



## The Civil War

The national argument over where slavery should be legal and where it would be prohibited spiraled the nation toward Civil War in 1861. By 1862, the Union Army occupied sections of the South from Fortress Monroe, Virginia, to New Orleans. Enslaved men, women and children found their way to Union lines and became "contraband" of war, many of them working for the Union army or beginning new lives. In the North, after initial opposition, black men formed military companies. While the Massachusetts 54th was the most famous of these units, the 180,000 African Americans who served in the Civil War came from every part of the now-disunited States. As many soldiers had their origins in the South as in the North. By the time that the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, in January, 1863, many slaves had emancipated themselves.

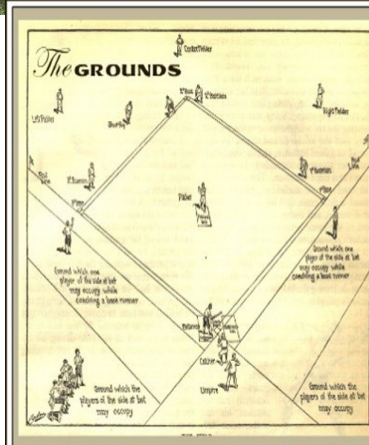


**Group of "contrabands" at Foller's House, VA**  
Photo courtesy Library of Congress (No. 0055)



**ROCHESTER OPERA HOUSE**  
BUILT IN 1890, THE OPERA HOUSE BLOCK OPENED WITH THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND NORTON PHARMACY ON ITS GROUND FLOOR. ON NOVEMBER 7, 1890, A GRAND OPENING DANCE LAUNCHED THE UPPER LEVEL OPERA HOUSE AS ROCHESTER'S SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CENTER. UNTIL 1933 PLAYS, MOVIES, LECTURES, DANCES, REUNIONS, COMMENCEMENTS--EVEN BOXING MATCHES--FILLED THE CALENDARS, BUT NEVER AN OPERA. IN 1987 THIS RICHARDSONIAN-STYLE LANDMARK, WITH ITS SIXTEEN-FOOT CEILINGS AND STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS, WAS RESTORED.

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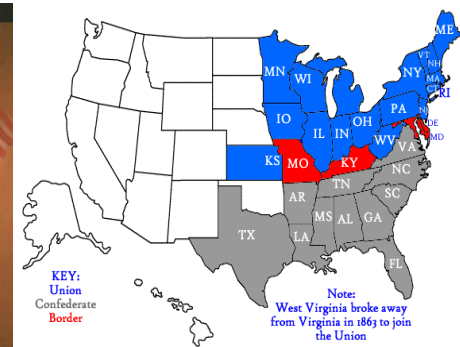
The field of the late 19th century was not much different than today's field. The major and most noticeable difference is the pitching area. The pitchers pitched from a flat surface level with the ground and at a distance of 45 feet until it was moved back to 50 feet in 1881.

The pitching area or pitcher's box varied in size overtime. During the 1870s the box was 6' x 6'. By 1885 the box was 4'w x 6' deep.

Home base or home plate was originally a circular slab. By the late 1880s home base was one square foot made of hard rubber or stone slab.

1st, 2nd and 3rd bases were made of canvas and filled with sawdust or sand and I'm sure whatever else they had handy. The centers of the bases were centered on the foul lines and the 90 foot marks.

Today's vintage game is played where ever there is an open, relatively flat field. Sometimes played with trees and other impediments near or on the field of play. And if your lucky enough, played on a 100 year old ball field with plenty of ghosts from games played.



**Rochester Grangers**

**Rochester Granger Vintage Base Ball Club**

*Piller enjoys creating elixirs to cure ailments in our resident when not playing base ball.*

**Bob 'Piller' Lytle**

The Rochester Grangers were originally part of a merchant's league in Rochester during the 1870s.

[www.rochestergrangers.com](http://www.rochestergrangers.com)

