

THE Base Ball Player's CHRONICLE

A Quarterly Publication of the Vintage Base Ball Association

Fall 2004

www.vbba.org

Volume 7 Issue 2

LEARN IT, LIVE IT!

HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION
THE DECISION ON WHAT TO PRESENT

BY RICHARD D'AMBRISI

First, I would like to commend the editorial staff of the Ball Player's Chronicle for the significant increase in articles that include research based historical information. These articles will enhance the ability of the Vintage Base Ball Association membership to properly educate the general public about vintage baseball history and raise the level of our historical interpretation efforts.

I read with interest the two-part article in the Autumn 2003 and Winter 2004 issues of the Ball Player's Chronicle entitled: An Old Fashioned Glove Story by David Arcidiacano. In this article, David presents the case for "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". In addition to his research with period newspapers, David also cites his club survey. This survey highlighted one team, the Hartford Senators, whose entire roster wears gloves. With the recent ESPN Classic broadcast, we could consider the Pittsfield Hillies in this group of glove wearers. Both of these clubs were originally 20th Century organizations. Their participation in 19th Century vintage baseball tournaments with full use of gloves is therefore an anomaly that is out of proper historical context and should not be considered the historical basis for the reversal of the current trend of gloveless play in the pre 1884 eras. However, the participation of these teams in the vintage baseball movement is contributing to our overall success, especially in the Northeastern United States.

My intention is to offer some insight into the difficulties and choices that all living historians face when deciding what to interpret in their historical scenarios. As a member of the National Association for Interpretation and the Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums we have learned to manage these issues effectively.

The study of history is a complex task and very often there is no clearly defined right or wrong answer to an issue. I like to think of historical research as that of a detective in trying to solve a case. One must first

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V I N T A G E
BASE • BALL
A S S O C I A T I O N

In This Issue

**New
Communications
Chairman
Announced!**

Game Highlights

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Bits and Pieces

Bits and Pieces

Here's a new read for you and check out who is on the cover!

**A Grassroots History of
Baseball:
Days of the Rosewood Bat
and the Silver Ball**
- Richard J Staats.

The magical era of "Base Ball" exploded with enthusiasm across northeast Ohio in 1867. Base Ball clubs sprung up in every city, small town, and hamlet. Challenges to "matches" flew through the area. Perhaps Base Ball matches were a form of escapism during the Civil War, but baseball seemed to bring out the best in Americans-bravery, good sportsmanship, self-discipline, and a striving to do one's best. The author's original research focused on the quest of the Ravenna Star Base Ball Club to win its own trophy, "the Rosewood Bat and the Silver Ball," at the Portage County Fair in 1867. In order to present a better picture of the atmosphere in which the Star Club played, as well as satisfy historical inquisitiveness, other areas of Base Ball have been included. Contemporary newspaper articles preserve the aura, the excitement, the high value of sportsmanship, the humor, and the community pride that accompanied our National Pastime. Vintage photographs enliven the text. 2003, 5½x8½, paper, index, 164 pp. \$18.50 S2466 ISBN: 0-7884-2466-1

John Bonnes, a player with the Quicksteps BBC, has had so much success with his website, twinsgeek.com, that the 'blog has been picked up by the website of the Minneapolis daily newspaper, the StarTribune. Link: <http://www.startribune.com/twinsgeek>

Peter Morris, a presenter at the 2003 VBBA convention and the World Series held at Greenfield Village last August, was awarded the Seymour Medal for his book, *Baseball Fever: Early Baseball in Michigan* (University of Michigan Press). Peter is now working on a book of baseball "firsts." The Seymour Medal is given to the best book of baseball history or biography published in the previous year by the Society for American Baseball Research. Links: sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,704,40 and sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,755,3,158

Former VBBA communications committee chair **John Freyer**, has been busy promoting his Arcadia book, *19th Century Baseball in Chicago*, co-authored by Mark Rucker. John's book follows two other Arcadia books by vintage baseball players, **Jim Tootle's Baseball in Columbus** and **John Husman's Baseball in Toledo**. Tootle was scheduled to sign books June 19th at the Polaris, Ohio Barnes & Noble. All are part of Arcadia's Images of Baseball series. Link: www.arcadiapublishing.com

Base Ball Player's Chronicle

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courtesy of the
Vintage Base Ball Association
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Editor

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Deano Thilgen
Bradley Pfeifer
Richard D'Ambrisi
Ron Carnegie
Duncan MacKay
Brian Robison
Bob Sampson

Jim Tootle's "But... did we get it right?" column in May 2004 The Muffin Tin reviews 1860s and 1870s batting grip styles.

Stew Thornley, sometime umpire for the Quicksteps and past SABR vice president, is about to have a book published by Minnesota Historical Society Press, *Six Feet Under: a Graveyard Guide to Minnesota*. He is currently working on another title for MHS Press about Minnesota baseball history, due out in the fall of 2005. Link: mnhs.org/market/mhspress/index.html

Quicksteps player **Dan Levitt and Mark Armour** were selected as winners of The Sporting News-SABR Baseball Research Award for the research they did to produce their book, *Paths to Glory: How Great Baseball Teams Got That Way*.

NEW BLOOD

by Tom "Big Bat" Fesolowich

It is my pleasure and honor to accept the position of Communications Chairman and editor of *The Base Ball Players Chronicle*. Hats off to my predecessors, Deano and Stinky, who did a wonderful job, one I hope to live up to. At this point I don't foresee any major changes but do look to bring a little east coast flair to the paper.

Suggestions are welcome (see survey page 13) and as always articles are needed.

My credentials are as follows:

- ♦I have been a member of the VBBA since 1997.

- ♦Volunteer Coordinator of the Old Time Base Ball Program at Old Bethpage Village Restoration since 2002

- ♦Captain and founder of the New York Mutuals since 1999

The newsletter is an important part of the VBBA in that it helps members from across the country share ideas, debate hot topics, and see how other clubs portray the game and its traditions. I would like to see the newsletter become not just a place to show scores of games but to continue in the direction it has recently taken in the sharing of research and knowledge. I welcome all new ideas, feel free to contact me at nymutuals@aol.com

STRIKER TO THE LINE

Game Highlights from across the country.

Lah-De-Dahs Leave Dearborn to Play Grangers

September 18, 2004

by Bradley "Streetcar" Pfeifer

Rochester Hills, Michigan-In a rare appearance outside the Village of Dearborn, where countless matches are played at The Henry Ford, the Lah-De-Dahs traversed northward to play the Rochester Grangers Vintage Base Ball Club this Saturday past. Having completed all farm-related chores for the week, these men knew the sun would be high, clouds would be nigh, and the day had to be devoted to the exercise inherent in the game of base ball.

The two nines met at the Van Hoosen Farm and took sides, setting up the 90-foot base paths as usual. Cranks young and old brought their home-made chairs and woven blankets on which to sit and enjoy the exhibition. Scores of fans, including many witnessing their first match of base ball, sat under the shade of the windmill and silos.

The nine-inning match started like many close plays and only a few tallies between the clubs. Finally the visitors splayed a huge bombast when, in the 4th inning, "Oz" Ossy batted a four-bagger into the center field long grass and put the visiting nine up by three tallies. In this close a contest, that might have been enough to prevail.

With their fair spouses encouraging a higher level of running exercise in their 7th inning, the Grangers put together a rally not seen in some time. They sent 13 batsmen to the circular plate and tallied eight aces. They took a lead they never relinquished. "Cueball" Johnson started things off with a base hit and the boys played station-to-station ball by continuing to advance runners one sack at a time.

Once again, first-year Granger "Fishbones" Jolin made several fine catches in the left field area, while Billy "Whipsaw" Dean made some fine catches himself for the Lah-De-Dahs. On one humorous occasion, Mr. Dean became snookered behind the big tree located dead smack in left field while the spinning spheroid danced in

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LEARN IT, LIVE IT

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gather the evidence and then analyze it from all perspectives when drawing conclusions. The research historian needs to consider the source of the historical data to assess if the original author had any restrictions placed on them, may have left out important information that at the time seemed insignificant and lastly, be aware of any bias or vested personal interest of the original author. Then one must consider the perceptions of the modern day historian who is conducting the research. Very often, we unknowingly inject our personal experiences and motives when drawing conclusions about historical data.

A good example of these points lies in the study of 1950s era baseball history where we have surviving participants to obtain present day oral history from and then compare to the historical record. More often than not, we find new information and new perspectives on what actually occurred at the time versus how we interpret the events today. This concept is referred to as the historical perception of an event versus the historical reality of the event as it actually occurred. It would certainly be enlightening to interview surviving 19th Century ballists and get their personal views on events that they actually participated in. Then compare how these events appear in the historical record and how we perceive them today. Obviously, we are not able to do this to any significant degree (there are available post career interviews for some 19th Century players) and must rely on historical research and the resulting decisions in the interpretive process.

Another point to consider when doing historical research for developing accurate interpretive themes is the period storage media available at the time the events occurred that form the basis for our research.

In the case of my 1950s era baseball example, we have the advantage of sound recordings, color photography and motion picture archives to aid our research. These technologies were not available in the 19th Century where we can only rely on printed matter, period artifacts and motionless black and white photography to conduct research and make conclusions.

There is another aspect of historical research that is based on what is not seen in the period records as a foundation for making interpretive decisions. With the evidence presented by David Arcidiacano in his article, he makes a good case for the many occurrences of references in newspapers for the use of gloves in the 1860s and 1870s. This research is commendable, because we want to get as complete a picture as possible on the use of equipment in the development of the sport. However, another research perspective might be to consider where the use of gloves does not appear in the historical record. For example, the lack of protective equipment appearing in surviving club and individual ballist photographs and the lack of references to glove regulations in certain official guidebooks, club membership rules and association by-laws of the eras in question. One could interpret this lack of evidence for glove use as the basis for a decision to present clubs at all contests gloveless and be justified in doing so. On the other hand (no pun intended) one might conclude that the un-manly and boyish connotation of wearing protective gear in these eras prevented club members from being photographed with such devices and thus, no gloves are seen in period images. This illustrates the complex nature of historical research with no precise right or wrong answer to resolve an issue.

Another example of note to illustrate the dilemma of historical interpretation is the recently discovered Pittsfield, Massachusetts by-

law of 1791 prohibiting the playing of ball games within eighty yards of the town meeting house. One conclusion might be that the specific mention of baseball (spelled one word, by the way) is only a coincidence and that the game was rarely played and certainly not in the version that we know today. Another perspective might be that the incidence of baseball games was significant enough to warrant protective legislation because the game was played frequently and that balls were batted great distances with enough force and velocity to cause damage to windows similar to today's version of the game. As baseball enthusiasts, we would be inclined to accept the later conclusion. As a research historian, the interpretative choice is up to you. However, you should be prepared to communicate the basis for your decision.

The decision on what to include when interpreting an historical event should be constantly open to discussion and appropriate revision if needed. The historical research on any topic should be on going and open to new discoveries and analysis. There are three guiding principles that should be considered when putting together a living history event. These principles are: What will the visitor or spectator experience at the event? Will the experience be reasonably accurate historically? Will the experience motivate further discovery on the history of our national pastime?

As I have learned from my own research during the past twenty years, baseball evolved over time. It was this evolution and openness to change that has made the game a permanent part of our national culture. The decision on what to present in a vintage baseball scenario should be guided by this evolutionary development of the sport. To show as many facets of the game

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

that are historically accurate and reasonable to include and to stimulate further discussion. So if you are a club that chooses to use gloves or not, be prepared to explain to the general public the historical basis for your decision. Hopefully, this will send the "krank" on a quest to uncover the history of vintage 19th Century baseball. When this occurs, we have achieved our goal of living history interpretation.

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Ironwood Publishing, 1985

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Gerald Tomlinson
SABR, 2000

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard D'Ambrisi has been a living historian since 1984. In addition to the organizations mentioned in this article, Richard is also a member of Society for American Baseball Research and the Vintage Base Ball Association. He has developed a comprehensive living history display of 19th Century baseball centered on his research of the original

Pastimes Base Ball Club of Baltimore, Maryland during the 1861 to 1871 time period. Through photocopies of rare period baseball books and reproductions of vintage baseball artifacts the story of 19th Century baseball is presented as a "hands on" interpretive experience. Among other events, he has exhibited the past four years at the annual Hartford, CT tournament. He has also presented his talk on Baseball in the American Civil War to interested groups and has appeared on local television. Richard is a regular volunteer, presenter and docent at the mid nineteenth century era Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station Museum where he is also a member of the Museum Committee.

BRING YOUR ASH TO:

Upcoming tourneys and events that are looking for teams.
Submissions should e-mail nymutuals@aol.com

Huzzah Hoosier Pennant

Village at Winona Blue Laws and
Warsaw Fleetfoots

Played by 1860 Rules

Date: October 1-2, 2005

Location: Tabernacle Field, 701
Park Ave., Winona Lake.
Lakeside Field, Smith Street,
Warsaw (Fair grounds)
Farmer's Market Field, Smith
Street, Warsaw (Fair grounds)

Admission: Free

Number of games: Dependent
upon number of clubs.

Format: Double elimination, with
the possibility of extra consolation
matches for willing clubs.

