

## [Chadwick, Henry]

### FATHER OF BASEBALL DEAD IN HIS 84TH YEAR

Henry Chadwick Succumbs to Pneumonia and Heart Disease at His Home in Howard Avenue—Has Credit for Originating National Game—Was an Honorary Member of the National League—Had Long Career of Usefulness, Writing on Sporting Topics and Editing Many Works.

Henry Chadwick, known throughout the country as the "Father of Baseball," died this afternoon at his home, 106 Howard avenue, of pneumonia and heart disease. At his bedside when the end came were his wife [Jane Botts Chadwick] and his two daughters, Mrs. Thomas S. [Susan] Eldridge, of Sag Harbor, and Mrs. William C. [Helen] Edwards, of Brooklyn, and several grandchildren and other relatives.

Mr. Chadwick attended the opening game at Washington Park on Tuesday, where he contracted a slight cold, which, however, did not decrease his customary activities. While engaged Saturday afternoon in moving some light furniture from his apartments on the fourth floor to the second floor he overtaxed his heart and fell unconscious.

His granddaughter summoned Dr. Arnold W. Catlin, the family physician, who realized immediately the seriousness of the attack and directed that Mrs. Chadwick and her two daughters be summoned from Blue Point at once.

#### DEATH NOT UNEXPECTED

Saturday night and yesterday morning the veteran writer on sports improved somewhat, but since yesterday at noon was delirious most of the time.

Until this morning it was thought he was not suffering from congestion of the lungs, which was at first feared, but a careful examination showed that unfavorable condition. His death was then regarded as only a question of a few hours.

No arrangements have been made for the funeral, which may be held at the Church of Our Father, Grand avenue and Lefferts place, of which the deceased was a member. The interment will be at Greenwood Cemetery, where a few years ago A. G. Spalding, a warm personal friend and admirer of Mr. Chadwick, bought a plot for him.

Despite his advanced age—he was in his eighty-fourth year—the deceased retained his faculties to a remarkable degree, and has continued his literary work with the same industriousness and mental vigor that marked his labors a quarter of a century ago. He was regarded as the greatest authority on sports in the country, and there was no form of athletics which he did not follow with interest except boxing and wrestling. From time to time he has been a contributor to the columns of The Standard Union.

Last winter he was knocked down by a slow moving automobile and laid up for a couple of weeks in consequence. A month ago he fell and struck his head against a piano in his apartments, but sustained no more than a scalp wound. Mrs. Chadwick, who with two daughters, survives him, is in her eighty-eighth year.

#### WELL KNOWN FOR WRITINGS

Henry Chadwick was credited with having first successfully brought the present national game before the public, and as a writer on baseball and kindred topics was widely known. During his long career as a journalist he served the gamut of newspaper dignities from reporter to editor, and as an author received recognition by the publication of such books as Chadwick's "Baseball Manual" or "Sports for American Boys." In the early sixties he was the first editor of the "Baseball Chronicle," the pioneer journal of those exclusively devoted to the great American game. It is interesting to note that, peculiarly American as baseball is, it was given its existence by one of foreign birth. Mr. Chadwick was born on the Jessamine Cottage, Exeter, Devonshire, England, on Oct. 5, 1824. He was the youngest son of James Chadwick, who was editor of the "Western Times," England, during the thirties. His eldest brother was the well-known sanitary

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philosopher of the United Kingdom, Sir Edwin Chadwick. In September of 1837 the Chadwick family moved to this country and settled in Brooklyn.

RETIRED IN 1896

Henry Chadwick began his newspaper career in 1837 at the age of 13 years as a contributor to the Long Island "Star," then edited by the late Alden J. Spencer. In 1856 he had risen to the dignity of cricket reporter for the New York "Times," and in that capacity served for one year, when he began to write on the special topic of baseball for the "Clipper." By this occurrence his journalistic career should really be dated. He struck is [?] then, and from this time until 1896, when he was obliged to retire because of rheumatism from very active work in his profession, was a contributor in his specialty of baseball to many daily and other periodical papers.

In (?) he was the first writer on the national game for the New York "Herald." Upon the kindred topics of baseball and cricket he contributed to the New York "Tribune" in the sixties and seventies, and as early as 1850 was sent by Charles Dana, then the managing editor of the paper, to report the international cricket matches which began in Montreal that year. In the seventies he wrote for the New York "Times," the New York "Sun," the Sunday "Mercury," Sunday "Dispatch" and the Sunday "Times and Messenger," in addition to those before mentioned.

### CONVERSANT WITH MANY SPORTS

In 1882 Mr. Chadwick was the editor of the "Baseball Chronicle," already referred to, which he conducted for several years. Shortly after his retirement from this chair he edited the "Metropolitan," a weekly devoted to the national sport. In 1880 he was the head of the New York "Sporting Times," and in the nineties assumed supervision of "Walden's Monthly," a periodical devoted to all sports. After this he was for a short time assistant editor of the "Sporting Review." In 1880 he served for a period as an editorial writer for the "Outing Magazine," of which Poultney Bigelow was at that time head. In the same capacity he wrote for the Philadelphia "Sporting Life" and the St. Louis "Sporting Argus."

Throughout his busy journalistic career Mr. Chadwick found time to superintend the publication of a number of handbooks, not only upon his favorite topic of baseball, but on lacrosse, skating, ice curling and so on. Among these may be mentioned Beadle's "Dime Book of American Baseball," published in 1860; Honey's "Book of Reference," a baseball work; Dewitt's "Baseball Guide," Munro's "American Game of Baseball," and also and English "Baseball Guide," published in 1870.

### WROTE FOR LOCAL PAPERS

Since 1896 Mr. Chadwick did comparatively little in the field in which he was an authority. He annually edited the official "League Guide," published by Spalding and in addition contributed occasionally to the sporting columns of out-of-town papers, and The Standard Union and the Brooklyn "Eagle."

Mr. Chadwick was a member of the Society of Old Brooklynites, the Crescent A. C., Brooklyn Chess Club, and the Universalist Church of Our Father, Grand Avenue and Lefferts place.

Mr. Chadwick is survived by a widow and two daughters, Mrs. Thomas S. Eldridge, of Sag Harbor, and Mrs. William C. Edwards, of this borough.

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Transcribed on 27 Jul 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY