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Mark E. Eberle

After the Civil War, soldiers stationed at posts in Kansas played baseball to break the monotony of their daily routine and for the pure fun of the sport. In doing so, they helped to establish baseball across the state, as did immigrants from the Northeast and Midwest, where baseball was already popular. These military posts included Forts Harker, Hays, and Wallace in northwestern Kansas along the Smoky Hill Trail. The soldiers were deployed to protect the trail and the Union Pacific, Eastern Division (Kansas Pacific) Railroad being built from Kansas City to Denver.¹ There are likely other reports of baseball games played by soldiers in the region during the late 1860s to be discovered, but this summary provides a sample of this activity based on the Seventh US Cavalry. In this narrative, non-brevet ranks are used for officers.

During these early years of the sport, baseball scores were much higher than today. The goal of the early game was for the batter to put the ball in play and run. Gloves were not part of the kit, only bats and balls. Playing fields were often less than ideal, although a reasonably level patch of low-growing buffalograss in western Kansas was probably better suited to makeshift baseball grounds than most vegetation. At the time, base ball was spelled as two words, and BBC was a common abbreviation for base ball clubs.

The *New York Clipper* published the first story of a baseball game in northwestern Kansas in 1867, accompanied by a box score. The game took place on September 14 at Fort

Harker (now the town of Kanopolis). Clerks at the fort organized the Bradley BBC, which was named for the post quartermaster, Captain G.W. Bradley. Their opponent that day was the newly organized Smoky Hill BBC from the nearby town of Ellsworth. The novelty of the first

BRADLEY.			SMOKY HILL.						
B.L.	R.		B.L.	R.					
Brown, 1st b.....	2	9	Pests, c.....	5	2				
Chandler, s s.....	3	6	Dolan, p.....	2	2				
Aobatt, p.....	5	6	kunkie, 1st b.....	4	2				
Sprigg, c f.....	2	8	Davis, 2d b.....	4	2				
Forshee, r f.....	3	5	Dungan, 3d b.....	1	4				
Slack, l f.....	3	7	McCarty, l f.....	2	4				
McClure, c.....	1	9	McGraw, c f.....	2	2				
Thompson, 2d b.....	2	6	White, r f.....	4	2				
Davis, 3d b.....	6	4	Kent, s s.....	3	2				
Total.....	60		Total.....	22					
Innings.	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Bradley.....	14	8	2	3	1	6	11	3	14-60
Smoky Hill.....	1	9	0	5	0	1	4	2	0-22

Umpire—C. S. Clark, Bradley B. B. C. Time of game—Three hours.

baseball game on the Kansas frontier “caused much excitement around the fort, the officers being present in full force.” Among these officers were Major Alfred Gibbs and Captain Thomas Weir of the Seventh Cavalry.* The Bradleys won decisively, 60–22, on a typically windy Kansas day in an area where wind turbines now dominate the landscape.²

* Major Gibbs passed away at Fort Leavenworth in December 1868. During the Battle of Little Bighorn (Greasy Grass) in 1876, Captain Weir led Company D, followed by others, in an attempt to reach Custer, but they were stopped at what is today known as Weir Point.

The following spring, baseball continued its westward march along the Smoky Hill Trail. Captain Albert Barnitz of the Seventh Cavalry wrote to his wife, Jennie, from their encampment along Big Creek—Camp Alfred Gibbs—which was west of Fort Hays, near Ellis Station (a railroad water station). “Have not been to church, because there was none to attend—but in lieu of this all the officers, including a half dozen from Fort Dodge, who were here on a visit, participated in a social game of base ball!” In addition to the social games played by officers, he reported that the Seventh Cavalry’s base ball clubs were “numerous.”³ A story that James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok umpired a baseball game at Fort Hays is plausible. He was in or near Hays in 1867–1869, including service with the Seventh Cavalry, but no contemporary sources describing the event are known. (The more widely told story of Hickok umpiring a game in August 1866 between the Atchison Pomeroy and Kansas City Antelopes is a myth.)⁴

