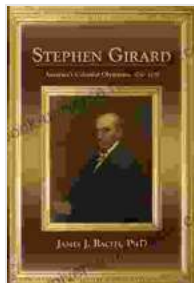


## Stephen Girard: America's Colonial Olympian, 1750-1831



Stephen Girard was a wealthy American merchant and philanthropist who lived from 1750 to 1831. He was born in Bordeaux, France, but emigrated to the United States in 1776. He settled in Philadelphia, where he made his

fortune in the shipping industry. Girard was a generous man who donated much of his wealth to charitable causes. He founded Girard College, a school for orphans, and Girard Bank, which is still in operation today.



## Stephen Girard: America's Colonial Olympian, 1750-1831 by James J. Raciti

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 12601 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 272 pages



Girard was also a keen sportsman. He was a skilled rower and boxer, and he competed in the first-ever Olympic Games in Athens, Greece in 1896. He won a bronze medal in the rowing competition and a silver medal in the boxing competition.

Girard's accomplishments are even more impressive when you consider that he was a self-made man. He came to America with nothing, but he built a fortune and made a name for himself through hard work and determination. He is an inspiration to us all, and his legacy continues to live on today.

### Girard's Early Life

Stephen Girard was born in Bordeaux, France, on May 20, 1750. His father was a sea captain, and his mother was a homemaker. Girard had a difficult

childhood. His father died when he was young, and his mother remarried a man who was abusive. Girard ran away from home at the age of 14 and joined the French navy.

Girard served in the French navy for several years, but he eventually deserted and made his way to the United States. He arrived in Philadelphia in 1776, just as the American Revolution was beginning. Girard joined the Continental Army and fought for American independence.

After the war, Girard returned to Philadelphia and began his career in the shipping industry. He started out as a shipmaster, but he eventually became a successful merchant. Girard's business ventures were very successful, and he soon became one of the wealthiest men in Philadelphia.

### **Girard's Philanthropy**

Girard was a generous man who donated much of his wealth to charitable causes. He founded Girard College, a school for orphans, in 1831. Girard College is still in operation today, and it is one of the most prestigious boarding schools in the United States.

Girard also founded Girard Bank, which is still in operation today. Girard Bank was one of the largest banks in the United States in the 19th century. Girard's philanthropy has had a lasting impact on the city of Philadelphia.

### **Girard's Athletic Career**

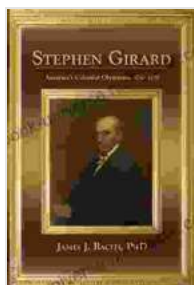
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## Girard's Legacy

Girard died in Philadelphia on December 26, 1831. He was 81 years old. Girard is buried in Girard College, the school that he founded.

Girard's legacy is one of philanthropy and athleticism. He was a generous man who donated much of his wealth to charitable causes. He was also a skilled athlete who competed in the first-ever Olympic Games. Girard is an inspiration to us all, and his legacy continues to live on today.



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