Canadians Inventing Baseball: Port Hope's Bob Addy

There's no better evidence of the manner in which the evolving modern game of baseball was embedded in Canada's life at the same time as in the United States as the ease with which Bob Addy assumed a prominent role in the sport's formative years.

Robert (Bob) Edward Addy was born in Port Hope, Ontario, Canada in 1842. In the same year a fellow British citizen and one of the world's celebrated authors, Charles Dickens, visited the new Europeanized world of North America with his wife Catherine. Leaving Toronto bound for Kingston by steamship in early May, they docked briefly on the way in Port Hope's neighbouring town of Cobourg. Later describing the general landscape of the continent, and no doubt as confirmed by what he saw around Cobourg and Port Hope, Dickens wrote, "There was the swamp, the bush, the perpetual chorus of frogs, the rank unseemly growth, the unwholesome steaming earth." He meant none of it in a good way.

Bob Addy's hometown was an isolated and, to our eyes, a dreary place enlivened only by multiple breweries and distilleries. Public drunkenness and civic misbehavior were common. It was a town of "speedy lads" drinking heavily and disturbing sleep by rattling shutters late into a Saturday night; "fallen sisters" causing honest people to question their town's declining morals; and "pugilistic gentlemen" fighting for their liberty before a stern judge pronouncing on their drunken and disorderly behaviour. Chief constable Charles Gilchrist policed these matters as well as being a member of Port Hope's Mechanics baseball team.

Eventually, for those seeking to escape, often permanently, there was occasional boat service on the *Maple Lea*f run by Captain Schofield, leaving at 11 in the morning for a somewhat more cosmopolitan town of Rochester, New York across Lake Ontario, a trip normally taking five hours.

Toronto, 60 miles to the west, could also be reached by boat, but for most it would have been on the sorry state of the province's nascent road system. So unpredictable however were the nearby swamps, river crossings and deep, water-

filled depressions on even apparently flat surfaces that if travelling by horse, the rider had to ensure the steed's ability to swim.

Farming dominated Canada's economy. It was supported by the work, generally, of in-town artisan labour. The latter employment fulfilled and often exceeded the basic requirements for a good life, but it depended on a slowly changing technology for which there was no continuing guarantee. As for the original First Nations people, they were in retreat from their 10,000-year accommodation to the annual changes in weather and the "rank unseemly growth". When they appeared in towns like Port Hope it was more likely as dispirited victims rather than proud forebears.

Only with the arrival of the train in the mid-1850s did the slow process of rolling back limitations of these isolated fortresses of parochial thinking and reduced opportunity begin.

The limitations of Port Hope's world, and for the people inhabiting it in Bob Addy's time, would eventually undergo a metamorphosis into something sublime by the 21st century. Artisanship has obtained a new lease on life as a post-modern response to either the sameness of creative mass production, or digital technology's absent tangibility. Craft breweries and wineries have restored a once flourishing local alcohol business, but for visiting tourists. First Nations are no longer ignored throughout Canada but increasingly part of the broader public conversation on matters ranging from land title and social service deficiencies to governance and environmental oversight.

While passenger boats no longer ply the cross-lake trade, they have been replaced by individual sailing craft and personal yachts. All those natural nuisances which Dickens railed against are now recognized as essential ecological services for greater resilience, storage of water, sequestration of carbon, soil for planting crops and a biodiversity of living things. As of 2017 the train still stops in Port Hope, while heritage designation has encapsulated large sections of the town, including its ascending main street, Walton, not far from the Addy family's 19th century residence on Harcourt Street.

One can only wonder what the Addy family, struggling to meet basic needs, would have made of their town's current status as a weekend destination for today's affluent class of mobile hip consumers. Ironically however, while Bob Addy left Port Hope forever in his early twenties, and long before it became a small town conservation-recognized icon for lifestyle splendor, both the house and the Pocatello, Idaho neighbourhood in which he spent his last years are now part of a heritage district.

For a mid-19th century boy like Bob Addy there was none of the organized schooling taken for granted today, only an artisan's apprenticeship role. In his case it was as a tinsmith. The profession required an indenture of around five years under a recognized Master. Addy started by performing odd jobs in his Master's workshop. These included cleaning it and ensuring fires were stoked during winter months, not only for comfort, but because a tinsmith's work, while largely undertaken on cold metal, often required heat to shape raw materials.

Gradually he took on basic tinsmith tasks such as filing the edges off products and polishing them as they neared market readiness. Tracing patterns, soldering, and securing items with bolts and rivets followed. He then moved on to creating basic items such as small containers, before undertaking household decorative objects and more complex stylized items such as coffee pots.

Despite all of this training he still wasn't a Master, being obligated to undertake a journeyman role, hitting the open road as a "jack of all trades" tinker or as a peddler of his Master's wares. While it was a respected position in those fledgling industrial days, by Addy's 15th birthday in 1857 Port Hope was home to five Master tinsmiths in a population of just under 6,000. He risked becoming one tinsmith too many if Messieurs Dustan, Howe, McMann, Searl and Spry showed no sign of leaving!

Fortunately along the way he had picked up the tools of literacy, something his mother never managed judging by her last will and testament. Long after Bob Addy's death in 1910 his daughter still marveled at his lovely penmanship. His signature recorded in his executor role for his mother in 1889 would today be prized by autograph collectors.

In this rapidly changing world an artisan's life was increasingly precarious, whether for a tinsmith, blacksmith, cooper, or cobbler of shoes, of which for the latter trade there were four specialists - laster, healer, burnisher and finisher. In Hamilton, Ontario if any one of the latter didn't show up for work the other three took the day off and most likely played baseball, their occupation's preferred game, and one of the "devious" ways working tradesmen could play the game at times other than normal off days.

Production in factories would soon put an end to such frivolity, however, and quickly ensure a sharp distinction between labour and management; mass produced items would be cheaper to manufacture and sell for less; and for skilled practitioners like tinsmiths the employment opportunities were increasingly limited.