Other info: The Huzzah Hoosier Pennant award will be voted on by all clubs based upon competitive strength, best uniform, vintage vocabulary, overall sportsmanship. Competitive awards will be given for Home to Home Speed Race and Golden Arm Longest Throw. Awards also for Best Club Cranks and Best Vintage Umpire. Saturday evening shindig event. VBB vendors cabin. Free club photo and group tourney photo.

contact e-mail:

billysundaymuseum@juno.com

contact website:

www.villageatwinona.com/bluelaws.asp

Eighth Annual Old Time Base Ball Festival

Old Bethpage Village Restoration
Old Bethpage, NY

Date: August 6-7 2005

Number of Games: Each Team
guaranteed at least 3 games.

Format: Festival

Years played: 1845-1887, any
year you wish to represent or try.

Other Info: Saturday evening
BBQ for players and their families.

Skills competitions on Saturday.

Contact e-mail:

nymutuals@aol.com

Contact website:

www.oldbethpage.org

Phone:

516 572 8405

Authors welcome to present their
books.

Here Ye! Here Ye!

Alright so that phrase is more 18th century. Let's welcome some new clubs and expanded programs anyhow.

Milwaukee Cream City's BBC - mmpm.edu

Playing by 1860 rules and named after Milwaukee's first professional baseball team in 1878, The Cream City's is the VBBA's newest associate club member. Writes Gary Hetzel, Museum Educator at the Milwaukee Public Museum, "We are excited about getting the Milwaukee area introduced to vintage base ball. The Milwaukee Cream City's have three games that will kick off our inaugural season. We are promoting a "Baseball in Wisconsin" four-day weekend in June. Our first game, May 14th, will be held in conjunction with the Milwaukee Brewers "Turn Back the Clock" game against the Atlanta Braves." It and another game May 26th were to be held at Helfaer Field, built on the site of the former County Stadium field, located just beyond Miller Park. "Our third game will be held outside of the Milwaukee Public Museum during the weekend of June 11-14 and will be in concert with the festivities being held at the museum."

Spiegel Grove Squires - www.rbhayes.org

Although new to membership in the VBBA, the Spiegel Grove Squires has been around for over

- a decade. What follows comes from Kim Fleitz, Special Events Coordinator at the R.B. Hayes

Presidential Center:

The story of the Spiegel Grove Squires follows a path straight from the White House.

After serving as our country's 19th president, Rutherford B. Hayes retired to his Fremont, Ohio, estate - Spiegel Grove. The name of the estate is based on the President's fondness for the look of the property immediately after a rain shower. Hayes chose the German word "Spiegel," which means mirror, as an apt description of the reflective rain-water pools that collect under the trees following a storm.

When the Hayes Presidential Center organized an 1860s-style base ball club in 1991, the 12 volunteer players immediately knew where to turn for a name. Their home field is located within the grounds of the Hayes estate - Spiegel Grove. The first Spiegel Grove Squires match took place July 20, 1991. It pitted the novice players against the Ohio Historical Society's Ohio Village Muffins, the first vintage base-ball team formed in the United States. After seven years of play, the Spiegel Grove Squires became inactive in 1998. The club reformed in 2001 and now plays an average of six matches per season.

Second-year Club Manager Mike "Mighty" Ochs led his players to the Reserve Championship in the

2003 World Series of Historic Base Ball held at Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan. The

win was doubly exciting since it was the club's first entry in the series.

James River Base Ball Club From Ron Carnegie:

The James River Base Ball Club is a brand new member of VBBA having just joined in 2004. We are based out of Williamsburg, VA and currently most of the members are employees of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. We are currently in the forming phase with a number of details still to be worked out. We are a little behind where I would like to be due to frequent upheavals at work and a softball injury of the Club's co-founder.

The plan for the club currently is to try to cross both realms, playing for our own enjoyment while providing historical interpretation for the spectators. We will be playing by 1860 rules to begin, but will consider moving to 1865 rules when we have a little more experience. Base Ball does not seem to have caught on in this region until post war with most of the clubs based in the more urban regions of the peninsula than here in Williamsburg. Our mission is to interpret early base ball in the civil war and just after, while enjoying the game as it was meant to be played. We also will work to

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CREAM CITY'S TAKE THE FIELD

One of the new clubs on the Vintage Base Ball scene this season are the Milwaukee Cream City's. Below are a few photos from their inaugural match. Welcome aboard!

