



Bruce S. Allardice

on:

**“Who the Heck is Abner Doubleday,
and Why Did He Invent Baseball?
Baseball and the Civil War”**

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The Civil War Roundtable of Chicago
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by: Bruce Allardice



Even as early as 1861, baseball (or “base ball,” as it was commonly spelled at the time) claimed to be our country’s national pastime. Amateur teams had organized in most major cities, north and south, and their contests were as avidly reported in the newspapers of the time as they are today. The volunteers brought that passion with them when they entered the army. Civil War soldiers spent more time playing baseball than they did fighting battles. As such, no discussion of the Civil War is complete without examining “America’s game.”

On September 9th Professor Bruce Allardice takes a sometimes serious, sometimes humorous look at the "National Pastime" and how it was played during the war.

A professor of history at South Suburban College, Bruce S. Allardice is past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, and past winner of its Nevins-Freeman Award. A lifelong Chicago area resident and long-suffering White Sox fan, Mr. Allardice has authored or coauthored six books, and numerous articles, on the Civil War. His More Generals in Gray (LSU Press 1995) was a selection of the History Book Club. He had two books come out in 2008: Confederate Colonels: A Biographical Register (U of MO Press), and Kentuckians in Gray (U Press of KY), co-authored with Professor Larry Hewitt. Bruce’s latest work was an essay on General Stephen D. Lee for Confederate Generals in the Western Theater (U of TN Press 2011). His article on "The Election of 1862 in Illinois" appeared in 2011 in the Journal of the Illinois Historical Society. Bruce is currently working on editing the diary of a Confederate steamboat officer.

An avid sports historian, Mr. Allardice currently heads up the "Civil War Baseball" subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) and is a member of SABR's Biography Committee, specializing in researching the lives of 19th Century ballplayers.