Bob Addy was talented in other ways, however. He was an extraordinary athlete, when such skill provided not only leisurely recreation after work, but could, for the best among those players, offer the beginnings of a modest income source.

Addy's family had arrived in Port Hope sometime after the oldest son George was born in Ireland in 1837, but before Bob's birth. Their Church of England background meant they fit well into the cultural and religious life of that day's Ontario. Youngest brother James was born in 1844, but by 1847 their father was dead, his seamstress wife Ellen being listed as a widow in that year's 1847 assessment index for Port Hope. No wonder then that she targeted an artisan's life for Bob and Jim when they came of age. Older brother George, however, carved out a life as a clerk, working quite possibly with food produce given his later entrepreneurial bent.

All three boys were gifted sportsmen. They played both cricket and baseball. Cricket probably doesn't surprise us, though in both Canada and the United States its prominence as the leading and adult "bat and ball" game was only a small step ahead of the growth of baseball in popular play. Unlike in England where cricket was prominent in the 18th century, its organized and continuous character in North America was largely a 19th century phenomenon. In

the first decades of the 19th century, however, no one playing the many versions of baseball could have imagined it having the same prospects as cricket. It was an idle one-off recreation, possibly even a warm up for the more advanced bat and ball game of cricket. As the simpler of the two, baseball used a much lighter ball (for which there was less chance of injury), tolerated weaker bat and ball skills, and in its plugging aspect (throwing the ball at a runner between bases and if connecting he was retired) may have been more fun. But to cricketers it must have seemed rather silly.

This was its weakness in comparison to cricket. Cricket's harder ball could be hit farther, required stronger fielding skills and stung if not caught properly on the fly (necessary in cricket unlike baseball's tolerance of a one bounce rule to retire a batter), and in its rejection of plugging had none of the leaping, whooping and child-like behaviour common to baseball with runners doing all they could to avoid a ball tossed at them.

Bob Addy played both games in Port Hope, and likely from his youngest days. We can surmise this because aside from all those "bat and ball" baseball-type games found in other parts of Ontario and throughout the future country of Canada, there is a curious reference to a game of ball being used as a means to determine who would provide dinner for a session of Queen's Bench held on the Hope Township farm of Leonard Soper in 1803.

It was near Smith's Creek, once known for its fur post trading role, and later renamed Port Hope in 1817. The judicial colleagues attending the session likely arrived by boat in the small port. The account however is from 1875, and being so long after the fact must be greeted with a smidgen of suspicion. A later account in the 1878 ***Belden Atlas of Northumberland and Durham Counties*** also places doubt on whether this was a judicial sitting of the type described, suggesting that a future such gathering would have been the first but for the tragic sinking of the boat *Speedy* in Lake Ontario in 1804. Some of the new province's leading men along with several children and at least one prisoner died.

Regardless of the 1803 session's purpose in Hope Township, what wasn't questioned was the playing of a game of ball. The proceedings on Soper's farm

were overseen by Major David Rogers. His illustrious forebears included Robert Rogers, an American frontiersman, organizer of Roger's Rangers during the French and Indian Wars, later a confused participant in the American Revolution offering his services to both sides, before eventually opting for the British, but then retiring from the field a full blown alcoholic.

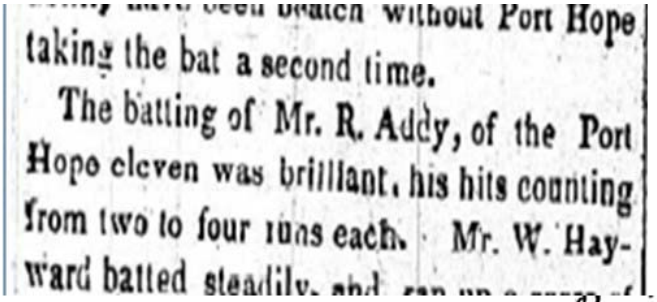
David Rogers was a more sober descendant and in time had reforming interests as Ontario and British leadership tightened the bounds of colonial loyalty following the wars of 1812-14. It would not be surprising to find him playing something resembling baseball as early as 1803. Militia volunteers in New Brunswick were described in an 1861 account as playing baseball in 1793. The annual Militia Muster days in the British Empire were generally occasions for celebrating King George III's birthday (4 June), by briefly marching about, drinking heavily, and playing forms of baseball, for which we have two accounts in 1819 and 1838. The first such sporting occasion associated with George III's birthday had been in 1763 outside Fort Michilmackinac (in today's northern Michigan) at which lacrosse playing Ojibwe used the game as the pretext for allaying suspicions of their real intent before eventually massacring the inebriated British garrison. The fort's French traders were untouched.

The personal life of David Rogers included marriage to two sisters of Ely Playter (not at the same time but following the death of the first!). Playter, a tavern keeper in York (today's Toronto), is notable for having referenced a game of "ball" in his 1803 diary account. It is the first known record in Canada of something resembling baseball contemporary to the time in which it happened. Hence it isn't hard to imagine Rogers and Playter discussing and sharing ideas about what was still a "looking back" English folk custom with no pretense of a major league future.

Peter Morris's exceptional biography of Bob Addy produced for the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) says that Addy's cricket playing in Port Hope and in Canada was possibly extensive but had been lost to history. There was as well no reference to his Canadian baseball playing, but Morris deemed

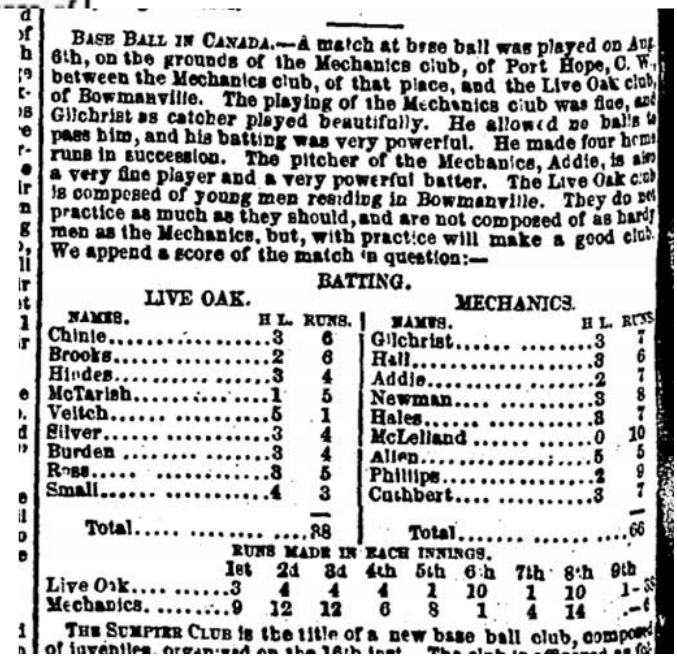
Addy to have learned the game in Canada, unlike others who left the country at a young age and were American-educated in the game.

