



# THE CHRONICLE

BASE BALL PLAYER'S  
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION

SPRING  
2022



VBBA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## My final Presidents Corner

It has been a pleasure to serve as board president the last two years, but it is time to step back and just enjoy playing, coaching and watching the game that I so dearly love.

It has been a challenge to navigate the last couple years through the pandemic from a board member perspective. The uncertainties of how and when we could play games with all the different local restrictions and switching formats for the last two years with our annual Conference has been quite daunting.

It is such a relief to be on the other side of this global tragedy now and able to get back to meeting in person for our conference later this month. It is my hope that this is an opportunity for a rebirth of our great hobby. Many teams have ceased operations through this mess, but it has been great to learn of many

new clubs being formed around the country.

It is a never-ending task to recruit new players and support new clubs in any way that we can. As was the case back in the early growth era of this game back in the 1860's and 1870's enthusiasm for the sport is what it will take to keep it growing. Share your passion for the game and good things will follow.

As we enter a new season for most parts of the country, I am truly looking forward to meeting some new teammates with the Knickerbockers Experience later this year and catching up with many others that I had not seen in a while in my travels throughout the

Midwest.

I hope that you all have a great year as you help to preserve the history of our game in whatever capacity that you serve.



AARON STAAB  
PRESIDENT, VBBA

PHOTO BY KIDGARCIA.COM

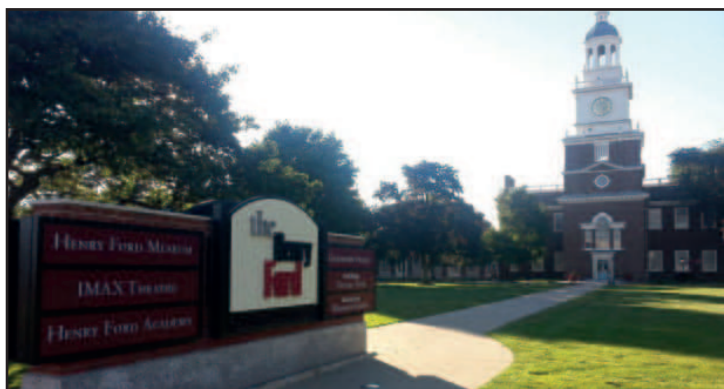
# PLAN AHEAD FOR THE 2022 VBBA CONFERENCE

Hotel Rooms: Embassy Suites by Hilton Detroit Metro Airport

- Reduced rates of \$119 King or \$129 Double both nonsmoking
- Use VBBA Conference when asking for the group rate
- Phone number is (734) 728-9200.
- [www.vbba.org/2022-conference-hotel-information/](http://www.vbba.org/2022-conference-hotel-information/)
- EMBASSY SUITES METRO DEADLINE APRIL 11.
- After April 11, book with Kristen Widun, Sales Manager, call her direct line: (734) 423-2704 for availability.
- ACTIVITIES
- Saturday morning: Breakout Sessions at Hilton Garden Inn.
- Saturday Afternoon: Walnut Grove
- Dodworth Saxhorn Band
- All Comers games, bound and no bound rules
- Saturday Night
- Banquet at Greenfield Village's Eagle Tavern.
- 6:30-7:30 Greet Keynote Speaker Denny McLain
- 6:30 - 7:15 Social Hour Hors d' Ouvres Sitting Room
- 7:30 - 8:30 Banquet
- 8:30 - 9:00 Keynote Speaker: Denny McLain



TOUR SUGGESTION: Tour The Henry Ford during your free time.



**If you have never been to an in-person**

**VBBA Conference check out our 2019 VBBA Branson Conference:**

<https://www.vbba.org/videos/>

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

- Swimming Up"stream": Navigating the Waters of Digital Presence & Online Engagement with a Salmon
- Prince Honeycutt, Minnesota's first black professional base ball player (1873)
- Umpires as Showmen & Effective Re-enactors
- The story of the 1880's Detroit Wolverines and their 1886 world championship.
- What is a historic base ball bat? How was it swung?
- 21st Century Town Ball
- "Women in 21st Century Vintage Base Ball: Challenges and Experiences"
- Can My Vintage Base Ball Team Be Saved?
- Brennan "Sketch" Probst Photographer



