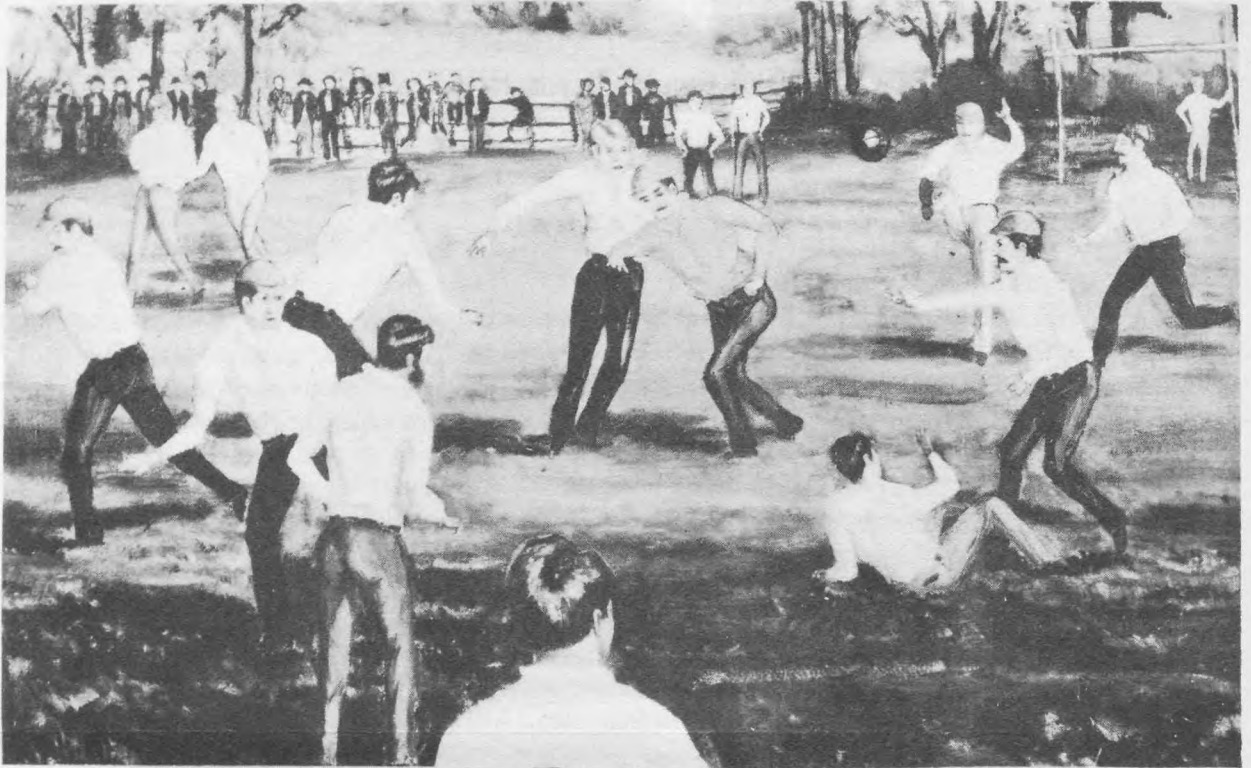


cry arose as they strained away and creaked slowly back to New Brunswick. When they arrived at Rutgers at ten-thirty the college went wild with jubilation and the cannon was hidden in a cellar downtown.



The First Intercollegiate Football Game--Nov. 6, 1869.  
Rutgers 6 - Princeton 4

From a Painting by William Boyd. Courtesy - Rutgers University Library

The next night Princeton men invaded the campus, but, unable to find the cannon, they made off with some government muskets from the gymnasium. This aroused the college presidents who named a committee of two professors from each school to solve the mystery. The cannon that had disappeared from Rutgers in 1854 was never found: but the committee proved that the one stolen by Rutgers was actually the property of Princeton and the Scarlets were ordered to return it. They evaded this order as long as possible but at length the New Brunswick chief of police and his men returned it to Princeton, "one man sitting on the cannon with a revolver facing the indignant mob that followed."

Old rivals, Rutgers and Princeton had long competed in boat racing in the spring, in baseball both spring and fall, and had exchanged many heated words in their literary periodicals. The urge for a hand-to-hand fight, partly satisfied in the cannon war, was answered when a Rutgers student in 1869 suggested that Princeton be challenged to a football match.

Although up to this time the game had been played only between classes, Rutgers saw in the proposal a means of deciding the feud. An invitation sent to Princeton was promptly accepted and enthusiasm ran high as the afternoon of November 6, 1869 was set for the first intercollegiate football game ever to be played.