



What's Happening?

at the Kingston Historical Museum

MAY 2023

Vol 2 Issue 5

This Month

Kingston's Greenwood Cemetery holds a connection between Kingston and major league baseball from the 1880s. Read about Ledell Titcomb, a southpaw pitcher.

If you would like to help out at the museum, please contact us. This month Christine Hume writes about her experiences as a volunteer at the Kingston Historical Museum. Perhaps you might write about your time as a volunteer for a future issue of the newsletter!

This Month's "What Is It" is a puzzler! The object was an invention from a business once located in Concord, NH. See if you might puzzle it out.

Remember, next month the Museum celebrates the 125th anniversary of the Nichols Memorial Library building. You are invited to the party. Make plans to be here on Saturday, June 10th starting at 1:00 PM!

So you don't miss an issue of the "What's Happening" newsletter, just go the town's website and select to receive the newsletter by email. You can also download past issues from:

<https://www.kingstonnh.org/historical-museum-committee/webforms/whats-happening-newsletter-archives>

Next month the museum will resume the regular schedule of opening all the museum buildings including the second Saturday of each month (June-October, 1-4 PM). Along with the main Nichols Memorial Library building, the 1895 Firehouse, the 1880s Cobbler Shop, the 1907 Tramp House and the 1833 Grace Daley barn will open for touring. We are here on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM until noon! We can also be here by appointment. Call or email us using the information on page three of this newsletter

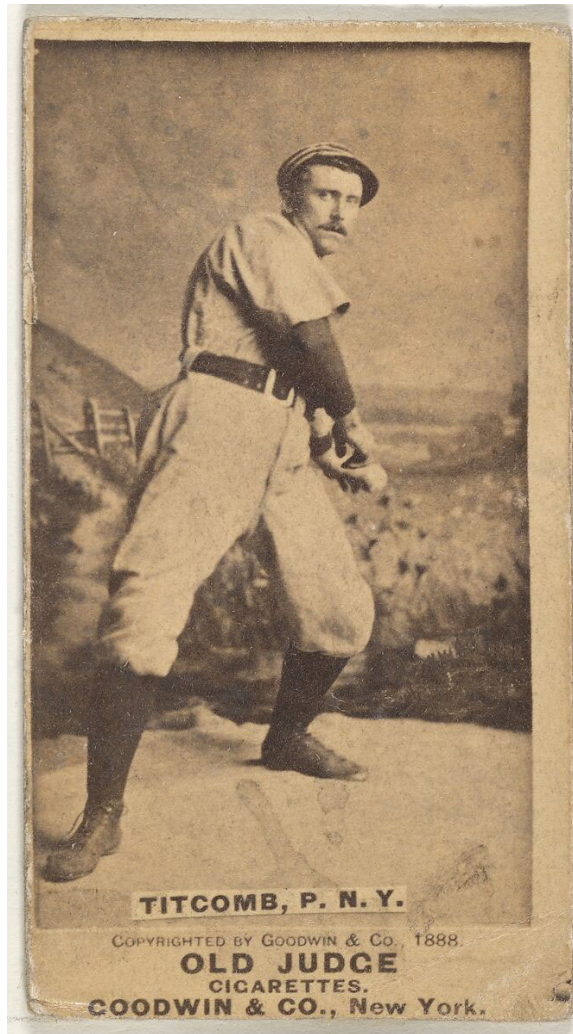
Kingston Stories

Ledell Titcomb: Southpaw Buried at Greenwood Cemetery

by Steve Sousa

The crack of a fastball as it hits the bat, the roar of the crowd as the runner rounds 2nd base, and the taste of hotdogs with mustard and relish are the memories many of us have of a summer's day at the ballpark. There is another memory to be found here in Kingston about the early days of baseball. Buried in Greenwood Cemetery is a southpaw pitcher who played for the American Association, the International Association, and the National League from 1886 to 1890.