Farther west along the trail at Fort Wallace, near the Kansas–Colorado border, the “rank and file” of the Seventh Cavalry and Fifth US Infantry organized teams named Keogh and Beecher that played at least two games.* The result of the first game was not reported, but on April 2, the Beechers soundly defeated the Keoghs in the second game, 73–43, claiming the “purse subscribed by the shoulder straps of the garrison.” The *New York Clipper* published the following box score.⁵

BEECHER			KEOGH		
	B. I.	R.		B. I.	R.
Burns, p.	3	7	Lowe, p.	4	5
Yager, c.	6	7	Steel, c.	3	5
Canady, s. s.	3	9	Gaffney, s. s.	4	6
Benton, 1st b.	5	7	Townley, 1st b.	2	6
Chase, 2d b.	5	8	Faylor, 2d b.	2	6
Bonner, 3d b.	2	3	Otley, 3d b.	3	4
Marion, r. f.	4	7	Reynolds, r. f.	3	5
Stovena, c. f.	1	10	Strahle, c. f.	4	3
Chase, l. f.	1	10	Collins, l. f.	3	5
Total	73	73	Total	43	43

Flies caught—Beecher—Burns, 3; Canady, 5; Benton, 1; Rhein, 1; Marion, 1; Chase, 1. Keogh—Lowe, 4; Gaffney, 1; Reynolds, 1; Strahle, 1; Collins, 2.

One report of a game during the summer of 1868 was not about a contest held at one of the posts. It occurred at the “Forks of [the] South Branch of [the] Solomon River.” The site referred to in the *New York Clipper* was possibly near the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Solomon River, commonly referred to as the Forks of the Solomon.⁶ The two rivers merge near present-day Cawker City. It was an important site for Plains Indians.

A travertine (limestone) mound deposited by what was known as Waconda or Great Spirit Spring was a short distance downstream from the Forks of the Solomon River. It was a unique geological feature on the central Great Plains. Deposited by mineralized

* Lieutenant Frederick Henry Beecher of the Third US Infantry was the post quartermaster who supervised construction of buildings at Fort Wallace. He was killed in September 1868 while serving with Forsyth’s Scouts at what was later named Beecher Island in the Arikaree River in northeastern Colorado. Captain Myles W. Keogh of the Seventh US Cavalry had been the commanding officer at Fort Wallace from November 1866 to August 1867. He was killed at the Battle of Little Bighorn (Greasy Grass) in June 1876, but his horse, Comanche, survived his wounds and was retired until passing away in 1891 at Fort Riley, Kansas.

water from the artesian spring, the mound was 35–42 feet high and 300 feet in diameter. The mouth of the spring at the low pinnacle of the mound had a diameter of about 55 feet and a depth of about 35 feet. The site was developed as a hotel and health spa (sanitarium) in 1884. The facility was operated almost continuously until Glen Elder Dam was constructed in the 1960s just downstream from the spring.⁷ Unfortunately, the waters of Waconda Reservoir have inundated this historic site.

It was probably near this important American Indian site that two companies of the Seventh Cavalry met and played a baseball game, with pickets posted “to prevent being surprised by Indians.” Captain Frederick W. Benteen was patrolling out of Fort Harker with Company H. Captain Robert M. West of Company K was leading a patrol out of Camp Davidson at the mouth of the Little Arkansas River (modern Wichita). Meeting at the Solomon River, they “gave each other battle” for the second time “under similar circumstances.” At this second meeting, the West BBC defeated the Benteen BBC, 44–36.* Additional details were not possible, because the messenger was ready to depart camp with dispatches. The account of the games was signed, W. F. T.⁸

There are no known reports of baseball games played by Seventh Cavalry teams during 1869, but they certainly had opportunities to do so. Several regiments were busy during much of the summer responding to raids by Plains Indians following the Seventh Cavalry’s attack in November 1868 on peace chief Black Kettle’s camp along the Washita River in the Indian Territory (now Washita Battlefield National Historic Site near Cheyenne, Oklahoma). Black Kettle had survived the massacre by Colorado volunteer regiments in November 1864 along Sand Creek in the Colorado Territory (now memorialized as Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site). However, he was among those killed on the Washita.

