

Suffolk County Historical Society

REGISTER

Volume XXVII

Number 3

Robert L. Harrison, **Suffolk County Base Ball** 70-81

The Riverhead Baseball Team 82

Joan Walters Drake, **James Hubbs, American Patriot**..... 83-90

Richard P. Baldwin, **Local Revolutionary War Events** 90-91

Southold / Riverhead Cemetery Transcriptions

Cemetery No. 9: Cutchogue..... 92-100

S. C. H. S. STAFF

Society Director.....Wallace W. Broege

Administrative Ass't./Bookkeeper..... Diane F. Perry

Public Programs and Exhibition Coordinator..... Kathryn M. Curran



The new Huntington Suffolks at the gravesite of John Montgomery Ward in Greenfield Cemetery in 1998. Photo by Robert L. Harrison.

Suffolk County Base Ball

Robert L. Harrison

The Early Teams

The popularity of our national pastime "base ball," as it was called in the 19th century, spread across Long Island in the years immediately following the Civil War. Brooklyn was the hub of this sports activity, while Queens and Suffolk County followed suit with local teams. Nassau County was part of Queens until its formation as a separate county in

1899. The true rivalry for the baseball championship of Long Island was between the Queens and Suffolk clubs.

Most games at this time were played at the county fairs or when challenged by a rival club. One of the earliest games recorded in Suffolk was at the Suffolk County Fair at Greenport in early October of 1867 where the Suffolk Base Ball Club of Huntington played for and won the prized Silver Ball.¹

By the 1870s local teams in Suffolk dotted the map with such names as the Forest City Base Ball Club of East Marion, New Rustics of Shelter Island, Victor Base Ball Club from New Village (now Centereach), The Athletics of Coram, Young Athletics of Yaphank, Suffolk Junior Club of Huntington and Huntington Suffolks of Huntington, The Starties Base Ball Club of Northport, the Patchogue Liberals,² the Winodar Base Ball Club of East Marion, and the Southold Base Ball Club, among many other small and changing teams.

By the 1880s the Oregon Base Ball team from Mattituck was playing ball as was the Babylon Base Ball Club, which may have later evolved into the Babylon Athletic Club. Some summer hotels along the south shore had teams such as The Argyle Hotel and Watson House in Babylon.³ In 1885 the team which became The Cuban Giants started at the Argyle Hotel as the Argyle Athletics. Three years later, the Babylon Seniors and Prospect Nine from Bay Shore had a documented match game between them.⁴

By the 1890s the rules of Baseball were changing, and the papers even started referring to the game by one word. Games between Suffolk County and Queens County became more frequent with the Freeport Athletic Club facing off with their Babylon rivals more than once. Some popular clubs were the Young Suffolks of Huntington, The St. James Nine, The Old Field Club,⁵ The Riverhead Nine,⁶ The Miller Place and Mt Sinai teams, The Bridgehampton Nine, The Islip Nine, and the well-known Hawkins Nine from Ronkonkoma. By the turn of the century, the Stony Brook Indians came into being. The Mattitucks, Peconics and Greenporters from the North Fork were active along with the Bay Shore, Islip, Sayville and Bellport Nine teams from the South Shore.

Most teams were composed of farmers, merchants and students who either rode by horse and cart, stagecoach, or by the Long Island Rail Road to their games. They often changed their names and sometimes had semi-professional players included in their line-ups. One of the rules at the county fairs specified that teams consist of the same players used during that year.⁷

Two of the most famous teams in Suffolk baseball lore were the Hawkins Nine and the Huntington Suffolks. The Hawkins Nine were from Ronkonkoma and had one of the longest durations for any local team. They played off and on from the 1890s until 1935. The heart of the team consisted of the six Hawkins brothers: Samuel, Morris, E. Stansbury,

Ernest, Charles, and Richard.⁸ Each baseball season, they traveled the island playing the sport against all newcomers. In 1895, they played against teams in Hempstead, Bridgehampton, and Mattituck; they won many "Championship" games during their active years. In 1915, after being disbanded for a few years, the Hawkins brothers reorganized their team and continued playing for another twenty years. The Hawkins Nine baseball uniform can be viewed currently at the Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society.

