

Keystone BBC Gazette

2025 KBBC SEASON UNDERWAY!

CURATED BY GRUMPY

19th Century  
Base Ball  
Begins

During the early 19th century, socio-economic developments, especially in metropolitan areas of the northeast, enabled the formation of clubs devoted to the pursuit of avocational pastimes, such as hunting, riding, debating, and, manly/gentlemanly competition in bat and ball games.

These ball clubs would meet routinely, some as often as twice weekly, to develop their skills at the game, in accordance with the rules as they knew them. Not surprisingly, these rules, and in fact, even the name assigned the game, varied significantly from place to place.

The Massachusetts Game, sometimes called roundball, prevailed in Boston. Townball was the sport of choice in Philadelphia. The New York game, generally accepted as the predecessor to today's game, was perhaps the best documented in the first half of the 19th century.

Learn more:  
<https://keystonebbc.com>

Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg  
2025 Schedule

Scheduled Games

Saturday	4/12/2025	UAMBA Opening Day	Fisher Park, Mechanicsburg	Opponent: TBD
Sunday	4/27/2025	Cecil County, MD	Farm Museum	Elkton
Saturday	5/10/2025	Local History Day	Memorial Park, Mechanicsburg	Opponent: TBD
Saturday	5/17/2025	Road Game	Middletown, VA	Gettysburg Generals
Sunday	6/1/2025	Road Game	Goshen Township Park	Brandywine BBC of West Chester
Sunday	6/8/2025	Road Game	Fort Delaware State Park (Pea Patch Island)	Diamond States
Saturday	6/21/2025	Road Game	Baddick Farm (Fairfield/Gettysburg, PA)	Gettysburg Generals
Saturday	6/28/2025	Local Event	Carlisle Summerfair at AHEC (Carlisle, PA)	Gettysburg Generals
Saturday	7/12/2025	York Revolution Outing	York, PA	Gettysburg Generals
Saturday	7/19/2025	Gettysburg Festival	Gettysburg, PA	Tournament Schedule TBD
Sunday	7/20/2025	Gettysburg Festival		
Saturday	8/2/2025	Mechanicsburg Community Day	Memorial Park	Brandywine
Saturday	8/23/2025	KBBC Founder's Day	Columbia, PA	Monmouth Furnace
Saturday	9/6/2025	Coleman Memorial Chapel Fundraiser	Lititz, PA	Athletic BBC of Philadelphia
Saturday	9/20/2025	NAHBBC Tournament	Rising Sun area, MD	Tournament Schedule TBD
Sunday	9/21/2025	NAHBBC Tournament		
Saturday	9/27/2025	Upper Allen Township 175th Anniversary	Winding Hill North	UAMBA Coaches/Twp. Dignitaries

Games and events subject to change. Please visit our website for additional information for each game and event as it comes closer to scheduled date and time.  
[www.keystonebbc.com](http://www.keystonebbc.com)

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PLAYER, SPONSOR or VOLUNTEER

Email: [info@keystonebbc.com](mailto:info@keystonebbc.com)

Events

Friday thru Sunday 3/28/25 thru 3/30/25  
VBBA Annual Conference - Cooperstown, NY  
Saturday's agenda includes a visit to the HOF (10am - 2pm) and an all-comers match (2pm-4:30pm)  
Keynote Speaker at Banquet: Bill "Spaceman" Lee

Saturday- 6/14/2025  
Jerusalem Mill, MD - Lecture on rules evolution

Saturday- 6/28/2025  
Corbit's Charge - Westminster, MD: Exhibit Table

Schedule is subject to change, please visit: [www.keystonebbc.com](http://www.keystonebbc.com) or our social media channels for updates.

Schedule and  
Event  
Highlights

The Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg prides itself on securing playing and speaking engagements of value and interest to a wide range of spectators.

