

THE BASE BALL PLAYER'S CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the **VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION**

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REMEMBERING SCOTT "CURLY" MURPHY, CAPTAIN OF THE FAIR PLAYS

The Fair Plays of Talbot County, Maryland, have been fortunate to have one of the best Captains in Vintage Base Ball. Scott Murphy joined the Fair Plays in the middle of our first season. Nicknamed "Curly" because he is completely bald, Scott became an integral part of the team. He was elected team captain in our third year.

Sunday, July 9, we were playing against the Brooklyn Atlantics. The game was tied at the end of the 9th inning, and we started a 10th. Curly took himself out of the game and sat down complaining of dizziness and trouble catching his breath. A few minutes later he collapsed. One of the team members is an EMS and started to work on him. The ambulance arrived and took him to the hospital. But our beloved Curly died. They think it was a heart attack. He was only 44 years old. His spirit made the team what it is today. No one can remember him ever berating a player. If an error was made, he would shout "good try." He made sure everyone who showed up for a game got to play. Of course he wanted to win, but he thought it was more important that



everyone have fun. It is because of his spirit that the Fair Plays are the team that they are.

As one of our players said: "if we needed more words of encouragement, or if there was a questionable call, one would hear words of wisdom and 'brush it off,' 'no sweat we'll get it back.' Curly's passing is certainly a difficult call to deal with and I find myself hearing his words of encouragement."

The Fair Plays wish to thank all the other teams who have sent words of condolence, and who even made the drive to attend the service.

So in the spirit of the 19th century game, we offer three cheers for Curly:

Huzzah, Huzzah, Huzzah.

Beth Hansen, Curator, Historical Society of Talbot County

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ONE OF BASE BALL'S EARLY STARS HURT BY RULE CHANGE OR INJURIES?



Base Ball is a game which relies on statistics to judge a player's value. Judging a player's worth often depends on the era that they played in and comparing their success to their contemporaries. **Ross Barnes** was a star second sacker who played for the Boston Red Stockings for the National Association in the early 1870's and

later with the Chicago White Stockings in the National League.

His 5'8 and 145 lb. slight frame made him fast and agile in the field. But what was perhaps more impressive was his ability to bunt "fair foul" and finish with batting averages over .400 in his first three years of professional play. In his second year of play, on an 1872 club that featured Hall of Fame players Harry Wright, Al Spalding, and George Wright—Harry's younger brother

and star shortstop—he batted .430, which was 100 points higher than anyone on the club. The Red Stockings would go on to capture the League Championship that year, again in 1873, in 1874 and in 1875.

But as writer Bill James notes, once the fair foul rule was abolished following the 1876 season, Barnes, then just 26 years of age was unable to hit over .275 over his next three seasons, and battling injuries, was out of the league by age 31.

Today there still is debate whether Barnes belongs in the Hall of Fame. Even James, who doesn't support his Hall of Fame candidacy or rate Barnes as a top 100 second baseman, states "he was the best player in baseball" during the National League's inaugural 1876 campaign. That year he led his new club, the White Stockings, to another League Championship by batting .429, leading the league in hits, runs, doubles and triples.

In fact, over the course of his 9 year career, Barnes led the league in batting three times, hits four times, along with doubles, runs scored, triples, and various other categories several times. He finished his career with a .360 batting average yet garnered only 3.8% of Hall of Fame support in 1936, probably due to the short length of his career.

Whether or not Barnes was affected more by injuries or the rule change is debatable. I suspect it was mostly due to injuries. Either way, he certainly was not the same player following the 1876 season.—JD.

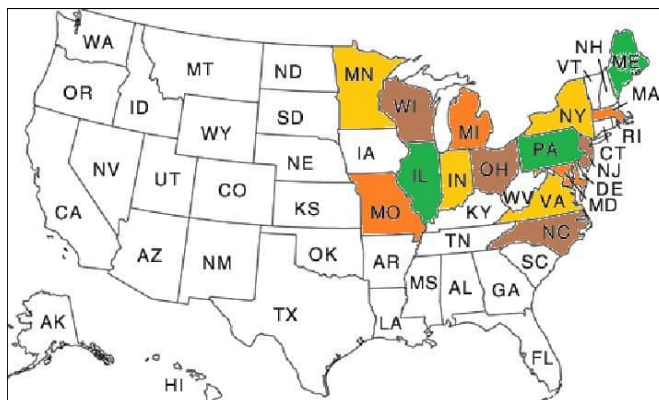
VINTAGE BASE BALL CLUBS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA OFFER INSIGHT

Since the Vintage Base Ball Association was founded fifteen years ago, clubs have sprouted up from coast to coast in small towns and in big cities. No doubt the popularity of playing the American pastime as it was originally played has an appeal that is hard to put into words. The game gives us a glimpse into the past and portrays the admirable qualities of "sportsmanship, gentlemanly behavior, courtesy, and respect for others" as stated in the Vintage Base Ball Association's mission statement.

With the full knowledge that each club operates independently, playing by the rules of different distinct eras, scheduling their own matches, and creating their own club structure as they see fit, I recently sent a poll to vintage clubs across the United States and Canada. In no way are the following responses to these questions meant to set up a structure which clubs should follow. I am just sending along the information received more for informational purposes.

As a reminder, for newer clubs, the VBBA website is an excellent source to find information on [how to get started](#).

Special thanks to the many respondents, many who included their names. I am only including those who explicitly included their name in the responses. Those individuals are Paul Salomone, Captain of the Elizabeth Resolutes; Harlan "General" Worden of the Rochester Grangers; Gary "The Professor" Schiappacasse of the Chicago Salmon; Bruce Leith, President of the Eclipse Base Ball Club of Elkton; Dennis 'Pops' Wiegmann, Vice President/Scheduler of the Huntington Champion Hill Toppers BBC; John "Choo-Choo" Shannahan of the Mudville BBC; Bob "Do Nothing" Kurek, Umpire for the Elk Grove Bucks; John "Stacks" Hyslop of the Great Black Swamp Frogs; Mike "Ace" Adrian, founder of the Somonauk Blue Stockings; Tom "Wheels" Ford of the Mansfield Independents; "Sawdust" of the Wahoo BBC of Royal Oak; "Hurricane" of the Early Riser BBC; Eric "Red" Laudenbacher of the Greensboro Patriots BBC; Karl Krueger, Treasurer of the Regular BBC of Mt. Clemens, MI; Dan "Hammer" Hagen of the Northfield (Minnesota) Silver Stars BBC and everyone else who contributed. Thanks so much! - Jon "Boxcar" Demagall



CLUBS FROM THE ABOVE STATES PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY AS WELL AS TWO CLUBS FROM OUR CANADIAN COUSINS IN ONTARIO, CANADA.

Vintage Base Ball Association August 2011 Club Survey

Club Name	Location	How is your season going so far?	What advice would you give a first year vintage club?	Is there anything you would like to share about your club with the newsletter?
Melrose Pondfeilders	Melrose, MA	Good. We are 5-5-1 with a mixture of "league" games, tournaments, open invitationals and exhibitions. Only one rain out this year.	Make sure you have the numbers and the dedication. 9 guys can quickly become less than that come game time. We had a few years of fielding 7 or 8 and having to borrow players which can be frustrating. Also, make sure people are available and willing to give up their Saturdays/weekends and be willing to travel. Most of all have fun, this game is not about money or trophies.	
Whiskey Island Shamrocks	Cleveland, OH	We haven't won a game this year but folks still come out to see us play. We have had difficulties getting 9 players to matches but we are usually close.	Not sure. We are pretty new to this. We have great clubs in the area that help with advice including the Akron Blackstockings, the Forest Citys BBC and the Cleveland Blues and that helps a lot. Ask for advice.	We hope to continually improve our knowledge of the game, our play in the field, and our ability to recruit but most importantly we want to have fun and put on a great show for the cranks.

