

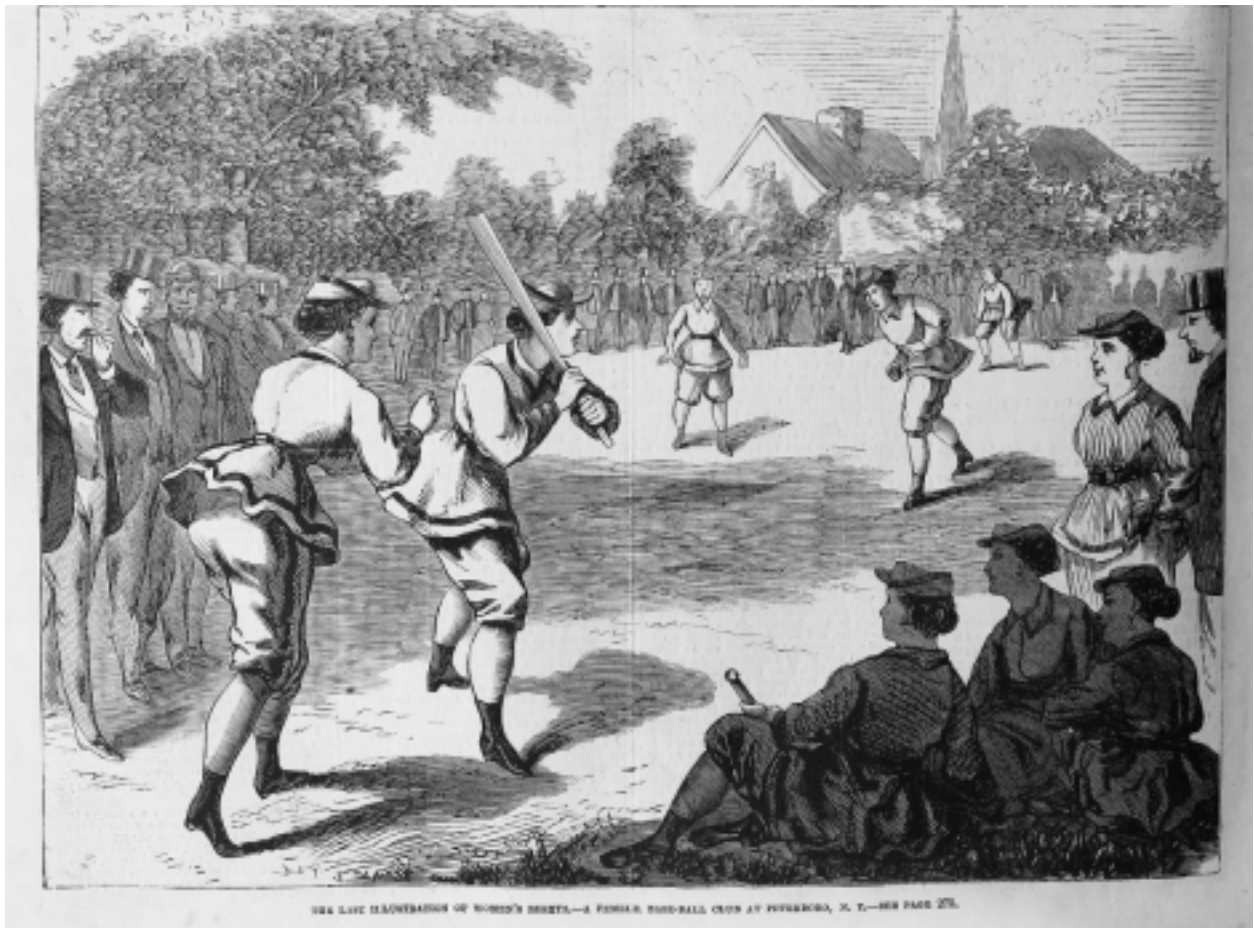
Early Women's Baseball

Bob Tholkes sends us this early account of an 1867 women's game, from the Harrisburg *Patriot*, Aug. 17, 1867, with this comment: "The Harrisburg note is exceptionally friendly for the time; almost all 1867 references to women and baseball are sarcastic..."

NOVEL BASE BALL GAME.—The local of the Columbia *Herald* recently witnessed a game of base ball played by young ladies of that town. In describing the affair he says: "It is not true, as Brick Pomroy asserts, that the lovely players lose skeletons, waterfalls and strings while running the home bases. The ones we behold running were as agile and athletic as young deers, and fairly cut the wind as they sped to home base." Couldn't some of the young ladies of Harrisburg be induced to get up a match game and try their skill with the bat and ball? The novelty of the affair would not fail to attract a large crowd of spectators. "Our national amusement" is a great institution.

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John Thorn adds to this (in his *OurGame* blog): "Two nines competed in 1868, at Peterboro, New York, an upstate village some seventy-five miles from Seneca Falls where the women's suffrage movement was born. The contest was reported in a New York newspaper called *Day's Doings*, a sensationalist sex-story journal self-avowedly devoted to "current events of romance, police reports, important trials, and sporting news." John also furnished this image, which was (for the time) surprisingly free of sex and sensationalism.



THE LATE ILLUSTRATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS.—A FEMALE BASE-BALL CLUB AT PUTNAM, N. Y.—SEE PAGE 276.

(Day's Doings, Oct. 3, 1868)