



THE CHRONICLE

BASE BALL PLAYER'S
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2023

VBBA President's Corner

I enjoyed my second Florida Vintage Base Ball event with a visit to the First Annual Kissimmee Cup, sponsored by the Awkward Base Ball Club of Central Florida in Orlando, on Saturday, and Sunday, February 25 & 26. I got there in time on Saturday to watch the Canton Cornshuckers play the Ft. Meyer Vagabonds and watch the beginning of the Brooklyn Atlantics – Vagabonds game.

On Sunday morning the Canton Cornshuckers played the Brooklyn Atlantics for the Kissimmee Cup. The Cornshuckers won by a score of 35 to 10. Ed Shuman of the Canal Fulton Mules, and VBBA Trustee stopped by to catch me up on the history of both ball clubs.

The Kissimmee Cup was a part of the Pine Castle Pioneer Days. It included over forty vendors, a food court, car show, Civil War Reenactors, and more than ten live shows. I stopped and talked with a doctor reenactor about our memories of Mickey Mantle, and at a batting cage to talk with a First Class Boy Scout about his troop's high adventure outing to Yellowstone National Park last summer.

Hopefully other vintage base ball clubs will contact Bill Pollifrone of the Awkwards to participate in next Winter's Second Annual Kissimmee Cup at Orlando's annual Pine Castle Pioneer Days.

I am missing the annual Chicago Salmon Winter Bash held at Cleos Sports Bar in Chicago every February, as I am wintering in Florida. I am looking forward to joining the Salmon for their 28th Season of vintage base ball, starting with the traditional first game with the Deep River Grinders.

Hopefully there will be a good turnout at the 2023 Vintage Base Ball Conference in Dayton, Ohio, March 31 to April 2.

Thanks to the Clodbusters, Eastwood Iron Horses, Tippecanoe Canal Jumpers, and Champion City Reapers for hosting the conference.



REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AT VBBA.ORG.

Check in is from 4:00 to 6:00 pm Friday, March 31 at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg. Afterwards head over to the traditional “meet and greet,” held this year at Dayton's Rusty Bucket. Check it out at www.myrustybucket.com/locations/dayton

Check out the Carillon Brewing Company on Saturday before the all-comers game. Carillon Brewing Co. offers visitors a glimpse into 1850s-era Dayton through the authentically prepared food and drink of the times. It is the nation's only production brewery in a museum, and the only U.S. brewery replicating the historic brewing process.

In addition to the great presenters, and keynote speaker, Bob Kendrick of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, there is the banquet, Tracy Martin's Vintage Baseball Museum exhibit, tour of the Dayton Dragon's Ball Park, a brunch at Carillon Brewing Company, a live band, and the all-comers games.

THE PRESENTATIONS

INCLUDE: “1800's Dress,” “VBBA's 25th Anniversary Committee,” with James Tootle & More, “Dayton Base Ball, Vintage Base Ball (1860's to Present),” with Mark Mule Willis & Friends, Bob Sampson - Ballists, Deadbeats, and Muffins, Inside Early Baseball in Illinois, “Safety Committee, AED & CPR, Eric Laudenbacher, “Umpiring,” Rich Heinick, “History Isn't Always Pretty - Pennsylvania's Involvement in the Segregation of Base Ball in 1867”, Bill Helm, Editor, Lynden Tribune, “Connecting to the Media,” Tracy Martin, “The History of Baseball Uniforms.”

ALL COMERS MATCHES

Held at Dayton's Carillon Historical Park.
www.daytonhistory.org

CONFERENCE HOTEL

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg

To get the \$119 room rate for up to four days, 3-30- 4-2 go to www.vbba.org.



FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME!
GARY THE PROFESSOR SCHIAPPACASSE



REMEMBER AS YOUR CLUB PLANS FOR THE FUTURE THAT THE VBBA IN ADDITION TO LIABILITY 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:**
www.phoenixbats.com

Stockbridge Sewing Works:
www.stockbridgesewingworks.com

K&P Weaver, LLC:
www.baseballamericaspastime.com

19cbaseball:
www.19cbaseball.com

James Country Mercantile:
www.jamescountry.com

Smacker Bats:
www.smackerbats.com

Cooperstown Bats:
www.cooperstownbat.com

James Country Mercantile:
www.jamescountry.com

**10% Discount
K&P Weaver, LLC:**
www.baseballamericaspastime.com

GET CONNECTED WITH THE VBBA
www.vbba.org

[www.facebook.com/
vintagebaseballassociation](http://www.facebook.com/vintagebaseballassociation)

twitter.com/VBBA19C

[www.instagram.com/
Vintage_Base_Ball_Assoc](http://www.instagram.com/Vintage_Base_Ball_Assoc)



VBBA Executive board and trustees

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THE BASE BALL
PLAYER'S CHRONICLE
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PLAN AHEAD FOR THE 2023 VBBA CONFERENCE



— MARCH 31 - APRIL 2, 2023

Hotel Rooms: DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton - Miamisburg

- Reduced rates of \$119 King or \$119 Double both nonsmoking
- Use VBBA Conference when asking for the group rate
- Phone number is 844-201-3472
- www.vbba.org/2023-conference-hotel-information/
- DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg Deadline March 15.
- After March 15, book with Sarah Brooks, Sales Manager, call her direct line: (937) 436-2400, Ext. 1192 for availability.

ACTIVITIES

- 9:00 am Saturday morning: Breakout Sessions at:
DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg
- Saturday Afternoon: Carillon Field
- 12:30 - 1:30 Brunch Carillon Brewing Company Cost \$15
- 1:30 - 2:30 Live Band
- 2:30 All Comers games, bound and no bound rules
- 5:00 Tour Dayton Dragons Day Air Ball Park
- Saturday Night
- Banquet at DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg
- 6:30 - 7:30 Social Hour Hors d' Ouvres
- 7:30 - 8:30 Banquet
- 8:30 - 9:00 Keynote Speaker: Bob Kendrick
- 9:00 - 9:30 Silent Auction Payment

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- 1800's Dress
- VBBA's 25th Anniversary Committee
- Dayton Base Ball, Vintage Base Ball (1860's to Present)
- Safety Committee, AED & CPR
- Ballists, Deadbeats, and Muffins, Inside Early Baseball in Illinois
- Umpiring
- History Isn't Always Pretty
Pennsylvania's Involvement in the Segregation of Base Ball in 1867
- Connecting to the Media
- The History of Baseball Uniforms

WWW.VBBA.ORG





REGISTRATION

MEMBERS

\$80

Welcome Bag, Breakout Sessions, All Comers Match, Banquet, Keynote Speaker Bob Kendrick

NON-MEMBERS

\$90

Welcome Bag, Breakout Sessions, All Comers Match, Banquet, Keynote Speaker Bob Kendrick

BANQUET ONLY

\$60

Keynote Speaker Bob Kendrick

**ONLY ALL COMERS
MATCH & CARILLON BREWING
COMPANY BRUNCH**

\$25

2023 VBBA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAYTON OHIO –
MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2023

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

- Registration at DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg
- Social at Dayton's Rusty Bucket

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST

- Breakout Sessions at DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg
- Evette Griffore Jacobson & A Living History Specialist from Carillon Historical Park - 1800's Dress
- James Tootle & More - VBBA's 25th Anniversary Committee
- Mark Mule Willis & Friends - Dayton Base Ball, Vintage Base Ball (1860's to Present)
- Dayton Fire Department - Safety Committee, AED & CPR
- Bob Sampson - Ballists, Deadbeats, and Muffins, Inside Early Baseball in Illinois
- Eric Laudenbacher – Umpiring
- Rich Heinick – "History Isn't Always Pretty - Pennsylvania's Involvement in the Segregation of Base Ball in 1867"
- Bill Helm – Connecting to the Media
- Tracy Martin – The History of Baseball Uniforms
- Three Piece Band
- All-Comers Matches Bound, No Bound Rules
- Silent Auction
- Banquet - DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg
- Keynote Speaker: Bob Kendrick

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND

- Executive Committee and Business Meetings

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ROOM RATES

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

DOUBLETREE SUITES BY HILTON HOTEL DAYTON – MIAMISBURG

- 300 Prestige Pl • Miamisburg, OH 45342

BOOKING LINK FOR ATTENDEES:

https://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DETHSES-VBA-20220421/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

BOOKING VIA PHONE:

844-201-3472 – Ask for the VBBA Conference rate.