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Young Canadians	Hamilton, Ontario	It isn't. We did not get enough to play this year. However, we are stil recruiting and hope to be able to put our Nine together for the 2012 season!	Yes! PLEASE !! :) Start early and develop media relationships. Advertise to death if you can.	We are the Young Canadians of Hamilton originally formed in 1854. We will play local teams including the London Tecumsehs, Woodstock Actives and Innerkip Quarrymen. We hope to also make the odd trip to the states to play against our american cousins !
Brewers of Ipswich BBC	Ipswich, MA	It's been a great season.	Make certain the players are committed to a season of play. Many don't realize how difficult it is to get a minimum of 9 people to show up at every scheduled game.	Our team isn't made up of players who were picked out during any kind of tryouts. We're all from the Ipswich Ale Brewery and few, if any, have ever played ball in the past. We are easily defeated by most teams, but we have such a great time playing and interacting with other players and fans, that we don't mind losing. And we're definitely improving at play! If we can do it and have fun, anyone can.
Elizabeth Resolutes	Elizabeth, NJ	Our season's going very well. We've got most of our members showing up consistently. We've picked up a couple of new players and we're playing proficiently most of the time. Our schedule should wind up with between 25 and 30 games played.	Keep recruiting. For every 50 guys you ask to come on the club you'll get 2 or 3. It's a difficult task, but soon your existing members will start bringing their own friends around. Don't worry about winning yet. Learn how to adapt your frame of mind to the nineteenth century game. You're playing bare-handed, with heavier bats, different fielding and hitting techniques, and of course many different rules from the modern game. Make the adaptations feel natural; as close as possible to never having known the game any other way. It's a great test for your imagination.	The Elizabeth Resolutes are in their twelfth year of vintage play. We have brought the 1870 and 1873 rules games to the field of play, as those years are significant to the Resolutes' history. Our research continues in the techniques and applications of nineteenth century base ball, in order to play in the most historically accurate manner possible.
Rochester Grangers	Rochester, MI.	We are currently 9 Wins & 0 Losses	Play as many matches as you can. Catching a ball without a glove will take getting used to. Play both the bound rule and the no-bound rule. Attempt to catch all fly balls in the air. On the fields we play on there is no such thing as a true bound. Play the best teams you can find and the ones exhibiting the gentlemanly characteristics of Vintage Base Ball. Above all do not be afraid to ask help from the established clubs.	For more about the Grangers, look at our web-site: www.rochestergrangers.com .
Munster Centennials	Centennial Park, Munster, IN	Only 3 wins so far, but having lots of fun and meeting some great players and cranks	Don't know, it's our first year in the VBBA.	
Tecumsehs Vintage Base Ball Club	London, Ontario	Great! This is a young team and is looking for more games.	It takes about 5 years to get established	

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Chicago Salmon	We are a "barnstorming" team. We do not have an official home field.	We are having a good time playing for the love of the game. Unfortunately we have lost more matches than we have won. Of course we are hoping to do better over the rest of the season.	The priorities of a new club should be to be as historically authentic as possible in their uniforms, equipment, and attention to the customs, and rules of the game: 1858, 1860, etc. Build your team from the players, their families, and friends. Focus on building a comradarie among the players. Our team uses "road trips" with back to back games to help do this. Everyone helps with the equipment, food, etc. As much as is possible. Finally although the game is important remember to give a good show, historically accurate for the "cranks" (fans), and play the game as gentlemen.	Our club is in its 15th season. We have added a team troubadour to sing to the cranks a song that introduces the personalities of our players to the cranks. We do all that we do with a very limited budget. The players supply their own pants and shoes. Our Boss Lady, Ellie Carlson, supplies the shirts and caps found at second at second hand stores and modifies them to fit the historical era we play: 1858.
Eclipse Base Ball Club of Elkton	Elkton, Maryland	Outstanding! We just finished up hosting a 9 team tournament in Gettysburg with clubs from Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Colorado. In addition we helped get a club started and will be fully up and going for 2012 in Northern Virginia. We played a very successful festival in Loudoun County, Virginia which got the interest going and brought over 800 people to it. We had a very well attended match in Carroll County, Maryland against the Mechanicsburg Nine that drew over 600 people. Gettysburg drew over 1,200 over the 2 days. A match in Cape May that generally draws 400-500 only drew about 150 because of the heat but none the less it was very successful. We've also played in great events in Delaware and Maryland as well.	Recruit 20-25 guys to get a team of 9-11 guys to show up for a game. Recruit teachers, at softball leagues, churches, and get stories out about your club no matter what stage you are in. The more publicity you get, the more someone is going to know someone who knows someone who wants to play (that's why getting the word out to churches is so good!). Research the past history of your club so you can get the public interested in your organization. Give everyone on your club a "front office job" whether its cutting the field, writing press releases, ordering uniforms, keeping your books, etc. and make sure you take a team field trip to your historic society to learn about the origins of your team. (Give every player a month to research). Learn as much as you can from established teams and don't be afraid to ask questions or ask for help.	We have a new home field in the Terrapin Station Winery where we got a retired MLB groundskeeper to help us lay it out and with great cooperation by the winery, we'll have some very nice outbuildings and accompiaments to the field. In Gettysburg, a local restaurant has built us a first class club house called "The Eclipse Dining Room" with some great vintage base ball pictures in the room. We have helped to strengthen clubs in Philadelphia and Delaware, start a second team within our club (The Cecil Club of Chesapeake City) and are really enjoying some great success in the Mid Atlantic area with the growth of the 1864 game in this region. On the field we are currently 15-3 and in a tie for first place in the eastern division of the MAVBBL and are in 2nd place overall in the MAVBBL.
Cincinnati Red Stockings	Cincinnati, OH	The season is going great, since we got past the early rainouts	I would suggest that new teams read the rules each year from 1845 up to the year they plan to play. You can get a great appreciation and understanding of the evolution of the game that way.	I hope everybody playing vintage base ball enjoys it as much as we do, and has made as many good friends as we have.
Huntington Champion Hill Toppers	Huntington, IN	Our season is going well. Like always we play the game for the enjoyment and comaraderie. We have had the opportunity to play at Mackinac Island, Cincinnati and Gettysburg. In the coming months we will be playing in the Cream City Festival and play in Cleveland.	Advice for a first year club would be to listen to the veteran clubs. They will definitely help you along the way. Don't be afraid to take constructive criticism if there are teams that believe that you need to work on some things. Finally, learn from every experience. Also, don't be afraid to contact an officer from the VBBA if you have questions. They have a wealth of knowledge.	

