



## BETHLEHEM BASEBALL



Clarence Earl makes the catch.

Bethlehem residents have enjoyed a long relationship with the game of baseball. The Echos of Slingerlands played from about 1889 to 1895. The Slingerland Village Wonders played from about 1901 to 1915. There was a Delmar team active in the Susquehanna League in the late 1920s and early 1930s and the Tri-Village Little League played its first game May 15, 1954 and continues strong today.

Do you have information about other teams that played in Bethlehem? Your Town Historian would love to hear from you. Contact Susan Leath, 439-4955 ext 1160 or [sleath@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:sleath@townofbethlehem.org). Many thanks to the Tri-Village Little League for sharing their scrapbook.

### The Echos

At the time the Echos played in Slingerlands, Bethlehem was a rural town connected by few roads traveled by horse drawn vehicles. The Delaware and Hudson Railroad (the D&H) was an important connection between Albany and Altamont allowing players to challenge other teams in the hamlets and villages along the line. The baseball diamond was near what is now the Tollgate Restaurant, a short walk from Slingerlands Station.

While we don't have a photograph of the Echos, the August 31, 1889 issue of the Enterprise from Altamont New York reports the following Slingerlands Village news:

Mrs. James Cary is very low with consumption.

Mr. & Mrs. Denoiles and Mrs. C. D. Hammond are at the seashore.

Jacob Walley recently lost a valuable horse, having been gored to death by a cow.

The baseball game of Saturday last between the Hacketts of Albany and the Echos of Slingerlands resulted in favor of the former by a score of 7 to 6.

### The Village Wonders



The Slingerland Village Wonders organized about 1901. These talented teenagers played on a ball field that was just north of today's Cherry Arms Apartments on the west side of Cherry Avenue. Later the diamond was moved to near today's Kenwood and Union Avenues. By 1909 yet another field was utilized at the end of Mullens Road in Slingerlands. They played a variety of teams along the D&H, eventually playing with the Albany County League and the Susquehanna League. The advent of World War I had an impact on the breakup of the team about 1915.



The Sept. 4, 1908 edition of the Altamont Enterprise notes that over 500 people watched the baseball game against the Altamont team. It was described as "A Snappy Game From Start to Finish." Team members are, from left to right (first row), Perry Pier, mascot Kenneth Boutelle and Howard Sager. Second row are John Oliver, Artie Callan, Cartwright and Ira Pier. Third row are Bert Sager, umpire Clarence Earl (in derby

hat), Clarence Houck, "Bug" Whitman and George Dixon.



Several times special trains were arranged to carry the Village Wonders and delegations of fans to play teams along the D&H Railroad line. They were sought after attractions playing teams from Albany and Troy and the Schoharie and Middleburg valleys.

### The Delmar Team



Is this the Delmar team? This photo was saved by members of the VanAlstyne family who lived in Delmar but we have no other information. We'd love to hear from you if you can identify the players.

### Tri-Village Little League

Little League has its roots in Williamsport, PA where the first Little League game was played on June 6, 1939. Littleleague.org reports that "the basic goal remains the same as it did in 1939, to give children of the world a game that provides fundamental principles (sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork) they can use later in life to become good citizens."



Bethlehem's Tri-Village Little League held their first tryouts on April 3, 1954 at Bethlehem Central Junior High School (present day Middle School) and their first games were played on May 15 at Magee Park on Kenwood Avenue. Four teams were organized sponsored by F.F. Crannel Lumber Co, Carroll Pharmacy, Studler's Sales and Services and Main Brothers Oil Co. Crannels (above) took the League Championship with a record of 12 wins and 1 loss.



In 1961 Carrolls won the Tri-Village Little League Major League championship with a record of 12 wins and 4 losses.

TRI-VILLAGE  
Kiwans 6, Spotlight 4

TRI-VILLAGE  
Main Care 14, Kiwanis 0

TRI-VILLAGE  
Kiwans 13, GE 2

**LITTLE LEAGUE**

**TRI-VILLAGE  
LITTLE LEAGUE  
STANDINGS**  
Standings July 24

**MAJOR**

AMERICAN	W.	L.	T.
Kiwanis	10	7	0
CYC	8	8	1
Price Greenleaf	8	10	0
Farm Family	7	8	1
McCarrolls	7	9	0
Gen. Electric	2	14	0

**NATIONAL**

	W.	L.	T.
Roberts	13	2	0
Meyers Funeral	11	6	0
Main Care	10	7	0
Spotlight	8	6	1
Mullens	6	10	1

TRI-VILLAGE  
Kiwans 5, Kiwanis 4

TRI-VILLAGE  
Kiwans 27, Farm Family 5

**TRI-VILLAGE  
LITTLE LEAGUE  
STANDINGS**

**Final 1977 Standings**

**MAJOR LEAGUE**

AMERICAN	PTS.
Kiwanis	22
C.Y.C.	19
Farm Family	17
McCarrolls	14
Price Greenleaf	12
Gen. Electric	4

**NATIONAL**

	PTS.
Roberts Realty	32
Meyers Funeral	23
Main Care	21
Spotlight	17
Mullens	13

TRI-VILLAGE  
Kiwans 5, Kiwanis 4

TRI-VILLAGE  
Kiwans 27, Farm Family 5

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*1977 Champions*

A page from the Tri-Village Little League scrapbook highlights the 1977 Champion Kiwanis team