

0. EARLY BASEBALL PRINTS - Story Preface

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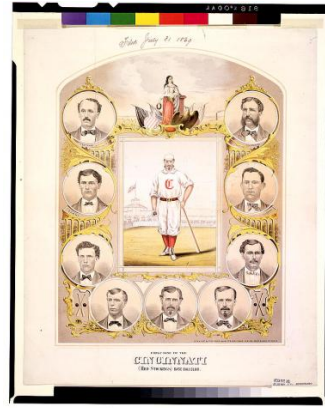
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9. BIRTH of BASEBALL CARDS

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In 1869, when this lithograph was created and published, the starters for baseball teams were called "The Nine." In this image we see the first nine starters for America's first professional baseball team—the Cincinnati Red Stockings. The lithograph—which is now maintained at the Library of Congress—was published on July 31, 1869. Click on the image for a full-page view.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, newspapers like *Harper's Weekly* (which was first published on the third of January, 1857) and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* (which was created by Frank Leslie and always featured interesting drawings of people, places, battles and events - including murders) began to include wonderful pictures of baseball and its players.

Most of these old pictures survive, such as:

- The Brooklyn Atlantics, in 1865. (*Harper's Weekly*; 1865)
- Baseball's first professional team - the Cincinnati Red Stockings - in 1869. (*Harper's Weekly*; 1869)
- Spectators watched Baseball in England as the Philadelphia Athletics, and the Boston Red Stockings, introduced baseball to other countries during a mid-season world tour. (*Harper's Weekly*; 5 September 1874)
- Cap Anson was twenty-one years old when he played for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1874. (*Harper's Weekly*; 5 September 1874)
- Canadians have played baseball for a very long time, as demonstrated by the Maple Leaf Base-ball Club of Guelph, Canada. (*Harper's Weekly*; 12 September 1874)
- The Boston Red Stockings, of 1874, eventually became - believe it or not - the Atlanta Braves. (*Harper's Weekly*; 1874.)

Before long, companies realized the benefits of coupling their ads with popular items like baseball scorecards (such as this one from the Brooklyn Grays, in 1884). But when it came to advertising and baseball - in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries - *nothing* compared to the creation of baseball cards.

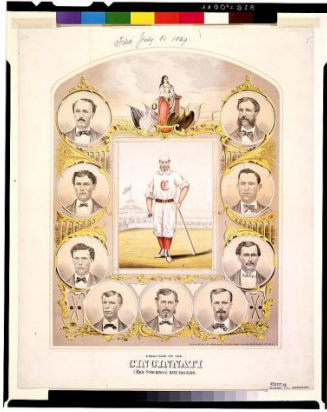
Let's investigate how they began.

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

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

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First Nine of the Cincinnati Red Stockings, 1869

Library of Congress; lithograph depicting "The First Nine of the Cincinnati Red Stockings Baseball Club—by Tuchfarber, Walkley & Moellman—published on July 31, 1869.

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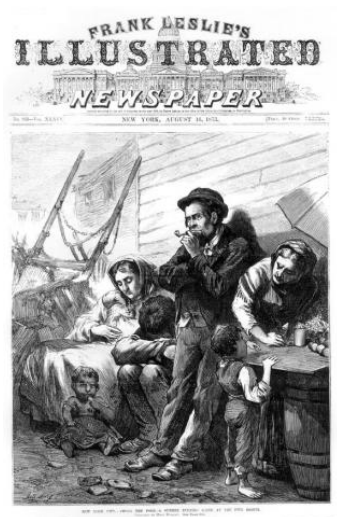
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Frank Leslie

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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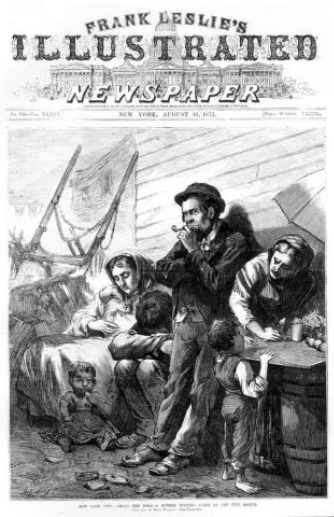


Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper

Image online, courtesy latinamericanstudies.org website.

