rules "with speed and agility". Old-timers were invited as honored guests to pre-game luncheons and to attend the festivities.

The *Guide* reported that the project was a success. Attendance at the events, held on weekday afternoons (except in Cincinnati, where it was held before a night game), averaged 12,000, led by Cincinnati's 18,000.

The anniversary celebration in Chicago was typically elaborate. "Two score" old timers, according to the *Daily News*, and baseball dignitaries headed by Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain. Landis, Cubs' President Philip Wrigley (who gave a welcoming speech) and league presidents Ford Frick and Will Harridge, gathered for a luncheon at the Congress Hotel and then proceeded to Wrigley Field. At the park, a parade, complete with a marching band and featuring "old time equipages" got the festivities underway. The equipages bore costumed fans, notably "Buffalo Bill, Gen. U. S. Grant, and the

Sultan of Turkey", who, according to the *Tribune*, had attended a game in Chicago while touring the country in 1876. Then the old-timers, including players "of nineteenth century vintage" and several from the deadball era, were introduced to the crowd. Finally, Three-Fingered Brown (who was born in 1876) said a few words and cut a huge cake, from which, according to the *Tribune*, "sprang the 1876 athletes in the full glory of mustachios and padded uniforms", after which the re-creators took the field. One team represented the 1876 Chicago and the other the 1876 Cincinnati Reds, apparently because the first National League game in Chicago, on May 10, 1876, was against Cincinnati. The event probably was timed for a date when the Reds were also the opposition in the "real" game. The fact that the 1876 Chicago team was called the White Stockings was likely known, considering the amount of research that appears to have been done, but is not mentioned, presumably because it was a National League event. The Chicago players were said to be playing the roles of their 1876 counterparts, according to fielding position.

Considerable effort had gone into making the play realistic. The players, according to the *American*, had been practicing for a week under the tutelage of Park District Baseball Director Sheehan (who also served as umpire) to become familiar with the "old fashioned quirks" of the 1876 rules. Examples of these quirks cited by the *American* were underhand pitching, the "striker" demanding a low or high pitch, and foul flies caught on first bounce retiring the striker. There are further notes: no gloves, no masks or chest protectors; uniforms with neckties and "stiff-bosomed shirts"; and padding on the front of the pants "because all the sliding was head first". The players sported beards, mustachios, and/or luxuriant sideburns. Whether all that hair was real or acquired is not stated. An unnamed *Tribune* correspondent attended the last practice session and was impressed: "the players...showed that they had mastered the knack of catching line drives and fast throws with their bare hands." The players were also said to have studied photos of the players "with a view of staging the most faithful reproduction possible".

Postmatch coverage was light, only the *Tribune* providing a review (it was played on a Saturday, and the *American* and the *Daily News* did not have Sunday editions). The *Tribune* pronounced the anniversary celebration "a grand success. The old time game was played and explained in a revealing manner." The score? Chicago 3, Cincinnati 1.

Newspaper coverage in other cities and further comments in the *Spalding Guide* add other notes of interest. Surviving 1876 players were involved in two cities. Deacon White, the sole remaining 1876 White Stocking, was reportedly too ill to even attend the Chicago exhibition, but in Boston the players were coached by Tommy Bond and future Hall of Famer George Wright. In Philadelphia Chick Fulmer participated in an unstated capacity, and Pittsburgh, not a league member in 1876, involved "survivors of the old Alleghenies". In New York, the Giants hosted a reported 10,000 school and sandlot youths, from whose ranks the teams were chosen. New York's parade, headed by President Ulysses S. Grant (who later caused some consternation by forgetting to stand for the national anthem at the park) wound from the site of the original Polo Grounds in Manhattan to a finish at Coogan's Bluff. Park Department amateurs formed the teams in most places: in Philadelphia and St. Louis they were picked from police and fire department teams. Mishaps apparently were few, but memorable. A Cub observing Boston's parade reported that a parade participant perched shakily atop a high-wheeled 1880s "boneshaker" yelled, "I don't know how to get off this thing!" as he passed the Cubs' dugout. Shortly after, he crashed, which, the unnamed Cub observed, "immediately resolved his problem."

