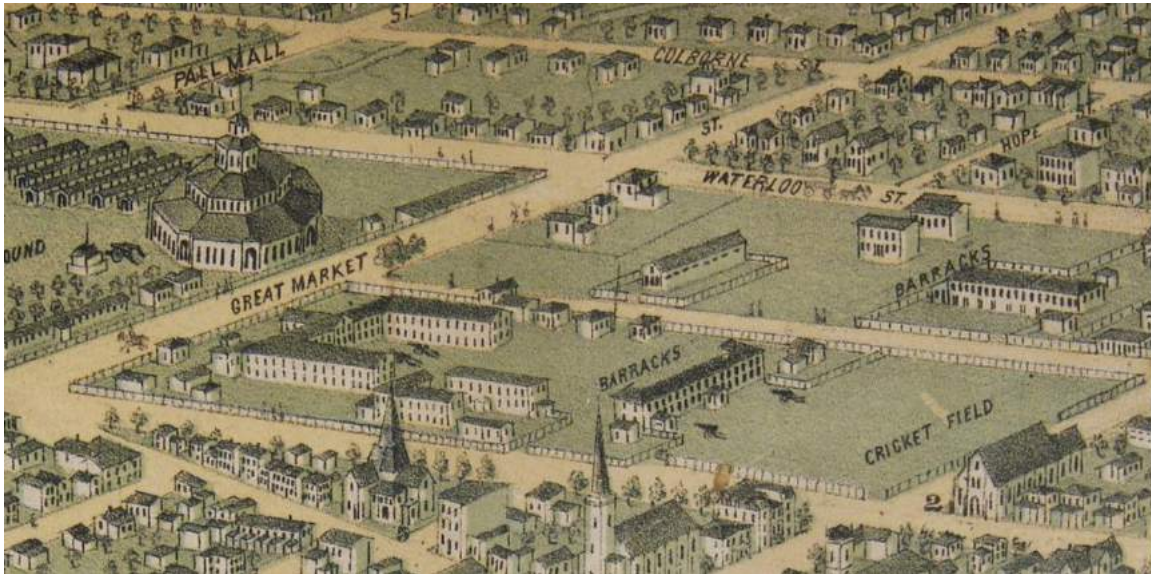
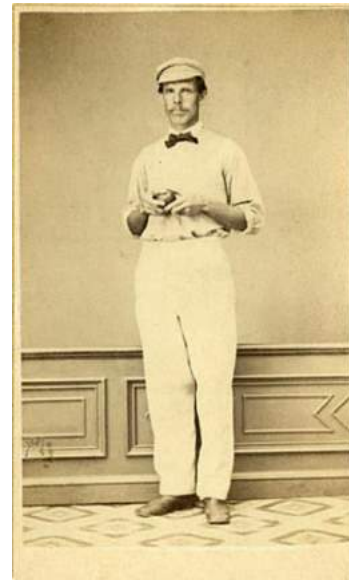
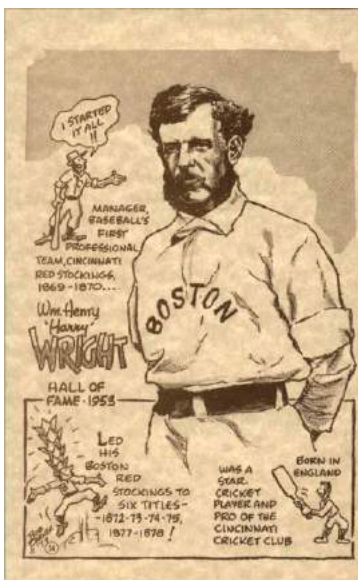


A century and a half ago, this was the best baseball team on the planet — the Boston Red Stockings. And in August of 1872, they played their first-ever game on foreign turf. It happened here, in London, at the old Military



Grounds, about a 15-minute walk from where we are today. But before we talk about that game, a quick history of the Red Stockings.

They were formed in Cincinnati in 1869 by this man, Harry Wright. Wright



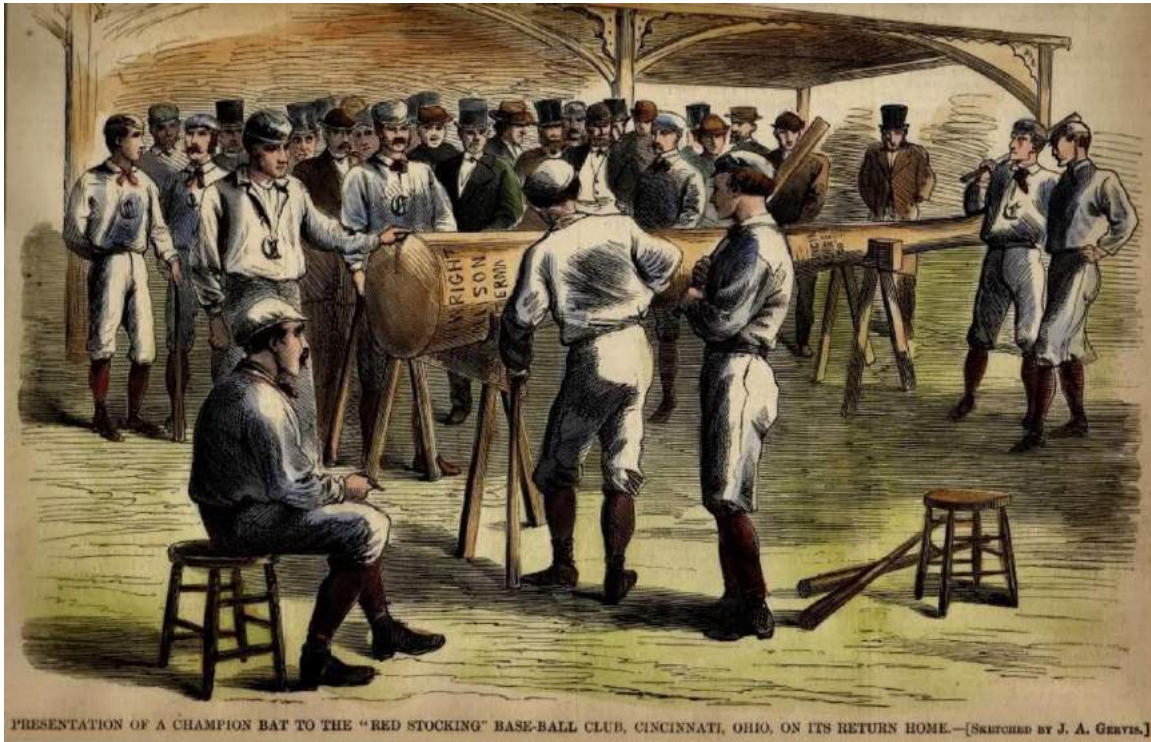
was born in Sheffield, England, where his father, Sam, was a professional cricket player.

When Harry was a boy, Sam packed up the family and moved to New York City to take a job as the professional at the St. George's Cricket Club — a job kind of like being a club golf pro. So Harry grew up playing both cricket and baseball.

In his early thirties, Harry took a job as cricket pro at a club in Cincinnati. But he soon realized the future belonged to the American game. And in 1869, he organized the first openly professional baseball club — the Cincinnati Red Stockings.



There were no organized leagues in those days, so the Red Stockings carved out a living barnstorming through the midwest and northeast, wherever the rapidly expanding network of railroads would take them. That first season, Wright's team went undefeated and turned a net profit of \$1.39. The players probably would have preferred a giant cheque when they got home, but had to settle for a giant bat instead.



PRESENTATION OF A CHAMPION BAT TO THE "RED STOCKING" BASE-BALL CLUB, CINCINNATI, OHIO, ON ITS RETURN HOME.—[SKETCHED BY J. A. GERVIS.]

The Red Stockings would run their winning streak to 81 games before suffering their first-ever loss. That came in June of 1870, 8-7 to the Brooklyn Atlantics in New York.

After that season, Wright moved back east, this time to Boston, where he saw an opportunity for a more

THE ATLANTICS TRIUMPHANT.

A Glorious Victory for Brooklyn.

THE LOCAL NINE BEAT THE "PICKED NINE"
FROM THE WEST.

Gallant, Though Unsuccessful Struggle
of the Red Stockings.

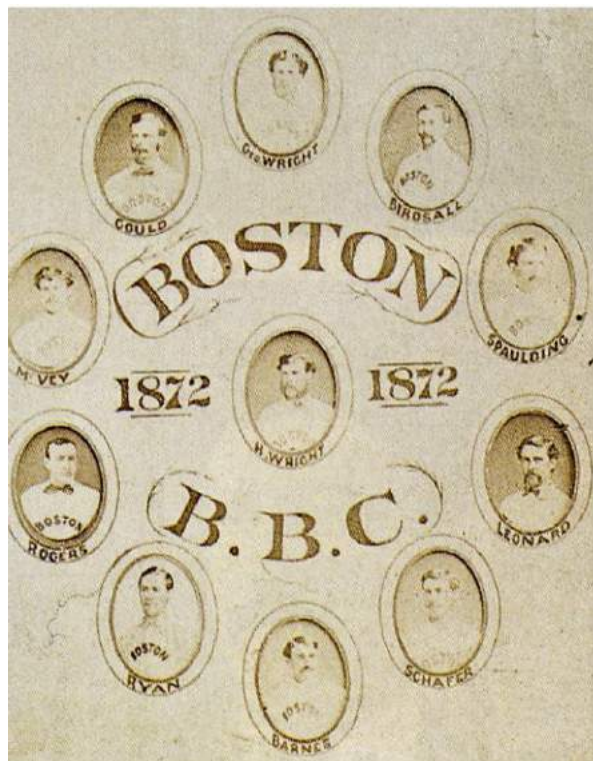
FAIR FIELD AND NO FAVOR—INTENSE
EXCITEMENT.

profitable baseball venture. He recruited some of the best ballplayers in the country to come and join a new incarnation of the Red Stockings.