The following are the list of speakers for the 2023 VBBA Conference

Watch this page for more about the 2023 Presenters Line Up. <https://www.vbba.org/2023-presenters-guide/>



BOB KENDRICK,

2023 VBBA CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bob Kendrick was named President of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) in March 2011. Founded in 1990, the NLBM is the world's only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of African-American baseball and its profound impact on the social advancement of America.

And while he doesn't fashion himself to be a historian, Kendrick has become one of the leading authorities on the topic of Negro Leagues Baseball history and its connection to issues relating to sports, race and diversity. He has been a contributing writer for "Ebony Magazine" and the national Urban League's "Opportunity Magazine."



RICHARD "GRUMPY" HEINICK,

UMPIRE, KEYSTONE BASE BALL CLUB OF HARRISBURG

"History Isn't Always Pretty - Pennsylvania's Involvement in the Segregation of Base Ball in 1867"

The role of the Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg D.D. Domer, in 1867, of preventing the 267th applicant, the Pythian Base Ball Club of Philadelphia, a club comprised of African American players, from joining the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Base Ball Players. And the reputation of the NABBP in December of 1867 when at the national convention, a policy of excluding clubs with 1 or more African American players was adopted by NABBP.



BILL HELM

"HOW TO CONNECT WITH THE MEDIA & COMMUNITIES"

Tips and suggestions on how to tell newspapers, radio stations and television stations about your team and your games so even more people can take part in the phenomenon that is vintage base ball. Learn how and when to write short stories and briefs to get the word out about your team not only to expand participation but also to increase fandom. Learn how to develop relationships with sports editors and sports reporters.

Founder of the Whatcom Aces Vintage Base Ball team of the Pacific Northwest Vintage Base Ball Association, Bill Helm is editor of the Lynden Tribune and Ferndale Record newspapers in Whatcom County, Washington. Bill also is secretary of the VBBA and is responsible for writing content used in the VBBA's quarterly newsletter. Before he moved to Washington in May 2021, Bill played on and then captained the Fort Verde Excelsiors of the Arizona Vintage Base Ball League.



EVETTE GRIFFIORE JACOBSON & A LIVING HISTORY SPECIALIST FROM CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK

"1800 DRESS"

1800's Fashions of Men, Women, and Children for all Vintage Base Ball Reenactors, players and fans.



ERIC LAUDENBACHER

"THE ART OF UMPIRING AND MORE"

The history of rules, umpiring etiquette and proper dress. The umpire's responsibility.

- Red's Bio
- Began VBB in 1991 with the Ohio Village Muffins
 - Played for the Muffins through 1995
 - 1996 researched and designed baseball exhibit at the Greensboro History Museum as well as teaching Town Ball to students
 - 1997-2000 taught 1835 Town Ball to students at Duke Homestead Living History Museum
 - 1998 to current have traveled the country as a revolver playing for teams that were desperate for a player. (If you've seen me play, you would understand)
 - 2007 keynote speaker at the Salisbury Confederate Prison Symposium speaking on Base Ball during the Civil War.
 - 2007-2012 Player/Manager of the Greensboro Patriots and Carolina Moonshiners
 - 2012 invited to NC Governors Mansion and NC Sports Museum to represent Vintage Base Ball
 - Have played/umpired at 12 Ohio Cups
 - Have played/umpired in 16 states
 - Played/umpired in 12 Major/minor league stadiums
 - Since 2018 umpired VBB charity games at Durham Athletic Park
 - 2022 became umpire for Wytheville



TRACY MARTIN

"THE HISTORY OF BASEBALL UNIFORMS"

Tracy C. Martin is a baseball collector and historian. His love for history and baseball collided when he began playing vintage base ball for the "OHIO VILLAGE MUFFINS". With a vision of putting together a baseball collection that shows the evolution of equipment from the 1850's - 2000. He is the founder of the Baseball Collectors Hall of Fame, Vintagebaseballcollector.com a website set up to honor those who have a passion and knowledge to research and preserve artifacts of our national pastime.



JAMES R. TOOTLE, ET AL

"VBBA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE"

VBBA founders sharing the memories of the creation of the Vintage Base Ball Association twenty-seven years ago.



