

WORLD NEWS

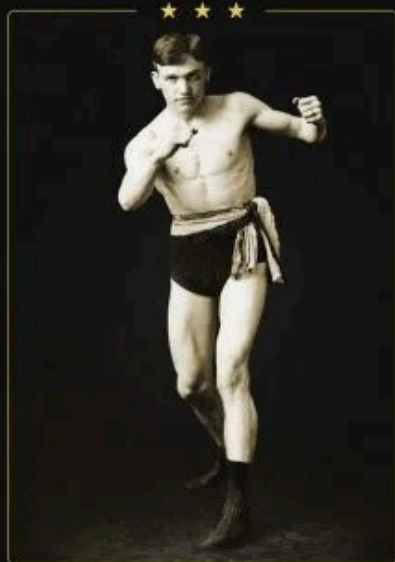
New release, 'The St. Paul Phantom', tells the story of the Gibbons brothers' fight for glory

Written by Tim Rickson on 14th April 2026.

BY THE AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *STREET OF 1921*

THE ST. PAUL PHANTOM

The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory, Volume I



GERARD GIBBONS

Descendant & Historian

"A breathtaking, cinematic true story of underdogs that leaps off the page like *Sublime* and *The Boys in the Boat*." — *Biography.com*

"A HIGH-VELOCITY WORK OF NARRATIVE HISTORY, FULL OF HEART, SOUL, AND FURY."
—Steve Hockensmith, bestselling author of *Holmes on the Range*

AS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ROARS TO LIFE, EVERYONE HAS A DREAM—SO EVERYONE HAS A FIGHT

For Mike Gibbons, a penniless and brilliant Irish American kid from the hardhatted streets of St. Paul, the fight is destiny. Beneath the light of Halley's Comet in 1910, Mike and his younger brother, Tommy, vow to punch their way out of poverty and become champions of the outlawed prize ring.

Guided by a patron, a firefighter, and a beloved sparseshop—and mentored by America's first Black champions, Joe Gans, Jack Johnson, and Sam Langford—Mike pioneers a dazzling new style of scientific boxing that carries him from backroom brawls to the roar of Madison Square Garden and into the orbit of historical titans such as Mussolini, Tex Rickard, Theodore Roosevelt, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

But Mike's meteoric ascent, steeped in romance and heroism, is fraught with conflict. Torn between his immigrant father's Needy rebel past and his mother's fear for his life, he falls for a fiancée-willed suffragist who demands he abandon the ring forever. His loyalty is tested further when his greatest rival turns out to be his own brother.

Mike and Tommy's daring quest spans miles and oceans—to the Nation's grandest arenas, to the birth of jazz and cinema, through race riots, and the rise of organized crime, from famine-weary Ireland to Gotham's hellfire, quake-scarred San Francisco, and the immaculate shores of Havana. Just as their dreams are within reach, World War I and a deadly pandemic upend the globe, calling them to trade gloves for uniforms to strengthen America's fighting forces.

In the war's aftermath, an aging Mike returns to the ring for one final shot at the championship against a dangerous young fighter he once trained.

The St. Paul Phantom is more than a boxing story. It is an inspiring, panoramic true story of courage, faith, love, brotherhood, and redemption—and a mirror reflecting the hope, promise, and opportunity of the American Dream.

BOOK OF THE YEAR—WEST COAST BOXING HALL OF FAME

"TIMELESS... 'true-good story' urgently needed today." —Auron Fling, Montana PBS

"ELECTRIFYING AND ELEGANT... told with journalistic precision, novelist's empathy, and a pulse-quickening sense of action and romance." — *MensHealth.com*



DR. GERARD GIBBONS is a storyteller at heart—an author, producer, and historian who has spent his career bringing remarkable stories to life. For more than thirty years, he worked as an award-winning filmmaker and brand strategist for clients including NASA, DARPA, U.S. Special Operations Command, and Disney Imagineering. He has now turned his focus closer to home, uncovering and sharing his own family's extraordinary legacy.

The St. Paul Phantom tells the true story of his legendary Hall of Fame prizefighting great-uncles and grandfathers, Mike and Tommy Gibbons. Through *Fight for Glory, LLC*, he is developing their saga for both page and screen. He spends time near Joshua Tree, California.

www.FightForGloryStory.com

Descendant of boxing royalty unearths lost American epic, 'The St. Paul Phantom'

The St. Paul Phantom Set for Summer 2026 Release — A sweeping narrative history revives the Irish-American brothers who chased the American Dream in the outlawed prize ring

As America prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of its founding, a forgotten chapter of the nation's past returns to the spotlight with the publication of *The St. Paul Phantom: The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory, Volume I*, a sweeping narrative history that revives one of the most compelling—and long-overlooked—sagas of the early twentieth century.



Written by historian and award-winning storyteller Gerard Gibbons, a descendant of the legendary fighting family, the book will be published June 9, 2026 by Fight for Glory Press, with pre-sales opening April 21, timed to powerfully resonant with this year's America 250 celebrations and storytelling initiatives. The book will be available in hardcover, paperback, eBook, and audiobook editions.

Drawing on more than a decade of archival research—including rare family letters, memoirs, photographs, and records—The St. Paul Phantom reconstructs the extraordinary rise of Mike and Tommy Gibbons, immigrant sons of St. Paul, Minnesota who rose from poverty to become two of the most celebrated fighters of their generation.

At the center of the story stands Mike Gibbons, the elusive middleweight master known as “The St. Paul Phantom.” Revered by historians as one of boxing’s greatest tacticians, Gibbons developed a revolutionary “scientific” style of fighting that emphasized strategy, defense, and ring intelligence.

ALSO: [Gilberto “Zurdo” Ramirez previews David “El Monstro” Benavidez showdown](#)

Mentored by legendary Black champions Jack Johnson, Sam Langford, and Joe Gans, Gibbons rose from clandestine rooftop bouts in immigrant neighborhoods to the bright lights of Madison Square Garden, Havana, Sydney, and London, crossing paths with the most influential figures of their era—including Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Houdini, Tex Rickard, Joseph Pulitzer, William Randolph Hearst, and a young F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Set against the rise of celebrity culture, civil rights, World War I, and the devastating influenza pandemic of 1918, the book tells a deeply human story of family, boxing, ambition, and reinvention during a decisive era in the making of modern America.

“This is more than a sports biography,” says Gibbons. “It’s a quintessential American story about family, belief, and the fight to become something greater than circumstance.”

About the Author

Gerard Gibbons is a nonfiction author and historian with more than three decades of experience as an award-winning filmmaker, storyteller, and brand strategist. A descendant of the legendary Gibbons fighting family, he curates the family archives and preserves the legacy of two inductees of The Ring Magazine and the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

