



0. Baseball Cards - Story Preface

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Photo depicting Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs, as it appeared on July 24, 2015 (when the Cubs played the Philadelphia Phillies). Image by Jose Hernandez; license [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). Wrigley Field has a capacity of 41,268 (although its reported record attendance—on May 18, 1947 in a game against the Brooklyn Dodgers—was 47,101). The field opened, for play, on April 23, 1914 (a few months before WWI erupted in Europe).

*The game of Base Ball has now become
beyond question
the leading feature of the out-door sports
of the United States.*

Charles A. Peverlly

The Book of American Pastimes

(1866)

During America's War Between the States, captured Union soldiers were allowed to "play ball" inside the walls of their prison camp at Salisbury, North Carolina. By that time, baseball was becoming an important sport in the country.

In his 1866 *Book of American Pastimes*, Peverlly also says this about baseball and America's civil-war generation:

It is a game which is peculiarly suited to the American temperament and disposition; the nine innings are played in the brief space of two and one half hours, or less.

From the moment the first striker takes his position, and poises his bat, it has an excitement and vim about it ... in short, the pastime suits the people, and the people suit the pastime.

Baseball became popular as an organized, amateur sport in the 1840s and 1850s. How did it rise to prominence so quickly?

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Baseball-Cards)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Baseball-Cards)

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Captured Union Soldiers

Lithograph by Otto Boetticher.

Published by *Sarony Major and Knapp* in 1863.

View this asset at:

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Confederate Prison Camp

North Carolina Collection: University of North Carolina Library at Chapel Hill.

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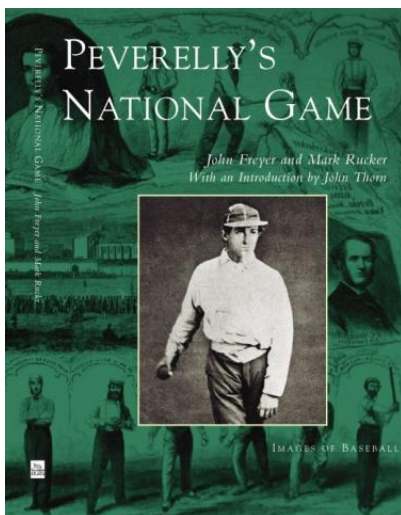


Map depicting Salisbury N.C.

Image online, courtesy epodunk.com website.

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Peverelly's National Game

Courtesy alabris.com

Book by John Freyer and Mark Rucker

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Baseball Cards

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