

# “The National Game is Decidedly ‘On the Fly’”

The Rise of Organized Base Ball in the Portland and Vancouver  
Area in 1867

A Historic Resource Study for Fort Vancouver National Historic  
Site & Vancouver National Historic Reserve



Staff and volunteers portraying members of the Occidental Base Ball Club of Vancouver at the annual Vintage Base Ball special event at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. (NPS Photo)

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**A Project of the Northwest Cultural Resources Institute**

**Gregory P. Shine  
Chief Ranger & Historian  
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site  
Vancouver National Historic Reserve**

**greg\_shine@nps.gov**

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## Introduction

In July 1867, the Oregon City *Enterprise* reported a peculiar observation from a Portland, Oregon, correspondent. “On several occasions, of moonlit nights,” they related, “the police have caught parties engaged in practice on the flat roofs of some of the brick buildings.”<sup>1</sup>

The same activity provoked protest from at least one Portlander. “In the name of humanity,” he wrote to the Portland *Morning Oregonian* in August, “how long are we to be afflicted with this...nonsense?” Annoyed and dumbfounded by the activity, he openly wondered “of what possible interest can it be to the mass of readers? “Comparing it to “marbles, blind man’s bluff, hide and seek, old sister Phoebe,” he asked “but who, in the name of reason, would expect to see elaborate weekly reports...in the papers?” “Come now,” he chided, “take a second thought and show a little mercy on a NERVOUS MAN.”<sup>2</sup> In response, the *Morning Oregonian* offered little to calm his nerves. “All we know,” they opined, “is that the end is not yet; that the National Game is decidedly ‘on the fly’, and we cannot, considering all the signs of the times, predict for a...’short stop’.”<sup>3</sup>

What was this activity practiced so widely it even utilized rooftops and evenings as a setting? What activity saturated Portland- area newspapers in the eyes of at least one citizen? What was this growing National Game described by the *Morning Oregonian*?

It was baseball; or rather base ball. In the year 1867, Portland, Oregon, and nearby Vancouver, Washington Territory, along with neighboring communities

including Oregon City, Oregon, saw an explosion in the popularity of what had, ten years before, been dubbed America's national past time. From the reported first match game in 1866 between two of the areas first organized clubs—the Pioneer Base Ball Club of Portland and the Clackamas Base Ball Club of Oregon City—the number of teams skyrocketed by July 1867 to a reported seventeen clubs in Portland alone.

### **Focus of this Study**

This study will briefly explore base ball as it existed in the vicinity of the adjacent cities of Portland and Oregon City, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington Territory in 1867. It is not intended to be a comprehensive study; rather, it will explore the organization and administration of these early base ball clubs, and provide additional information regarding two teams that organized in Vancouver that year.

With a goal of providing background information to inform the staff and volunteers participating in Fort Vancouver National Historic Site's interpretive and living history activities, including the popular Vintage Base Ball special events, this study will provide preliminary information in several areas.

- I. *The organization of a Base Ball Club in the area in 1867.* How was it organized? How did it function and how was it governed? What role did protocol and etiquette play in, for example, how challenge matches were established?

2. *The intricacies of a match game of base ball in 1867.* How often were matches played? Were there different types of games? Were the matches confrontational battles, or did they exemplify gentlemanly behavior? What controversies came to light at match games, and what can they tell us about how the game was played?
3. *The Occidental Base Ball Club of Vancouver.* Who were the club members? With whom did they play? This study will include a brief account of their 1867 season and brief biographies of known club members.
4. *The Sherman Base Ball Club and base ball at the Army's Fort Vancouver.* What units served at Fort Vancouver during the 1867 season? Who were the club members? With whom did they play? This study will include a brief account of their 1867 season and brief biographies of known club members.

Lastly, this study will also provide specific recommendations for improving the historical accuracy of the park's Vintage Base Ball special event. Launched to an overwhelming success in 2001, the event has grown to be one of the most popular events occurring onsite. Creatively conceived and organized largely by two park guides—Doug Halsey and Jon Burpee—the event has portrayed, since its inception, a fictional match between teams named the Vancouver Occidentals and the First Oregon Volunteers, utilizing the rules established by *Beadle's Dime Base- Ball Player* in 1860. As the park moves toward greater historical accuracy and to more firmly anchor its special events to events in the historical record, the

groundbreaking work of Halsey, Burpee, and a number of park staff will be the foundation for exciting program changes. It is the goal of this study to inform these changes, and build on this program's foundation.

### **Backstory: Organized Base Ball Begins in Portland**

On October 13, 1866, the Clackamas Base Ball Club of Oregon City hosted the Pioneer Base Ball Club of Portland in a challenge match of base ball.

Following a brass band procession and a hearty breakfast, the game began in earnest. Despite a late inning comeback by the Clackamas Club, the Pioneer Club prevailed by a final score of 77 to 45. "This is the first match game ever played in the State," pronounced the *Morning Oregonian*, "and it is a splendid beginning."<sup>4</sup>

Although the Portland/Vancouver area had played host to variations of bat and ball games for decades—for example, evidence exists of cricket matches played at the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver—organized base ball arrived in the area shortly after the end of the American Civil War. While the organization of the Pioneer and Clackamas Clubs is outside the scope of this study, their start in 1866 paved the way for the broad scale eruption of interest in the sport the following year.

One of the many challenges that the Pioneer and Clackamas Clubs encountered while organizing a sport new to the area was that of competition. Against what opponent would the clubs play? The Pioneer Club dealt with the conundrum in August 1866 by dividing their team for an intrasquad match.

Although there is no evidence to suggest that the Pioneer Club issued or received challenges from clubs established in other western cities, such as San Francisco, in 1866 and 1867, these other clubs did serve as an indirect resource. For example, comparing the Pioneer Club's statistical performance to that of a recent match in San Francisco between the Atlantic Club of San Francisco and the Lincoln Club of Oakland, the *Morning Oregonian* noted that "[t]he results of the match...shows conclusively that the 'Pioneer's' can safely challenge any similar organization for a match, and be almost sure of winning." The editorial praise continued, announcing that "[w]e consider that the 'Pioneer Club' have established for themselves a reputation of some consequence."<sup>5</sup>

Despite the organization of the Pioneer and Clackamas Clubs in 1866, the sport of base ball still presented a novel activity to most area citizens. Both the Pioneer and Clackamas Clubs practiced and played matches publicized by the local press, and these accounts helped spread interest in the sport while also helping legitimize it as an acceptable and beneficial activity for gentlemen. Introductory and descriptive language marks these early newspaper accounts, as the press presented a new sport to area citizens. "The sport is very exhilarating," described one reporter in July 1866, "and the spirit with which the members participate shows that its enlivening effects are by no means a small matter."<sup>6</sup> By autumn, another paper exclaimed that "[t]his athletic sport is now the rage throughout the whole country, and our city is not behind."<sup>7</sup> In December, the Portland Club sent a delegate to the national base ball convention in New York,



(and by late March of 1867, his return was eagerly awaited). Thus, by the end of 1866, the crescendo of local and national interest in base ball signaled an impending eruption. Base ball was ready to burst onto the scene in 1867.

### **Interest in Base Ball Explodes**

As Portland area citizens emerged in the spring of 1867 from their annual rain- induced winter respite, interest in base ball grew. As a result, the number of clubs skyrocketed as new ones sprung up in the cities and towns surrounding Portland. On May 17, the Wide- awake Base Ball Club formed in Portland and elected officers.<sup>8</sup> In June, two new clubs formed in Oregon City, joining the veteran Clackamas Club. One adopted the “name and costume of the Scotch Highlanders” while the other called itself the Tumwater Base Ball Club.<sup>9</sup> These clubs were not relegated to the lands south of the Columbia River; by May 18, the Oregon City *Enterprise* reported that “Vancouver has not only an efficient fire department, but sports two base ball clubs.”<sup>10</sup> Presumably, these first clubs were the Occidental Base Ball Club and the Sherman Base Ball Club, the latter of which consisted of soldiers from Vancouver Barracks. By autumn of 1867, Vancouver sported at least three additional teams, including the Washington Base Ball Club, the Continental Base Ball Club, “composed entirely of young men and boys,” and the Oriental Base Ball Club of the Fourth Plain.<sup>11</sup> Suggesting how widespread interest in base ball had become, one newspaper reported that Portland reportedly hosted “seventeen different and distinct base ball clubs” by July.<sup>12</sup>

These clubs were not limited to what would decades later become the Portland/Vancouver Metropolitan Area; for example, on March 30, the *Enterprise* announced plans for the formation of a new club in Salem, and by May they were playing “on the beautiful grounds selected by that club near the Court House in that city.”<sup>13</sup> In June, the Salem *Unionist* reported that base ball “seems to be all the rage just now” in Salem. “We have two organized clubs, and three others talked of. We understand it is the intention some or all of these clubs to enter the list for the championship at the approaching State Fair.”<sup>14</sup>

As evidenced by the newspaper accounts, the veteran clubs appear to have accepted and welcomed the new clubs; many of the new clubs played challenge matches with the Pioneer Club and the Clackamas Club, two veteran teams. Certainly, these new clubs afforded additional competition. Where the Pioneer Club, for example, played several intrasquad matches in 1866, comparing their resulting statistics with those of clubs in the San Francisco Bay Area, there were by 1867 at least eight new clubs in the area that presented opportunities for formal challenge matches.