For cricket we now have at least five accounts of matches featuring Addy in 1860. His Port Hope team took the train to Lindsay and Millbrook, while other matches were local and in one case involved the first eleven of the club against 22 others, and, for another, the right hand players against the left handed. He was described not only as their strongest hitter but on occasion the team's bowler. One report said, "The batting of Mr. R. Addy, of the Port Hope eleven was brilliant, his hits counting from two to four runs each."



taking the bat a second time.

The batting of Mr. R. Addy, of the Port Hope eleven was brilliant, his hits counting from two to four runs each. Mr. W. Hay-



BASE BALL IN CANADA.—A match at base ball was played on Aug 6th, on the grounds of the Mechanics club, of Port Hope, C. W., between the Mechanics club, of that place, and the Live Oak club, of Bowmanville. The playing of the Mechanics club was fine, and Gilchrist as catcher played beautifully. He allowed no balls to pass him, and his batting was very powerful. He made four home runs in succession. The pitcher of the Mechanics, Addie, is also a very fine player and a very powerful batter. The Live Oak club is composed of young men residing in Bowmanville. They do not practice as much as they should, and are not composed of as hardy men as the Mechanics, but, with practice will make a good club. We append a score of the match in question:—

BATTING.

LIVE OAK.			MECHANICS.		
NAMES.	H	L. RUNS.	NAMES.	H	L. RUNS.
Chinie	3	6	Gilchrist	3	7
Brooks	2	6	Hall	3	6
Hindes	3	4	Addie	2	7
McTavish	1	5	Newman	3	8
Veitch	5	1	Hales	3	7
Silver	3	4	McLelland	0	10
Burden	3	4	Allen	5	5
Ross	3	5	Phillips	2	9
Small	4	3	Cuthbert	3	7
Total		38	Total		66

RUNS MADE IN EACH INNINGS.

	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	
Live Oak	3	4	4	4	1	10	1	10	1	38
Mechanics	9	12	12	6	8	1	4	14		66

THE SUMPTER CLUB is the title of a new base ball club, composed of juveniles, organized on the 16th inst. The club is attached as

More significant however is a box score from the *New York Clipper* on 25 August 1861, with a fairly detailed account of a baseball game between the Bowmanville Live Oak and the Port Hope Mechanics (towns just over 20 miles apart). Why a game between two backwater small towns in the wilds of Canada would be printed in one of New York's leading sports journals must raise

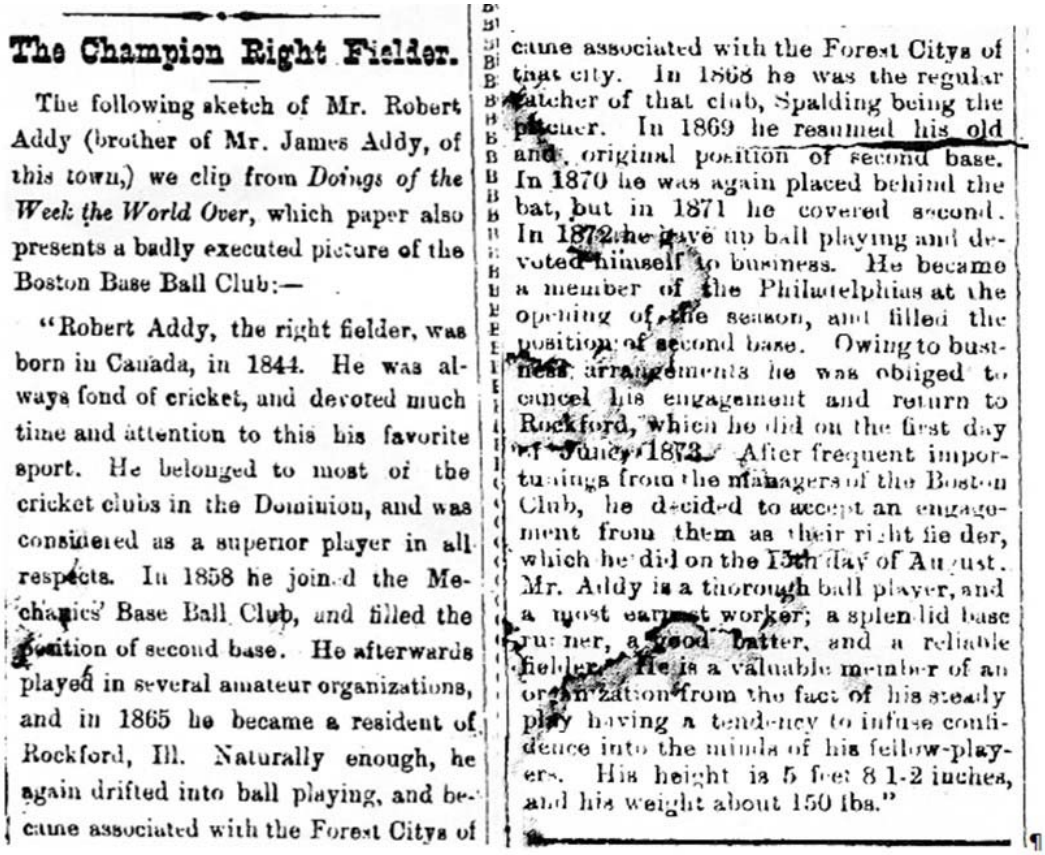
eyebrows. It was not uncommon however in those days for Canadian baseball enthusiasts, despairing at the paucity of coverage in their own local town's newspaper, to send their reports to recognized sports publications. Baseball's mainstream arrival, along with the *Clipper* paper itself, were still in their infancy. News from far off places announcing the game's growing popularity was welcomed and usually printed. Today's baseball historians can be grateful that much of what we know about the early game in Canada comes from sources like the *New York Clipper* rather than the Canadian news media of the period.

