



Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History

Playing for Keeps:
Philadelphia's Pythian Base Ball Club

Primary Source

Philadelphia, Dec. 18th, 1867

To the
President & Members of the
Pythian B.B.C.
Gentlemen:

The delegate appointed by this Club to represent them in the Pa. State Convention of Base Ball Players which met at Harrisburg in the 16th of Oct. last respectfully

Reports that in the night of the 15th of Oct. he proceeded to Harrisburg and put up at the [?] House where he met Messrs Hayhurst and Ellis of the Athletic B.B.C. and other delegates to the Convention. The next morning he proceeded to the Court House where the Convention assembled and was introduced by Mr. Hayhurst to President Rose, Sec Domer and others. On the Convention being called to order, and the roll called, Messrs Evans Rogers, Saml Hayhurst and Wm. Cramer were appointed a Com. on Credentials. Whilst this Com. were making up their report the delegates clustered together in small groups to discuss what action ought to be taken in the admittance of the Pythian's delegate, and the your delegate himself was waited on by Sec. Domer who stated that he & Mr. Hayhurst had both been discussing the matter of our admittance, and canvassing the other delegates, and tho' they and the President were in favor of our acceptance, still the majority of the delegates were opposed to it and they would advise me to withdraw my application, as they thought it were better for us to withdraw than to have it on record that we were black balled. This your delegate declined to do and waited for the Com. to report, which they shortly did and reported favorably in all the credentials presented to them save that of the Pythian which they purposely left out of their general report. On their report being read a resolution was hastily passed and Mr. Ellis quickly springing to his feet moved that the Com. be discharged. Your delegate was about to say that as they had not finished their business they ought not to be discharged, when Mr. Rodgers arose & said that there was one other credential in their hands which they were bound to report, from the Pythian B.B.C. a colored organization ~~from~~ of Philadelphia, and they had presented it alone, that the Convention might take such action on it as they should deem fit. It having been read by the secretary, Mr. Ellis moved that it be laid on the table, which motion was seconded by at least two thirds the Convention, and but for the timely interference of Messrs Rogers (of the Batchelor Club of this city) and Hayhurst Mr. Ellis' motion would have passed. Here gentlemen begged that as there were but a few delegates present, (some 20 in all) that the matter be deferred till evening when in all probability there would be a larger no. present, and they thought it unfair that the few present should take the responsibility of rejecting a delegate (for so the most of them seemed disposed) when perhaps a greater proportion of those present in the evening would be in favor of his acceptance. To this Mr. Ellis and Mr. Rogers of the Chester Club, the mover & seconder of the motion to table agreed together with the rest of the delegates. The Convention then proceeded to an ~~election of officers~~ the adoption of a Constitution and After the adjournment in the morning the members of

the convention clustered around your delegate and whilst all expressed sympathy for our club, a few only such as Messrs Hayhurst, Domer, Rose, Stimel of the Chestnut St. Theater, and Rogers of the Batchelors expressed a willingness to vote for our admission, while members of others openly said that they would in justice to the opinion of the clubs they represented be compelled, tho against their personal feelings, to vote against our admission.

Messrs Hayhurst & Domer again requested the withdrawal of our credentials, and were second in their request by most of the members. As your delegate did not feel at liberty to do this whilst there was any hope what ever of admission, he telegraphed home for instructions and received word to "fight if there was a chance." When evening came the delegates were in number about the same as [↑]in_↓ the morning and as there seemed no chance for any thing but being black balled, he your delegate withdrew his application, and rec'd from Mr. Domer, the Sec. a pass home over the Phila. Central R.R.

Before closing this already too lengthy report your delegate feels bound to state that all the delegates seemed disposed to show their sympathy and respect for our club by ~~their~~ showing him every possible courtesy & kindness. While at dinner Messrs Hayhurst & Rogers and others invited him to attend the base ball match that was to be played that afternoon in company with them, which was accepted. And in the road & at the match, your delegate cannot speak to highly of the kind attentions which these gentlemen showed him and their expressions of friendship for our club.

Philadelphia, Dec. 18th, 1867.

