



# THE BASE BALL PLAYER'S CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the **VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION**



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## TONY MULLANE—"THE ADONIS OF PITCHERS"



Pitcher Tony Mullane, started playing professional base ball in the early 1880s, while the idea of paying players was still in its infancy stage. But by 1884, the establishment of professional leagues, with paid players, was no longer a novelty, it was becoming a very serious and competitive business. New Leagues would form, last a year or so and then die out, with today's National League being the lone surviving exception.

The need to sign stars like Mullane often drove owners in rival leagues or within leagues into bidding wars. And though the merits of gentlemanly play still applied, players "jumping" to rival teams and leagues occurred anyway. The promise of higher pay was often too tempting to pass up.

In late 1884, Tony Mullane, a 25 year right handed pitcher (mostly. He did pitch a few times left-handed), was pitching for his fourth club in four years, the Toledo club of the American Association.

With the knowledge that the club was breaking up, he was approached by three clubs, the St. Louis Club, the Louisville Club, and finally the Cincinnati Club. All offered various amounts of money to sign him after his contract expired with Toledo. The details of what happened are not clear but essentially Mullane accepted all of their offers in principal and ended up signing with Cincinnati due to a cash bonus offered. This of course angered the other clubs, fans, sportswriters and resulted in a one year suspension from play for Mullane. - *cont. on page 2*

## BASE BALL: A GAME OF ERRORS

Vintage Base Ball is a game that heavily relies on players ability to strike well and of course to field well, something that can be difficult if Vintage fielders are without the aid of a glove. While players by the 1890's were using gloves, and vintage ball clubs playing by those rules employ the use of early model gloves, fielding was still somewhat a below average endeavor by today's standards.

In the 1890's the regularity of errors committed in the field in professional baseball reached its peak. Short Stop Herman "Germany" Long, committed 117 errors in 128 games in 1889 for the Kansas City Cowboys of the American Association. He would go on to commit 765 errors over a 15 year career, and, oddly to modern standards, regularly finished slightly above league average in fielding percentage. Long was not alone in routinely miffing an infield play. Between 1890 and 1900 only long time Short Stop Bill Dahlen, managed to lead the National League in errors with less than 90. This held true regardless of whether you were playing for the Players League, the Union Association, the American Association or the National League.

What could the reasons for this be? As stated, gloves were rudimentary and nowhere near as effective as a modern glove. Fields were often uneven, lined with stones, divots, and other objects that could hinder a fielders chances at making a play. And the game was played very differently. Infielders could expect a lot of hit balls and stolen bases. Corner infielders were agile and the ability to field were generally very important traits for even those playing first base. And of course, errors do not often tell how "good" or "bad" a player is defensively. There are other defensive statistics like range factor to consider as well.

Today of course the game is different. First basemen and even some third basemen are often defensively challenged at getting to the ball or making the stop. Sometime first basemen Adam Dunn is listed at 6'6 and 285 lbs and is regarded as a below average fielder with great power. Even he only committed four errors in 35 games last season. Indeed, since 1950, only one player has had more than 50 errors in a season and that was Short Stop Roy Smalley in 1950.

So this spring when you make an error in the field, as I often do, don't feel too bad. You are giving the cranks in the crowd a glimpse into the past at the genuine article. Back then players made errors, dusted off their knickers, and awaited the opportunity to redeem themselves on the next play. - Jon Demagall

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## IN THIS ISSUE

AKRON BLACK STOCKING'S CAPTAIN RICH BLASICK RETIRING	2
VISIONS OF THE PAST, RICHARD "PASTIME" D'AMBRISI	3
NEW LEAGUE IN MASSACHUSETTS, LEMONT QUARRYMEN FROM WISCONSIN, EQUIPMENT FORUM	4
VINTAGE BASE BALL FUNDRAISING	5
FROM THE HISTORY CORNER, CLUB PROFILE: ATLANTIC BASE BALL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA	6
MEMBERSHIP FORM	7
VBBA CONVENTION INFORMATION	8. 9
BOOK REVIEW	9

## Akron Black Stocking's Captain Retiring after Fifteen Great Years



From his early years as a Black Stocking (left), to his Captaincy (center) to his days umpiring matches (right), Juggler has thrived in every role.