Played on May 26th in front of a group of rowdy cranks, the Milwaukee Cream City's played a split-squad exhibition at Helfaer Field in Milwaukee. The Cream City's defeated the Milwaukee Grays 23-11 in a very exciting match. Pete "Buck" Haydock hit two home runs out of the park and Mark "the Llama" Mayzik hit for the cycle, including an in the park HR. The Cream City's will have an exhibition / demonstration of vintage base ball during the Milwaukee Public Museum's "Baseball in Wisconsin", The Cream City's are members of the Vintage Base Ball Association and play base ball by the rules of 1860.



Inaugural Game 5/26/04 Photo by Joanne Peterson



"Doc" Dennison Delivers a Pitch at the Cream City's Inaugural Game, 5/26/04 Helfaer Field, Milwaukee

Photo by Joanne Peterson

HERE YE! HERE YE!**CONTINUED**

spread interest in playing the game as well (we need other clubs in the area!). We do not

currently have a parent organization though we are discussing options with some 19th century sites in the area. We also do not yet have a home field, though there are a several options available to us. We plan to develop relationships with a number of different sites and events locally as well. We have ten members at least on paper, but only about five of those seem definite. I am holding off on accepting games or events, advertising for new members, or publicizing locally until I know I have a club! I am the contact person Ron Carnegie (r.carnegie@verizon.net)

Simsbury Taverneers Vintage Base Ball Club - www.simsburytaverneers.com

From Duncan "the Judge" MacKay:

We were officially organized in January of this year and established an umbrella limited liability company (LLC) called the "Farmington Valley Vintage Base Ball Club, LLC" (FVVBBC) and are registered to do business in CT. We will be filing for our tax exempt 501(c)(3) status this year as well. Under the FVVBBC, we have formed the first of what we hope will be several vintage base ball teams known as the Simsbury Taverneers Vintage Base Ball Club. We were also instrumental in helping develop the first of its kind insurance product for vintage base ball clubs across the U.S. at outstanding rates. Our first game was May 8 against the Hartford Senators. In addition,

we recently revamped entirely our website and it's now up and almost fully functional www.simsburytaverneers.com.

St. Louis Unions of the G. St.L. B. B. H. S. -

www.stlouisunions.com

The Perfectos have renewed their membership under their new corporate name, the Greater St. Louis Base Ball Historical Society. The St. Louis Unions is the newest club within this organization.

From Brian Robison:

The St. Louis Unions Base Ball Club in enjoying its inaugural season in 2004. The Unions, utilizing a unique approach to vintage base ball focusing on the game's place in the Civil War, will portray a squad of US Army soldiers stationed in the village of Florissant, Missouri (a suburb of St. Louis) in the year 1862. It was not uncommon for small groups of soldiers to be assigned to towns throughout Missouri, as the threat from Confederate marauders was ever-present. However, as the village of Florissant has experienced no attacks and rebellious activities have been kept to a minimum, the bored soldiers have formed a ball club to amuse themselves and the townsfolk.

The club's captain and founder Brian "Ricochet" Robison played half of the 2003 season with the St. Louis Perfectos, an 1860 vintage base ball club that calls South St. Louis' Lafayette Park home. He saw the tremendous potential for a second team to prosper, and began preparations to form a new team in early Fall.

The ball club takes its name

from one of the better amateur ball clubs that played in St. Louis during the 1860's, and that won the coveted St. Louis Championship no fewer than three times during that decade. The Unions opened their season April 18 with a double-header against the Perfectos, and dropped both hard-fought contests.

The club's website can be found at <http://www.stlouisunions.com>. Brian "Ricochet" Robison can be reached at: stlouisunions@earthlink.net

Other Clubs recently joining the VBBA:

Cedar Hill Cartwrights - <http://cedarhillcartwrights.home.comcast.net/usb/html/vie> w.cgi-home.html -html
Joined 2003

Carey Cayugas Base Ball Club

Eclipse BBC of Northville
Joined 2003

Champion City Reaper BBC
Joined 2003

Bonneyville Millers
John Jenney

Creston Regulators
Thomas Bryro

Wahoo Baseball Club of Royal Oak
John Miller

Canal Dover Redlegs
Eric Niklaus

STRIKER CONTINUED

front of its aged trunk. Paul "Coot" Hunkele served as umpire and Miss Remer kept tally, which ended up in favor of our boys by a 13 and 8 count. The Grangers have amassed a record of 16 wins, 6 losses, and one tie so far this summer.

In a display of affection, Ernie "Tiny" Ritterhaus halted the match in the 6th inning to call attention to his celebration of his wedding anniversary.

