

HINGHAM, 1890
BOOK 606, PAGE 51

MICHAEL “KING” KELLY

Managed and Played for the Boston Beaneaters
Member Baseball Hall of Fame

Michael Joseph “King” Kelly was born in New York, the son of Irish immigrants. Orphaned at age 13, he began working at a textile mill in New Jersey and playing amateur baseball. He was signed to a professional baseball contract at age 15 by the Cincinnati Reds. In his 16 year professional career, he played for Cincinnati, Chicago, New York and Boston.

Among other achievements, Kelly led the National League in batting twice and in runs scored and stolen bases three times. Kelly was a colorful player, audacious base runner and a fan favorite. Kelly pushed baseball’s then looser rules to the limit. The famous cry, “Slide, Kelly, Slide” became popular wherever he played.

During his career, he managed and played for the Boston Reds and the Boston Beaneaters, who later became the Boston Braves. While playing in Boston in 1890, his Irish supporters bought him and his wife Agnes, a house on Main Street in Hingham.

Mike “King” Kelly was posthumously elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York in 1945.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.
and Jeffrey M. Welch
Former Plymouth County Commissioner
From the “Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection”