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A FOUNDING FATHER OF BASE BALL

Spotlight On Shortstops

Without Doc Adams, Would There Be A Derek Jeter?

Derek Jeter isn't the only shortstop getting attention from the Baseball Hall of Fame this year. The creator of Jeter's position is eligible for inclusion into Cooperstown as well, but his name is unknown to most baseball fans.



DANIEL LUCIUS "DOC" ADAMS, M.D.
1814 - 1899

www.DocAdamsBaseBall.org

Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams M.D., baseball pioneer and the person credited with creating the shortstop position is eligible for the Early Baseball Era Committee ballot this fall. Though he does not have immediate name recognition, his contributions to baseball are known to even the most casual of fans.

John Thorn, Official Historian of Major League Baseball has referred to Adams as "baseball's most important figure not in the Hall of Fame."

"For his role in making baseball the success it is," said Thorn, "Doc Adams may be counted as first among the Fathers of Baseball."

Adams was born in Mont Vernon, New Hampshire in 1814. He graduated from Yale in 1835 and Harvard Medical School in 1838. The following year he moved to New York where he established his own medical practice and became a member of the New York Base Ball Club.

He joined the famed Knickerbocker Base Ball Club shortly after they were founded in 1845, played in its famed June 19, 1846 game, and was elected its president in 1847. In 1848, he led the committee to revise the game's rules and by-laws.

In addition to creating the shortstop position, Adams headed the baseball governing body that established key aspects of today's baseball game including nine players per team, the nine-inning game, and ninety feet between bases.

Adams was on the ballot for the first time in 2015 and missed election into the HOF by two votes. Only a couple of months later, Adams' handwritten Laws of Baseball was rediscovered and sold at auction for \$3.26 million.

Thorn refers to this document as baseball's Magna Carta.

The efforts to recognize Adams' contributions to the game have been led by his great-granddaughters, the late Marjorie Adams who passed away in Connecticut in July, and Nancy Adams Downey of New York.

The two created an educational campaign to illuminate the contributions to the national pastime made by their great-grandfather.

So as the Hall prepares to welcome Derek Jeter among the game's greats, one can wonder how different the celebration might look if not for Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams M.D.

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For more information on Doc Adams, please visit: www.DocAdamsBaseBall.org



A FOUNDING FATHER OF BASE BALL

Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams, M.D.

1814 - 1899

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

Selected **Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legend for 2014** by the Society of American Baseball Research

1814: Born Mont Vernon, NH.

1835: Graduated from Yale.

1838: Graduated from Harvard Medical School.

1839: Moved to New York City.

Established 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 similar to today’s game. 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 “famed” 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.
- 1849/1850:
 - Created 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 New York/Brooklyn base ball 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.
 - 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: ball caught on 1st bounce no longer an ‘out’ – adopted in 1865
 - No wagering by anyone involved in the match - adopted
 - Doc’s handwritten ‘Laws of Base Ball’ and the subsequent, accompanying documents sold for \$3.26 million in April 2016. Highest paid for any baseball document, fourth 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 to State House of Representatives, 1870. Elected first President of Ridgefield Savings Bank, 1871. Played in Knickerbocker Reunion Game, 1875. Moved to New Haven where his two sons were at Yale, 1888. Died New Haven, 1899.