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Rock Springs Ground Squirrels	Decatur, Illinois	This season we have been dealing with a numbers problem and had to cancel one appearance at the last minute. Since then, we have been getting a better response from our players. We don't keep official track of won/loss records and have not for some years, preferring to focus on enjoying the game and the many friends we have on other teams. As a general rule, sometimes we play very well and sometimes not but always endeavor to have a good time, ensure that others do, and represent the game's ideals to the best of our abilities.	Our organization dates back to 1992 and we have seen a number of clubs come and go. There are many "keys" for new clubs but perhaps the most important is recruit the right kind of players. This is not a competitive game and players who focus on winning at all times eventually become a problem to their own team and others as well. You need one, two, or three strong, dedicated people to keep things running. Everyone wants to play, few want to do the work that makes the games possible. Have fun.	
Ohio Village Muffins	Columbus, Ohio	Couldn't be better!	Try to be historically accurate, don't take competition to seriously, always interact with your audience, comport yourself so other clubs will view you as new friends to enjoy playing vintage base ball with.	Big Bat is enjoying his return to the Muffins.
Mudville Base Ball Club	Holliston, MA	Our season is going great. We hosted a tournament early in the year and were delighted to have our good friends the Saginaw Old Golds come half way across the country to see us. We just got back a week ago from the Gettysburg Tournament where we saw a number of old friends, and we look forward to a visit from the Cincinnati Red Stockings in a few weeks.	I would suggest they be realistic in terms of the degree of commitment they require from their players. Not everyone wants to play every week.	Nothing to share that's newsworthy right now....but will for next edition.
La Crescent Apple Jacks	La Crescent, MN	1-5, but breaking in several new players	Start with a long roster of men who are willing to commit to playing and traveling to games.	Nothing at this time.
Pittsburgh Franklins	Pittsburgh, PA	Good - scale from 1-10, probably an 8	make sure you have enough players to fill in when people can't make it.	
Northville Eclipse BBC	Northville, Michigan	We have surprised ourselves and have a 13-3 record through July 31 (no match this weekend); however, there are tough clubs looming ahead	Make sure you have at least two key guys on the club to keep the club organized and pointed in the right direction. The demands for scheduling, coordinating post-game meals, drumming up community support and managing the numbers of players who participate (both too few and too many) are very challenging and should not be on the shoulders of one player.	Average vintage ball club player age is not commonly known. The Northville Eclipse BBC seems to be a more mature club amongst those we play, with an average age of 51 and a median of 53. One 26-year-old skews our numbers lower. We are curious to know whether we are of a typical age vs. other VBBA clubs across the country.
Elk Grove Bucks	Bloomington, Illinois	We are winless in three games. Many of our players are "brand" new to the game and are learning as we go. We had one team cancel on us, and we had to cancel out on one game in Milwaukee due to massive flooding in the Chicago area which took out some of our players' basements.	Advice would be to have a back-up plan for games when emergencies pop up, such as the flood.	Our club is sponsored by the Bloomington Park District and the Bloomington Historical Society. One of our players is the pastor of one of the local churches, another works for an undertaker, one does Revolutionary War reenactments and another is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. We have quite a collection of characters.

Vintage Base Ball Association August 2011 Club Survey

Club Name	Location	How is your season going so far?	What advice would you give a first year vintage club?	Is there anything you would like to share about your club with the newsletter?
The Great Black Swamp Frogs	Sylvania, Ohio	The club is having fun, but fielding a full squad for matches is frequently a problem this season.	Find out how much time each member wants to invest during the season. Consult the members' spouses/significant others as well. Schedule accordingly. Club members are more likely to stay active if their families are supportive and involved.	
Gotham Base Ball Club	New York City, NY	The season is going well. We're winning and that makes a world of difference. We're having fun. We're consistently getting 9 players. Our competition has been good.	Patience. The Gotham BBC started off with a core group of guys. They dropped off, but others showed up. People enjoy playing the 19th century base ball and they will come and play.	The Gotham BBC of NY has its best record ever
Atlantic Base Ball Club, oft referred to as the Brooklyn Atlantics	Long Island, NY. Our home field is in Smithtown, NY	We are doing fine, 17-6, playing mostly against many of the better clubs.	Usually in a first year, there are many losses, and it is sometimes hard to keep a team together, no one likes losing even though that's not what it's about, but we've all been there, and with time it starts to come together. Also, very big, is the task of doing the research and learning to get things historically correct, from the uniforms to the equipment to the rules. The worst thing a team can do is play in front of a crowd wearing the wrong uniform (knickers in the 1860's), using modern wood bats, and playing by inaccurate made-up rules.	The Atlantics are playing in their 15th season, enjoy playing all teams available, and look forward each season to reaching out to play teams they haven't as yet met.
Spiegel Grove Squires	Fremont, Ohio	Our season is going well. We now have 18 active members in our club, as well as a Talleyman and Umpire.	Watch other clubs play and ask questions of their players. Determine what makes your club unique (reenacting a 19th century club, a unique home field, etc.) and capitalize on that. Try to develop local support from your town or village and develop a loyal following of cranks that regularly attend home matches.	Our home matches are played in the back yard behind the historic Hayes Home on the grounds of Spiegel Grove, home of our 19th United States President in Fremont, Ohio.
Somonauk Blue Stockings	Somonauk, Illinois	This is by far the best year ever. We have a perfect blend of young (16-23), middle (we have three 40-something rookies) and a couple of us well over 60 (my cousin is 77). What struck me during a game early on is that as I looked out at our defense 6 of the 9 positions were held by young guys who had started little league with me when they were 8 yrs old; and there we were, still playing ball together.	While this year hasn't been a problem, most years there is a problem getting enough people to travel. I've held off going into Indiana for just that reason. With the group we now have I'm hoping it becomes less of a concern.	We are located in Somonauk, Ill. about 62 miles west and a little south of Chicago. We tend to play 1858-1861 rules. We play in an area from Chicago west to Rockford, north into Wisconsin and yearly play a game in a minor league stadium in Davenport, IA. Although we play a number of games against other vintage teams we're seeing that we're playing "townspeople" in historical society sponsored events more and more. These are a lot of fun as the novelty draws people and allows us to educate as well as entertain.
Milwaukee Cream Citys BBC	Milwaukee, WI	Going great, plenty of games and good spirited clubs.	Talk with established clubs and don't schedule too many games the first year out, build slowly.	Our 7th Annual Milwaukee Cream Citys Base Ball Festival is upcoming, August 21-22 in Big Bend, WI. The Champion Hill Toppers, Springfield Long Nine and Greenbush Dead Citys will be joining the Cream Citys this year.

Vintage Base Ball Association August 2011 Club Survey

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Lorain County Buckeyes		We officially folded the team this year	Don't succumb to special interests. Some players want to be extremely competitive, some enjoy the historical aspect and some just want to enjoy and participate.	As many clubs experience, we had too much infighting. The younger guys wanted to be more competitive and force out the older guys, but they didn't show up. We had to fold the team because we could not field a full team. We will miss you all and the comraderie. Huzzah!
Mansfield Independents	Mansfield Reformatory, Mansfield, Ohio	Playing just a little above 500 have played about 15 matches so far	Try not to schedule too many matches in your 1st couple of years. Talk to as many clubs as you can, go to the VBBA Convention in March, a great wealth of knowledge.	
Royal Oak Wahoos	Royal Oak MI	Our season is going splendid. We struggled to field enough players for several games in June. Weddings and graduations were heavy this year.	Advice to 1st year club. Have a mission statement. Make it know to all prospective club members what you are and the expectations you have. A clear set of rules of conduct, dress, and play will cut off disputes as to how the club should take the field.	The Wahoos play by the rules of 1860 and have a wide range of skills and age in our ballists. We are committed to being all inclusive to our membership. We find that playing by the rules of 1860 allows all our players to have fun and play competitively.
Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club	Augusta, ME	We've only played one game. We went through a bit of a leadership change and unfortunately by the time the new leadership was in place most other teams had their schedules already made.	Be open to new ideas and don't forget to have fun.	We are the only vintage base ball club in Maine and we are looking forward to next year!!!
Early Riser BBC	Detroit, MI	Our season (our third) is going fairly well. It seems every match this year has had significant obstacles to overcome—venue changes (because of everything from changes in city policy to storm damage), flooded fields, half the players out of town on the same weekend, club funds getting stolen during a home invasion, and so on. But, we have overcome them and have played our entire schedule so far except for two matches (one of which was rained out). We have had some very nice games this season, and it has been rewarding to see our club show some improvement on the field. Our "patience of hope" is beginning to show.	Try and spell out everything you can think of while forming the club. I think it's definitely important to have some kind of a workable structure (to spell out who's in charge of what) as well as some processes (make sure that everyone involved in the club is at least close to being on the same page at the beginning, but also have a process to address when something's not working and how to change it). Everything from field rules to who buys the stuff for the post-game picnic will be important to clarify. A well-thought-out player expectations list might be very helpful. It can be difficult to change things after expectations have been established (for instance, our first year we didn't have regular practices, but we realized that we really needed them. They were poorly attended because it wasn't something that players initially committed to). Having a mentor from an established club is EXTREMELY helpful.	Despite what has been in the news regarding the city of Detroit and the Historic Fort Wayne site recently, the Fort is not in any current danger of closing and the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition (of which our ball club is a part) has a great working relationship with the city.
Greensboro Patriots	Greensboro, NC	Not well, we had high expectations for this year. Our first games were a doubleheader in April for a local childrens' charity, with a low turnout of players and cranks. We have not played since, but we do have scheduled matches in Sept., Oct., and November. A total of 14 games in 4 weekends. As of this point, I have low commitment from our players.	Don't start a club in your area/state unless you have a good group of people ready to commit. Make sure you have a solid core of players. I suggest a minimum of 15 to 18 that you know you can count on and that are willing to help out in any way. This is especially helpful at events. Also, make sure your team is willing to travel to other states to play other teams.	With this being the 5th and final season for the Greensboro Patriots, my wife Michele and I would like to thank all of the friends that we have met over the past 20 years of vintage baseball. We are planning on travelling around next year and visiting other vintage clubs and maybe become a revolver as well.

