



EDWIN N. MCCLELLAN

# BASEBALL IN HAWAII

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"There's good old *bat-and-ball*, just the same as when we ran from the school-house to the *Common* to exercise our skill that way," reported the *Polynesian* of December 26, 1840. At Honolulu "a form of baseball had been played as far back as 1842 under the name of *rounders*, *one-old-cat*, *two-old-cat* and *townball*," wrote Frank A. Boardman in the *Advertiser*, June 5, 1910.

## BASEBALL ORIGINATED IN NEW YORK

"Baseball originated in New York City in 1845 when a party of gentlemen so modified the old game of *townball* as to create a new game, which they gave the name of baseball," explained the *Advertiser*, September 30, 1884. "On the 23rd of September in that year these gentlemen formally organized the Knickerbocker Baseball Club." The "Olympic Club of Philadelphia had been organized in 1833, but it played nothing but *townball* until 1860." (See *Advertiser*, June 5, 1910 quoting *Advertiser*, August 31, 1867 for history of baseball.)

## PUNAHOU FIRST TO PLAY BASEBALL

"It was the Punahou College boys who were the first to play baseball in the Islands," said Professor Curtis J. Lyons as quoted by *Advertiser*, October 7, 1901. The professor explained that "a Boston clergyman introduced the game in the early forties and the Punahou boys immediately took it up."

## ALEXANDER JOY CARTWRIGHT

Alexander Joy Cartwright came to Hawaii in 1849. I discussed often with his grandson, the late Bruce Cartwright, the possibility that Alexander Joy Cartwright had introduced baseball into Hawaii. He gave me practically no information on the subject, but showed me a letter dated April 6, 1865 that his grandfather wrote from Honolulu to Charles S. DeBort about the "dear old Knickerbockers," and that he had in his possession "the original ball with which we used to play

on Murray Hill" (New York) and that "many is the pleasant chase I had after it" on "the sunny plains of Hawaii nei in Honolulu, my pleasant Island home." This letter was published in *Star-Bulletin*, October 17, 1925. (See my article under pseudonym Bailey S. Marshall in *Paradise of Pacific*, June, 1939.)

"My father said, when he showed me a group picture," explained Bruce to me: "There is your grandfather with some of the members of the Old Knickerbockers." The picture was a daguerreotype.

## BASEBALL AT PUNAHOU

Punahou records show that about 1859, *bat-and-ball* was the standard game of halcyon days. Judge Lee and Hon. Charles R. Bishop came up on Saturdays expressly to have a game of ball. The scholarly [Rev.] Mr. [Daniel] Dole [father of Sanford Ballard Dole] the principal himself, was a great batter . . . sandbags were scattered for bases . . . the boys made their own bats and balls. James and Levi Chamberlain . . . in Manoa Valley . . . found and cut more straight *kukui* and *hau* branches for bats. After peeling the bark, they laid them in the sun to dry." (*Star-Bulletin*, January 17, 1953.)

## "NEW GAME OF BASEBALL"

"While I was a student at Oberlin in 1864-1866, I played baseball," related William R. Castle in *The Friend of March*, 1924. "It was introduced into Hawaii while I was in Oberlin and it was called the New Game of Baseball . . . In (Concluded on Page 22)

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the summer of 1866 I returned to Honolulu and found that no one knew how to play baseball although several had read of the new game and were curious to try it. The only game of ball played here at that time was exactly the same as when I had gone away two years before, that is *two-o-cat* or *three-o-cat*, and I felt that to introduce baseball, as I had learned it and as it was played in the schools of the United States, would add greatly to the sports of the community. So, after the full-term opened at Punahou in September of 1866, . . . we organized a Baseball Club [at Punahou] . . . I used to have a good deal of business with Mr. (Alexander Joy) Cartwright and, while in his office one day, several years after my return, he surprised me by saying that he was an old ball player but, added, that he hardly recognized the game, 'as played now.' However, his interest seemed as keen and alive as ever and I remember seeing him at Punahou several times, watching the play as it had been recently introduced. He commented on some new features or different methods of playing from those he had learned at New York."

### FIRST GAME OF BASEBALL

The first game of baseball disclosed by my research was played on May 25, 1867 on the Esplanade in the open spaces near the Custom House. The *Advertiser*, June 1, 1867 reported it. I know not the winner.

On July 31, 1867, the *Pacific Baseball Nine* challenged the *Pioneer Team* to a match game of baseball for a fifty-dollar collation. The *Pioneers* declined the match for the reason that "they go on the tee-total principle, while the *Pacifics* wished to have something besides water to wash luncheon down with." This declination was followed by a second challenge by the *Pioneers* who offered to provide the collation. The *Pacifics* accepted the challenge after a series of satirical resolutions published in the *Gazette*.

### PACIFICS DEFEAT PIONEERS

The game was played August 24, 1867 "on the open lot *makai* of Punahou College about two miles from town. It was

the first game of the kind ever played here." The game took one and three-quarters hours to play and the *Pacifics* scored eleven runs to nine for the *Pioneers*. The umpire was P. C. Jones and the scorers, H. G. Crabb and C. H. Rose. The lineups were:

<i>Pioneers</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Pacifics</i>
G. Roberts	P	G. T. Gulick
A. W. Judd (Capt.)	C	W. S. Wond (Capt.)
E. Macfarlane	1B	G. Harbottle
S. Nott	2B	J. Nakookoo
F. Wundenberg	3B	J. N. Gilman
J. H. Black	SS	J. Naone
Thos. Snow	RF	G. Laanui
H. E. Whitney	LF	J. Meek
A. W. Carter	CF	J. E. Bush

(For description of game see *Advertiser*, June 5, 1910, quoting from *Advertiser* of August 31, 1867.)

### EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BASEBALL

"Baseball, upon its Fortieth Anniversary, is enjoying a lusty growth," reported the *Paradise of the Pacific*, May, 1907. "Hawaii took to the American national game long before the political union came with the Mainland."

This year of 1954 is the Eighty-Seventh Anniversary of the First Game of Baseball in Hawaii reported in the newspapers. Some recognition of this fact could well be made by the Fathers of Baseball in Hawaii.



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