It was 15 years ago that Mark 'Capt'n' Heppner introduced me to vintage base ball and I was hooked. After many great years of playing vintage base ball for the Akron Black Stockings, being active in the VBBA, and making many new friendships, I've decided to step off into retirement to pursue other interests. Starting out this final year we hosted the Genesee Country Village Club for a fun double header at Stan Hywet. Seeing they were short a couple of players, I volunteered to make them a full club nine. Unfortunately I suffered a shattered knuckle during the second game and didn't get to play this season as much as I had hoped. I recall talking with Jay Demagall of the Cleveland Blues BBC at our July event and after he looked at my finger his comment was, "What a cool vintage base ball injury." I then took on the role of umpiring, along with educating the specta-

tors and our new Black Stocking players on the various aspects of the game and sportsmanship.

After three months off, I jumped back into playing at Ohio Cup thinking 'I'm good how much can this hurt?' Let's just say I concluded our season umpiring two great home matches versus the Huntington Hilltopper gentlemen. Shane Gault and Steve Incorvati will be taking on management of the Black Stockings. (Their contact information should be posted on our website [akronblackstockings.com](http://akronblackstockings.com)) Thanks to everyone, it has been a great run...pun intended. But don't think you're getting rid of me totally. I'll be around to make bad calls as an umpire at a game here or there. Plus, I'm always looking for a reason to take a vacation, so if you need a change player for a road trip to an interesting destination, let me know. In the words of Ed Shuman (Canal Fulton Mules) "For the glory of the game of base ball... HUZAH!"

Rich 'Juggler' Blasick [Rich.juggler@gmail.com](mailto:Rich.juggler@gmail.com)

### TONY MULLANE—"THE ADONIS OF PITCHERS" CONTINUED

Mullane is interesting character for several reasons. Aside from his notable one year ban from League Play, he was one of a growing number of pitchers to start pitching overhanded. As writer and historian Bill James points out, "Baseball was switching gradually from underhanded pitching to overhand pitching, which was theoretically illegal, but was becoming the dominant practice by 1882." Sometimes umpires would stop pitchers from throwing overhand and sometimes they wouldn't. Eventually, everyone was pitching overhand.

Mullane was also a part of the first generation of pitchers to rotate pitching days between two, three men and later four men, rather than pitching every day. Still, pitchers were asked to put a lot of strain on their arms. In 1884, he appeared in 64 games and pitched in 567 innings. He would throw over 400 innings in four seasons and over 500 innings in two seasons over the course of his 13 year career, staggering numbers when compared to contemporary pitchers.

Which leads to another interesting facet of Mullane's personality. He was apparently very difficult to get along with as a player and a person. At times, he refused to pitch when called upon by his managers. The *Sporting Life* once referred to him as "ungrateful". He was known to criticize club management and his own teammates publicly. He was admittedly racist, not wanting to work with catcher Moses Fleetwood Walker, the last black ballplayer to play in a major baseball league prior to Jackie Robinson in 1947. Author David Porter referred to Mullane as a "spoiled, self-indulgent, *prima donna*... and a pioneer who explored the depths of tactlessness and selfishness in contract negotiations." The *prima donna* comment may have to do with his looks, which were apparently pleasing as he had many female fans. He was called "The Adonis of pitchers", dressed very well and would often roll his sleeves up to show off his muscular arms. Whatever Tony Mullane was or was not, it cannot be argued that he must have made for great print for the newspapers.

Tony Mullane retired from professional baseball following the 1894 season, having won 284 games with a 3.05 ERA. He would pitch a few more years in the Western League before hanging it up in 1899 at age 40. The most he made in a season was \$4,200 in 1891. He went on to become a detective for the city of Chicago and lived there until his death in 1944. - Jon Demagall

Thanks to [www.baseball-reference.com](http://www.baseball-reference.com), and Bill James' article "Tony Mullane" in *The Neyer/James Guide to Pitchers*.

