



# **A FOUNDING FATHER OF BASE BALL**

**DANIEL LUCIUS "DOC" ADAMS, MD**

**1814 - 1899**

***2015 Top Vote Getter on Pre-Integration Era Ballot,  
National Baseball Hall of Fame***

**Selected by the Society of American Baseball Research:**

***OVERLOOKED 19th CENTURY BASE BALL LEGEND for 2014***

**1814:** Born Mont Vernon, NH

**1835:** Graduated from Yale

**1838:** Graduated from Harvard Medical School

**1839:** Moved to New York City, set up his medical practice.

## **1840: Joined the NEW YORK BASE BALL CLUB**

- 1845:**
- **Joined the newly-formed KNICKERBOCKER BASE BALL CLUB, one of the first organized base ball teams that played under a set of rules similiar to the game today. Played in November 18, 1845 intramural game. Played all positions (except pitcher) and umpired, during his 17 years with the club.**
- 1846:**
- **June 19, played in their first intermural base ball game at the Elysian Fields, Hoboken, New Jersey**
  - **Elected Vice-President of the Knickerbockers, and President in '47-'49, '56, '57 and '61, served as a director in other years.**
- 1849/50:**
- **Credited with creating the position of shortstop and was the first to occupy it.**
  - **Personally made the balls and oversaw the making of bats, for the Knickerbockers and later for other NYC clubs, to standardize the game's equipment.**
- 1848, 1853:**
- **Elected presiding officer of the first conventions and Rules Committees to standardize the rules of the game.**
- 1857/58:**
- **Elected presiding officer of the first convention of fifteen New York/Brooklyn clubs and Chair of the Rules Committee to standardize the rules of play.**
  - **Authored the 'Laws of Base Ball' which was presented to the convention. His 'laws' included:**
    - **9 men per side/9 innings of play - adopted**
    - **90 feet between bases and 45 feet from pitcher's base to home - adopted**
    - **The 'fly' game: not to allow an 'out' on a first bounce - not adopted until 1865**
    - **No wagering by anyone involved in the match - adopted**
- Doc's 'Laws of Base Ball' and the subsequent, accompanying documents sold for \$3.26 million, April 2016: highest paid for any baseball document, second highest paid for any baseball memorabilia to date.**
- 1858:**
- **National Association of Base Ball Players founded. Doc presided as Chair of the Rules Committee until his retirement from the Knickerbockers and the game.**
- 1862:**
- **Resigned from the Knickerbockers, awarded honorary membership and proclaimed The Nestor of Ball Players.**

**1863-1899:** Retired to Ridgefield, CT, 1865. Elected first President of Ridgefield Savings Bank, 1871. Elected to State House of Representatives, 1870. Played in Knickerbocker Reunion Game, 1875. Moved to New Haven where his two sons were at Yale, 1888. Died New Haven, 1899.



Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams, MD is the fourth from the left.  
Knickerbockers 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)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.docadamsbaseball.org](http://www.docadamsbaseball.org)**