

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

July 2012

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

By Kimberlee Ried

*“Take me out to the ball game,
take me out with the crowd;
buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don’t care if I never get back.*

*Let me root, root, root for the home team,
if they don’t win, it’s a shame.
For it’s one, two, three strikes, you’re out,
at the old ball game.”*

These words written by Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer in 1908 are heard nightly at numerous baseball parks across America—usually during what is known as the “seventh-inning stretch.” In addition, the start of summer is often marked by “opening day” for major league baseball teams in many U.S. cities. Those towns usually see tailgators make the most of a day off from work to celebrate their local baseball team. Even in the summer heat, fans will tolerate junebugs and fireflies to watch their favorite baseball players throw another strike, hit a homerun, or catch a foul—always in the hopes of winning the game.

On Tuesday, July 10, Kansas City, Missouri, will host the All-Star Game, an exhibition game usually played by the best players in the league midway through the American baseball season. And although Kansas City is excited as thousands flock to the Midwest metropolis known for barbeque and jazz music, the game of baseball has its own unique history that includes this patent court case found in the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City.

Victor Sporting Goods Co. v. Rawlings Manufacturing Co. was filed in 1909 in the U.S. Circuit Court in St. Louis, Missouri, and the case complaint indicates that Victor was suing Rawlings over the patent rights for a catcher’s mitt. Victor Sporting Goods was founded by Charles Whitney and Elroy L. Rogers in Springfield, MA, in 1898. Elroy, and his brother Burt, the two inventors at Victor Sporting Goods, specialized in creating catcher’s mitts.

Rawlings Manufacturing Co. was founded in 1887 by George and Alfred Rawlings, two brothers who owned a retail shop in St. Louis. Rawling’s first catalogue characterized the company as “Dealers in Fishing Tackle, Guns, Baseball, Football, Golf, Polo, Tennis, Athletic and General Sporting Goods.” Years later, the store was destroyed in a fire, and the Rawlings brothers

moved into manufacturing in 1898 in partnership with Charles Scudder, an investor. By 1907 they were providing baseballs to major league teams.

Throughout the 19th century, baseball gloves, or mitts, were created to help protect the hands of catchers. Early baseball gloves were not as we know them today. They were usually work gloves made of leather. By the mid-1880s padding was added to the gloves for additional hand and finger protection.

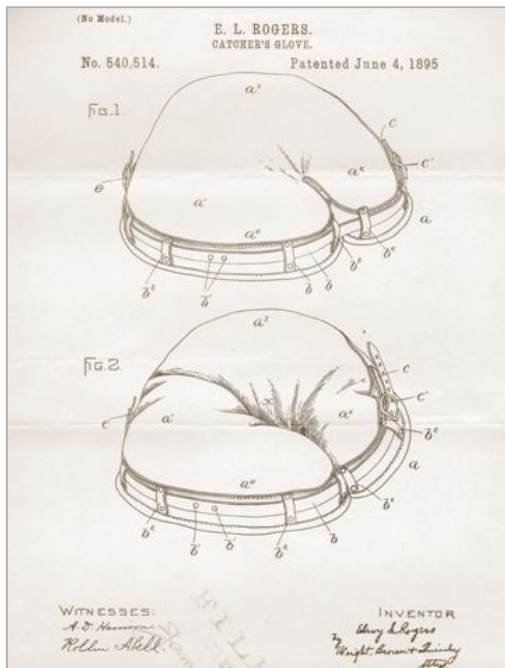
In the complaint filed by Victor Sporting Goods, the Rogers brothers claim that Elroy L. Rogers was the “original and first inventor of a new and useful improvement in Catcher’s Gloves.” The complaint also states that no other inventor has been in possession of the patent and that the ownership paperwork was filed with the U.S. Patent Office. In addition, Victor Sporting Goods claimed that Rawlings was profiting from the patent by manufacturing gloves using the model created by Rogers.

During the period 1885–1895, over a dozen catcher’s mitts were patented through the U.S. Patent Office. Rogers owned two of them, #528,343 filed in 1894 and #540514 filed in 1895. In their defense statement, Rawlings Manufacturing specifically referenced these patents in their answer to the complaint filed by Victor Sporting Goods. Rawlings noted that other patents, including their own #325,968, were the models used to manufacture and sell catcher’s gloves. By 1911 the Victor Sporting Goods company had failed to prove to the court that Rawlings had unlawfully used Rogers’s patent, and the case was dismissed without proof.

The Victor Sporting Goods company eventually merged with Wright and Ditson in the 1920s and continued to manufacture various types of sporting equipment. The Rawlings company continued production of many gloves and continuously tried to “perfect” the catcher’s mitt. This included creating the

well-known Doak model, named for St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Bill Doak. Doak wanted a glove that would protect his hand and also help his baseball skills. The Doak model was the first glove with a pocket, as the thumb and forefinger were laced together. Today, Rawlings is an official supplier to the major leagues and has been since 1977.