# VISIONS OF THE PAST

Baseball Artifacts of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

By Richard "Pastime" D'Ambrisi

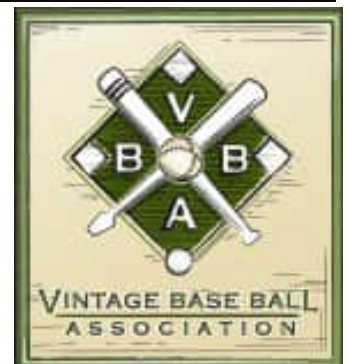
Representing one of the first New York clubs, the 1871 broadside poster celebrates the 18th Anniversary of the Eagle Base Ball Club. Measuring 28"x42", this delicate paper display piece features a printed proclamation, "E.B.B.C. 18th Anniversary of Eagle Base Ball Club" around a large, exquisitely engraved scene of a game in progress. Event details presented include the location, "Landman's Hamilton Park at 69th St. & Third Ave.," and the date "Friday, August 25, '71" with details regarding a "Dance" to follow the game starting apparently at 2:00 PM! Ticket sales encourage "Gentlemen and Ladies" with "No Postponement" for this important event.

The printer of the poster is identified at the bottom as "Palmer & Corse, Printers, No. 80 Vesey Street NY". A "Committee of Arrangements" at the bottom lists several dozen names involved in the organization of the event, including Eagle Base Ball Club treasurer Henry M. Bellows. This poster was originally obtained by the descendants of Henry Bellows, who preserved it for the better part of 140 years. The condition of the piece is extraordinary considering its age, fragile composition, and intended purpose as a short term use broadside. This is a peerless example of 19th Century baseball advertising.



## \*\*\*\* 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"





## NEW LEAGUE IN MASSACHUSETTS—PLAYERS WANTED

The Essex Base Ball Organization is happy to announce the formation of a three team league based out of Spencer Peirce Little Farm in Newbury, MA. The Essex Base Ball League will consist of three teams the Lowell Base Ball Club, the Lynn Live Oaks, and the Newburyport Clamdiggers and will play Sundays at the farm. All teams were clubs that played in the 19th century. Don't worry the Essex BBC will still be playing. Essex will play the majority of their games on Saturdays.

If you are interested in joining the league we are always looking for players. Contact league president Cappy Sheehy at [historball@yahoo.com](mailto:historball@yahoo.com) for more info. We also have sponsorship opportunities and welcome any donations to help support our league.

## NEW CLUB — LEMONT QUARRYMEN FROM WISCONSIN PLAYING BY RULES OF 1858

History buffs and baseball lovers have united to form the Lemont Quarrymen, a vintage base ball team. This club, ranging in age from 25-62, promises to showcase the way base ball was played in 1858. At matches, the Quarrymen will tend their bases and scout the outfield without mitts, always hoping that the “onion” is knocked their way. While at bat, the ballists strike with their willows to knock the “apple out of the orchard” or “cut some daisies” in order to tally more aces than their opponents. For these Quarrymen winning is nice, but its pursuit never dims their gentle- manly characters.

So, base ball fans, show some ginger and come support the Lemont Quarrymen this summer as they take on several rival base ball clubs. All spectators, cranks, bugs and charming deadheads are welcome to watch or participate in all games. Please inquire with the Lemont Historical Society for more information.

For more information visit the Quarrymen website [here](#).

For more great match photos of the Quarrymen click [here](#).



## EQUIPMENT FORUM—SHOES

Buying a vintage uniform and bats is usually the most important part of looking the part of a vintage ballist. I've noticed most teams wear a modern day baseball cleat and color it black or do not wear cleats at all, choosing to go for the vintage look by wearing brown or black boots. The question is, when did wearing cleats come into fashion in base ball? According to [www.19cbaseball.com](http://www.19cbaseball.com) “Spiked shoes were also used by many players in the 1860s and the shoe plate (cleat), worn under the heel and toe was introduced in the late 1870s. The shoes were usually black, but could be white or white with tan accents.”



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

# Vintage Base Ball Fundraising

By: Jay "Tomahawk" Demagall

## Cleveland Blues Base Ball Club

This is the time of year where our club begins to order supplies; schedule matches and prepare for next season. A large part of that preparation concerns what sort of fundraisers we will do in order to meet the team's goals. Our club's goals center not only around playing matches, but educating the community, sponsoring baseball organizations in the community, and marketing our team along with League Park, our home grounds. These goals, combined with the attempt to keep travel costs down for our members comprise the need for the Blues to raise money.

