

# Essex Base Ball Organization



2013 SEASON

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# 19TH CENTURY BASE BALL



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# Who We Are and What We Do



## Who we are

The Essex Base Ball Organization is a 501c3 non profit vintage base ball group. Established in 2002, The Essex Base Ball Organization plays vintage base ball – baseball according to the rules and customs of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. What began as a single team – the Essex Base Ball Club – is now five teams: The Newburyport Clamdiggers, the Lowell Base Ball Club, the Lynn Live Oaks, the Portsmouth Rockinghams and the Essex Base Ball Club. Each

team is named for an actual baseball team that played in Massachusetts and New Hampshire during the 1860s-1880s.

The teams in the Essex Base Ball Organization play a most weekends from May through early October – against each other, and against other vintage baseball teams from all over the country. In 2013 we will have a four team league based out of Newbury, MA and the Essex Baseball Club will travel the

east coast playing and hosting other vintage base ball clubs.

## Why we do what we do

Obviously, the members of the Essex Base Ball Organization love to play the vintage game. But the organization was founded by people with a passion for history, and from the beginning our goals have been to *educate people on the history of the game and expose more people to the unique style of play in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by playing at a variety of different historical sites.*

# Home Sweet Home: Spencer Peirce Little Farm in Newbury,



Our relationship dates back to 2006 when we decided to play an exhibition at the farm. Our relationship continued each year eventually expanding from one game to two games to making it our home field and playing numerous games each year and hosting teams from all over the country.

In 2010 we established our home field at Spencer Pierce Little Farm in Newbury, MA, a working farm operated by Historic New England. In addition to playing frequent double- and triple-headers that help increase paying visitor traffic, we've participated in major events that draw thousands to the property including several festivals and our annual beer dinner. In the most recent (2011) season these included a Father's Day triple-header featuring Red Sox great Jim Lonborg, the annual Ipswich Fall Fest, and the Newburyport Music Festival.

We set up exhibit boards at every game to educate the public and try our best to allow children the opportunity to take a few swings and run the bases after our games.



# Other Events We Have Done

**The Brewery Ommegang Base Ball Championship**  
 June 11-12, 2011  
 - Cooperstown, N.Y. -

Featuring the Finest Ball Clubs from the East Coast and Midwest

- Bay City Independents (Bay City, Michigan)
- Cleveland Blues Base Ball Club (Cleveland, Ohio)
- Essex Base Ball Club (Danvers, Massachusetts)
- Flemington Neshanock Base Ball Club (Flemington, New Jersey)
- Forest City Base Ball Club (Forest Park, Ohio)
- Ipswich Brewers (Ipswich, Massachusetts)
- Melrose Pomfilders Base Ball Club (Melrose, Massachusetts)
- Pittsburgh Franklin Sons of Thunder BBC (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Vintage Base Ball is the game played by 1860's rules. Clubs use period uniforms, equipment, customs and jargon during match play. The Brewery Ommegang Tournament features 4 clubs from the Midwest versus 4 clubs from the East Coast in a two day tournament to determine the skills of the gentlemen of each region. Clubs will be playing for a cup of regional beer, and the game ball. There will be a total of 16 matches played by the rule sets of 1864 (Round Ball) and 1867 (Oy Ball) on two different fields.

The event is free and open to the public. We encourage crank fans to ask questions of the gentlemen during matches.

[www.ommegang.com](http://www.ommegang.com)