In the *Clipper* account, likely submitted by a Bowmanville enthusiast, a Mechanics' player and the team's pitcher is listed only as Addie. He is described as "…. a very fine player and a very powerful batter." So once again, if it is our man Bob Addy, his hitting prowess as noted in the cricket account is highlighted. Of Port Hope's 66 runs (as against Bowmanville's 38) in the nine inning game "Addie" was credited with seven of them, and on two occasions he was H.L. (Hands Lost), though box scores of the day give no indication of hits, nor whether the outs were due to the player himself or another circumstance.

The spelling of the name is problematic (explicable if it came from an out of town source, but also a mistake made on other occasions later in his career). There are no other persons outside of the Addy family with even remotely close names in the Port Hope directories of the period. It can only be one of three people - brothers George, Bob or Jim. By 1861, despite appearing in the Canada Census of that year, George had made his way to Illinois. Jim on the other hand would have been 17 and Bob 19. It seems more likely the player named is Bob since he didn't leave Port Hope until at least a year later. This however could not as yet be said definitively.

During my research a sparsely described essay about Bob Addy was listed for sale on an on-line genealogy site. I was almost sure it would be a reprint of his brief biography from George Wright's 1874 book, but in the interest of completeness I paid the $15 fee. Marvellously it turned out to be an item from the *Port Hope Guide* of 15 November 1873 which had originally been printed in an American publication, ***Doings of the Week the World Over***. It had been delivered

to the Port Hope paper by Bob's brother Jim, who remained in town the rest of his life. We can reasonably conclude that Jim Addy would have generally verified its contents, even though it wrongly identifies his brother Bob's birth year as 1844 (Jim was after all swaddled in what passed for diapers in 1844).



The Champion Right Fielder.

The following sketch of Mr. Robert Addy (brother of Mr. James Addy, of this town,) we clip from *Doings of the Week the World Over*, which paper also presents a badly executed picture of the Boston Base Ball Club:—

"Robert Addy, the right fielder, was born in Canada, in 1844. He was always fond of cricket, and devoted much time and attention to this his favorite sport. He belonged to most of the cricket clubs in the Dominion, and was considered as a superior player in all respects. In 1858 he joined the Mechanics' Base Ball Club, and filled the position of second base. He afterwards played in several amateur organizations, and in 1865 he became a resident of Rockford, Ill. Naturally enough, he again drifted into ball playing, and became associated with the Forest Citys of that city. In 1868 he was the regular catcher of that club, Spalding being the pitcher. In 1869 he resumed his old and original position of second base. In 1870 he was again placed behind the bat, but in 1871 he covered second. In 1872 he gave up ball playing and devoted himself to business. He became a member of the Philadelphias at the opening of the season, and filled the position of second base. Owing to business arrangements he was obliged to cancel his engagement and return to Rockford, which he did on the first day of June, 1873. After frequent importunings from the managers of the Boston Club, he decided to accept an engagement from them as their right fielder, which he did on the 15th day of August. Mr. Addy is a thorough ball player, and a most earnest worker; a splendid base runner, a good batter, and a reliable fielder. He is a valuable member of an organization from the fact of his steady play having a tendency to infuse confidence into the minds of his fellow-players. His height is 5 feet 8 1-2 inches, and his weight about 150 lbs."

Source:·Port·Hope·Guide·15·November·1873¶

Along with details of his later professional career, the item described Bob Addy's play for the Port Hope Mechanics beginning in 1858. By that year teams were flourishing in Ontario though generally west, not east, of Toronto. Nor was it farfetched for a 16 year old boy to be playing on Port Hope's leading team. He was a gifted athlete and perhaps, at the time, one of the finest in Canada.