Vintage Base Ball Association August 2011 Club Survey

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Regular BBC	Mt. Clemens, MI	Very well, so far. No major problems	1) Elect officers, Prez, V.P. treasurer, secretary etc. 2) Have a constitution that spells out the objective (history, competition, etc.) 3) If not affiliated with a museum or other facility get a tax ID and a checking account. 4) Have a regular pre-season and post season business meeting for discussion of objectives, election of officers, scheduling, etc. 5) Schedule like minded clubs. 5) have fun, including a post season banquet.	The Regular BBC is not affiliated with any museum, living farm etc. We are supported entirely by dues and monies recieved for playing at festivals and museums. Because of this we must be businesslike in locating fields and scheduling games.
Havre de Grace Dauntless	Havre de Grace, MD	A bit rough!	Keep recruiting constantly!	Base ball has had a stronghold in HdG since the 1860's. We are the birthplace of Cal Ripken Jr. Ironically Havre de Grace is at the end of the Susquehanna River and Coopertown is at the beginning. Cal has made a momentous trip up that river
Chesapeake and Potomac Base Ball Club	Maryland, Washington, DC and Northern Virginia	Very well, we have a full schedule of games with several Civil War and historic site exhibitions under way. I continue to give 19th Century baseball talks at the Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards in Baltimore, MD that generates a lot of interest in our sport. We have a significant increase in press coverage this season. Attached is an example.	Establish a roster of at least 18 members, order uniforms that are comfortable to play in and contact local media to help spread the word.	Yes, we organized our C&P club structure this year with election of officers and a formal submission for non-profit status. We have ordered new uniforms that are period correct, durable and comfortable to wear. We are expanding this year with a new team in Northern Virginia called the Old Dominion. We expect to have them in uniforms and on the field to play a full schedule in 2012. This will bring our C&P club affiliation to three members: Chesapeake Nine, Potomac Nine and Old Dominion.
Clodbuster Base Ball Club	Dayton, Ohio	We are .500. The food has been great and the base ball has been outstanding.	Get the history of your area down. The base ball rules are the same but the local history is not. That is what will make you different than other clubs.	The clodbusters are always ready to help other clubs and are always ready to play. Let play two!!
Northfield (Minnesota) Silver Stars BBC		3-2, two games remaining on the schedule	Most importantly, have FUN! Try to be as historically accurate as possible. Get to know your opponents and learn from them. Try to recruit a rookie for each game. Entertain and educate the cranks as you play the game.	We have been a very cross-generational team with teen-agers to 75-year-olds playing for us. This is our 8th season, and we continue to learn from the more established nines. We can compete with them, and can even beat them on a good day.
St. Louis Brown Stockings	Kirkwood, MO	I know each team struggles to get consistent players for games and at times, barely having 9 players to play. They especially have a very hard time with travel and Sunday games. But I know each team is enjoying their season- win or lose, hot or cool!	First, roster. Be sure to have at least 10 people committed to the first year of the club. No players-no games. Also, you may want to think about delegating duties: field set up, water cooler, whose bringing equipment, etc. This way the burden doesn't fall to one person. Second, cost. Think about uniforms. balls, bats, bases, etc. The initial cost for the Brown Stockings to start last year was about \$3000. Most of it went to uniforms and balls! Third, authenticity. Stay true to the vintage base ball game. Scout around for a grass field, a modern dirt field takes away from the overall feeling of the game. Decide which rules you are using- it was a toss up before 1875! Set up arbiters, and advertise! Four, after all that- have fun! Try not to put too much competition into it. After all, it's really a game to love!	I personally play for the St. Louis Brown Stockings but I am President of the Greater St. Louis Base Ball Historical Society. The organization consists of 3 teams: Brown Stockings, Lafayette Square Cyclones, and the St. Louis Perfectos. The Brown Sox play at Emmenegger Park in Kirkwood, MO and the Cyclones and Perfectos play at Lafayette Square in St. Louis City.

VISIONS OF THE PAST

Baseball Artifacts of the 19th Century

By Richard "Pastime" D'Ambrisi



This batsman is a scarce baseball figural statue by N. Muller, New York c.1868. One of the most desirable 19th century baseball statues by the most prolific baseball related figural artist of the period. Constructed of white metal, the statue retains a fine percentage of its original bronze wash, which has patinated nicely to a deep brown finish. Signed by Muller in raised lettering on the top of base and underneath with No. "533". 10" tall with a well uniformed batsman awaiting a pitch.



This pitcher is also signed by Muller in raised lettering on the top of base, "K/Muller & J.Deacon, Pat. 1868" and marked underneath the base, "N.Muller, NY No. 539 Patent 1868". 10" tall with a well uniformed pitcher preparing to throw the ball in 19th century underhand form.

**** RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ****

Treasurer, Rich Arpi has mailed out renewal forms to all member clubs. If you have misplaced yours, a renewal form is included in this newsletter. If you are not currently a member of the VBBA, you can join now. Complete the form and mail it to Rich Arpi with your check made out to "Vintage Base Ball Association"

Thanks for supporting the VBBA.



CHESAPEAKE VINTAGE BASE BALL TEAM

For Immediate Release July 2011

Chesapeake Nine Plays Vintage Base Ball 1864 Rules at Jerusalem Mill

Team Seeks Additional Members to Participate in 19th Century Games

Kingsville, MD – The Chesapeake Vintage Base Ball Team plays a regular schedule of games in and around the greater Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC area. Our home field is Jerusalem Mill Village located at the intersection of Jerusalem and Jericho Roads in Harford County, Maryland, amid the pristine scenery of the Gunpowder Falls State Park. Throughout the year, the village is the site of an amazing range of events and activities that bring history to life.

The goal of the Chesapeake Nine is to interpret the sport of baseball as it was played during the American Civil War era. Our vintage base ball living history program offers the opportunity for hands on displays of authentically reproduced uniforms, equipment, rules and sportsmanship by participating in base ball games played according to the customs of the 1864 time period.

We are seeking additional members of all ages, genders and skills to take on various roles including players, score keeper and umpire, equipment manager and side line associates in period attire. We are an all volunteer organization that provides complete training and support to get started in an exciting and growing sport. Visit our website and contact us today for more information about joining our team or simply attending one of our games. We welcome your inquiries about vintage base ball, spelled as two words in the 19th Century!