When we started out as a club, we held a few fundraisers at a local bar which is owned by one of the players on our team. "Pubs" allowed us to use space at Merry Arts Bar & Grille, provided beer and appetizers at cost for the event and helped us advertise the event. Attendees paid \$20, and enjoyed the beer and food, knowing it was for a good cause. We did two events like that and raised enough money to buy uniforms, balls, VBBA dues and a few necessary items to be a good vintage club. We also collected dues from each player (\$50). As the season wore on, we found that we needed to raise more money & awareness in order to fully implement our goals, and be a good VBBA member.

At the end of our first season, we started an annual banquet which allowed us to raise the majority of money we needed for the season. The banquet was held at The Clevelanders & we were allowed beer and food for a small price. We also hired 1980 AL MVP Joe Charboneau to be our keynote speaker. The 4 hour event featured a Chinese auction, raffle, and t-shirt sales. By then, our club had achieved 501(c)3 status, so the \$20 tickets were considered a donation. The event was held at the beginning of December, so people were in a party mood, and the great prizes that were donated to the club from The Cleveland Indians, Bertman's Ballpark Mustard, and other sponsors, made great holiday gifts. The event was a huge success. We have had over 200 attendees each year, and raised over \$3,000 after expenses to help fund the club. Due to our connections with the Indians, we are able to get great keynote speakers, such as Lenny Barker & John "the guy that beats the drum at Indians games" Adams to be the headliners for the event, which helps us sell the \$20 tickets.

At this point, our club's expenses have grown. We sponsor a little league team; host a website, buy insurance, built a clubhouse (**pictured below**), bought more equipment & cover hotel costs for the team. So, in addition to our end of the year banquet, we have added a few more fundraisers throughout the year that are easy on the guys, but still make us a few bucks. Last year, a local brewery contacted us to be the non-profit to co-host an event at their brewery for Cleveland Beer Week. We raised over \$1,300 doing what the Blues do second best, drinking beer with our friends! We also gained a great sponsor, and helped promote a local business in the community. As a 501(c)3, we were able to receive matching funds from corporations through individual donations. For example, a nice couple donates a few hundred dollars to the club every season. The wife of the couple works for PepsiCo., which matches their donation, so we are able to raise \$400-\$600 a season through that transaction alone!

In 2011, we tried a golf outing. It went extremely well, but took much work from the guys on the team. The attendees had a blast, and we were able to get a bunch of cool prizes from local businesses for the outing.



I know some of the local clubs do various fundraisers as well. The Forest City's hold a spaghetti dinner at a great restaurant in Cleveland's Little Italy. The Columbus Capitals also host a golf outing. The Bay City Independents put together a great newspaper, dedicated to their club as well as the area's base ball history, and raise funds through selling advertising.

What I've found through all these efforts is this: raising funds is crucial to making the Blues a good VBBA club, and a valued organization in the community. However, in order to be successful, you have to find ideas that people will come to; that are affordable; and that the guys on the team can work AND still have fun! I hope these ideas help our club, and if you have any great ideas about how our club raises money, please send them my way – [cbbbc1@gmail.com](mailto:cbbbc1@gmail.com)!

# 2012 VINTAGE BASE BALL CONVENTION

## VBBA Convention hosted by the Eckford of Brooklyn BBC “A Celebration of the Re-Birth of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Base Ball!”

### Dates

March 30 (Friday), 31 (Saturday), April 1 (Sunday)

### Registration

\$50 per VBBA Member; T-shirt included (Indicate size: L, XL or XXL only)

\$65 per non-VBBA member plus \$20 for T-shirt

\$100 fee for vendors (for one table), per attendee.

Meals are included in above prices (including Saturday night banquet)

Pre check-in will be included; room keys will be in the welcome bags

All attendees staying two nights and are members of the Sheraton rewards program (others can register on-line or at the hotel) will receive 1,200 SPG Points.

### Hotel

Room cost per night - \$109

Register by calling the hotel with “**2012 VBBA Convention**” as the registration code.

