

Army Heritage Days 2012: Vintage base ball and the U.S. Army

Jack Giblin, Army Heritage and Education Center
Vintage base ball and the U.S. Army: Showcasing
America's heritage

Find a complete schedule of events here (<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/AHEC/event/2012AHDschedule.pdf>)

The crack of the bat and the roar of cannon will mingle on the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center's (USAHEC) Army Heritage Trail on May 19th and 20th! The USAHEC's annual tribute to the U.S. Army's rich history will include a special visit and exposition by The Mechanicsburg Nine Vintage Base Ball Club.

The Mechanicsburg Nine play base ball, written as two words rather than one, in the uniforms and by the rules of 1864. Vintage base ball is played in an open field rather than a diamond, uses a slightly smaller ball, and showcases how America's Pastime was originally played. The Mechanicsburg Nine is one of over four hundred vintage base ball teams in the U.S. and they will play for the Army Heritage Days crowd on Traditions Field on Sunday May 20th at 3 pm.

19th Century base ball is not the only attraction at the USAHEC's family-friendly event. The Heritage Trail will also feature extensive Civil War Confederate and Union Camps, a special look at the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, expositions from French and Indian War era living historians, and even displays of Vietnam Gun Trucks, complete with sheet steel armor. All eras of U.S. Army history are covered, so there is something for everyone.

Come to meet the living historians and watch the base ball game, stay to experience the whole of U.S. Army history! BAE Systems and JLG Corporation will feature several of their current-operations equipment, including the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, while members of the “Red Ball” group show examples of their WWII-era counterparts. Sutlers from the Revolutionary and Civil War eras will pitch their tents aside 18th Century children’s games and Korean War living historians. The entirety of the USAHEC’s Army Heritage Trail will be packed with displays of historical military equipment, vehicles, gear, and live demonstrations. Inside the Visitor and Education Center, the USAHEC’s museum exhibits will be open and the hallways will be full of displays. Come inside to cool off, see the Paper Modelers life-like creations, and listen to lectures on the War of 1812.

Army Heritage Days 2012 is a timeline living history event and is FREE to attend. Parking is also FREE. The USAHEC gift shop will be open and will feature the Army Heritage Days book sale, an annual crowd favorite. The event opens to the public at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 19th and on Sunday, May 20th. The event will end at 5:00 PM both days, as well. Food vendors, including our own Café Cumberland, will offer a wide variety of refreshments. For more information, please call 717-245-3972 or visit www.usahec.org to download the flier and schedule of events.

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