The Huntington Suffolks played for many years under different names including The Huntington Base Ball Club, The Suffolks from Huntington, Young Suffolks, etc. and won the Silver Base Ball in 1867 at the Greenport Fair. They were constantly playing other teams from across the island. In 1888 they journeyed to Mattituck and won overwhelmingly by 19-2 and invited the Oregons back to Huntington for their annual picnic where they beat them again by 14-1.⁹ In 1889, they invited the Bedfords of Brooklyn to engage in a match play on the 4th of July on their field at Cold Spring Hill.¹⁰ Later that summer they defeated the Acmes of New York whose claim to fame was beating the Cuban Giants weeks before.¹¹ A month prior to this game, The Suffolk Baseball Nine of Huntington wanted fifty dollars to play the Atlantics of Brooklyn but were turned down. The East Norwich Centennial (08/03/88) once declared their motto as "though oft' cast down, still undismayed." In 1896, at the Huntington Fireman's picnic, the Young Suffolks played another local club, The Standards, for a Silver Ball. On the Suffolks' side was a player named L. Gildersleeve who had the same surname as two who were in the Suffolk Jr. Club twenty-three years before.¹²

In the early 1990s, Mickey "The Lip" Tangel,¹³ a school teacher, was fascinated by the stories about the Huntington Suffolks and put in a request to the Middle Country Teacher's Association to finance a current old time base ball team. Old time replica uniforms and equipment were bought, and soon an all teacher team was playing base ball by 19th century rules. These new Huntington Suffolks played on for eight more years. They were part of the vintage base ball games at Old Bethpage Restoration Village and even won an 1864 base ball rules championship there. In 1998 the Suffolks went out to Southold and played the local team just as they had one hundred three years earlier.¹⁴

In 1997, three cranks¹⁵ (Al "Old Dutch" Dieckmann, Ed "Pigtail" Elmore, and Jim "Trotter" Dragonetti) formed the Atlantic Base Ball club based on the Brooklyn Atlantic team organized in 1855. The Atlantics are the only team playing by 19th century rules currently based on Suffolk soil. Their home games are played on the grounds of the Smithtown Historical Society in Smithtown. They have played old time baseball games against the Bohemia Fire Department, the Oysterponds Historical Society, and a re-created Bridgehampton team in Montauk, besides participating in a full

schedule of vintage games against other teams throughout the northeast.¹⁶

A Mid-Summer Game

One particularly interesting game in Suffolk baseball history occurred in 1873. The Startle Club of Glen Cove challenged the Suffolk Jr. Club of Huntington to a round robin Long Island championship. The Suffolk Club was composed of 15-19 year olds that attended the Huntington Union School while the Startles were all over 20 years old. In early August on a hot summer's day, the Suffolk team started off on a sixteen mile trip to Glen Cove with only three players. They recruited five more players on the way, making them still one player short for the traditional nine man team. They arrived late and missed eating a hot meal at the Glen Cove Hotel. The next morning no one would cart their baseball equipment to the field, which was more than two miles away, so they walked carrying their equipment to the field. The game was played out to a 7-6 score favoring the Startles, but later the lone umpire admitted to having made two mistakes which would have made the Suffolk team the winner. The line-up of this proud Suffolk eight man team was, C. Russell, G. Shopard, A. Gentry, F. Sammis, Tood, Trodwell, Cicugh and Ireland.¹⁷ A second game was played at Huntington a week later where again the Suffolk team lost 15-13 as the local papers proclaimed, "Queens leads the Van." In this game the Suffolks played with their regular nine including Conklin, Caire, Adams, J. Gildersleeve, T. Gildersleeve and Shadbolt.¹⁸

This game most likely was played without gloves, and, if played under the 1873 rules, the striker (batter) could ask for where he wanted the ball pitched (high, low, etc);¹⁹ the pitcher in turn threw underhanded; and the lone umpire only spoke to the captains of the teams. A fly ball could be caught on a bounce, and the striker would be declared out. These rules varied from place to place and changed rapidly in the next twenty years.²⁰ The catcher was soon allowed to wear a small glove because he received the most injuries in a game. Overhanded pitching was introduced; the number of balls and strikes became uniform; and by the end of the century the game resembled the one we know today.