*Registration ends on February 29, 2012*

Four Points Sheraton Plainview

333 South Service Road

Plainview, NY 11803

Phone – [516-694-6500](tel:516-694-6500)

Fax – [516-694-4718](tel:516-694-4718)

[http://www.starwoodhotels.com/fourpoints/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1476&EM=VTY\\_FP\\_1476\\_plainview\\_overview](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/fourpoints/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1476&EM=VTY_FP_1476_plainview_overview)

**\*\*\*130 person limit for the dinner on Saturday night.\*\*\***

### Travel - Air

Airports – McArthur (ISP) (25 miles), JFK (28 miles) and LaGuardia (LGA) (26 miles)

McArthur is nearest to the hotel; however, most flights there are connecting. It is a hub for Southwest Airlines.

JFK has a tram to Jamaica station

### Travel - Train

Amtrak to New York Penn Station. LIRR (Long Island Rail Road) to Farmingdale

JFK airport has a tram to Jamaica Station. LIRR to Farmingdale.

Those taking the train will need to be picked up from the train station. Let Eric Miklich, [ddej@msn.com](mailto:ddej@msn.com), in advance of your arrival.

### Guest Speakers

Ed Achorn. Author of Fifty-nine in '84; Old Hoss Radbourn, Barehanded baseball & the Greatest Season A Pitcher Ever



# 2012 VINTAGE BASE BALL CONVENTION

## Had

Mr. Achorn will speak about the 1884 Providence Grays and 1884 base ball.

Tom Shieber. Senior Curator at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. He is the founder of SABRs Pictorial History Committee.

Mr. Shieber will recount, with words and pictures, the 1888-1889 World Base Ball Tour.

This presentation was the one he used during his interview at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

## Dinner Speaker

David Nemec. Author of over 35 books, most recently Major League Baseball Profiles: 1871-1900, vols. 1 & 2. The Beer and Whisky League and The Great Encyclopedia of Nineteenth Century Major League Baseball are two of his most famous works.

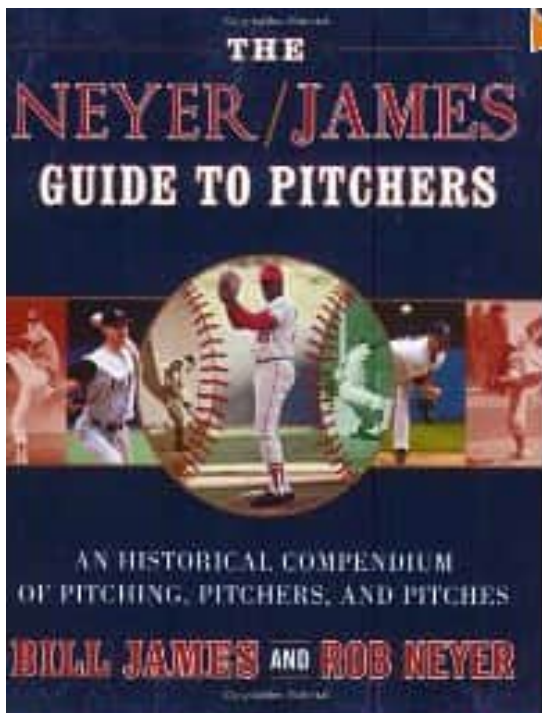
Mr. Nemec will be speaking about professional baseball in the NY, NJ, CT are from 1871 – 1889.

Submissions for presentations should be sent to Eric Miklich; [ddejm@msn.com](mailto:ddejm@msn.com)

Interested vendors must also contact Eric Miklich; [ddejm@msn.com](mailto:ddejm@msn.com) as tables are limited.

Contact Al Belbo for donations regarding the silent auction. [nyhitman23@aol.com](mailto:nyhitman23@aol.com)

## BOOK REVIEW



In this edition of the Book Review, I want to highlight and recommend one great book I bought about six years ago. Vintage hurlers or interested enthusiasts should enjoy ***The Neyer/James Guide to Pitchers***. Authors Rob Neyer and Bill James scour old base ball journals, periodicals, interviews and books to find information on every pitcher in major league history, including those who played before 1900.

