

CHESTER TIMES – February 12, 1912

ROCKDALE WILL HAVE NEW BASEBALL PARK – Mr. Riddle Promises to Build Modern Grounds That Will Be Fully Equipped

Rockdale is to have an ideal baseball park this summer. The club has been obliged to give up their former grounds on account of Mr. Riddle, the owner, having uses of his own for it. Mr. Ridley has promised the team, however, that he will build a park for them, and the managers are very much elated over this promise.

Mr. Riddle and the managers have selected the meadow below the Penn tapestry Mills as the site, and the meadow will be drained, graded, and leveled.

A high board fence will be erected around it. There will be seats erected, also dressing rooms, grandstands, refreshment stands, etc., and the new ball park will have all the modern appointments of an up-to-date field. The improvements, which are soon to be begun, will involve the expenditure of several thousand dollars.

The Lower Meadow, as the new park site is familiarly known, has for many years been a favorite field for boys' teams, or teams that never aimed to play fast ball. It is not well adapted at present, as there are ditches, hilly parts and much stubble, but when the improvements are completed, this town will have one of the finest baseball diamonds in Delaware County.

GAME BEGAN IN 1889 – Ideal ball fields in this vicinity, where the ground is so hilly, are scarce, and of necessity have to be artificial. When the National game was introduced into Rockdale in 1869, the ball field was located where it has been for the past few summers, in the Willows, in Glen Riddle. For years the home team played in Griswold's Meadow, near Mt. Alverno, which was very much out of the way.

The next place selected was Edward Finney's field, now the Shubrook property on top of the Mount Hill. Here a fence was built and the game flourished in a semi-professional way for ten years. The next place established was Hammell's Field, now George Dunlap's, and later a field on the hill above Glen Riddle station served as a park. From thence the games were transferred to the location of last year where the games were carried on for eight years.

But the new ball park, after the improvements are completed, will be the finest the team ever had, through the generosity of Mr. Riddle and should be appreciated by the baseball fans and all others who take any pride in the old town.