Most of these baseball challenges occurred at the local and county fairs where the bragging rights and a silver ball or bat were given to the victors. The Queens County Fair in Mineola was one of the largest on the island and offered up a silver ball to the winner at its annual event. But most teams that competed there were from Queens or Brooklyn. Horse racing was still a very popular sport in rural Suffolk and Queens, and the baseball field lay inside the horse racing track at that Mineola fair²¹ as well as at the Huntington fair.

The Silver Bat

In 1876, on the centennial of our country, many championship games took place across Long Island, but none other is so mysterious as the one won by Louis V. Bell. In a trophy case on the second floor at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, is displayed a silver bat engraved with "Championship Long Island League 1876 won by Louis V. Bell." John B. Odell, the Curator of History and Research at the Hall, contacted Wallace W. Broege, Director of the Suffolk County Historical Society, about the history of this bat.²² Wally searched his files and enlisted the help of this author to find out more about this Suffolk County lost relic.²³ The facts about the life and times of Suffolk's Louis V. Bell provided many clues about this prized silver bat, but its origin still eludes us.

It was discovered that the Bell family went back many generations in American history. Louis V. Bell (1853-1925) was a stock broker, businessman, horse owner, sportsman, and art collector. Louis held a seat on the New York Stock Exchange and lived in Manhattan while having a residence in Cold Spring Harbor. His brother Edward Bell was also wealthy, and when Edward died in Southampton in 1902, he left an estate valued at over one million dollars. In 1886, Louis, along with several others, incorporated the Huntington Live Stock Fair Association that included a race track and ball field in the Huntington area.²⁴ In 1889, Louis did donate a silver bat to be competed for at the Live Stock Association Fair that September.²⁵ During the next few years, Louis was involved in horseracing against some of the most prominent thoroughbred owners in the east. At his death in 1925, The *New York Times* obituary mentioned his vast art collection. The Metropolitan Museum of Art today has a Louis V. Bell Fund as one of their resources in acquiring rare art pieces.

John B. Odell, from the Baseball Hall of Fame, did find a box score from 1876 that had a first baseman named Bell on the Friendly Club in Syosset (near Cold Spring Harbor) when they played the Brooklyn Witakas Club.²⁶

None of the other prized silver bats or balls that were played for has reappeared from that century. Even the silver bat that August Belmont's brother donated in 1889 to a contest in Hempstead has not been found.²⁷ The only one left sits in the National Baseball Hall of Fame for all to see.

The Players

The Fishel family from Babylon Village were a prominent force in social, business, and sports in the Babylon area in the late 19th century. One of the first mentions of this sports-minded family appeared in the *Brooklyn Eagle* in 1887. In late summer of that year, the guests of the

Argyle Hotel formed a Base Ball team that rode over to the Babylon Base Ball field in some stagecoaches trimmed with bunting and waving flags to challenge the guests of the Watson House of that village. On the Watson House team were cousins Harry and Gustave Fishel who, along with their teammates on this Watson Nine, put away the dreams of the Argyle Hotel guests by the score of 16-1.²⁸

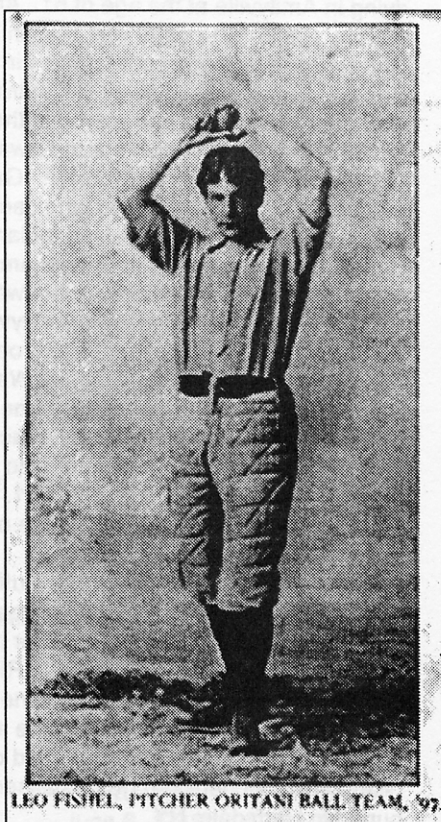
In another game the next year, Harry Fishel was the catcher for the Babylon Seniors who played a select Bay Shore team called the Prospects. In this game Gustave also played and scored three hits which contributed to their 9-6 win for this "ancient" Babylon Nine club.²⁹

In 1891 an unusual game occurred between the Babylon Nine and the Freeport Athletic Nine when the Freeport team walked off the field in protest of a call by an umpire named Fishel.³⁰ In 1896, Harry Fishel was the catcher for the new Islip Nine which he helped organize.