By the end of the summer, the activity of the Seventh Cavalry slowed to the point that Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, several other Seventh Cavalry officers, and the regiment’s band accompanied two English noblemen and other civilians on a buffalo hunt that departed from their camp near Fort Hays on September 8. Custer and some of his officers participated in other hunts out of Fort Hays until most of the regiment moved to winter quarters at Fort Leavenworth in October.⁹ It would not be surprising to learn that troopers in camp near Fort Hays during September and October participated in baseball games.

In 1870, the Seventh Cavalry returned to western Kansas and adjacent parts of Nebraska, Colorado Territory, and Indian Territory. One of the first camps in Kansas was established at Waconda Spring. Several of the companies operated out of Forts Hays and Wallace. Company A remained encamped near Girard in southeastern Kansas to help maintain order in the disputed Cherokee Neutral Lands.¹⁰

* The Frederick William Benteen papers at the University of Georgia in the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library (<http://hmfa.libs.uga.edu/hmfa/view?docId=ead/ms770-ead.xml>) include a handwritten manuscript about “Baseball playing in Kansas in 1868” that apparently includes a description of this and perhaps other games. It was written years after the events. I have not had an opportunity to examine this document.

Not all Seventh Cavalry baseball games in Kansas were played in the western part of the state. In 1870, while Company A was stationed in southeastern Kansas, the Joy BBC of Girard challenged them to a friendly game of baseball. Given the troopers' role as peacekeepers and "wishing to extend as far as possible the good feeling that has existed between the cavalry and the citizens," the "Boys in Blue" accepted. The game was played on February 22, chosen because it was George Washington's birthday. Company A won the game, 69–42, as shown in the box score that the soldiers provided to the *Girard Weekly Press*. "It was with regret on all sides that the game had to be called at the end of the 5th inning, as both parties would much rather have played longer, but darkness came on only too soon."¹¹ One of the challenges of playing nine innings of baseball on a pleasant afternoon during the winter was the early sunset

That same spring at Fort Leavenworth, before the Seventh Cavalry departed for the western plains, some of the troopers played for the Atlantics in Blue BBC at the fort. In March, the Atlantics played two games with the Frontier BBC from the city of Leavenworth, the first baseball club organized in the state in 1865. The *Leavenworth Times and Conservative* published three box scores for the Atlantics in Blue (next page).

They lost both games to the Frontiers, 40–34 and 48–43. A third game was hurriedly arranged for April 30 with a picked nine from the city, because the "Atlantics in Blue, owing to the movement of the 7th Cavalry, will lose several of their best players." The Atlantics easily defeated the picked nine before the Seventh Cavalry began its final summer on the central Great Plains.¹²

Coming out of winter quarters in March 1871, the Seventh Cavalry was deployed to Kentucky, Tennessee, and elsewhere in the South. Two years later, the regiment was ordered to the Dakota Territory, although several companies were temporarily moved to Louisiana during the winter of 1874–1875.¹³ Anderson (1970), Carroll (1987), Wolter (1998), Bohn (2014), and others have written about the regiment's baseball experiences after it left Kansas, so only a brief summary is included here.¹⁴ A list of games from 1868 through 1875 in which troopers from the Seventh Cavalry are known to have participated is provided in the Appendix.