This team had three future Hall of Famers in the lineup: Harry himself — he was the centre fielder; his much younger brother, George — the best shortstop of his day; and 20-year-old pitcher Albert Goodwill Spalding, who

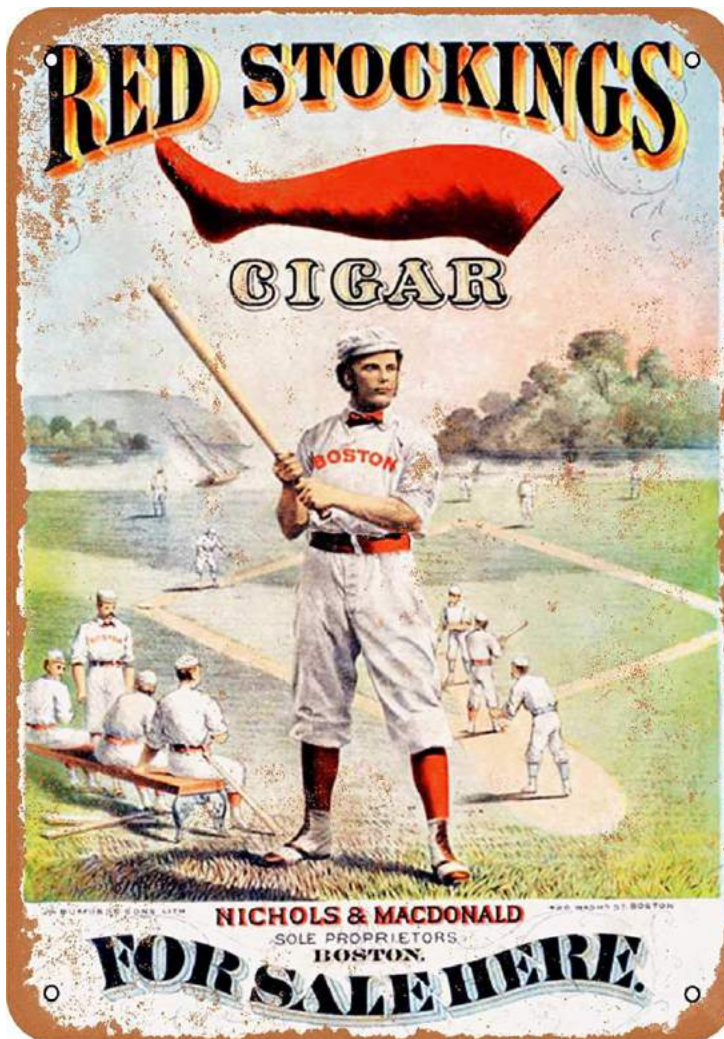
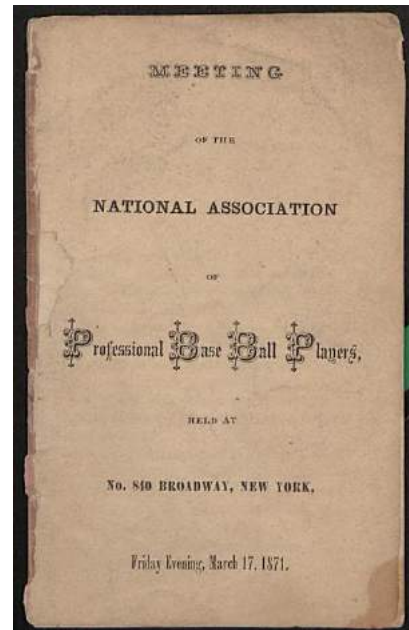


would go on to win 252 games. The Red Stockings also featured second



baseman Ross Barnes (above left). Barnes was probably the best hitter in the game, until his career was eroded by illness. Later on, he would play here in London for a season, for the Tecumsehs of the International Association — that was in 1878. But by then, he was a shadow of the player he'd been in Boston.

In March of 1871, the Boston club paid a \$10 entry fee and joined the National Association of Professional Baseball Players — this was the first pro baseball circuit. It was a league run by the players themselves. And it was pretty chaotic, with no set schedule and no clear method of even determining the standings.



That first year, Boston finished in a tie for second place. In the five years the Association lasted, that would be their worst-ever finish. Between 1872 and 1875 — against the best professional competition available — they had a ridiculous winning percentage of over .800.

So what exactly was the best team in baseball doing in London, Ontario (at the London Fair Grounds,

below), in the midst of an August pennant race back home? Two syllables — money.



In those early days, top clubs would often play for larger crowds in the baseball boondocks than for league matches in the big American cities. So, every summer, teams would take a couple of breaks from Association play and hit the hinterlands for a week or two at a time.



On August 19, 1872, Boston beat the Forest Citys (above) in front of only 200 fans in Cleveland to run their league record to 30 wins against 3 losses. They then swept north, playing a couple of games in Michigan, before crossing the border into the crucible of Canadian baseball, Southwestern Ontario.

The game, in one form or another, had been played here since at least 1838 — and no doubt a long time



before that. By the 1850s

and 1860s, baseball had become the hands-down — or maybe tools-down — sporting choice of working men in these parts . . .

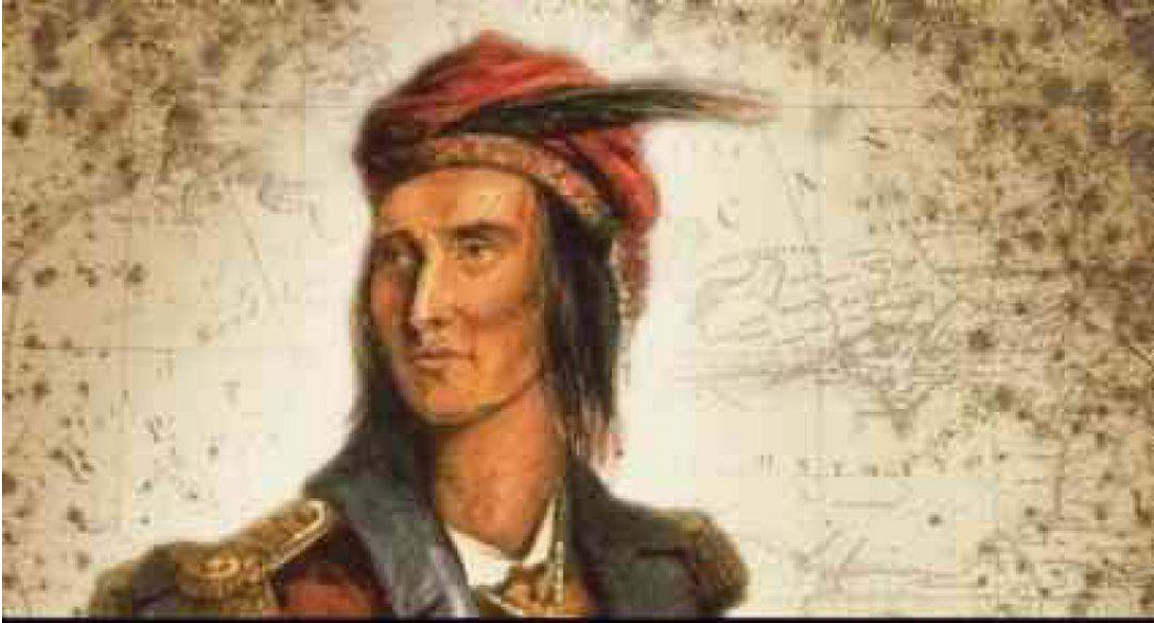
. . . Men who didn't have the leisure time — or perhaps the wardrobe — for baseball's snooty imperial cousin.



In 1868, a couple of the top local amateur teams here in London (site of the game depicted below) got together to form a club to represent the city.



They named themselves after the famed Shawnee warrior who fought for



the good guys in the War of 1812. By 1872, the Tecumsehs were one of the best amateur ball clubs in the country.

How good they were in the larger scheme of things, they were about to find out: on August 22, 1872, they hosted the Red Stockings and got smoked, 52-3.

The next day, Wright's boys continued on to Guelph (whose downtown below), for a match against the Maple Leafs.

LONDON.
The Red Stockings on the War Path.
 Special from our own Correspondent.
 London, August 23.
 A Base Ball match was played here yesterday between the Red Stockings' Club, of Boston, and the Athletes, of London, which resulted in a victory for the former by a score of 52 to 3. The Londoners were whitewashed in 8 innings. The Boston men play at Guelph to-day.



The Maple Leafs were the pet project of George Sleeman (right), a former amateur



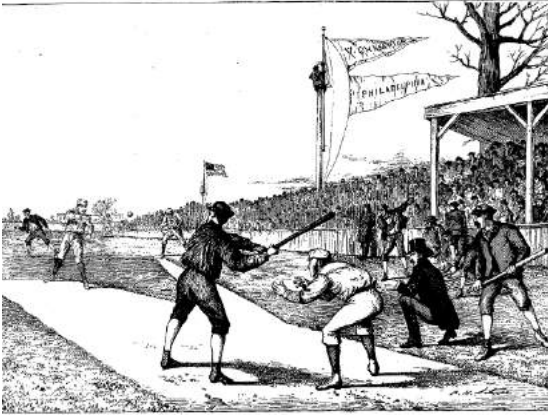
pitcher, whose beer some of us may be familiar with. Sleeman's Maple Leafs — still purportedly amateurs — were the perennial Canadian champs in those days. So this match against the Red Stockings would be a real litmus test for the state of Canadian baseball.