St. Louis' version of the celebration perhaps had the most departures from the usual. It was staged for two days, and the Cardinals added an oldtimers' game pitting members of the 1926 world champions against the 1936 team. Publicity Director Brandt served as



Two of the "nineteenth century vintage" players at Wrigley Field. Opposite, the bench has a very familiar look, almost as though it were 1996 vintage base ball, not 1936 at Wrigley Field. Both photos by George Brace, reproduced with permission from Brace Photo.

Continued on page 11.

Tinted lenses and references

By Hank and Linda Trent

Discussions about the use of dark or tinted glasses in vintage base ball has generally led to the question, "When were sunglasses first used in the game?" Hank Trent studied many references to disprove the tale that all spectacles with tinted lenses were worn by VD sufferers during the Civil War era. Tinted lenses were used by people with weak eyes, a trait neither a base ball player nor umpire would likely wish to exhibit through their use. Sunglasses do not appear until the 20th century. This article originally appeared as a post on the cwwreenactors@world.std.com list, April 13, 2004. We thank the authors for their permission to reprint it here.

Scientific American, 1857

"To weakness of the eyes: 'We should judge that, as you suggest, blue spectacles would convert the yellow rays of artificial light into a green tint, more agreeable and less irritating to weak or sore eyes...'"

I just took a look at the section on Venereal Disease in Dr. Gunn, 1861, and surprisingly enough he doesn't even mention weak-eyes as a symptom or a problem with either syphilis, or gonorrhea. The same with Dr. Imray's *Popular Cyclopaedia of Modern Domestic Medicine*, 1850.

Evening at Newport. Harper's New Monthly Magazine. July 1855, p. 230

"...at a fashionable watering-place a gentleman at the hop there was described as wearing blue spectacles and was talking about the "frivolity of society," he considers "a little amusement as superfluous." It goes on to say, "He stands aside at balls, and, not having an ear for music, sneers at dancing, is a lawyer, and devotes his days to searching title-deeds and prosecuting claims."

Out-doors at Idlewild, N. P. Willis, New York, C. Scribner, 1855 p. 296

"Without the refuge of blue spectacles, the dazzling glare of the sunshine on the snow would make prisoners of the weak-eyed classes in sleighing time, ..."

Akin by Marriage. *The Atlantic Monthly*, Jan. 1858
 "...a young lady and her sister (the latter pushing her younger sister to marry a gentleman). The younger sister says, "I don't like him, and think he's so disagreeable,—and oh yes! There's another thing, —he wears blue spectacles, —ugh! blue spectacles!" Her older sister says, "Well, I'll agree that a pale, studious face and blue spectacles are good reasons for hating a man. Now let me say a word or two in his favor, notwithstanding, and also in favor of a plan with I had supposed was agreed upon... [she went on to ask] if Mr. Hunt was not good and pious, and of blameless life and reputation; extorting from Laura an affirmative reply to each separate inquiry." The article again continues by saying, "such a good offer, especially to one in your circumstances, from such a worthy, talented, pious young clergyman, whose preference [names of ladies],

with their thousands would be glad to win... I do say, Laura, that you ought to give better reasons for refusing him, nay, for jilting him, after a two-years' engagement, than that his cheeks are pale and his spectacles blue."

Why would someone encourage her sister to marry a man and say that his "pale, studious face and blue spectacles" are not good enough reasons to reject a man, if they were well known to be worn by people with a VD?

Military dictionary, Henry Lee Scott New York, D. Van Nostrand, 1861, p. 412

"Snow-blindness.—In civilized life blue spectacles are, as is well known, an indispensable accompaniment to snow-mountain expeditions. The Esquimaux adopt the following equivalent: They cut a piece of soft wood to the curvature of the face. It is about two inches thick, and extends horizontally quite across both eyes, and rests on the nose, where a notch is cut to act in the same way as the bridge of a pair of spectacles..."

Mr. Martin's Disappointments.

The Atlantic Monthly. Sept. 1863 p. 282

"A large fortune is left to my hero, who forthwith becomes enamored of a fair damsel; but fearful lest the beloved object should worship his money more than his merits, he disguises himself in a wig and blue spectacles, becomes tutor to her brother, and wins her affections while playing pedagogue."

A lady writing a play chose for her hero to wear blue spectacles and pretend to be a tutor to her brother in order to win her love without letting on that he had money. Why would a wealthy man go through so much trouble to wear a symbol of a VD if he wanted to win a fair lady's hand?

Gallipolis [Ohio] Journal (newspaper)

I was just going through some old advertisements from our local (1863) paper and found an ad for a very nice jewelry store here in town. Among the things they were selling include: All kinds of watches, alarm clocks, silver and plated spoons, gold and plated locket, fancy hair pins, and yes, colored spectacles.

Granted it doesn't state the colors, but somehow after my previous readings I can't help but to wonder if this isn't where those studious people would have gotten their glasses.

John King, The Causes, symptoms, diagnosis, pathology, and treatment of chronic diseases, Cincinnati, Moore, Wilstach & Baldwin, 1867

Mentions cobalt blue lenses for both sclerotic-choroiditis posterior and glaucoma. P. 1481 and 1487. But I have yet to see them mentioned specifically for VD. Though they are constantly recommended for people with weak-eyes.

The Surgeon's Story. Appletons' Journal, Nov. 18, 1871, p. 570

"In the carriage... a tall old man in blue spectacles, who

seemed to be a writing teacher."

The Mimic World, Philadelphia, Pa., Cincinnati, O.
New-world Publishing Company; 1871.

"In a frantic manner he sprang to his feet and executed a 'forward two' in true Parisian style, and with such utter abandon that a mild old lady knitting socks with a pair of blue spectacles—I mean, knitting spectacles with a pair of blue socks—well, at all events, evidently under an impression that this soldier was going mad very suddenly, she uttered a terrific shriek and bolted."

Heinrich Goullon, *Scrofulous Affections and the Advantages of their Treatment... Homeopathy*.

New York, Philadelphia: Boericke & Tafel, 1872.

Alright, that one's a little too technical and has tons of Latin letters that my keyboard won't type, but again, the blue lenses are for a specific eye disease, and not for an STD.

Henry Clay Angell, MD, *A Treatise on Diseases of the Eye*, Boston: James Campbell, 1873.

writes "Eye protectors made of curved blue glass are the best [Eye Protectors]. Goggles with wire, silk, or glass sides keep the eye, as a general rule, too close and warm. For photophobia, simple blue spectacles of plain glass are generally sufficient, and may be darker or lighter in shade, according to the amount of protection required. Brown or smoke-colored glasses may be used, if preferred. The latter cut off all the rays of light, and consequently render vision somewhat less distinct, while blue glasses, excluding the orange rays only, interfere less with the clear definition of objects. Green glasses protect the eye from the red rays alone; but it is the orange rays which are most intolerable to a sensitive retina."

George Alfred Townsend, "Still Taking Pictures: Brady, the Grand Old Man of American Photography"

The World, April 1891

"I thought as I looked at the white cross of his moustache and goatee and blue spectacles and felt the spirit in him still of the former exquisite and good-liver which had brought so many fastidious people to his studio, that I was like Leigh Hunt taking the hand of old Poet-Banker Rogers, who had once shaken hands with Sam Johnson, who had been touched for the king's evil by Queen Anne, and I had almost asked Mr. Brady about Nelly Custis and Lord Cornbury and Capt. John Smith."

From Storke. "Domestic and Rural Affairs," 1859:
"Preservation of the Sight. —The following are the general rules for preserving the sight unimpaired for the longest possible period:

1. All sudden changes from darkness to light and the contrary should be avoided as much as possible.
2. Avoid looking attentively at minute objects, either at dawn or twilight, and in dark places.
3. Avoid sitting near a dazzling or intense light, as of a lamp or candle, and facing a hot fire.

Lenses are violet tinted, yet colorless to the EYE of the WEARER.

RELIEF from the fatiguing and-unpleasant sensations which attend the use of ordinary Spectacles.

"We highly recommend them for weak eyes and night reading."—CHRISTIAN WEEKLY, 1883.

Price, \$2.00 per pair.

None genuine unless put up in the above described packer, and word "ARUNDEL" on temple.

Can be seen at any Jeweler's.

If these goods are not on sale in your town, send to ARUNDEL SPECTACLE CO., Reading, Pa., U. S. A.