Some records are less detailed as Larry Corcoran's, a White Stockings Pitcher from the 1880's which simply notes that he threw a fastball and a curve and "on at least one occasion, in 1884, Corcoran pitched with both hands". But others include information you would only find if you were to visit and search through old newspaper archives.

James and Neyer have worked together off and on for 30 years and take pride in their attention to detail and often add a little humor to their writing. "The rules of baseball, in its infancy, discriminated against throwing the ball hard. This understates the fact; the rules deliberately tried to keep the pitcher from throwing the ball too hard. The basis of the game was the interaction between fielders and hitters; the pitcher was not supposed to upset the apple cart by striking people out or walking them."

There are two great articles about vintage hurlers Tommy Bond and Tony Mullane. They also rank the top fastball pitchers for each half decade starting in 1880. The book details every professional pitcher's pitch selection, description of their delivery (if available), and often includes biographical information.

***The Neyer/James Guide to Pitchers*** is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for around \$20

## 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](mailto: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.

## Honoring Base Ball's First Professional Team

By John "Choo-Choo" Shannahan

It was as if the ghosts of Boston's base ball past had risen from the adjacent graveyard, and having no nearby cornfields to traverse, found themselves on Boston Common ready to play once again.

That may have been the vision of a true baseball romantic had he been fortunate enough to watch a few innings on August 14<sup>th</sup>. For it was on that date, that the self-proclaimed progeny of two of baseball's greatest teams met to play a game that was 140 years in the making.

Most ardent fans of our national pastime are familiar with the exploits of the game's first all professional team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, who after two historic seasons beginning in 1869, disbanded, only to be reborn 900 miles to the east in Boston. The Boston Red Stockings became the dominant club in the National Association during its brief five year tenure, winning four championships. Both Red Stocking teams were led by brothers and future Hall of Famers Harry and George Wright.

It was in 2008 that The Mudville Base Ball Club, a vintage team based in Holliston, Massachusetts, travelled to Cincinnati to participate in the Queen City Invitational Base Ball Festival. Once there, they had a wonderful weekend of playing ball, eating ribs, and making friends.

Among those friends were the players of the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings, a team they had played to a tie on the festival's final day. Years passed, an invitation was extended, and Cincinnati happily agreed to travel to Massachusetts to play on the weekend of August 13-14, 2011.

Cincinnati's first day of play was at the Spencer Pierce Little Farm in Newbury, MA, a popular vintage base ball locale. There they played the Melrose Pondfeilders and Lynn Live Oaks in a setting that any vintage purist would consider perfect. On Sunday, they travelled to Boston Common for games against the Essex Base Ball Club, and the newly christened, Boston Red Stockings Vintage Base Ball Club.

The Boston team, a sister team of the Mudville Base Ball Club, was specifically organized with this game in mind, to celebrate the shared base ball history of Cincinnati and Boston, as well as to honor the talents of the team that dominated base ball's first professional league. New uniforms were ordered, and despite a sneak peak at the July Gettysburg tournament, the Red Stockings vs. Red Stockings encounter was considered the new team's debut.

Unlike most vintage teams,



Denny George Wright meets his great-grandfather George Wright, who looks like Mudville BBC's David "Hops" Robinson



Boston and Cincinnati red Stockings on Boston Common with Denny George Wright



where individual nicknames such as “Doc”, “Hammer” or the like rule, each player on the Boston Red Stockings VBBC assumes the identity of an actual player on the original club. And at this game, as was so often the case 140 years ago, George Wright was the top player on the field.

Wright, looking very much like Mudville’s David “Hops” Robinson, was spectacular at shortstop with a number of one handed diving putouts. He also delivered at the plate in helping the host club earn a victory in a very satisfying and competitive encounter.



Boston Red Stockings VBBC at the former Wright Home

Present at the game was Denny George Wright, great-grandson of the Hall of Famer and the athletic director at a nearby school. After the game, both teams travelled to George Wright’s former Savin Hill home for photos. The home, now in a state of disrepair but commanding a magnificent view of the Boston skyline, speaks of a simpler era, while offering more than a hint of its past grandeur. Following the photo taking, the teams retired to a local establishment for laughs and libation.

