

Originals.

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ORIGINS COMMITTEE AT THE FRED-IVOR- CAMPBELL CONFERENCE

Several Origins Committee stalwarts participated in the 19th Century Committee's Fred Ivor-Campbell Conference in Coopers-town, April 20-21. Bob Tholkes and Monica Nuciarone presented, on "The Birth of Baseball Statistics," and "A Comparison of Alexander Cartwright and William Wheaton, respectively, and Eric Miklich moderated a panel on baseball's early rules which included Richard Hershberger and John Thorn.

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THE MONTH IN 19cBB

Members of the Origins Committee used the 19cBB yahoogroup very sparingly during the season-opening month of April.

Crinoline and Ball Playing

Richard Hershberger sent an 1859 newspaper item quoting another paper's item ridiculing the notion that base ball could be played in a crinoline, and responding that on some

(unspecified) occasions a short skirt could be substituted in order to permit exercise. Both Richard and Peter Manucso thought the paper was speaking hypothetically; Deb Shatner summarized the evidence of early ball play by women in the area (upper New York State).

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TOM ALTHERR'S NOTEBOOK

CAT BALL AT LULBEGRUD SCHOOL, KENTUCKY IN 1801

When Pastor David Barrow established a reading school in Montgomery County, in northeastern Kentucky in 1801, he wrote up rules of student conduct, which included one about recreation: "10th. Diversions at Play-Time are, Runing [sic], Jumping, Prison-base, Cat, and such others as the Master from Time to Time shall admit." Note that he made a distinction between prisoner's base and cat. Lulbehrad, by the way, derived from Jonathan Swift's capital of Brobdingnag in *Gulliver's Travels*. Asa C. Barrow, "David Barrow and His Lulbehrad School, 1801," *The Filson Club*

History Quarterly, v. 7
(April 1933), p. 90

BALL PLAY IN YORK COUNTY, PENNSYL- VANIA IN THE 1810s

Samuel K. Hoshour, an Indiana minister, remembered in his 1884 life story, how he played during his boyhood sabbaths in eastern Pennsylvania before 1819: "Sundays were spent in fishing, playing ball, and kindred diversions." [Samuel K. Hoshour], *Autobiography of Samuel K. Hoshour* (St. Louis: John Burns Publishing Company, 1884), p. 17

BALL PLAYING PROHIBITION AT THE BALL PLAY AS A MORAL BACKDROP IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Among the many uses of ball play as a stage for didacticism is Daniel Wise's 1853 kids' book, *Ralph Rattler: or, The Mischief-Maker*. In one episode, Ralph, a supercilious sort, refused an invitation to play ball with his Belmont Academy fellow students, because he dressed better than they did. The boys went off and enjoyed their ball game, but this scorn backfired for Ralph as he found making any friends very hard. Ball play, apparently, was a marker of social acceptance. Frank

Forrester [Daniel Wise], *Ralph Rattler: or, The Mischief-Maker* (Boston: Brown, Taggart, and Chase 1853), pp.12-14

MORE BALL PLAY
DURING THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR

In his journal for September 5, 1775, Wrentham, MA soldier Samuel Haws, stationed near Boston, wrote: "Nothing remarkable only..Lieutenant Foster had Lik to have been put under guard for playing ball." Presumably there must have been some restriction on that type of recreation or Lt. Foster was devoting too much of his time to playing.[Samuel Haws], "A Journal for 1775, A.D." in Abraham Tomlinson, ed., *The Military Journals of Two Private Soldiers. 1758-1775* (Poughkeepsie, New York: Abraham Tomlinson, 1855 p. 70

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH
CAROLINA IN 1852

Under Miscellaneous Regulations, the trustees of the University of North Carolina issued the following restriction in 1852: "There shall be no ball playing in or among the College buildings or against the walls. All athletic exercises must be kept at a distance, so as to prevent damage to the buildings and interruption to study." As usual the university worried about the physical plant, but a little more unusually also fretted about the student's academic diligence. The ordinance certainly prohibited handball games, such as fives, but it could

have as easily targeted baseball-type games. *Acts of the General Assembly and Ordinances of the Trustees for the Organization and Government of the University of North Carolina* (Raleigh, North Carolina: North Carolina Institution for the Dumb and the Blind, 1852), p. 21
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150 YEARS
AGO

*from the pages of the
Brooklyn Daily Eagle*

May 16, 1862, page 2

**Inauguration of the
Union Base Ball and
Cricket Grounds--- The
Grand Opening Game--
2,000 to 3,000 Specta-
tors Present**

The project to establish the Union Skating, Riding School, Base Ball, Boating and Gymnastic Association as one of our permanent institutions, having been abandoned on account of the hard times, the scheme of establishing the "Union Base Ball and Cricket grounds," was adopted in its stead, and through the energy of the officers of the Association, this project has been carried into execution, and the inauguration game was played upon the grounds yesterday. For some weeks past, laborers have been engaged in draining, levelling, sodding, &c., converting the lots occupied last winter as a skating pond into a ball ground. This project was particularly acceptable at this time, as in laying out

the grounds much labor and expense were bestowed upon them, and this not only gave employment to unoccupied laborers, but will eventually prove an ornament to that portion of the city in which they are located, and is a fair specimen of the enterprise of our citizens, this being the first of the kind in Brooklyn. At the Central Park, N. Y., there are ball grounds on the same plan as these established here, and for the past year or two there have been numbers established in London and other European cities. The chief object of the Association is to provide a suitable place for ball playing, where ladies can witness the game without being annoyed by the indecorous behavior of the rowdies who attend some of the first-class matches....a long wooden shed has been erected, capable of accommodating several hundred persons, and benches provided for the convenience of the fair sex, and wherever their presence enlivens the scene, there gentlemanly conduct will follow. Indecorous proceedings will cause the offenders to be instantly expelled from the grounds.

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