Guelph fans weren't exactly sure what to expect. Earlier that summer, the Maple Leafs had hosted the Baltimore Canaries (below) — named for the



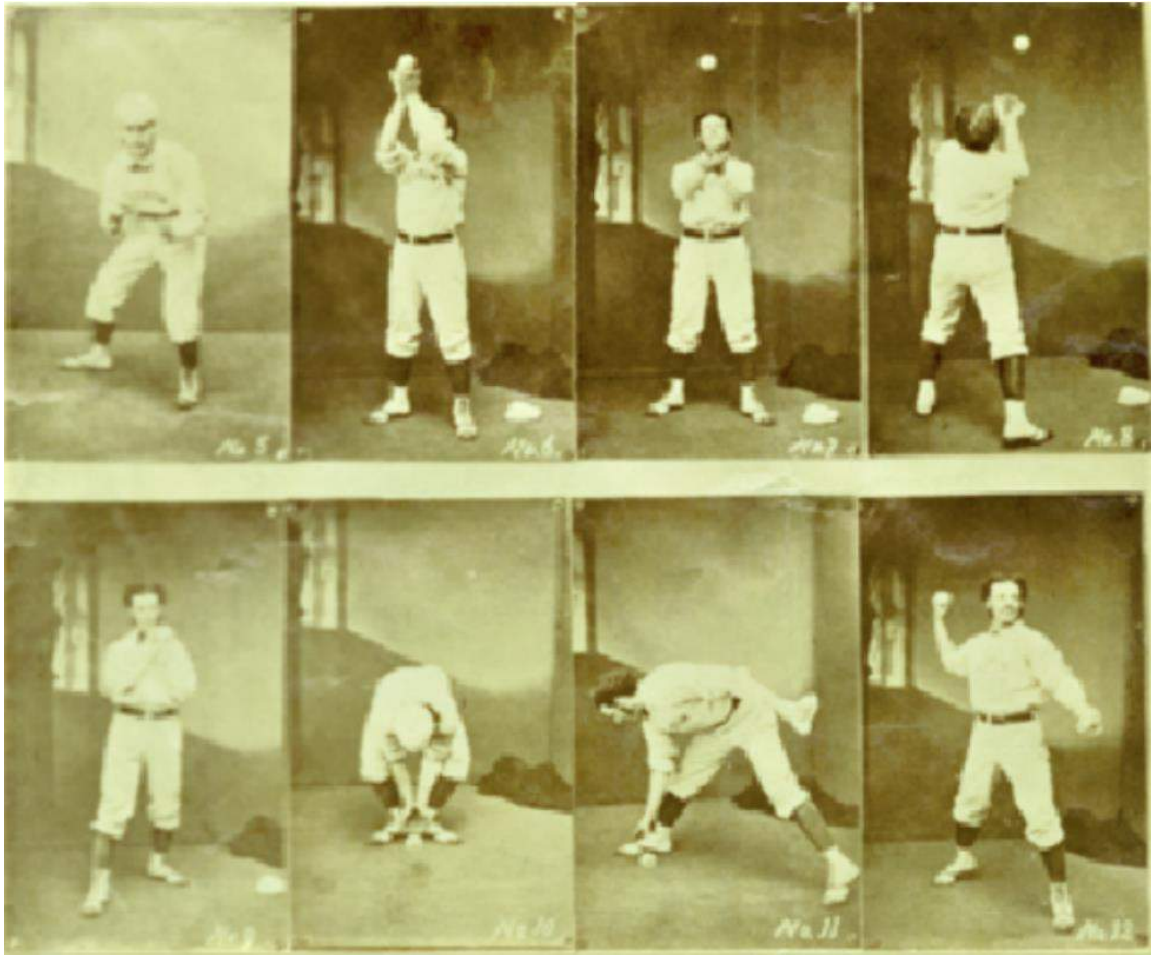
yellow silk shirts they wore on the field. The Canaries were one of the top teams in the National Association. Guelph beat them 10 to 9, although I'm not sure just how seriously the Canaries took that game.

Regardless, in early August of 1872, a confident Guelph team set off on a three-game tour of the U.S. East Coast. The results were disappointing. In Baltimore, the Canaries crushed them, 25-5. In Philly, they suffered a 35-8 thrashing at the hands of the Athletics (below left). And in New York, despite a much better showing, they dropped a 9-4 decision to the Mutuels (below right).



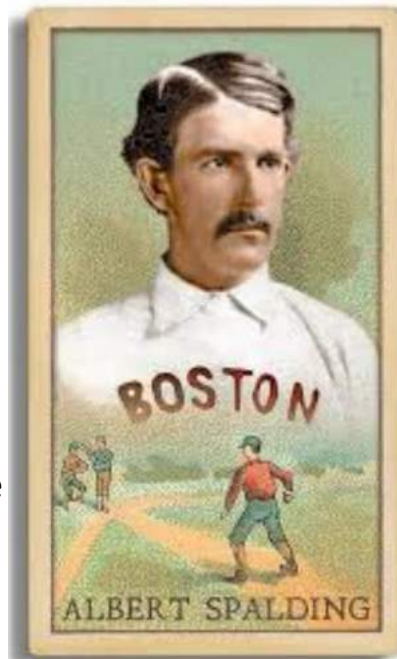
MUTUAL.					MAPLE LEAF.				
	R.	B.	P.	O. A.		R.	B.	P.	O. A.
Eggler, c. f.....	1	2	3	0	Colson, r. f.....	0	0	1	0
Hatfield, 2d b.....	0	0	2	7	Smith, l. f.....	1	1	3	0
Start, 1st b.....	2	1	10	0	Sunley, p.....	0	0	2	1
Bechtel, r. f.....	1	3	1	1	Nichols, c.....	1	1	2	1
Hicks, c.....	1	2	4	1	Jackson, s. s.....	1	2	3	5
Boyd, 3d b.....	0	1	0	0	Madcock, 2d b.....	0	1	2	2
McMullen, l. f.....	2	2	2	0	McLean, c. f.....	1	0	5	0
Fulmer, s. s.....	1	2	3	3	Cameron, 1st b....	0	1	9	0
Cummings, p.....	0	0	2	0	Stevenson, 3d b....	0	0	0	4
Total.....	9	13	27	12	Total.....	4	6	27	13
RUNS SCORED.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mutual.....	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	1—9
Maple Leaf.....	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0—4
Runs Earned—Mutual, 3; Maple Leaf, 2.									
Umpire—Mr. C. Mills, Mutual Club.									
Time of Game—1 hour and 15 minutes.									
First base by errors—Mutual 3 times; Maple Leaf, 3 times.									
Total fielding errors—Mutual, 5 times; Maple Leaf, 7 times.									

Now, a week later, with the Red Stockings in town, some Guelph fans no doubt entertained the idea of a David-Goliath upset on home field. But most were probably satisfied just to see the famous Boston team in the flesh. Before the game, the Red Stockings — as they did on these occasions — entertained the crowd with a Harlem Globetrotter-style exhibition of ball handling (such as that put on by George Wright below). In those days, when virtually every at-bat resulted in a ball in play, fielding ability, more than



any other skill, was what separated winners from losers. Case in point: On this day, the Maple Leafs touched Al Spalding for 17 hits, compared to 21 for the Red Stockings — but Boston parlayed a whole mess of Guelph errors into a 29-7 win.

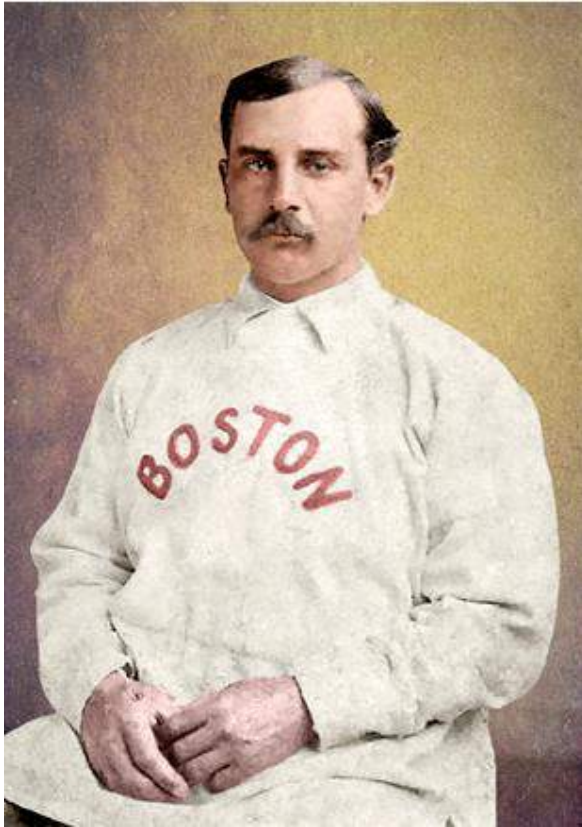
The truth was Sleeman's boys were a very good amateur, or maybe semi-pro, team — probably as good as any on the



MAPLE LEAF.		R	O							
Coulson	.....	0	5						
Smith	.....	0	2						
Sunley	.....	0	1						
Nichols	.....	1	2						
Jackson	.....	0	3						
Maddock	.....	0	5						
McLean	.....	3	2						
Cameron	.....	1	4						
Stevenson	.....	2	3						
		7	27							
RED STOCKINGS.		R	O							
G. Wright	.....	4	4						
Barnes	.....	4	3						
Leonard	.....	4	2						
McVey	.....	3	3						
Spaulding	.....	2	5						
Gould	.....	3	2						
Schaefer	.....	1	3						
Rogers	.....	3	4						
H. Wright	.....	5	1						
		29	27							
RUNS EACH INNINGS.										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Red Stockings	3	6	6	3	1	1	4	1	4—29
Maple Leaf	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	1—7

continent. But the gap between them and the American pros was still pretty wide.

The umpire on the day was 23-year-old Sam Jackson, who had played for the Red Stockings in 1871 and had started the season with Brooklyn in



1872. Jackson lasted only four games with the Atlantics before being released and somehow ending up in Guelph as proprietor of a shop that sold tobacco and baseball equipment.

BASE BALL STORE.

**Headquarters of the Maple Leaf
Base Ball Club.**

THE ONLY STORE PATRONIZED BY
THE CHAMPIONS.

The subscriber begs to inform the public
that he has opened a store for the sale of
every description of

Base Ball Supplies.

SOLE AGENT FOR THE
RYAN DEAD BALL
IN THE DOMINION.

The only ball used in the United States
Championship games.

DEALERS LIBERALLY DEALT WITH

Having played last Season with the Profes-
sional Red Stocking's, of Boston, feels satis-
fied that by his knowledge of the game and
its requirements, he can meet the wants of
all purchasers.