BOB "DROOPY DRAWERS" SAMPSON

"BALLISTS, DEADBEATS, AND MUFFINS, INSIDE EARLY BASEBALL IN ILLINOIS"

Bob Sampson, known as "Droopy Drawers," has played vintage base ball since 1992 and presented at two VBBA conferences. An academically-trained historian who has taught baseball history, Bob spent nearly a decade researching the rise and transformation of the game in Illinois between 1865 and 1870. The research revealed a world of fun, disputes, gambling, professionalization, and declining interest. He will share what the game was like "on the ground" in Illinois in the post-Civil War years. *<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/?id=p087189>.



MARK "MULE" WILLIS (WITH JIM "TOMAHAWK" WILSON, NATE "FRENCHIE" BUCKNER, & OTHER VETERANS)

"Dayton Base Ball / Baseball / Vintage Base Ball (1860's to Present)"

Early history in the 19th century, 20th century clubs in a growing town, and the "vintage" era clubs from this area (Champion City Reapers, Tippecanoe Canal Jumpers, and Iron Horses of the Erie Railway). Also honoring veterans of the 25th anniversary of Clodbuster's first win (of 3) at "Vintage World Series" in Michigan.

Mark is a history buff and has been playing vintage base ball for over 30 years. He is a Cubs fan, has a son who played with the Clodbusters, and is teaching his grandchildren the vintage game. He is also an avid photographer.



SAFETY COMMITTEE DAYTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

"AED and CPR"

AED How - and when - to use an automated external defibrillator. CPR How high-quality CPR improves survival.



DAY AIR BALLPARK

Day Air Ballpark, formerly known as Fifth Third Field, is a minor league baseball stadium in Dayton, Ohio, which is the home of the Dayton Dragons, the High-A Central affiliate of the nearby Cincinnati Reds. www.milb.com/dayton/ballpark/dayairballpark

SPECIAL EXHIBITION:

TRACY MARTIN'S VINTAGE BASEBALL MUSEUM

Dedicated to preserving baseball, our national pastime through research, collecting, and displaying baseball memorabilia. I have been collecting since 1975 and my dream was to amass a timeline that would show the evolution of Baseball with equipment and memorabilia. Today my collection consist of over 2,000 items dating back to the 1850's.

HENRY CHADWICK

The father of baseball

During a VBBA board meeting earlier this year, a question arose about scoring, specifically what were the forms used by teams in the 1860s.

Many teams had official scorers and games were often recorded by scorers from both teams — who were then named in early box scores. Discussion of the topic quickly led to Henry Chadwick. Who was Henry Chadwick? And why should today's vintage base ball players and teams care?

The answer is simple. As stated on the cover of Andrew Schiff's excellent biography, Chadwick has a claim to being the father of baseball.

As recent historians have demonstrated time and again, there is no single individual who created the game. Instead, you have people like Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams, who contributed a piece here and a piece there, forming the mosaic known as baseball. Much of their work was witnessed — and reported — by Henry Chadwick.

The English immigrant and music teacher was not the first sports reporter in pre-Civil War America but he proved to be the most consistent and influential. For Chadwick, baseball was not only a game he loved but a way to reform American sport.

Crossing Elysian Fields on his way back to the Hudson River ferry, Chadwick passed a baseball game, lingered to watch, and was struck with the idea that the game was exactly the pastime for the bustling, growing United States of the 1850s.

Chadwick had definite ideas about not only how it should be played but the game's goals. The product of a multi-generational reform-minded English family (his half-brother Edwin

Chadwick is a big deal in 19th century British history), Father Henry, as he came to be called, viewed the game as a teaching tool. He advocated scientific base ball and gentlemanly conduct.

For those living today who have been inundated by statistics our whole lives, it is hard to imagine the wonder and promise numbers offered to mid-19th century reformers. Statistics, they believed, could establish the need for reforms ranging from public water supplies to sewage systems to personal health practices. But first, one had to get the numbers.

And so, Chadwick borrowed a scoring system used in cricket to create early versions of today's box and line scores. He pioneered the batting average, though he downplayed pitching because, as we know, the pitcher's early role was to get the ball to a spot where the batter could hit it. The real play was in the batting and the fielding.

Chadwick's early scoresheets can ache the head of modern readers. Nothing seems to make sense and the scoresheets often require double entries — the scorer tracking both offense and defense at the same time on two different charts. But it was a start. Everything that followed sprang from it.

