

III. Sport in the United States

III- 1

Barnett, C. Robert. "Recreational Patterns of the Colonial Virginia Aristocrat," *The Journal of the West Virginia Historical Association*, 2, No. 1 (Spring 1978), 1-10.

The Colonial Virginia aristocrat attained a similar lifestyle to that of the English country gentleman. His recreational activities were reflective of his tobacco-based wealth and his desire for social interaction. Gambling on cocks, cards, billiards, bowling, and horse races was popular. The monotony of plantation isolation was broken by balls, social engagements lasting 3-4 days which included the same gambling events, fox hunting, great amounts of food and drink, and the highlight event, dancing. Biannual Court Days in Williamsburg which became the social events of the year included tavern balls, fairs, and theatrical performances. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 54 notes.

Angela Lumpkin

III-2

Berryman, Jack W. "The Tenuous Attempts of Americans to 'Catch-Up With John Bull': Speciality Magazines and Sporting Journalism, 1800-1835," *Canadian Journal of History of Sport and Physical Education*, 10, No. 1 (May 1979), 33-61.

American sporting journals and speciality magazines published between 1800 and 1835 included articles on sport that were either printed verbatim from British periodicals or were written in the style of British magazines. During the nine years prior to 1835 seven sport magazines made their debut and were indicative of a growing interest in sport and sport journalism. While not equal to British sporting journalism by 1835, an important foundation was laid by a few pioneers in American sport journalism. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 100 notes.

Don Morrow

III-3

Levine, Peter. "The Promise of Sport in Antebellum America," *Journal of American Culture*, 2 (Winter 1980), 623-34.

Most historians discuss the relationship of sport and society in America (1820-1860) in terms of an "optimistic, egalitarian" society. There were those, however, who feared that rapid changes and increasing segmentation undermined order and stability. The literature of three groups of writers disclosed that many individuals encouraged participation in sport and physical recreation as a way to stabilize society and develop character needed for citizenship. Child guidance advisors such as Catharine Beecher wrote on the values of exercise for both boys and girls as a way to health and a strong America. Heath reformers Charles Caldwell and S. R. Calthrop recalled virtues of a simpler past and dangers to the health of citizens brought about by pursuit of wealth. Manuals on sport also evidenced concern about the nation's future and promoted sport as developing needed values. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 48 notes.

Helen Fant

III-4

Messenger, Christian. "Southwestern Humorists and Ring Lardner—Sport in American Literature," *Illinois Quarterly*, 39, No. 1 (Fall 1976), 5-21.

Men such as Augustus Longstret, Thomas Bangs Thorpe, and George Washington Harris were the first writers to popularize American sport in the 1830s through their fiction, but the modern sporting world was first brought to life

for the popular reader by the writings of Ring Lardner during the period from 1914 to 1935. Lardner recognized sport as the focal point for social interaction and though it is not evident that he was familiar with those works of the earlier southwestern humorists, his style and concerns echo theirs of nearly one hundred years earlier. Lardner was a deeply conservative man who wrote of a society in flux and selected the professional athlete—especially the baseball player and the boxer—as his representative man. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 24 notes.

M. Paul Holsinger

III-5

Baker, Carlos. "Moralist and Hedonist: Emerson, Henry Adams, and the Dance," *New England Quarterly*, 52, No. 1 (March 1979), 27-37.

Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Adams extolled the virtues of dance as expressions of power and grace through the synthesis of body and spirit. Emerson who had thought that ballerinas were "nearly idiotic" changed his opinion after watching Fanny Elssler in 1841 perform in the ballet *Nathalie*. He admired her power and grace, strength and strangeness, freedom and control, all at work in perfect concord. Adams, forty-seven years later, watched native Samoan women dance the Siva. He described the women, naked to the waist, skin glistening with cocoa-nut oil, and figures "absolutely Greek in modelling and action" as dancing the Siva "with freedom of muscle and motion as the Greeks themselves hardly knew." Based on primary sources and secondary works: 16 notes.

Roxanne M. Albertson

III-6

Wiggins, David R. "Sport and Popular Pastimes: Shadow of the Slavequarter," *Canadian Journal of History and Sport and Physical Education*, 11, No. 1 (May 1980), 61-88.

A deeper understanding of slave culture can be acquired by investigating the sport and popular pastimes of slave life on the plantation. Through sanctioned Saturday night parties and clandestine week night social gatherings, the slave found an outlet from the sometimes oppressive plantation environment. Dancing, along with hunting, fishing, gambling, swimming, wrestling, fighting, footracing and jumping contests were sources of activity for the slave. These forms of activity were oftentimes condemned by plantation owners and even state laws. Physical activities, and dancing in particular, appeared to have had a cathartic effect by providing a release of tension precipitated by the slave's degraded conditions on the plantation. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 118 notes.

Dave Brown

III-7

Wiggins, David K. "Isaac Murphy: Black Hero in Nineteenth Century American Sport, 1861-1896," *Canadian Journal of History of Sport and Physical Education*, 10, No. 1 (May 1979), 15-32.