In furtherance of that goal, KBBC is pleased to announce that our 2025 slate of events includes:

Participation in the Inaugural Vintage Base Ball Exhibition at the Cedar Creek Battlefield (May 17)

Our first visit to Fort Delaware State Park on Pea Patch Island (June 8)

Our first speaking engagement at Jerusalem Mill regarding evolution of the rules of base ball (June 14)

Our 2nd time as an exhibitor at the anniversary of Corbit's Charge (June 28)

Evolution of  
the Rules

Strikeouts  
Prior to 1857  
No definition of strikes

From 1857 to 1870:  
A strike is defined as:  
1. A ball struck at and missed by the Batsman without it touching his bat.  
2. A ball legally delivered by the Pitcher and within the legitimate reach of the bat not swung at by the Batsman.

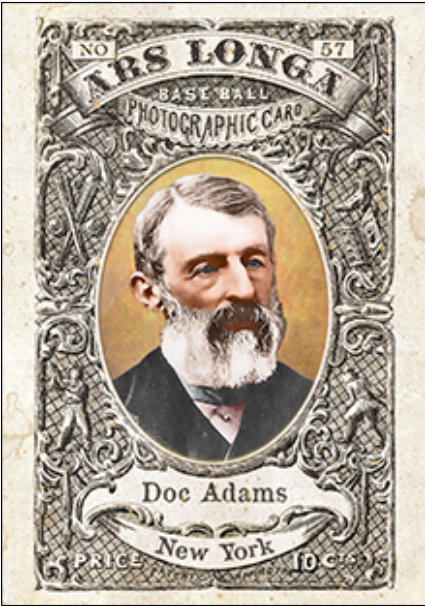
The umpire is allowed to call strikes on a batter that repeatedly refuses to swing at good balls. The umpire was required to warn the striker before calling a strike. After three strikes were called, the batter was bound to "make his run" to first base if the last called strike was not caught by the catcher on the fly or first bound.

1871  
The batter was given the opportunity to ask the Pitcher to deliver the ball in one of two areas. A "low ball" was required to pass between the knee and the waist of the batsman and over Home Base. A "high ball" was required to pass between the waist and the shoulders of the batsman and over Home Base. If the batter did not call for

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Doc Adams - Rules Maker



Dr. Daniel Lucius Adams was also a member of the Knickerbocker Club, serving as president for six years, and as a club officer for another six years between 1847 and 1861. During his tenure with the club, his knowledge and enthusiasm for the game were apparent, and he was selected to represent the Knickerbocker club at a convention of 14 base ball clubs.

The primary purpose of the convention, held in January, 1857, was to standardize the rules of the game (a tacit concession that Cartwright’s rules of 1846 did not codify the game to the extent to which he is given credit).

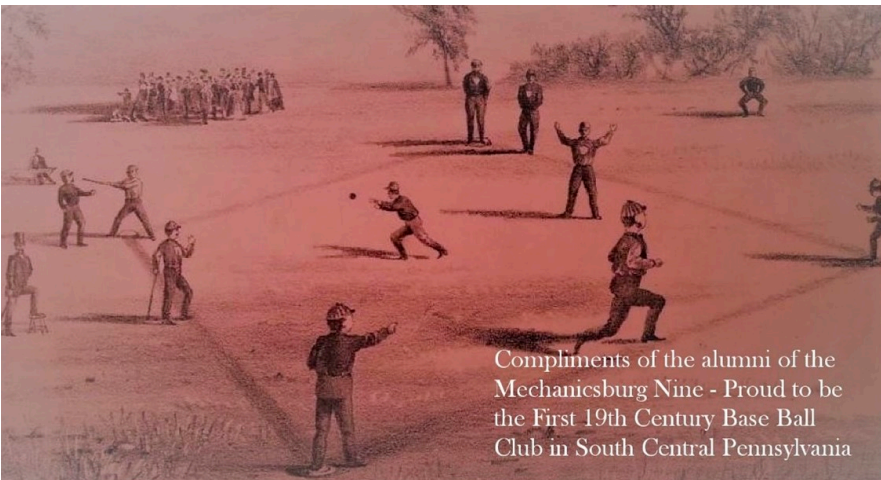
Quickly elected president of the 1857 Base Ball Convention, Doc Adams was successful in promulgating changes to the rules that, in fact, established the distance between the bases as 90 feet; established the number of players as nine per side; and established the length of a game as nine innings.

