

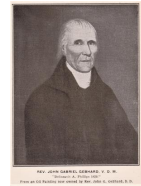
“An 1869 Stamp and My Great-Grandfather”



Presentation to
THE GATHERING
Chester County History Center
August 17, 2024

William J. (Bill) DeWitt, III, Ph.D.

1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather



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50+ Years...Transportation Profession (Railroads) and Professor/Dean of Logistics and Freight Transportation...



1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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2

Grandfather DeWitt (W J DeWitt, Sr) Postcards of trains (LVRR Engine # 222)



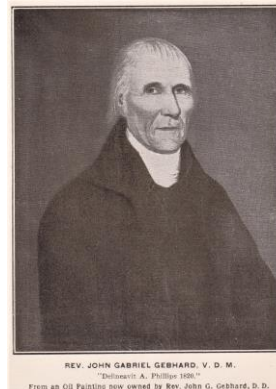
1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

3

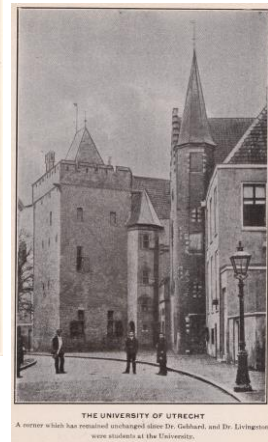
3

Great-Grandfather Gebhard Rev. John Gabriel Gebhard, V.D.M.

- Waldorf, Germany – Born & Raised
- Heidelberg
- Utrecht
 - Licensed to preach by Reformed Church of Holland
 - “VDM” (Minister of the Word of God)
- Pennsylvania
 - Montgomery County
 - 15-year-old wife from NYC
- New York
 - German Reformed Church of New York
 - Nassau St
 - High-Dutch
 - British Occupancy
- Esopus
 - Near Kingston
 - Same time as DeWitts
- Claverack (Clover Reach or Field)
 - Low-Dutch in Six Months
 - Friend of John Jacob Astor (from boyhood)
 - Between Rensselaerwick & Livingston Manors



Rev. John Gabriel Gebhard



University of Utrecht

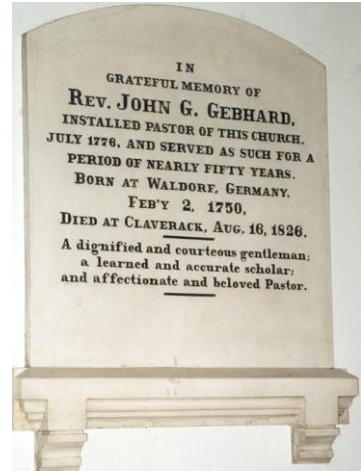
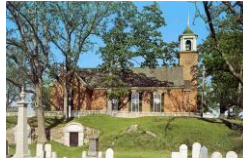
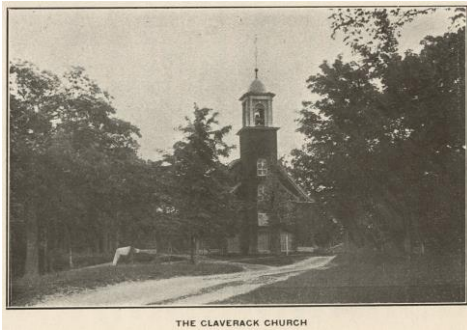
From "The Parsonage Between Two Manors; Annals of Clover-Reach by Elizabeth L. Gebhard, Hudson Press, 1925

1869 Scott #114 and My Great-Grandfather

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Claverack Dutch Reformed Church



1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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1869 Issue (and 1875 Re-issue)

112 (123); 113 (124); 114 (125); 115 (126); 116 (127); 117 (128); 118; 119; 120; 121; 122 (re-issued 1875)



1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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1869 Issue (and 1875 Re-issue) 113 A35 (124); 114 A36 (125); 117 A39 (128)