REMEMBER AS YOUR CLUB PLANS FOR THE FUTURE THAT THE VBBA IN ADDITION TO LIA- BILITY INSURANCE, OFFERS ITS MEMBER BALL CLUBS UP TO A 15% DISCOUNT ON SEVEN VENDOR'S PRODUCTS. THE MERCHANT CODE FOR VBBA MEMBERS IS VBBA1996. THEY INCLUDE:

**15% Discount  
Phoenix Bats:**  
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**K&P Weaver, LLC:**  
[www.baseballamericaspastime.com](http://www.baseballamericaspastime.com)

**19cbaseball:**  
[www.19cbaseball.com](http://www.19cbaseball.com)

**James Country Mercantile:**  
[www.jamescountry.com](http://www.jamescountry.com)

**Smacker Bats:**  
[www.smackerbats.com](http://www.smackerbats.com)

**Cooperstown Bats:**  
[www.cooperstownbats.com](http://www.cooperstownbats.com)

**James Country Mercantile:**  
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K&P Weaver, LLC:**  
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vintagebaseballassociation](http://www.facebook.com/vintagebaseballassociation)**

**[twitter.com/VBBA19C](https://twitter.com/VBBA19C)**

**[www.instagram.com/  
Vintage\\_Base\\_Ball\\_Assoc](http://www.instagram.com/Vintage_Base_Ball_Assoc)**





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THE BASE BALL  
PLAYER'S CHRONICLE  
LAYOUT BY  
**KIDGARCIA.COM**



# 2022 VBBA CONFERENCE

DEARBORN, MI APRIL 22-24

## FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd

- Registration at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Detroit Metro Airport
- Social at Detroit's Tommy's Bar & Grill

## SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd

- Breakout Sessions at Hilton Garden Inn Metro Detroit
- Katie Flapjack Baer - Swimming Up"stream": Navigating the Waters of Digital Presence & Online Engagement with a Salmon
- Eric Squarehead Berg - Prince Honeycutt, Minnesota's first black professional base ball player (1873)
- Michael Copado - Umpires as Showmen & Effective Re-enactors
- Southern Michigan (Detroit) SABR - The story of the 1880's Detroit Wolverines and their 1886 world championship
- Jeff Pine Tar Kornhaas - What is a historic base ball bat? How is it swung?
- Grant More - 21st Century Town Ball
- Debra Reid - "Women in 21st Century Base Ball: Challenges & Experiences"
- Jim Basala, Todd Eschman, Ryan Pierce, Ryan Peters - Can My Vintage Base Ball Team Be Saved?
- Brennan"Sketch"ProbstPhotographer
- DodworthSaxhornBand
- Doc Adams Memorial All Comers Matches:
- BoundandNoBoundatWalnutGrove
- Silent Auction
- Banquet - Eagle Tavern in Greenfield Village at the Henry Ford
- Keynote Speaker: Denny McLain

## SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH

- Executive Committee and Business Meetings



## Special Conference Room rates:

- King \$119/ night
- Double \$129/ night

## Embassy Suites by Hilton Detroit Metro Airport

8600 Wickham Rd  
Romulus, MI 48174  
(734) 728-9200

## Booking link for attendees:

[http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DETHSES-VBA-20220421/index.html?WTmc\\_id=POG/](http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DETHSES-VBA-20220421/index.html?WTmc_id=POG/)

## Booking via phone:

Ask for the VBBA Conference rate. Code-VBB.

## REGISTRATION

**MEMBERS**  
**\$80**

Welcome Bag, Breakout Sessions, All Comers Match, Banquet, Keynote Speaker Denny McLain

**NON-MEMBERS**  
**\$90**

Welcome Bag, Breakout Sessions, All Comers Match, Banquet, Keynote Speaker Denny McLain

**BANQUET ONLY**  
**\$60**

Keynote Speaker Denny McLain

**ALL COMERS MATCH ONLY \$75**

# THE FOLLOWING ARE THE LIST OF SPEAKERS FOR THE 2022 VBBA CONFERENCE, APRIL 22-24 AT DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

## KATIE FLAPJACK BAER

### SWIMMING UP "STREAM": NAVIGATING THE WATERS OF DIGITAL PRESENCE & ONLINE ENGAGEMENT WITH A SALMON

Join Katie "Flapjack" Baer of the Chicago Salmon for a dive into the vast digital venues available to your VBBA club. Katie will doggy paddle through the basics of social media platforms, generating attention-grabbing content, increasing online engagement, and creating and maintaining a club website. She will also discuss her experience developing the well-received Salmon Spectator newsletter, and the takeaways she's learned this season.



