

How Baseball Happened: Outrageous Lies Exposed! The True Story Revealed

Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:30pm

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Program Description

You may have heard that Alexander Doubleday or Alexander Cartwright invented baseball; that a club called the Knickerbockers played the first baseball game in 1846; or that Cooperstown, New York or Hoboken, New Jersey were the birthplaces of baseball. In reality, a movement began in the 1850s to transform the ancient New York game of baseball into America's first national sport. The men who gave us baseball were amateur, part-time athletes who founded businesses and industries, practiced professions, ran for office, created great railroad networks, published newspapers, and served in the military.

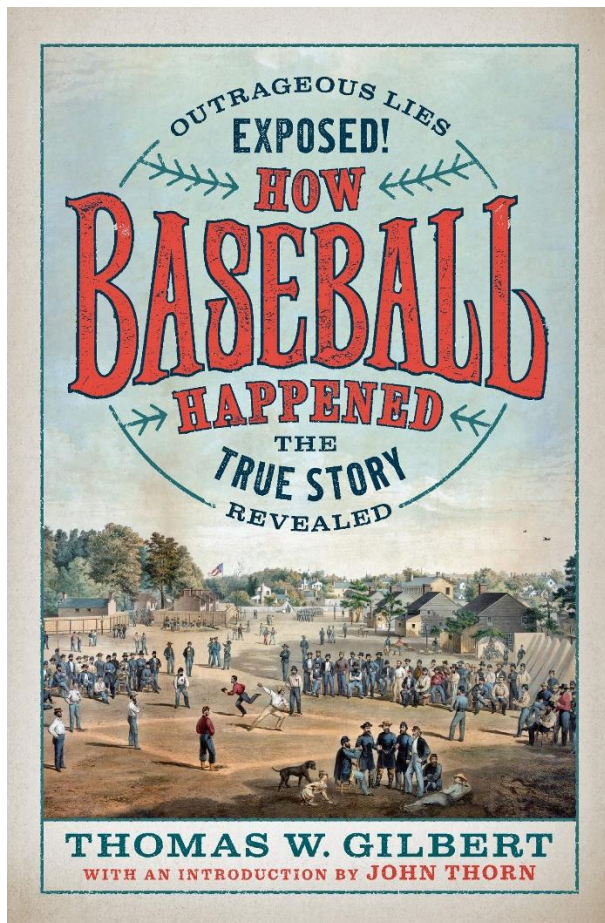
In this fascinating lecture, Thomas Gilbert tells the real story of where America's first national sport came from and how it conquered the nation. Included is a mention of Washington, Connecticut's own remarkable place in baseball history with one of the earliest images of a baseball game in action: The Gunnery Reunion Game played on the Green on August 4, 1869.

About Thomas W. Gilbert

Thomas Gilbert is an expert baseball historian and prolific author who has written numerous books on baseball, including: *Baseball and the Color Line*, *Playing First*, *Roberto Clemente* and *How Baseball Happened: Outrageous Lies Exposed! The True Story Revealed*. John Thorn, Major League Baseball's Official Historian, writes, "*How Baseball Happened* is a brilliant new approach to our game and its author tells a hundred stories you haven't heard before." He calls it "the next great book of baseball history." Paul Dickson of the Wall Street Journal writes, "A delightful look at a young nation creating a pastime that was love from the first crack of the bat." Gilbert obtained his bachelor's degree in Classics and Classical Languages, Literature and Linguistics at Yale University. He lives with his wife in Greenpoint in Brooklyn. Like baseball's amateur 19th-century forefathers, Tom plays ball on the weekend, socializes with firefighters, and is active in local politics.



The Gunnery Reunion Game on Washington Green, August 4, 1869. From the collection of the Gunn Historical Museum.



How Baseball Happened: Outrageous Lies Exposed! The True Story Revealed by Thomas W. Gilbert (2020).



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