The best brands of Cigars and Tobaccos
Can be found at his store.

SAMUEL JACKSON,
West Market Square
Guelph, June 20th. 1872. dtf

The next day the Red Stockings took the train to Toronto to play the three-year-old Dauntless club at the Toronto Cricket Ground. It was a complete slaughter. Boston rapped out 59 hits, and the Toronto team – more Hapless than Dauntless – chipped in with 20 errors. And they were just as hopeless at the plate, managing just one hit off Spalding. Final score: 68-0.

Amusements.

**INTERNATIONAL
BASE BALL MATCH.**

THE "RED STOCKINGS" OF BOSTON,
(Champions of the World.)
VS.
"DAUNTLESS" OF TORONTO,
in the
TORONTO CRICKET GROUND,
on
SATURDAY, 24TH INST., AT 2.30 P. M.
The band of the 10TH ROYAL M will be in attendance.
Admission 25 cents. Children, half price.
F. C. LAYTON, Secretary.

BOSTON CLUB.						
	Position.	At bat.	Runs.	1st base.	Put out.	Assisted.
G. Wright	a.	12	10	9	2	3
A. Barnes	2 b.	12	8	9	2	3
A. Leonard	1 f.	12	9	8	0	0
C. McVey	c.	12	7	7	6	3
A. Spalding	p.	11	7	6	0	1
C. Gould	1 b.	11	4	3	16	0
H. Schafer	3. b.	11	6	5	1	2
T. Rodgers	r. f.	11	7	4	0	0
H. Wright	2. f.	11	10	8	0	0
Total		103	68	59	27	17
DAUNTLESS CLUB.						
	Position.	At Bat.	Runs.	1st Base.	Put Out.	Assisted.
B. Layton	c.	4	0	0	5	0
W. Mountain	p.	4	0	1	2	1
J. Henry	3d b.	3	0	0	0	0
W. Gartshaw	a. f.	3	0	0	2	0
W. McPherson	a.	3	0	0	2	5
H. Jackson	1st b.	3	0	0	6	0
G. Layton	r. f.	3	0	0	2	1
C. Adams	2d b.	3	0	0	5	3
G. Borland	1 f.	3	0	0	3	2
Total		29	0	1	27	12

CIVIC HOLIDAY.

**INTERNATIONAL
BASE - BALL MATCH.**

(out of the season.)
BETWEEN
"INDEPENDENTS" OF DUNDAS,
AND
"RED STOCKINGS" OF BOSTON.
Game to commence at 10 a.m. sharp.

After a Sunday off-day in Toronto, the Red Stockings returned to the Cricket Ground for a civic holiday match against the Independents from Dundas. The big blow in that game came when Harry Schafer (below, left) of the Red Stockings smashed the window of a house on the east side of the grounds, prompting the *Toronto Globe* to wonder who would pay for the damages. Final score: 52-4.



INDEPENDENTS.			BOSTON.		
HL.	R.		HL.	R.	
Cochranour, c.....3	1		G. Wright, c. &.....3	5	
Williams, p.....4	0		Barnes, 2 b.....3	6	
Mesvile, s.....4	0		Leonard, l. f.....2	9	
Hargreaves, 1 b.....3	0		Bordwell, c.....3	6	
E. Collins, 2 b.....3	0		Spalding, p.....3	7	
Blake, 3 b.....4	0		Good, 1 b.....4	6	
Laird, L.....3	1		Schaeffer, 3 b.....3	5	
Smith, c.....1	1		Rodgers, r. f.....6	4	
J. Collins, r. f.....2	1		H. Wright, c. f.....2	5	
	27	4		27	52
Innings.....	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9			
Boston.....	6	4 2 1 12 2 8 16 1-64			
Dundas.....	0	0 4 0 0 0 0 0 0-4			
Umpire—Mr. McVey, of the Boston Club. Scorers— Mr. J. J. Ryan for Boston, Peter Collins for Dundas Time of game, 2 hours.					

After the game, the Red Stockings boarded a train for Ottawa for a match with a team they had never met, but with whom they still had a kind of big-brotherly connection. Two years earlier, in 1870, an Ottawa blacksmith and lacrosse player named Tom Cluff had gone to visit his older brother in Cincinnati. On July 4, Cluff took in his first organized baseball game — between Harry Wright's first Red Stockings team and the Forest City Club

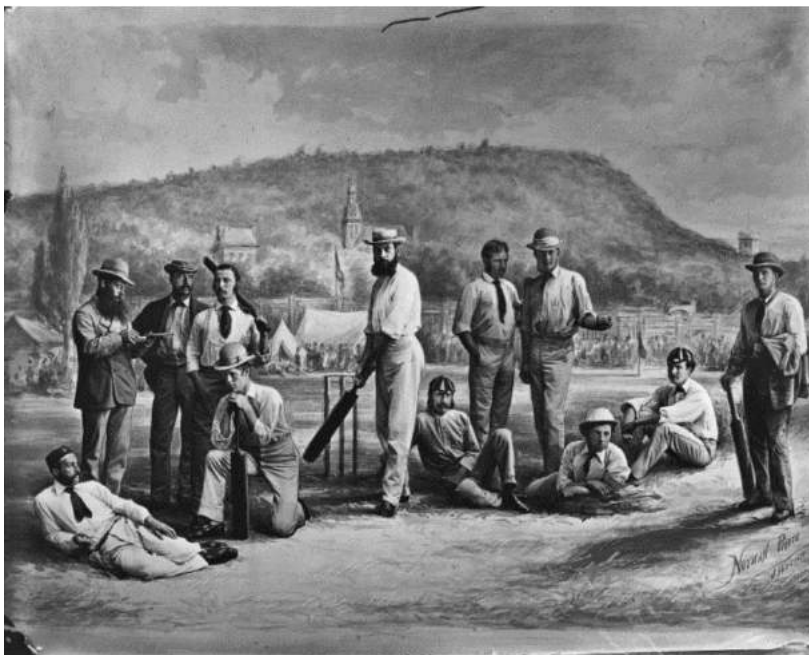


(above) of Rockford, Illinois, which featured future Red Stockings Al Spalding, Ross Barnes and Bob Addy.

Later, Cluff attended a picnic, where he met three members of the Cincinnati club who were there to give a demonstration of baseball skills. Tom Cluff was hooked. The following spring, he organized Ottawa's first baseball club. And here he was, just a year later, playing on the same field as some of the legendary players who had



first sparked his passion for the game. For Cluff and his buddies, it must have seemed like the ultimate fantasy camp.



And, for Ottawa sports fans, it was the ultimate holiday. By chance, not only was the world's best baseball team in town, so was the world's best cricket team. The touring English Gentlemen eleven (left), featuring the Babe Ruth of cricket, Dr. W. G. Grace (below, right), were playing a match

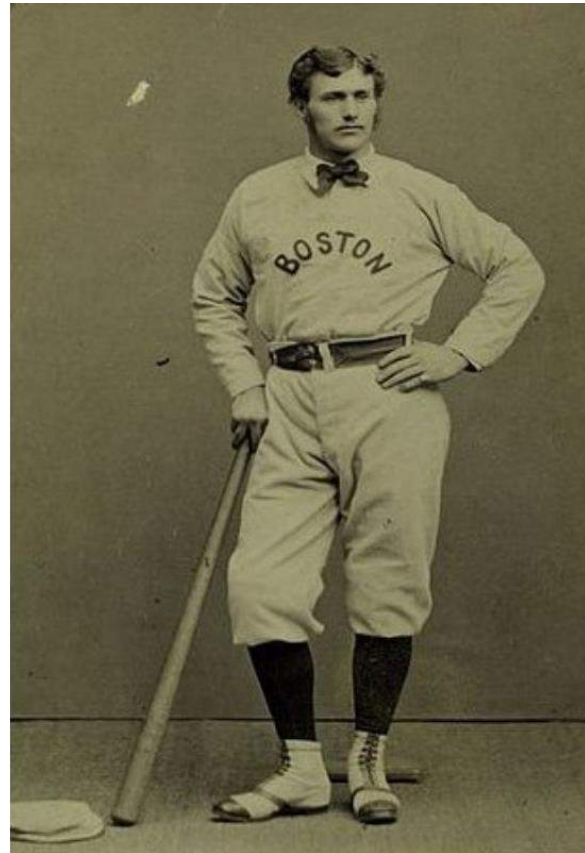
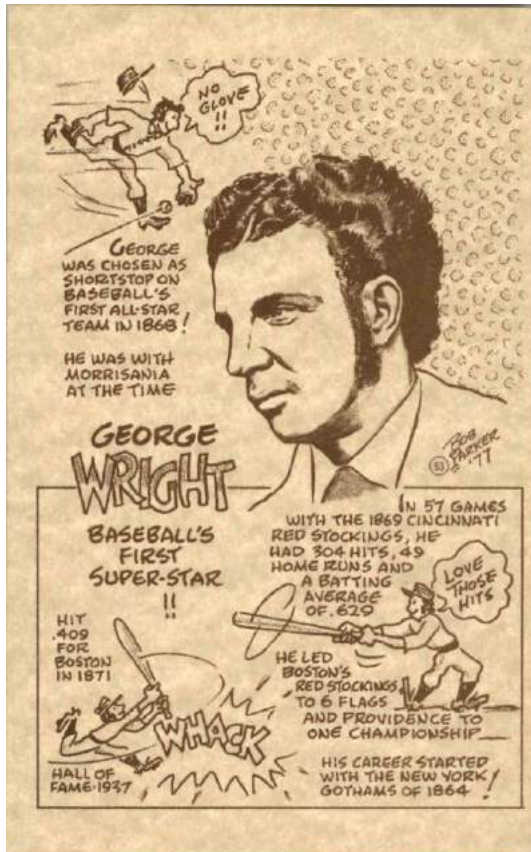
at Rideau Hall.

In fact, there was so much bat-and-ball action going on that day that the city declared a civic holiday.