Isaac Murphy was one of the finest American jockeys in turf history. Famous for his riding skills, his acquired wealth and his gentlemanly behaviour, the black, Kentucky athlete was particularly noted for his honesty in a professional sport that experienced tremendous problems of fixed races and bribery during the late nineteenth century. Murphy's rapid decline in success after 1890 was due to his inability to cope with problems such as the necessity to make weight for racing and over-consumption of alcohol. America's intolerance of interracial, organized sports during the last decade of the nineteenth century contributed to his poor track record during that period. His conformity to the racing establishment and his personal style and flair account for his success and popularity. Based on newspaper and secondary sources; 85 notes.
Don Morrow

III-8

Krythe, Maymie R. "Daily Life in Early Los Angeles," *Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly*, 36, No. 1 (March 1954), 28-39, No. 2 (June 1954), 115-129.

Life in early Los Angeles (1850-1875) is divided into two sections, the first dealing with sports and other pastimes and the second with holiday celebrations. Native Californians and imported Americans particularly enjoyed gambling, cock fighting, bull fighting (although the bull was seldom killed), bull and bear fighting, dancing and horse racing. One of the most famous horse races was a nine-mile race in 1852 between Black Swan owned by Don Jose Sepulveda and Sarco owned by ex-governor Pio Pica. Over \$50,000 and thousands of animals were bet on the race won by Black Swan. Parades, balls, and feasting usually comprised most holiday celebrations, but on St. John's Day the race to catch the rooster was the major part of the celebration. One of the best known rooster pulls occurred in 1853 and was won by Sepulveda. Based on newspapers; no notes; illustrations.

Lynne Emery

III-9

Mead, Christina Wielus. "Las Fiestas de Los Angeles. A Survey of Yearly Celebrations, 1894-1898," *Quarterly, Historical Society of Southern California*, 31, No. 1 & 2 (March-June 1949), 61-113.

Based on the customs of the early Californians and sponsored by the Los Angeles Merchants Association for the purpose of economic gain, Las Fiestas de

Los Angeles began in 1894. Consisting of a week-long celebration similar to New Orleans' Mardi Gras, the 1894 fiesta was held in April and consisted of business decorations, a parade with representatives of the Chinese, African, and American Indian communities, a parade of school children, a floral-military day parade, and a masquerade ball. The 1895 fiesta was larger than the first and included concerts, masked reveling, horse racing, and a series of athletic contests. The 1896 fiesta incorporated an Athletic Day with valuable prizes awarded to winners of the 100 and 440 yard dashes and the one-half mile Indian footrace. In the final fiesta, the athletic events were more of a novelty nature including sack races, bicycle races, and a three-legged bicycle race. Based on primary sources, newspapers, and secondary works; 162 notes; illustrations.

Lynne Emery

III- 10

Carroon, Robert G. "The Milwaukee Highland Games," *Milwaukee History*, 2 (Winter 1979), 108-20.

The Milwaukee Highland Games are described from their inception in 1866 to their demise in 1914. The Games of 1867, 1868, 1870, and the silver jubilee celebration of 1891 are highlighted. Events (athletics, dance, piping), names of winners and records, as well as newspaper accounts of particularly noteworthy contests are listed. Two innovations at the 1891 games, non-Scottish competitors and bicycle racing, contributed to the downfall of the Milwaukee festival. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 21 notes; 5 illustrations.

Phyllis Ocker

III- 11

Fumich, William M. "W. B. Leffingwill, Iowa Sportsman," *Palimpsest*, 61, No. 6 (November/December 1980), 162-69.

William Bruce Leffingwell (1850-1909) was a lawyer, avid wild fowl hunter, and an author. His books describe the development of the upper Mississippi scull boat, techniques of hunting fowl, and changes in guns from the percussion lock muzzle loader (which he was expertly quick to re-load) to the 1897 model Winchester pump. He felt that the "97" with its quick action and greater killing power contributed to the need for legislation limiting hunting migratory birds. Ironically he was killed in a hunting accident. One of his works, *The Art of Wing Shooting* (1894), contains a chapter devoted to "Women as Shooters." His most popular book was *Wild Fowl Shooting* (1888). Based on interviews; no notes; 4 photographs.

Aimee M. Loftin

III- 12

Richards, Sherman L. and Blackburn, George M. "A Nineteenth-Century Western Circus: Virginia City, July 4, 1870," *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, 22, No. 3 (Fall 1979), 199-208.

Fourth of July celebrations were important recreational events in western mining towns in the second half of the nineteenth century. An itinerant circus might very well provide the focus for the day's festivities. Most such circuses were small, consisting of a ring, a tent, riding acts, tumbling, a talking clown, a menagerie, and a trick horse; their reorganization was frequent. This article describes briefly the origins of circuses in America and their appearance in the Far West, then focuses upon Wilson's Great Overland Circus and the July 4, 1870 Virginia City, Nevada celebration, which the authors declare as ". . . representative of the genre in the early 19th century." Interesting observations about the composition of the circus troupe are included. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; no notes.

