

Originals.

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THE MONTH IN 19cBB.

Members of the Origins Committee used the 19cBB yahoo group during the month of August to pursue a number of interests.

DISCOVERIES.

Old Time Forest City Player.

Dennis Pajot posted a death notice found for Robert Martin, a Forest City player of the 1860s.

Cricket in 1776.

Priscilla Astifan posted her find of a reference to play at cricket in Washington's Continental Army, in David McCulloch's book 1776.

Playing at A Very Young Age.

Craig Waff posted an 1858 note of an 8 – year – old playing on a junior team in Brooklyn, an age far younger than has been assumed for those clubs. Priscilla Astifan replied that references to juniors in Rochester, N.Y., only mention ages of 12 and more.

Old Fashioned Base Ball?

John Zinn posted an 1869 newspaper note of an "old fashioned" version of base ball played in Paterson, New Jersey. John Thorn

thought this might have been a five-based game that Chadwick described as played in New York before the Knickerbockers. Fred Ivor-Campbell posted the suggestion that all available information on these games of "old-fashioned" ball should be collected, and a research article written.

Old Fashioned Ball- Barn and Dutch Long

Kyle DeCicco-Carey posted an 1867 article from the *Daily Cleveland Herald* which describes barn ball and Dutch Long. Richard Hershberger posted to call attention to the prevalence of overhand pitching in the "old fashioned" games.

INQUIRIES.

History on a T-Shirt.

To Priscilla Astifan's original complaint about seeing a T-shirt that perpetuates the Doubleday myth, Parker Bena inquired whether base ball was invented. Richard Hershberger posted a discussion in which he favored its description as an evolution, though the term describes the case of base ball only imperfectly. Christopher Green posted a supporting piece. David Ball posted the opinion that we should stop "resisting reality" and put Doubleday in the Hall of Fame "where he belongs",

in recognition of the durability of the myth.

Documentation of Union v Confederate Games

Frank Ceresi inquired about documentation of games between soldiers in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War.

FOLLOW UP.

Town Ball?

John Zinn, reading in the August newsletter of the 1866 town ball match reported by John Thorn, posted his find of a description of an apparent town ball match played in Newark, New Jersey, in 1869. John Thorn, David Block, and Priscilla Astifan posted requests for copies. Jack Little and Priscilla posted the opinion that the newspaper item describes an early version of vintage base ball, with players revisiting old rules. David believed that the item connected to 1857 reports of an active Antiquarian Knickerbocker club in New York. Craig Waff posted further information on these reports and noted that the match report is in Protoball.

The Knickerbockers (Newark) continued.

Continuing his research into the Newark club which played a town ball match in 1869, John Zinn

found that they seem to have played annually from 1869 to 1875.

STRAIGHT TALK.

Boss Tweed and the Mutual Base Ball Club.

John Thorn, noting the prevailing opinion that the infamous Boss Tweed was linked to the Mutual BBC through their fire engine company, noted that he was actually linked to the Knickerbocker engine company which disbanded in 1843, about the time the ball club was forming. David Ball posted his opinion and also cited references concerning the value of the evidence of a connection between the Mutuels and the Boss' political machine (to which John Zinn posted an addition), and Richard Hershberger posted on the possible significance of the name of Knickerbocker being serially shared by the engine company and the pioneer base ball club.

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THIS MONTH IN BASE BALL.

Per Protoball:

KNICKS ADOPT CLUB AND PLAYING RULES ON SEPTEMBER 23.

In an effort led by Alexander Cartwright, the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York City organizes and adopts twenty rules for baseball (six are organizational, fourteen playing). This rule book is later seen as the basis for the game we now call baseball. They are credited with establishing

foul lines; abolishing the plug (throwing the ball at the runner to make an out); and instituting the tag and force-out rules. However, the rules do not specify a pitching distance or a baseline distance. The distance from home to second base and from first to third base is set at forty-two paces. In 1845 the "pace" was understood either as a variable measure or as precisely two-and-a-half feet, in which case the distance from home to second would have been 105 feet and the "Cartwright base paths" would have been 74.25 feet. The "pace" of 1845 could however not have been interpreted as the equivalent of three feet. The Knickerbocker rules provide that a winner will be declared when twenty-one aces are scored but each team must have an equal number of turns at bat; the style of delivery is underhand in contrast to the overhand delivery typical in town ball; balls hit beyond the field limits in fair territory (home run in modern baseball) are limited to one base. The rules become known as the New York Game in contrast to the game favored in and around the Boston area, called the Massachusetts Game. (1845.1)

per the Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

NINE BASE BALL PLAYERS VS. EIGHTEEN CRICKETERS.

---"This match, which has been attracting so much attention in the base ball

fraternity lately, was played last Saturday, September 21, at Hoboken, and resulted in a victory for the base ballers. The base ball players consisted of members from the Excelsior and Atlantic Clubs of Brooklyn, and of ten cricketers and eight base ball players, who played six outs for an inning, against the regular three outs for nine playing... the eighteen contributed some little amusement by the types of mistakes they made, probably very much like I. b. w. with the uninitiated base ball players when playing cricket."

NINE BASE BALL PLAYERS.

	HL.	R.
Pearce, c	3	5
Pearsall, 1 st b	2	6
Pennington, r f	3	4
Whiting, s s	3	4
Waddell, c f	4	4
Brainard, 2 nd b	2	5
Bixby, 3 rd b	3	5
Flanley, l f	2	5
Creighton, p	1	7
Total	24	45

EIGHTEEN CRICKETERS.

	HL.	R.
Hudson	2	2
Burns, p	1	2
H. B. Taylor, f	2	2
Hunt, s s	2	2
W. Pearce, f	3	1
Tyson, f	4	0
Colgate, f	2	1
Sweet, 1 st b	2	2
H. Wright, f	3	0
Aspinwall, f	3	1
G. Wright, 2 nd b	3	1
Bates, f	2	2
Ford, 2 nd b	3	0
Waller, s s	3	0
Kendall, f	3	0
Haughton, 3 rd b	3	0
Vanderlip, f	3	0
Vincent, f	2	0
Totals	48	16