The wealthier classes could have their tea and cricket — working-class people were far more pumped about seeing the Wright brothers at Ottawa's brand new Baseball Grounds (in the middle of the drawing below).



Here's part of the *Free Press's* account of the day: “On their arrival at the grounds, the Club at once proceeded to practice with their ball, pitching and catching with an expertness that opened the eyes of the spectators. The sinewy arms of the players sent the ball almost with the velocity of a musket shot . . . straight and true to the hands of the catcher. . .The ‘Red Stockings’ are all heavy men, very strong and active, in fact, picked men. They are paid regular salaries of . . . \$1,800 to \$2,500 per annum to do nothing else but . . . play base ball, and they go from one city to another through the United States and Canada, playing matches for the gate money and for large stakes.”



Cal McVey.

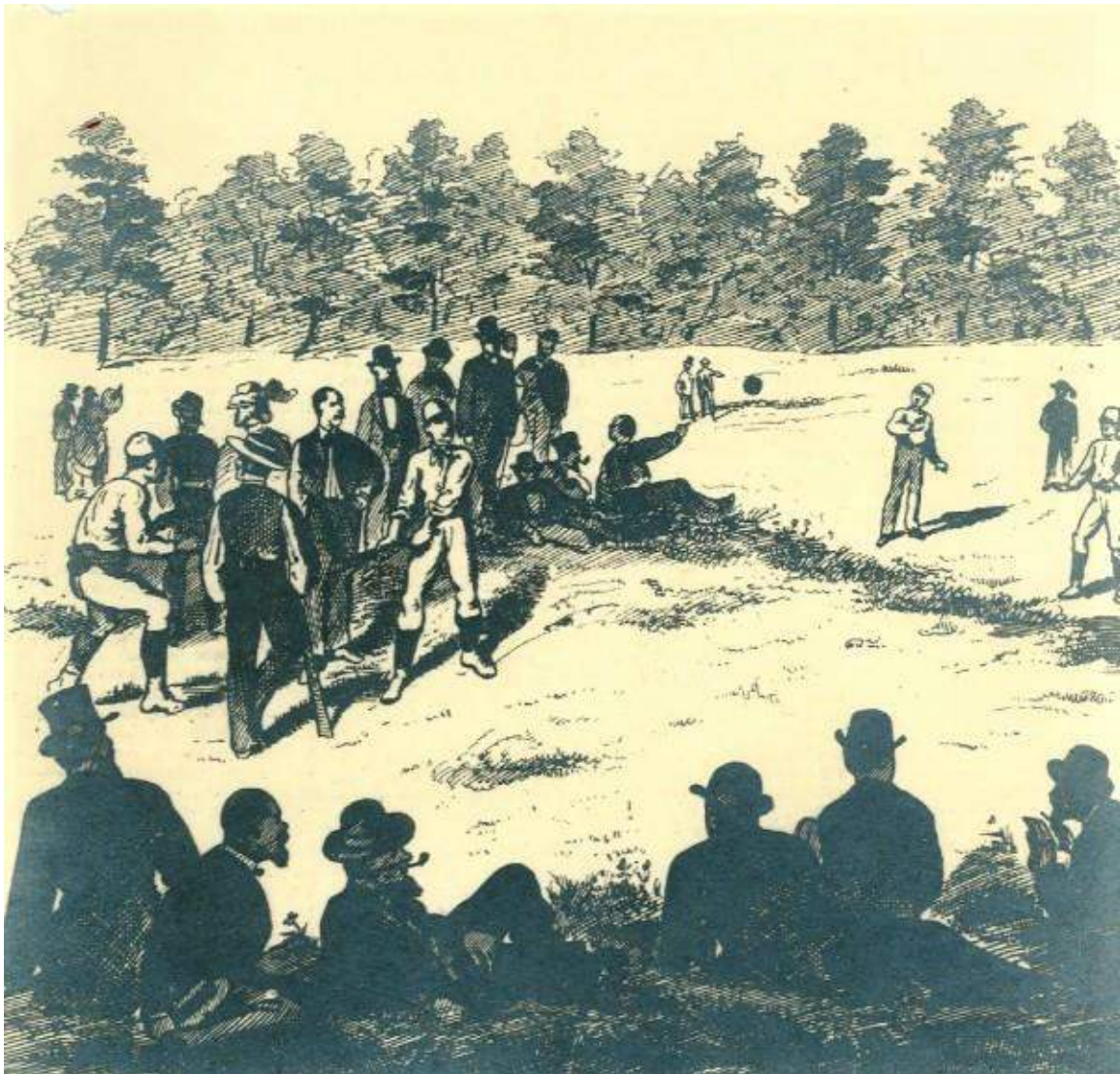
In the game that followed, Tom Cluff and his mates managed seven hits off Al Spalding — but they also made 24 errors, which Boston turned into 46 unearned runs. Final score: 64-0.



	Runs. Put O.		Runs. Put O.
BOSTON.		OTTAWA.	
G Wright, s s.....	8 2	H Cluff, 2 b.....	10 2
R Barnes, 2 b.....	8 2	F Daniels, r f.....	20 4
A Leonard, 1 f.....	6 4	J Cutler, 3 b.....	0 4
C McVey, c.....	9 3	T Cluff, 1 b.....	0 3
A Spalding, p.....	6 4	F Blythe, c.....	0 3
C Gould, 1 b.....	6 2	R Lang, p.....	0 3
H Schaffer, 3 b.....	6 5	A Larwill, c f.....	0 2
F Rogers, r f.....	7 3	W McMahon, 1 f.....	0 3
H Wright, c f.....	8 2	T Spencer, s s.....	0 3
INNINGS.			
Boston Club.....		3, 4, 17, 5, 1, 1, 16, 10, 7—64	
Ottawa Club.....		0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0—0	
<p>The umpire was Mr. D. Birdsall, of the Boston Club. The game lasted two hours and thirteen minutes. First base by errors—Boston 24 times; Ottawa twice. Runs earned—Boston 18; Ottawa none.</p>			

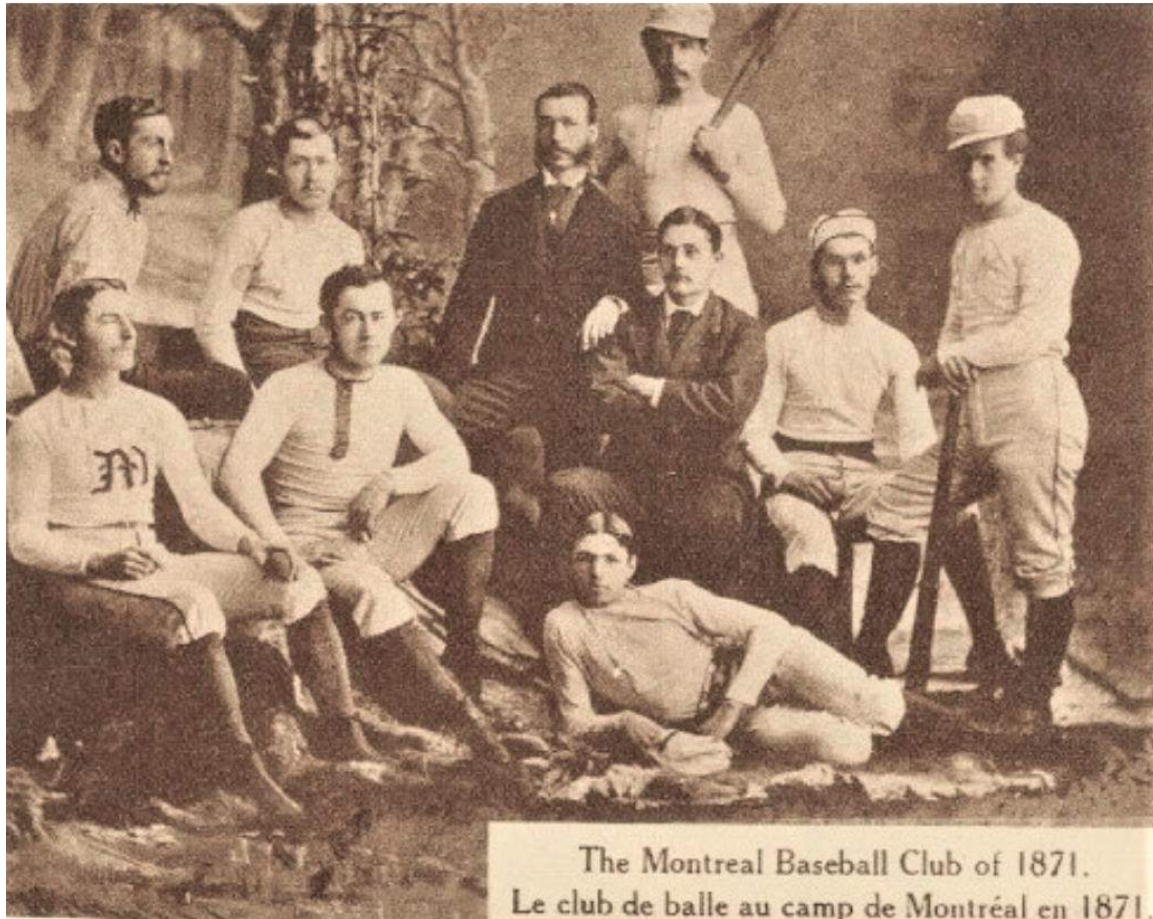
Despite the result, this day, August 27, 1872, was, symbolically at least, a watershed moment for sport in Ottawa. It was the day baseball eclipsed cricket as *the* bat-and-ball game of choice for the population at large.

The last Canadian stop on the Red Stockings' 1872 tour came two days later, in Montreal. Baseball had been introduced in the mid-1860s by Franco-American students who came to the city for its French-language universities.