## CLUB PROFILE: THE ATLANTIC BASE BALL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA



The Atlantic BBC of Philadelphia play by the rules of 1864 and were founded in 2009 by the Athletic’s co-founder and President Scott Alberts. When interviewed by the *Daily Times* of Delaware County, PA this summer, Albert’s stated, “Our mission is to reinvigorate local communities and change the world,” Vintage baseball is “not just a living history thing. It’s also testimonial. We’re testifying to the power of getting together and interacting with people in your community, having some fun, getting out of your box ... I’ve met amazing people doing this.”

Aside from celebrating base ball’s history in vintage matches in front of cranks, the Athletic BBC serves as a model of how a vintage club can use modern technology to promote the game we all love. They have an excellent website, filled with pictures and videos, utilize twitter and facebook, and along with their long roster of ballists listed, they have a uniform coordinator, two Tally Keepers, a statistician and a club treasurer.

This summer, the Atlantic BBC will travel to matches in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey. Their 2012 schedule and other website information can be found [here](#). Come out and support them if you are in the area.—Jon Demagall

# **VBBA MEMBER CLUB EQUIPMENT EXPENSE REBATE PROGRAM**

Dear Members of the Vintage Base Ball Association,

The elected officers of the Vintage Base Ball Association are pleased to announce that the VBBA will be subsidizing a one-hundred dollar per member club equipment expense rebate program. What this means exactly is that the VBBA will be issuing a check for \$100.00 to each member club that supplies receipts for equipment purchases that equal or exceed \$100.00 from the following vendors:

A. Phoenix Bat Co. B. K & P Weaver C. 19c Base Ball D. Bulldog Bat Co. E. Vintage Base Ball Factory F. New England Cap Co.

These vendors were chosen because of their long and impeccable track records and service histories in dealing with vintage base ball clubs.

The receipts must be submitted by the club captain and accompanied by a rebate application supplied by the VBBA.

Please mail your applications and receipts to the Vintage Base Ball Association Treasurer :

Rich Arpi  
VBBA treasurer  
2445 Londin Lane, # 410  
Maplewood, Minnesota 55119

## **RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR USING THE REBATE PROGRAM**

1. Only full member clubs in good standing with the Vintage Base Ball Association are eligible for a \$100.00 rebate for equipment purchases. Any full member club applying for a rebate must have their dues paid up to date for that calendar year. Associate member clubs shall not be eligible to participate in the rebate program.
2. Only one ( 1 ) \$100.00 check per member club will be issued.
3. Only individual full member clubs may apply for the rebate. Groups such as leagues, associations, historical societies, etc., may not apply for rebates on behalf of their member clubs.
4. Member clubs may not apply for the rebate until they have made purchases from the aforementioned vendors which equal or exceed \$100.00. Receipts from other vendors shall not be accepted.
5. The receipts must be submitted by the club captain and accompanied by a rebate application supplied by the VBBA.
6. Only receipts for on-field equipment necessary in the playing of nineteenth century rules base ball may be submitted. Receipts for products offered by any of the vendors which do not directly pertain to the playing of nineteenth century rules base ball will not be accepted. Receipts which contain both items for on-field equipment and other items, such as novelties, children's equipment, modern baseball equipment such as modern bats, will not be accepted.
7. All purchases will be verified by the VBBA before rebate checks are issued.
8. Rebate checks will be issued in the order in which the applications and receipts are received.
9. The rebate program shall begin on September 6, 2011 and end on January 31, 2012. All purchases made from the aforementioned vendors under the terms of the rebate program must be made between September 6, 2011 and January 31, 2012. All applications and receipts must be received by the VBBA no later than January 31, 2012.
10. New member clubs must join for a period of two years and have the required \$100.00 dues paid between September 6, 2011 and January 6, 2012 to be eligible for the rebate program. There will be no grace period. The rebate program will end on January 31, 2012 for new member clubs as well as established member clubs.