### **Protocol, Order, and Function: The Organization of a Club in 1867**

As their names suggest, these groups organized as clubs. As such, they were highly structured social organizations—not businesses—and members participated on a voluntary basis, paying dues rather than being paid to play.

Reflecting the spirit of the era, the clubs emphasized gentlemanly order and organization, and employed a structure that reinforced and codified it.

At their initial organization, it is likely that many of the clubs followed the same protocol as that of the Highland Base Ball Club of Oregon City, established in 1867. The minutes of the club's meetings and the treasurer's book, in the collection of the Oregon Historical Society Research Library, provide much insight into the process of organizing and operating a base ball club in the Portland/Vancouver area in 1867.<sup>15</sup>

On June 17, 1867, following a call to order the attendees at the inaugural meeting of the Highland Base Ball Club elected five positions: a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, captain of the first nine, and captain of the second nine. This is consistent with other clubs formed the same year; for example, at one of their first meetings the Wide-awake Club elected a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, three directors, and a captain.<sup>16</sup> The president, then, appointed three directors. According to *Beadle's Dime Base-Ball Player*, the leading base ball guideline at the time, the duty of the three directors was threefold: to take charge of the equipment and other "implements of the club", to establish the beginning and ending times for field exercises, and to "tend to all miscellaneous duties not otherwise provided for."<sup>17</sup>

Following these elections, the club president then appointed three attendees to draft both a constitution and bylaws. Several models no doubt existed; in addition to the sample constitution and bylaws included in an

appendix to *Beadle's Dime Base- Ball Player*, the established Pioneer and Clackamas clubs may have lended administrative support. As the next item of business, the club adopted their official name, the Highland Base Ball Club, as well as the "Scotch Highlanders costume as the uniform."<sup>18</sup> Formal to the end, the passing of a motion to close signaled the close of the Highlanders' first meeting. This meeting is significant not only for what occurred, but for what did not. Interestingly, it was not until their second meeting, five days later, that the club proposed and elected members.<sup>19</sup>

As the club regularly met, administrative functions continued to play a primary role in club organizational efforts. In the minutes kept from the subsequent ten club meetings, the emphasis on organization and order is striking. For example, at the second meeting, the club adopted the report of the committee on constitution and bylaws. Demonstrating how base ball clubs sought standardization of the game and a connection to other clubs in the region, the club also duly adopted the "Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the Pacific Base Ball Convention," established in San Francisco the preceding August.<sup>20</sup>

In addition to the organization of new clubs, the spring of 1867 also brought calls for greater organization of the sport as a whole. Proposals for a statewide organization that would systematize Oregon clubs, provide opportunities for them to play clubs in California, and facilitate the playing of a match game for the Oregon state championship were publicized in the press.<sup>21</sup> In

addition, enough interest existed for a Portland bookseller to advertise copies of the Pacific Base Ball Guide for 1867 for sale. “Its rules,” read the announcement, “have been adopted by the Pacific Base Ball Convention of California.”<sup>22</sup>

Commercial opportunities were not limited to rule books, as clubs needed other equipment, including balls, bats, and uniforms. By August, the *Enterprise* advertised “a very neat style of base ball caps, which sell rapidly and give universal satisfaction.”<sup>23</sup>

### **Club Meetings**

As exemplified by the Highlanders and the other clubs, meetings were essential to maintaining order and reaching consensus. As official organizations, clubs held these meetings on a regular basis, often bimonthly, in a similar fashion to one club who met on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.<sup>24</sup> Special meetings also occurred on occasion, usually as *ad hoc* gatherings in response to a particular concern. The regular meetings could be considered formal by today’s standards; generally, there would be a call to order, reports from officers, old and new business to be discussed, motions to be voted upon, and resolutions to be passed. One of the most important functions of club meetings was to issue challenges and act on any challenges received.

The process for establishing a match game also reflected the Victorian- era zeitgeist of order and organization. Protocol for one club wishing to play another club dictated that a formal challenge be forwarded to the prospective opponent,

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directed, of course, to the club's secretary.<sup>25</sup> A challenge would include the prospective location, date, and time, similar to the challenge moved and carried by the Highland Club in August:

The first nine of the Highland B.B. Club challenge the first nine of the Clackamas B.B. Club to play a match game of B.B. on the Highland Ground, 7<sup>th</sup> of Sept. two O'cl p.m.<sup>26</sup>

Formality reigned supreme, and when challenges were not properly tendered, public notice was taken. In September, the *Enterprise* announced that the Clackamas Club had accepted the challenge of the Pioneer Club for a challenge match at the Oregon State Fair. However, as the *Morning Oregonian* quickly noted,

The Pioneers have not issued any challenge; but merely signified their readiness to accept a challenge from any other club. Being thus far, the champion club, according to the courtesy of the game, they receive, but do not issue, challenges.<sup>27</sup>

The issuance of a challenge in no way assured its routine acceptance. Although it is probable that most challenges were accepted, this was not always the case. On at least one occasion, a motion to accept a challenge from the Pacific Base Ball Club of Salem did not carry an affirmative vote with the Highland Club, and the challenge was rejected.<sup>28</sup>

The organization of a match game included many logistics perhaps not often considered in our modern age. Ferries provided the primary mode of transportation for many clubs, especially when matches involved clubs from

Oregon City and Vancouver. With a deftly placed pun on the name of the steamer *Alert* running between Oregon City and Portland, the *Enterprise* reported that the Clackamas Club was prepared for all takers. “They will be on the *Alert*,” noted the paper, “for a contest this summer.” On several occasions, the weather made transportation impossible, forcing the cancellation of matches. “If the roads had been passable on last Monday between this city and Vancouver,” reported the *Enterprise* in August, “the Clackamas Base Ball Club of this city would have met the Occidental Club on their own grounds in Vancouver.”<sup>29</sup>

Reputation and perception were highly valued. If activities potentially blemished a club’s reputation, quick steps would be taken, utilizing one of the most valuable administrative tools available—the resolution. Such a situation faced the Highlander Club in August, when the *Enterprise* carried an account noting that citizens attended Sunday services in only one of Oregon City’s five churches that day. “There was a gay game of base ball on the bluff, though,” they quipped, adding that the situation demonstrated that “the place is a poor one for preachers.”<sup>30</sup> The club reacted quickly. In a unanimous vote, the club agreed that “the playing of base ball on Sunday is not only very immoral, but disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood where it is practiced.”<sup>31</sup> As they were “desirous of seeing the club prosper” they came to the awareness that such activity might “injure the reputation of the club,” they took quick action, resolving that any club member who used the “grounds or implements belonging to the club on Sunday, their names will be erased from membership.”<sup>32</sup>

Challenge matches were not the only outlet for area clubs. Evidence suggests that there were two options for games between teams—formal match games and less formal outings referred to as friendly games. In addition, clubs such as the Pioneers occasionally held intramural scrimmage matches that pitted club members against fellow club members. In addition, clubs also held regular practices, known as field exercises. As one club announced, “[t]he evenings for field exercises were changed so as to come on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of each week.”<sup>33</sup>

## **The Players**

Working within a framework of comprehensive bylaws, regulations, and a constitution, the base ball club functioned in a fashion similar to other clubs and social organizations of the era. Members were expected to pay dues, as well as cover other costs, such as uniforms. As an example, the Highlanders’ treasurer’s book shows that club members paid a 50- cent initiation or “admission fee” as well as monthly dues of 25- cents. They were also assessed for uniform costs—based, of course, on the approved recommendations of a three- member uniform procurement committee.<sup>34</sup>

Hand in glove with organization came the expectation of gentlemanly behavior. Base ball was a very gentlemanly game, and reflected the Victorian era emphasis on honesty, honor, integrity, and order. Describing one typical match, a newspaper noted that “[t]he utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed



throughout, which is very commendable to the gentlemen comprising both clubs.”<sup>35</sup>

Most clubs—including the Pioneer, Clackamas, Highlander, Sherman and Occidental Clubs—formed two separate squads, known as the first nine and second nine, and elected captains for both. (This has led to an understanding that clubs were officially named the Clackamas Nine or the Occidental Nine, which is a misconception.) A club also elected an umpire and a scorer to serve throughout the season.<sup>36</sup> Since the rules stressed the impartiality of the umpire and scorer, it is highly likely that other clubs joined the Highland Club in passing a motion declaring the umpire and scorer exempt from fees and dues upon election.

