



Girard College Historical Collections

Founder's Hall, Girard College
2101 S. College Ave, Philadelphia PA 1921
[www.FoundersHall.org](http://wwwFOUNDERSHALL.org)

Who Are We? 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 died as one of the wealthiest men in American history and bequeathed nearly his entire fortune to charity, including establishing a boarding school for "poor, white, male" orphans. Today Girard College is multi-racial and co-ed.

What Do We Have? 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 documents gives insight not only into Girard but also the world of early national Philadelphia.

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

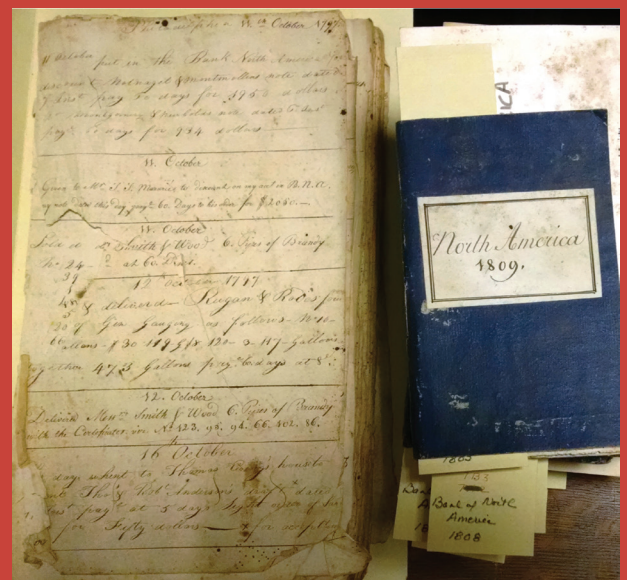
How to Access the Collection

- * Online collections catalog at girardcollege.pastperfectonline.com
- * Make a research appointment by contacting Kathy Haas (info below)
- * Select digitized materials available at archive.org/details/@girard_college_history/collections and at therevolutionarycity.org

(All the above are also linked in the "Catalogs and Research" section of FoundersHall.org)

Kathy Haas: Director of Historical Resources
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when shipped	Names & Stations	months	Days
1809 Dec 28	Extra Bowen Master	26	24.
"	Alex ^r Taylor 4 th Mate	26	24.
"	Robert Long 2 ^d L. Mate	26	24.
"	Friedrick Schuller Seaman	26	24.
"	J. C. M. Linn 4 th 3 ^d	26	24.
"	Josiah Lovind 5 th 3 ^d	26	24.
"	Benj. Stone 6 th 3 ^d	26	24.
"	Edward P. Braden 8 th	26	24.
"	John C. Semetria 8 th	26	24.
"	Peter White 9 th Cook	26	24.
"	Sam ^l Woodwell 10 th Apprentice	26	24.
1810 Jan 6	Robert Vanjoy 10 th Seaman	26	16.
"	George Shipman 11 th 3 ^d	23	16.
1811 Aug 3	Gideon Bartlett 12 th 3 ^d	7	17.
	Philadelphia 22 nd March 1812		



Revolution, Reaction, Reform



Examples of topics in the Girard collections

→ 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 War of 1812: Second American Revolution

Records of the experience of the war both in Philadelphia and on the high seas. Records of Stephen Girard's provision of major funding for the war.

→ 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.

→ Revolutions in Transportation

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

→ Revolutions in Social Service

Records of 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.

→ 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.

Visit our [www.FOUNDERSHall.org](http://wwwFOUNDERSHall.org) for catalogs, links to digitized resources, and more. **Kathy Haas** is always happy to answer questions or locate materials; reach out to khaas@girardcollege.edu