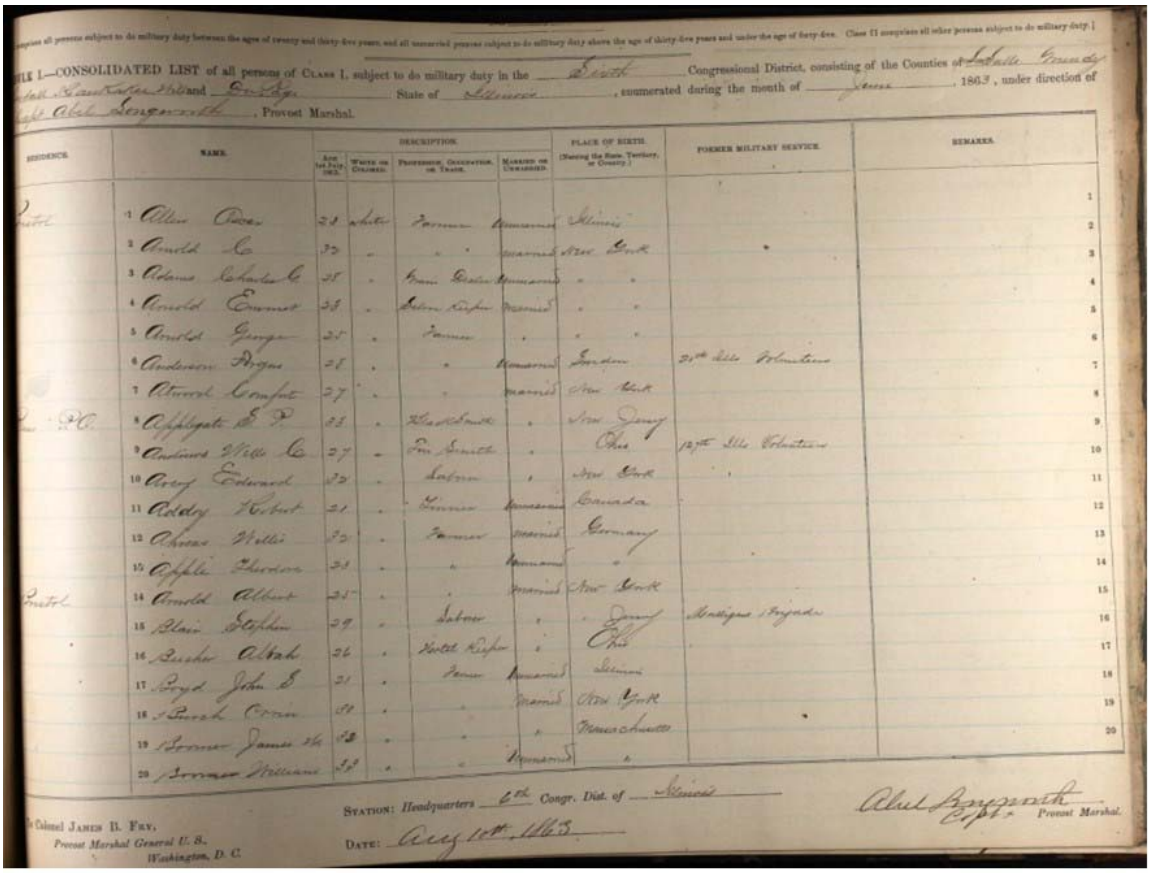
The year after the Bowmanville game the trail goes somewhat quiet, not surprising given the sporadic nature of the era's reporting, but the rough edges of 19th century society were apparent. Some were making plans to head to Millbrook for the annual gathering of Orange Lodges and a celebration of the long ago "Battle of the Boyne". They were encouraged by an invitation saying, "Ample

provisions are being made by the Cavan Brethren to refresh the inner man." Sectarian rituals such as these have faded from the Ontario mainstream in the 21st century, though not elsewhere in the world.

In nearby Cobourg meanwhile, the town's brass band was planning its 4th of July invasion of Rochester in a country now embroiled in Civil War. On board the band saluted the southern Confederacy by playing "Dixie", and on arrival mocked their hosts with "Yankee Doodle" before being told to either remain silent or switch to "Rule Britannia". When they refused fights broke out. Their steamer, the *Maple Leaf* returned to Cobourg that evening, but more mayhem ensued with factions cheering for Jefferson Davis, Beauregard and the American south and emitting lusty groans for Abe Lincoln. Others threw eggs at the band. It's not known if Bob Addy participated in these events, though given his rough and ready character later in life it's certainly possible.

The *Port Hope Guide* of 11 July 1862, as it had on other occasions, reminded Bob that there was a letter for him at the Port Hope post office. It might have been from older brother George with final directions for Bob's departure to the United States. George was living in Ogle County in Illinois, home to an entity known as the Canada Settlement, an enclave of one-time Canadians, many of whom had long ago fled the country after backing the losing side in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837. The name alone may have been enough to tempt George's wanderlust, though there is some small evidence that at least one family in the Settlement once had a connection to Port Hope.

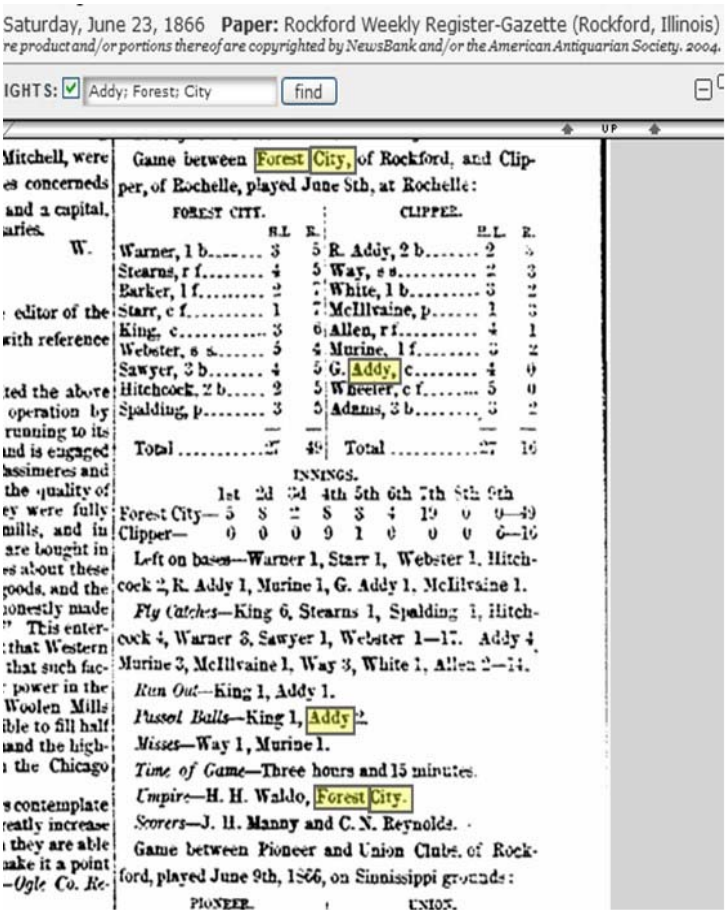
It's also possible that Bob, like many young Canadian men of his generation, including the musicians in Cobourg's brass band, was excited by the opportunity to take sides in the great American conflict. By 1863 he was in Ogle County and,



despite his Canadian identity, was obliged to register, as were all young northern men, with the Union Army. It's not known if he actually served, but it would be intriguing if he did so. One reason often cited for baseball's rise after the Civil War was the manner in which soldiers had been introduced to the game in their military camps. The thought that a Canadian played a role in this is delicious.

