



Girard College Historical Collections

Founder's Hall, Girard College
2101 S. College Ave, Philadelphia PA 1921

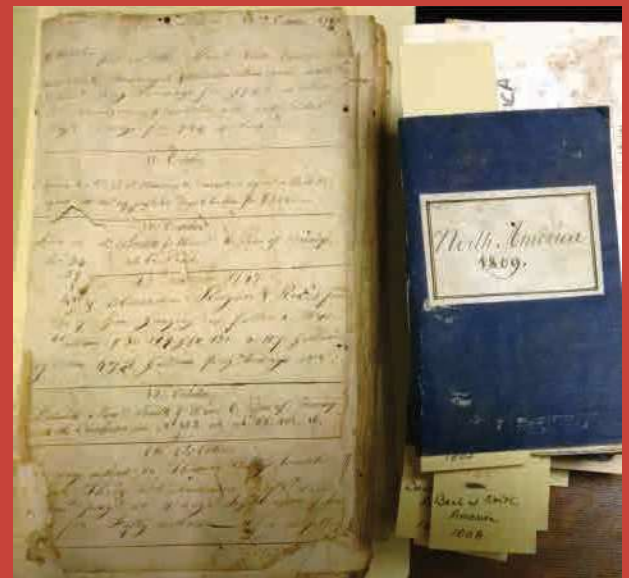
The Girard College Historical Collections preserve and interprets historical materials associated with Stephen Girard and Girard College. Stephen Girard (1750–1831) was a French-born, naturalized American, who made a fortune as a mariner, merchant, banker and landowner. He ran the fever hospital at Bush Hill during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793, saved the U.S. government from financial collapse during the War of 1812, and died as one of the wealthiest men in American history. In his will he bequeathed nearly his entire fortune to charity, including an endowment for establishing a boarding school for "poor, white, male" orphans in Philadelphia. Today Girard College is multi-racial and co-educational; it continues to serve academically capable students from families with limited financial resources.

Stephen Girard willed his papers and possessions to the school he created; today this uniquely well-preserved collection of 500 objects and 100,000 pages of letters, ledgers, craftsman bills, maritime records, hospital records etc. gives insight not only into Girard but also into the world of early national Philadelphia. The papers segment of this collection is also available to researchers on microfilm at the American Philosophical Society.

The Girard College Historical Collections also chronicle the history of the unprecedented school Girard endowed for disadvantaged youth and provide resources for the study of educational, architectural and Philadelphia history through tens of thousands of thousands of photographs, archival records, and objects.

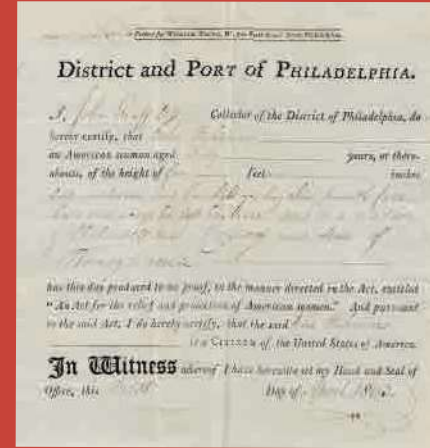
Kathy Haas: Director of Historical Resources
khaas@girardcollege.edu; 215-787-4434

Year	Names & Stations	Number	Page
1809	Caro Brown - Master	26	23
1810	Abel Taylor & Mate	26	23
	Robert Long & L. Mate	26	24
	Friedrich Schulte, Steerman	26	26
	J. C. M. Linn & Co	26	24
	Joseph Arnold & Co	26	24
	Henry Allen & Co	26	24
	Edward P. Weston	26	24
	John C. Anderson	26	24
	Tom Winters	26	24
	Saml W. W. W. W.	26	24
1810	Robert Voysey	26	14
1811	George Simpson	23	16
1811	Gideon Washell	7	17
	Philadelphia 25 th March 1812		



Frontiers in History

Examples of topics in the Girard College Historical Collections



Political Frontiers:

→ Sailors' Passports & War of 1812

How does one prove American citizenship in a contested space, like the high seas. How did these documents attest to citizenship for Black sailors.

→ Haitian Revolution

The impact of this Black-led revolution in France, the Caribbean, and in Philadelphia.

→ South American Revolutions

Girard helped supply arms for Simon Bolivar and his papers also document the understanding and impact of these revolutions in Philadelphia.

→ Louisiana Purchase

→ Girard amassed land in a remote part of Louisiana and eventually established a cotton plantation on one portion. But his land became caught up in the challenge of sorting out competing land claims from the three legal systems that had operated there: Spanish, French, and American.

Societal Frontiers:

→ Civil Rights Movement

The desegregation of Girard College involved three generations of Black activists: Nathan Mossell, Raymond Pace Alexander, and Cecil B. Moore, who each adopted different strategies and tactics.

→ Education for Underserved Students

Two centuries of changing ideas about the goals and means of charity and education, including academic vs. vocational training, the role of religion in education, etc.

Financial Frontiers:

→ Central Banking

The creation and management of the First and Second Banks of the United States.

→ China Trade

The development of this new frontier of trade for Americans after the American Revolution.