Roberta J. Park

III-13

Glassberg, David. "Restoring A 'Forgotten Childhood': American Play and The Progressive Era's Elizabethan Past," *American Quarterly*, 32, No. 4 (Fall 1980), 351-68.

American Progressives at the turn of the twentieth century decried "a want of recreative zeal" in most Americans. They sought healthful play and recreation not besmirched by the "noisy carnivals" and Coney Island atmosphere of untutored immigrants. They found an ostensible tradition of Elizabethan play in many American games and dances. William Wells Newell's 1883 text, *Games and Songs of American Children*, was an influential source for the Progressives. Wells claimed to have found Shakespearean Age roots in ordinary play songs like "Three Jolly Sailors." Social worker Jane Addams highly praised folk dancing as a "safeguard [against] unwary and dangerous expression" and praised such ornate dances as "a vehicle through which the gaiety of youth may flow." Maypole dancing in city schools was encouraged before World War I, but after the war, the Elizabethan past was forgotten by all but folklorists. The backwoodsman as a national cultural hero grew larger as the country reacted against foreign influences. Based on secondary works; 61 notes.

Lee Lowenfish

III- 14

Smith, Robert P. "Simple Pleasures and Social Rendevous: The Art of Urban Social Mingling," *Journal of Long Island History*, 15 (Fall 1978), 25-37.

A representative American City, Brooklyn, New York, was selected to examine the course of leisure at the turn of the twentieth century. Two basic themes were identified and investigated: (1) how Brooklyn's urban population employed its free time and (2) how effective the city was in providing outlets and facilities for the use of free time. The middle class flocked to parks and beaches, the upper class had elaborate entertainment and summer cottages, while the poor had the streets, the rooftops, the East River and the shaded residential areas which the rich had deserted for the season. For the poor, which constituted 30 percent of the city's population, Brooklyn responded poorly; there were too few parks, bath houses, and kindergartens. The middle class, which needed less public supported recreational facilities, was able to enjoy its increased leisure time. For the rich it was life as usual. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 63 notes.

Garold Cole

III- 15

Cranz, Galen. "Women in Urban Parks," *Signs*, 5, Supplement (Spring 1980), S79-S95.

Urban parks have been designed to alleviate urban problems, and women have been suggested as partial solutions. Pleasure gardens constructed between 1850 and 1900 attempted to provide wholesome surroundings for family outings, for the planners believed that the presence of respectable women would raise standards of conduct. Work Reform Parks, built during the period 1900-1930 period aimed at assimilating immigrants, protecting children and providing workers recreation, were age and sex segregated. Recreational parks, characteristic of the 1930-1965 period, ignored paternalism and class distinction and reintroduced family orientation. In recent years open space projects attempted to re-vitalize the inner city. None of these plans, however, have addressed women's specific recreational needs. Based on secondary works; no notes.

Mary Lou LeCompe

III- 16

McCarthy, Michael P. "Politics and the Parks—Chicago Businessmen and the Recreation Movement," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, 65, No. 2 (Summer 1972), 158-72.

In 1899 a Special Park Commission was established, in an advisory capacity, to examine and meet Chicago's playground needs in a systematic manner.

The previously established North and South Park Boards, composed chiefly of wealthy businessmen, expanded sites. The West Park Board, however, was under the control of machine politicians where patronage generally took precedence over progressive reform. Following its reorganization by the governor in 1905, the West Board opened several westside parks between 1908 and 1912. The Special Park Commission urged regional recreational planning which in 1914 resulted in the establishment of the Forest Park District of Cook County. Prominent businessmen played a significant role in developing a systematic plan for recreational areas in Chicago. As businessmen they understood the relationship between crime and congestion and disease which adversely affected business and land values. Based upon primary sources, newspapers and secondary works; 40 notes; 5 photos.

Aimee M. Loftin

III- 17

Cox, Thomas, R. "Weldon Heyburn, Lake Chatcolet and the Evolving Concept of Public Parks," *Idaho Yesterdays*, (Summer 1980), 2-15.

Weldon Heyburn, United States Senator in the early 1900s proposed a national park at Lake Coeur d' Alene. The saga of the park lands reveals Heyburn's unfulfilled attempt to legislate for Lake Chatcolet. Later it became Idaho's first park, much to Heyburn's chargin. Other considerations in this movement for public parks were the recreational pursuits of the upper classes and the rights of the Coeur d'Alene Indians to the lands surrounding Lake Chatcolet stipulated by the General Allotment Act of 1887. Based on primary sources, newspapers, Congressional Record, and secondary works; maps; illustrations and pictures; numerous notes.

Sharon Kay Stoll

III- 18

Roberts, Virginia Culin. "Horseback to Mount Baldy: A Ranchwoman's Holiday, 1913," *Journal of Arizona History*, 21, No. 1 (Spring 1980), 25-42.

In the summer of 1913 two women, four children, a guide, and a cook traveled by wagon, pack-mule, and horseback to the White Mountains in southeastern Arizona. On this vacation they hunted, camped, and fished through 400 miles of wilderness. The had no difficulty except for ant bites. Based upon interviews and secondary works; 14 notes; 20 photographs.

David McComb