



MARENGO ATHLETICS 5
ANSON'S COLTS 4

NOTES ABOUT THE POSTCARD

The game was played on Friday, August 28, 1908 at 2:30pm. The crowd was reported to be near 750 spectators. The Marengo Republican-News newspaper reported on the game with front page articles in three separate issues (Aug. 21, Aug. 28, and Sept. 4, 1908). Since the paper was distributed on Friday mornings and the game was played on Friday afternoon, the results of the game are reported in detail in the Sept. 4 edition. The game was billed as the "Greatest Game in Marengo Base Ball History."

The factory in the background is the Collins & Burgie Stove Works, also known as the Marengo Stove Works. It was built in 1898 and was over two city blocks long. It was located on East Street near the corner of East and Greenlee (west of cemetery, between East and Page Streets. The factory was destroyed by a fire at 3:00am the morning of October 4, 1907. In the postcard, the windows are broken and boarded up, reminders of the fire the previous year. The area today is the Zion Lutheran Church Athletic Fields. The ballfield in the photo would be located on the south end of the current fields.

Cap Anson played at 1st base the entire game. He had retired from the Chicago White Stockings in 1897, 11 years before this game was played. Anson was 56 years old on game day. He went 1 for 4 at the plate that day with 1 RBI, batting cleanup.

Anson owned and played with the Anson Colts in the Chicago City League in 1907 and 1908 only. The team was not a financial success for him, and he sold it in the spring of 1909. Besides City League games, the team would barnstorm locally, such as is the case of this exhibition game with the Marengo Athletics.

Admission to the grandstands was 10 cents, as evidenced by painted letters on the side of the stands.

The postcard itself is a real photo postcard printed by Samuel M. Cretors of 389 Prairie Street, Elgin, IL. City records indicate Cretors was operating in Elgin in 1909. Cretors postcards were printed in small quantities and are quite rare today. The real photo process in use at that period could only produce a maximum of 100-200 copies, but oftentimes runs were far less (10-50 copies). The AZO postage stamp block on the back with the four triangles pointing up also indicates the age of the postcard to be printed between 1904-1918.

A very similar Cretors postcard exists of the game shot from a slightly different outfield angle, showing more of the playing field and less of the crowd. It is published in the book "Marengo - The First 100 Years." Another Cretors postcard in that publication shows the Athletics team, which gives evidence of their uniform style.

Photos from the Library of Congress' "American Memory" archive can be used for reference to Cap Anson's appearance in a 1908 Anson's Colts uniform, as well as other players.

In answer to the question "Is Cap Anson shown in the photo?" the answer is probably "No." Based on the comparative photographs of uniforms, especially the striped socks (Colts were known to wear striped socks, Athletics solid color socks), it is likely that the Anson Colts are playing in the field on defense in the post card (third baseman wearing striped socks) and the Athletics are at bat. Since Cap played the entire game at 1st base, he is most likely out of the frame to the left. The only identifiable players on the card would be the third baseman Kennedy and the catcher Smith for the Colts. The umpire is noted in newspaper coverage as being McGraw of the 1908 Northern League.

The postcard was purchased from the collection of Charles "Chuck" Berndt of McHenry, Illinois on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Mr. Berndt was an avid collector of thousands of postcards featuring local history of Northern Illinois towns, mostly with subjects of street scenes, churches, businesses, buildings and local landmarks. This was the only real photo postcard with a baseball subject in his collection.

MARENGO REPUBLICAN-NEWS

Marengo, Illinois, Friday, August 21, 1908.

ANSON'S COLTS ARE COMING

**Greatest Game in Marengo Base Ball
History Will Be Played
Friday, August 28th.**

The greatest sporting event ever pulled off in Marengo will take place at the Athletic Assn. Park next Friday afternoon, August 28, when Capt. Adrain C. Anson's Colts of Chicago meet the Marengo Athletics in a game of base ball which the Athletics are going to make a mighty effort to win.

Anson's Colts are one of the fastest teams in the Chicago City League, and if the boys are defeated, it will be no disgrace and while our local fans hardly expect the Athletics to win, they know they will be "game" and die hard and should they happen to win, there will be great rejoicing in Marengo. Every local fan should help the Athletics by good, steady, loyal rooting.

Capt. Anson arrives on the 1 p. m. train bringing 12 men including his son-in-law, Mr. Carroll E. Cherry, who is secretary and manager of the club. The game will be called promptly at 2:30 p. m. and the line up is as follows:

ANSON'S COLTS

Walter Eckersall, rf.
Andrews, cf.
Rodesy, 2b.
Captain Anson, 1b.
Choninard, lf.
Kennedy, 3b.
Gretz, ss.
Smith, c.
Jack Bradshaw, or Ed. Almquist, p.
Bradshaw struck out fifteen of the crack Leland Giants in a game recently.