These rules were adopted by the convention, and became the law of the still maturing base ball world. While successful in implementing these rules, Doc Adams was unsuccessful in convincing the convention to eliminate the bound rule, by which a striker was retired if a struck ball, whether fair or foul, was caught on the fly or on the first bound.

The bound rule would survive until the 1864 annual meeting of the National Association of Base Ball Players, held in December, 1864.

An original copy of the 1857 Laws of Base Ball was re-discovered in late 2015, and again brought to light Doc Adams’ legitimate claim to recognition by the Hall of Fame.

For recent news about this effort, visit [www.docadamsbaseball.org](http://www.docadamsbaseball.org).



Compliments of the alumni of the Mechanicsburg Nine - Proud to be the First 19th Century Base Ball Club in South Central Pennsylvania

Schedule highlights...

*Continued from Page 1*

- Our 4th visit to the Army Heritage and Education Center for a Carlisle Summerfair event cosponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society (June 28)
- Our 14<sup>th</sup> visit to the Gettysburg Vintage Base Ball Festival (July 19 and 20)
- Our 5<sup>th</sup> participation in Mechanicsburg Community Day (August 2)
- Our 3rd Founder’s Day event (August 23)
- A 2nd visit to Coleman Memorial Chapel (September 6)
- The first ever National Association of Historic Base Ball Clubs tournament (September 20 and 21)
- Participation in the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Upper Allen Township.

Check out our schedule and more local events at:



<https://harrisburg.macaronikid.com/events>

Evolution of the Rules

*Continued from page 1*

a ball upon taking his position the umpire was allowed to call strikes on pitched balls that passed between the knees and shoulders of the Batsman and over Home Base. The Batsman was not allowed to change or call for his pitch after the first ball was delivered to Home Base by the pitcher.

The Umpire was also instructed in 1871, not to make a call on the first delivery by the Pitcher to the Batsman, unless swung at and missed or hit foul. This ended after the 1874 season.

1887 (only) - 4 strikes constituted a strikeout.

**Bases on Balls**  
Prior to 1863 – No definition of balls

1863: If a pitcher persists in delivering not fair balls, the umpire will issue a warning, and then begin calling balls. Three balls constitute a base on balls; all runners on base advance (whether forced or not).

1868: Three balls constitute a base on balls; only runners who are forced advance

1879: All pitches must be called (either a ball, a strike or a foul); 9 balls constitute a base on balls

- 1880 – 8 balls constitute a base on balls
- 1884 – 6 balls constitute a base on balls
- 1886 – 7 balls constitute a base on balls
- 1887 – 5 balls constitute a base on balls
- 1889 – 4 balls constitute a base on balls



## About the Team

The Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg was originally formed in 2010, as the Mechanicsburg Nine, and participated in the Mid Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League (MAVBBL) from 2010 through 2018.

In 2013, we learned of the existence of the original Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg, a team that played in the late 1860's, so, in keeping with the guidelines of MAVBBL, we re-branded the club as the Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg (KBBC).

Our mission is to provide a healthy, recreational outlet for the club membership, and to provide an enjoyable opportunity for the public to learn the interesting evolution of our national pastime in the years before exorbitant player contracts, manicured fields, performance enhancing drugs, and, yes, even gloves.

