

A FIGHT FOR GLORY Story
An Authentic American Epic

*They Fought to Be Champions.
They Became Heroes Instead.*

PERFECT FOR READERS OF SEABISCUIT, CINDERELLA MAN,
AND THE BOYS IN THE BOAT

“AN ELECTRIFYING & INSPIRING RENDITION
OF THE AMERICAN DREAM.”
—THE US REVIEW OF BOOKS

“AN EPIC AMERICAN ODYSSEY...
UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS, EPIC SLUGFESTS,
AND FASCINATING HISTORICAL CAMEOS.”
—SELF-PUBLISHING REVIEW

THE ST. PAUL PHANTOM

The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory, Volume I

DR. GERARD GIBBONS
Descendant & Historian

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

From the hardscrabble immigrant neighborhoods of St. Paul's Frogtown to the bright lights of boxing's Golden Age, Irish-American brothers **Mike “The St. Paul Phantom” Gibbons** and his younger brother **Tommy** rise from poverty and prejudice to become the legendary “Shining Knights of the Ring.” Mentored by their priest, a local firefighter, a whipsmart sportswriter, and pioneering Black champions (like **Jack Johnson**, **Joe Gans**, and **Sam Langford**) and guided by unbreakable faith, family, and grit, the brothers perfect a dazzling “scientific” style of boxing that mesmerizes a rapidly changing America.

Yet fame demands a heavy price. Mike is torn between his father's rebel past, his mother's Catholic devotion, and a determined suffragist who challenges him to leave the ring behind. The Gibbons brothers' odyssey thrusts them into a world in upheaval—from famine-weary Ireland to earthquake-shattered San Francisco, the immaculate shores of Havana to the hallowed halls of Madison Square Garden, the battlefields of World War I, where Mike's innovative boxing-and-bayonets strategy is taught to 3-million doughboys, and through the devastation of the 1918 influenza pandemic. In the war's aftermath, Mike returns to the ring for one final shot at redemption against a dangerous protégé.

On their heroic journey, Mike and Tommy collide with a who's-who of the era, including **Harry Houdini**, **Theodore Roosevelt**, **F. Scott Fitzgerald**, **Nellie Bly**, **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, and the Golden Pens of sportswriting, like **Grantland Rice**, **George A. Barton**, and **Damon Runyon**. All the while, the brothers battle their way through a chaotic world exploding into modernity—outlaw prizefighting, racial tensions, women's suffrage, and the birth of radio, cinema, and jazz.

Drawing on never-before-seen family archives and thousands of historical sources, award-winning filmmaker and direct descendant Dr. Gerard Gibbons delivers a richly illustrated work of narrative nonfiction. The first volume in the *Fight for Glory Literary Trilogy* is an epic of brotherhood, resilience, and the American Dream.

PRIMARY & SECONDARY GENRES

Nonfiction / Narrative History; Biography / Sports / Americana

BISAC CODES

HIS036040 (History: United States / 20th Century)
BIO016000 (Biography & Autobiography: Sports)
SPO008000 (Sports & Recreation: Boxing)

SETTING & ERA

1900–1925 (The Progressive Era, WWI, The Jazz Age); St. Paul, MN; New York City; San Francisco; Europe)