Club Historian

Richard "Pastime" D'Ambrisi

5 Silent Meadow Court

Cockeysville, MD 21030

alanbrooke@aol.com

410-666-9291

Captain

Joe "Commodore" Stanik

516 Bay Hills Dr
Arnold, MD 21012

jistanik@att.net

410-757-5572

EQUIPMENT FORUM—BASE BALL GLOVES

One of the first players believed to use a base ball glove was Doug Allison, a catcher for the Cincinnati Red Stockings, in 1870, due to an injured left hand. The first confirmed glove use was by Charles Waitt, a St. Louis outfielder/first baseman who in 1875 donned a pair of flesh-colored gloves. Glove use slowly caught on as more and more players began using different forms of gloves...By the mid 1890s, it was the norm for players to wear gloves in the field.—

www.wikipedia.org

In 1885, Providence Grays shortstop Arthur Irwin, while attempting to protect two broken fingers, added "padding" to a buckskin glove. This may be the first instance of a player introducing noticeable padding to a glove.—

www.19cbaseball.com

Buying vintage equipment, uniforms, bats, bases, chalkboards, tables, benches, banners, etc. can certainly add up for any new or existing club. Contact vendors personally by phone or email to figure out what is best option for your club before purchasing.



Can you name the vintage player pictured?

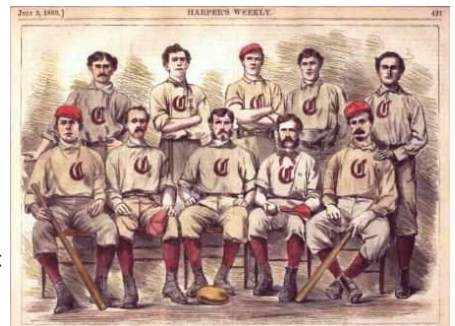


This man in the Hall of Fame as a Right Fielder for the Detroit Wolverines and the Philadelphia Phillies. He played from 1885 to 1898 and then briefly came out of retirement at age 46 to play 8 games for the Detroit Tigers. He led the league in HRs twice and RBI three times. "Big Sam" was known as a "sober, cheerful man, popular with fans and a leader among players" - Bill James. **Do you know who he is?**

Answer: [Sam Thompson](#)

CINCINNATI RED STOCKINGS' FIRST FRANCHISE LOSS TO BROOKLYN ATLANTICS

I recently found a website documenting an auction sale from six years ago. The item sold was an original scorecard from an 1870 base ball match between the Cincinnati Red Stockings and the Brooklyn Atlantics and it sold for nearly \$14,000. What makes this particular scorecard unique is not just the rarity and the age of the item but also because this scorecard documented the first time the Cincinnati club had lost a match to an opponent – ever. Prior to their June 14th match to the Reds, the Reds won 24 games that season and 57 (with one draw) the year before. They developed a huge national following as they travelled the country, besting any and all who opposed them. After their 8-7 11th inning defeat at the hands of the Atlantics, attendance dropped off, and after the season the club disbanded. Some of the players went on to be founding members of the Boston Red Stockings. Though the club folded, the 1869 season was special in that it helped spread the popularity of the sport to folks on the west coast.—JD



**Get Your VBBAT
T-Shirts [here](#)**

SUMMER 2011 TOURNAMENT & FESTIVAL UPDATES

LINKS OF INTEREST: Two great Vintage Base Ball articles to check out include one from MSN on July 22, 2011 "[Boys of Summer](#)" and one from the Washington Times on "[Take Me Out to the Ballgame—Civil War Style](#)"

MINNESOTA'S ROOSTER VINTAGE BASE BALL FESTIVAL

Northfield Silver Stars improve to 3-2

Shane Kitman, skitzman@northfieldnews.com



The Northfield Silver Stars Base Ball Club is now 3-2 on the season after winning and losing a game on Saturday at the six-team Rooster Vintage Base Ball Festival in Rochester.

With just nine players in uniform — no bench to battle the heat and humidity — Northfield lost 7-4 to the Quicksteps, even though the Silver Stars got a "four-baser" from Doug "Admiral" Morris.

Northfield's offense came alive in the second game in a 14-6 win over the Rochester Roosters. Highlighted by Kevin Hagen's "four-baser" into the bean field, the Silver Stars won handily.

THE 14TH ANNUAL AKRON CUP A SUCCESS

The Akron Black Stockings hosted their 14th annual Akron Cup on the picturesque grounds of Stan Hywett Hall & Gardens this past Sunday. Ten teams participated in the event, including some of the area's finest clubs: The Columbus Capitals, Dover Red Legs, Hoover Sweepers, Canal Fulton Mules, Alliance Crossing Rails, Pittsburgh Franklins, Dayton Clodbusters, the Blues and our hosts the Akron Black Stockings.

The Tournament's format allowed for each team to play three matches against random opponents. The Blues drew a tough schedule against our good friends the Alliance Crossing Rails and Pittsburgh Franklins. Our third match was against one of our mentor clubs, the Dayton Clodbusters.



Our first match against the Crossing Rails, their first of the season, was ruled by fine defensive plays on both sides. Alliance's rover, Mr. Barnes made several amazing plays, while our Blues' Woody and Meal Ticket made fine plays in the garden and Stumpy and Goliath held the line. The Blues prevailed 2-1.

Our second match of the day pitted Cleveland versus Pittsburgh in a match that would be high scoring with great defense. The Franklins, led by skipper Jason Ramaley, are always a formidable opponent, and full of fine ball players and gentlemen. The nine inning match was close through seven frames, when the Blues sleeping willows finally awoke. Led by the striking of Stoney, Constable and Meal Ticket, as well as a timely muckle shot by Chopper, the Blues escaped with a victory.

Our final match was against one of the clubs that helped start the Blues, the Clodbusters of Dayton. These gentlemen have a long history of being a premier vintage club in the region by their play on the field, and their gentlemanly manner. The match proved to be an exciting game for the kranks, as

both clubs played hard, and with great skill. The Clodbusters left scout, Weasel, shut down left field for the Blues, which made our club rely heavily upon our left handed strikers, and the large tree in right field. The Blues took advantage of this nuance, as Chopper, Stumpy, Furbelly and Constable exploited the large maple tree to our advantage. The Clod's hurler, Mule, pitched a fine game, and the Blues were able to overcome the hard muckle shots of Tomahawk (of the Clodbusters), Polecat and Cricket. The final was 6-5 in nine, in favor of the Clevelanders. After the match, the Clodbuster's captain paid the Blues a high compliment, stating the Blues reminded him of the Clodbusters when they started out in vintage base ball. It was a great compliment indeed, and we were honored to play such a fine club.

The Akron Cup is not a tournament in which a winner is declared. It is simply a meeting of area clubs for good competition and fun. And that it was.

Jay Demagall



SUMMER 2011 TOURNAMENT & FESTIVAL UPDATES

TEN CLUBS COMPETE AT GETTYSBURG, PA IN 19TH CENTURY BASE BALL TOURNAMENT

A's Society Goes Back in Time

On July 16th the A's Society set up display tables at the 2nd annual "19th Century Base Ball Tournament" in Gettysburg, PA. The two-day tournament featured players wearing the uniforms, using the equipment and following the rules of baseball as the game was played in the 1860s. Ten clubs harkening from Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Colorado took place in the round-robin contest hoping to become the tournament champion.



While it's not hard to recognize the 19th century version of the game as baseball, there are sharp differences between how the game was played back then compared to how it is conducted today. For example, in the 1860s, none of the players wore gloves and the catcher had no special protective equipment; the bats were made of thick wood, and only one ball was used for the entire game; the pitcher—called a "hurler" in the 19th century—delivered the ball underhand, and batters—called "strikers" in the 1860s—were out if the balls they hit were caught on the first bounce, whether it be in fair or foul territory.

The players performing in the tournament obviously enjoyed turning the clock back to play baseball as it was done 150 years ago. The competition was in earnest, and although it was a bit hot, the mild humidity assisted the participants in giving it their all on the field.