ATHLETICS

"Beldie" Hill, 1b.
Wayland Patrick, 2b.
F. A. McCarthy, c.
Howard Patrick, lf.
"Red" Malone, ss.
Melvin Adams, 3b.
C. Kremer or "Fuzzy" Baughmann, p.
Ray Powers, rf.
Harry Patrick, cf.

McGraw, the celebrated Northern League Umpire, has been engaged to umpire the Anson game. McGraw is one of the best in the business and always popular with the crowd as well as the players.

Anticipating a record breaking attendance, the Association has engaged competent and reliable men to maintain good order and while good-natured rooting will be encouraged, no rowdyism will be tolerated, and ladies may be assured that their presence is desired and appreciated and that they can witness a high grade athletic exhibition with a great deal of pleasure and no regret.

MARENGO REPUBLICAN-NEWS

Marengo, Illinois, Friday, August 28, 1908.

LARGE CROWD WILL BE HERE

Nothing But Bad Weather Will Prevent Friday Being Greatest Base Ball Day in Marengo.

It looks now as though the greatest crowd ever assembled to witness a baseball game would gather at Athletic Assn. Park this Friday afternoon to see the Athletics play Anson's Colts. It is said that in addition to the big bunch that is coming from Belvidere, the "Knight for a Day" company, numbering some sixty people, will be down to the game.

Reports from Garden Prairie, Union and Huntley indicate that these towns will be practically depopulated of baseball fans that day, all coming to see the big game, and town and the country surrounding are making their plans to witness this exhibition of the National game. The banks and business houses of Marengo will close from 2:30 to 5:00 p. m. so that no one may be deprived of the privilege of enjoying the event.

Capt. Anson has a good many acquaintances and admirers among the old time baseball players hereabouts who will take advantage of this opportunity to shake hands with him. Every arrangement has been completed and perfected for a high grade contest.

For the benefit of the "form sheet student" we give a condensed summary of the "past performances" of the members of the Athletics, and it will be seen by a perusal thereof that they are entitled to recognition from any semipro team playing baseball.

Our catcher, Frank A. McCarthy, gained an enviable reputation as an all-round player at the Notre Dame University, excelling as a catcher and in ability to hit the ball hard. He is practicing law in Elgin and incidentally has played base ball on Elgin's best team for the past two seasons. Arthur (Beldie) Hill was a bright on the University of Illinois team of '05-06, played for Pueblo in the Western League last season and is our own first baseman this season, is a crack pinch hitter and puts more ginger into the game than the rest

of the players combined. Charlie Kremer was one of the University of Iowa star pitchers and after graduating there, played a season in the Southern Michigan League. He is always "in the game," accepting many fielding chances that the average pitcher would dodge and is an exception among ball "twirlers" a reliable "sticker." McCarthy, Hill and Kremer are a host in themselves and in some of the games played here this season, have proven to be an iron triangle almost impossible to break. Our short-stop, "Red" Malone played short stop last season for Oshkosh in the Wisconsin-Illinois League, is playing 3rd base for the Aurora's this season and is one of their best "stickers." Howard Patrick, captain of the Athletics, played the season of '06 with an Ohio team and met the best teams of the Ky.-Ill.-Tenn (K. I. T. League) is a reliable all-round player and the best hitter on the team. Wayland Patrick played on the University of Chicago '04-05 team, has had a good deal of experience in the game and is rated a sure hitter. Ray Powers was a member of one of the swiftest high school teams of Chicago, has faced some of the best pitchers of the City League and is good with the stick. Melvin Adams has played for a number of years, principally on local teams, is a brilliant player at 3rd and is seen running the bases as often as any of them. Harry Patrick, the youngest members of the team, possibly excepting Ray Powers, has played center field without an error this season and the rooters have grown accustomed to feel that any ball soaring in Harry's territory is a "sure out."

The next game scheduled at Assn. Park comes on Wednesday September 3, and should be of more than common interest, for then the Athletics meet the Stars of Carpenterville and Dundee, the team that trimmed the Athletics 8 to 3 on August 7. Our boys will make a mighty effort to redeem that defeat, and the Stars, who are immensely elated over the victory of August 7, will try their best to get it all over the Athletics again. Will they? Well, let's go to the game and see.

MARENGO REPUBLICAN-NEWS

Marengo, Illinois, Friday, September 4, 1908.

ANSONS ALSO MET DEFEAT

Veteran Ball Player's Colts Were Unable to Take Game from Sturdy Athletics.

Captain Anson and his frisky colts pranced into Marengo last Friday afternoon with the sole purpose of kicking the life out of the Marengo Athletics in a contest on the base ball diamond. They started in on the job as though they would make short work of it, but our boys were only giving them a little play rope so they could scamper about, and then the lariat was drawn taut and the life choked out of the fractious animals.