## ERIC SQUAREHEAD BERG

### PRINCE HONEYCUTT, MINNESOTA'S FIRST BLACK

### PROFESSIONAL BASE BALL PLAYER (1873)

They played barehanded. His story is quite compelling. Eric Squarehead Berg was a member of the Springfield Long Nine Vintage Base Ball Club more than ten years. Most recently he was the team's captain.



## MICHAEL COPADO

### UMPIRES AS SHOWMEN & EFFECTIVE RE-ENACTORS

Michael Preacher Copado has umpired at Navin Field and Hamtramck Stadium. He understands and will share what it takes to be both a historically authentic, and an entertaining vintage base ball umpire. He will also share how to be a side line re-enactor at a vintage base ball game.



## SOUTHERN MICHIGAN (DETROIT) SABR

### THE STORY OF THE 1880'S DETROIT WOLVERINES AND THEIR 1886 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



## JEFF PINE TAR KORNHAAS

### WHAT IS A HISTORIC BASE BALL BAT? HOW WAS IT SWUNG?

With about a decade of experience as a vintage base ball player, and having thoroughly reviewed the history of the development of the base ball bat and how it was used over the years, Pine Tar will confront the issue of what model base ball bats the vintage base ball clubs should be using to be historically accurate. In addition he will share the evolution of the correct batting stance and swing.



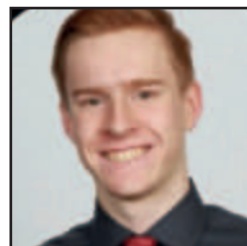
## DEVELOPED 21ST CENTURY TOWNBALL - MATH TEACHER, VERITAS HIGH SCHOOL, NEWBERG, OREGON

What is vintage base ball? How far back do we have to go to be really considered vintage? Most vintage base ball clubs only go back as far as the civil war when the New York Game was the dominant bat-and-ball game played in the United States. However, before the war, there were more versions of bat-and-ball than there were daisies under a blue moon. No foul balls? No baselines? One out per inning? Pegging the runners? No obligation to run until the third strike? Five bases instead of four? Each of these rules and many more existed among the myriad of bat-and-ball games all referred to as "town ball" in the nineteenth century and earlier. Townball, as now played in the twenty-first century, borrows elements from all of these variants (especially those of Massachusetts) to make the perfect game that has been played on the West Coast since 2012. Come to our talk and learn about how your vintage base ball club can teach history by partaking in this modern twist on a collection of old ideas.

[www.21ctownball.com](http://www.21ctownball.com)



DANIEL JONES



GRANT MORE

## "WOMEN IN 21ST CENTURY VINTAGE BASE BALL: CHALLENGES AND EXPERIENCES"

History collides with contemporary life on vintage base ball fields. Ask yourself... Is this a white man's game? It became that in the past. Do women play? They did historically. Do non-white players play? They did historically. Who plays on your team? Do you issue an open call for players? Do you stress the historic game as a vehicle to extend your reach and engage broadly, or do you carry along all that white privilege baggage from the past into the 21st century? This session looks at the game as a public program at public sites, and asks what you and your club/team can do to make it as engaging, inclusive, and different from the past as possible.



DEBRA REID

## JAMIE WRIGHT

### HISTORIC TENNESSEE VBBA PHOTOGRAPHER

Jamie is one of many photographers that are encouraged to practice their trade at the Tennessee VBBA events. Their matches all take place at historic Tennessee sites.

Jamie is a local Nashvillian and has been shooting for 24 years. You will find him out at Tennessee Vintage Base Ball Association events, photographing all of the action. He photographs special projects, animals, children, weddings, and product.



## CAN MY VINTAGE BASE BALL TEAM BE SAVED?

Vintage base ball sometimes faces problems and challenges of and off the field. Chances are whatever your team might be experiencing, another team has dealt with the same thing.

This panel provides a forum for situations your club might have, be it funding, player recruitment and retention, playing field, team morale or other things.

