



Girard College Historical Collections

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

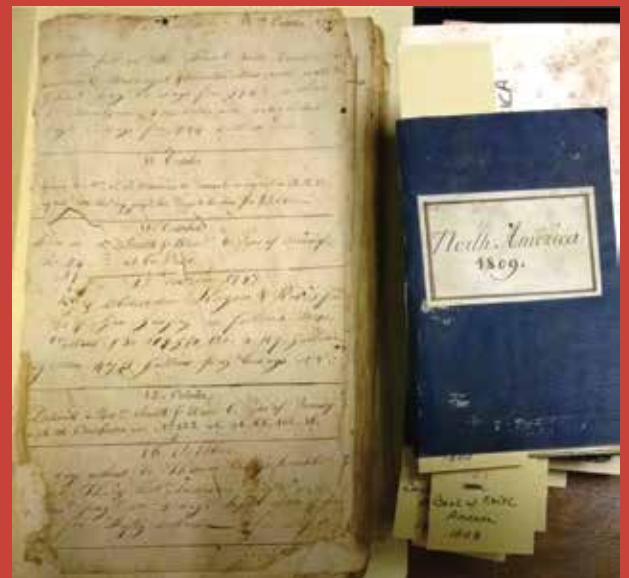
The Girard College Historical Collections preserve and interpret historical materials associated with Stephen Girard and Girard College. Stephen Girard (1750–1831) was a French-born, naturalized American, who made a fortune as a mariner, merchant, banker and landowner. He ran the fever hospital at Bush 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 photographs, archival records, and objects.

Kathy Haas: Director of Historical Resources
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when shipped	Names & Stations	arrived	Days
1809 Nov 28	Cara Bowen - Master	26 21	
	Alex ^r Taylor & Mate	26 22	
	Robert Long ^r L. Mate	26 24	
	Frederick Schulte, Steerman	26 21	
	J. C. M. Lewis ^r 3 ^r	26 22	
	Joseph Lewis ^r 3 ^r	26 23	
	Henry Allen ^r 6 ^r	26 24	
	Edward S. Boston ^r 3 ^r	26 24	
	John C. Tompkins ^r 3 ^r	26 21	
	Ben ^r Moore 2 ^r Cook	26 24	
	Sam ^r Woodall 10 ^r Apprentice	26 24	
1810 Jan 6	Robert Vinyard ^r Steerman	26 16	
1810 Jan 8	George Seymour ^r 3 ^r	23 16	
1810 Jan 2	John Bartlett 32 ^r 3 ^r	7 17	
	Philadelphia 22 ^d March 1812		



Turning Points



Examples of topics in the Girard Collections

→ 1793 Yellow Fever & Public Health

Records of the Bush Hill fever hospital and of Stephen Girard's involvement in the creation of the first permanent public health body for the city (one of the first in the nation).

→ Slavery and the Gradual Abolition Act in Pennsylvania

Records of slavery & indentured servitude under Stephen Girard, how members of these communities resisted bondage, and the impact of the 1780 gradual emancipation act.

→ The Haitian Revolution

On-the-ground descriptions of the events in Haiti, as well as materials documenting the impact of this 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.

→ Turning Points in Transportation

The Schuylkill Navigation Company and the development of canals in Pennsylvania, which revolutionized transport and commerce.

→ Turning Points in Social Service

The creation of Girard College and similar social service institutions in the early national era and the changes wrought for families and institutions a century later through the creation of modern social safety net beginning in the New Deal.

→ Civil Rights in Philadelphia

The desegregation of Girard College involved three generations of Black activists from 1891-1968: Nathan Mossell, Raymond Pace Alexander, and Cecil B. Moore, who each adopted different strategies and tactics.

→ Feminism, Co-education, and ERA

Girard went co-ed in 1984 following a challenge based on the Pennsylvania ERA, which was intended as a test case for opening publicly-affiliated schools to all sexes.