Georges Island, Boston Harbor



Sayville, NY

In Ireland



Tournament Cooperstown, NY



Waltham Historic Days for the Greater Boston Civi War Roundtable



Freeport Maine Exhibition

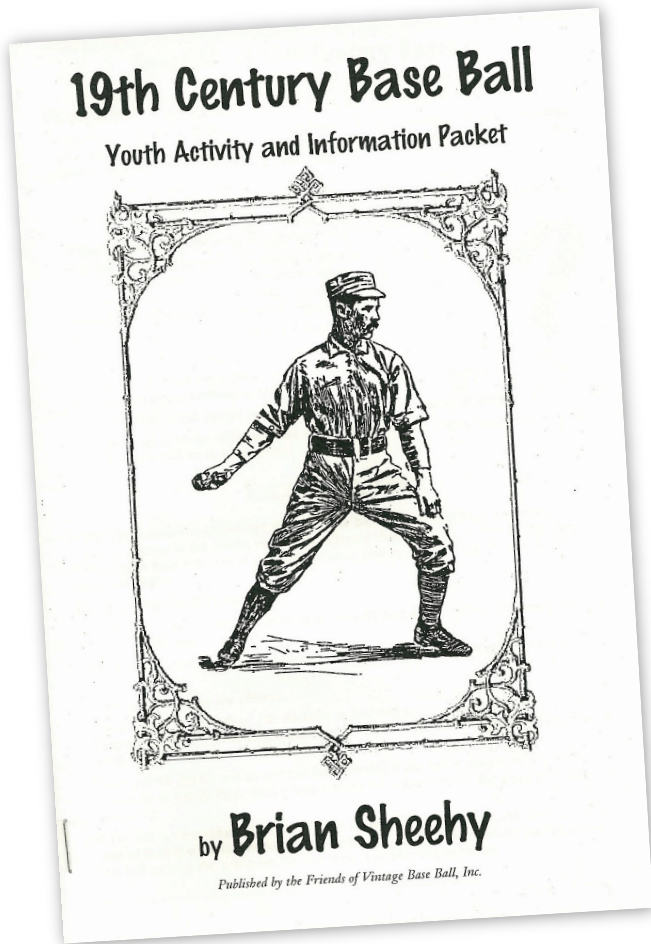
# Work With Kids



One of the major parts of what we do as a group is design programs that we teach young children about the history of baseball through hands of demonstrations. We always encourage kids to hand around after our games and try their hand and take a few swings. We have also host classes for kids and have developed week long clinics for kids to learn and play 19th century baseball. We think that kids can get a better appreciation for our America's pastime by experiencing the early game



# Education



To go along with the hands on things we have done we also created literature that allows children and fans the opportunity to take a part of history home with them. Our President Brian “Cappy” Sheehy, who is an educator developed an activity pack that contains history about 19th century baseball. We also developed baseball cards that have facts on 19th century baseball that we sell at all of our games. Members of our

organization have lectured all over the East Coast on the history of the game. We hope to continue to create programs and provide opportunities for more people to learn about the history of baseball



# Vision for 2013



In 2013 the Essex Base Ball Organization is looking to expand what we did in 2012 and add a fifth team to the Essex County Base Ball Association based out of our home field at Spencer Peirce Little Farm in Newbury, MA. The four teams the Lynn Live Oaks, Lowell Base Ball Club, Portsmouth Rockinghams, and Newburyport Clamdiggers are all historic teams that competed in Massachusetts and New Hampshire in the 19th century. Our goal is to have a league in which people can attend games in the Newbury area just about every

Sunday from May until early October to learn about how baseball was played in 1860's.

The Essex Base Ball Club will continue to play and will be made up of members of the Essex County Base Ball Association. The EBBC will host teams from all over the country and will continue to play exhibitions and travel all over the country to educate the public on 19th century base ball.

Along with games at the farm we would like to host kids clinics to educate children on the history of the game of baseball. Another goal

of the league will be to generate more interest and tourism to the greater Newburyport area.



## **Programs that the Essex Base Ball Club Offers**

### **Exhibition Games.**

The Essex Base Ball Organization offers exhibition games in which one of our teams will come to a venue to play either another vintage club or we could organize a game in which one of our teams plays a team made up of local players. In the past we have played games against fire departments, little league coaches, and other local celebrities. We are flexible on who and where we play.

At these games we will also bring some 19<sup>th</sup> century exhibit boards and handouts explaining the history of 19<sup>th</sup> century base ball and some of the key figures from that time period in an effort to educate the public about the history of the game.

For exhibition like this we usually ask for \$200 to cover travel expenses, equipment costs and upkeep of the exhibit.

### **Kids Games or Kids Clinics**

(ages 8-13)- We offer a one day program in which we teach kids about the history of the game, the evolution of equipment, and then let them play in a game. This program is designed to show students the evolution of the game of baseball through hands on experience.

(Younger than 8) We also offer a program with arts and crafts designed to engage and educate younger students on the history of the game.

Prices for this vary depending on time and location but the usual charge for this is \$100-\$150

### **Week Long Kids Camp on bat and ball games of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century**

This is a week long clinic in which we will introduce students to different bat and ball games from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Topics will include 1861 baseball, townball, 18<sup>th</sup> century cricket, wicket, stoolball. Students will learn the history of these games and see how they all influenced and played a part in the development of baseball. Students will get the opportunity to play games that they have never had the opportunity to play before.

The price for this four or five day clinic will be \$500-\$700 depending on the time and travel.

### **Lecture**

A member of the Essex Base Ball Organization would come to your event and lecture on a topic of 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball. Lectures usually last about 45-60 minutes. Topics can be discussed.

The price for the lecture is usually around \$100-150.