'A' TROOP, 7TH CAVALRY.						
Innings.		1	2	3	4	5 T
Harwood,	c	2		1	2	7
McCune,	p	2			3	8
Wall,	s s	2		1	3	9
Kernan,	1 b	1			3	7
Crossman,	2 b	2		1	2	8
Walker.	3 b	2		1	3	8
Morgan,	1 f	2		1	3	7
Pierce,	r f	2		1	2	7
Carter	c f	2		1	3	8
Totals,		17	00	7	21	21 69

JOY, GIRARD, B. B. C.						
Innings.		1	2	3	4	5 T
Teets,	c	1	1	1		5
Clark,	p	2	2	1	1	7
Morton,	s s	2	2		1	6
Walton,	1 b	1	2			3
Osburn,	2 b	1	1			3
Herman,	3 b	1	1	1		4
Eystone,	r f	1	1	1		4
Wilson,	c f	1	2	1		5
Bailey,	1 f	1	1	1		5
Totals,		11	13	6	2	10 42

Home runs were made, for the Cavalry, by Harwood, 1; Kernan 1; Crossman 1; Walker 2; Morgan 1; total 6. Joy, Girard, Morton 1; Clarke 1; total 3. Fly catches by McCune 1, for the Cavalry. Morton 2, and Clarke 1, for Joy, Girard.
 Umpire, W. H. Hamilton.
 Scorers, Norris & McKinney.
 Time of game, 3 hours and 30 minutes.

Base Ball Yesterday.

A fine game of Base Ball was played yesterday between a picked nine of this city and the Atlantics in Blue, on the grounds of the latter, near the Fort, with the following result :

ATLANTICS IN BLUE.

Players	Runs	Outs
Leonard	7	2
Schwalber	6	6
Lewis	5	2
Kourke	8	3
McCarty	7	4
Unger	8	1
Burges	8	1
Low	5	5
Forsyth	7	3
Total	61	27

PICKED NINE.

Players	Runs	Outs
McGee	3	3
Killalee	1	4
Wingat	1	5
Barrett	2	3
Blunt	5	3
Jackson	1	1
Humphrey	3	3
Stiles	2	3
Anson	1	4
Total	18	27

Atlantics in Blue—Fly Catches—Leonard, 2; Unger, 2—Total, 4.
Picked Nine—Fly Catches—Killalee, 1, Barrett, 1; Blunt, 2—Total, 4.

Time of Game—Three and one-half hours.

CHARLES E. RICHARDS, Scorer.
HARRY BRYDEN, Umpire.

Positions	Runs	Outs
P	4	4
C	2	2
S	0	6
S	3	5
B	4	4
B	2	2
B	2	6
B	4	5
F	2	4
F	4	4
F	1	1
F	4	4
Total	43	43

FRONTIERS.

Beck	5	5
Bradford	4	5
McGee	3	5
Leeper	1	8
Bryant	3	4
Hyde	2	5
Peck	4	4
Roh	3	6
Creighton	2	6
Total	27	48

FRONTIERS—INNINGS.	Runs	Outs
Hazen, p.	7	3
Bradford, c.	8	4
McGee, ss.	2	2
Burk, 1b.	4	4
Leeper, 2b.	4	3
Peck, 3b.	6	5
Roh, lf.	3	4
Creighton, cf.	2	0
Bryant, rf.	3	0
Total	40	27

FRANK D. McVITT;
Scorer for Frontiers.

ATLANTIC—INNINGS.	Runs	Outs
Reoch, p.	5	2
Leonard, c.	6	2
Myrtle, ss.	4	2
Kourke, 1b.	3	3
Scrybne, 2b.	2	4
Schwalber, 3b.	4	5
Wager, lf.	4	4
Lewis, cf.	4	4
Summers, rf.	2	4
Total	34	27

SAMUEL W. RICHARDSON,
Scorer for Atlantics in Blue.

SUMMARY.	Runs	Outs
Frontiers	40	40
Atlantics	34	34

Three Box Scores from March—April 1870.—The Atlantics in Blue BBC was composed of soldiers from the Seventh US Cavalry and other units stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Their opponents were the Frontier BBC from the city of Leavenworth in the first two games and a picked nine from the city in the third game. (*Leavenworth Times and Conservative*, 10 March 1870, p 4; 24 March 1870, p 4; 1 May 1870, p 4.)