The A's Society occupied four tables, showing a mixture of artifacts for display and merchandise for sale. Many of the artifacts pertained to Eddie Plank, who was born in Gettysburg and largely earned his Hall of Fame credentials while playing for the Athletics. Gettysburg Eddie's Restaurant, one of the tournament sponsors, is named in honor of the legendary pitcher. Numerous people—players and fans—stopped by the A's Society's tables to look at the displays and talk about Philadelphia's baseball history.

The day turned out splendidly for all who were there, and the A's Society is grateful to tournament organizers for inviting it to participate in the event. The tournament is becoming a permanent feature of Gettysburg's summer schedule, and plans already are underway to hold it again next year during the third weekend in July.

CLUBS & CRANKS BRAVE 110 DEGREE HEAT IN MANASSAS, VIRGINIA

Old Town Manassas, VA commemorated the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War and the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run) July 21-24 with living history demonstrations, speakers, art, music, and Civil War base ball.

Members of the Chesapeake and Potomac Base Ball Club and the Excelsior Base Ball Club of Arundel braved the conditions July 23-24, playing vintage (Civil War) base ball in a wonderful environment organized by Historical Manassas. Playing nearby a Civil War encampment, the Clubs played their finest in front of dozens of cranks who really enjoyed watching [vintage base ball](#), despite the 110 degree heat index.

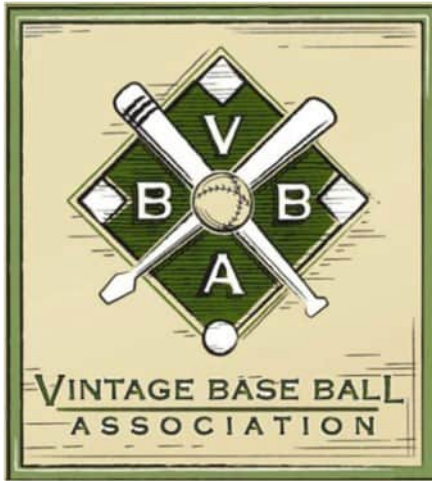


The first game between the Potomac Nine of Washington DC and the Arundel Excelsiors was a close one through the last out. After spotting Potomac two early runs, Arundel clamped down on defense and pushed across 6 runs in the second and third innings through timely hitting and solid base running. Potomac's Erik "Cannon" Christensen cleared the center field fence in the eighth inning with a mammoth 2-run home run that cut Arundel's lead to 3, but that was as close as Potomac would get. Arundel's Fred "Bones" Fontz made two spectacular throws from behind to nail base runners at third and Tim "Shakespeare" Grieb's timely hits solidified the 8-5 win for Arundel.

The second game featured the Old Dominions of Northern Virginia taking the field for the first time versus the Arundel Excelsiors. With 7 Northern Virginians in the line-up, including 4 players playing for the first time, the Old Dominions scored 7 runs in the top of the first and never looked back, winning 11-6 in their inaugural game. Jerry "Ranger" Sparks crushed two 2-run doubles in his first two career at-bats, while Tommy "Scout" Carlyle, Nathan "Smokey" Sparks, and Matthew Davila had tremendous at-bats and showed great hands in the field in their first game. The future looks good for the Old Dominions, who will formally join the MAVBBL for the start of the 2012 season.

Overall, it was a tremendous weekend of base ball in Old Town Manassas. Despite the heat, players and cranks had a great time and demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship. Many thanks to Kenny Loveless and Historic Manassas for organizing the special Civil War base ball event.

Check out the article in Inside Nova: <http://www2.insidenova.com/news/2011/jul/24/old-time-base-ball-makes-pitch-ar-1194064/?referer=http://www.facebook.com/I/5AQDmNm5wAQD3JN09kJ7AxAJriA0nOKwDFo2DmxUBwZq61Q/insidenova.c>



Vintage Base Ball Association Membership

The VBBA offers three different annual memberships as described below for each calendar year, with dues to be paid by December 1st. With your membership, you will receive our newsletter and invitation to the annual conference. Full Club members are also entitled to two votes on association issues. Be sure to check out the website www.vbba.org for more valuable information as well as links to Full Club and Associate Club member's websites.

Name:			Phone :		
Mailing Address:					
City:		State :		Postal Code:	
Email Address:					
Club Affiliation:					
Club Website:					

	\$50 Full Club Membership: for clubs who play at least 6 matches per year.
	\$35 Associate Club Membership: for clubs who are not interested in a full membership or do not play 6 matches per year.
	\$10 Individual Membership: For individual ballists, civilian interpreters, base ball historians, fans, etc., who wish to support the organization.

Make checks payable to the Vintage Base Ball Association.

Mail payment to:

Rich Arpi
VBBA Treasurer
2445 Londin Lane East, Unit 410
Maplewood, Minnesota 55119

Thank you in advance for supporting the Vintage Base Ball Association.

BASE BALL RULE & CUSTOM CHANGES 1845-1870

As I read a variety of websites, articles and books, I have noted when certain base ball customs and rules changed since it's official inception in 1845. I note that the origins of base ball are much deeper than this and come from a variety of games that were played in some instances centuries prior to 1845. Such games resembling base ball are town ball, base, cricket, and they came from a variety of places—American and abroad. But that is for a historian to write about. Of course, aside from codified base ball rule changes, many of the following changes of customs were often slow to take place and varied region by region. Though I try my best to be accurate, this list is by no means complete. I have included what I consider interesting changes that took place. I used many sources to find the following information including: the VBBA website, [19c base ball.com](http://19cbaseball.com), The New Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract, Baseball: More than 150 Years by David Nemec and Saul Wisnia, the Official Encyclopedia of Baseball by Hy Turkin and S.C. Thompson, and other various sites.- JD

1845—Alexander Joy Cartwright establishes the New York Knickerbocker Base Ball Club and codifies the first rules of base ball, which can be found [here](#).

1846—the New York Nine club, a team composed mostly of Cricket players plays the Knickerbockers in the first interclub match in base ball history. The Nine prevail 23-1

1857—Due to rising popularity and the formation of a number of clubs, the Knickerbockers call for the first Base Ball convention, where, due partially to the efforts of Base Ball enthusiast and writer, Henry Chadwick, the rule that matches ended when one club tallied 21 aces was changed to the current 9 inning format.

1858—25 clubs met at the 2nd Base Ball convention and formed the first league, the National Association of Base Ball Players.

1858—the first All Star game is played between players from Brooklyn and players from New York. An admission rate of 50 cents was charged for admission to the 1,500 cranks who came out.

1859—the tradition of clubs hosting banquets following base ball matches was legislated out of the game at the 1859 national convention.

1860—the Excelsiors of Brooklyn embark on base ball's first tour as they visit and defeat several clubs in western New York.

1861—The American Civil War begins in the Spring. The war would last 4 years, tear the country apart and result in the death of around 620,000 soldiers. Club membership dropped in New York during the war but the

game spread in both northern and southern camps, helping to hasten its rise in popularity following 1865.

1862—professional Base Ball's first home run fence was built at Brooklyn's Union grounds.

1862—fielders could no longer record an out on balls caught on one bound.

1863—Henry Chadwick's box score became an official part of professional base ball.

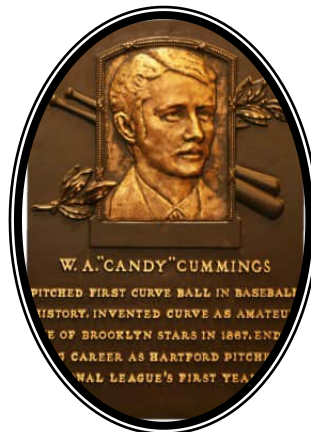
1864—Philadelphia's infielder Al Reach is the first admittedly paid player.

This was no great shock as amateurism, the practice of not paying players as was originally intended by Alexander Cartwright, had for several years been in question; many players were quietly paid for their services by their respective clubs.