Future research may clarify the method for naming the starting members of a club’s first nine and second nine. Evidence suggests that individual team members may have been elected or selected. At least one account names individual “members of the first nine elect” following other club elections, while another authorizes the captain to “attend to the preliminaries and select his men.”<sup>37</sup> In either case, an authority for naming a club’s starting nine clearly existed within the club construct.

### **Base Ball Organizes in Vancouver: The Occidental Base Ball Club**

In the spring of 1867, one of the first new clubs formed on the north side of the Columbia River—the Occidental Base Ball Club of Vancouver. At the time, Vancouver, Washington Territory, despite being established before Portland, was

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smaller in population. Portland newspapers referred to it as Vancouver or Vancouver Village.<sup>38</sup> In May, the assessor for Clark County reported that Vancouver harbored a population of 2,105 residents: 1,150 males and 955 females.<sup>39</sup>

Unfortunately, fewer than five issues of Vancouver's weekly newspaper, the *Register*, survive from 1867, and those that do are from October and November, months not as conducive to base ball or base ball reporting as those earlier in the year. Thus, the author has sought information from other sources in an effort to piece together information on the club.

One of the Occidental Club's earliest matches occurred on Saturday, May 11. Interestingly, the local soldiers of Vancouver Barracks provided the opposing squad. The Oregon *Herald* reported that "the first nine of the Garrison Base Ball Club challenged the first nine of the Vancouver Club to play a match game for the championship."<sup>40</sup> In a similar blurb, the *Enterprise* noted that "the Garrison Boys scored 45, while the Vancouver boys were making 5." Not a paper to pass up an opportunity for editorial comment, they added, "[t]his is a pretty bad flaxing." The *Herald* also noted the "flaxing" but added that "it does not appear to discourage the Vancouver boys, who are determined by hard exercise to regain their prestige."<sup>41</sup>

As predicted by the *Herald*, this initial setback does not appear to have thwarted the Occidental Club's interest in the game. Just over two weeks later, on Wednesday, May 29, the first recorded match between the Occidental Club and the Pioneer Club of Portland occurred. The match day was a long affair; the

Pioneer Club and spectators from Portland departed on the steamer *Cascades* at 6:00 a.m. that morning, and were greeted by the Occidental Club who escorted them to the playing field “which had been put in splendid order for the match.”<sup>42</sup>

As a correspondent from Vancouver described in a letter to the *Herald*:

The day was beautiful; the ground which the Occidental Club had selected was in the heart of the city, and nothing was left wanting to secure a happy time and an exciting contest; and to add to the gay scene, the youth and beauty and blushing smiles of our ladies contributed in no small degree to make it the most exciting affair we have had in this place for a long time.<sup>43</sup>

The starting nine for the Occidental Club included H.C. Morse at second base, S. Brand at third base, Jacob Proebstel at first base, Daniel Leahy at catcher, team captain P. McNamara pitching, James Petrain in right field, William Leahy at shortstop, R.J. Glover in left field, and James A. Orr in center field. Scorer H.T. Levins kept the game’s statistics, and also submitted a detailed summary that was published in the *Morning Oregonian*. (For biographical information on many of the players noted in this account, please see Appendix A.) McNamara, “being an old eastern player, recently from States,” was credited with preparing his players well. “The Occidentals played an excellent game, considering that they were only organized this season,” noted Levins.<sup>44</sup> Demonstrating the tightly-knit base ball community in the area, also in attendance was a delegation from the Clackamas Club of Oregon City.<sup>45</sup>

The match progressed well, but controversy soon ensued. According to the *Morning Oregonian*’s account:

At the commencement of the game it was evident there was some dissatisfaction on the part of the Occidentals, from the fact that according to the rules established by the National Convention, of which the Pioneers are members, the Umpire in a match game must be chosen from a club being a member of that body, and E. Backenstos of the Pioneers being chosen to the position. In the second inning a dispute arising the Occidentals became clamorous for a change, accordingly the Pioneers waived the rule, and told them to make their own choice, which resulted in the selection of P.T. Barclay, of the Clackamas base Ball Club to fill the position.<sup>46</sup>

On the other hand, the Vancouver correspondent to the *Herald* minced no words in his description.

The Umpire selected in the morning was E. Backinstock who, in violation of the good faith imposed in him, acted so partial on the 2d innings in favor of the Pioneer Club, that even they, to a man, (I am proud to say) thought, as did the members, that he was spreading it on so thick that he must be removed and a new one appointed in his place, which was accordingly done.... After all, I must say that had the clubs had such a man for umpire as Mr. Barclay in the first place, the Occidental Club would have won the game.<sup>47</sup>

The exact nature of the second inning dispute with the umpire is unknown, though subsequent official correspondence from the Occidental Club refers to the “unintentional failure on his part to *observe* the proceedings of the game.”<sup>48</sup>

As the match continued into the third inning, Occidental shortstop Leahy switched positions with teammate Glover in left field, without informing the Pioneer Club or, ostensibly, his own team captain McNamara. Such a move, described as “positively against the fundamental rule of the game,” elicited protest from the Pioneers, and Occidental captain McNamara responded,

claiming that the switch was done without his knowledge or consent. As a result, the Pioneer's captain "gave him [McNamara] two fly catches to which they were not entitled, thus making but one run in the inning."<sup>49</sup> After three hours and forty- five minutes, the match ended, with the Pioneer Club victorious by a score of 79 to 62. The champions subsequently honored the Occidental Club with three hearty cheers, which the Occidentals returned. Both clubs joined in three cheers for Umpire Barclay and the two scorers, followed by three cheers for the ladies present in the audience.<sup>50</sup>

Despite the controversy, gentlemanly behavior remained the order of the match, and both sides ensured the event was a positive experience for spectators, including the *Herald's* Vancouver correspondent.

It is seldom we have ever witnessed such a game, and where so much friendly rivalry is expected, that turned out as did this one. All seemed to vie with each other as to who could be most courteous, and for the latter I think it would be hard to find the equals of the Pioneer boys.<sup>51</sup>

Club activities often included other pursuits that supported base ball through more traditional—and formal—events. Thus, immediately following the match, a "bountiful dinner" at the Alta House greeted participants and spectators.<sup>52</sup> In addition, and as reported in the *Morning Oregonian* earlier in the week, the club hosted an evening ball open to all.

The dancing men and women of this city [Portland] will be pleased to learn that the Occidental Base Ball Club of Vancouver has determined to close the day of the match game with a dancing party at Metropolis Hall, to which all the world and his wife and the rest of mankind are invited.<sup>53</sup>

Interestingly, the controversy surrounding the match game's umpire continued into the subsequent week. This was due, almost exclusively, to the aforementioned account of the *Herald's* Vancouver correspondent, listed as only as B.O.R.<sup>54</sup> In particular, his charge that Backenstos violated "the good faith imposed in him" implied premeditated bias and fraud rather than unintentional human error and thus directly called into question his character as both an umpire and a gentleman. For the era, this was no minor charge.

The same evening that the *Herald* published B.O.R.'s correspondence, the Pioneer Club called a special meeting and crafted two responses. In the first letter, club president Theodore F. Miner strongly declared that B.O.R.'s statement "is FLATLY CONTRADICTED, as will be seen by the subjoined resolutions."<sup>55</sup> In series of three resolutions, the Pioneer Club officially charged B.O.R. with "gross injustice", claiming that he had "made assertions that reflect seriously upon his character as a gentleman." They unanimously endorsed his conduct, vindicated him of the charge, and sent the resolutions to the *Herald* and *Morning Oregonian* for dissemination.<sup>56</sup>

Following the *Herald's* publication, the Occidental Club also responded quickly and formally. They too called a special club meeting where the following formal resolution unanimously passed.