To the
President & Members of the }
Pythian B. B. C.,
Gentlemen:

The delegate appointed by this Club to represent them in the Pa. State Convention of Base Ball Players which met at Harrisburg on the 16th of Oct. last. respectfully

Reports that on the night of the 5th of Oct. he proceeded to Harrisburg and put up at the Lochiel House where he met Messrs Hayhurst and Ellis of the Athletic B. B. C. and other delegates to the Convention. The next morning he proceeded to the Court House where the Convention assembled and was introduced by Mr. Hayhurst to President Rose, Sec. Dorner and others. On the Convention being called to order, and the roll called, Messrs Evans, Rogers, Saml. Hayhurst and Wm. Cramer were appointed a Com. on Credentials. Whilst this Com. were making up their report the delegates clustered together in small groups to discuss what action might be taken on the admittance of the Pythian delegate, and the your delegate himself was waited on by Sec. Dorner who stated that he & Mr. Hayhurst had both been discussing the matter of our admittance, and canvassing the other delegates, and tho' they and the President were in favor of our acceptance, still the majority of the

delegates were opposed to it and they would advise me to withdraw my application, as they thought it was better for us to withdraw than to have it on record that we were black balled. This your delegate declined to do, and waited for the Com. to report, which they shortly did and reported favorably on all the credentials presented to them ~~was~~. That of the Pythian which they purposely left out of their general report. On their report being read a resolution was hastily passed and Mr. Ellis quickly springing to his feet moved that the Com. be discharged. Your delegate was about to say that as they had not finished their business they ought not to be discharged, when Mr. Rogers arose & said that there was one other credential in their hands which they were bound to report, from the Pythian B.B.C. a colored organization from Philadelphia, and they had presented it alone, that the convention might take such action on it as they should deem fit. It having been read by the Secretary, Mr. Ellis moved that it be laid on the table, which motion was seconded by at least two thirds of the convention, and but for the timely interference of Messrs Rogers (of the Bachelor Club of this city) and Haystack Mr. Ellis' motion would have passed. These gentlemen begged that as there were but a few delegates present, (some 20 in all) that the matter be deferred till evening, when in all probability there would be a larger no. present, and they thought it unfair

that the few present should take the responsibility of rejecting a delegate (for as the most of them seemed disposed) when perhaps a greater proportion of those present in the evening would be in favor of his acceptance.

At this Mr. Ellis and Mr. Rogers of the Chester Club, the mover & seconder of the motion to table agreed together with the rest of the delegates. The Convention then proceeded to an election of officers the adoption of a Constitution and

On motion, the President appointed the following gentlemen a Committee on Constitution and By-Laws: Messrs. E. H. Hayhurst, J. McPherson, W. F. Aull. The Committee reported a constitution and by-laws, which were adopted. The Convention proceeded to the election of officers, when the following gentlemen were elected: President—B. H. Hayhurst, of the Athletic Club, Chester County. First Vice-President—B. Rodgers, of Brandywine Club, West Liberty. Second Vice-President—Wm. F. Aull, Mutual Club, Philadelphia. Recording Secretary—Henry B. Heller, Contest Club, Harrisburg. Corresponding Secretary—D. D. Domer, Keystone Club, Altoona. Treasurer—B. F. Rose, Mountain Star Club, Altoona. On motion, a resolution of thanks to the late President, Hon. B. F. Rose, and the late Secretary, D. D. Domer, was unanimously adopted. On motion, Mr. L. J. Blakely was invited to deliver a poem before the Convention at 7 o'clock in the evening. The invitation was accepted. The Convention adjourned until 7 o'clock, when the original poem by Mr. Blakely, of the Catamount Club, was delivered by the author. It was a beautiful composition, bringing all our feelings to the fore, and winding up with a very touching appeal, as they were about to part, and advising all to prepare for the impartial judgment of the final votes. The Convention adjourned to meet on the first Wednesday in October, 1888.

After the adjournment in the morning the members of the Convention clustered around your delegate and whilst all expressed sympathy for our club, a few only such as Messrs Hayhurst, Domer, Rose & Stimel of the Chestnut St. School, and Rogers of the Bullets Club expressed a willingness to vote for our admission, while members of others openly said that

they would in justice to the opinion of the clubs they represented be compelled, tho' against their personal feeling, to vote against our admission.

Messrs Hayhurst & Gomer again requested the withdrawal of our credentials, and were seconded in their request by most of the members. As your delegate did not feel at liberty to do this while there was any hope what ever of admission, he telegraphed home for instructions, and received word to "fight" if there was a chance. When evening came the delegates were in number about the same as ^{in the} morning and as there seemed no chance for anything but being black-balled, ~~he~~ your delegate withdrew his application, and rec'd from Mr Gomer, the Sec. a pass home over the Phila. Central R.R.

Before closing this already too lengthy report, your delegate feels bound to state that all the delegates seemed desirous to show their sympathy and respect for our club by ~~then~~ showing him every possible courtesy & kindness. While at dinner Messrs ^{Hayhurst &} Rogels and others invited him to attend the bare ball match that was to be played that afternoon in company with them, which was accepted.

And on the road & at the match, your delegate cannot speak so highly of the kind attentions which these gentlemen showed him and their expressions of friendship for our club.