Center: E. L. Roger’s patent drawing for a catcher’s mitt. Rogers patented multiple catcher’s mitts during his career with Victor Sporting Goods. Law and Equity Case Files, #9571; Record Group 2, Records of the District Courts of the United States



NARA WestCoast July 2012

Parade on Fort Hall Reservation, ca. 1921
Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1793-1999,
Record Group 75
National Archives at Seattle



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Exhibit: Seattle, WA "Seattle World's Fair of 1962" 7/1-8/1/12						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				Seattle, WA Brick Wall- Genealogy Discussion Group 11:30 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115	Seattle, WA Overview of the National Archives 10:30 A.M. Workshop General Public 206-336-5115 <hr/> Seattle, WA The National Archives Online 1 P.M. Workshop General Public 206-336-5115	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Riverside, CA Southern California Genealogical Society Webcast- Records Neither Microfilmed Nor Digitized TBD Workshop Genealogists 951-956-2000	San Bruno, CA Military Records- Part II Spanish American War to Vietnam 9 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 650-238-3501		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Exhibit: Seattle, WA "Faces of the Pacific Northwest" Ongoing			

The National
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NARA East Coast July 2012

Rose Bailey Lake in Cave Creek Quad, Roane County, Tennessee, 1940
Records of the Bureau of Tennessee Valley Authority, 1798-2007, Record Group 142
National Archives at Atlanta



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Lecture: Waltham, MA "The Power of the Purse: Jewish Women and Philanthropy" 7/19/12	2	3 Exhibit: Philadelphia, PA "Documented Rights" Ongoing	4	5	6 Philadelphia, PA First Friday Open House Noon Speakers; Nancy C. Nelson and Carol M. Sheaffer on "Would I Lie To You?" Genealogists 215-606-0100	7 Morrow, GA "New Vision Youth Program" 9 A.M. Workshop K-12 Students 770-968-2530
8	9 Waltham, MA America Votes: Mapping the Political Landscape 9 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379 New York, NY Federal Hall New York's National Treasures Noon General Public 866-840-1752	10 Boston, MA America Votes: Mapping the Political Landscape 9 A.M. Workshop/K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379 Waltham, MA Introduction to Genealogy 2 P.M. Lecture/General Public 866-406-2379	11 Boston, MA America Votes: Mapping the Political Landscape 9 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379 Morrow, GA Teaching American History Grant 7 A.M. Workshop K-12 Students 770-968-2530	12 Boston, MA America Votes: Mapping the Political Landscape 9 A.M. Workshop/K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379 Morrow, GA Teaching American History Grant 7 A.M. Workshop/K-12 Students 770-968-2530	13 Boston, MA America Votes: Mapping the Political Landscape 9 A.M. Workshop/K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379 Morrow, GA Teaching American History Grant 7 A.M. Workshop/K-12 Students 770-968-2530	14 Morrow, GA Celebrating the National Pastime 10 A.M. Workshop General Public 770-968-2555
15	16 Morrow, GA Teaching American History Grant 7 A.M. Workshop K-12 Students 770-968-2530	17 Morrow, GA Teaching American History Grant 7 A.M. Workshop/K-12 Students 770-968-2530 Morrow, GA Georgia Humanities Council 7 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 770-968-2555	18 Morrow, GA Georgia Humanities Council 7 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 770-968-2555	19	20 Morrow, GA Coming to America 8 A.M. Symposium General Public 770-968-2555 Morrow, GA Ellis Island: The Lost Mural 8 A.M. Exhibit Opening General Public 770-968-2555	21 Morrow, GA Georgia Association of Professional Genealogists 9 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 770-968-2555
22	23	24	25	26 Waltham, MA Primarily Teaching 8:30 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379 Morrow, GA Atlanta Federal Executive Board 9 A.M. Workshop Federal Agencies 770-968-2555	27	28 Waltham, MA Primarily Teaching 8:30 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379
29	30 Waltham, MA The Golden Door: Immigration 8:30 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379 Morrow, GA Naturalization Ceremony 8 A.M. Open House General Public 770-928-2555	31	Exhibit: Morrow, GA "Ellis Island: The Lost Mural" 7/20-12/31/12		Exhibit: Boston, MA "America Votes: Our Pivotal Right" Through 1/21/13	

The National Archives at

Boston
866-406-2379
boston.archives@nara.gov

New York City
866-840-1752
newyork.archives@nara.gov

Philadelphia
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philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

Atlanta
770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest July 2012

Tourists at Sawbill Lake Campground in Cook County, Minnesota, July 14, 1936
Records of the Forest Service, 1870–2008,
Record Group 95
National Archives at Chicago



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "School House to White House" Through 2/23/13						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		St. Louis, MO Practical Preservation: Using Preservation Techniques in the Home 6:30 P.M. Workshop General Public 314-801-0847		Kansas City, MO A Boy Who Would Be President: Harry Truman at School, 1892–1901 6:30 P.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000 <hr/> St. Louis, MO Preservation Workshops and Demonstrations 10 A.M. Workshop General Public 314-801-0847	Columbia, MO MOSGA 9 A.M. Info Booth Staffing Genealogists 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO Navigating the National Archives Web Site 10 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 816-268-8000
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "They're Not Going to Get Me:" Crime in the 1930s Through 8/18/12						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Kansas City, MO Introduction to the National Archives 8 A.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000		Kansas City, MO African-American Genealogy 8:30 A.M. Lecture General Public 816-268-8000
29	30	31	Exhibit: Chicago, IL "Becoming American: Immigrants, the Federal Courts in Chicago, and the Expansion of Citizenship, 1872–1991" Ongoing			

The National Archives at

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Kansas City
816-268-8000
kansascity.archives@nara.gov

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ftworth.archives@nara.gov