More information is available about the baseball activity of Captain Benteen's Company H after the Seventh Cavalry left Kansas than for all other companies in the regiment combined, thanks to Theodore Ewert, an enlisted man in Company H. He wrote a history of the Benteen BBC for a Yankton (South Dakota) newspaper in February 1876. Ewert stated that the club was organized on 1 March 1873 in Nashville, Tennessee, as the regiment prepared to leave the South for the Dakota Territory. He made no mention of the Benteen BBC that played in Kansas five years earlier. Ewert reported that the Benteen BBC played two games in Nashville and one in Louisville as the regiment waited to begin their trip back to the Great Plains.¹⁵

The Benteen BBC and other teams in the Seventh Cavalry continued to play baseball in the Dakota Territory at Forts Abraham Lincoln, Rice, and Totten in what is now North Dakota and at Fort Randall in present-day South Dakota. They also played in nearby towns, such as Yankton. Their opponents included teams from other military units and civilian teams. As in Kansas, field operations did not stop them from playing. There were two games during an 1874 expedition through the Black Hills and another game during a patrol through that region in 1875. Four box scores from 1874–1875 are reprinted on the next page. The Benteen BBC also played during its deployment to New Orleans during the winter of 1874–1875.¹⁶

Ewert listed the opponents and scores for 17 games played from 1873 through 1875, in which the record of the Benteen BBC was 12–4–1 (see the Appendix). Ewert gave their record as 12–5, suggesting the 50–50 score reported for the game with the 17th US Infantry was a misprint in the newspaper. The same month that Ewert wrote his history of the Benteen BBC, the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs was founded. Unfortunately, the baseball aspirations held by a few players in the Seventh Cavalry ended in the Montana Territory in June 1876 at the Battle of Little Bighorn (Greasy Grass).¹⁷

Acknowledgements

I accessed newspapers online at Newspapers.com, GenealogyBank.com, and the Illinois University Library (<https://digital.library.illinois.edu/collections>).

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<i>Leavenworth (KS) Bulletin</i>	<i>New Orleans (LA) Republican</i>
<i>Leavenworth (KS) Commercial</i>	<i>New York (NY) Clipper</i>
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Names.	ACTIVES.				Names,	BENTEENS.			
	R.	O.	B.	A.		R.	O.	B.	A.
Gilbert, 1. b.	2	6	2	0	McCurry, p.	0	2	0	2
Ryan, p.	2	3	1	2	Rafter, c.	1	15	0	4
Etzler, 1. f.	1	0	1	0	McCort, 1. b.	0	9	0	0
McCarty, c.	1	12	0	0	Davis, 2d. b.	1	0	1	1
Warren, 3. b.	2	0	0	2	Wiston, 8d. b.	0	0	0	0
Logue, 2d. b.	2	3	1	2	Long, s. s.	2	1	1	0
Kunkel, r. f.	0	0	0	0	Gordon, 1. f.	2	0	0	0
Williams, s. s.	0	3	0	1	Chesterwood,	0	0	0	0
Rudolph, c. f.	1	0	0	0	Winn, r. f.	0	0	0	0
Totals,	11	27	5	7	Totals'	6	27	2	7

Double play.—Williams, Logue, Gilbert, 1.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	Total.
Actives,	0	2	1	0	5	0	1	2	0	11
Benteens,	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6

Umpire.—Dr. Tempany.

Scorers.—Hughes, Actives; Jones, Benteens.

Time of Game.—Two hours and twenty-five minutes.

