

**Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams Selected as SABR’s 2014  
19th Century Overlooked Baseball Legend**

Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams (1814 – 1899) has been selected as the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Overlooked Baseball Legend by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). This recognition comes in the bi-centennial of his birth.

Each year SABR honors a 19th century player, manager, executive or other baseball personality not yet inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Adams’ contributions to the game include the creation of the shortstop position and heading the baseball governing body that established key aspects of today’s baseball game including nine players per team, the nine-inning game, ninety feet between bases and catching the ball on the fly.

Adams was born in Mont Vernon, New Hampshire on November 1, 1814. He graduated from Yale in 1835 and Harvard Medical School in 1838. In 1839, he moved to New York where he established his own medical practice.

Adams joined the New York Base Ball Club in 1840. By 1845, he became a member of the famed Knickerbocker Base Ball Club and was elected as its president two years later. In 1848, he led the committee to revise the rules and by-laws of the Knickerbockers.

Upon retiring from the game and his medical practice, Adams moved to Ridgefield, Connecticut. He became the first president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank, a founder and first treasurer of the Ridgefield Library, and a member of the Connecticut State House of Representatives.

In 1888, the family moved to New Haven, Connecticut where his two sons attended Yale’s Sheffield Scientific School. Adams died in 1899 and is buried in New Haven.

The efforts to have the contributions of Doc Adams recognized by baseball have been led by his great granddaughters, Marjorie Adams of Mystic, Connecticut, and Nancy Downey of New York City and members of the Friends of Vintage Base Ball of Hartford, Connecticut.

“The family is very honored and excited about our great-grandfather’s recognition by an organization (SABR) that has a long tradition of pursuing historical truth and accuracy about our national pastime”, said Marjorie Adams.

Other than baseball historians, not many are aware of Doc Adams’ important contributions to the development of baseball at a seminal time in its history. Selection as SABR’s 2014 Overlooked Baseball Legend is a prestigious acknowledgement of Adams as one of baseball’s true founding fathers. It also represents an important step in the journey to have Adams’ role in the early development of the game recognized with enshrinement in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

More information on Doc Adams and his contributions to the game of baseball can be found at: [www.SABR.org](http://www.SABR.org), [www.DocAdamsBaseBall.org](http://www.DocAdamsBaseBall.org), and [www.FriendsOfVintageBaseBall.org](http://www.FriendsOfVintageBaseBall.org)

Some highlights of Doc Adams’ contributions to the game:

1. He is credited with creating the shortstop position.

**A FOUNDING FATHER OF BASE BALL**



**DANIEL LUCIUS “DOC” ADAMS, M.D.**  
**1814 - 1899**  
[www.DocAdamsBaseBall.org](http://www.DocAdamsBaseBall.org)

2. He headed the Committee to Revise the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP), the first organization governing American baseball playing a crucial role in the establishment of several key aspects that make up the game of baseball, including nine players per team, the nine-inning game, ninety feet between bases and catching the ball on the fly to record an out.
3. He started playing base ball in 1839. He played for both the New York Base Ball Club and the New York Knickerbockers (1845 - 1862). The latter of which was one of the first organized baseball teams which played under a set of rules similar to the game today.
4. He served as the New York Knickerbocker president for 6 years and on the board, in other roles, for another 6 years.
5. He personally made baseballs and oversaw the making of bats, not only for the Knickerbockers but also for other New York City-based clubs in an effort to standardize the game's equipment.
6. The New York Knickerbocker Base Ball Club awarded him an honorary membership and passed a resolution naming him the "Nestor of Ball Players".

**- END -**