

## GEBHARD HARRES' APPLICATION FOR A PASSPORT

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*[This application for a passport by Gebhard Harres (born June 11, 1801 or 1802, died 31 May 1863) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was for his intended journey to his birthplace in Valstadt, Braunschweig (English: Brunswick), Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony), Germany, apparently the first visit he made after he emigrated to the United States about 1818. His parents had sent him secretly before his eighteenth birthday one hundred twenty-five miles away to The Netherlands to escape conscription into the armies that were fighting France. He found a ship and worked as a seaman until he got to America. After obtaining this passport, Gebhard arrived at his former home to discover not only that his mother had died, but also his brothers who had been caught up in the military recruitment. He made several visits thereafter to visit his father. The handwriting is not as clear as would be wished, so the transcriptions of some portions are tentative.]*

Rse? June 18

Passport ....

Philad. June 10. 1835 3862\_

Hon. John Forsyth  
Secretary of State

Sir

Having occasion to  
Embark for Liverpool on the 20<sup>th</sup> instant I  
would very respectfully request from your  
department a Passport being a citizen of  
the United States—

Very respectfully

I am

Sir

Yr very ob. serv. [*Your very obedient servant*]

Gebhard Harres

Sir

I am well acquainted with Mr. Harres & know  
the fact of his being a Citizen - I reside in this City  
a merchant here & formerly a member of the  
Legislature of this State – I am acquainted  
with Col. Tho. G. Slye an official in Washington  
City – Mr. Harres requests the Passport may  
be sent as \early as / may be to my care – June 10. 1835

Very respectly [*respectfully*]

. . . yr ob ser [*your obedient servant*]

Paul S. Brossue [?]

Hon. John Forsyth