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Special Collections

Finding Aid for the records of the BETHANY MISSION FOR COLORED  
PEOPLE, 1862-1936

Collection No. 1133  
Accession #s 2806, 6870  
1 document boxes (.5 linear feet)  
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Gift of Lucy Shoe Merritt, June 1972 and Martha Paxson Grundy, September 2003

**RESTRICTIONS**

No restrictions

**ABSTRACT**

Records of the Philadelphia-based Bethany Mission for Colored People, 1862-1936, an institution established to provide "moral and religious education" for African Americans.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

The Bethany Mission for Colored People was founded in 1856 and located at Brandywine Street, near 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Philadelphia, Pa. According to its constitution, the Mission was to be non-denominational, with the objective of "moral and religious education and general elevation of the Colored people by means of a Mission Sabbath School."

(Information from internal evidence)

**SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Balderston, Marcellus, 1842-1935  
Gutekunst, Frederick, 1831-1917

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

Records of the Mission consist of deeds to a property on Brandywine Street in Philadelphia; a constitution, dated 1869 and signed by President Marcellus Balderston; a minute book, 1862-66; final minutes, 1936, concerning the sale of the Brandywine Street property; a 1908 account book with penciled comments as to amount of donation, visitors, who offered prayer and general remarks; and two printed items: the 13<sup>th</sup> annual report of the Bethany Mission for Colored People, Brandywine St., Philadelphia, 1871 and the Miller College Bulletin, ca. early 20<sup>th</sup> century; and photographs by of the Mission, one by F. Gutekunst.