During these years, Harry's younger brother Leo was just a teenager, but he would soon come into his own in Suffolk baseball lore.³¹ Leo Fishel (1877-1960), born in Babylon, also started playing baseball for some of the Suffolk County teams.

In 1898, Leo was a pitcher for the Bridgehampton team in a championship game against the Peconic Nine. In that game, Leo made local baseball history by striking out 22 men and only giving up one hit and a walk. Leo's feat of striking out 12 batters in succession may still stand in amateur baseball history in Suffolk.³²

At this time, Leo was attending and playing for Columbia University. In 1899, when Leo was a senior, the New York Giants



LEO FISHEL, PITCHER ORITANI BALL TEAM, '07.

Photo courtesy of the Fishel family

requested him to pitch for them at the Polo Grounds against the Cleveland Indians. Although Leo lost his only major league game that afternoon in May by a score of 7-3, Leo did strike out six men and even got a hit for his cause.³³ This game turned out to be a milestone in Suffolk County baseball history. Leo was the first Suffolk County born player to make it up to the majors and was later found to be the first Jewish major league pitcher. Later that month Leo graduated from Columbia and became a lawyer in Freeport for the next sixty years. In 1902 Leo became one of the founders and a pitcher of the South Side Base Ball League in Freeport.³⁴ The New York Times reported that Leo missed his start pitching that next summer because he eloped to Manhattan to get married.³⁵

Suffolk County had other players who made it to the majors including Henry Austin (1844-1895)³⁶ who was born in Brooklyn and played 23 games of professional baseball in 1873. Henry is listed as dying in Amityville at the age of 51. Another early player was Frank Murphy (1875-1912) who was born in Tarrytown and went to Fordham University. Frank played 80 games in 1901 between the Giants and Boston. Frank passed away in Central Islip. John Valentine (1855-1903) was born in Brooklyn and played in the American Association as a pitcher in 1883 (2-10). John also passed away in Central Islip and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. George Young (1890-1950) was another Brooklyn born player who came up to the majors. George played in one season for the Cleveland Indians in 1913. George later moved to Suffolk County and died in Bridgehampton in 1950. George Ross (1892-1935) was a California born pitcher who played for the New York Giants in 1918. George passed away in Amityville in 1935.

One of the early baseball heroes of the game also lived in Suffolk during this era. John Montgomery Ward (1860-1925) and his second wife Catherine Waas lived on Phelps Lane in North Babylon from 1903-25. "Monte" was a pitcher, shortstop, manager, lawyer and owner in professional baseball.³⁷ "Monte" also was an avid golfer and founded the Long Island Golf Association in 1921.³⁸ He held numerous baseball records during his lifetime and is the only Hall of Fame player buried in either Nassau or Suffolk County.

The 1920s brought us four Suffolk related players including Harold "Hal" Goldsmith (1898-1985) who was born in Peconic, went to St. Lawrence University, and pitched for the Boston Braves and the Cardinals from 1926-29. Hal passed away in Riverhead. Art Gardiner (1899-1954) was born in Brooklyn and pitched one game for the New York Giants in 1923. Art passed away in Copiague at the age of 55. Clint Blume (1898-1973) was also born in Brooklyn and came up with the 1922 New York Giants as a pitcher (3-0). Clint passed away at the age of 75 in Islip but is buried in Hartsdale, NY.

