

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. 17)*

STEPAN COMPANY

(Name of Issuer)

COMMON STOCK \$1 PAR VALUE

(Title of Class of Securities)

858586-10-0

(CUSIP Number)

Check the following box if a fee is being paid with this statement. (A fee is not required only if the filing person: (1) has a previous statement on file reporting beneficial ownership of more than five percent of the class of securities described in Item 1; and (2) has filed no amendment subsequent thereto reporting beneficial ownership of five percent or less of such class.) (See Rule 13d-7).

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

F. QUINN STEPAN

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*
(a)
(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION
U.S.A.

SOLE VOTING POWER

5 NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH
1,167,494 shares, includes 470,250 shares under options exercisable within 60 days

SHARED VOTING POWER

6 422,139 (see item 8)

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

7 1,167,494

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

8 422,139

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,266,158 shares, includes shares held by spouse, and spouse and self as trustee under the trusts for the benefit of minor children. F. Quinn Stepan is the sole executor of the estate of Mary Louise Stepan as of February 12, 1999. There were 264,432 common shares of common stock and 76,872 of preferred stock held by the estate of Mary Louise Stepan. These shares are not included in the amount listed in item 9.

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)
23.3%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*
INDIVIDUAL

- Item 1(a) Name of issuer:
Stepan Company
- Item 1(b) Address of issuer's principal executive offices:
22 West Frontage Road
Northfield, Illinois 60093
- Item 2(a) Name of person filing:
See Item 1 of cover page
- Item 2(b) Address of principal business office or, if none, residence:
Stepan Company
22 West Frontage Road
Northfield, Illinois 60093
- Item 2(c) Citizenship:
See item 4 of cover page
- Item 2(d) Title of class of securities:
Common
- Item 2(e) CUSIP number:
858586-10-0
- Item 3 Ownership
- (a) Amount beneficially owned:
See Item 9 of cover page
 - (b) Percent of Class:
See Item 11 of cover page
 - (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
 - (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote
See Item 5 of cover page
 - (ii) Shares power to vote or direct the vote -
See Item 6 of cover page
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of
See Item 7 of cover page
 - (iv) Shares power to dispose or direct the disposition of:
See Item 8 of cover page
- Item 5 Ownership of five percent or less of a class:
Not applicable
- Item 6 Ownership of more than five percent on behalf of another person:
Of the shares reported herein, F. Quinn Stepan and Paul H. Stepan, as the general partners of Stepan Venture I, an Illinois limited partnership, which in turn is the sole general partner of Stepan Venture II, an Illinois limited partnership, have over 422,139 of the issuer's common shares owned by

Stepan Venture II.

- Item 7 Identification and classification of the subsidiary which acquired the security being reported on by the parent holding company:
Not applicable
- Item 8 Identification and classification of members of the group.
Not applicable
- Item 9 Notice of dissolution of group:
Not applicable
- Item 10 Certification:
Not applicable

Signature - After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 12, 1999

Dated

Signature

F. Quinn Stepan

Name