

The Spread of Baseball in Illinois

Some Preliminary Data, August 2014

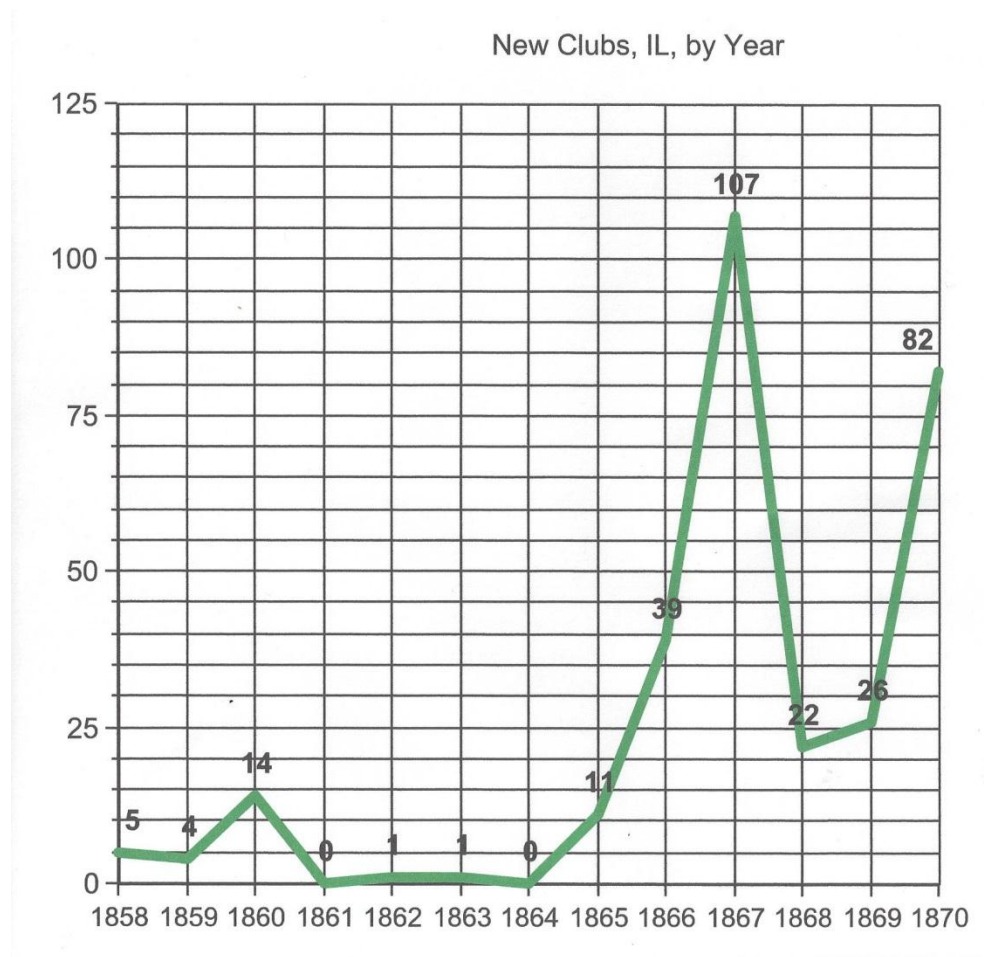
Bruce Allardice

New Chicago Teams, by year

With names such as:

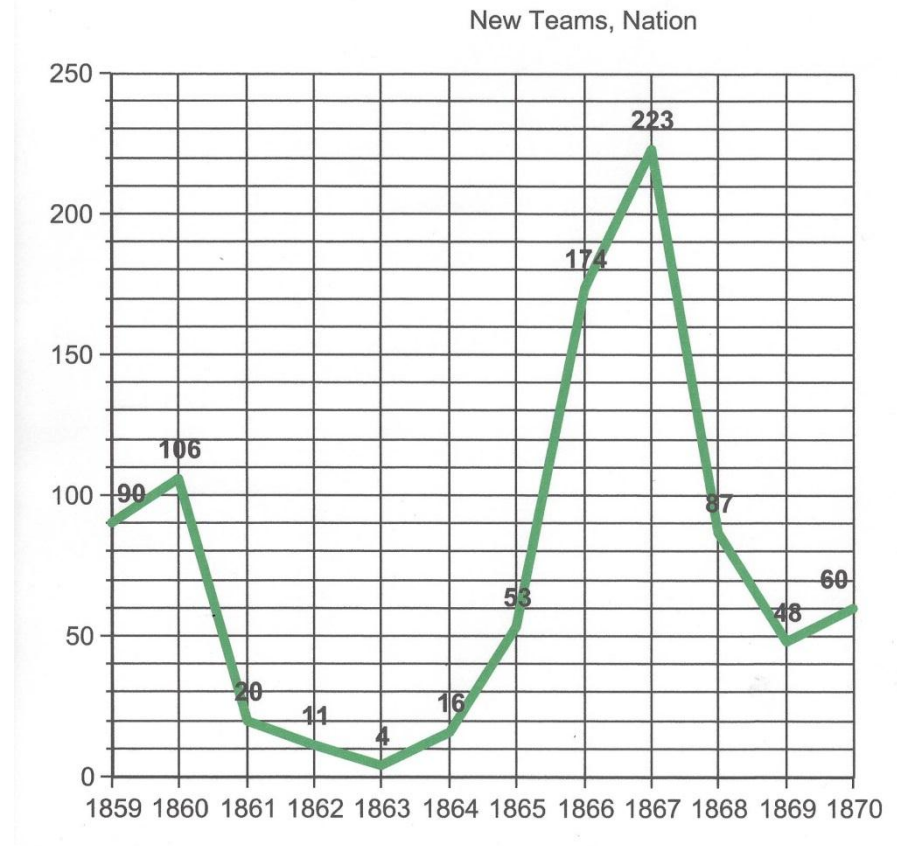
1858--1	Union, Excelsior, Ossawatamie,
1859--4	Red Jacket, Osceola, Wide Awake,
1860--13	Ogden, Dexter, Alpha, Coronet,
1861-64—0	Grasshopper, Improvers, Fire Flys,
1865--3	Potter Palmers, Union Turners.
1866--8	
1867--18	
1868--1	As can be seen, the war halted the
1869--5	formation of new teams. Big spike
1870--29	1867, and 1870. Just like the nation.