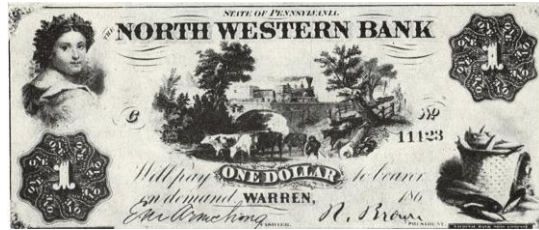


1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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Early uses of 4-4-0 locomotive image



Die proof, "The Crossing," by National Bank Note Co.
1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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From North Western Bank's 1861 \$1 Note



Die proof, "The Crossing," by National Bank Note Co.



4-4-0 Locomotive

Bill DeWitt collection

1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

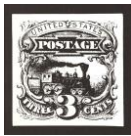


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1869 Issue

114 (125) (re-issued 1875)



Bill DeWitt collection

1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather



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Scott #114 & #125 (reissue)

- Issued March 19, 1869
- Transcontinental Railroad
 - May 10, 1869
- Ultramarine (silver-bluish hue)
- 333,000,000 issued (Luff estimates 386,475,900 issued)
- 37 states & 11 territories
- First true pictorial
 - #112 Franklin
 - #113 Person on Horseback
- Postage Stamps - Prior and following – George Washington
- Designed to show rapid improvement of mail service (pony express; railroad; steamship to England/Europe; stagecoach-old fashioned replaced by railroad)
- Seldom seen after 1873
- 1875 re-issue (Scott #125)
 - 10,000 issued
 - 1,406 purchased



1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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#114 – “Not Continued”



- Originally designed to demonstrate
 - “...principal and most efficient means of transporting the mails.” (pg. 1)
- “Stamps to be furnished as ordered by P.O.D. Designs... for the three cents stamp a ‘locomotive’” (pg. 16)
- “By the time the stamps under the contract of 1868 were finally released, the new administration (Grant) inherited designs of the old regime.” (pg. 25)
- Postmaster General’s (PMG’s) report of November 15, 1879...
 - “The adhesive stamps adopted by my predecessor in 1869, having failed to give satisfaction to the public, on account of:
 - their small size,
 - their unshapely form,
 - the inappropriateness of their design,
 - the difficulty of cancelling them effectually, and
 - the inferior quality of the gum used in their manufacture,
 - I found it necessary, in April last, to issue new stamps, of larger size, superior quality of gum, and improved designs.” (pg. 34)

• The United States 1869 Issue: An Essay-Proof History, Fred Schueren

1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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Washington Seminary (Claverack College)



THE OLD CHURCH AND PARSONAGE AND WASHINGTON SEMINARY
The view is taken from the rear of the old parsonage, and gives Washington Seminary in its earliest days.

- Founded 1779 by Reverend John Gabriel Gebhard
- Co-educational boarding school in Claverack, New York
- Originally Washington Seminary
- Originally 20 acres; Now 12 Acres

From "The Parsonage Between Two Manors; Annals of Clover-Reach by Elizabeth L. Gebhard, Hudson Press, 1925

1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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Claverack College & Hudson River Institute



CLAVERACK COLLEGE AND HUDSON RIVER INSTITUTE
The outgrowth of the old Washington Seminary

- 1854 Claverack College and Hudson River Institute (closed 1902)



Circa 1869



From "The Parsonage Between Two Manors; Annals of Clover-Reach by Elizabeth L. Gebhard, Hudson Press, 1925

1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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#114 on Cover from Hudson River Institute



Bill DeWitt collection

- New York Covers In Existence (estimated)
 - 26, 195
 - 52,390
- 3 cents domestic postage rate for single-weight letter
- Registry fee 15 cents (5 stamps)

1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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Finding a cover with The Hudson Institute and the 1869 #114 stamp - **Extraordinary**



Bill DeWitt collection



1869 Scott #112 and My Great-Grandfather

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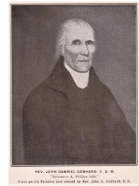
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