Mid-1860's—Hurler **Candy Cummings (Hall of Fame plaque pictured)** begins to experiment with the curve ball. At this point pitchers are still hurling underhand (though some are starting to throw in a slightly side-armed motion.) Strikers are still able to call for high pitches or low pitches.

1869—Knickerbockers are first worn by a few clubs replacing the long pants worn previously. Other clubs quickly adopt the uniform change and by the mid-1870's knickerbockers are a regular uniform fixture.

1869—the Cincinnati Red Stockings create the first all-professional club. The club hired stars like Harry and George Wright on a payroll of nearly \$10,000, traveling nearly 12,000 miles as far as California playing any prominent club. They win 65 matches and draw one, when the club they were playing left the field in the sixth inning over a dispute. Two years later, the first professional base ball league is founded.



NEW CLUB? - PLEASE LET US KNOW

If you are a new vintage club or know of a vintage club, please email me at jdemagall@gmail.com to let me know. I will enter that information for future newsletters. I can search the internet and find out about new clubs by word of mouth at matches and events but it's much easier if you email me. Feel free to send me articles, club information, etc. Generally speaking we are looking to promote the game's past, vintage base ball today and you, the current VBBA club members. It seems as though many prospective clubs are posting to the [VBBA facebook](#) page, looking for players.

VBBA CLUB PROFILE

THE ELKTON BASE BALL CLUB OF ELKTON, MARYLAND

The Eclipse Base Ball Club of Elkton started out in November of 2005 as a new twist on programming at a historic site in Cecil County, Maryland. To get started we were mentored by Brad Shaw and the Flemington Neshanock for which we will always be eternally grateful. The first thing he taught us was to be as historically accurate as possible. To do that, the originators of the new club spent a night at the local Historical Society. We found that a club called the Eclipse Base Ball Club out of Elkton, Maryland was the first base ball club to be established in the county and really in the region in the Summer of 1866.

With help from Marty Payne and the local SABR chapter, we found out how base ball spread in the countryside in Maryland. Most clubs in the state outside of the metropolitan areas started in 1867 when the Baltimore Base Ball Emporium, owned by George Gratton sent 4 salesmen out to show every town in Maryland the new game of base ball. One salesman who had the entire Maryland Eastern Shore is responsible for bringing base ball to most of the village and small towns up and down the Chesapeake Bay. He would go in to towns and start games with the local townsmen. When baseball fever hit each town they naturally purchased their equipment from the Baltimore Base Ball Emporium.



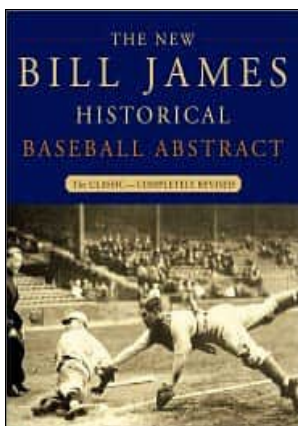
The Eclipse, though started in 1866, which we found was odd, but we at least started with knowing the number of players on the original club, what the club colors were, where they played and when they played. With this information we were able to tell our fans what base ball was like in 1860s in Cecil County. In the Winter of 2010, we as a club bonding night, returned to the Historical Society to see what else we could find. What we found out really put a face on the club.

It turns out the original club was started in the Spring of 1866 and was made up of 40 men- 27 Union veterans, 11, Confederate veterans, and 2 who did not participate in the War. We further were able to research the starting 9 when they played their first game against another club on July 17, 1866 against the St George BBC of Delaware. (Which Elkton won 62-47). Before that, they played against each other every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday night on the grounds where the current railroad goes through. (Part of the original clubhouse still stands and is a workshop for a construction company). Of the starting 9, we were able to look up the biographies of 6 of those men. 5 of the 6 turned out to be surgeons for the Union in the War that were stationed in Philadelphia and Washington DC. Most went to medical school at the University of Pennsylvania and 3 went first to the Elkton Academy and then the Baltimore Academy before going to Penn. While at Penn they volunteered to help the cause and helped the wounded at Fredericksburg and Manassas among other sites. It was while in Philadelphia that they learned base ball and brought it back to Elkton.

Though the original club was not nearly as good nor organized (according to scathing newspaper reports of the day) as the current Eclipse, they did give a club from Philadelphia, the Bachelor BBC (a first class club from the City of Brotherly Love) quite a scare. Apparently the boys from Elkton could hit Philadelphia's swift pitching too well so the Bachelor captain had to switch pitchers to a more modest thrower and the Eclipse could no longer hit as far as they once did. The Philadelphias pulled out a 5 run win in the 9th inning but got quite a scare. The game was the biggest attended base ball game in the history of Elkton (to this day!) with thousands attending (Cecil County has less than 90,000 people in it).

Today, the Eclipse honor those who played at the Rail Road Grounds of Mr. Howard back in the years just after the war. The currently play between 30 and 35 matches per year against clubs in the mid atlantic area at the Terrapin Station Winery. If any clubs from around the nation are interested in visiting the "Land of Pleasant Living" at the top of the Chesapeake Bay, we will make sure you have a warm and hospitable stay and will return any trips that you'll make. The club is made up of men from 21 to 67 and come from all walks of life. They enjoy their fellowship with each other and have played with each other for the last 6 years. —Submitted by Bruce "Early" Leith, President, Eclipse Base Ball Club of Elkton.

BOOK REVIEW



Though the updated edition is now ten years old, *The New Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract* is a book that still offers timeless insight into baseball of all eras. Bill James has been writing about baseball for decades, is a prominent member of SABR, and is currently a Senior Advisor to the Boston Red Sox. I have read a few of his other books but in my opinion that his 2001 updated Abstract is his best and is a great read for any baseball fan, be it a casual fan, a researcher, or vintage enthusiasts. James' breaks down each decade starting in the 1870s through the 1990s. Though he does not cover the formative years of baseball (pre-1870), he does recommend books that cover these topics. For vintage enthusiasts, what the book does do is provide insight into uniforms, customs, attitudes, rule changes, how the game was played, where it was played, new equipment, which cities had the highest attendance per decade, etc. between 1870 and 1900. He also includes some humorous categories like ugliest player or a better man than a ballplayer award. In the second part, James ranks the 100 greatest players at each position and provides small capsules of information about each person, many pre-1900 professional ball players are included in this section. These capsules can be two paragraphs long, as is the case for Cupid Childs, or, in the case of Hal Chase, 6 pages long. Each capsule gives you insight into a players personality, flaws, oddities of hitting or fielding style, etc. On the downside, the book is 10 years old so his player ratings are outdated and players like Jim Thome are not listed as a top 100 first baseman. But his rankings are not what makes the book, it's the information. James can be opinionated, and you will no doubt disagree with many of his assertions but he backs his opinions with decades worth of research and knowledge. You can read this book slowly—bit by bit—over a period of months and lose none of the enjoyment. I highly recommend the book and I am not alone. On www.amazon.com, 94 people reviewed the book and 62 people gave James's Abstract 5 stars, 19 gave it 4 stars. I recently bought a used hardcover copy (I lost my last copy) in great condition for \$7.92. With shipping costs, it was under \$15.00. —JD