M'DOUGAL.		YANKTONS.	
	O. R.		O. R.
Williams, c.	3 4	Luebke, cf.	4 2
Davis, 2b.	5 4	Claudas, 1b.	4 1
Bishop, A. cf.	3 2	Edmunds, cf.	1 3
Curley, 1f.	3 3	Turner, ss.	4 1
McCord, 3b.	2 4	Washabough, 2b.	2 3
Bishop, C. ss.	4 1	Woodruff, c.	3 1
McCarty, p.	1 4	Deming, 3b.	3 2
McPeak, 1b.	4 2	Bunker, rf.	3 2
Klute, rf.	3 3	Russell, p.	3 2
Total	27 34	Total	27 17

Umpire—W. S. Arnold.

Scorers—G. C. Brown and A. S. Flagg.

Time of Game—3 hours and 25 minutes.

MOCCASIN.		ACTIVE.	
	R.		R.
Hassmiller, c.	1	Gilbert, p.	7
Smith, 2d. b.	1	Seller, r. f.	4
Miller, r. f.	1	Abrams, 2d. b.	4
Morris, 1st. b.	1	Etzler, 1. f.	1
J. Smith, 3d. b.	2	McCarthy, 1st. b.	4
Cassill, s. s.	2	Harrington, c. f.	4
Murdock, c. f.	1	Warren, c.	4
Fitzpatrick, p.	1	Tessier, s. s.	5
Roberts, 1. f.	1	Logan, 3d. b.	5
Total	11	Total	38
Moccasin	1	1	3
Active	2	5	12
		0	6
		1	5
		0	1
		1	3
		0	1
		1	7
		1	38

Umpire, J. Mullin, Active Club. Time, 2h.

PICKED NINE.		BENTEENS.	
	R. O.		R. O.
Monohan, c.	3 2	Curley, c.	2 8
Rourke, p.	1 4	C. Bishop, p.	0 3
Bransfield, 1b.	2 2	McCarty, 1b.	2 3
Chalk, 2b.	1 4	Williams, 2b.	0 5
Kennedy, 3b.	0 4	Davis, 3b.	0 3
Gent, ss.	3 2	McPeak, ss.	2 2
Ryan, 1f.	1 3	Plumb, 1f.	0 3
Palmer, cf.	1 2	A. Bishop, cf.	3 2
Ferguson, rf.	0 3	Mathasz, rf.	0 3
Total	12 27	Total	9 27

Umpire—Theodore Ewert.

Scorer—J. D. Jones.

Time of Game—2 hours and 40 minutes.

Four Box Scores from 1874-1875.*

Active BBC vs. Benteen (Athlete) BBC in the Black Hills on 31 July 1874 (*Bismarck Tribune*, 2 September 1874, p. 7).

McDougall (Benteen) BBC vs. Yankton BBC in Yankton on 21 May 1875 (*Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian*, 22 May 1875, p. 5).

Active BBC vs. Moccasin BBC of Fort Rice at Fort Abraham Lincoln on 30 July 1875 (*New York Clipper*, 21 August 1875, p. 165.).

Benteen BBC vs. First US Infantry "picked nine" at Fort Randall on 8 September 1875 (*Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian*, 9 September 1875, p. 5).

* The Active BBC and Benteen BBC represented the Seventh Cavalry Companies L and H, respectively.

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¹ Bowman (2000). • Eberle (2017). • Oliva (1996; 1998; 2000).

² *New York Clipper*, 28 September 1867, p 196.

³ Utley (1977, pages 152, 163).

⁴ Eberle (2017, pages 16-17; 2018). • Rosa (1996, pages 123 and 135; 2011).

⁵ *New York Clipper*, 18 April 1868, p 11.

⁶ Caldwell (1937). • McCoy (1840, pages 411-412).

⁷ Schoewe (1953). • Swineford and Frye (1955).

⁸ *New York Clipper*, 5 September 1868, p 173.

