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Doc Adams Old Time Base Ball Festival Raises Awareness Of Long Overlooked Base Ball Pioneer



Saturday was officially “Doc Adams Day” at the [27th Annual Doc Adams Old Time Base Ball Festival](#). The Festival, held at Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Old Bethpage, NY on August 3-4, 2024, is the longest running Vintage Base Ball Festival of its kind. In [2015](#), it was forever renamed in Doc Adams' honor.

Teams from across the country come to play various versions of old-time base ball from the 1850s to 1890s. Players wear vintage uniforms and participate in the sport following the rules and customs of the 19th century game.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman issued a [proclamation](#) declaring Saturday, “Doc Adams Day”, and Dave Franklin, Deputy Commissioner of Nassau County Parks, Recreation and Museums presented it at the event.

Baseball pioneer Doc Adams is eligible for the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s 2025 Classic Baseball Era Ballot to be announced later this year. The finalists will be voted on at the MLB Winter Meetings in December with those elected being inducted as members of the Class of 2025.

Adams’ [contributions to the game](#) include the creation of the shortstop position and helping craft the foundation of the modern game. Official MLB Historian, John Thorn, said “[more than anyone else, he created our game of nine innings, nine men, and ninety-foot basepaths](#)” and referred to him as “baseball’s most important figure not in the Hall of Fame”.

Daniel Lucius “Doc” 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.

Doc joined the New York Base Ball Club in 1840. By 1845, he became a member of the famed Knickerbocker Base Ball Club and served as president, vice-president, director and led the committee to revise the rules of the Knickerbockers.

He was the president of the 1st baseball convention and his “[Laws of Base Ball](#)” were presented at that meeting. Adams’ hand-written draft of the rules were rediscovered and sold at auction in 2015 for \$3.26 million.

Adams served as the head of the National Association of Base Ball Players’ Rules Committee from its inception through his retirement.

Doc Adams was selected [2014 19th Century Overlooked Baseball Legend](#) the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Each year SABR The annual award 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.

To continue to raise awareness of this long-overlooked baseball pioneer, the following [additional events are planned this year](#). The next event will be “A Pitch For Doc Adams” event that will be held on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, NY.

More information on Doc Adams and his contributions to the game of baseball can be found at:

www.DocAdamsBaseBall.org;

[Doc Adams – Society for American Baseball Research \(sabr.org\)](http://DocAdams – Society for American Baseball Research (sabr.org))

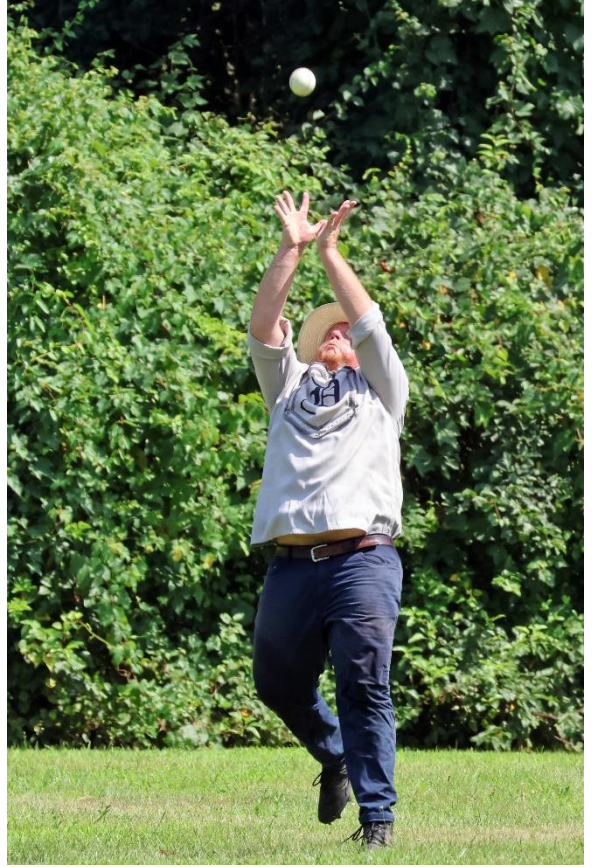
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Office of the Executive

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *the County of Nassau is proud to recognize those outstanding organizations that provide significant services and treatments for our residents; and*

WHEREAS, *Doc Adams played an instrumental role as a baseball pioneer during the National Pastime's nascent period; and*

WHEREAS, *Doc moved to New York City and began to play baseball with the New York Baseball Club. He also set up his medical practices and was appointed a vaccine physician for the city; and*

WHEREAS, *He was elected president of the first baseball convention and the Rules and Regulations committee of the National Association of Baseball players from its inception in 1857 through his retirement; and*



NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce Blakeman, Nassau County Executive, do hereby declare the 3rd day of August 2024, to be:

Doc Adams Day

in Nassau County, and I encourage all residents to learn about the life of Doc Adams, so we can better understand how baseball was brought to Nassau County.


Bruce A. Blakeman
County Executive