FROM THE HISTORY CORNER

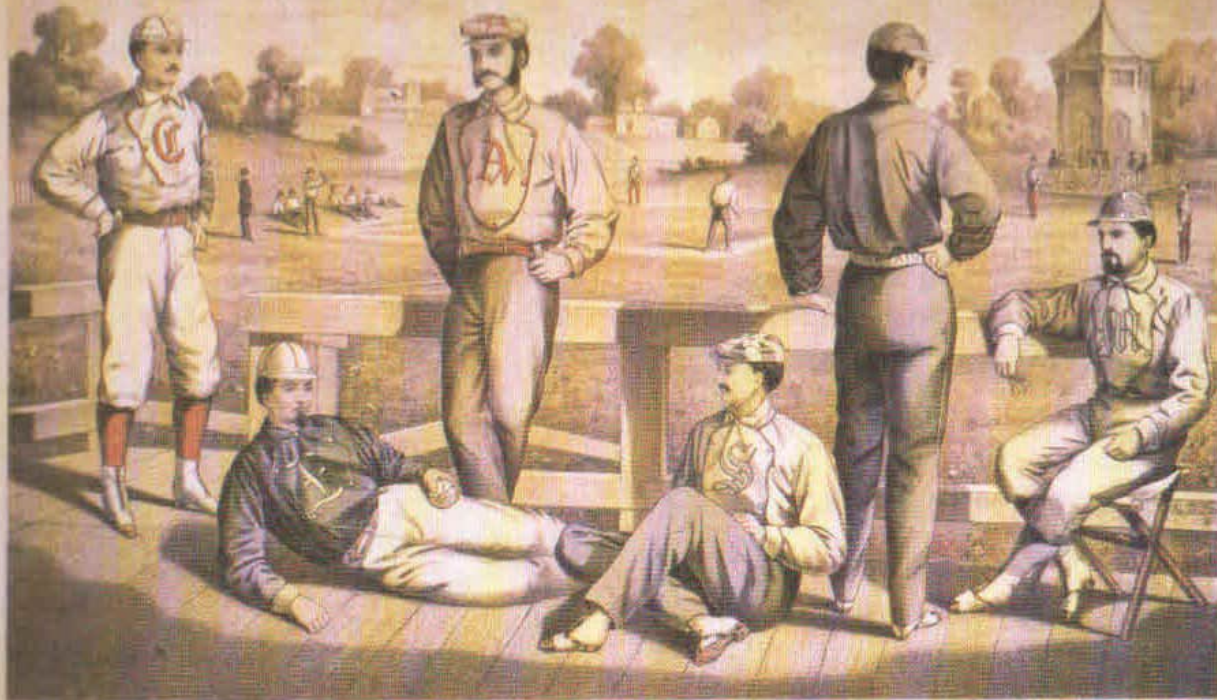
Base Ball, a bi-yearly publication from McFarland, has included in its July 1st release, three articles from VBBA members. Historian Eric Miklich (Eckford BBC) writes about the 1857 Base Ball Convention, Bob Tholkes (Quicksteps BBC) summarizes the 1860 season via the *Sunday Mercury* and David Dyte (Gotham BBC) explains why he feels baseball in Brooklyn was extraordinary from 1845 – 1870. The publication contains 31 other essays on early base ball by prominent writers. The book can be purchased from McFarland at <http://mcfarlandpub.com/baseball.html>

On September 1st, David Nemec, 19th century author and historian, will release his latest book on 19th century base ball. He and nine other writers including VBBA Historian Eric Miklich (Eckford BBC) wrote biographies on 1,800 players, managers, umpires and executives for this two volume set. The book can be purchased from Amazon at http://www.amazon.com/Major-League-Baseball-Profiles-1871-1900/dp/080323533X/ref=sr_1_38?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1312851423&sr=1-38



Nemec and Miklich signed books on Saturday August 13th at the East Hampton Public Library on Long Island.

BASE BALL IN 1870, NEW YORK



NEW YORK FASHIONS
FOR MARCH 1870.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG, SEPT, OCT 2011

NOTE: It's always best to check your local papers for when and where local events are held. Most clubs have websites or facebook pages as well. Here are match and tournament listings posted on event calendar at the [VBBA](http://VBBA.org) website as some found on the internet.

Saturday, August 13 & Sunday, August 14, 2011

[World Tournament of Historic Base Ball](#) in Dearborn, Michigan

[The Greenbush Dead Citys vs. Milwaukee Grays](#) in Greenbush, Wisconsin (Sunday)

Saturday, August 20 & Sunday, August 21, 2011

[Basket Factory Vintage Base Ball Festival](#) in Douglas Michigan

[Mid Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League's Open Tournament](#) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

[Franklin's Epoch Base Ball Tournament \(PA Classic\)](#) in Murrysburg, Pennsylvania

Saturday, September 3 & Sunday, September 4, 2011

[Ohio Cup Vintage Base Ball Festival](#) in Columbus, Ohio

Saturday, September 10 & Sunday, September 11, 2011

[The Athletic BBC of Philadelphia vs. the Cecil Club of Chesapeake City](#) @ 1:00 PM @ Memorial Field, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. (Saturday)

[The New York Mutuals vs. The New York Gothams](#) @ 11:00 AM @ Old Bethel Village Restoration (Saturday)

Saturday, September 17 & Sunday, September 18, 2011

[Whiskey Island Shamrocks, Wood County Inmates & the Early Risers](#) @ Ned Skeldon Stadium in Toledo, OH

Saturday, September 24 & Sunday, September 25, 2011

[5th Annual Northern Illinois Vintage Base Ball Tournament](#) in Sheridan, Illinois (Saturday Only)

[Tippecanoe Base Ball Cup](#) in Tipp City, Ohio

Saturday, October 1, 2011 & Sunday, October 2, 2011

[The Mid Atlantic Vintage Base Ball Championship Tournament](#) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Sunday Only)

[The Missouri Cup hosted by the St. Louis Brownstockings](#) (Saturday Only)

Saturday, October 8 & October 9, 2011

[3rd Annual Kansas State Vintage Base Ball Tournament](#) in Wichita, Kansas

Saturday, October 15 & October 16, 2011

[Townball Match with the Pittsburgh Franklins](#) in Frog Hollow, Pennsylvania (Saturday Only)

Check the VBBA website to see a [listing of Vintage Base Ball Clubs](#) in or around your state.

Also, check the VBBA [Events Calendar](#) as more events are updated throughout the season.

NEWS & NOTES

While looking over club websites for schedule and match information, I noticed the excellent quality and layout. I play for the Whiskey Island Shamrocks, a newer club, with a poor match record (we have yet to win this season) but for some reason, cranks and family members still come out to see us do our best. I have talked with people and asked where they heard about us. Many say they checked our website or the website of the club we were playing. The tough thing is, schedules change and matches can be cancelled for a variety of reasons. But aside from team newsletters and word of mouth, web-

sites are an excellent way to promote the game and get the cranks out to the field.

A few that I noticed that were well constructed include: the Atlantic's BBC of Philadelphia, PA; the Pittsburgh Franklins; the **Great Black Swamp Frogs BBC (pictured)** of Sylvania, OH and many others. For the most part, their websites were easy to navigate, informative, included pictures and a 2011 schedule with locations and times. There are many other great websites, too many to list here, but these were a few that stuck out.—JD.

The Great Black Swamp Frogs Base Ball Club of Sylvania, Ohio

History and statistics are listed on the right side of the page. The page is well designed and easy to navigate. The page is well designed and easy to navigate. The page is well designed and easy to navigate.

Next Match: Sunday, August 2, 2011, 1:00 pm vs. **Pittsburgh Franklins** at **Pittsburgh Park, Ohio**

Archives: The inaugural Sylvania Vintage Base Ball Tournament was held on July 20th, 2011, featuring the Ohio Vintage Frogs, the Sylvania Green Sox, and the Sylvania Frogs. The Frogs played against the Sylvania Green Sox in the first match of the day. The Frogs won the match 4-2. The Frogs won the match 4-2. The Frogs won the match 4-2.

CONTACT INFORMATION

You can email your text files to this editor, Jon Demagall at jdemagall@gmail.com and I will put it into the future issues of the Base Ball Player's Chronicle. If you feel like sending me a hard copy of your articles, you can do that as well. Send me an email and I can provide a mailing address. If you do not want to write an article, let me know what topic you are interested in learning about and I will find a willing writer.

THE NEXT ISSUE

of the **Base Ball Player's Chronicle** will be available in November 2011