Ledell Titcomb, was born in 1866 in West Baldwin, Maine. When a teenager, his family moved to Massachusetts. In 1884 he became a charter member of an amateur baseball club in nearby Haverhill, MA.¹ He made his major league baseball debut for the Philadelphia Quakers in 1886 in a game against the New York Giants². Unfortunately, the Quakers lost that game and Titcomb was let go. For the 1887 season, he was picked up by Philadelphia Athletics of the American Association. The American Association was not the current American League.



Titcomb baseball card from:

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/402399>

"The Association", as it was often called, was a professional baseball league that ran from 1882-1891.³ The Association established teams in what the National Leaguers called "river cities", including Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Louisville, and St. Louis. The American Association was sometimes referred to as the "Beer and Whiskey League" because the National League, somewhat Puritanical, prohibited

(Ledell Titcomb continues on next page)

(Ledell Titcomb continues)

the sale of alcohol on its property!⁴ The Association had no such restrictions, indeed, several of the teams were sponsored by breweries and distilleries!

It is interesting to notice the evolution of modern day major league baseball from those days of the latter decades of the 1800s. For example, the champions of the AA and the NL met in a version of the “World Series” games from 1884 until 1890. These contests were a bit irregular with some yearly series having three games to determine the World Series champs to as many as fifteen games in other years!⁵

Titcomb’s left-hand pitches were recognized as a powerful tool for an 1887 game against Detroit. The New York Herald wrote, “Titcomb...scored an emphatic success, his left-handed delivery being an enigma to the Titans from Detroit.”⁶ In the 1890 season, Titcomb played for the Rochester (NY) Broncos of the American Association as well as for the Toronto Canucks of the International League. On September 15th playing for Rochester, Titcomb threw a no-hitter against the Syracuse Stars in a 7-0 victory.

After the 1887 season, Titcomb purchased property in Haverhill, MA and over that winter and during the remainder of his professional ball career, he apprenticed in a local shoemaking shop to learn a trade.⁷ After his career, he would work for a time for the United Shoe Machinery Corporation.

Titcomb’s baseball life began to fade with the 1889 season. In an April 25th game against Boston, pitching for the New York Giants, he was able to squeak out an 11-10 win. On May 4th against Philadelphia, Titcomb pitched an 11-2 loss for the Giants. Further games only gave evidence that he was out of condition and so not available to pitch. The dramatic game of that season for Titcomb was the May 14th game against Cleveland. He pitched six scoreless innings, but “...collapse[d] in a five-run seventh that spelled a 5-0 defeat. Shortly thereafter, the Giants released him.”⁸

During the remainder of the season, no major league teams had any interest in the southpaw, though there were many offers from the minors. From then on, until he retired from baseball in 1891, he played for minor league teams such as the Rochester Hop Bitters and the Providence Clam Diggers, teams of the Eastern Association.

He returned to Haverhill, MA and worked for his father as a carpenter. In 1896 Titcomb married Margaret O’Herne. The 1920 Federal Census lists Titcomb living on Powwow River Road in Kingston, where he worked as a traveling shoe salesman. The 1930 census lists his occupation as shoemaker.

Over the remaining years, his health deteriorated. Early in June of 1950, Titcomb was admitted to Exeter hospital where he died several days later of heart disease. Services were held at the First Congregational Church in Kingston and he was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.



From:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26126942/ledell-titcomb>

Note: Titcomb’s birthdate on the marker is incorrect, it should be 1866!

Nichols Memorial Library Celebrates its 125th Anniversary

This year, the Nichols Memorial Library will be celebrating its 125 years at the center of town. Donated by J. Howard Nichols (1837- 1905) in memory of his parents, the Nichols building served the town as its library until April 28, 2012 when the new Kingston Community Library opened. The Nichols building now is the headquarters of the Kingston Historical Museum.

The museum volunteers are planning a birthday party for the Nichols building this June 10th at 1:00 pm and the town is invited!

Mark your calendar to be here and wish the building another 125 years of service to the town.

What Is It?



Photograph by Walt Roy

This month's "What Is It?" is rather unusual. It is an amber glass keg, about 11 inches tall. There is a wire handle attached to a metal collar at the keg's top. There would have been a liquid inside the object and would have weighed about 10 pounds.