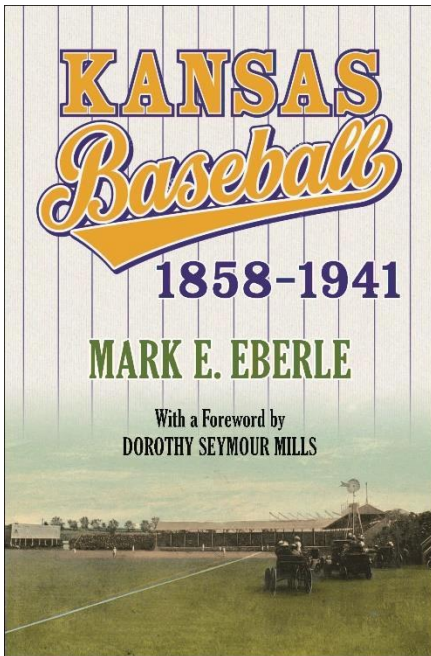
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- ⁹ *Leavenworth Daily Commercial*, 24 October 1869, p 4. • *Leavenworth Times and Conservative*, 9 September 1869, p 1; 13 October 1869, p 4.
- ¹⁰ *Girard Weekly Press*, 16 March 1871, p 3. • *Leavenworth Bulletin*, 25 October 1870, p 2. • *Leavenworth Daily Commercial*, 9 August 1870, p 4. • *Leavenworth Times and Conservative*, 8 May 1870, p 2; 20 May 1870, p 2; 3 June 1870, p 1; 16 July 1870, p 4; 2 October 1870, p 4; 25 October 1870, p 4. • Ware (1900).
- ¹¹ *Girard Weekly Press*, 3 March 1870, p 1.
- ¹² *Leavenworth Times and Conservative*, 10 March 1870, p 4; 24 March 1870, p 4; 27 April 1870, p 4; 1 May 1870, p 4. • Eberle (2017, page 15; 2018).
- ¹³ *Bismarck Tribune*, 19 May 1875, p 1. • *Kentucky Advocate*, 31 March 1871, p 3. • *Leavenworth Daily Times*, 15 March 1871, p 4; 27 May 1871, p 4. • *Memphis Daily Appeal*, 2 April 1873, p 3. • *Nashville Republican Banner*, 11 March 1873, p 4. • *Nashville Union and American*, 21 February 1873, p 4. • *New Orleans Republican*, 9 October 1874, p 1.
- ¹⁴ Anderson (1970). • Bohn (2014). • Carroll (1987). • Seymour Mills and Seymour (1990, page 293). • Wolter (1998).
- ¹⁵ *Yankton Daily Press and Dakotaian*, 26 February 1876, p 2.
- ¹⁶ *Bismarck Tribune*, 2 September 1874, p 7; 9 September 1874, p 4. • *New York Clipper*, 21 August 1875, p 165; 16 October 1875, p 226. • *Yankton Daily Press and Dakotaian*, 22 May 1875, p 5; 6 September 1875, p 3; 10 September 1875, p 5; 26 February 1876, p 2. • Anderson (1970). • Bohn (2014). • Carroll (1987). • Seymour Mills and Seymour (1990, page 293). • Wolter (1998).
- ¹⁷ *Yankton Daily Press and Dakotaian*, 26 February 1876, p 2.

Appendix.—Summary of known baseball games played by members of the Seventh US Cavalry from 1868 to 1875 as reported in newspapers from that period. Teams composed of players from one or more companies of the Seventh Cavalry are in *italics*. Mixed teams of players from the Seventh Cavalry and other units are marked with an asterisk (*). Informal games played by officers are not included. Newspapers and other references are cited in the text. BBC = base ball club.