The fourth player to come up to the majors in the twenties was George "Specs" Toporcer (1899-1989).³⁹ "Specs" was born in New York

City and became one of the most popular Suffolk County sports personalities. He was the first infielder to wear glasses in the majors on a full time basis. Only pitchers had done this before him. "Specs" came up to the majors in 1921, playing for St. Louis for seven years, including playing in the 1926 World Series. Afterwards he played and managed in the Rochester League and was inducted into the Rochester Red Wings Hall of Fame in 1989. "Specs" was a two-time MVP for the Red Wings and was the second baseman for an infield that turned 225 double plays, which was more than any other infield in minor or major league history.⁴⁰ Later in the thirties, "Specs" was the manager of a Buffalo team and was hired as the farm director for the Red Sox. In 1944, he wrote his first book about the game called *Baseball, from Backyards to the Big Leagues*. He later appeared in a movie about his life. "Specs" totally quit baseball in 1951 after losing his sight and became an inspirational speaker around his home town, Huntington Station. "Specs" was written about in Lawrence Ritter's classic baseball book *Glory of their Times*. When "Specs" passed away at the age of ninety, his obituary was posted in the *New York Times*, and he was buried in Melville.

Bob Chipman (1918-1973) was the last of the pre-World War II baseball players from Suffolk County. Bob attended school in Northport and was a major league player from 1941-52. Bob pitched for the Chicago Cubs in the 1945 World Series. Bob was honored for his baseball achievements by being inducted into the Suffolk Sports Hall of Fame posthumously in 2006.⁴¹

Suffolk County was still a very rural area up until World War II. The existence of "town ball" baseball still existed up until the late fifties. Because of the population boom after the war, and due to competitive High School and College teams, over 25 Suffolk residents have played in the major leagues since 1950, including Craig Biggio and Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski.

African-American History

African-Americans have touched bases with the history of Suffolk County base ball in many ways. In 1885 at the summer resort Argyle Hotel in Babylon, the head waiter, Frank Thompson, formed a baseball team.⁴² It was called the Athletics of Babylon and was composed of the black staff at the hotel. They played ten games against local white teams that summer and won them all. In one game, a Babylon paper reported them beating the National Club of Farmingdale by a score of 29-1.⁴³ After that first season, the team merged with other black baseball players from other states and formed the Cuban Giants team based in Trenton, N.J. This team would pretend to be made up of Spanish players and would "bound on the field, chirping pidgin espanel."⁴⁴ This may have been because of the prejudice of the times against black baseball players

playing against white teams. They became a successful traveling team and were perhaps the first professional paid black baseball team. These Cuban Giants of Suffolk County origin dominated black baseball for many years until other imitative teams competed against them.

In the 20th century three African Americans who played in the early all-black teams passed away in Suffolk County. The most famous of the trio was "Sol" White (1868-1955) who was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006. White played on the original Cuban Giants and many other African-American teams, batting an average of .324 in one three-year stretch (1889-1891).⁴⁵ White was a baseball player, coach, manager, owner and writer, having written the first black history of the game in his book *White's History of Colored Baseball*.⁴⁶ White may have had ties to Suffolk County, because he died in Pilgrim State Hospital in Central Islip at the age of 87.

Another Suffolk African-American baseball connection was Richard "Cannonball" Redding (1893-1948).⁴⁷ "Cannonball" was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and pitched in the black leagues from 1911-1938. He was 43-12 in 1912⁴⁸ and once had a 17 strikeout perfect game. His baseball career was shortened by being drafted in World War I, but after serving in France during the war he moved to Brooklyn in 1922 and stayed with the Brooklyn Royal Giants until 1938. He once struck out Babe Ruth three times in an after-season exhibition game. In 2006, "Cannonball" was considered for induction to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.⁴⁹ "Cannonball" also passed away at Pilgrim State Hospital and is buried in Pine Lawn Cemetery.

The third Suffolk related African-American baseball player was Edward "Eddie" Douglass (1891-1979) who played in the black leagues from 1918-1929. Eddie may have lived in Suffolk County, for he passed away in Patchogue at the age of 88.

Summary

Suffolk County lagged behind Queens and the future Nassau County in baseball teams and major leaguers. But Suffolk does have three Baseball Hall of Famers who lived here.⁵⁰ The thirst for a competitive game in Suffolk made their players go long distances bearing the hardships of carrying their equipment, renting rooms, and finding scarce write-ups in the local press afterwards. Whenever a "championship" of the island game was at stake, a Suffolk team was almost always in the fray. Inter-county rivalry existed between Suffolk and Queens as games between the Freeport Athletic Club versus their Babylon brothers of the ball were serious affairs. The late nineteenth century in Suffolk was an era of many sports, but it was baseball that brought that home town spirit to the general population more than any other activity. Suffolk also had a unique African-American heritage with

the beginnings of the Cuban Giants there. Today the County has its own Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame in Patchogue, its own professional team, the Long Island Ducks in Islip, and modern baseball fields across the county. I have not cataloged the entirety of names of teams that existed in the 19th century. Perhaps the readers of this article can add to it along with some players and stories of those glory years of baseball when it was a game played to win at the fairs and in farmers' fields.



