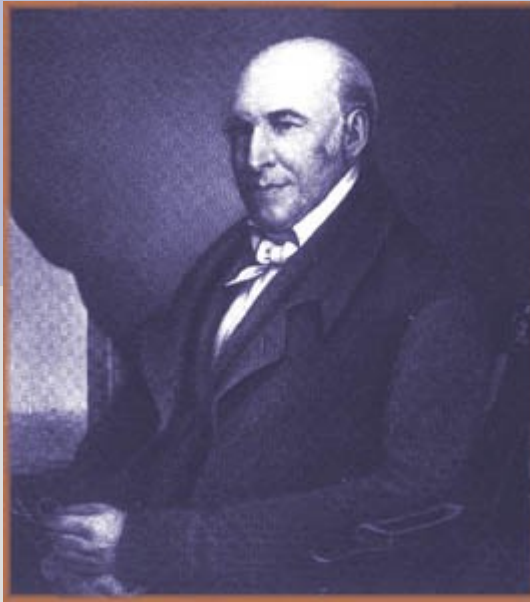


Girard college



Girard college is a boarding school on a 43-acre (17 ha) campus in Philadelphia. It consists of an elementary school, a middle school and a high school. It is called after Stephen Girard, a Frenchman who was born in Bordeaux, in 1750.



Picture courtesy of ushistory.org

Stephen Girard made his fortune, first as a sea captain, then as a banker. He became the richest American of this time. He was married but had no children. When he died, he left his money to create a school for « poor, white, male orphans. »

- In 1965, Martin Luther King delivered a speech in front of Girard College.
- The first African-American boys were accepted in 1968.
- The first girls were accepted in the 1980s.



New York World Telegram & Sun Collection.

- Today, there are more than 700 students at Girard college. Half of them are girls and about 80% are African-Americans.
- They all come from «families with limited financial resources and headed by single parent or guardian.»



- In 2007, Mélodine, our school choir gave a concert in the beautiful chapel of Girard college.
- Girard's choir sang « La Marseillaise » as a sign of welcome.
- That is how our two schools became friends.
- Sources: Wikipedia,
www.girardcollege.com