



Friends of Vintage Base Ball, Inc.®

P.O. Box 2522 · Hartford, CT 06146
860-956-9465 · info@friendsofvintagebaseball.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Doc Adams Recognized for Contributions to Baseball's Origins

HARTFORD, Conn.—August 1, 2014. Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams has been selected as the 19th Century Overlooked Baseball Legend by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). This honor is the first step towards induction into National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York and is the result of efforts by great-granddaughters Marjorie Adams of Mystic, Connecticut and Nancy Adams Downey of New York City, with the support of the Friends of Vintage Base Ball, for the past two years. Doc played with the New York Knickerbockers from 1845-1862, serving as vice president then president for several years.

Excerpts from the statement released by SABR's Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend Project Committee:

“It is tempting but foolish to attempt to bestow the title “Father of Baseball” on any single individual. Dozens—if not hundreds—of pioneers could claim the title in one way or another. But one of the very first and most influential early pioneers has remained relatively unknown.”

As a player, Adams is credited by most baseball historians with pioneering the shortstop position in 1849 or 1850. Before teams were limited to nine players, any extra players not pitching or covering a base would play in the outfield. Adams was the first to start playing shallow to relay throws from the outfield.

At Adams' suggestion, the first baseball convention of ball clubs met in May 1857 to formalize set rules between clubs and ultimately leading to the formation of the National Association of Base Ball Players. Adams was elected president of the convention and was the first chairman of the Rules Committee. In his leadership positions, Doc played 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 rather than being able to catch the ball on one bounce for an out (the latter not officially gaining universal support until 1864).

“The family is thrilled 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—particularly as 2014 is the bicentennial of Doc's birth” said Marjorie Adams upon learning of the honor.

For more information:

Marjorie Adams, Marjorie@docadamsbaseball.org or info@friendsofvintagebaseball.org

###