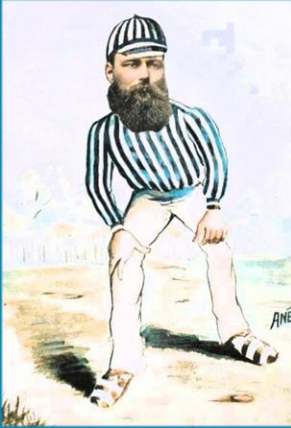


Cricket - the Philadelphia story...

The Australians of 1878

Steve Smith



Returning home after a successful tour of England, the Australians, led by Dave Gregory (*left*), stopped off in North America in October of 1878 to play several matches, the second of which was the inaugural first-class match in Philadelphia. The three-day match between Philadelphia and the Australians took place at Nicetown, the ground of Germantown Cricket Club, and upwards of 10,000 were in attendance during the opening day's play. The

grandstand was '*thronged with the youth and beauty*' of the city and the Philadelphian XI, which included the four Newhall brothers, Bob, Charley, Dan, and George, acquitted themselves superbly against the Australians. Throw in an umpiring controversy and the threat of the game being abandoned, not to mention the possibility of monies being withheld, and it is evident that the match provided quite an eventful beginning to first-class cricket in the city. *Cricket - the Philadelphia story... The Australians of 1878*, the author's initial innings for Red Rose Books, recalls the match and the 22 players who took part.

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