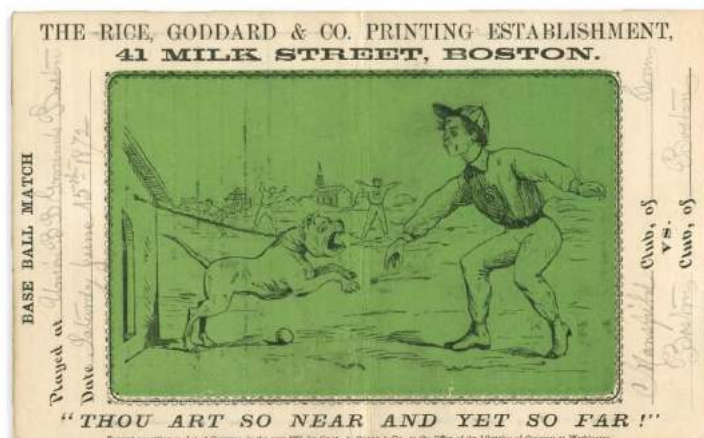


Baseball in Montreal. 1872.

The Red Stockings were the first professional club the locals would face, and the result was predictable. Final score, at the Montreal Lacrosse Ground: Boston 63 — Montreal Baseball Club 3.



In six games against Canadian opposition, the Red Stockings had scored 328 runs — an average of almost 55 a game. And they had given up 17 — less than 3 a game. So their average margin of victory was about 52 runs. Except for the match with the Maple Leafs in Guelph, this was like the Boston Red Sox showing up to play your office slo-pitch team. Clearly, the Canadian clubs



had a bit of catching up to do.

The first measure of that would come the following August, when the Red Stockings made a second Canadian swing. Boston would play 59 league



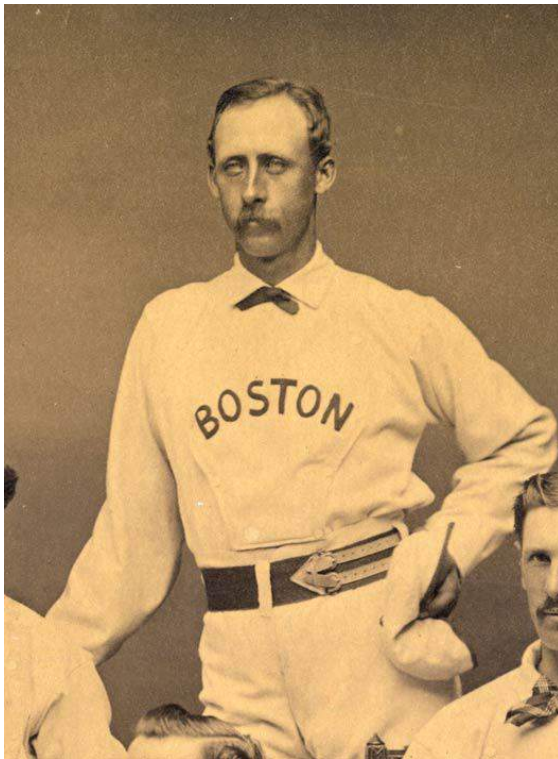
games in 1873, and supplement those with 46 exhibition games — including four in Ontario. Their first stop this time was Guelph (train station below), for a return match with the Maple Leafs.

Unfortunately, the Red Stockings'

luggage got off in Sarnia, so they were forced to play the game in borrowed uniforms. A local woollen mill provided them with red stockings. A local cricket club lent them shoes.

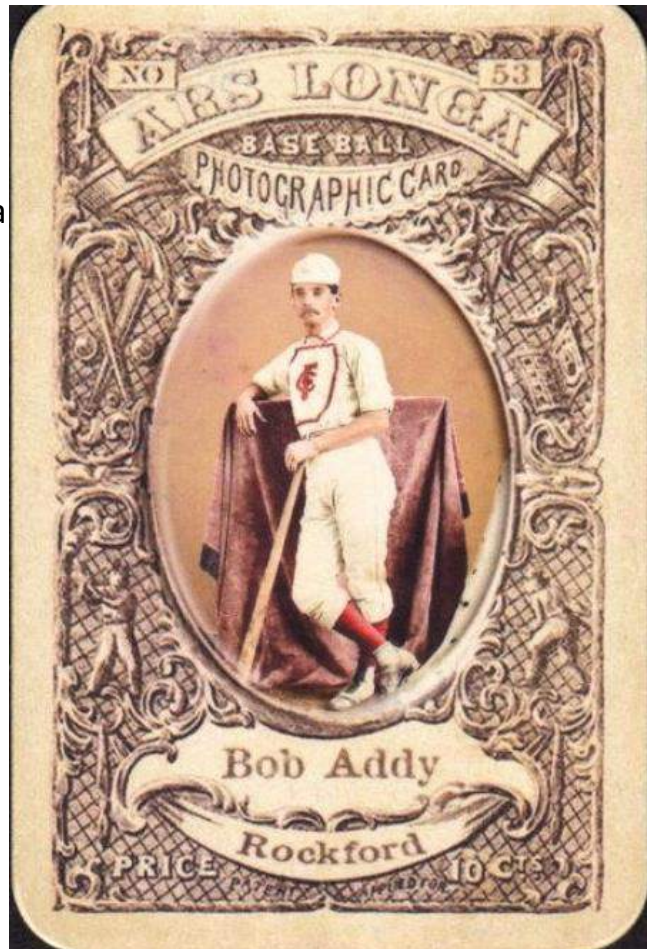
The Red Stockings had made some changes in their lineup since their last visit, including the addition of a future Hall of Famer, catcher Deacon White (below left), and another future Hall of Famer, first baseman Jim O'Rourke (below right).



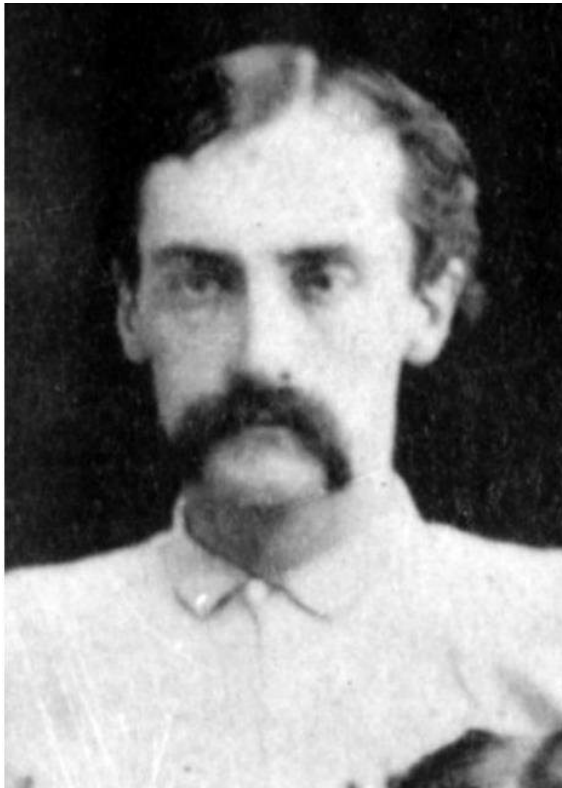


Now fully half their 10-man roster would eventually make it to the Hall of Fame. In mid-season, they'd also added the first Canadian-born big leaguer, a former cricket player from Port Hope, Ontario, named Bob Addy—nicknamed “The Magnet” for his fielding. He was an eccentric guy, who sometimes played without shoes because of sore feet.

George Sleeman had also made some changes. During the offseason he had recruited some American mercenaries to bolster his lineup, including George Keerl, from Baltimore, and Harry



Spence, a New Yorker who later managed in the National League.



George Keerl



Harry Spence

The imports weren't paid a salary as such — that would be too much a declaration of out-and-out professionalism. Instead, they received a share of the club's financial

“surplus” at the end of the season. But it was obvious where Canadian baseball was headed. Despite their newly hired guns, however, the Maple Leafs didn't fare any better against the Red Stockings

RED STOCKINGS.				
	R.	1B.	P.O.	A.
G. Wright, s.s.	4	1	2	1
Barnes, 2b	2	2	2	2
Spalding, p.	3	1	0	0
Leonard, lf.	4	2	5	2
White, c.	2	2	4	1
O'Rourke, lb	2	4	13	0
Addy, rf.	3	3	0	0
Schaffer, 3b	2	2	0	0
H. Wright, cf.	5	5	1	0
	27	25	27	11
MAPLE LEAF.				
	R.	1B.	P.O.	A.
Jones, s.s.	2	3	0	1
Cameron, 1st b.	0	0	11	1
T. Smith, lf.	3	2	1	1
Maddock, c.	1	0	2	1
Jackson, 2b	1	2	4	2
W. Smith, p.	0	1	2	3
Spence, 3b	0	1	4	2
Smiley, rf.	0	0	1	1
Goldie, cf.	1	2	2	1
	8	11	27	17
JUNE LEAGUE INNINGS.				
	1	2	3	4
Red Stockings	2	5	3	8
Maple Leaf	0	0	1	0
Umpire—A. M. Moore, Toronto: Scorers—M. Ticker, Graham: Boston	0	0	1	0

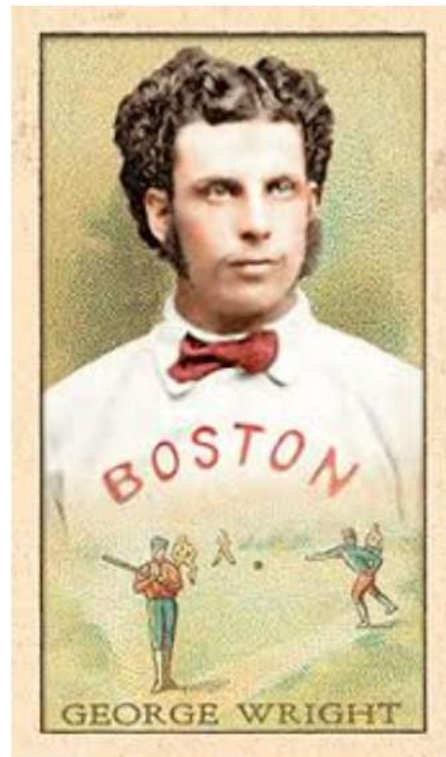


than they had the previous year. Part of that was no doubt due to the absence of their star American pitcher, Billy Smith (above right), who was out with an injury. Final score, in front of 4-5,000 fans: Boston 27, Guelph 8.