Post card view of Base Ball Team, Stony Brook, L.I.

SCHS Archives

End Notes

With thanks to-

Wallace W. Broege, James Dragonetti, Ed Elmore, Frederick Fishel, Kevin S. Harrison, Nancy Hines, Jane Jacobs, John B. Odell, Diane F. Perry, Geri Solomon, Dave Stevens and Mickey "The Lip" Tangel. Also to the many fine reference librarians in Nassau and Suffolk.

1. *Brooklyn Eagle*, October 7, 1867, p.2.
2. *The Advance* (Patchogue), November 24, 1877, p.1.
3. *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 14, 1887, "Base Ball at Babylon," p. 12.
4. *Brooklyn Eagle*, June 26, 1888, "Crossing Bats," p.1.
5. R. Hawkins, Smithtown Public Library, e-mail to author, July 28, 2005.
6. *Brooklyn Eagle*, April 10, 1900, "Suffolks' Young Athletes," p.7.
Leone D. Howell was the captain of the Riverhead Nine and arranged games between them and the Southampton Nine.
7. *Brooklyn Eagle*, June 20, 1876, "The Queens County Fair—Trouble About the Base Ball Tournament," p.4.

8. Davis Terry, *Long Island Forum*, February 1942, "That Famous Hawkins Nine," p. 31-2.
9. *East Norwich Centennial*, August 3, 1888.
10. *East Norwich Centennial*, June 15, 1889.
11. *East Norwich Centennial*, August 3, 1889.
12. *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 19, 1896, "Firemen's Games," p. 7. The Standards played with E. Smith, J. Temple, W. Celley, W. Kissam, F. Long, H. Dusenberry, T. Hall, L. Turner and pitcher S. Smith. The Young Suffolks put out a field of A. Allen, C. Drohan, F. Galow, L. Gildersleeve, M. Drohan, B. Conklin, J. Ducharm, P. Bunce and W. Dickerson.
13. Most 19th century ball players had nicknames. In this tradition, Mickey Tangel's nickname "The Lip" is taken from Lipman Pike, one of the first famous Jewish baseball players.
14. Michael Tangel, author's interview with..., April 6, 2006.
15. The word "cranks" meant "fans" in the 19th century.
16. More information including their present schedule of the Atlantics can be found at their website www.geocities.com/atlanticbbc.
17. *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 6, 1873, "Sports and Pastimes—A Good Country Game," p.3.
18. *Glen Cove Gazette*, August 23, 1873, "Base Ball."
19. *Atlantic Base Ball Team Handbook*, 2006.
20. Baseball rules changed frequently with regard to both the equipment and the play of the game.
21. *Brooklyn Eagle*, June 21, 1876, "The Annual Queens County Fair at Mineola—The Grounds," p. 4.
22. John B. Odell, e-mail to Wallace W. Broege, April 4, 2004.
23. Geri Solomon, Assistant Dean of Special Collections, Long Island Studies Institute at Hofstra University, also had their collection and newspaper microfilm searched in the year 1876 for any leads.
24. *Brooklyn Eagle*, November 7, 1886, "New Long Island Corporations," p.1. The officers of the corporation were President H.C. Brown, Treasurer Louis V. Bell, and Secretary G.L. Ackerly.
25. *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 18, 1889, "Down on Long Island—A Prize for Ball Clubs," p. 9. The Huntington Suffolks competed for this prize.
26. *New York Mercury*, August 8, 1876. Note: The 1880 census would place Louis Bell around 23 years old.
27. *Brooklyn Eagle*, September 22, 1889, "The Belmont Bat," p. 9.
28. *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 14, 1887, "Base Ball at Babylon," p.12.
29. *Brooklyn Eagle*, June 26, 1888, "Crossing Bats," p. 1.
30. *Brooklyn Eagle*, August 2, 1891, "Sporting Notes," p.18.
31. According to the census records, this would place Harry as 19 yrs old, Gustave 28 and Leo Fishel 12 yrs old in 1890.
32. *Brooklyn Eagle*, May 27, 1899, "Patchogue, L.I., ...," p.6.
33. *New York Times*, May 4, 1899; "On the Baseball Field."