These experienced team leaders will share their stories and welcome your questions and discussion.



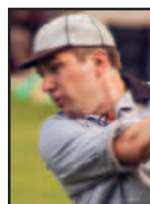
JIM GLACIER  
BASALA

Deep River Grinders



TODD DUTCH  
ESCHMAN

Belleville Stags



RYAN FUZ  
PETERS

Valparaiso Lookouts



RYAN ACE  
PIERCE

Milwaukee Grays



# THE KNICKERBOCKER EXPERIENCE

BY COLLIN “STUMPY” MILLER  
MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC CLUB – FLEISCHMANN'S, NY

A day or so after I heard the news that Doc Adams was not considered on the Early Baseball Era Committee's Ballot for election to the Hall of Fame, it occurred to me that all the effort to recognize Doc that's been put forth across the vintage baseball community over the last several years was not in vain. For much of us now know far more about the man and his influence on baseball's development than we had in 2012 – his last year of consideration for HOF election.

Before meeting Doc's great-granddaughter Marjorie Adams in 2016 at a game of picked nines from across New England assembled to celebrate Doc, I admit that I hadn't heard of him.

Up to that point, I still thought Doubleday invented baseball and Cartwright was the innovator that developed much of the rules we have today. However, the lightning-in-a-bottle that was Marjorie quickly set me straight.

That interaction prompted me to start taking a lot more consideration of the rules and their origins. This led me to Doc's 1857 Laws of Base Ball – written while he presided over the first convention of the clubs playing around New York City at the time. The Laws are what MLB Historian John Thorn refer to as “baseball's magna carta.”

In a moment of clarity amid the frustration with the outcome of the HOF ballot selection last Fall, a few of us including Jeff Kornhaas (many know of him as ‘Pinetar’

Collin 'Stumpy' Miller, Corky Gaskell and Jeff 'Pinetar' Kornhaas, from left, sporting their K.B.B.C. uniforms in 2021 after the Doc Adams Birthplace Classic in Mont Vernon, NH.



C O N T I N U E D



## THE KNICKERBOCKER EXPERIENCE



Most importantly, to properly honor the Knickerbockers, we'd like to see that all players on the K.B.B.C. be wearing the same uniform. Here's what they looked like according to Craig Brown on the Threads of Our Game.

of the Liberty Base Ball Club of Connecticut) and Corky Gaskell, prolific maker of base balls and Captain of the Roosters Base Ball Club of Rochester, MN, started to pull together an idea spawned from Pinetar's unwavering attempt to organize a Knickerbocker game in conjunction with the HOF induction weekend in Cooperstown (if Doc had gotten elected as we all expected).

Rather than scrap the whole idea when we learned that Doc was overlooked by the historians on the HOF committee, we decided to redouble our efforts and showcase the K.B.B.C. for the next decade before Doc's name can again be brought forth on the Early Baseball Era Committee ballot in 2031.

Surprisingly, we learned that no one had ever (to our knowledge) tried to replicate the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club as part of the vintage baseball circuit. We agreed that to continue celebrating the legacy of Doc and the Knicks as pioneers of the early game, we'd form a Club fashioned after the Knicks – but present it as a different type of experience.

Since each of us (and potentially many others) can't exactly leave our Clubs to form a new one, nor would we want to, we are establishing what we call The Knickerbocker Experience, and we envision this as more than just another team with players on it. This is a collection of all 19th-century baseball enthusiasts to enrich their love of the game and enhance their attention to its history.

This Knickerbocker Experience is open to all players and all supporters of the game from all points of the world. How it evolves will be up to each of us and our desired level of involvement. At this fledgling stage, the interest level appears to be high. Here's how we propose it will work...

A team of nine or more Knickerbockers may be established (anywhere/anytime) and set up matches to play in the 1858, 1864 or 1865 rules (see VBBA Rules & Customs). They can play other teams or picked nines comprised of members from several different clubs. We envision the K.B.B.C. would appear on occasion for one exhibition during a prominent festival such as the Doc Adams Festival at Old Bethpage, Gettysburg, the Ohio Cup, or other special events.

