directories, correspondence in the collection, and contemporary newspapers). The Baltimore firms of Bird, Nightingale & Neff, and Neff & Bird, were partnerships involving Charles Bird's son Henry.

Bird & Patton	1806
Bird, Clemson & Co.	1810
Bird & Earp	1810-1814, 1817
Bird, Earp, & Co.	1813
Shaffer & Bird	1828-1831
Bird & Brothers	1833-1837
Henry Bird & Co.	1839

Charles Bird sold a range of imported and nationally-produced merchandise in his store, from sugar and cotton to iron casters and Japanned wares; he advertised regularly in *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* and other Philadelphia papers. In the existing correspondence, it appears that the items he bought and sold most frequently included looking glasses, cutlery, wire, shovels, and tongs. Bird had a wide range of business associates the United States from New York to New Orleans, and west to Ohio, as well as international contacts in Britain, Venezuela, and Cuba.

Aside from his hardware business, Bird had strong interests in real estate, as revealed by the number of bonds, mortgages, and agreement papers found in the collection. Some of Bird's property dealings involved transactions of $20,000 or more, a significant figure for the time. Among his investments was the Olympic Theatre, now Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre, at Walnut and Ninth streets (see correspondence in Series I from Benjamin Tilghman and John B. Wallace, and a mortgage indenture between Joseph Jones and Jacob S. Waln in Series III).

In his later years, Bird was also active in the community, fundraising or serving on the boards of several organizations including the Society for the Encouragement of Domestics, the House of Refuge (for orphans or vagrant children), and the American Colonization Society. He also served on committees for the improvement of Philadelphia including a planning committee for using gas lighting across the city, for obtaining public funding for "infant" schools, and for building a railway line from Pottsville to Philadelphia. He was a member of the Committee for the Superintendence of Funds Distributed to the Poor, and he served as a director and trustee for Girard College for Orphans.

Bird was listed in the compendium, *Memoirs and Auto-Biography of Some of the Wealthy Citizens of Philadelphia* (1846), where it was said of him, "Formerly one of our most enterprising citizens, and an extensive importer of hardware; property chiefly invested in real estate, for the purchase and sale of which he has always displayed a fondness." By the time of his death on April 21, 1849, Bird had amassed quite a fortune for his day; his estate was valued at $300,000 (approximately eight million dollars in twenty-first-century terms), and he left $30,000 to each