It was Bob Addy's good fortune that close to where he and George lived was the town of Rochelle's baseball team for whom they both played, possibly during but definitely in the post-Civil War era. Of even greater serendipity, near Rochelle emerged one of the greatest of early baseball teams, the Rockford Forest City. The team's rosters between 1866 and 1871 inclusive included, though at different times, two players of Hall of Fame acclaim (Al Spalding and Cap Anson), as well as two of near Hall of Fame distinction (Ross Barnes and Bob Addy himself), along with several other splendid athletes (Scott Hastings and Gat Stires

amongst others).



Saturday, June 23, 1866 **Paper:** Rockford Weekly Register-Gazette (Rockford, Illinois)

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Game between Forest City, of Rockford, and Clipper, of Rochelle, played June 8th, at Rochelle:

FOREST CITY.	B.I.	R.	CLIPPER.	B.I.	R.
Warner, 1 b	3	5	R. Addy, 2 b	2	3
Stearns, r f	4	5	Way, s s	2	3
Barker, l f	2	2	White, 1 b	3	2
Starr, c f	1	2	McIlvaine, p	1	3
King, c	3	6	Allen, r f	4	1
Webster, s s	5	4	Murine, l f	3	2
Sawyer, 3 b	4	5	G. Addy, c	4	0
Hitchcock, 2 b	2	5	Wheeler, c f	5	0
Spalding, p	3	5	Adams, 3 b	3	2
Total	27	49	Total	27	16

INNINGS.

	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	
Forest City—	5	8	2	8	3	4	19	0	0	—49
Clipper—	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	6	—16

Left on bases—Warner 1, Starr 1, Webster 1, Hitchcock 2, R. Addy 1, Murine 1, G. Addy 1, McIlvaine 1.

Fly Catches—King 6, Stearns 1, Spalding 1, Hitchcock 4, Warner 3, Sawyer 1, Webster 1—17. Addy 4, Murine 3, McIlvaine 1, Way 3, White 1, Allen 2—14.

Run Out—King 1, Addy 1.

Pussel Balls—King 1, Addy 2.

Misses—Way 1, Murine 1.

Time of Game—Three hours and 15 minutes.

Empire—H. H. Waldo, Forest City.

Scorers—J. H. Manny and C. N. Reynolds.

Game between Pioneer and Union Clubs, of Rockford, played June 9th, 1866, on Sinnissippi grounds:

PIONEER. UNION.

It was also in Rockford, however, that a darker side to Addy's biography was exposed. Much of his life after baseball has the mysterious character of a man running from himself, his past, and his reputation. Addy's remarkable but occasionally misspent lifetime journey is now known to have taken him first to Illinois around the age of 20, later to a number of American cities including Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia where he played at the highest levels of professional baseball, and finally to a tight triangle of places in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho when it really was the wild west. In most of these places Addy pursued the tinsmith profession he first learned in Ontario, but he also appears to have been attempting without success to flee the entanglements and misogynist underpinnings of his first marriage, which in a divorce petition submitted by his wife Ida in 1880 included domestic violence, multiple adulteries, and even a

threat on her life.

: Wednesday, March 24, 1880 **Paper:** Rockford Weekly Gazette (Rockford, Illinois)

ILIGHTS: Addy; Ida; B. find

hearted.

O. M. BRAZEE, Attorney.

Notice in Chancery.

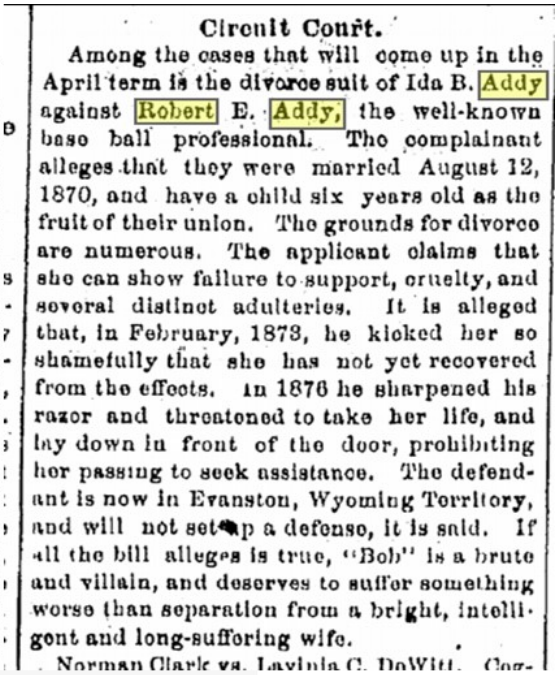
STATE OF ILLINOIS, Winnebago county, ss. —In the circuit court of Winnebago county, April term, A. D. 1880, Ida B. Addy vs. Robert E Addy.--In chancery.

Notice is hereby given that the above entitled cause is now pending in the Winnebago county circuit court, in the state of Illinois, and that summons in the case has been issued, returnable on the first day of the next term of said court, to be holden at the court house in the city of Rockford, county of Winnebago, and state of Illinois, on the fourth Monday in April, A. D. 1880.

Rockford, March 8, 1880.

T. M. BUTLER, clerk of said court.

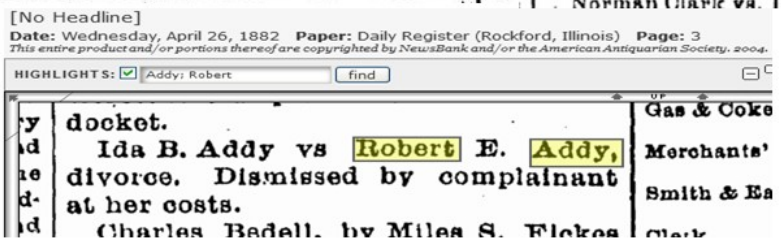
O. M. BRAZEE, Sol'r for compl't. mar8w4w



Circuit Court.