At a special meeting of the members of the Occidental Base Ball Club, who were present at the match game played with the Pioneer Base Ball Club of Portland, held the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved* That the “Vancouver Correspondence” of the Oregon Herald signed “B.O.R.,” was not authorized by, nor is the same endorsed by the members of this club.

*Resolved* That Mr. E.D. Backenstos, an umpire, *ought not* to be charged with any conduct unbecoming a gentleman, or with any willful “violation of the good faith imposed to him,” but that the *errors* which, in *our* opinion be made in some of his decisions are to be ascribed to the unintentional failure on his part to *observe* the proceedings of the game, and not to any desire on his part to show any [illegible] or bias to either party.

*Resolved* That the conduct of our Portland friends at the recent game merits our admiration, and we assure them that we cherish the kindest feeling of friendship for them and indulge in the hope that the most friendly relations may always exist between the two clubs.

*Resolved* That the publishers of the Portland dailies be requested to publish these resolutions and the Secretary be requested to forward a copy of the same to the Pioneer base ball Club.

Signed by Daniel Leahy, Jacob Proebstel, H.C. Morse, Lewis Brant, William Leahy, R.J. Glover, James Orr, James Petrain.

P. McNamara, Captain<sup>57</sup>

It should be noted that, reflecting both clubs’ perception of the seriousness of the letter’s charges, the clubs distributed their resolutions to both of Portland’s major newspapers for publication.

As the smoke cleared from this incident, the Occidental Club continued its season, playing several additional challenge matches. One notable match occurred in August in Vancouver, at the second match game between the Occidental Club and the Clackamas Club. The contest fomented much excitement, especially in Oregon City.

The “strikes” made by a party of gentlemen who left this city on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> for Washington territory caused a genuine revival of the famous days ’49. Not a man in this town any wise given to “excitement” retired on the night of that day without being duly impressed with the value of the numerals 49, and great balls of chalk were used to write it down—on window panes, on garments, everywhere. You see that was the number of “runs” our boys made above the score of the Occidentals at Vancouver, in that second game of Base Ball.<sup>58</sup>

In another salvo, the paper quoted a “friend in Vancouver” who had telegraphed to say that they had “imported such a large *beat* from Oregon that the people were going crazy on the subject.” With tongue firmly planted in cheek, the paper noted that this Vancouverite “probably alluded to the *beat* given the Occidental Base Ball Club, by the first nine of the Clackamas Club of this city.”<sup>59</sup>

As the season continued, the Occidental’s second nine chalked up a victory on September 8, defeating the first nine of the Continental Club of Vancouver by 35 runs.<sup>60</sup> In the highly anticipated second match game on September 21, the Occidental Club hosted the rematch with the Pioneer Club. “As usual, however,” noted the *Morning Oregonian* with apparent relish, “the superior skill of the Pioneers told with splendid effect, and they came out best, making 56 runs to 22 by the Occidentals.”<sup>61</sup> The Occidental Club kept very busy in September, as they scheduled their match with the Pioneers in between the second and third match games with the local Sherman Club.



## Sherman Base Ball Club

On June 1, 1867, the *Morning Oregonian* carried an earlier account from the *Vancouver Register* announcing a new base ball club. “We learn that another Base Ball Club will be formed shortly in this place, and which will [illegible] principally of officers stationed at this post.”<sup>62</sup> Shortly thereafter, newspapers carried accounts of “the Garrison boys” playing a match game with the Occidental Club of May 11. Within weeks, a club known as the Sherman Base Ball Club began playing match games against other clubs in the area.

In early 1867, local Army personnel at Fort Vancouver, one of the Army’s major western posts, were in the final stages of a nationwide reorganization. During the Civil War, the War Department reassigned most Regular Army troops then stationed at many western posts, including the barracks, to duty east of the Mississippi River. As a replacement force, individual states mustered regiments of volunteers, such as the First Oregon Volunteer Infantry, which were then assigned to garrison duty at the vacated posts. By May 1867, the volunteer units serving at the barracks had either been reassigned to other posts or mustered out; Regular Army units including the Eighth U.S. Cavalry Regiment’s Company C and the Second U.S. Artillery Regiment’s Battery F constituted the garrison of soldiers at the barracks.<sup>63</sup> In July and August, the post’s garrison included the two aforementioned companies as well as the Post Band, members of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cavalry’s Field Staff & Band, and a detachment of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cavalry. August 1

saw the departure of post commander Capt. William Kelley and Company C of the Eighth Cavalry.<sup>64</sup>

Further research may shed light on the affect on the Sherman Base Ball Club of a major component of the post's garrison departing in early August. However, the club continued to exist and play several match games in the area well into November. Although they may indeed have played teams such as those fielded by the Clackamas, Highland, Wide- awake, and Pioneer Clubs, through preliminary research this author has yet to locate evidence of the Sherman Club playing match games against these clubs.<sup>65</sup> Newspaper accounts suggest that the Sherman Club did play matches against at least three clubs—the Occidental, Spartan, and Continental Clubs.

In September, the *Morning Oregonian* announced a second match game between the Sherman and Occidental Clubs, to be held on September 14. Twelve days later, the Shermans and Occidentals met for the third game in the match on September 26. After battling for three hours and ten minutes, the game ended with a 52 to 25 victory for the Sherman Club. The *Morning Oregonian* carried a brief account of this game that listed the surnames and positions of both teams' players. Accordingly, the Shermans fielded Shields at second base, Sharbone at catcher, Smith at first base, Corcoran in center field, Collins at third base, McGill at shortstop, Brown as captain and pitcher, Kenney in left field, and Gibbins in right field.<sup>66</sup> Further research, of course, may provide more detailed information on these individuals.

In October, the *Vancouver Register* carried an account of the first game in the match between the first nine of the Continentals and the second nine of the Shermans. “The game,” they reported, “though well played on both sides, was won by the Continentals by 49 runs.” A second game was scheduled for October 12, but an account of that match has yet to be located. In mid- November, the *Register* carried an account of the Sherman Club’s 31 to 30 victory over the Spartan Club of Portland in the second match game between the two clubs.<sup>67</sup>

### **The Season Ends**

By late November, despite several match games in mid- month, base ball’s fortunes waned in the Pacific Northwest. Signs pointed to the rainy weather as the primary culprit. “We have an idea from what we heard on the ground,” noted the *Register*, “that the season is becoming rather unpropitious for a further continuance of this favorite sport.”<sup>68</sup> Much as they do in the present day, area citizens began seeking indoor activities to ride out the damp winter months. “[S]ince we are to be driven indoors for our winter’s amusements,” suggested the *Register*, “let’s try and select some recreation as developing to the mind as base ball has been to the muscle of our citizens.”<sup>69</sup>

Thus, base ball had emerged in 1867 from relative obscurity to the level of “favorite sport” with lightning speed, toning gentlemanly muscle along the way. Fueled by the formation of dozens of new teams competing in publicly attended outdoor match games—and fomented by frequently colorful newspaper

accounts—base ball’s popularity waxed propitiously in Portland, Vancouver, and the surrounding communities. As a *bona fide* gentlemanly leisure activity, base ball was certainly on the fly in 1867.

## **Appendix A: Personnel Associated with this Study**

**Backenstos, Ed.** Elected as umpire for the 1867 season by the Pioneer Club on May 13, 1867.<sup>70</sup> Involved in controversy with the Occidental Club at the match game of May 29.

**Barclay, Peter Thomas.**

Born April 6, 1847 to Dr. Forbes Barclay and Maria Pambrun Barclay.<sup>71</sup> Listed as a member of the Clackamas Base Ball Club in 1867. He was elected as the club's secretary in 1867.<sup>72</sup> Barclay was selected by the Occidental Base Ball Club to replace E. Backenstos as umpire following controversy in the second inning of the match game between the Occidentals and the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867. On July 4, in a match game with the Pioneer Club, Barclay scored the only "home run" of the game.<sup>73</sup>

**Barling**

He served as the scorer for the Sherman Club in the third match game against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>74</sup>

**Brant, Lewis (also spelled 'Brandt')**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played third base in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, and right field in the match with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.

### **Brown (1)**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he was the pitcher in the second game with the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867.

### **Brown (2)**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he served as captain and pitched in the third match game against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>75</sup>

### **Collins**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he played third base in the third match game against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>76</sup>

### **Corcoran**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he played center field in the third match game against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>77</sup>

### **Fisher**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he was the Umpire in the third match game against the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>78</sup>

### **Gibbins**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he played right field in the third match game and scored a home run against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.

### **Glover, R.J.**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played left field in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, and pitcher in the match with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.

