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The History Of Five Card Stud Poker

By Adel Awwad

Poker has a long and indistinct history. Some hold that it originated in Persia as it closely resembles a game called As Nas and may have been brought to the United States via Persian sailors in New Orleans. This game was played with 25 cards with 5 different suits. This game was played similarly to modern Five Card Stud with many of the hand combinations such as three of a kind. It seems likely that the name "Poker" descended from the French poque, which originally came from the German pochen, 'to knock'.

The game was reportedly played in New Orleans around the late 1820's, with a deck of 20 cards and players betting on the value of their hands. The earliest known form of Poker was played with a 20-card pack (A-K-Q-J-10) evenly dealt amongst four players. There was no draw, and bets are made on a narrow range of combinations: one pair, two pair, triplets, and 'full' – so called because it is the only combination in which all five cards are active – and four of a kind. Unlike classic Poker, in which the top hand (royal flush) can be tied in another suit, the original top hand consisting of four Aces, or four Kings and an Ace, was absolutely unbeatable. The spread of the game after this seems to have been facilitated by the practice of gambling on Mississippi riverboats.

Soon after this the deck was expanded to the present day 52 cards and the flush was introduced. The additional cards were introduced mostly to allow more players. The game was expanded and developed further during the Civil War, with many of the variants of the game being introduced then, including Five Card Stud. Poker was initially played with only one round of betting with all five cards dealt face down and no draw cards, very similar to today's Five Card Stud game.

Professional gamblers later added variations and rule changes in order to increase the profitability of the game. Wild cards and bluffing became common occurrences and the draw was added around 1850, allowing yet another round of betting. Many of the features of modern Poker, such as the draw and some versions of different hands, as well as the straight and the flush originated in the earlier forms of the British game Brag or Bragg. Brag's modern form differs greatly from modern day poker, however.

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The History Of Seven Card Stud Poker

By Adel Awwad

As it is with most popular card games, the origins of Poker and the history of 7 Card Stud Poker are shrouded in mystery. No one is entirely sure how or where the game began. Further, when considering the history of 7 Card Stud Poker, you should first know how Poker is thought to have come about.

There are many theories about the history of Poker and the history of 7 Card Stud Poker. The most commonly held belief is the name Poker came from the French card game Poque (from the German word pochen, which means "to knock). However, the game itself more closely resembles a Persian game called Nas, which was played with a five-suit deck. Likely the game of Poker as we know it resulted from some combination of Poque and as Nas. The concept of bluffing in Poker came from still another source: the English game brag (first spelled Bragg), which is very similar to Poker but played using only three cards.

The first recorded instance of Poker in the United States was an 1829 game in New Orleans, played with a 20-card deck consisting of all cards with values of 10 and higher (four tens, four jacks, four queens, four kings and four aces). The game was not named, but the object was to bet on whose five-card hand contained the highest cards. This game soon spread to Mississippi riverboats, where con artists used a 52-card variant to bilk unwary travelers and claim their "pokes," or gambling money stashes. Author Jonathan H. Green described this "cheating card game" in one of his books, and some give Green credit for coining the final term of "Poker."

Stud Poker emerged during the American Civil War. Some attribute the invention of stud, or stud-horse as it was sometimes called, to cowboys around Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. 5 Card Stud was the first version played, appearing in The American Hoyle as an "official" Poker variant in 1864. Still, draw Poker was the favored variation until someone—no one is certain exactly whom—introduced 7 Card Stud in the early 20th century. The game remained the most popular form of professional and casino Poker until the 1980's, when a slight twist on 7 Card Stud called Texas Hold `Em overtook the traditional version to become the favorite among gamblers and casual players alike.

The majority of Poker tournaments are based on core games of 7 Card Stud or variations of it. Binions Casino, the founder of the largest professional Poker tournament in existence—the World Series of Poker—began a Poker Hall of Fame to commemorate the greatest Poker players in history. Among them are "Wild Bill" Hicock, who was shot and killed during a Poker game holding a two-pair hand of aces over eights (which is still known as a "dead man's hand" among gamblers); and "Red" Hodges, considered the greatest 7 Card Stud Poker player to have ever lived. 7 Card Stud is still an immensely

popular game in Vegas, home games and Internet casinos.

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