Among the cases that will come up in the April term is the divorce suit of Ida B. Addy against Robert E. Addy, the well-known base ball professional. The complainant alleges that they were married August 12, 1870, and have a child six years old as the fruit of their union. The grounds for divorce are numerous. The applicant claims that she can show failure to support, cruelty, and several distinct adulteries. It is alleged that, in February, 1873, he kicked her so shamefully that she has not yet recovered from the effects. In 1876 he sharpened his razor and threatened to take her life, and lay down in front of the door, prohibiting her passing to seek assistance. The defendant is now in Evanston, Wyoming Territory, and will not set up a defense, it is said. If all the bill alleges is true, "Bob" is a brute and villain, and deserves to suffer something worse than separation from a bright, intelligent and long-suffering wife.

Norman Clark vs. Lavinia C. DeWitt.



[No Headline]

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 1882 **Paper:** Daily Register (Rockford, Illinois) **Page:** 3

HIGHLIGHTS: Addy; Robert find

docket.

Ida B. Addy vs Robert E. Addy, divorce. Dismissed by complainant at her costs.

Charles Bedell, by Miles S. Flokes

Gas & Coke

Merchants'

Smith & Ea

What's significant as well was a seeming turning point in Addy's relationship with his Canadian identity. In May 1870 the Rockford Forest City ball club, with whom Addy had been associated since 1866, visited Hamilton Ontario

1870 Rockford Forest City Team

Standing from left: Jacob Doyle-1B; Bob Addy-2B; Gat Stires-RF; Joe Simmons– CF; Fred Cone LF; Ross Barnes-SS; T.J. Foley –3B

Seated: Albert Spalding– P; H.H Waldo– Secretary; Scott Hastings-C.

to play that city's famous Maple Leaf team under the presidency of William Shuttleworth. In April one of Hamilton's local papers, the *Spectator* (12 April 1870), acknowledged that "The people of the United States… are possessed of more than ordinary inventive talent. Why then do they not invent a generic title for themselves? We find no difficulty in speaking of the English, the French, the Dutch, the Germans, the Chinese; but when we want to speak of the people of the United States we are compelled to use that term, which is cumbrous, or to speak of them as Yankees or as Americans…. A Canadian, a Brazilian or a Patagonian is an American just as much as a native of the United States…. In process of time, when 'manifest destiny' becomes a thing of fact, the name would be appropriate enough. In the meantime would it not be well for our cousins to recognize the fact that they do not occupy the whole unbounded continent, and present themselves to the world by some less ambitious appellation."

While this appears to be a small quibble it illustrates both the fear of Canadians being sucked into an American definition of their territory ('manifest destiny') but also a cheeky riposte to the implied calamity ("… they do not occupy the whole unbounded continent"), as if such a future is unlikely and hence the arrogance of the American nomenclature is at best a silly overreach. It was also a sign of Canadian insecurity, however, that such a trivial item should receive commentary.

In such a climate tickets for the 18 May 1870 game between Hamilton and Rockford sold for 25 cents at William Shuttleworth's store in the Market Square. The Hamilton team was a picked nine drawn from its oldest continuous baseball team, the Maple Leafs, formerly the Young Canadians, founded in 1854, in combination with the Independents of nearby Dundas. It wasn't much of a game. The Forest City led off the first inning with 13 runs, ultimately crushing Hamilton 65 to 3. Several incidents clouded the day, not least one being the behaviour of an odd Hamilton spectator who even the *Spectator* paper somewhat mocked in its account of the game:

"There might be noted the apparition of an amateur scorer, inscribing weird and altogether awful characters upon a curiously complicated card under the pleasant shadow of a huge umbrella upheld by an admirer of the splendid game, who nobly forgetful of self, and disdaining luxury of his own, devoted, in the interest of the pastime which he loved, the use of the aforesaid piece of furniture to the service of the unofficial recorder of the game." The scorer is then described as having "… fared in the sumptuous fashion of an Eastern potentate..."

A second item may have been the less than ideal skills of the Hamilton players whose poor play was excused on account of a lack of practice. There was some merit in the claim, late spring conditions having curtailed playing time on the part of the Canadians. Catches were muffed, throws were most often wild, and batting was weak except for a few modest exceptions.

Spectators as well spoke in a clipped and odd English tongue with comments such as, "Ow's that for 'igh" at the superior batting skills of the Rockford nine, who in turn derided their hosts with a laughter heard by all,

perhaps because they were as perplexed as the modern reader as to what the comment might have meant.

It's one thing to be a less than capable competitor, but also for your fans to act the fool simply compounds the blunder. Hearing the Hamilton spectators call out Addy's name as one of their own, a Canadian born, was too much for Addy's teammates. Aroused they gently barracked him at which he furiously commented, "I don't care nothing for 'em. I tell you I don't care nothing about 'em." Notably it wasn't a denial of his Canadian upbringing, just a statement that he didn't care to be associated with this lot of fans and their 'unofficial scorer'.

This was a particularly troubled time in American history. To be a recently freed Black or poor Irish just arrived from the 'old country' was to mainstream Americans the emblem of second class, lower or no status. In this post Civil War era the increasing traffic of other European immigrants into the country with their odd customs and strange clothing simply inflamed their xenophobia, and recalled the pre-Civil War "Know Nothing" movement and its explicit anti-Catholicism. Even born-in-America white Americans like Al Spalding were targets of epithets like "corn cracker" because of his small town rural background.

Outsiders just wanted to blend in, and be thought of on equal terms with their friends and colleagues. Bob Addy had largely succeeded in this pursuit until suddenly his "nativity", to quote the *Rockford Register* (28 May 1870), was exposed. From this moment can be traced his attempts to at the very least cloud the issue of his heritage and slowly assume a "Born in the USA" identity. But try as he might, he could never completely escape his past and its influences on him.

Perhaps no one sympathized with him more than his illustrious Rockford teammate Albert (Al) Goodwill Spalding. They'd known each other since at least 1866 when, barely a teenager, Spalding's pitching talent allowed the little city of Rockford to fight far above its weight in the baseball world of the 1860s. One supposes they were friends as well. After five seasons together Spalding left after 1870 to spearhead Boston's National Association team, but probably at his behest they were reunited in 1873, and then again in the first season of the National

League in Chicago in 1876.

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Make-Up of First Chicago Pennant Winners, 1876.