### **Johnson**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played first base in the match against the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867, and third base in the match game with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.

### **Kenny**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he played left field in the third match game against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>79</sup>

### **Leahy, Daniel**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played catcher in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, second base in the second game with the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867, and first base in the match with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.

### **Leahy, William**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played short stop in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, left field in the second game with the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867, and left field in the match with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.

### **Levins, H.T.**

In 1867, he was the Occidental Club's official scorer. According to census information, by 1870 Levins lived in Portland with his wife, 24- year old E.A., and their 2- year old daughter Mary. A New York native, Levins listed his occupation as printer and his age at 27- years old in 1870.<sup>80</sup>

### **Lyons**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played short stop in the second game with the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867, and the same position in the match game with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.

Gregory P. Shine, *"The National Game is 'Decidedly on the Fly'": The Rise of Organized Base Ball in the Portland and Vancouver Area in 1867: A Historic Resource Study for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site & Vancouver National Historic Reserve* (Vancouver, WA: National Park Service, 2006).



## **McGill**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he played short stop in the third match game against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>81</sup>

## **McNamara, P.**

Captain of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played pitcher in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, catcher in the second game with the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867, and pitcher in the match with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.

## **Morse, H.C.**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played second base in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, and did not play in the match with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.

## **Orr, James A.**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played center field in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, and right field in the second game with the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867. James, born around 1838 in Louisiana, worked as a carpenter in Clark County, Washington Territory. His father was a native of Ireland and his mother was born in Canada. Elected by a

Gregory P. Shine, *"The National Game is 'Decidedly on the Fly'": The Rise of Organized Base Ball in the Portland and Vancouver Area in 1867: A Historic Resource Study for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site & Vancouver National Historic Reserve* (Vancouver, WA: National Park Service, 2006).

unanimous vote as “Foreman of Vancouver No. 1” for the Vancouver Fire Engine Company but refused to serve, and a subsequent ballot resulted in the election of Robert E. Moore.<sup>82</sup>

### **Petrain, James**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played right field in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, center field in the second game with the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867, and center field in the match with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867. According to census information, he was born around 1849, the son of Joseph and Catharine Petrain. His father Joseph, a former Hudson’s Bay Company employee at Fort Vancouver, was a native of Canada; his mother Catharine was born in Ireland. In 1870, James had at least five sisters and two brothers, and lived with his family.<sup>83</sup>

### **Proebstel, Jacob**

A member of the Occidental Club in 1867, he played first base in the match game versus the Pioneer Club on May 29, 1867, third base in the second game with the Pioneer Club on September 21, 1867, and second base in the match with the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867, also scoring two home runs. According to census information, Jacob worked as a farmer in Clark County, Washington Territory. He was the son of Jacob and Margaret Proebstel, both natives of Prussia. In 1870, 24 year- old Jacob lived with his 16 year- old wife, Louisa, in

Gregory P. Shine, *“The National Game is ‘Decidedly on the Fly’”: The Rise of Organized Base Ball in the Portland and Vancouver Area in 1867: A Historic Resource Study for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site & Vancouver National Historic Reserve* (Vancouver, WA: National Park Service, 2006).

Vancouver. They owned real estate valued at \$50 and personal property worth \$600.<sup>84</sup>

### **Rankin**

He served as the scorer for the Occidental Club in the third match game against the Sherman Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>85</sup>

### **Sharbone**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he played second base in the third match game against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>86</sup>

### **Shields**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he played second base in the third match game against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>87</sup>

### **Smith**

A member of the Sherman Club in 1867, he played first base in the third match game and scored a home run against the Occidental Club on September 26, 1867.<sup>88</sup>

## Appendix B: Recommendations for Historical Interpretation

1. In order to move these events toward historical accuracy, it is recommended that the park adopt the 1867 season as that upon which the special events take place. As this study suggests, 1867 is a watershed year for base ball in the Portland/Vancouver area, and significant resources—including newspaper accounts and extremely rare documents located at the Oregon Historical Society—provide a compelling insight into the game and its organization during this year of expansion. In addition, with most clubs newly formed and still learning the rules of the game, basing the event in the inaugural year 1867 provides support for more of a demonstrative, less- skilled game than might have been expected from more seasoned clubs in subsequent years. Also, a focus on the sport’s inaugural season of organization provides an effective interpretive tool for event participants, as they have a direct and compelling reason to interpret the rules and organization of the “new” game to the visiting public.
  
2. As companies of the First Oregon Volunteer Infantry were either disbanded or not stationed at Fort Vancouver during the season of base ball in 1867, it is important to work with the members of the local reenactor group in redefining their role in the special event. Luckily, it should only take relatively few minor steps to adapt the existing organization into one that was present in

1867, such as the swapping out of more appropriately colored chevrons. This study recommends that the unit portray Battery F of the Second U.S. Artillery, as they were the company present for the longest period of time during the season of 1867. Further research may also demonstrate whether it may be historically accurate for this unit to utilize the park's new mountain howitzer in the context of this event, possibly even adding a bang to the special event. If portrayal of Battery F of the Second U.S. Artillery is not possible, two other options are the First U.S. Cavalry Field Staff and Band, or Troop C of the Eighth U.S. Cavalry. Unfortunately, the summer of 1867 found no infantry units part of the post's regular garrison.<sup>89</sup>

3. For visitors and participants to gain an accurate understanding of base ball in 1867, it is important to build in the formality and organization that so drove the clubs and their activities. Local examples from this study may be complimented with the text of *Beadle's* to add credence to the event while imparting a flavor of the game's structure. With visitors most accustomed to the professional nature of the modern game, it is important to impart the club-based social (and non-professional) organization of base ball in 1867. This study provides numerous examples for potential adaptation.

4. Clubs were structured organizations very different from our present-day professional teams. As such, reference to the teams was different than we

know today. For example, today we refer to teams as the Portland Beavers or the Cincinnati Reds, with the team name preceded by the city name, and it would be easy—although not historically accurate—to refer to the team as the Vancouver Occidentals. In 1867, however, the teams were referred to differently; with the title Occidental Base Ball Club of Vancouver used. For historical accuracy, the name Occidental Base Ball Club, Occidental Club, Occidentals, or Occidental Base Ball Club of Vancouver should be used when referring to the team. Likewise, contests should be referred to with terms such as Match Games or Challenge Matches.

5. In addition to the players and umpire on the field, this study recommends the addition of several other living history personas to complement the event and provide a more effective and holistic interpretive experience for visitors.
  - a. **Scorers:** It is recommended that the park develop living history personas for two scorers—one from each club. Accounts show that each team provided one male scorer for a match game. The scorer recorded the total game statistics, including runs, hits, put outs, total game time, and time each club had the bat. They also wrote a brief narrative account and provided it to the newspapers. As the scorers' area was to be "kept entirely clear of all persons," the roles would be primarily functional ones, such as gathering the game's statistics, that

would demonstrate the formality and organization of match games. However (see below) interaction with reporters could provide a colorful interpretive opportunity where appropriate.

- b. **Newspaper Reporters or Correspondents:** It is recommended that the park develop living history personas for reporters from such newspapers as the *Vancouver Register*, *Portland Morning Oregonian*, *Oregon Herald*, and *Oregon City Enterprise*. Although the scorers submitted their official accounts to local newspapers, reporters or correspondents often attended and wrote of the match games. Citizens in such a position “who are regularly engaged to report matches to the press” were highly regarded, and allowed unprecedented access—for example, they were the only people allowed near the scorers’ table. According to Beadle’s, they were “entitled to every attention under such circumstances, in return for their efforts to promote the interests of the game by giving publicity to the many contests that take place.”<sup>90</sup> To avoid “annoyance” to the scorers, rules dictated that “reporters should furnish the scorers with blank sheets containing the requisite headings only, for them to fill up at the close of the game.” Knowledge of the game was essential, and these same rules dictated full competency of every regular reporter. Such a position could be utilized in roaming around the crowd, asking questions and providing insight

into the match while the game is in progress. This has been a difficulty in the past, and such a position might better explain the game and better link the public to what is occurring on the field. It may also provide a brief, personal respite for visitors, as well as a one- on- one opportunity for interaction during the match.

- c. **Band:** According to the Army's post returns for Fort Vancouver in the summer of 1867, there existed a post band as well as the field staff and band from the First U.S. Cavalry Regiment. As one of the past successes of the Vintage Base Ball special event has been the participation of the band, their role can be more fully utilized by developing them into one (or both) of these roles, thus adding a significant opportunity for interpreting one of the many roles of Army units while in garrison and away from the battlefield.
  
