



Selected Bibliographies of Stephen Girard

– by Gilbert W. Bunker –
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Literally thousands of articles, speeches, booklets and newsprint have been published about Stephen Girard, but only a handful of major works may be noted as a life history. Recommended are publications by DiFilippo '44, Herrick, Maxwell '48, Wildes and Wilson that reveal, as much as possible, the entire biography of Stephen Girard. Presented are several shorter papers that generally speak of Girard's foremost benevolence to the citizens of Philadelphia, while others deal with a specific subject. Publications by Girard College alumni are indicated with each author's year of graduation.

Arey, Henry W. *Girard College and Its Founder*, S. Sherman; pub 1857; 86pp; written by the Girard College Secretary, it contains a 29-page biography of Stephen Girard; history of Girard College with plans for the organization and discipline; descriptions of the buildings and the Will of Stephen Girard.

Barratt, Norris S. and Sachse, Julius F. - *The History of Brother Stephen Girard's Fraternal Connections*; pub New Era Printing Co. Lancaster, PA 1919; 52pp; A complete research of R. W. Grand Lodge F. & A. M of Pennsylvania papers performed by two Past Masters reveals all recording of Girard's association with the Lodge. "1. Stephen Girard was made a Mason on January 28, 1788 in Union Blue Lodge, No. 5 Charleston, South Carolina. 2. He never affiliated with any Lodge in Pennsylvania and therefore was not a Pennsylvania Mason (page iii)." It contains illustrations including a Masonic certificate showing he visited French Lodge No. 73, his Water Street home and the Permit for disinterment of his remains with the order of procession, reburial and the evening menu. The book is a reprint of Vol. III Freemasonry of Pennsylvania and an excellent source for Masonic research.

Beck, James M. (Phila. Bar) *Stephen Girard Merchant & Mariner*; pub JB Lippincott Co. 1897; 24pp; an eloquent oration by Beck given during the unveiling of the Stephen Girard statue on City Hall plaza on 20 May 1897. Beck's brief analysis of Girard's benevolence during the yellow fever epidemic and financial involvement during the War of 1812 portrays the founder's genius and humanitarianism in this complimentary discourse.

Bispels, William C. '53 *Stephen Girard, A Great American*; pub 1998; 43pp; Vantage Press Inc. NY; a children's book written by a Girard College alumnus. A delightful narrative of Girard's devotion toward his fellow man and allegiance to his adopted city and country. It is one of two core publications of the Stephen Girard Awareness Initiative.

Brown, Kenneth L. *Stephen Girard's Bank*, Abstract of a Doctoral Dissertation, Temple Univ.; 1942; 55p; "The new bank was unincorporated and unchartered, and seemingly was to be dependent for its success solely on the good name of Philadelphia's wealthiest citizen, Stephen Girard. Time, however, made it clear that the bank survived and thrived, primarily because Girard foresaw the growing importance of government financing, and anticipated the commercial and financial advantages of the forces that were working toward unification and centralization in the nation. Finally, of course, much was owing to his skillful manipulation of the relationship between his bank and the United States Treasury." p.29, paragraph one.

DiFilippo, Thomas J. '44 - *Stephen Girard, The Man, His College and Estate*; pub 1999; 101pp - Chapter One titled: *Girard, a Man to Remember* contains a factual synopsis of Stephen Girard's life touching on his major interests.

DiFilippo skillfully condensed an 81-year life story into a few dozen pages. DiFilippo further elaborated on Girard's achievements after his death in Chapters Two and Three. The entire book placed on a website, January 2010 may be located at girardweb.com.

Gerace, Frank '46 *Stephen Girard. His Life and Legacy*; pub 1996 by 1st Books Library; 279pp; "...the writer allowed as much as possible for Girard to tell his story through personal correspondence with friends and business associates."

Goldstein, Jonathan *Stephen Girard's Trade With China 1878-1824, The Norms versus the Profits of Trade*, pub Merwin Asia; 2011; 142pp; critique by Brenna O'Rourke Holland, Temple Univ. "While Goldstein includes few personal details of Girard's life, he successfully navigates the archives and demonstrates how central Girard was to Philadelphia with China." "His concise description and analysis of Stephen Girard's role in the China trade provides a helpful starting point for any scholar interested in learning more about Girard and early nineteenth-century trade."