34. *Brooklyn Eagle*, April 23, 1902, "South Side League," p.7.
35. *New York Times*, July 14, 1903, "Weds Despite Her Father," p. 2.
36. Most of the information found on the baseball players was found on www.baseballalmanac.com, www.baseballreference.com and the *Baseball Encyclopedia*, McMillan N.Y.
37. Natalie Naylor, "A. Long Island's Gentleman Athlete: John Montgomery Ward," *The Nassau County Historical Society Journal*, Volume LVI 2001, pp. 19-24.
38. Dave Stevens, *Baseball's Radical for All Seasons*, The Scarecrow Press, Inc., Lanham, MD, 1998, p. 228.
39. www.baseballlibrary.com
40. www.redwingsbaseball.com
41. Other Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame baseball inductees include Craig Biggio, Sal Butera, John R. Curtis II, Charles Forte, Paul Gibson, Tom "T-Bone" Giordano, John Habyan, Bud Harrelson, Neal Heaton, Bob Kaczynski, Bill Ketcham, Tom Murphy, Rick Schmidt, Gerry Smith, Frank Tepedino, Tom Veryzer, John Montgomery Ward, Doug Wells, Bobby Wine and Carl Yastrzemski.
42. Thomas Loverro, *Encyclopedia of Negro League Baseball*, Checkmark Books, N.Y., p. 7.
43. www.newsday.com/lihistory.
44. Mark Ribowsky, *A Complete History of the Negro Leagues*, Birch Lane Press, 1995.
45. www.baseballhalloffame.org/hofers
46. "First published in 1907 the book has been a rich resource for every book on the subject."- Jay Price, 2006; *State Island Advance*.
47. Many books and web sites have the year 1890 as Cannonball's birth year. Others have 1891, and one has 1893. The 1900 Census has Cannonball listed as ten years old, but his WW I draft registration card filled out by him has 1893. When I found his gravesite at Pine Lawn Cemetery in Farmingdale it had 1893 on the headstone.
48. www.thediamondangle.com.
49. www.baseballhalloffame.org/hofers.
50. John Montgomery Ward lived in Babylon and is buried in Greenfield Cemetery in Hempstead. Carl Yastrzemski grew up in Southampton. Ring Lardner, who is in the Writers Wing, last lived in East Hampton and is buried there.

Robert L. Harrison
 2447 Fifth Avenue
 East Meadow, NY 11554

THE RIVERHEAD BASEBALL TEAM

Oh, pleasant days are these
With baseball in the field,
And pleasant sights when Watkins
The elusive ball doth wield.

Our boys are on the diamond,
All there in proud array.
You want to watch them closely,
They'll make things hum today.

Andreberg there will do his best,
The "catch" is up to him;
He surely will keep watch
For those twirly curves so trim.

George Hildreth is our president,
A "man of justice" he,
And though he is a lawyer
He serves us without fee.

And there's our jolly vice president.
Who can set your nose or knee;
He's always "on the job,"
For "Doc." Payne's a devotee.

Here's to Corwin, the secretary,
And his brother, who keeps the "dough"
And when we "knead" to raise the 'mon'
He uses "Magic," don't you know?

Kenny is our captain brave;
-He's quite a "catch" you know—
This is very true my friends,
For all the ladies vote him so.

Here's to Corwin and Conklin,
And to Mr. Finberg, too;
Oh, Duvall, Walters, and Braxton,
Be careful what you do.

Our boys all love to play baseball,
And this is no fable—
The way they crack the spheroid,
Oh, ain't it awful, Mabel?

We like to watch the little ball—
It surely is great fun;
It goes so high we think
It must have touched the sun.

Here's to the Brooklyn Clinton Club,
Who look so very wise—
Do you know that "Tanglefoot"
Is good for "catching flies?"

Here's to the National Game,
The best in all the land,
And when it's up to Riverhead
Oh, here's our heart and hand.

July 4 1908



Riverhead Baseball Team, Officers, and Directors

Newspaper clipping in Aunt Ida's scrapbook #2 p. 348.

SCHS Archives