New Clubs in IL, by Year, 1858-70



New Teams formed, by “new” city, nationwide

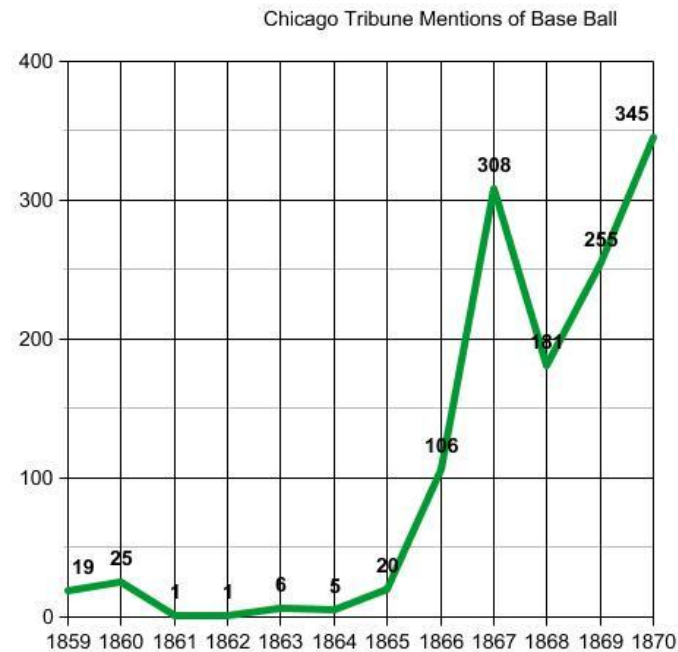
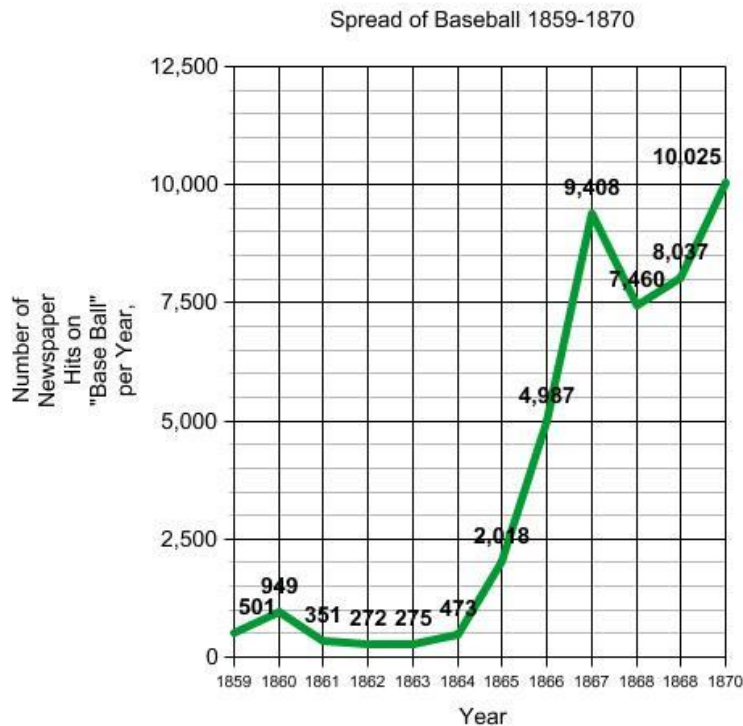
- 1859 90
- 1860 106
- 1861 20
- 1862 11
- 1863 4
- 1864 16
- 1865 53
- 1866 174
- 1867 223
- 1868 87
- 1869 48
- 1870 60