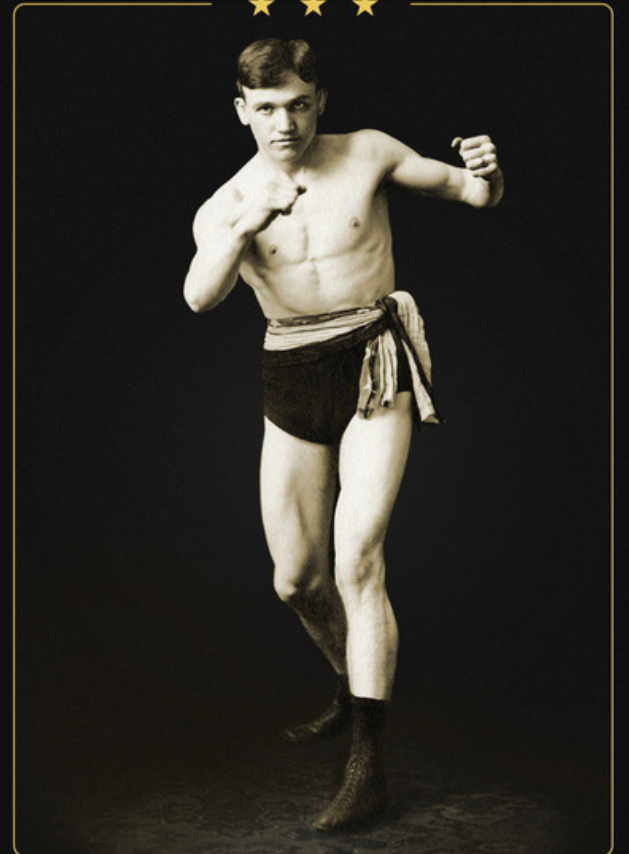
KEY THEMES

The American Dream, Irish-American Immigrant Experience, Brotherhood, Social Reform, Evolution of Sports

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GERARD GIBBONS

Descendant & Historian

AT A GLANCE

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WHY THIS BOOK MATTERS NOW

AMERICA250 CONTEXT: Illuminates the birth of modern America at the turn of the 20th century

CULTURAL RESONANCE: Immigration, race, class warfare, masculinity, power of media, national service, wartime posture, global pandemic preparedness and response, and economic anxiety echo today

RESURGENCE OF NARRATIVE HISTORY: Meets growing demand for immersive, literary nonfiction

SPORTS AS SOCIAL MIRROR: Boxing as a lens for labor, violence, masculinity, athleticism, discipline, respect, resilience, lessons from failure, humility, celebrity, and morality

HUMAN-SCALE EPIC: An intimate family legacy story with national and global stakes

AUDIENCE & KEY SELLING POINTS

Fans of History with Cinematic Flair: Explores the American experience through the lens of the famine-era Irish exodus, Progressive Era, racial tensions, women's rights, the WWI war effort, and the 1918 Pandemic.

Sports Historians-Enthusiasts: Fans of "The Sweet Science" and the Golden Age of Boxing.

Regional & Heritage Essential: A cornerstone title for collections focusing on the Upper Midwest (St. Paul/Minneapolis), old New York, the American West, and the Irish-American diaspora.

Book Clubs: High "discussability" and broad, all-ages crossover appeal; the cost of the American Dream, brotherhood, resilience, faith, military history, immigration sagas, and sports biography.

Authentic Family Legacy: Written by a direct descendant with exclusive access to thousands of rare primary sources, memoirs, and letters.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"RECOMMENDED!"

A sweeping, unforgettable saga of courage, ambition, and glory that illuminates the American experience and the common ground that binds us together."

— *Midwest Book Review*

"The kind of true story Hollywood spends years looking for."

— *Paul Tamasy, Oscar-nominated writer/producer, The Fighter*

"A HIGH-VELOCITY work of narrative history, full of heart, soul, and fury."

— *Steve Hockensmith, bestselling author, Holmes on the Range*

"LIVELY, WONDERFULLY VIVID, TRULY ENGAGING..."

A stirring story of siblings against the world with expert pacing and character development."

— *Kirkus Reviews*

"TIMELESS & POWERFUL!"

— *Brian Frankish, Oscar-nominated producer, Field of Dreams*

"BREATHTAKING & CINEMATIC!"

— *Biography.com*

EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

- Author talks and library lectures
- America250-aligned programming and community reads
- Book club discussions (sports, history, identity, immigration)
- Panels on sports, boxing, race, and media history
- School and university visits (history, journalism, American studies)

COMPARABLE TITLES

Seabiscuit, The Boys in the Boat, Cinderella Man, Friday Night Lights, Unforgivable Blackness, The Great Gatsby, Peaky Blinders, Rocky, The Devil in the White City



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Gerard Gibbons is a nonfiction author, historian, and descendant of the legendary Gibbons boxing family. Drawing from a trove of century-old family archives, rare memoir and memorabilia, and more than a decade of research in libraries, galleries, and museums around the world, he uncovers the lost legacy of his great-uncle and grandfather, Mike and Tommy Gibbons. In doing so, he restores a forgotten chapter of American sports and cultural history.

Before developing the *Fight for Glory* franchise for page and screen, Dr. Gibbons, as CEO/founder of Visual Eyes Inc., spent thirty years as an award-winning filmmaker, storyteller, and brand strategist for clients including the U.S. Department of Defense, Special Operations Command, DARPA, Military Health System, NASA, and Disney Imagineering.

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