Most importantly, to properly honor the Knickerbockers, we'd like to see that all players on the K.B.B.C. be wearing the same uniform. Here's what they looked like according to Craig Brown on the Threads of Our Game:

The uniform costs can range from \$200-300 per player. The navy blue pants are acrylic/wool blend and custom-made by K&P Weaver, LLC with wider belt loops to accommodate the large leather belt that has K.B.B.C. scribed on the front made by a company called Dell's Leatherworks in Kingston, NY.

The cleats can be purchased separately from needles9 on eBay and can run around \$250 per pair when available. The hat can be purchased though Stockbridge Sewing Works.

Modern cleats are allowed and preferably in black so long as all modern logos have been hidden/covered, but we expect the rest of the uniform to be historical as noted to provide a proper look and to show our respect to the Knicks and the pioneers that helped start it all.

If you'd like more information, whether you are a joiner, supporter or otherwise, please contact Pinetar at [jkornhaas8@gmail.com](mailto:jkornhaas8@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at a festival this summer.



# Surviving in the 1860s and the 2020s

By Bob Sampson

When did 19th century base ball arrive in your community? Did the early teams survive or disband after a short period? And for you recreating the 1880s era, what drove the formation of teams in your communities and how did they fare? These questions particularly are relevant in the COVID era, one that has challenged many teams who contend with aging rosters, limited playing opportunities, field availability restrictions and even declining interest.

Can the past tell us anything to help us work our way through an epidemic not seen since World War One's Spanish Influenza or the recurrent visits of cholera in the early Republic? A good question yet one with no easy answers. Aside from Peter Morris' thorough study of early base ball in Michigan, we have no detailed examination of the mid-19th century game for the states, save for excellent examinations of smaller areas, such as Greater New York City. Information has developed, however, for the State of Illinois during this period. What does it tell us about "team resilience?"

Though it the game gained a tenuous foothold in a few places — notably Alton,

Chicago, and Freeport — it faded with the Civil War. At war's end, it surged, eventually spawning more than 1,000 teams between 1865 and 1870 in every nook and cranny of the Prairie State. The heaviest years of growth were in 1866, 1867, and 1868. Most in the first wave were "senior" clubs, associations of males 19 or so and up into the early 20s. But after 1868, these senior clubs faded away. Why?

Detailing the reasons requires more space than available here. Broadly put, the collapse of clubs stemmed from these factors — the money required to travel and host visiting teams, increasing competitive pressures draining the fun out of the game, and, most responsible, decisions by players to focus on careers and families as they aged and faced greater responsibilities.

Here in the Illinois-Indiana-Missouri area, some teams are facing similar challenges. It takes time and money to play away games and a team must go on the road if it wants home games. Second, though that is a lesser problem in this area than it once was, it takes a dedicated group of players to stick with a "losing" team unless by consensus the climate changes from winning to having fun.

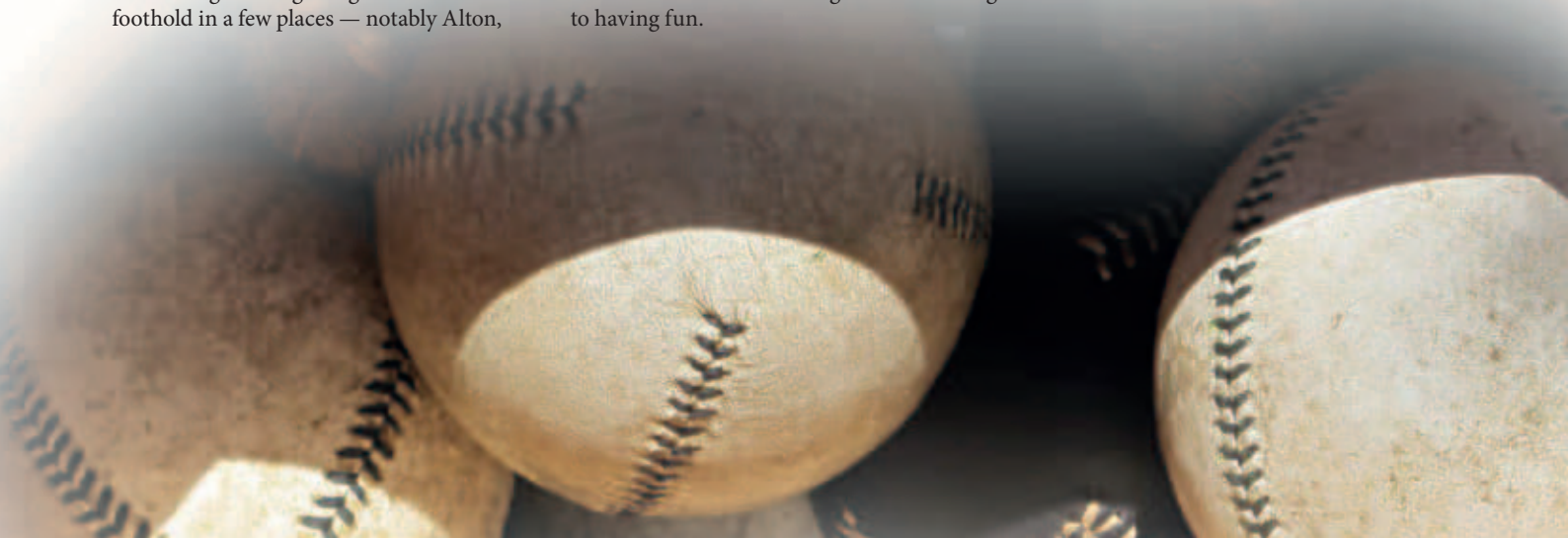
Finally, aging players, those whose bodies increasingly refuse to cooperate and are prone to breakdowns, drift away. These are not the only reasons why our area has seen at least four teams combine into two "new" versions and other teams cutting participation back to just a few games. Of course, toss into this mix COVID and you have real problems.