The next day, the Red Stockings headed to Toronto for a match at the Cricket Ground with the Dauntless, who weren't quite so easily daunted this time around. George Wright and company were forced to turn at least five double plays to contain a much-improved Toronto offence.



Cricket Ground, now part of U. of T. campus



The final score was 45-10. Next stop, Kingston, for a game against the St. Lawrence club.



They were in only their second season of play, but already baseball was being described as a “mania” in town. The *British Whig* was particularly impressed with the Red Stockings' fielding: “Their exhibition catches —

running and behind-the-back — and their beautiful and accurate throwing, elicited great admiration. . . Their catching and fielding was simply perfect, a fly being taken . . . as easily and safely as if it fell into a coal mine. . . The fielding could not be surpassed — clean and sure, fielders always being where they were wanted and covering an astonishing deal of ground.”

RED STOCKINGS.		R.	O.
G. Wright, s.s.	7	2	
Barnes, 2nd b	3	6	
Spaulding, p	5	5	
Leonard, l.f.	7	3	
White, c.	8	1	
O'Rourke, 1st b	7	1	
Addie, r.f.	6	3	
Schafer, 3rd b.	6	3	
Manning, c.f.	6	3	
	55	27	

ST. LAWRENCE.		R.	O.
Eilbeck, c.f.	1	5	
McCammon, 2nd b.	0	3	
Mattoon, 3rd b.	1	3	
Nutt, s.s.	1	4	
Wright, r.f.	1	1	
Dunn, 1st b.	1	3	
Jarvis, l.f.	1	3	
Dygert, c.	1	3	
Rafferty, p.	3	2	
	10	27	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Red Stockings	6	3	7	3	3	5	9	2	17	—55
St. Lawrence	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	1	—10

Scorers—T. Dumble and D. S. Birdsall.
 Umpire—Harry Wright.
 Time—2 hours and 35 minutes.

Bob Addy, who had passed by his old hometown of Port Hope on the way to Kingston, scored six runs for the visitors. The final score was 55-10.

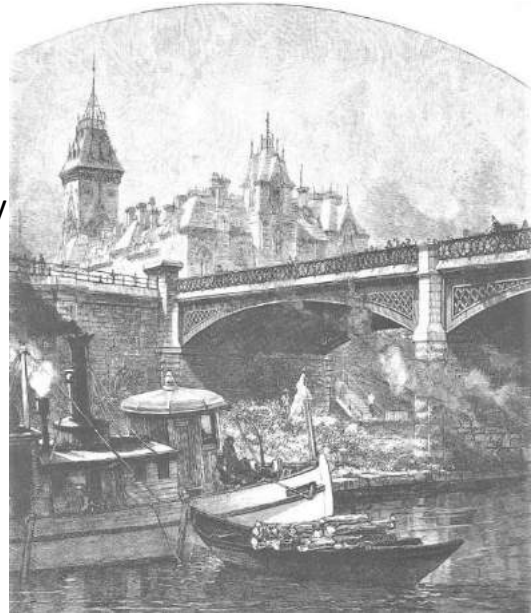
BASE BALL.

Red Stockings v. St. Lawrence.

The Kingston public are indebted to the St. Lawrence Club for the delightful afternoon's sport which the game with the Red Stockings of Boston, yesterday, afforded, as it gave them an opportunity of seeing the game played—on one side—well-nigh to perfection. The game could not be properly called a match, as the local club had not a ghost of a chance of defeating the visitors, and the only speculation as to the result was confined to guesses as to how many runs the Kingston men would secure. The Red-Stock-

The *Whig* summed it up this way: “The visit of the players from the Hub cannot but have a most beneficial effect on local players, giving them an opportunity . . . of seeing Base-ball played by the . . . champions of the world, and awakening in them an emulative spirit which will improve their love and knowledge of the game.”

The final stop on the 1873 tour was Ottawa. The local club was now in its third year of play — and it, too, had somehow acquired some American players. Two of them would go on to play in the National Association.



Second baseman George Latham (below, left), from Utica, New York — nicknamed “Juice” for his energy — must have impressed Harry Wright, because two years later Wright would sign him for the Red Stockings. Latham would eventually play for five big-league teams and



manage two of them. And catcher Mike Ledwith (above right), from Brooklyn, New York, would play one game as a fill-in for his hometown Atlantics, in 1874.

In 1876, Latham and Ledwith would be reunited here in London, as the Tecumsehs began to recruit pro players. Latham was the first pro signed by the Tecumsehs (below).



THE SCORE
in yesterday's match was as follows:

OTTAWAS.	Outs.	Runs.
M. Leadworth, c.	5	0
A. Larwell, c. f.	3	1
W. Davis, 3 b.	2	1
James Smith, s. s.	2	1
G. Latham, 2 b.	2	1
H. Clull, r. f.	1	0
W. McMahon, l. f.	3	0
T. Clull, l. b.	4	0
C. Naylor, p.	4	0
Total	27	4

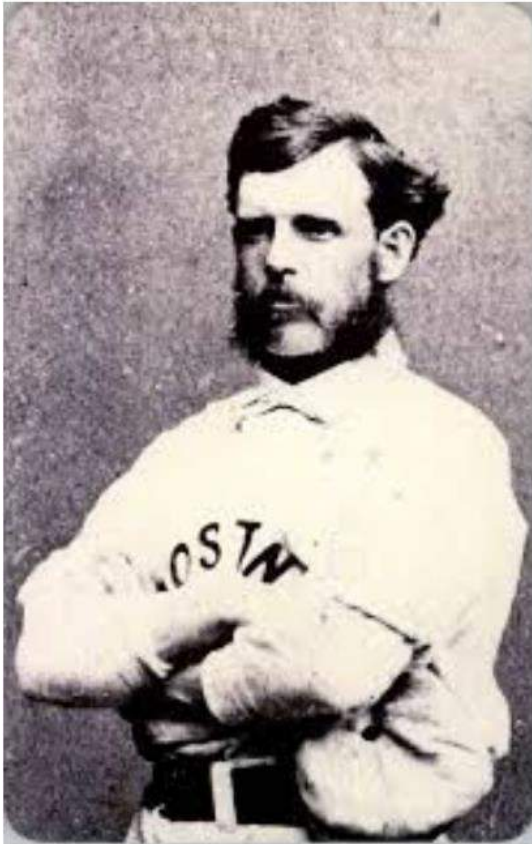
RED STOCKINGS.	Outs.	Runs.
G. Wright	3	6
R. Barnes	4	6
Spalding	2	6
Leonard	3	5
White	1	7
O'Rourke	3	5
Addy	2	4
Chaffee	6	2
H. Wright	3	3
Total	27	41

But even with these imports in the lineup, the Ottawas lost their return match with the Red Stockings 44 to 4, under grey and drizzly skies.

The Red Stockings won all four of their games on their 1873 Canadian tour — by an average score of about 43 to 8. But that margin of victory was down a significant 17 runs over 1872. The Canadian clubs were getting better.

After their win in Ottawa, the Red Stockings had an off-day before they were slated to be in Ogdensburg. So the ever restless Harry Wright arranged a cricket match in the morning between the Red Stockings

and the Ottawa Cricket Club. The Wright brothers shared the bowling, and the baseball players beat the cricket players at their own game, 110-62.



After lunch, the Red Stockings went back to the Base Ball Ground and, along with the players from the Ottawa team, they played an impromptu split-squad game in front of a tiny weekday crowd. Harry Wright's team scored two in the bottom of the 9th to beat Al Spalding's team 19-18.

The *Ottawa Citizen* called it the best game ever played in the city. And that's how the Red Stockings spent a rare day off — playing a cricket-baseball doubleheader, just for the fun of it.

RED STOCKINGS.	
1ST INNINGS.	
	Runs.
H. Wright, b Scott	31
A. Addy, c Miller, b Scott	18
Manning, c Humsforth, b Scott	2
Leonard, b Carter	3
G. Wright, b Scott	0
Spalding, b Carter	14
Schafer, b Carter	2
Barnes, c Bell, b Scott	16
O'Rourke, c Scott, b Carter	0
Birdsall, c Bell, b Carter	14
White, not out	3
Extras	7
Total	110

SCORE.		
H. WRIGHT'S NINE.		
	O.	R.
H. Wright, p	2	3
G. Wright, s s	1	4
Ledwith, 3 b	3	1
Leonard, 2 b	5	1
O'Rourke, c	0	5
Naylor, c f	4	1
Manning, 1st b	3	2
Duffy, 1 f	4	1
Chalmers, r f	5	1
Total	27	19
SPALDING'S NINE.		
	O.	R.
Spalding, p	3	1
Barnes, 2nd b	5	1
McMahon, s s	3	3
White, c	1	3
Larvill, 1 f	5	1
Schafer, 3rd b	2	3
Birdsell, c f	3	3
Addy, r f	4	1
Latham, 1st b	1	2
Total	27	18
Total runs	23	27
Each innings ..	20	5

The following summer, 1874, the Red Stockings, with their focus on a missionary expedition to England they would make in August with the Philadelphia Athletics, found time for only two Canadian dates.



Red Stockings-Athletics in London.



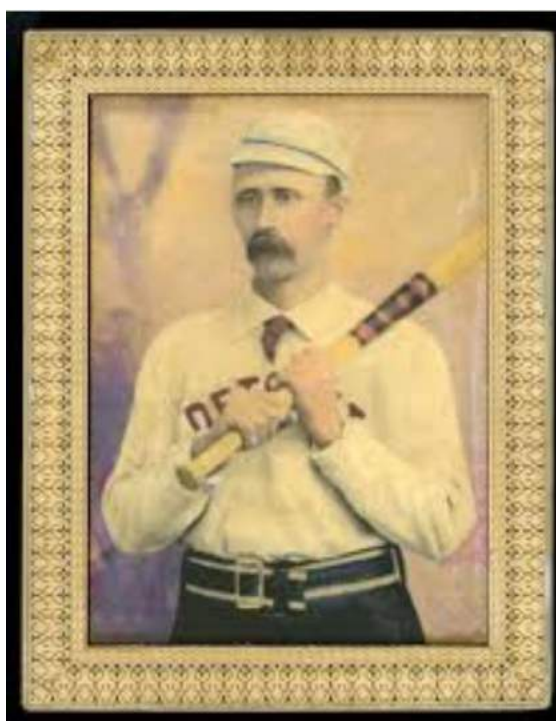
In late June, they came up to Brantford for a game against the Maple Leafs. It was billed as “the third annual battle of national champions,” this time for a prize of \$150 in gold.