Herrick, Chessman A. Ph.D., LL.D. *Stephen Girard Founder*; pub 1923 GC Print shop; 203pp; Critiqued by Thomas J, DiFilippo '44, in Jan 1999 "Dr. Herrick wrote his book because he thought that [Stephen] Simpson did Girard an injustice and because he thought [John B.] McMaster's book was too detailed for the average reader. "In my opinion his book is outstanding and easy to read. He uses the best of Simpson and McMaster, omitting the minutia. Herrick's book could and should be used in any era to teach the history of Stephen Girard."

Horner, Honorable Henry *Restless Ashes II*; pub 1928 GC Print Shop; 32pp – (Probate Judge Cook County, Illinois) The Restless Ashes Literary Club membership was composed exclusively of departed souls (first president was Benjamin Franklin) that accumulated large fortunes in their lifetime. Stephen Girard resigned from the club in 1928 according to the minutes, and related his personal story in a valedictory address. He said since his will was carried out in all detail, his soul is now at peace and no longer restless, therefore not eligible for membership according to the by-

laws. Surely today, some eight and a half decades later, Mr. Girard will seek reinstatement in this elite guild and "throw the money-changers out of the temple."

Ingram, Henry Atlee *The Life and Character of Stephen Girard*, pub 1885 by B. Stanley Hart, Phila.; 285pp. "I heartily and unhesitatingly approve of the work which you have done, and feel delighted that so correct a biography is to be presented to the world. I believe it to be strictly correct, so far as the facts are concerned..." Excerpt from William Wagner's letter to Ingram. Preface, p.xv (Wagner was President and Founder of the Wagner Free Institute of Science and former 21-year employee of Stephen Girard).

Lehman, John (Former Secretary of the Navy) *On Seas of Glory*; pub 2002 by Simon & Schuster; 448pp. A history of the U.S. Navy from The Revolutionary War to present. While a colonial navy had little impact on the war, privateering or legalized piracy had a serious impact on British commerce that kept their Navy busy. Stephen Girard invested ships and monies into privateering. He believed globalization of commerce would require a strong navy and organized demonstration for its formation. Congress would finally heed his influence in 1794. Lehman knows his topic and tells a story worthy of naval history and Girard's role.

Maxwell, Dr. Howard B.'48 —"*My Deeds must be my life...*"; 34pp; undated - Alumnus and former Girard College president (1990-1992) authored a white paper on Stephen Girard, his Will and Girard College, complete with a bibliography. Dr. Maxwell's critique on Girard's life is presented in this remarkable dissertation. He draws information and conclusions from many sources not normally discussed in previous biographies. His interpretations of some facts are subjective, but the interest of the reader is captivated by Maxwell's diverse theories. The only known copy (typewritten, onion-skin paper) is in the Girard College archives.

McFarland, Marvin Wilks '36 – *Citizen Stephen Girard* - pub GC print shop; 12pp; 1974. McFarland, an alumnus and major historian of Stephen Girard papers spoke in the Girard College Chapel on Founders Day May 19, 1974. He successfully managed to reveal Girard's brilliant and

successful life in this short treatise. (McFarland authored many articles and was preparing an extensive biography on Girard; it remains unpublished). Gayle Lawrence, then Girard College president wrote McFarland was the “Former Chief of Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress...” and “Generally acknowledged to know more about the life and character of the austere and formidable Stephen Girard than any other alumnus...”

McMaster, John B. *Life and Times of Stephen Girard, Vol. I & II*; 1918; 931pp. – Critique: Thomas J, DiFilippo ‘44, January 1999. “McMaster was hired by the Board of City Trusts to review Girard’s papers and prepare a book, two volumes in length. He was a professor of American History at the University of Pennsylvania. “My impression of his two volume book. It is full of boring minutes which unfortunately hides the accurate biography of Girard. It is a detailed history of Girard’s ships, where they [sailed] and what was carried. If one is interested in the period’s commerce – materials shipped, where to and what cost – this is an outstanding source. McMaster quotes specifics from what today we call the Stephen Girard Collection, but unfortunately he does not cite the document or volume numbers and often the reader is unable to determine the year. In reading the quoted information it is difficult to determine if it is a letter written by Girard or to Girard. Because of all the quoted materials, one is assured that McMaster’s facts are accurate and unbiased and for commerce research it is valuable.”