Manager, Captain and Pitcher .....A. G. Spalding
Catcher .....James White
Third base .....Adrian C. Anson
Second base .....Ross Barnes
First base .....Cal A. McVey
Shortstop .....J. P. Peters
Left field .....J. W. Glenn
Center field .....Paul A. Hines
Right field .....Robert Addy
Substitutes—J. F. Cone, Oscar Bielaski, F. H. Andrus.

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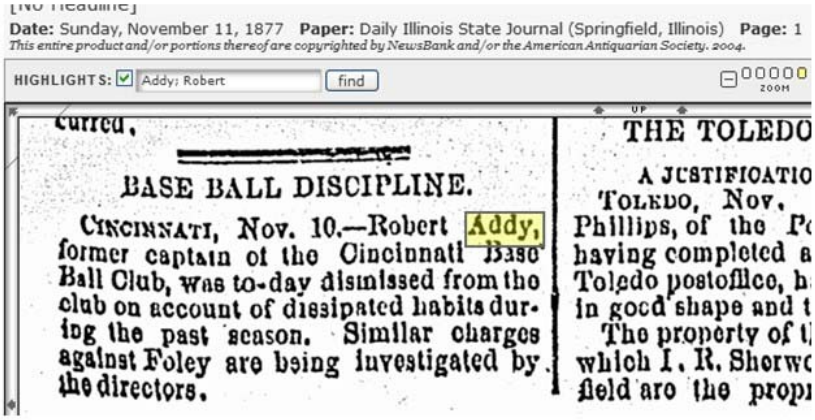
Spalding could see Addy's pronounced ability on the diamond both as a hitter and a fielder, and must have wondered how he became so capable. There was only one explanation. Addy was a product of Canadian baseball development, no matter how haphazard that might have been in the formative 1840s or 50s. What else explained his talent, his imagination on the diamond, and his sheer joy at playing?

What do the analytics show? Peter Morris wrote, "While we have less extensive statistics from the 1869 and 1870 seasons, when Addy was in his prime, the available records show that he deserved to be regarded as one of the game's best players." Before those years there is anecdotal commentary, box scores limited to outs and runs scored, and many match games against inferior competition, often featuring scores in the high double digits and so rendering batting accomplishments suspect. After those years he was entering his thirties.

His National Association and National League statistics indicate a player not surprisingly in decline. Yet despite this he lasts into the 1877 League season and a few years later is prominent in a high level Salt Lake City league.

Year	Age	Tm	Lg	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB	GDP	HBP	SH	SF	IBB	Pos	Awards
1871	29	ROK	NA	25	122	118	30	32	6	0	0	13	8	1	4	0	.271	.295	.322	.617	78	38	0					*4/6	
1873	31	TOT	NA	41	207	203	49	70	7	3	1	42	7	6	4	1	.345	.357	.424	.781	123	86	0					*O4	
1873	31	PHI	NA	10	53	51	12	16	1	0	0	10	1	1	2	0	.314	.340	.333	.673	96	17	0					4	
1873	31	BOS	NA	31	154	152	37	54	6	3	1	32	6	5	2	1	.355	.364	.454	.818	132	69	0					*O	
1874	32	HAR	NA	50	214	213	25	51	9	2	0	22	4	2	1	1	.239	.243	.300	.543	70	64	0					*4/56	
1875	33	PHI	NA	69	310	310	60	80	8	4	0	43	16	8	0	2	.258	.258	.310	.568	92	96	0					*O/4	
1876	34	CHC	NL	32	147	142	36	40	4	1	0	16			5	0	.282	.306	.324	.630	102	46						O	
1877	35	CIN	NL	57	251	245	27	68	2	3	0	31			6	5	.278	.295	.310	.605	101	76						*O	
6 Yrs				274	1251	1231	227	341	36	13	1	167	35	17	20	9	.277	.289	.330	.618	95	406	0						
162 Game Avg.				162	740	728	134	202	21	8	1	99			12	5	.277	.289	.330	.618	95	240							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Date: Sunday, November 11, 1877 Paper: Daily Illinois State Journal (Springfield, Illinois) Page: 1

HIGHLIGHTS: Addy; Robert find ZOOM
curred.
BASE BALL DISCIPLINE.
CINCINNATI, Nov. 10.—Robert Addy, former captain of the Cincinnati Base Ball Club, was to-day dismissed from the club on account of dissipated habits during the past season. Similar charges against Foley are being investigated by the directors.
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But was Addy a one-off anomaly or among the best of a preceding and emerging trail of baseball playing early creators and adapters in Canada? Turns out he may not even have been the best in his own family. Approaching 30, older brother George played with Bob in Rochelle, Illinois in 1866, suggesting a previously unrecorded series of sporting successes. Family and business duties however ended whatever career potential he had. Younger brother James lived his entire life in Port Hope and prospered as a saddler, but also as a baseball player and cricketer. Who knows what he might have achieved had he left for greener pastures?

The Addy family's prowess helps shed light on a missing piece of baseball's early formative years in the 19th century. Spalding, who was determined in his

later years to refute an English role in the roots of the game, was more generous in his consideration of baseball's popularity in Canada (**America's National Game**, Chapter 27), noting:

> *The progress of the American national game in British provinces has been slow but sure—except in Canada, where it gained a footing in its early days, rose rapidly, and has for many years been regarded as the National Game, fairly outclassing lacrosse and all other forms of field sport in popular favor.*
>
> *The Canadian people, in spirit and temperament, are very like our own. Though Britons, they have absorbed Yankee characteristics from being brought into commercial competition with business men of the United States. As a result, just as British field sports were found too slow for us, they have failed also to keep pace with the vigorous, wide-awake instincts of our neighbors to the North. Canada, in proportion to her population, is just as full of Base Ball fans as is our own country. They play ball, talk ball, and speculate on results of pennant races and league contests just as we do.*

Spalding would no doubt have demurred from supporting my proposition that Canadians should be given a participating debt of recognition than normally accorded them in the development of baseball from its folk ball play to that of a recognized modern sport. His own words however make sense only because of that engagement.

William Humber
November 2017