"Tiny" presented his bride with a bouquet of flowers. Another match pause occurred when the Grangers serenaded their visitors and cranks with their team song.

The Lah-De-Dahs are a team that originated in Waterford during the Civil War. Our local nine, the Grangers, commenced organized play in the 1870s as part of a local merchant's league.

For more on the Grangers, visit www.rochestergrangers.com on that new-fangled Internet thing.

Bradley "Streetcar" Pfeifer contributed this Granger update in the writing style used in the late 1800s.

For more information, contact the Museum at 248.656.4663 or by e-mail at rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org or visit the Museum's website at

www.rochesterhills.org/museum.htm. Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
1005 Van Hoosen Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Unions, Mudcats Split Doubleheader

ATWOOD, IL (August 21) - Team speed has played a significant role in the Unions' success in 2004. Stolen bases and advancing on muffs by the opponents have brought in many an ace in the club's first year. On Saturday, August 21 in Atwood, Illinois, speed proved both a blessing and a curse for the Boys in Blue.

Several well-placed hits and aggressive base running by the Unions, and a number of poor defensive plays by the home club, enabled the Florissant nine to capture the day's first game 5-3 over the Mackville Mudcats, and to nearly pull off the sweep in the second game. The nightcap saw the shaky Mudcats defense hold fast when it counted, allowing the dirty fish to escape with a 12-11 win over the troops from North St. Louis County in the game played with the rules, equipment, and uniforms of the year 1860. The Unions ran their record to 7-13 on the season.

Remembering the tight 4-1 match won by Mackville against the Unions June 6 at the Shepard Barclay Festival in St. Louis' Lafayette Park, the Mudcats jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the opening inning of the day's first contest. The Boys in Blue shook off the jitters in admirable style, and with stingy defense held the Atwood nine scoreless for the duration of the game, giving the soldiers plenty of opportunity to turn the tide. The artillery found its mark in the

fourth inning. Joe "Snake Oil" Masters led off the inning with a towering drive to deep center field that put him on second. Hits by Dan "Bulldog" Aubuchon and Matt "Mayhem" Moushey brought home Masters, and five consecutive hits later in the inning resulted in a total of four aces crossing the plate to give the Unions a lead they would not relinquish. A fair-foul hit by Captain Brian "Ricochet" Robison led to his scoring the Yankees' fifth run on a hit by Aubuchon with two outs for the final tally.

The Mudcats continued their first-inning success, tallying two runs to lead off the second game and break their scoreless streak. The Florissant squad stormed back in the bottom of the frame, with consecutive hits by Robison, Allen "Blue" Gill, and Masters to lead off the inning, and a fine strike by Moushey with one out enabled three runs to score. Masters gave his comrades a 4-2 lead by reaching base to lead off the third and utilizing smart base running to score on two ground outs. The Atwood nine made the score 6-4 in their favor in the third, when the first four strikers reached base, two of them on doubles, and all four tallied aces. Stan "Toots" Harris put an additional run upon the board for the Mudcats in the fourth on a tremendous shot to right centerfield that had him circle the bases for a home run. Down by three going to the bottom of the fourth, the Unions staged one of their greatest rallies of

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the season. Brian "Flash" Flaspohler led off with a single, and moved to third on hits by reserve troops Frank "Peg Leg" Frederick and Sumner "Moose" Hunnewell. With the bases full and one out, Robison lofted a ball to centerfield that dropped just in front of the fielder who was unable to snare the ball on the bound, allowing two runs to score. An out later, consecutive hits by Masters, Aubuchon, Moushey, and Corporal Eric "Buttermilk" Ferguson brought four more men in to ring the tally bell, and when the smoke cleared, the Unions found themselves with a 10-7 lead. Undaunted, the relentless fish plated three runs in the fifth to knot the score at 10, but the troops reclaimed the lost ground in their half by recording an ace on hits by Ferguson, Flaspohler, and Jeremy "Grizzly" Murrish. Excellent defensive play by both nines kept the offenses down in the sixth, but in the seventh, the Mudcats' Chris "J" Jay led off with a single, and came around to tie the score on a triple by the next striker, Todd "Roundup" Randolph. Randolph scampered home on a ground out a short time later to give the Mackvilles a precarious one-run lead. Into the final inning, the soldiers seemed poised to snatch victory from the Mudcats' slippery scales. Gill reached base on an infield single to open the frame, and raced for third on a ball hit to the long field by Masters, who ended up at second base. Private Gill, whose blinding speed in the outfield

throughout the day frustrated the Atwood nine by turning their apparent hits into long bound outs, saw the sphere bobbled by the short stop and made a break for home plate. As fate (indeed a cruel mistress) would have it, the third baseman retrieved the ball and made a perfect toss to Norm "Bonecrusher" Willoughby, who easily tagged out the runner who had had lost his footing and came tumbling towards the plate. Masters, now the tying run, moved to third on a ground out but was left stranded ninety feet from heaven when Moushey grounded out to end the game.

