

The Teams

The Charter Oaks Of Hartford

The Charter Oaks are a gentlemanly, intelligent body of young men, true lovers of the national game, who make our indulgence a matter of amusement instead of a gambling profit. We once maintained the championship of Connecticut and ought to do so still. Our club is considered Hartford's original base ball team. We are a formidable amalgamation of honorable men.

The Alerts of Hartford

During the 1860's we were a private fire department serving Hartford. Our camaraderie is as strong off the field as on it. We played games in the park for amusement and we played the game "as played by the New York clubs." The Alerts are lovers of the manly game who know how to win a match game. There are no muffins in our ranks!

The Nutmegs

We pride ourselves in both our athletic talent and our spirit in promoting the national game as we have been doing for over 150 years. Noted for accepting challenges from any team without exception, we are gentlemen rich in character, determination and grit. As ambassadors of the sport and of the city of Hartford, our boys carry on a long tradition of playing fairly and squarely.



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Back row (left to right): William Tate, Frederick Lee Bunce (3rd), Gershom B. Hubbell (catcher & Captain), Enos H. Lane, Velvet D. Perry & Carl Perry. Front row (left to right): St Blackwell (hurler), Henry Lee Bunce (2nd) & Ed Jewell (1st). Missing were R.N. Gibson and William H. Hills.
July, 1865 by R. S. DeLamater of Hartford

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Two nines square off on the historic field at Colt's Meadow during the charter year of play at the Hartford Base Ball Grounds. Huzzah!



Billy Barnie's Blue Boys

Hartford's true sons of the national game, we were named for the color of the Connecticut flag and by our illustrious leader, Mr. Billy Barnie, late member of Hartford's Dark Blues and manager of many major league base ball teams. We are Hartford boys through and through! Our heritage includes Billy Nash, Chief Sockalexis, Phenomenal Smith and Connie Mack. Rumor has it that we were secretly backed by Mark Twain!

THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE BASE BALL

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of the game as it was played in the 19th century, our purpose is to facilitate and preserve the customs, culture, history and spirit of vintage base ball through public education, awareness and participation.

Our organization was formed in the late summer of 2008 in response to a need to create a permanent field for the play of vintage (19th century) base ball in Hartford, Connecticut. We partnered with the Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood (CSS/CON) and the City of Hartford, Connecticut to designate a field of play in Colt Park for vintage base ball. The park is contained within the Coltsville district in Hartford, which has recently been named a National Historic Landmark and is on its way to becoming a National Park.

Friends of Vintage Base Ball, Inc.



Celebrating the Grand Old Game

PO Box 2522
Hartford, CT 06146
(860) 956-9465
friendsofvintagebaseball.org

Letter:

"Of particular note was the "cleanness" of the activities. The ballists truly enjoyed each others' camaraderie... and to be at a sporting event and hear not one swear word was fantastic and refreshing.

This is the type of fun our whole family would enjoy... from the young to the old."

— Jeffrey D.

"IT IS NOT THE HONOR THAT YOU TAKE WITH YOU, BUT THE HERITAGE YOU LEAVE BEHIND."

COLTSVILLE VINTAGE BASE BALL LEAGUE



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Coltsville
Hartford, Conn.

Base Ball... *the way it was meant to be played!*



"No amount of ability is of the slightest avail without honor."

THE *Vintage* GAME

Vintage base ball is living history, sport and theater in one game. A match game tests both teams and their ability to field the ball cleanly, to hit the ball into the gaps and to be gentlemen all the while.

Played by 1860's era rules, the Coltsville Vintage Base Ball League will bring the old game back to Hartford on a beautiful meadow filled with incredible history. More than a base ball game, Coltsville VBB rekindles the heritage of our ancestors through the game they invented to entertain themselves. Players can return to a time when ginger, grit and honor meant something.

The rules are strictly adhered to, from the equipment and uniforms to the language and customs, a vintage base ball game is like no other you have ever played.

If you have the heart, mind and talent to toe the line with your lumber, your teammates and your glory, you are ready to play vintage base ball.

THE *Coltsville* LEAGUE

The area of Coltsville and the Colt Armory are in the process of becoming a National Park. Our base ball league will play a prominent role in turning the Colt Park area into a visitor destination.

With four teams initially set to play ball during the summer of 2010, the league will play all its games at Colt Meadows on Saturday mornings. We have the public relations and advertising to draw many fans to our games. You provide the talent.

The game is easy to learn. Unlearning modern habits takes a little longer but if you have the desire to transform yourself into a gentleman athlete, the vintage game comes easy.

The teams that are being formed are all well documented teams that actually played in Hartford in the 19th century: the Charter Oaks, the Alerts, the Nutmegs and the Blue Boys. One team will have what it takes to be champions of Coltsville.

THE *Details*

Beyond our schedule for 2010, tournaments are being planned and teams from across the Northeast will be coming to Colt Meadows for games with the Hartford Senators.

If you enjoy playing to an audience, being an ambassador of the sport and playing hard like gentlemen, the vintage game is for you.

Last year, we staged a game at the Baseball Hall of Fame and we are planning a return for 2010. There are many special events being discussed and we can promise you a summer filled with more base ball memories than you can imagine.

Each team will have veteran vintage ball players on it to help with the play. It's hard to return to play the modern game after playing base ball the way it was meant to be played!

Vintage Q&A

HOW OLD ARE VINTAGE PLAYERS? Ideally your roster should be diversified. To replicate the early town ball clubs, you may want to have players in all age groups, from early 20's players, to experienced 50's+ players.

HOW FAST IS VINTAGE PITCHING? The difficulty of catching a pitched ball with the relatively small catcher's mitt dictates that pitchers not throw too hard, which is historically correct. Vintage pitching is characterized by control, changing speeds and moving the ball around. Also, without a mound or a rubber, pitchers will not be able to get as much on the ball. This saves wear and tear on the catcher.

DO I NEED TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE? It doesn't hurt!

HOW MANY PLAYERS WILL EACH TEAM NEED? You should have 15-20 committed players, including 2-3 pitchers, two solid catchers, and a fast center fielder.



Learn more!

Charter Oak of Hartford BBC



What is competitive gentlemanly play?

It's an approach to base ball that values fair play over rough play, and sportsmanship over gamesmanship. Its applauding good play on both sides and appreciating the other team for making you play better.

cvbbl.blogspot.com
friendsofvintagebaseball.org
19cbaseball.com

