

SABR generally accredits the first international game to Clifton, New York. Clifton was the name of what would be renamed Niagara Falls, Ontario in the 1880s; the *Clipper* has several mentions of Clifton, CW (Canada West) playing cricket in 1859, which first got me questioning the New York appellation. So the first international game of baseball was played in Canada, not the U.S. Ironically the first international hockey game was played in the U.S. not Canada (in Vermont).

You can remove the 1860 Schenectady game from consideration. A few years ago SABR researcher Bob Tholkes clarified for me:

The match in Schenectady, New York on 19 May 1860 was between teams described, by the *Sunday Mercury* sporting paper, as New York vs. Canada, and which were listed as the Mohawk Club of Schenectady and the Union Club of Upper Canada. The Upper Canada appellation had been discarded geographically by the act of union between Upper and Lower Canada in 1841. At that time Upper Canada became known as Canada West (Quebec was Canada East), a name later replaced by Ontario in 1867 following Canada's formal recognition as a national entity. No record of the team exists in Canada and if they had come from north of the border for this one encounter they would, as was the common practice of the day, have been known by a specific place not by an out of date generic locale.

Tholkes set the record straight in 2015. The *Sunday Mercury* item on the game involving the "Union Club of Upper Canada" in Schenectady on 19 May 1860 was also reported on in the *Schenectady Daily News* on 22 May 1860. It stated, "THE MATCH GAME OF Base Ball played Saturday afternoon between the Mohawk club of this city and the Union Club of the Junior Class of Union College, resulted in the following score: Mohawk, 31 runs."

Tholkes wrote, "The article then listed the players, without the box score sent to the *Sunday Mercury*. These matched the names in the box score. Why the college club decided to pretend to be from Canada is unknown. Perhaps one or more of the players were Canadian. So we can reject any claim for this game having been an international first." BH 28Jul2020