Striking honors for the day went to "Snake Oil" Masters, who went 6 for 8 with two doubles and four aces tallied. Captain Robison hit safely in 7 of 9 trips to striking line and scored three runs, and Flaspohler went six for seven and tallied an ace. Some of his comrades-in-arms might question Flaspohler's inclusion on this list: after reaching first on a hit in the Unions' fifth inning of the first game, he was tagged for the final out after taking his stride from the bag by the first baseman, who subjected the sleepwalking Private to the "hidden ball trick." The play was allowed to stand despite protests from the Mudcats' tally keeper Sandy Fiala, a gracious lady who deemed the play an affront to the dignity of President Buchanan's army.

Ground Squirrels Double-Up on Unions

By Bob "Droopy Drawers" Sampson of the Rock Springs Ground Squirrels
Edited for the Unions by Brian "Ricochet" Robison

DECATUR, IL (June 26) - New teams in the game of vintage base ball often struggle with hitting and fielding but the St. Louis Unions like their Metro East comrades, the Trenton Mains, are setting that bit of conventional wisdom on the shelf. Those attending Saturday's doubleheader at Beautiful Trobaugh Field saw why as the Rock Springs Ground Squirrels preserved a sweep with a defense that bended to avoid breaking and left the tying run stranded on the base paths.

The 7-1 and 8-7 wins over the Unions, who are based in Florissant, Missouri, raised the Ground Squirrels club's record to 9-7. Among the losses is a 5-3 defeat at the hands of the Unions earlier this month in the game played with the rules, equipment, and uniforms of the 1860 era. The Unions fell to 5-9.

New York Mutuals hand Providence Loss

Cooperstown, NY (Sept. 18)- The Providence Greys and the New York Mutuals met on neutral ground at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown. The clubs met early that morning to talk to school teachers from the San Diego area about the history of the game at the Baseball Hall

of Fame. Many a myth was debunked that day when the name Abner Doubleday came up in the very building that



TOM "BIG BAT" FESLOWICH
STRETCHES AT FIRST FOR THE OUT.
PHOTO BY D. KIERNAN

helped perpetuate the myth. Representatives from the Hall were grateful for our appearance and welcomed us back even though we may have stepped on our hosts toes on a few occasions.

Later that afternoon the clubs met for an 1864 match in front some rather boisterous fans. The Mutuals were led by the play of Ray "Youngblood" Hippelli, behind the dish as he caught nearly every bounding foul hit his way as if he knew their exact destination before they were even tipped back. Ray was not satisfied with fine defensive play as he used his willow well that day striking one well into the garden nearly reaching the 390 marker in left center reaching safely on all his turns at the bat. Eric "Express" Miklich kept the Providence strikers on their heels keeping their tally down by tossing that sphere with great speed and accuracy. The final outcome was to favor the Mutuals this day as they tallied 15 aces to Providence's 8.

Both clubs celebrated the day with a barbeque hosted by the Grey's Kevin Faria. A great day, a great day indeed.

Old Time Base Ball Playoffs at Old Bethpage Village Restoration

Old Bethpage, NY (Oct. 17) - The 1864 and 1887 leagues at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration finished up their seasons with playoff games over a period of two weekends at the Long Island Fair held each year at this time. The Fair draws 7,000-8,000 people each day for the two weekends exposing many people to vintage base ball for the first time. The Fair culminates with the Championship game for each league on that last Sunday. The first match pitted the top two 1864 teams the New York Knickerbockers and the Mineola Washingtons in a heated battle of skill and muck. Mineola Captain John "Blue Streak" Morrison rallied his troops to meet the hard hitting Knicks. John was one of the original players to play in what is believed to be the first vintage game at Old Bethpage in 1980. The Mineola squad proved to be too much for the Knickerbockers leaving them the bridesmaids for the second straight year by a score of 14-9.