There were 2,000 to 3,000 fans in

BOSTON REDS									
	R.	1B.	P.O.	A.					
Barnes, 2b	3	3	2	1					
White, c	2	3	3	1					
Spalding, p	4	3	3	0					
McVey, rf	3	4	2	0					
Leonard, ss	0	4	3	2					
O'Rourke, lb	3	3	9	0					
H Wright, cf	3	5	1	1					
Heales, lf	4	2	2	0					
Schafer, 3b	4	5	2	5					
	26	32	27	10					
MAPLE LEAF									
T. Smith, ss	1	2	0	3					
Keerl, 2b	1	1	4	0					
W. Jones, cf	1	5	2	0					
W. Smith, p	0	2	1	2					
W. Sunley, rf	1	1	1	0					
Emery, lf	1	2	2	0					
Spence, 3b	1	2	1	2					
Maddock, c	0	0	1	2					
Myers, lb	0	1	8	0					
	6	14	27	15					
RUNS EACH INNING.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Boston	1	0	7	1	0	3	4	6	2-26
Maple Leaf	0	3	1	0	0	6	0	0	2-6
Umpire, Mr. Moore. Scorer, M. Tinker.									

attendance, and Guelph jumped out to a 4-1 lead after 2½ innings. But Boston came back with seven in the bottom of the third, and eventually won 26-6 — almost identical to the outcomes in 1872 and '73. If the Maple Leafs were improving, so, it appears, were the Red Stockings.

The next day was Dominion Day, July 1, and the two teams went back to Guelph for a holiday contest. Deacon White had five hits for Boston, the same total as the entire Guelph team, and the Red Stockings won 20-4.



Deacon White, ca. 1887

MAPLE LEAF										
	POS.	R.	1B.	PO.	A.					
T Smith.....	ss	0	1	3	1					
Keerl.....	2b	0	2	8	1					
Jones.....	cf	1	1	2	1					
W Smith.....	p	0	0	9	5					
Sun ey.....	rf	1	0	0	0					
Emery.....	lf	0	0	2	0					
Spence.....	3b	1	0	2	3					
Maddock.....	c	0	0	3	1					
Myers.....	1b	1	1	8	0					
Totals.....		4	5	27	12					
BOSTON										
	POS.	R.	1B.	PO.	A.					
Barnes.....	2b	1	3	0	3					
White.....	c	2	5	4	1					
Spalding.....	p	1	1	0	0					
McVay.....	rf	3	3	5	0					
Leonard.....	ss	3	4	4	4					
O'Rourke.....	1b	1	3	7	0					
H Wright.....	cf	1	0	1	0					
Hall.....	lf	5	1	5						
Shafer.....	3b	3	3	1						
Totals.....		20	23	27	9					
Runs each innings 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9										
Boston.....		1	4	0	6	1	0	4	1	2-20
Maple Leaf.....		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0-4
Scorers—M. Tinker, H. H. Maddock.										
Umpire—A. M. Moore.										
Time of Game—2 hours										

George Sleeman would later boast that the game drew 10,000 fans — more than the entire population of Guelph. Other estimates were more like

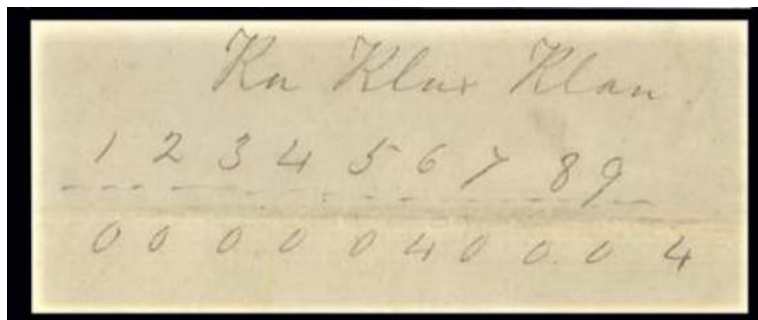
8,000. Regardless, it was one of the biggest crowds yet to see a Red Stockings game anywhere.



George Sleeman

The outcome was by no means a total loss for the Maple Leafs. Sleeman took his club's share of the gate money and put it towards a trip to the world "non-professional" (meaning semi-pro) championships in Watertown, New York, the following week.

There, Guelph beat the Flyaways of Manhattan, the Chelseas and Nassaus



of Brooklyn, the Eastons of Easton, Pennsylvania, and the Ku Klux Klan team from Oneida, New York, to capture the "world" title and a \$450 first prize.



A few takeaways from the Red Stockings' three visits to Canada in those years:

1. Apparently, the unwritten rule that a clearly superior team shouldn't run up the score on a weaker opponent had not been written yet. In 12 games in Canada, the Red Stockings racked up 545 runs and gave up 59. Average score: 45-5.
2. What the Red Stockings lacked in mercy, they made up for in showmanship and branding savvy. And they helped stoke the baseball fever that swept Southern and Eastern Ontario in those years.



“One great feature of the Bostons’ playing,” said the *Guelph Mercury*, “is the good humour that they always appear to be in . . . when they come to tackle our boys, which . . . no doubt draws such a large amount of spectators, and wins good opinions from all Canadians with whom they come in contact.”



3. These guys worked up a sweat even when they didn’t have to. The off-day cricket-baseball doubleheader in Ottawa in 1873, towards the tail end of a long road trip, tells you how much the boys from Boston lived to play.

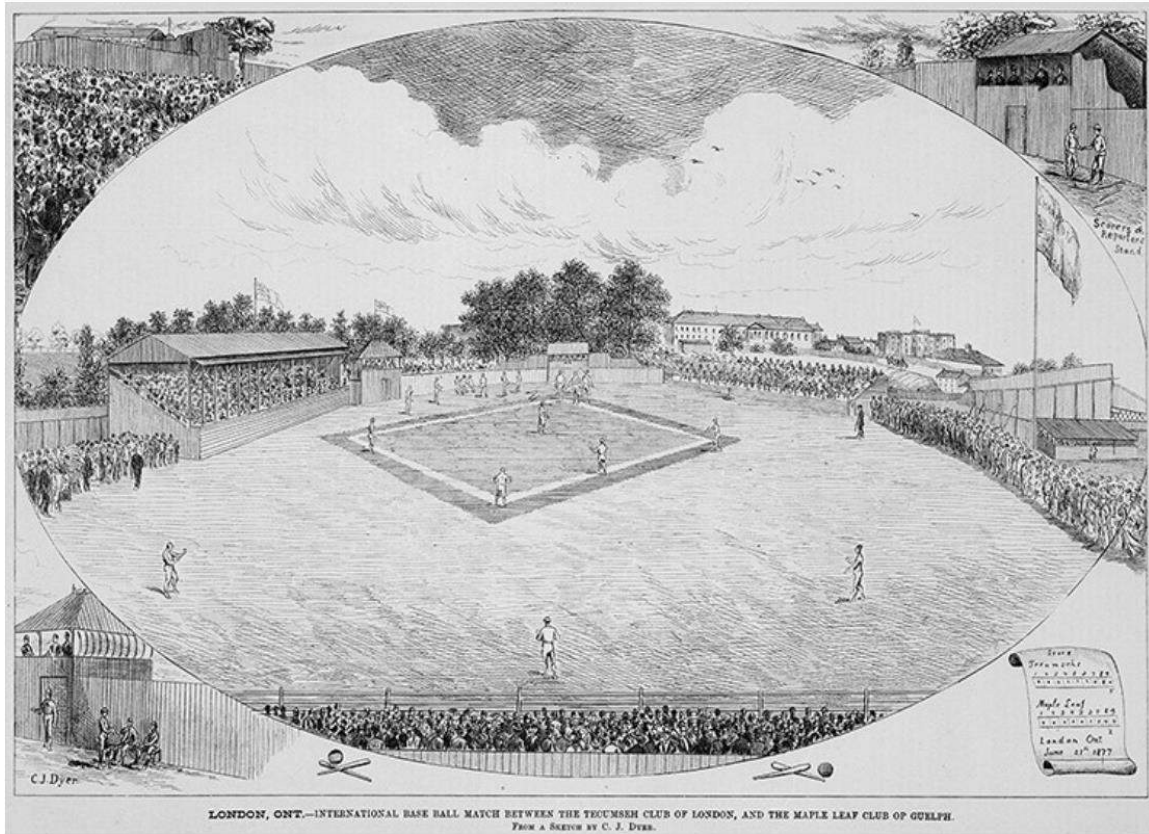
But, above all, the Red Stockings set the bar for how well the game could be played. Their appearances here in those years were a significant catalyst in the rapid improvement — and the professionalization — of the game in Canada.

Epilogue



Harry Wright's club would not return to Canada until May of 1877, when they came to London for a match with the Tecumsehs. Things had changed.

Boston was now a member of the National League and on their way to their fifth pennant in seven years of league play. And London was a far cry from the team that Boston drubbed 52-3 in 1872. The Tecumsehs were now a professional club, on their way to the first-ever championship of the upstart International Association, which also included the Maple Leafs of Guelph.



Tecumsehs vs. Maple Leafs, London.

And this time around it took Boston 10 innings to eke out a 7-6 win.

Canadian baseball — due mainly to the influx of American professionals, but also due to appearances by top teams like the Red Stockings — had come a long way in only five years. It remained to be seen if this part of the country would be able to support this quality of baseball in the long run.

David McDonald
November 2019