- d. **Other Club Members:** Club officers and members, including a club's second nine, were most probably in attendance at match games, as they were official club functions as well as the *raison d'etre* for the club's existence. There is also evidence that members of other clubs, including players, traveled to view match games (for instance, members of the Clackamas Club traveled to Vancouver to observe the Occidental's first match game with the Pioneers). With club officers



including a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and three directors, there exists a wealth of opportunity for additional living history personas to be developed. Like the reporters, such a position could be utilized in roaming around the crowd, asking questions and providing insight into the match while the game is in progress. This has been a difficulty in the past, and such a position might better explain the game and better link the public to what is occurring on the field. It may also provide a brief, personal respite for visitors, as well as a one-on-one opportunity for interaction during the match.

6. **Uniforms:** This study also recommends changes to the uniforms worn by the Occidental Club. The only known image of base ball club members from the era is a collage photo of the members of the Pioneer Base Ball Club of 1866 in the collection of the Oregon Historical Society Research Library (negative number OrH 66815). The uniform shirt appears to be a v-necked outer shirt with fireman-style placard on the front, with a collared shirt and tie worn underneath. Mike Curtis- a park volunteer, member of the First Oregon Volunteer unit and a founder of a Pioneer Base Ball Club vintage team- - has produced a version of the uniform shirt for use by members of his newly-forming club (see image below). With no other examples known, and with the Pioneer Club one of the established clubs in 1867 that new clubs modeled, it is highly probable that the Occidentals' uniforms resembled those of the

Pioneer Club. This study recommends adopting a similar design, with the letters “O.B.B.C.” placed in the center.



Reproduction of 1866 Pioneer Club of Portland Base Ball Uniform Shirt (photo courtesy of Mike Curtis).

7. Several additional activities could be added to the park’s base ball special event to broaden the visitor experience.
  - a. **Pic-Nics:** Afternoon outdoor excursions, replete with baskets of food, known as Pic- Nics, were very popular, especially among clubs, schools, churches, and other organizations. For example, the Good Templars of Oregon City hosted a May Day Pic- Nic in 1867 that featured music, the crowning of a queen and maids of honor, and “one

of the jolliest dinners on record.”<sup>91</sup> Base ball featured prominently at pic-nics, both as a featured activity and as the main draw. “The boys of the Base Ball Club had a lively game,” noted one pic-nic account, “while the girls ran some merry races on the greensward.”<sup>92</sup> At a base ball match on July 4, “the admirers of the game are invited to participate in a basket Pic nic, to be held at or near the grounds.”<sup>93</sup> With an investment in pic-nic related materials, such as quilts, linen napkins, utensils, baskets, and others, additional opportunities for visitor contacts abound.

- b. **Women’s Base Ball:** In a letter to the Oregon Herald on September 15, 1867, Barney O’Ragan inserted an intriguing addendum. “I did hear that a ladies base ball match is to come off in this city some time next week. If it does you may hear from me again.” Although supporting evidence of such a match has not yet come to light, it points to an interest in playing base ball among area women. This presents a compelling interpretive component to park programming, as it opens many doors for interpretation. For example, it could provide for additional discussion amongst both male and female personas, it could stimulate discussion of the traditional and non-traditional roles of Victorian-era women, and it could even be the basis for an experimental demonstration.

## **Appendix C: Other Area Occurrences and Issues in 1867**

*In an effort to inform the staff and volunteers who may use this study for implementing changes to the Vintage Base Ball special event and complementing future historical interpretation, the following is a brief list of other occurrences and issues that were prominent in the area in 1867.*

### **Soldier & Civilian Interaction**

In May 1867, as area base ball clubs were forming, a row involving soldiers and civilian authorities broke out in Vancouver's "Mt. Hood hurdy gurdy saloon" resulting in the death of one soldier and the severe wounding of Vancouver's city marshal.<sup>94</sup> The *Vancouver Register*, quick to assert that the "intense excitement" reported by the Portland papers did not exist, found that local citizens "had some apprehension of a difficulty at night, but the most felt that there was no danger of an outbreak on the part of the soldiers."<sup>95</sup>

### **Smallpox**

Smallpox emerged as a major concern in Oregon in 1867, and citizens were urged to "take the usual precautionary measures."<sup>96</sup> One of these precautions was vaccination. By April, Dr. Forbes Barclay, the former surgeon for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver who had moved to Oregon City around 1850, was "prepared with good vaccine to perform the operation."<sup>97</sup>

## Concerts & Parades

Vancouver offered unique excursion opportunities – military concerts and parades. For example, the steamer ranger advertised a departure time of 10:00 a.m. in order to arrive “in time for the *Military Dress Parade* at the Garrison.”<sup>98</sup> In addition, what was reported as the first match game in the state in 1866 in Oregon City featured a brass band parade.<sup>99</sup>

## Other Popular Matches

Match games were not exclusively limited to base ball clubs; chess matches were popular with the area’s library clubs, and debating clubs engaged in spirited discussion. Proving that the nature/nurture argument dates at least to the spring of 1867, the East Portland Debating Club invited discourse in May on the following topic: “*Resolved*, that man is indebted more to education for his ability than to innate powers.”<sup>100</sup> Organized shooting matches also occurred, often with a purse to the winner.<sup>101</sup> Match races, such as one featuring two horses vying for a \$75 prize over a half mile dash, also garnered popularity.<sup>102</sup> Cricket was also popular in the area. Following one game, “the bats, wickets and ball for a genuine old- fashioned game of Cricket” were brought out on the grounds.<sup>103</sup> In the Oregon City area, the sheriff, county clerk and several merchants revived “this somewhat ancient and honorable game” of quoits, playing several matches in front of the Clackamas County Court House.<sup>104</sup>

## Dancing and Balls

Evidence supports a connection between base ball clubs and formal balls or dance affairs, especially in Vancouver. In addition to the Occidental's ball noted in the study's main text, on May 1, 1867 the Washington Base Ball Club of Vancouver held a ball at Oro Fine Hall in Vancouver, described as, "a success in every sense of the word." "That beautiful set of quadrilles known as the 'Lancers' were introduced for the first time at any ball in this place," reported the *Register*, "the graceful manner in which they were preformed being a subject of cologiam among all."<sup>105</sup> Notably, the ball included townspeople as well as officers from Vancouver Barracks.

## Appendix D: Base Ball Rules and Regulations Effective in 1867

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### ADOPTED BY THE

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASE- BALL PLAYERS

HELD IN NEW YORK, DEC. 12th, 1866.<sup>106</sup>

[N. B.- Amendments In italic.]

SEC. 1. The ball must weigh not less than five and one- half, nor more than five and three- fourths ounces, avoirdupois. It must measure not less than nine and one- half, nor more than nine, and three- fourths inches in circumference. It must be composed of India- rubber and yarn, and covered with leather, and, in all match games, shall be furnished by the challenging club, and become the property of the winning club as a trophy of victory.

SEC. 2. The bat must be round, and must not exceed two and a half inches in diameter in the thickest part. It must be made of wood, and may be of any length to suit the striker.

SEC. 3. The bases must be four in number, placed at equal distances from each other, and securely fastened upon each corner of a square, whose sides are respectively thirty yards. They must be so constructed as to be distinctly seen by the umpire and must cover a space equal to one square foot of surface. The first, second and third bases shall be canvas- bags, painted white, and filled with some soft material; the home base and pitcher's point to be each marked by a flat circular iron plate, painted or enameled white.

SEC. 4. The base from which the ball is struck shall be designated the Home Base, and must be directly opposite to the second base; the first base must always be that upon the right- hand, and the third base that upon the left- hand side of the striker, when occupying his position at the Home Base. And in all match games, a line connecting the home and first base and the home and third base, shall be marked by the use of chalk, or other suitable material, so as to be distinctly seen by the umpire.

SEC. 5. The pitcher's position shall be designated by two lines, *two* yards in length drawn at right angles to a line from home to second base, having their centers upon that line at two fixed iron plates, placed at points fifteen and sixteen and one third yards distant from the home base. The pitcher must stand within the lines, and must deliver the ball as near as possible over the center of the home base, and fairly for the striker.

