

## William White/Magdalen Society

- Episcopal Bishop
- Formed the Magdalen Society of Philadelphia, to reform "wayward" women
- Name was changed to White-Williams Foundation for Girls, eventually becoming the White-Williams Scholars of today.

### Primary Sources

#### *Magdalen Society of Philadelphia Records*

Records of the Magdalen Society of Philadelphia reflect the evolution of nineteenth-century attitudes toward prostitutes and other wayward women, with particular emphasis on the reform efforts of evangelical Protestants. Minutes of the Board of Managers relate the history of the Society from its inception to its 1918 change into the White-Williams Foundation for Girls, and demonstrate the convictions of the all-male Board that governed the Magdalen Asylum. Matrons' diaries, mostly written during the late-nineteenth century, tell the stories of many girls and young women who were taken in by the Magdalen Home and describe the matrons' efforts to change their habits through education, hard work, and prayer. Records of the young women who were admitted and discharged by the asylum provide background information about the prostitutes, vagrants, and other "fallen women" who were deemed suitable for the asylum. The Society's successes and failures in reforming these women can also be discerned through a close reading of these records.

Collection #2016

[http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy\\_files/migrated/findingaid2016magdalensociety.pdf](http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy_files/migrated/findingaid2016magdalensociety.pdf)

#### *White-Williams Scholars Records, 1800-2007*

The White-Williams Scholars Records include administrative and financial records of the organization itself, as well as school and student files of the young people the organization has served, and continues to serve.

Collection #3025

[http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy\\_files/migrated/findingaid3025whitewilliams.pdf](http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy_files/migrated/findingaid3025whitewilliams.pdf)

#### *William White Collection, 1765-1865*

These papers of William White, first Protestant Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, include manuscript sermons: CXXVII, "Of Sinful Anger," and "Of Tribute, to Caesar and that to God," undated; certificates of consecration, 1770-1787; diplomas, 1765, 1781; and papers on William White lands and the administration of his estate, 1773-1865, including George W. Hunter, Philadelphia scholar, letterbook, 1856-1865, as administrator of the estate. The collection also contains the draft and printer's copy of "Memoir of the Life of the Right Rev. William White, D.D.," 1839, with miscellaneous notes by Bird Wilson, D.D., professor of systematic divinity at the General Theological Seminary, New York.

Collection #711

*"Of religious principle, as the only sure guide, especially of youth"*

William White was the first Protestant Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. This manuscript sermon is entitled "Of religious principle, as the only sure guide, especially of youth" and includes White's editorial changes.

Bishop William White Sermon, undated

Call number: LCP.in.HSP8

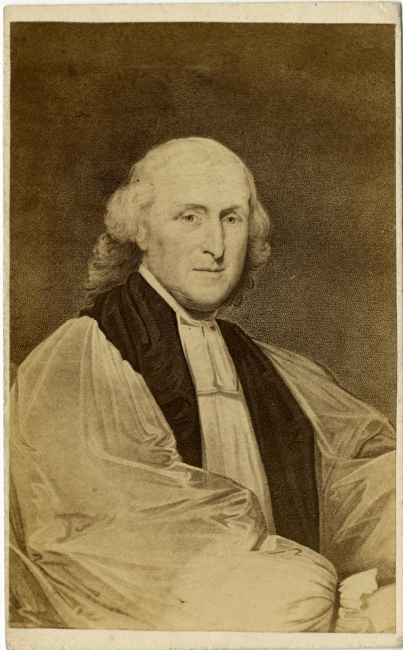
*William White Papers and Sermons*

originals and copies from 1764-1836, 1881, 1940, undated

Society Small Collection #22B

Box 41, Folders 31-36

HSP Digital Archive images:



Bishop William White (left) #6081

Engraving of the Magdalen Society #6080

View of the Magdalen Society (below) #6079



*An act incorporating the Magdalen Society in the city of Philadelphia*

Includes a complete list of members.

by the Magdalen Society, published 1808

Call number: Wj\* .371

*To the members of the Magdalen Society*

Circular letter soliciting subscriptions for the organization.

By William White, published 1818

Call number: LCP Wj\* .37 v.3

## Secondary Sources

*"Another connection: the Magdalen Society of Philadelphia and the White-Williams Scholars"*

The Magdalen Society of Philadelphia was founded in 1800 to help reform "fallen" women.

White-Williams Scholars is a funding organization in Philadelphia provides scholarships to select high school students in need. What could these seeming unrelated institutions possibly have in common?

HSP Blog, Fondly, Pennsylvania

by Cary Hutto, 7/20/11

<http://hsp.org/blogs/fondly-pennsylvania/another-connection-the-magdalen-society-of-philadelphia-and-white-williams-scholars>

*Reform, respite, ritual: an archaeology of institutions, the Magdalen Society of Philadelphia, 1800-1850*

by Lu Ann De Cunzio, published 1994

Call number: E 11.S625 V.29