This may not be the case on your team or in your area. The roots of vintage base ball extend into the early 1980s. That is a long time for any activity to survive. One key to survival is adaptation. What, if any, changes are needed to keep the game going? If so, what needs to be done?

In the late 1860s and early 1870s, base ball took two paths — professionalism and, after a few years, an amateur game rooted in town teams. In between, base ball was still played — by junior clubs and by adults in informal recreation — but in Illinois, the earlier senior clubs disappeared.

What do things look like in your neck of the woods?

— Bob Sampson is historian for the Vintage Base Ball Association



# You could look it up

If you play vintage base ball, regardless of era, these sorts of questions have come your way.

“Why are those bats shaped funny?” “That ball doesn’t look like the one we use in Little League. Why?” “What’s up with the umpire not calling strikes?” “Those sure don’t look like gloves to me.” “How come that player was called out after the fielder took the ball on the bounce?”

Unless your club is composed of baseball historians, answering these queries can be guesswork or based on bits and pieces of knowledge picked up here and there.

Sometimes the answer might be correct, sometimes it might be partially true, or even flat-out wrong. But there is a place any club or player can find the right answers. In fact, it is one of two books every club ought to have on hand.

Peter Morris, one of the leading — if not the top — scholars of early base ball, published a book, *A Game of Inches: The Story Behind the Innovations that Shaped Baseball*, and it is available in a one-volume edition. Organized encyclopedia style and with a detailed index making it easy to quickly find information.

So, what about those bats? Beginning on page 280 of the one-volume edition, Morris traces the beginnings and evolution of the bat, its dimensions, types of wood used, weights, shapes, and the eventual shift to mass production. And the ball’s evolution in size and weight is recounted beginning on p. 280.

The history of balls and strikes calls comes in on p. 17. In fact, Chapter One, “The Things We Take for Granted,” is a point-by-point historical summary for most questions we hear on the sidelines. For starters, the chapter defines the significant difference of the word

club as applied to 19th century teams and those playing today. Therein, lies the key to vintage base ball. And, especially for clubs recreating early eras, the section on rules is enlightening.

No doubt, some may inwardly groan as they consider diving into a big book. Save the groan for end of a doubleheader on a hot August day when the temperature and humidity align with the same numbers. Morris provides indexes organized by name and topic.

If you want to know more about Arthur “Candy” Cummings or Joe Leggett or Jim Creighton — important mid-19th century figures — Morris directs you to the various pages where they reside.

Topics like farm systems, fixed games, injuries and deaths, and the term level playing fields await you in the topical index. The book extends into our own times with topics like grievance arbitration, facial hair, and The Wave.

Morris’ book combined with the VBBA’s Rules and Customs Committee guidelines provide clubs — old and new — an invaluable resource in recreating the game to the best of our modern abilities, shaped as they are by childhoods spent tossing and catching baseballs — something less common among our 19th century forebears.