Powell, J.H. *Bring Out Your Dead*; pub 1949 University of Pennsylvania Press 303 pp; Primarily, it’s the story of Dr. Benjamin Rush and the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793. It contains sufficient documentation on Stephen Girard’s organization of the Bush Hill Hospital to inform the reader of Girard’s compassion toward his fellow man. “It is a revolting book, filled with disgusting details of a loathsome disease. And unfortunately, all the details are true.” Excerpt from the Preface, page v. (Stephen Girard’s personal ledgers on Bush Hill patient admissions and deaths are on display at the Girard College History Collection.)

Rupp, George P. *Stephen Girard: His Time, His College, His Trust*; pub. JB Lippincott Co; 1897; 26pp. The Girard College Librarian delivered a historical oration during the

1897 unveiling of the Girard statue on City Hall plaza. The essay was published in *Statue of Stephen Girard May 20, 1897* p.91-117. Broken into several parts, Rupp’s oration deals with the biography of Stephen Girard; life in Philadelphia; Girard as a humanitarian during the Yellow Fever scourge complete with vivid descriptions of terror caused by the plague; Girard College and other institutions or persons that benefited from Girard’s philanthropy.

Simpson, Stephen Esq. *Biography of Stephen Girard*, pub 1832 by Thomas L. Bonsal, Phila, 281pp. “An account of [Girard’s] private life, habits, genius and manners together with a detailed history of the banking and financial operations for the last twenty years.” Quote from the bookplate: “Much of the popular misconception of his [Stephen Girard’s] character is due to his first biographer [Simpson]. Shortly after his death, an obscure clerk in his bank, which [Girard] had saved from beggary and had been obliged to discipline for gross misconduct, published a biography which for mendacious malevolence has almost no equal in literature.” Critique: James M. Beck 1897 *Stephen Girard, Merchant and Mariner*, An oration p.8. – “Anyone who reads Simpson’s biography of Stephen Girard will perceive that the whole account is embittered and venomous and that wherever he could find an opportunity to falsify or pervert he improved it to the utmost.” Quote from *Lectures on Life and Times of Stephen Girard* by Professor William Wagner, p.5. SOURCE: *DiFilippo*, Box 55a, Girard College archives; pub *Philadelphia Times* 3 Nov 1882 & *Philadelphia Press* 18 Nov 1882 (newsprint not on file).

Smith, E. Alfred, LL.B, ‘52 *Stephen Girard and His Will*; pub c.1965 by GCAA; 16pp; Smith reviews several previous litigations and the 1960s integration arguments and shows “the clear distinction the courts make between administrative provisions of a will and those that the law deems “dispositive.” “All of the provisions of the Girard Will, which have been cited as evidence that the will has been broken, have been administrative provisions.” Preface, paragraph five.

Wildes, Harry Emerson; *Lonely Midas, The Story of Stephen Girard*; Little and Ives Co. NY; 1943; 372pp. A biography of Stephen Girard compiled from the Girard College archives.

A good read although some statements are disputed by today's historians. It remained the last "excellent" book on Stephen Girard for the next 52 years.

Wilson, George, *Stephen Girard The Life and Times of Americas First Tycoon*; 1995 by Signpost Biographies,

Conshohocken, PA, 400pp (2nd Edition, 2014). Wilson, a former columnist and editorial writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer, spent ten years of research for this publication. Most readers and Girard College alumni claim the book towers above the rest; it is a core publication of the Stephen Girard Awareness Initiative.

About the author. Gilbert W. Bunker (Gil) studied printing as a student in Girard College and pursued careers in graphic arts and law enforcement. Since 1997 he has volunteered as an archivist and historian in the Girard College History Collections; he received the Alumni Award of Merit in 2000. As the president and editor of a genealogical family association since 1980, he publishes its quarterly newsletter, The Bunker Banner. Hobbies include writing and collecting Girard and Bunker related memorabilia.