SEC. 6. Should the pitcher repeatedly fail to deliver to the striker fair balls, for the apparent purpose of delaying the game or for any cause, the umpire, after warning him, shall call one ball, and if the pitcher persists in such action, two and three balls; when three balls shall have been called, the striker shall take the first base; and should any base be occupied at that time, each player occupying it or them shall take one base with- out being put out. *All balls delivered by the pitcher, striking the ground in front of the home base, or pitched, striking the batsman, or pitched to the side opposite to that which the batsman strikes from, shall be considered unfair balls.*

SEC. 7. The ball must be pitched, not jerked or thrown, to the bat; and whenever the pitcher moves with the apparent purpose or pretension to deliver the ball, he shall so deliver it, and must have neither foot in advance of the front line or off the ground at the time of delivering the ball; and if he fails in either of these particulars, then it shall be declared a balk. *The ball shall be, considered jerked, in the meaning of the rule if the pitcher's arm touches his person when the arm is swung forward to deliver the ball; and it shall be regarded as a throw if the arm be bent at the elbow, at an angle from the body, or horizontally from the shoulder, when it is swung forward to deliver the ball. A pitched ball is one delivered with the arm straight, and swinging perpendicularly and free from the body.*

SEC. 8. When a balk is made by the pitcher, every player running the bases is entitled to one base, without being put out.

SEC. 9. *The striker shall be considered a player running the bases as soon as he has struck a fair ball.*

SEC. 10. *Any ball, delivered by the pitcher, on which a balk or a ball has been called, shall be concerned dead and not in play un- til it have been settled in the hands of the pitcher, while he stands within the lines of his position; and no such ball, if hit, shall put the striker out.*

SEC. 11. If the ball, from a stroke of the bat, first touches the ground, the person of a player, or any other object, behind the range of home and the first base, or home and the third base, it shall be termed foul, and must be so declared by the umpire, unasked. If the ball first touches the ground, either upon, or in front of the range of those bases, it shall be considered fair.

SEC. 12. A player making the home base shall be entitled to score one run.

SEC. 13. If three balls are struck at, and missed, and the last one is not caught, either flying or upon the first bound, it shall be considered fair, and the striker must attempt to make his run.

SEC. 14. The striker is out if a foul ball is caught, either be- fore touching the ground or upon the first bound.



SEC. 15. Or, if three balls are struck at and missed, and the last is caught, either before touching the ground, or upon the first bound; *provided the balls struck at are not those on which the balls or balks have been called; or not those struck at for the purpose of willfully striking out.*

SEC. 16. Or, if a fair ball is struck, and the ball is caught without having touched the ground.

SEC. 17. Or, if a fair ball is struck, and the ball is held by an adversary on first base, before the striker touches that base.

SEC. 18. Any player running the bases is out, if at any time he is touched by the ball while in play in the hands of an adversary without some part of his person being on the base.

SEC. 19. No *run* or base can be made upon a foul ball; such a ball shall, be considered dead, and not in play until it shall first have been settled in the hands of the pitcher. In such cases, players running bases shall return to them, and maybe put out in so returning, in the same manner as when running to the first base.

SEC. 20. No *run* or base can be made when a fair ball has been caught without having touched the ground; such a ball shall be considered alive and in play. In such case, players running the bases shall return to them, and may be put out in so returning, in the same manner as when running to first base; but players, when balls are so caught may run their bases immediately after the ball has been settled in the hands of the player catching it.

SEC. 21. The striker, *when in the act of striking, shall not step forward or backward, but* must stand on a line drawn through the center of the home base, not exceeding in length three feet from either side thereof, and parallel with the line occupied by the pitcher. He shall be considered the striker until he has *struck a fair ball*. Players must strike in regular rotation, and, after the first innings is played, the turn commences with the player who stands on the list next to the one who lost the third hand.

SEC. 22. Players must take their bases in the order of striking; and when a fair ball is struck, and not caught flying, the first base must be vacated, as also the second and- third bases, If they are occupied at the same time. Players may be put out on any base, under these circumstances, in the same manner as when running to the first base.

SEC. 23. Players running bases must touch them; and so far as possible, keep upon the direct line between them; and must touch them in the following order: first, second, third and home; and if returning must reverse this order; and should any player run three feet out of this line, for the purpose of avoiding the ball in the hands of an adversary, he shall be declared out.

SEC. 24. Any player, who shall intentionally prevent an adversary from catching or fielding the ball, shall be declared out.

SEC. 25. If the player is prevented from making a base, by the intentional obstruction of an adversary, he shall be entitled to that base, and not be put out.

SEC. 26. If an adversary stops the ball with his hat or cap, or if a ball be stopped by any person not engaged in the game, or if it be taken from the hands of any one not engaged in the game, no player can be put out unless the ball shall first have been settled in the hands of the pitcher, *while he stands within the lines of his position.*

SEC. 27. If a ball from the stroke of a bat is held under any other circumstances than as enumerated in Section 22, and without having touched the ground, the striker is out.

SEC. 28. If two hands are already out, no player running home at the time the ball is struck, can make a run to count in the score of the game if the striker is put out by a fair catch, by being touched between home and first base, or *by the ball being held by an adversary on the first base, before the batsman reaches it.*

SEC. 29. An innings must be concluded at the time the third hand is put out.

SEC. 30. The game shall consist of nine innings to each side, when, should the number of runs be equal, the play shall be continued until a majority of runs upon an equal number of innings shall be declared, which shall conclude the game.

SEC. 31. In playing all matches, nine players from each club shall constitute a full field, and they must have been regular members of the club which they represent, and no other club, either in or out of the National Association, for thirty days immediately prior to the match. Position players and choice of innings shall be determined by captains previously appointed for that purpose by the respective clubs.

SEC. 32. The umpire shall take care that the regulations respecting the ball, bats, bases, and the pitcher's and strikers position are strictly observed. He shall be the judge of fair and unfair play, and shall determine all disputes and differences which may occur during the game; he shall take special care to declare all foul balls and balks immediately upon their occurrence, *and when a player is put out, in what position and manner,* unasked, in a distinct and audible manner. He shall, in every instance, before leaving the ground, declare the winning club, and shall record his decision in the books of the scorers.

SEC. 33. In all matches, the umpire shall be selected by the captains of the respective sides, and shall perform all the duties enumerated in Section 32,

except recording the game, which shall be done by two scorers, one of whom shall be appointed by each of the contending clubs.

SEC. 34. No person engaged in a match, either as umpire, scorer or player, shall be either directly or indirectly interested in any bet upon the game. Neither umpire, scorer, nor player shall be changed during a match, unless with the consent of both parties, *except for reason of illness or injury, or for a violation of this law*, and then the umpire may dismiss any transgressors.

SEC. 35. The umpire in any match shall determine when play shall be suspended, and if the game can not be concluded it shall be decided by the last even innings, provided five innings have been played; and the party having the greatest number of runs shall be declared the winner.

SEC. 36. Clubs may adopt such rules respecting balls knocked beyond or outside the bounds of the field, as the circumstances of the ground may demand; and these rules shall govern all matches played upon the ground, provided that they are distinctly made known to every player and umpire previous to the commencement of the game.

SEC. 37. No person shall be permitted to approach or to speak with the umpire, scorers, or players, or in any manner to interrupt or interfere during the progress of the game unless by special request of the umpire.

SEC. 38. No person shall be permitted to act as umpire or scorer in any match, unless he shall be a member of a Baseball Club governed by these rules.

SEC. 39. Whenever a match shall have been determined upon between two clubs, play shall be called at the exact hour appointed; and should either party fail to produce their players within thirty minutes thereafter, the party so failing shall admit a defeat *and shall deliver the ball before leaving the ground; which ball must be removed by the club who are ready to play, and the game shall be considered as won, and so forfeited in the list of matches played; and the winning club shall be entitled to a score of nine runs for any game so forfeited unless the delinquent side fail to play on account of the recent death of one of its members, and sufficient time has not elapsed to enable them to give their opponents due notice before arriving on the ground.*

SEC. 40. Any match game played by any club in contravention of the rules adopted by this Association, shall be considered null and void, and shall not be counted in the list of match games won or lost, unless a game be delayed by rain beyond the time appointed to commence the same. Any match game can be put off by mutual consent of the parties about engaging in the game. No match game shall be commenced in the rain.

SEC. 41 No person who all all be in arrears to any other club or shall at any time receive compensation for his services as a player shall be competent to play in

any match. *All players who play base- ball for money, place or emolu- ment, shall be regarded as Professional Players, and no profes- sional player shall take part in any match game; and any club giving compensation to a player, or having to their knowledge a player in their nine playing in a match for compensation, shall be debarred from membership in the National Association, and they shall not be considered by any club belonging to this Association as a proper club to engage in a match with; and should any club so engage with them they shall forfeit membership.*

SEC. 42. Should a striker stand at the bat without striking at good balls repeatedly pitched to him, for the apparent pur- pose of delaying the game, or of giving advantage to a player, the umpire, after warning him, shall call one, strike ,and if he persists in such action, two and three strikes. When three strikes are called he shall be subject to the same rules as if he had struck a fair ball.