Using *A Game of Inches*, any vintage club could put together its own list of answers to frequently asked questions and circulate it among players and fans. Another way to educate spectators about the game’s roots.

And the other book each team should have? James Tootle’s *Vintage Base Ball*, a history of the game we play and, importantly, the spirit that sparks and sustains it.





# VBBA vendor spotlight



## COOPERSTOWN BAT COMPANY

Since 1981, Cooperstown Bat Company has specialized in game bats for play, custom personalized engravings and autographed bats. Their pro model bats are available for players of all levels from the beginner through to the Major Leagues. Cooperstown bat is being used in several MLB organizations, American Legion, Babe Ruth, travel team, and high school players.

Cooperstown Bat Company also makes various vintage base ball bats, including acorn, knobless, bottle bat and split grip (double knob). You can see their bats being turned at the company's factory location in Hartwick, just 15 minutes from Cooperstown. Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit cooperstownbat.com for more information.



## JAMES COUNTRY MERCANTILE

James Country Mercantile started life in 1985 as James Country Muzzleloading, right in the heart of the area which bred and nurtured Frank and Jesse James. James Country Mercantile is now one of the largest sutleries in existence, offering a full line of historically accurate goods, custom sewing, research, consultation, and associated services. Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit jamescountry.com for more information.



## K&P WEAVER

Since 1994, K & P Weaver, LLC features reproductions of historic vintage base ball uniforms of the 19th Century and early-20th Century, equipment and more. K & P uniforms, clothing and accessories can be found across the ballfields of America to historical landmarks and museums such as the

National Baseball Hall of Fame, Smithsonian Institution, MLB All-Star FanFest, and they've been seen in the HBO Documentaries "The Curse of the Bambino," "Hitler's Pawn," and films such as "Dummy Hoy" and "Cop Out."

Member Code vbba1996 to get your 10% discount due to rising material costs for the purchase of team shirts, and knickers and trousers. Visit baseballamericaspastime.com for more information.



## STOCKBRIDGE SEWING WORKS

Stockbridge Sewing Works has all of your 19th century needs for hats and other sewing projects. Contact Norma Hildebrand to discuss hats, banners, and any other items she may be able to make for you. No head too big or too small. Fit and quality guaranteed. Hand crafted one at a time in the USA.

Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit stockbridgesewingworks.com for more information.



## PHOENIX BAT COMPANY

Phoenix Bat Company has been crafting wood bats outside of Columbus, Ohio since 1996. Phoenix Bats starts by purchasing only pro-grade wood to deliver a quality bat to you and pros alike. Their bats are only made from American top-grade woods like rock maple, yellow birch and northern white ash. History and Background of Phoenix Bat Co. Founder and former owner Lefty Trudeau started playing 19th Century baseball for the Ohio Historical Society in 1991. In 1996, he was restoring old houses for a living and had a small wood shop. "The Historical Society knew my shop included an old lathe and they asked if I could make some bats typical of the 1860s," Trudeau recalled. "I agreed. Little did I expect how much I would have to learn or how much fun I would have. Not only did my team like the bats but the teams we were playing started asking me to make bats for them as well."

Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit phoenixbats.com/vintage-bats for more information.



## 19TH CENTURY BASE BALL

19th Century Base Ball If you want to get the ball that started it all, then you want 19th Century Base Ball. Call Eric Miklich at 631-796-5200 or e-mail info@19cbaseball.com. Said Ron Swoboda, star of the 1969 New York Mets, 19cBaseball.com is "truly a one-of-a-kind resource for in-depth information related to the history of our great sport. I encourage all baseball enthusiasts to visit the site to learn more about how the game really began. Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit 19cBaseball.com for more information.



## USA SMACKER BATS

USA Smacker Bats makes all its bats by hand, not by machine.

"If a vintage ballist wants to be true to the time period of play, we are the company to use," proprietor Brian Carter says. Smacker Bats are handmade by craftsmen (including Carter) behind a lathe ... shaping, sanding, staining/ painting and striping the bats just like the originals back in the 1800s. With a quick turnaround between 1-2 weeks, these bats are all American, with all American tools and materials. "We believe in quality of quantity," Carter says. Their pricing is competitive as well.