The second game that day was the 1887 Championship pitting the Glen Head Zig Zags against the four time champion Hicksville Ozones. The sidelines were lined with cranks jockeying for a good spot to see if the mighty Ozones would fall this year. Glen Head Captain Dan Moskowitz took his spot in

the pitching box for what would prove to be a long day for the Zig Zags. Dan used every trick up his sleeve but to no avail as the Ozone bats would not be silenced on this day. The Ozones were led by Co-Captains Tom "Kid Speed" Heinlein and Tom "Squid" Jordan. The Ozones used the willow well scoring in every inning except one bringing their final tally to 18. Glen Head would threaten several times throughout the contest but would be silenced quickly by the Ozone defense. The Ozones would "Chicago" the Zig Zags for the first time this season ending the match with an 18-0 result and giving the Ozones their fifth straight championship and the "Sir" Anthony Cup

Let's Hear It!

Hey Elizabeth, Flemington, NY Gothams, Genesee Country Village and all others let's hear about your games and goings on. Drop us a line and tell us a little about your special event or game and we'll publish it here. You don't need to be another Albert Hemmingway just throw something together and we can fine tune it for you if you want. Have you found some interesting rule quirk or proof that the base ball really started off square? Send it to us with your sources and we'll publish it.

A PICTURE IS WORTH...

...well you know the rest. Here are some photos from last season. Don't see yourself here? So send me your picture in tiff format, black and white please. I know, I asked for it.



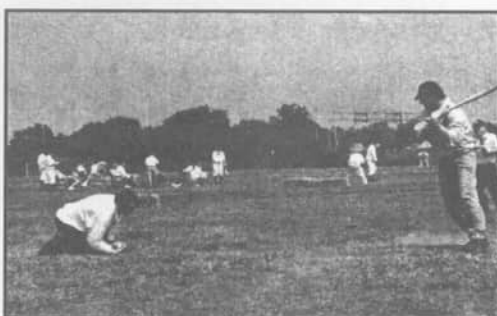
"The Preacher" Mike Farris, founder of the Washington Eagle Base Ball Club of Washington, Missouri, presents to the American Association for State and Local History annual meeting, October 2, 2004 at St. Louis, Missouri. Here he holds an ash Hillerich and Bradsby corkball bat and what's thought to be a corkball catcher's mask. The game dates to the early 20th century and has been a popular St. Louis pastime since that time. Photo by Deano Thilgen.



Mark "Swamper" Bilderback, of the Roosters, presents the silver ball trophy to Charles "Lefty" Trudeau of the Columbus Capitals upon their victory over the Akron Black Stockings at the Roosters Classic Tournament, July 11, 2004, at Rochester, Minnesota. Photo by Deano Thilgen.



At a game held during the sesqui-centennial celebration at St. Bonifacious, Minnesota, August 22, 2004, a Rooster player from Rochester, Minnesota makes a quick out at the second base in an 1860 rules game against local ball players. Photo by Deano Thilgen.



Catcher Jim Wyman playing for the St. Croix BBC of the Washington County Historical Society, Stillwater, Minnesota, snatches the ball following a foul tick hit by a Deep River Grinders player at the 13th Annual Ohio Cup, Columbus, Ohio. Photo by Deano Thilgen.



The home Lady Diamonds put the ball in play in a game against the Lady Clodbusters at Muffin Meadow during the 13th Annual Ohio Cup, Columbus, Ohio. Photo by Deano Thilgen.



NY Mutual Third sacker Tom "Kick" Halecky stretches for the throw as Providence Grey Gil Faria sneaks his way safely to the bag. Photo by D. Kiernan

What Do You Think?

Let us know what you think of the newsletter, what you would like to see different, or what you would like to see stay the same. Feel free to write additional comments on a separate sheet.

Mail survey to: Tom Fesolowich
10 Birch Place
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Chronicle Survey

1. I read the Chronicle for...

- a. game highlights
- b. research articles
- c. photos
- d. all of the above
- e. other _____

2. I would like to see more _____ in the Chronicle.

- a. research articles
- b. game highlights
- c. photos
- d. it's fine the way it is.
- e. other _____

3. I find the Chronicle...

- a. not useful
- b. somewhat useful
- c. very useful

4. If I had to change/add one thing to the paper it would be _____

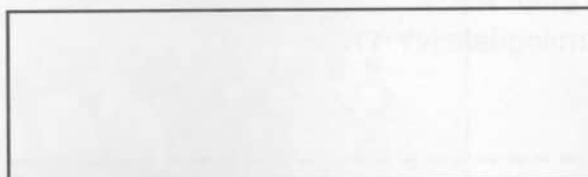
5. Other Comments _____

6. Your State _____



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A S S O C I A T I O N

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Communications Committee
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