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DR. FENDEL, Author "Printer on the Eye," says:

"For superior finish, accuracy and workmanship, they meet with my entire satisfaction."

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4. Avoid reading or sewing much by an imperfect light, as well as by artificial lights of any kind.

5. Avoid all dazzling and glaring sunshine, especially when it is reflected from snow, white sand, or other light-colored bodies.

6. Avoid dust, smoke, and vapors of every kind, which excite pain or uneasiness of the eyes.

7. Avoid rubbing or fretting the eyes in any manner, and wiping them with cotton handkerchiefs.

8. Avoid much exposure to cold northwest or easterly winds.

9. Avoid all spirituous and heating liquors, rich and highly-seasoned food, and every species of intemperance, all of which invariably injure the eyes and impair their sight.

10. Some persons living in cities who have weak eyes find permanent relief only by a change of residence to the country.

Persons of this description [evidently anyone whose eyes have been weakened by the above problems] will find an advantage in wearing some defense before their eyes, especially when exposed to heat, sunshine, or glaring lights. This will be best if of a green color. Spectacles that do not magnify, of the same hue, are well suited for this purpose."

O.W. Holmes, "In the Professor at the Breakfast Table," 1859, did not assume the worst when he met the landlady's daughter's fiancée, who wore green spectacles, in fact quite the opposite. He assumed he was a clergyman!!!

"... ended in her bringing home a young man, with straight, sandy hair, brushed so as to stand up steeply above his forehead, wearing a pair of green spectacles, and dressed in black broadcloth. His personal aspect, and a certain solemnity of countenance, led me to think he must be a clergyman; and as Master Benjamin Franklin's blurted out before several of us boarders, one day, that 'Sis had got a beau,' I was pleased at the prospect of her becoming a minister's wife. On inquiry, however, I found that the somewhat solemn look which I had noticed was indeed a professional one, but not clerical. He was a young undertaker, who had just succeeded to a thriving business. Things, I believe, are going on well at this time of writing, and I am glad for the landlady's daughter and her mother..."

Putting the base in base ball



by Paul Hunkele, VBBA Trustee

The 1860 *Beadle's* tells us: "The bases should be made of the best heavy canvas, and of double thickness, as there will be much jumping on them with spiked shoes, and if the best material be not used, it soon wears out. Cotton or sawdust will be the most suitable filling for the bases, as they will be lighter than if filled with sand, and consequently easier to carry to and from the field. The proper size of a base is about fourteen inches by seventeen; but as long as it covers one square foot of ground, when secured to the base post, the requirements of the rules will be fulfilled. The straps with which the bases are held in position should be made of harness leather, about one and a half inches wide. They must pass entirely around the bases, and securely fastened to them. New bases filled with hair and with patent fastening have recently been introduced."

The bases we used are K&P Weaver's with the corner tabs snipped off. They are not "double thickness", but they will infrequently see

wear from the type of spiked shoes sometimes worn in 1860. The "harness leather straps" are three plain 1-1/4" wide men's belts that were \$5.00 from the Big-Lots store. They could have been sewn to the bags, but I had this ProBond adhesive that worked well. To glue them on, cut two pieces of 2x4 lumber, one foot long each, and wrap them with waxed paper. Place one board inside the base. With the strap buckle positioned at the bottom of the base, lay the strap across the top of the base with a bead of adhesive under each edge. It doesn't take much adhesive and it will expand. Lay the other board across the strap and clamp the 'sandwich' in a vise or with wood clamps. Give the adhesive a day to set. Remove the board from inside the base and replace it with scrap carpet cut into one foot squares. (shown sticking out of a base) The belt will likely need to be cut shorter and another hole punched for the buckle. Don't skip the waxed paper. On my first attempt it did not occur to me to wrap the boards with waxed paper and I had to remove the board from

inside the base, in small pieces, with a hammer and wood chisel. The glue will easily penetrate the canvas, and it's strong.

To secure the bases, *Beadle's* suggests: "To mark the position for the bases, square blocks of wood or stone should be placed in the ground, low enough to be level with the surface, at the base points, to each of which strong iron staple should be attached. If the blocks are of stone, have the staples inserted with lead; and if made of wood, let the staples be screwed in, not driven, for in the latter case they will either become loose, or ultimately driven into the wood altogether; in either case, becoming entirely useless.

