



Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History

**Playing for Keeps:
Philadelphia's Pythian Base Ball Club**

Primary Source

Letter from William Still to Jacob C. White regarding his membership in the Pythian Base Ball Club. American Negro Historical Society Collection, HSP.

W.M. Still,
Dealer in
Lehigh and Schuylkill Coal,
Yard, 1216, 1218 & 1220 Washington Avenue,

Philadelphia, Jan. 30th 1869

Pythian Base Ball Club;

A bill from this association has just been presented to me by Mr. Vidal, which leads me to suppose that the society is in an error in numbering me amongst its members. I have never been a member of the association nor indeed have I ever had the remotest idea of becoming so. Therefore if I am on your role as a member in any Sense whatever I beg to have my name erased without delay.

Our kin in the South famishing for knowledge, have claims so great & pressing that I feel bound to give of my means in this direction to the extent of my abilities, in preference to giving for frivolous amusements.

Again, the poor are all around us in great want, whose claims I consider cannot be wholly ignored without doing violence to the Sp↑i↓rit of Christianity & humanity. At all events it seems to accord more fully with my idea of duty to give where it will do the most good, and where the greatest needs are manifest.

Yours Respectfully,
W^m Still

To Pythian Base Ball Club
Phila

WM. STILL,

DEALER IN

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Jan
1869