SEC. 43. Every match hereafter made shall be decided by the best two games out of three, unless a single game shall be mutually agreed upon by the contesting clubs.

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From the 29 June 1866 *Wilkes' Spirit of the Times*, page 328, col. 1:

THE NEW RULES.- - - The official organ of the National Association published the rule as ordered to be changed by President Gorman. The following is the copy of the order sent to all clubs:

"NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASE BALL PLAYERS,  
WASHINGTON, June 17, 1867,

"SIR: My attention has been called by Dr. J. B. Jones, Chairman of the Committee of Rules of the National Association, to an error in the printed rules for 1867.

"An examination of the original minutes of the Association satisfies me that such is the fact, and I therefore deem it my duty to inform you, and through you your club, that the correct reading of the rule in question is as follows:

"Sec. 10: If a batsman strikes a ball on which the ball has been called, no player can make a base on such a strike, nor can any player make a base if the batsman strikes a ball on which two balls have been called, nor if he strikes a ball on which three balls have been called can more than one base can be made by each player occupying bases ; in the latter event the batsman shall also be entitled to one base. If he strikes a ball on which a baulk has been called, sections eight and nine of the rules shall apply. In either case the ball shall be

considered dead and not in play until settled in the hands of the pitcher ; in neither case shall it be considered a strike ; and if a batsman wilfully [sic] strikes at a ball out of the fair reach of the bat, for the purpose of striking out, it shall not be considered a strike.'

"On and after receipt of this communication all play in which your club is concerned will be governed accordingly.

"Very respectfully ARTHUR P. GORMAN, President, N. A. B. B. P.

"To the corresponding secretary of the \_\_\_\_\_ B. B. Club, \_\_\_\_\_."

This rule goes into effect from the date of its appearance in the *Chronicle*, June 20th.

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon City *Enterprise*, 27 July 1867.

<sup>2</sup> Portland *Morning Oregonian*, 5 August 1867.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 15 October 1866.

<sup>5</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 4 August 1866.

<sup>6</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 28 July 1866.

<sup>7</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 1 September 1866.

<sup>8</sup> *Morning Oregonian* 18 May 1867.

<sup>9</sup> *Enterprise*, 29 June 1867.

<sup>10</sup> *Enterprise*, 18 May 1867.

<sup>11</sup> Vancouver *Register*, 12 October 1867.

<sup>12</sup> *Enterprise*, 27 July 1867.

<sup>13</sup> *Enterprise*, 01 June 1867.

<sup>14</sup> Quoted in *Enterprise*, 22 June 1867.

<sup>15</sup> Documents of the Highland Base Ball Club, MSS 317, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*; *Enterprise*, 25 May 1867; *Morning Oregonian*, 14 May 1867.

<sup>17</sup> Henry Chadwick, *Beadle's Dime Base Ball Player: A Compendium of the Game* (Morgantown, PA: Sullivan Press, 1996), reprinted edition, 37.

<sup>18</sup> Documents of the Highland Base Ball Club, MSS 317, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Enterprise*, 23 March 1867.

<sup>22</sup> *Enterprise*, 4 May 1867.

<sup>23</sup> *Enterprise*, 3 August 1867.

<sup>24</sup> *Enterprise*, 4 May 1867.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> Documents of the Highland Base Ball Club, MSS 317, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

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- <sup>27</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 16 September 1867.
- <sup>28</sup> Documents of the Highland Base Ball Club, MSS 317, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.
- <sup>29</sup> *Enterprise*, 27 July 1867.
- <sup>30</sup> *Enterprise*, 27 July 1867.
- <sup>31</sup> Documents of the Highland Base Ball Club, MSS 317, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.
- <sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*; *Enterprise*, 3 August 1867.
- <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>34</sup> Documents of the Highland Base Ball Club, MSS 317, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.
- <sup>35</sup> *Enterprise*, 13 July 1867.
- <sup>36</sup> See the *Enterprise*, 25 May 1867 and the *Morning Oregonian*, 14 May 1867.
- <sup>37</sup> Compare the newspaper account of the Clackamas Club in the *Enterprise*, 8 June 1867, with the Highlander Club's meeting minutes from 25 July 1867.
- <sup>38</sup> For example, see *Morning Oregonian*, 25 May 1867.
- <sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>40</sup> *Oregon Herald*, 11 May 1867.
- <sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, *Enterprise*, 18 May 1867.
- <sup>42</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 30 May 1867.
- <sup>43</sup> *Herald*, 30 May 1867.
- <sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>45</sup> *Enterprise*, 01 June 1867.
- <sup>46</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 30 May 1867.
- <sup>47</sup> *Herald*, 30 May 1867.
- <sup>48</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 1 June 1867.
- <sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>53</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 25 May 1867.
- <sup>54</sup> Evidence suggests that B.O.R. may be Barney O'Ragan, who occasionally sent correspondence of activities in Vancouver to the *Herald*. For example, see the *Herald*, 15 September 1867.
- <sup>55</sup> *Herald*, 31 May 1867.
- <sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>57</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 1 June 1867.
- <sup>58</sup> *Enterprise*, 3 August 1867.
- <sup>59</sup> *Enterprise*, 3 August 1867.
- <sup>60</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 14 September 1867.
- <sup>61</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 23 September 1867.
- <sup>62</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 1 June 1867.
- <sup>63</sup> United States Army, Post Returns, Fort Vancouver, May 1867 (National Archives Microfilm Publication M617, Roll 1316), National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.
- <sup>64</sup> Post Returns, July & August 1867. Officers stationed at the post in July included the post commander, Capt. William Kelley from Company C of the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry; the regimental and post adjutant, Bvt. Capt. J.H. Hall of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cavalry; First Lt. John McGilvray, commanding Company F of the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Artillery, and Second Lt. C.E. Kilbourne, Company C of the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry.
- <sup>65</sup> The location of additional editions of the *Vancouver Register* from 1867 might provide additional evidence.

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- <sup>66</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 28 September 1867.
- <sup>67</sup> *Register*, 16 November 1867.
- <sup>68</sup> *Register*, 16 November 1867.
- <sup>69</sup> *Register*, 16 November 1867.
- <sup>70</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 14 May 1867.
- <sup>71</sup> Harriet L. Smith, *Forbes Barclay and His Family: An Oregon Vignette*, 6.
- <sup>72</sup> *Enterprise*, 4 May 1867.
- <sup>73</sup> *Enterprise*, 13 July 1867.
- <sup>74</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 28 September 1867.
- <sup>75</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>76</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>77</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>78</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>79</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>80</sup> United States Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census of the United States, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon (National Archives Microfilm Publication M593, Roll 1287), National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.
- <sup>81</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>82</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 18 May 1867 & 1 June 1867; United States Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census of the United States, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington Territory (National Archives Microfilm Publication M593, Roll 1683), National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.
- <sup>83</sup> United States Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census of the United States, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington Territory (National Archives Microfilm Publication M593, Roll 1683), National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.
- <sup>84</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>85</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 28 September 1867.
- <sup>86</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>87</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>88</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>89</sup> Company K, 23<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry was briefly associated with the post in May, and a detachment of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, primarily new recruits, stayed at the post for a few days in August and September. See Post Returns, May, August, & September, 1867.
- <sup>90</sup> Chadwick, 30.
- <sup>91</sup> *Enterprise*, 4 May 1867.
- <sup>92</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>93</sup> *Enterprise*, 29 June 1867.
- <sup>94</sup> *Register* 12 May 1867
- <sup>95</sup> Ibid..
- <sup>96</sup> *Enterprise*, 20 April 1867.
- <sup>97</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>98</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 25 May 1867.
- <sup>99</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 15 October 1866.
- <sup>100</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 14 May 1867.
- <sup>101</sup> *Morning Oregonian*, 15 May 1867.
- <sup>102</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>103</sup> *Enterprise*, 6 July 1867.
- <sup>104</sup> *Enterprise*, 27 July 1867.
- <sup>105</sup> *Register*, 9 May 1867.
- <sup>106</sup> Beadle's Dime Base Ball Player, 1867, quoted in "Vintage Base Ball Rules and Customs: 1867 Rules" [document online], available at <http://vbba.org/rules/1867.html>.