We can not permanently place base posts where we play, so our "staples", are fashioned from spiral 'screw into the ground' dog tie-outs. On your far left in the photo is an unmodified dog tie out. Where the little side ring is attached there is a crimp in the steel that creates a weak spot. Cut it off at this crimp.

We cut them with bolt cutters. If you cut them with a hacksaw, it will be easier if the spot is first heated with a torch to soften it. Straighten out the first coil to make the horizontal "staple". To do this it was easiest to clamp the tie-out in a vise and heat it with the torch, pulling the coil out straight sideways with a pair of vise grips. Bending a little downturn 'keeper' at the end of the "staple" will keep the strap from slipping out. If you are patient, a propane torch generates enough heat for this bending. You should end up with something that looks like the third one from the left, the shortest one. The middle one has the crimp placed in the middle of the staple. It was an early attempt. This is more prone to breaking when it is being screwed into hard clay with a cheater pipe. The shortest one once looked like the middle one, before it broke at the crimp and was reworked.

After heating and bending a section cool it quickly by dunking it in water. They will be weaker if they are allowed to cool slowly. The orange paint and red ribbon were added to the 'staples' so they will be easier to find if left loose in the grass. (trust me)

To set the bases, you can typically twist the "staples" into the ground by hand, but we have a little cheater pipe to slip over the staple to gain leverage when the ground is hard. Run the "staple" into the ground to just before the 'keeper' digs in. Slip the base strap under the staple. Then run the staple down into the dirt, below flush, as far as you can. The bases are forgiving enough that they give some when someone hits one, they don't wander off and they look right. They finished their second season and haven't come apart and I haven't needed to sew the belts on.

For the pitchers point and the home base, *Beadle's* advises; "The location of the pitcher's point and the home base are indicated by means of iron quoits painted white, and not less than nine inches in diameter. They should be cast with iron spikes running from the under side to keep them in place."

For home and the pitcher's point, I had purchased some $\frac{1}{4}$ " steel plate squares. The shop was not able to cut circles. I presumed I could cut them into circles with either a jig saw or reciprocating saw, but I couldn't. Before I found someplace to cut them into circles I found some scrap $\frac{1}{4}$ " aluminum plate that I could cut. They are both 9 inches in diameter. A hole was drilled in their centers into which a six inch long, $\frac{3}{8}$ " carriage bolt was placed. A large washer and bolt holds it in place. They were sprayed with white paint. To keep them from being slick on wet days, sand was sprinkled into the wet paint.

VINTAGE, cont'd

umpire. Finally, the St. Louis *Evening Dispatch* reported that the last batter in the last inning was thrown out, and then "ran around the bases, 'shooting' the infielders as he ran...he slid into home plate and was called out, and 'shot' the umpire as the game ended."

The umpire also was involved in scripted incidents inserted into the exhibitions to illustrate rule differences and increase interest. The umpire would decide a close play on the bases in favor of the visitors, and a dispute would begin. Finally, as an 1876 rule allowed, he would get the opinion of the spectators. In St. Louis, and presumably everywhere else, he was told he was wrong, and the decision was reversed. Another scripted interruption found a player suffering an injury, whereupon a costumed "doctor" would be summoned to decide whether the afflicted man was sufficiently injured to require a substitute, which were otherwise forbidden until the fifth inning.

The re-creations also recalled another long-forgotten 1876 rule.

In at least the cases of New York and St. Louis, the re-creation teams played with ten fielders on a side. According to the *New York Post*, the extra position was called "right shortstop". Tommy Bond, in an interview with the *Boston Evening Transcript*, explained why the Boston exhibition would not use the extra man:

"We found the tenth man was really in the way. Both Mr. Wright and myself have been opposed to using 10-man teams (for the re-creation) as it gives a wrong impression."

The *Evening Transcript* quoted Wright as saying that the tenth man was abandoned in 1876 almost as soon as the season started, and that the Bostons, whose season started later than the rest of the league, never used a tenth man, as it had been dropped by the time they started play. Bond thought, however, that the Atlantics had played "two or three games" in this fashion.