## MEMBER CLUB APPLICATION FOR VBBA REBATE PROGRAM

Club Name\_\_\_\_\_

Location, City and State\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Home Field\_\_\_\_\_

Member of Vintage Base Ball Association since\_\_\_\_\_

Is your club affiliated with any league, historical society, or association in addition to the VBBA?  
\_\_\_\_\_

If so, please name the organization\_\_\_\_\_

Club Captain\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Club Website\_\_\_\_\_

Rules Year Your Club Is Based On (1860, 1864, 1870?) \_\_\_\_\_

Vendors From Which Items Were Purchased\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please List Items Purchased Under Terms Of Rebate Program. Please list specific bat models, base ball types, uniform styles, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

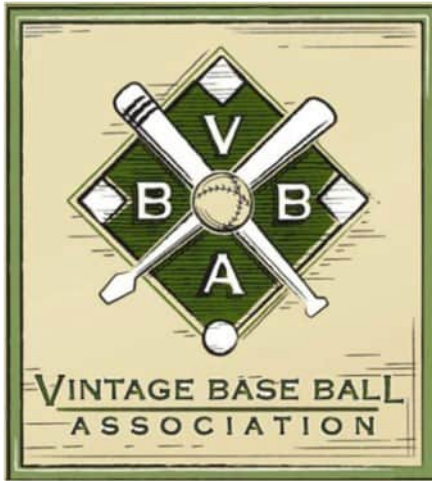
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Club Captain's Signature\_\_\_\_\_





# 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://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.

# FROM THE HISTORY CORNER

## Rule Changes for Your Audience

**By Eric Miklich; VBBA Historian**

During a match it is extremely important to speak to and answer questions that the spectators may have.

Below is a list of rules changes that you may or may not have known and your audience would certainly find interesting.

Beginning with the 1858 season, after issuing a warning, “strikes” were allowed to be called by the umpire.

Commencing with the 1859 season, base runners were allowed to advance on fair batted balls that were caught on the fly as long as they touched the base they held after the ball was caught by the fielding club.

Beginning with the 1863 season, after receiving a warning from the umpire, “balls” were allowed to be called on the pitcher.

For the 1866 season, the front pitcher’s line remained 12-foot in length and 45’ feet from home base; however the back line was moved toward second base one foot, increasing the distance between the two lines to four feet.

The rules for the 1867 season were the first to specifically detail the position of the pitcher’s arm during the delivery of the ball to the batter.

Starting with the 1868 season, home base became 12 inches square.

The 1870 season was the last in which the pitcher received a “warning” for delivering unfair balls and the striker for not swinging at fair pitches.

The 1871 National Association (NA) season allowed a base runner to overrun first base with the possibility of being put out.

The calling for high and low pitches began with the 1871 NA season.

The 1874 NA season institutes the batter’s and pitcher’s boxes.

Home base is moved entirely into foul ground for the 1875 NA season.

In its inaugural season, 1876, the National League (NL) re-establishes the good ball “warning” for batters.

Home base is moved entirely into fair ground for the 1877 NL season.

For the first time, 1878 NL, the foul ball lines were required to extend to the limits of the field.

The 1880 NL season was the first not to require the team batting second to complete their nine innings and the game was terminated immediately after the winning run scored was scored by the team batting second from the ninth innings on.

The good ball “warning” is eliminated for good in the NL for the 1881 season and all pitched balls must be called by the umpire in the order of their delivery.

The NL rules for the 1883 season allowed the pitcher to deliver the ball to home base as long as the pitching hand passed below the shoulder. It is important to note that pitchers collectively began this practice during the second half of the 1882 season.

The NL rules for the 1884 season allowed the pitcher to deliver the ball to home base with no restrictions on the height of the pitching hand. It is important to note that pitchers collectively began this practice during the second half of the 1883 season.

June 7, 1885, the American Association (AA) removed all restrictions on the pitcher with regards to the height of the ball when delivering the ball to home base.

The 1885 AA season was the last to allow a foul batted ball to be caught on the bound, retiring the batter.

Beginning with the 1887 season, the first in which the NL and AA agreed to use the same set of rules, umpires were allowed to call strikes on foul batted balls if they felt the batter was purposely fouling off pitches.

The rules for the Players National League’s (PL) only season, 1890, became the first to institute what is termed today as the “infield-fly” rule.

The “infield-fly” rule is added to the 1894 National League and American Association (NLAA) rule book.

The “infield-fly” rule is changed for the 1895 NLAA season.

Home base attained its present day shape starting with the 1900 season.