## Roster Past and Present

### The Mechanicsburg Nine

As reported elsewhere, the KBBC first took life as the Mechanicsburg Nine. The M9 owes its existence to the efforts of the Pendergist family (Doug "Pops" Pendergist, Ryan "Express" Pendergist, Matty "the Crank" Pendergist, and perhaps most importantly, Beth "the Super Supportive Wife and Mother" Pendergist. Several members of that original club are still active members of the KBBC, including Russ "Shaggs" Daniels, Joe "Meat Loaf" Houck, Ben "Bullet" Kauffman, and Rich "Grumpy" Heinick. Other members of the M9 who contributed significantly to the initial growth of the club are Kevin "Silver Fox" Kryeski, Drew "Brother" Kauffman, Phil "Spuds" Heinick, Justin "Bulldog" Deemer, Avery "the Professor" Deemer.

### The Keystone BBC

When the M9 learned of the KBBC's original establishment in 1862 as a club comprised primarily of railroad workers, the M9 adopted their identity and the re-established KBBC was born. In addition to the original members from the M9, several players have proven to be stalwart members of the KBBC, including Brian "Angus" Gross, Mark "Three Fingers" Stewart, Scott ("Deacon") Root, Robert ("Sticks") Root, Josh (Dr. Two Toes) Neiderhiser, Josh "Best Friend Daddy" Dutton, Dan "Mitts" Harlow, Brad "Colonel" Foose, Ben "Chops" Forer, Kevin "Admiral" Kohler, Keith "Buns" Krause, Cole "King" Pellman, Scott "Constable" Pellman, Marlee "Ziggy" Lancaster, and Mike "Brute" Moyer.

## Looking to the Future – the KBBC's Roster of Muffins

The long term stability of a club can best be judged by the quality of its Muffins (known in later times as Rookies). The KBBC proudly claims the following up-and-comers with less than one full year of 19<sup>th</sup> century base ball



experience: Fred "Doc" Foose, Zach "Flash" Lape, Zach "Quasi" Root, Mike "the nameless ballist", Ben "Orator" Schad, Stu "Royce" Hilliard, Kade Junk, Derrick "the Red" Atkins and Matt Brown.

## KBBC Members in Baseball Hall of Fame - March 28, 2025

During the 15-year history of the Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg perhaps no date stands out more than March 28, 2025, when four members of the KBBC made it to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Players Russ "Shaggs" Daniels and Josh "Best Friend Daddy" Dutton were joined by Public Relations Manager Mike "Brute" Moyer and umpire Rich "Grumpy" Heinick. Their trip to the Hall was the culmination of several seasons of intense effort with the KBBC; particularly satisfying was the recognition of the Vintage Base Ball Association, who scheduled their national conference to coincide with the Keystones trip to Cooperstown.

### Mayhem Ensues

The Keystones' trip to the Hall was not without incident. During a personal and private display of notable memorabilia, the Docent misinterpreted Grumpy's curiosity about the size of the shoes worn by Tom Seaver during his record breaking strikeout performance as an attempt to purloin Mr. Seaver's footwear, perhaps in the hope of restoring his faltering pitching career. With a leap that rivals Saquon Barkley's reverse hurdling of tacklers, the docent vaulted over the display table and rescued the precious spikes (insiders know that they were Addidas products, with the white stripes blacked out). Almost immediately thereafter, the presentation was concluded and the KBBC contingent was firmly escorted to the exit door. Passersby reported hearing "and don't come back", but Gazette reporters have been unable to confirm this.



# A-1 Party

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KBBC is a proud member of the  
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<https://www.vbba.org>



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The KBBC expresses our sincere appreciation to our exhibitors and partners for Local History Day

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanicsburg Museum Association</li> <li>• Union Church</li> <li>• Singer Band of Mechanicsburg</li> <li>• Nate MacDicken - Re-enactor</li> <li>• Ted Knorr - Negro League Historian</li> <li>• Calobe Jackson- Negro League Historian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumberland County Historical Society</li> <li>• West Shore Historical Society</li> <li>• Historical Society of Camp Hill</li> <li>• Yellow Breeches Gazette</li> <li>• Shiremanstown Historical Society</li> <li>• SABR - the Society for American Baseball Research</li> </ul>
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