

CUSTOMS

- Base Ball was a polite game. Matches were conducted according to the highest standards of sportsmanship, courteous behavior, and respect for others.
- There was no swearing, spitting, scratching, consumption of alcohol, tobacco chewing, or wagering.
- Players avoided commenting on the umpires judgment or decisions.
- Only the captains could chafe, or argue, with the umpire without drawing a fine.
- The umpire might ask players and cranks for assistance in making calls.
- The umpire levied fines, on the spot, for disrespectful conduct.



JOIN US

Hi, Neighbors! We would like to encourage you to stop by and enjoy our beautiful grounds between dawn and dusk, every day of the week!

While the house at Historic Long Branch is currently closed for tours this Spring & Summer in order to prepare for our grand re-opening this Fall, which will include a new exhibit wing and new education & family programs, our grounds are always open and here for the community to enjoy.

Please feel free to stop by and talk with Nicholas Redding, Executive Director, or Cassie Ward, Director of Public Programs - we would love to hear your feedback. We hope to see you soon!



V·I·N·T·A·G·E BASE-BALL



Saturday, May 11th, 2013

**HISTORIC
LONG BRANCH**

*830 Long Branch Lane
MILLWOOD, VA*

RAIN DATE: May 25, 2013

DOUBLE HEADER!

The Chesapeake Nine
of Baltimore

The Old Dominions
vs. of Northern Virginia

www.facebook.com/LongBranch1811
www.historiclongbranch.com
540.837.1856

What is Vintage Base Ball?

Vintage Base Ball is base ball (yes, it was spelled two words prior to the 1880s) played by the rules and customs of the 19th Century. Our players (sometimes called ballists) wear period reproduction uniforms, either with long trouser and shield shirt, or a later style lace shirt and knickers. They recreate the game based on rules and research of the various decades of the mid-to-late nineteenth century

Most vintage base ball clubs in the VBBA play the game of base ball according to the rules of the late 1850s, 1860s and 1880s. Many clubs have adopted the rules recorded in the first *Beadle's Dime Base Ball Player*, published in 1860, which recounted the third meeting of the National Association of Base Ball Players.

The mid-nineteenth century game was considerably different than today's game. Most ballists played with bare hands until the mid-1880s, but starting in the late 1860s a few catchers with raw hands needed to wear thin buckskin gloves to keep on playing. Until 1865, fair or foul balls caught on one bound were outs. However, the more skilled players always attempted to catch it "on the fly" which eventually made the *bound* rule unnecessary. More and more vintage base ball clubs play the late 1860s style *fly game*. Balls are also considered fair by where the ball first touches the ground. That is, a ball hit in front of home plate that then spins into foul territory is still a fair ball. Talented vintage base ball strikers take advantage of this rule and use the bat to swat at the ball, creating what is known as a "fair-foul" ball, which first lands fair and spins foul, forcing either the first or third baseman off their base. Historically, this technique was abused forcing the fair ball rule to be changed for 1877. There are numerous other differences in the all-amateur games of baseball prior to 1869, but modern spectators would still recognize vintage version as base ball.

When baseball leagues allowed overhand pitching in 1885, the game took on a more modern appearance. Vintage base ball clubs will often play 1884 rules to interpret the last year of side arm pitching or 1886 rules to interpret early overhand pitching. 1886 is also the first year a pitcher could deliver the ball with one foot off the ground. Historical research is an interesting part of



THE TERMS

Muff or Duff - error

Muffin - enthusiastic but unskilled player

Pitcher's Point - pitchers mound or rubber

Player Dead - out

Pluck - fine strike or play

Plugging (or Soaking) the Runner - throwing the ball at runner to put him out (illegal after 1845)

Rover - shortstop

Scouts - outfielders

Show a little ginger - play harder or smarter

Sky Ball, Skyer - flyball

Sky scraper - A high Pop Fly

Stinger - hard hit ball

Stir your stumps - run fast/hustle

Striker - hitter

Striker to the line - batter up

Talleykeeper - scorekeeper

Three Hands Dead - 3 outs, side retired

Whitewash - team held scoreless for a match or at-bat

Willow - bat

Ace or Tally - run; crossing home base

Apple, pill, horsehide, onion - the ball

Artist - proficient player

Baller, Ballist - player

Basetender - an infielder

Bench - manager or coach

Blind - no score

Blooper, banjo hit - weak fly ball, "Texas leaguer"

Boodler - ungentlemanly maneuver

Bound - bounce

Bowler, hurler, thrower, feeder - pitcher

Club, Nine - team

Cranks (or Throng) - fans

Daisy Cutter - sharp grounder

Dead or Hand Dead - put out or batter out

Dew Drop - slow pitch

Dish - home plate

Foul tic - foul ball

Four Baser - homerun

Ginger - enthusiastic play

Ground - field

Huzzah! - hooray

Leg it - run swiftly

Match - game

Midfielder - centerfielder