

**A FOUNDING FATHER
OF BASE BALL**



**DANIEL LUCIUS
"DOC" ADAMS, M.D.**

DANIEL LUCIUS "DOC" ADAMS, MD

1814: Born , Mont Vernon, NH

1835: Graduated from Yale

1831-1833: Attended Amherst College,
transferred to Yale in 1833

1838: Graduated from Harvard Medical
School. Practiced medicine with his
father in NH, later Boston

1839: Moved to New York City, set up his medical practice and became actively
involved in treating the poor. Began playing base ball

1845: Joined the newly formed New York Knickerbockers Base Ball Club

- 1839-1862: 1. Played with the New York Base Ball Club and the New York Knickerbockers. (1B, 2B, 3B, SS and umpire) The latter was one of the first organized baseball teams which played under a set of rules similar to the game today.
- June 19, 1846: 2. Played in the "first" officially recognized baseball game at the Elysian Fields, Hoboken, New Jersey
- 1846: 3. Elected Vice-President of the Knickerbockers, and President in '47, '48, '49, '56, '57 and '61, and served as a director in other years.
- 1849/50: 4. Credited with creating the position of shortstop and was the first to occupy it.
5. Personally made the balls and oversaw the making of bats, not only for the Knickerbockers but for other NYC clubs, to standardize the game's equipment.
- 1848, 1853: 6. Elected presiding officer of the first conventions and Rules Committees to standardize the rules of the game.
- 1857/58: 7. Elected presiding officer of the convention of twelve New York teams: the National Association of Base Ball Players was formed.
- The distance between bases was fixed at 90 feet and pitcher's base to home at 45 feet.
 - The length of games was established at 9 innings.
 - Nine-man baseball teams established.
 - He advocated the fly-game, that is, not to allow first bound catches.
- 1858: 8. First umpire to call 3 strikes/out, September 10, Fashion Race Course Games.
- 1861-1862: Married Cornelia Ann Cook of New York City. Resigned from the Knickerbockers. The Club awarded him honorary membership and proclaimed him "The Nestor of Ball Players" (text on www.docadamsbaseball.org)
- 1863-1899: Retired from medicine and moved to Ridgefield, CT. Over time, he became the first president of the Ridgefield (Savings) Bank, a founder and first treasurer of the Ridgefield Library and was elected to the State House of Representatives. In 1888, the family moved to New Haven where his two sons were at Yale's Sheffield Scientific School. He died in 1899 and is buried in New Haven.

Sources: John Thorn: *Baseball in the Garden of Eden* and *SABR: Baseball Biography Project*
Gary O'Maxfield, Roger Ratzenberger, John R. Husman, Fred Ivor-Campbell, many others
and descendants of Doc Adams

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.docadamsbaseball.org



Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams, MD is the fourth from the left.
Knickerbocker vs. Excelsiors, August 2, 1859, South Brooklyn, NY
Score: Excelsiors 20, Knickerbockers 5
Source for date: SABR Pictorial History Committee Newsletter, June, 1999



1862
Doc Adams is in the first row, second from the left.
Members of Knickerbocker Baseball Club



Two buttons from Doc Adams' Knickerbocker uniform
(Private Collection)