Date	Location	Baseball Teams	Score
March (?) 1868	Fort Wallace, KS	<i>Keogh BBC</i>	Beecher BBC (5th US Infantry) unknown
2 April 1868	Fort Wallace, KS	<i>Keogh BBC</i>	Beecher BBC (5th US Infantry) 43-73
1868	unknown	<i>Beniten BBC</i>	<i>West BBC</i> unknown
20 August 1868	Forks of South Branch of Solomon River, KS	<i>Beniten BBC</i>	<i>West BBC</i> 36-44
22 February 1870	near Girard, KS	<i>A Troop</i>	Joy BBC of Girard 69-42
9 March 1870	Fort Leavenworth, KS	Atlantics in Blue BBC*	Frontier BBC of Leavenworth 34-40
23 March 1870	Leavenworth, KS	Atlantics in Blue BBC*	Frontier BBC of Leavenworth 43-48
30 April 1870	Fort Leavenworth, KS	Atlantics in Blue BBC*	Picked Nine of Leavenworth 61-18
March 1873 [†]	Nashville, TN	<i>Beniten BBC</i>	Clipper BBC of Nashville 25-27
March 1873	Nashville, TN	<i>Beniten BBC</i>	Clipper BBC of Nashville 32-16
March (?) 1873	Louisville, KY	<i>Beniten BBC</i>	Picked Nine of "citizens and soldiers" 36-12
April or May 1873	Yankton, Dakota Territory (SD)	<i>Beniten BBC</i>	Coyote BBC of Yankton 22-6
1873	unknown	<i>Beniten BBC</i>	17th US Infantry Picked Nine 50-50
1873	unknown	<i>Beniten BBC</i>	<i>Aspinwall BBC</i> 17-29

1874	unknown (Fort Rice?)	Benteen BBC	22nd US Infantry	37-8
31 July 1874	Black Hills, Dakota Territory ("Custer's Park," SD)	Athlete BBC	Active BBC	6-11
11 August 1874	Black Hills, Dakota Territory (SD)	Athlete BBC	Active BBC	17-10
September (?) 1874	Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dakota Territory (near Mandan, ND)	Benteen BBC	Active BBC	24-10
1874	New Orleans, LA	Benteen BBC	22nd US Infantry	38-8
1874	New Orleans, LA (?)	Benteen BBC	Picked Nine	15-11
21 May 1875	Yankton, Dakota Territory (SD)	Benteen BBC (as the McDougall BBC)	Yankton BBC	24-17
3 June 1875	Fort Randall, Dakota Territory (SD)	Benteen BBC	1st US Infantry (Randall BBC)	54-5
8 June 1875	Fort Randall, Dakota Territory (SD)	McDougall BBC	1st US Infantry (Randall BBC)	19-32
30 July 1875	Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dakota Territory (near Mandan, ND)	Active BBC (Co. L)	Moccasin BBC of Fort Rice	38-11
July or August (?) 1875	Black Hills, Dakota Territory (SD)	Benteen BBC	"Picked nine citizens teamsters"	25 -11
1875	Fort Randall, Dakota Territory (SD)	Benteen BBC	McDougall BBC* (Co. E and players from the infantry)	33-6
8 September 1875	Fort Randall, Dakota Territory (SD)	Benteen BBC	1st US Infantry Picked Nine	9-12
12 September 1875	Fort Totten, Dakota Territory (ND)	Active BBC (Co. L)	Philadelphia BBC (20th US Infantry, Co. K)	14-19
19 September 1875	Fort Totten, Dakota Territory (ND)	Active BBC (Co. L)	Philadelphia BBC (20th US Infantry, Co. K)	29-20

[†] The Benteen BBC was organized on 1 March 1873, and Captain Frederick Benteen's Company H departed Nashville on March 10.



You can learn more about the early history of baseball played by teams throughout Kansas in the book *Kansas Baseball, 1858–1941*, published in 2017 by the University Press of Kansas and available in paperback or e-book through bookstores and online retailers.

The book explores the early game played by hundreds of town teams composed of white males, as well as teams of women, African Americans, American Indians, and Mexican Americans. Also described are the regional minor leagues and major league tours, along with the histories of towns still playing baseball in the state's oldest ballparks constructed between 1924 and 1940.