Only newspaper accounts describing the re-creations are known to survive, making it difficult to assess

the effort made to achieve historical accuracy. Given the rudimentary state of baseball research at the time and the re-creations' dual purposes of instruction and entertainment, perfection was not to be expected. Gloves for the catcher and first baseman were prohibited, though they were in use at the time, including those sold by the Chicago's pitcher, budding entrepreneur Al Spalding. The *American* described an 1876 National League umpire as "an imposing figure of a man" in a tall silk hat and carrying a cane, "not a league official but a prominent citizen of high repute in the community selected by the managers on the morning of the game." This paragon, again according to the *American*, "rendered his decisions from a chair located near home plate and frequently appealed to the spectators for their opinion on a decision which the players protested." Interesting, but again inexplicable except as entertainment value. Umpires were chosen well in advance by the home team from a list submitted by the visitors. They were not likely to be locals, of high repute or otherwise. For instance, the umpire for the game re-created in Chicago between the



1876 base-ball at Wrigley Field, Chicago, Saturday, August 22, 1936. A new scoreboard and bleachers were added the following year, along with Wrigley's famous Japanese bittersweet and Boston ivy vines. George Brace photo, reproduced with permission from Brace Photo.

White Stockings and Cincinnati was a Mr. M. Walsh, of Louisville.

In its article publicizing the event, the *Daily News* reproduced without attribution a print showing action in "a game between two Philadelphia teams in the gloveless days of 1873", with an inset box of commentary entitled "Old Time Baseball". The commentary showed a detailed knowledge of 1870s play. Unfortunately it and an accompanying brief article are also unattributed and so probably not the work of a *Daily News* staffer (Publicity Director Brandt, perhaps?). Whoever the writer, he was also of a sardonic turn of mind. For example: "Note the umpire in his official plug hat, sitting

where an umpire was supposed to sit, too far off to see well, but near enough to catch foul tips in his sideburns"; and, "The artist wrongs the pitcher (shown delivering the ball at shoulder height), who in that day could never bring his hand above his belt." These comments are near enough, except that the pitching rules for 1876 mandated only a perpendicular arm motion during which the hand passed below the hip.

Use of the tenth man also deserves some scrutiny. Tommy Bond's remark that the Atlantics used a tenth man is suspect. The Atlantics, a famous Brooklyn team of the 1860s that also played in the N.L.'s professional prede-

cessor, the National Association, did not field a team in the National League in 1876. The Mutual Base Ball Club of Brooklyn, also veterans of the National Association, did, as the New York Mutuels. George Wright, in addition, seems incorrect about the Bostons' late start: they played in the season's first match, in Philadelphia on April 22, 1876.

All this doesn't mean that Bond was mistaken about the rule itself. Publicity Director Brandt seems to have been otherwise faithful to the printed rules, for on-the-field matters at least. Examination of the 1876 *Spalding Guide*, which includes the rules, shows that the number of fielders is not specified, though only nine appear on the field diagram, and teams are sometimes referred to as "nines".

The effort to re-create the 1876 game accurately seems overall to have been substantial, given the difficulty at that time of finding anything beyond the printed rules. Some anomalies may have been beyond the control of any central planning. The *New York World Telegram*, for example, printed a nice photo of umpire Jack White giving the as-yet-uninvented safe sign to a runner sliding headfirst into the plate, and in St. Louis the "team owner" who was added for the Cardinals impersonated Chris von der Ahe, the famous "der poss Präsident" of the Browns of the 1880s and 1890s. Unless further information turns up in the presently unavailable National League archives, the extent to which inaccuracies resulted from the desire to entertain as opposed to shortcomings in research will remain unknown. It seems clear at least that the league made no organized effort to use 1930s' researchers only advantage over their vintage baseball and SABR descendants: the availability of surviving players such as Wright, Bond, and Fulmer.

Were these the first vintage baseball re-creations? Old-timer games go back to the 1890s, but their focal point was the players. Were there other exhibitions at earlier events of the same type, such as at the National League's 50th anniversary in 1926? Until any such are discovered, the 1936 National League exhibitions are the first which were intended primarily to entertain and instruct the public by presenting the rules and customs of baseball's past.

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