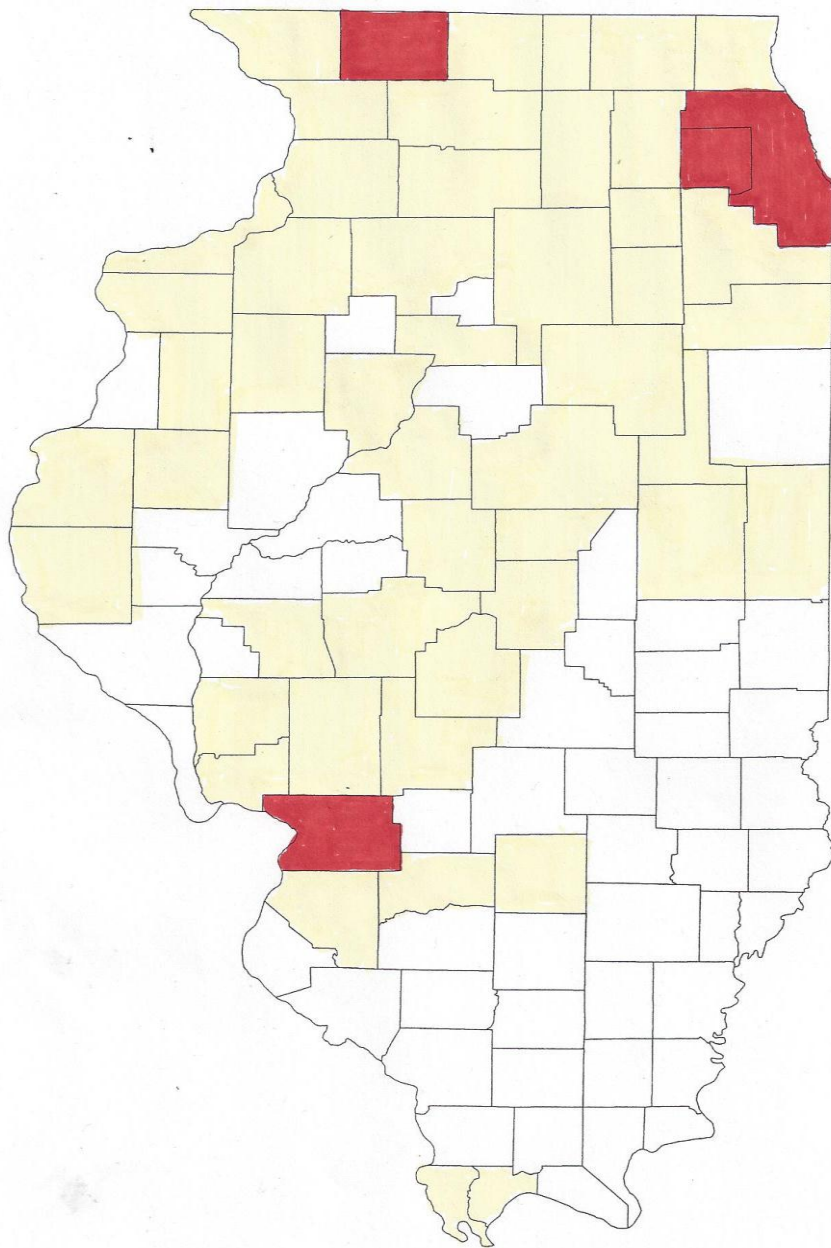


- From Protoball database, Sept. 16, 2013. This is a count of baseball’s spread to new cities, and does not include “new” clubs formed in cities that already had a club. Games played by armies in the field are not included.
- As can be seen, Chicago’s peak—1867—is comparable to the peak year nationwide⁴

Compare Chicago club increase to nationwide newspaper mentions

Mentions as proxy for games played





Spread of Baseball in IL.

Year in which the first club was formed in each county.

Counties in:

Red—pre-1860 team

Yellow—1860-70 team

Baseball in Illinois' Biggest Cities

- Of the 22 IL cities with at least 5,000 residents in 1870, 21 had baseball teams by 1870 (the other got one in 1872)
- Of the 17 cities with 3,000-4,999 residents, 15 had baseball teams by 1870, the rest by 1880
- Of the 15 cities with 2,000-2,999 residents, 7 had baseball teams by 1870, the rest by 1882
- Clearly, size mattered!

Teams per city, 10 Biggest IL cities, through 1870 (with 1870 population)

- Chicago: 298,977 82
- Quincy: 24,057 10
- Peoria: 22,849 4
- Springfield: 17,364 10
- Bloomington: 14,590 5
- Aurora: 11,162 3
- Rockford: 11,049 6
- Galesburg: 10, 158 1
- Jacksonville: 9,203 4
- Alton: 8,665 5