So, we owe Henry Chadwick honor, especially as his persistence, stretching into 1908, directly led to his death from pneumonia spawned by a cold caught attending an opening game of the 1908 season in Brooklyn.

Much more about Chadwick is to be found in Schiff's excellent book, "The Father of Baseball: A Biography of Henry Chadwick."



BOB SAMPSON
VBBA HISTORIAN

RULES & CUSTOMS

COMMITTEE NOTES



Bill Dieckmann



Marcus Dickson



Allen "Honest Al" Stare



Richard Hershberger



Bob Tholkes



Eric Miklich



Paul Hunkele

As was mentioned in the winter VBBA newsletter, the Rules and Customs Committee has provided the VBBA with many documents over the past many years to help clubs learn, and better understand the rules of the game of base ball.



CORKY GASKELL
COMMITTEE CHAIR

That information can be found at vbba.org/rules-and-customs. There is also a great section on proper period terminology found at vbba.org/terminology. We encourage you all to take advantage of this free information.

So, what else does the committee provide? Thanks for asking.

The Rules and Customs committee is made up of lovers of the history of this great game of base ball, and those that love to research the game, the rules and anything that can help us better understand the game.

With that said, we love to field (pun intended) questions about the game that you may have. Whether it be about the history of the game, or the better understanding the rules of the game, we would love to hear from you and help you get an answer to your inquiry.

Maybe something happened in one of your 19th century games and you didn't quite understand the ruling, or weren't sure how to handle a situation. Bring it to us and let us help you get to the bottom

of it.

Maybe you still think Abner Doubleday invented base ball. Give us a chance to set you straight.

To help you with any needs you may have on the history, or the rules of the game, you can reach us at rulesandcustoms@vbba.org.

We would love to hear from you, and we promise to get back to you as soon as we can, but from time to time, there are questions we might even need to research a bit more before answering, so be patient. We want to get you an answer, but we want to be historically accurate in our response. When available, we can provide newspaper citations to back up our answers.

In future VBBA newsletters, we will try to bring you some examples of incidents that happened in the 1860s and 1870s that may be interesting to read about, and as we get questions from you, we will post some of them, with the answers as well.

For the love of the game.



VBBA MEMBERSHIP

Join or Renew your membership in the VBBA

Membership in the Vintage Base Ball Association is open and available to clubs as well as to individuals who would like to support the organization. Memberships are vital to the organization's success.

• FULL MEMBER CLUBS

\$75/year or \$125/two years*:

full-fledged vintage club nines who play at least six games a year.

• ASSOCIATE CLUBS

\$50/year*:

vintage clubs who play less than six games/year

• INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$20/year*:

individual ballists, civilian interpreters,

	Full Member Clubs	Associate Member Clubs	Individual Membership
Base Ball Player's Chronicle newsletter	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to National Convention	✓	✓	✓
VBBA Directory Listing	✓	✓	
Voting Rights (2 votes)	✓		
General Liability Insurance The VBBA is covered whenever a local team plays. If, for example, a spectator gets hit by a stray ball and sues, the policy will respond to cover the national organization. If the local team has no money, but is recognized as a VBBA member club then litigant will go to where the money is, the VBBA. ***VBBA member clubs must contact the VBBA for VBBA certificates of insurance as required by specific venues and dates ***			

Access to Base Ball Historical Archivists	✓	✓	✓
Access to Rule Interpretations for Reenactments	✓	✓	✓
Page with Team Picture, Schedule and Brief History	✓	✓	
Annual Membership	75	\$50	\$20
Paying online? Be sure to include your team name in the "Special Instructions."	Donate	Donate	Donate

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.

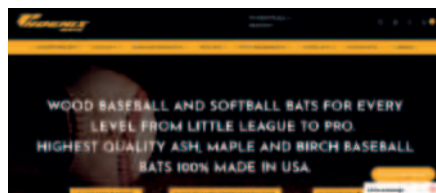


STOCKBRIDGE SEWING WORKS

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 to 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

Since 1996, Phoenix Bat Co. has been crafting wood bats outside of Columbus, Ohio. 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

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.

"We love the history of the base ball bat, which bleeds into our passion for making them. We are obsessed with base ball bats." Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount.

Contact Brian Carter at smacker@comcast.net or visit smackerbats.com/vintage.

