



MEDIA RELEASE
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BRICK STORE MUSEUM HITS HOME RUN WITH BASEBALL EXHIBIT OPENING JULY 8

KENNEBUNK, MAINE – The Brick Store Museum hits a home run with its new exhibition opening on Sunday, July 8: *Kennebunk's Big Leaguers: The Baseball Legacies of Colby Jack and Bobby Coombs*. In the spirit of the exhibition, the Museum will have special hours on Sunday, July 8, with an "Opening Day" peanuts and cracker jack reception from noon to 4 PM.

The exhibition explores the lives and careers of the two major league baseball players who have called Kennebunk home: "Colby Jack" Coombs (1882-1957) and his nephew Bobby Coombs (1908-1991). Colby Jack's standout achievements as a pitcher included three wins for the Philadelphia Athletics in the 1910 World Series and numerous league records that stand to this very day. Bobby Coombs' "probable world record" 26 strikeouts in a Kennebunk High School game in 1925 were a precursor to a prolific minor league career punctuated by two stints in the majors as a Philadelphia Athletic under Connie Mack and as a New York Giant. In his major league debut, he faced the Yankees' "Murderers' Row" lineup and gave up a home run to Babe Ruth. Visitors experience the exhibition by literally "rounding the bases" to learn about these men as Kennebunkers, college players, big leaguers, and also as coaches with university baseball stadiums named for each of them.

Kennebunk's Big Leaguers brings these players to life through rare images, newspaper clippings, video reminiscences, vintage baseball memorabilia, and never-before-seen personal ephemera. While the exhibition is made possible through the special athletic abilities of these two Kennebunkers, it is also based largely upon the assistance of surviving family members and original research on Colby Jack Coombs by John Tierney.

This exhibition remains on view through December 29, 2007, with support from The Brick Store Museum's proud business partner, The Captain Lord Mansion.

The Brick Store Museum is located at 117 Main Street in Kennebunk's historic district and for more than seventy years has been dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the region's rich cultural and artistic heritage. Its galleries and research archives are open to the public year-round: Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 – 4:30 and Saturdays, 10 – 1. Admission to the Museum is by donation, suggested \$5 per person. Visit www.brickstoremuseum.org or call 207.985.4802 for further information.

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