



Name: Alexander Joy Cartwright Jr.

Place: New York City, New York

Years: April 17, 1820 – July 12, 1892

Brief Biography

Alexander Joy Cartwright Jr. was born on April 17, 1820 in New York City. Upon financial difficulties, Alexander had to drop out of school at 16 to work as a clerk for a Wall Street Brokerage firm. In his early twenties, he had become a bank teller.

After working as a teller for a couple of years, Alexander decided to open a bookstore on Wall Street with his brother. Amidst the stress and pressure of operating a store, he liked to play baseball for fun. Using his love for baseball and his business skills, Alexander helped form the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club. They changed the rules of the game into what modern day baseball abides by.

However, Alexander did not stay in New York for long. Being business minded, he joined many others in the quest for gold in the Western portion of the United States. He was never able to search for gold because he became ill and went to an island in Hawaii to recover. While in Hawaii he worked as a bookkeeper. He was also responsible for creating the fire department as well as introducing baseball to Hawaii. One of his many occupations also included acting as an agent for whaling ships. With his business skills, Alexander helped create many businesses in Hawaii and served as a financial advisor and diplomat for the royal family.

Major Achievements

Alexander, along with his brother, owned and operated a book store on Wall Street. He also helped create many businesses in Hawaii. He was a well-known banker and financial industry leader. He is also credited with helping create the basis for modern day baseball.

For More Information

To learn more about Alexander you can check out the National Baseball Library in Cooperstown, N.Y. Robert W. Henderson wrote a book called *Ball, Bat and Bishop: The Origin of Ball Games*. Harold Peterson wrote a biography about Alexander called *The Man Who Invented Baseball*.

Resources

American National Biography Online

<http://web.mit.edu/invent/iow/cartwright.html>

By Jenn Delisle