The object was patented by a firm located in Concord, NH. The business was described as "...dealers in Dry Goods, Millinery, Hair Goods, Laces, Edgings, Mourning Goods, etc." Besides the object to the left, the company also had several other inventions to its list, such as an umbrella display, and "...hat pendants for displaying hats and bonnets".

Our "What is it?" is a bit different from millinery goods, but important for homes and business at the time!

Donations Needed

If anyone has left over lumber and white paint, we could use these items for our maintenance and exhibit programs. Pre-lit Christmas trees 6 - 7 feet tall as well as Christmas decorations are also needed. With the 125th anniversary of the Nichols Library coming up this June, we are looking for any memorabilia from the history of the Library. Library cards, posters, newsletters or any other materials about the Nichols Library that could either be loaned or donated for our collection would be appreciated!

Spotlight on a Volunteer

By Christine Hume



Hi. My name is Christine Hume. I am a life long resident of Kingston and have been volunteering at the Museum for 10 years. Previously I volunteered during the planning and construction of the Kingston Community Library. Given my work schedule I initially worked on museum projects at home and volunteered on weekends when the museum opened and during Kingston Days. I became a Wednesday volunteer about 5 years ago and became a member of the Museum Committee.

During the weekly work sessions, I have learned how to organize and document donations, clean and repair objects, assist in the development and set up new exhibits. I am currently responsible for organizing and documenting the Noreen Pramberg Genealogy Library Collection. The collection includes over 2000+ books. In order to begin this effort, I learned several new computer skills including using the Museum's Past Perfect software and scanning techniques. I am scanning each book to capture the specific

information need to create a record in Past Perfect and the catalog at the Kingston Community Library. These are essential steps to make the collection available to researches in New Hampshire and beyond. To be honest at times it's very hard to keep scanning efficiently because the collection includes so many interesting titles. I've been known to come out of the stacks to share an amazing discovery with the group.

Volunteering at the Museum has given me the opportunity to spend time in one of my favorite places in Kingston – the Nichols Memorial Library. When I attended D.J. Bakie School every week I walked to Nichols to spend time with Librarian Doris Stratton and pick up my favorite books. I also spent many happy summer hours in the Children’s Room in the basement. Today that space serves as main processing workspace and object storage area. It still has the familiar library smell. I have always loved Kingston’s “Castle” and love sharing the history of this beautiful buildings with visitors.

Volunteers have lived in Kingston all their lives, are late arrivals and even nonresidents. If you stop by you will see the group hard at work but also hear great stories and a lot of laughter. You will be amazed by the various talents you will find amongst the group.

It’s important to me to keep Kingston’s history alive for current and future generations of Kingstonians. Our town and its residents have taken part in many of the events that have influenced our state and nation. History does come to life at the Kingston Historical Museum. Please join me and the others volunteers by giving a few hours of your time to support the Museum.

Volunteer Hours Contributed

Spring seems to be just around the corner. The museum is working on planning for the new exhibit season and the 125th anniversary of the Nichols Library. For the month of April, the volunteers have contributed 66 hours and 250 hours for all of 2023. Thank you all so much.



**The Kingston Historical Museum is headquartered at
The Nichols Memorial Library
169 Main Street,
Kingston, NH 03848**

The Museum is open each Wednesday from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon and on the second Saturday, June through October, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Appointment to conduct research or a tour can be arranged for another date.

For more information, please call Ruth Albert at 603-642-5508 or email us at museuminfo@kingstonnh.org.

References for Ledell Titcomb - Kingston Stories

1. Ledell Titcomb. Society for American Baseball Research. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/ledell-titcomb/>. 13 April 2023
2. “Ledell Titcomb”, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ledell_Titcomb, 20 April 2023.
3. “American Association (1882-1891)”, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Association_\(1882%E2%80%931891\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Association_(1882%E2%80%931891)). 20 April 2023.
4. Ibid, “American Association (1882-1891)”
5. Ibid, “American Association (1882-1891)”
6. *New York Herald*, September 8, 1887
7. As reported in *Sporting Life*, January 9, 1888
8. Ledell Titcomb. Society for American Baseball Research. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/ledell-titcomb>. 13 April 2023