Everybody has heard of Capt. Anson, the veteran ball player, who is looked upon with awe and admiration by the base ball fans and is a real hero in the eyes of the young bugs. When arrangements were concluded for a game between his team and the local nine, the business houses agreed to close for a couple of hours and make the occasion in the nature of a holiday. As a result, there was a large crowd in attendance, many being present from the adjoining towns.

The visitors were first to bat, the first two men striking out and the third man out, pitcher to first baseman.

The home team was retired in one, two, three order in their half.

In the second, Anson was out, third to first, Kennedy singled, Gertz flied out, Schwartz made a two bagger on which Kennedy was allowed to score by the umpire although he was out by several feet, as was acknowledged by the visitors after the game. Smith's out retired the side.

For the home team, Wayland Patrick made a pretty single, but the next three men were unable to bring him home.

In the third the visitors got busy and it looked as though they had our boys' "grogg." Wilhout singled reached second on a wild throw. Eckersall shot a hot one to the infield that looked like an easy out, but

the throw to first was high and he was safe. Andrews hit a beauty that landed him on second and scored the other two runners, after Vick flied out, Anson stung one to the outer field that scored Andrews, the next man was an easy out.

This made a total of four runs which looked like so many mountains the way the visitors were retiring our boys, but the latter came to bat with blood in their eye, and determined that the score should look different. Powers was given a base on balls, but was forced at second by Harry Patrick, who reached first in safety. Malone flied out. Hill hit safely. McCarthy then came to bat and in answer to the wild cries for a home run, hit the ball over the fence, clearly a home run, but the umpire would only allow him two bases. After a great deal of jangling, McCarthy went back to second, Hill to third, Patrick scoring. Wayland Patrick then won a place in the hall of fame by cracking out a corking double that scored Hill and McCarthy. Adams stung a Texas leaguer over shortstop, who made a sensational running catch, retiring the side after three men had scored.

Kremer then settled down to business and with the brilliant support of his teammates, sewed up the game so tight that the visitors never had a chance to score again. After clamping down the lid on the Colts, our boys got busy in the fifth, when Malone hit one safely and was sacrificed to second by Hill. McCarthy was out on an infield hit. W. Patrick was given a base on balls. Adams made a hit to third that should have been an easy out at first, but he tried to tag Wayland Patrick, who scampered back to second safely, Malone scoring on the play. Kremer biffed one for two bases, scoring Patrick with what proved the winning run, the home team being unable to get another man across the home plate.

This proved to be one of the most scientific ball games ever played here, and when victory perched on the banner of the home team, enthusiasm ran high, all feeling that Marengo had a ball team that the town should well feel proud of. Following is the score by innings:

Marengo..... 0 0 3 0 2 0 0 0 0 - 5
Colts..... 0 1 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 4

Marengo secured 11 hits, and the Colts 6.

Kremer struck out 7, Wilhout 3, Schwartz 5.

Manager Samter wears a smile that won't come off.

All our boys played mighty fine ball and deserve all the good words said about them.

Kremer pitched his best game of the year at this contest, and was like an ice berg when the opposing team threatened to score, and was waster of the situation all through except in the third, when the visitors managed to bunch their hits.

Wayland Patrick was king of the batsmen that day, securing three hits and a base on balls, making a perfect average. Besides that, his bit of jockeying when he got the third baseman to try to tag him out on the base line, letting a man score and the batter to reach first, then getting back on second base himself, was heady ball playing and helped a lot in winning the game.



Baseball was a big source of summer fun! The Marengo ballpark, roofed bleachers and all, was home to the Marengo Athletics and Whiteys (previously called the Stars and later, Jimmy White's). The park was located on the Shurtleff flats, currently the Zion Lutheran athletic field. It was the proving ground for local baseball celebrity and popular favorite Carl Lundgren. A game played on August 28, 1908, had an attendance of 750. On a Sunday or holiday afternoon, one could hear the familiar cry, Play Ball! (Courtesy of Michael and Barbara Bigalke.)









*INTERIOR VIEW OF MARENGO STOVE WORKS AFTER FIRE
OF OCT. 5, '07. MARENGO, ILL.*

ANOTHER DEVASTATING FIRE, OCTOBER 1907. Marengo Stove Factory, also known as Collins and Burgie Stove Factory, burned in 1907, October 5. It stood north of a site that would be known as "hobo jungle" in the decade following. The jungle of weeds that grew over the ruins was a hangout and overnight shelter for tramps. Nice girls were cautioned never to walk out in that direction. (Courtesy the Henry and Margaret Szlachta Collection.)