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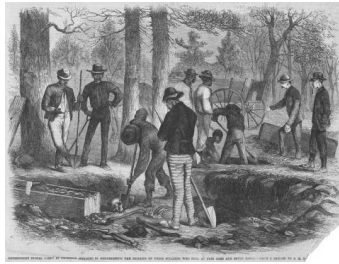
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Frank-Leslie-s-Illustrated-Newspaper>



Brooklyn New York Street Scene

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

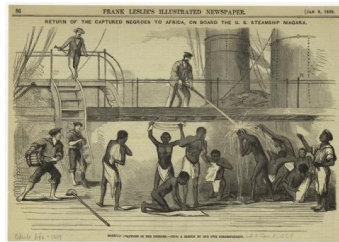
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Battlefield Burial Scene

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

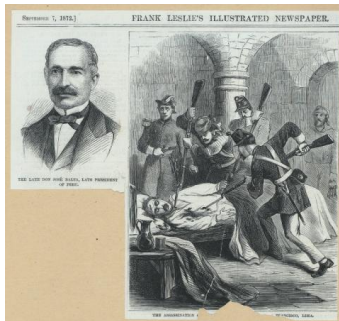
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Scene aboard the Niagara

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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Murder Scene Illustration

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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Brooklyn Atlantics Team Photos

Image online, courtesy the 19th Century Baseball website.

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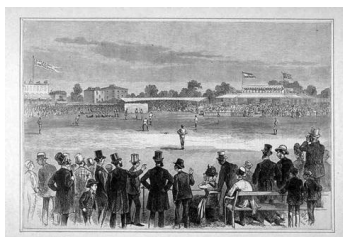


Newspaper Illustration of the Cincinnati Red Stockings

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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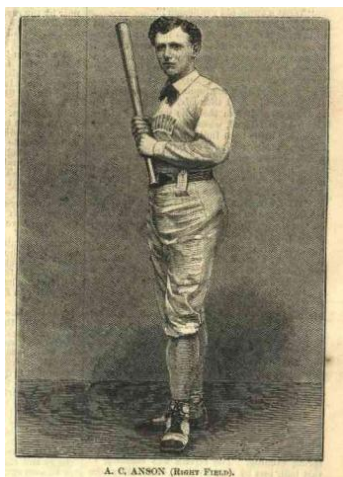


American Teams Playing Baseball in England

Image online, courtesy the [Cycle Back Museum](http://www.cyclebackmuseum.com) website.

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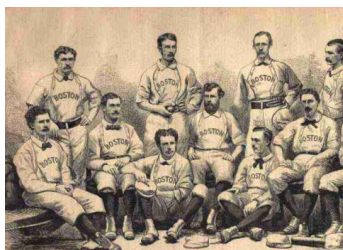


A. C. ANSON (HARPER'S WEEKLY)

Cap Anson in Harper's Weekly

Image online, courtesy the Cap Anson photo archive.

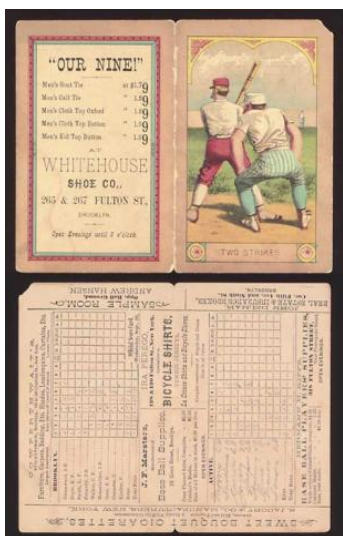
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Boston Red Stockings

Image online, courtesy the [Cycle Back Museum](http://www.cyclebackmuseum.com) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boston-Red-Stockings>



Early Baseball Scorecard

Image online, courtesy the [Cycle Back Museum](http://www.cyclebackmuseum.com) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Early-Baseball-Scorecard>



Maple Leaf Baseball Club

Image online, courtesy the [Cycle Back Museum](#) website.

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