

Octavius Catto/Pythians Baseball Club

- African American educator and activist
- Helped found all-black Pythians baseball club
- Raised black troops to serve in the Civil War
- Led a successful effort to desegregate Pennsylvania public transit

Primary Sources

Images from the Digital Archive including Pythians Score Cards



Pythian Base Ball Club of Philadelphia

BATSMEN.	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Outs.	Runs.	FIELDERS.
<i>Cannon</i>	<i>1b.</i>	†	†		†	†	4-2	†	9-3-1		2	5	1 <i>Spiggs 1b.</i>
<i>Catto</i>	<i>s.s.</i>	1-1	†		6-1-1	2		†	3-1	3		3	4 <i>Petersen 2b.</i>
<i>R. Walker</i>	<i>s.b.</i>		6-7			1-7		†		4-0		3	4 <i>Prison 1b.</i>
<i>Adkins</i>	<i>c.</i>			1	3-6	†			1-7	3-7		3	3 <i>Poise c.</i>
<i>Hanby</i>	<i>2b.</i>	6-7		4-2-7	5-7	3-6						3	3 <i>Cummings 1b.</i>
<i>F. Walker</i>	<i>c.f.</i>	8		1-7	3	†	1-7			3		4	3 <i>Syndale 2b.</i>
<i>Carens</i>	<i>1b.</i>		1				6-7					2	4 <i>Smith c.f.</i>
<i>Graham</i>	<i>2b.</i>					4-0	3-7					2	4 <i>Proctor c.f.</i>
<i>Vidal</i>	<i>c.f.</i>		2		4-2-7	1	4-0	3	3	2		5	1 <i>Bell 3b.</i>
TOTALS.		3	3	0	4	6	0	8	5	2		27	31
UMPIRE, <i>Wm. R. S. Nuff</i>		LEON GARDINER										TIME,	
Passed Balls,		COLLECTION ON										SCORER,	
Missed Fly Catches,		NEGRO HISTORY											

(left: Octavius Catto, Engraving, from Harper's Weekly 10/28/1871, Call number: Dm .722, Digital Archive #899)

(right: Pythian Baseball Club of Philadelphia scorecard, August 24, 1868, from the Leon Gardiner Collection on Black History, Collection number 0008B, Digital Archive item #80)

Leo Gardiner collection of American Negro Historical Society Records

Correspondence and personal papers of Octavius Catto

Collection #0008, Specifically Box 3Ga, folder 5

<http://www2.hsp.org/collections/manuscripts/g/Gardiner0008.html>

Our alma mater : an address delivered at Concert Hall on the occasion of the twelfth annual commencement of the Institute for Colored Youth, May 10th, 1864

by Octavius V. Catto

Call number: VoD* .57971

American Negro Historical Society collection, 1790-1905

Reel 7. William Still, 1855-1865 to Pythian Baseball Club, 1869

Reel 8. Pythian Baseball Club, 1867-1868 to Negro activities, 1808-1869

Call number: MFilmZ 1361.N39 A54 1997 FOLIO

Secondary Sources

Octavius Catto and the Pythians of Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Legacies V7, N1, May 2007

by Jerrold Casway

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/27765073>

To the Memory of Professor O. V. Catto

by Tanner, Benjamin T., published 1870

Call number: E185.97.C3 T3x

Shadow game : the Philadelphia Pythians and 19th century African American baseball

by Anthony DiFiore

Call number: GV 865 .A1 D54 2007

Tasting freedom: Octavius Catto and the battle for equality in Civil War America

by Daniel R. Biddle & Murray Dubin, published 2010

Call number: F158.44 .C36 B53 2010

Available online:

http://books.google.com/books?id=Jd9774i4DuAC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ViewAPI#v=onepage&q&f=false

Tasting Freedom Lecture

In this lecture recorded at HSP on October 6, 2010, Daniel Biddle and Murray Dubin, authors of the recently published book *Tasting Freedom* from Temple University Press, discuss the life of this charismatic black leader.

by Daniel R. Biddle and Murray Dubin

<http://hsp.org/history-online/media-library/audio/tasting-freedom>

Do you and your students know about Octavius Valentine Catto

HSP Educator's Blog, 2/28/14

By Alexandra Harris

<http://hsp.org/blogs/educators-blog/do-you-and-your-students-know-about-octavius-valentine-catto>

Pythian's Baseball Club: Playing for Keeps

HSP Unit Plan. This activity examines the formation of the Pythian club and explores the role that baseball played in the postbellum period.

<http://hsp.org/education/unit-plans/baseball-and-race-in-post-bellum-pennsylvania/pythians-baseball-club-playing-for-keeps>

The trial of Frank Kelly for the assassination (!) & murder of Octavius V. Catto : on October 10, 1871 ...

Provides descriptions of the major trials from over 300 years, with official trial documents, unofficially published accounts of the trials, briefs and arguments and more.

by Henry H. Griffin

Call number: Wk*.799