

# **The Origins of Hockey, Montreal 1875-1885**

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The origins of hockey are still a mystery, more than 100 years after the game's birth. Many people have given their versions of these origins, although they seem to conflict with one another. This author argues that we will never get the exact answer, but it is possible to get a better picture than ever.

Pseudo-historians, mostly hockey journalists, who never searched for the facts, just used what someone said before. For a change, we went to the best sources available, the newspapers, to get the exact facts. Although many facts are not reported, it is still possible to give an interpretation of what really happened.

To get this picture, this research examines the game played on March 3, 1875, and also to the games played during the following decades. After 1875 hockey remained contained in Montreal for almost a decade without being diffused outside the island. With the Montreal Carnival, from 1883 to 1885, hockey was taken by teams from Quebec City and Ottawa, but the game remained contained in these cities as well. Finally, hockey was diffused throughout Canada by Lord Stanley's trophy, put into competition in 1893.

Another important feature of the game is its rules. From the first rules published in 1877, it is possible to trace a straight line of development to today's rules. This confirms that hockey evolved from the Montreal game. But the question remains, Who wrote these first rules?

The research shows that there is not question that hockey, as we know it today, originated in Montreal. We also know that some people transformed the earlier games of field hockey, played in Great Britain, to get a new game on ice. A question that remains unanswered is, is J.G.A. Creighton the real "father" of hockey? This paper doesn't solve all of the mysteries surrounding the origins of hockey, but it guides researchers to areas that demand attention.