CAPTAIN BENJAMIN GIST
AND SONS JOSEPH AND THOMAS GIST

Benjamin Gist registered Grant #193 for land in what would become Greene County on October 22, 1783. He is a documented soldier by D.A.R., as are his sons Joseph and Thomas Gist.

Historic Greene County and Its People, pages 117-18:

Capt. Benjamin Gist, who was living in the section of Washington County that became Greene County when it was organized, was the son of Capt. Nathaniel Gist of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina and his wife, Mary Howard. He was born ca 1730, probably in Baltimore County, Md., and lived in Lunenburg County, Va., Orange County, N. C., and Craven County, S.C. before moving to the Washington District in western North Carolina. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace upon the formation of Washington County and served as captain of the Militia under Col. John Carter, then Col. John Sevier. Soon after the Battle of King’s Mountain his company of men under Sevier was given credit for thwarting an attack on the frontier settlements by the Cherokees.

Benjamin Gist held several North Carolina land grants, most of which fell within the borders of Greene County when it was organized in 1783. On 20 Sept. 1787 he received an additional 400 A in Greene County; the land lay on the north side of the Nolachucky River on Gist’s Branch.

Benjamin Gist was appointed a Justice of the Peace in Greene County, Aug. 1785, and served as a grand juror on several occasions. He supported the establishment of the State of Franklin, and was selected as a delegate from Greene County to the convention that met at Jonesborough.

Soon after Knox County was formed in 1792, Benjamin Gist sold most of his Greene County
holdings and moved his family into that area. In 1794 he was appointed Justice of the Peace and tax collector. By 1800 the Gists and several other families from Greene and Knox Counties moved into Barren County, Ky. and Smith County, Tenn., border counties on the state line. The exact date of his death is unknown, but it occurred after 3 June 1808, when he sold to John Carter of Greene County a tract of land on the waters of Lick Creek in Greene County.

Benjamin Gist and his wife Mary (maiden name not proven, but probably Wright or Jarrett) were the parents of the following children: 1) Joseph, b. 1751, m. 1st, Hannah Breed; m. 2nd Elizabeth (Belew) Springer; 2) Mary, b. 1755, m. James Stinson (Stevenson); 3) John, b. ca. 1757, m. Hannah Geron (?); 4) William, b. ca. 1759; 5) Thomas, b. 1764, m. Elizabeth ____; 6) Amie b. ca 1769, m. Alexander Lowrey; 7) Annie, b. ca. 1771, m. James McClain; 8) Benjamin, b. 1773, m. 1st, Rhoda Hinds, m. 2nd, Rebecca ____.

(Information from marriage, probate, land, tax, and court records of Washington, Greene, Knox, Smith, and Jackson Counties, Tenn., family Bible transcriptions, military records, and Christopher Gist of Maryland and Some of His Descendants by J. M. and M. J. Dorsey (1969). Submitted by Jane Gray Buchanan, 114 Berwick Drive, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830, who would be glad to correspond with anyone on this family.)
BENJAMIN'S SON, JOSEPH GIST

Kentucky
1743

Joseph Gist
of Marine Co. in the State of Kentucky
who was a Private in the army commanded
by Captain Melton of the U.S. commander
by the State in the War for 2 years.

Inscribed on the Roll of Kentucky
at the rate of 50 Dollars per annum,
to commence on the 14th day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 12th day of March
1853 and signed by

Certificate of Pension issued the
12th day of March, 1853
and sent to

Recorded by Daniel Floyd, Clerk,
Book 8, Vol. 7, Page 10

Recorded on Roll of Pensioners under act
February 2, 1853, Page 174, Vol. 60
State of Kentucky, County of Monroe: September Term 1832

On the third day of September 1832 personally appeared in opening Court before the Justices of the Monroe County Court now sitting Joseph Gist a resident of said County about 81 years of age who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officer and served as herein stated. In the year 1777 and 1778 the Claimant volunteered as an Indian spy under John Sevier who was an officer (his grade not recollected) from the County of Greene Territory of the United States South of Ohio River (now State of Tennessee) and was ordered to spy without the settlement in Company with William Hix [William Hicks?] from the first of April to the first of October performing a tour of six months in each year against the Cherokee Indians the Claimant served also a six months tour from the first day of April to the first day of October for two years Two with 1779 and 1780 under Colonel John Sevier, Jesse Walton & Jonathan Tipton Majors and Captain James Stinson we marched into the Cherokee nation for three months in each year as stated in the affidavit of Thomas Gist and Abel Pearson who was with the army in which he himself acted as a soldier of spies and the Claimant further states that he has no documentary evidence in his possession and that he knows of no person otherwise whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services without incurring too much expense and inconveniency and he is no[t] certain he can procure any further satisfactory evidence of his service.

He hereby relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.
Test: S/ William Butler, Clerk
S/ Joseph Gist, X his mark

[William Howard and Thomas Kearns gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee White County

Personally appeared before me Waman Leftwich one of the Acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of White aforesaid Thomas Gist, Senior¹ aged sixty-eight years and Abel Pearson² aged sixty-nine years both citizens of the County of White aforesaid to me known both persons of good name, fame and reputation, who being first sworn in due form of law upon their oath do say that they are personally acquainted with Joseph Gist a citizen of the County of Monroe and State of Kentucky

¹ Thomas Gist S1762
² Abel Pearson S3661
who is an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of the United States of the 7th June A.D. 1832, and have been acquainted with an known the said Joseph Gist for upwards of fifty-three years, and that the said Joseph Gist on or about the year 1779 the said Joseph Gist entered the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War and a Campaign against the Cherokee Indians in the company commanded by Captain James Stinson, that said Company took up the line of March, from the County of Greene in the State of Tennessee, then residence of said Joseph Gist, that said Joseph Gist during said Campaign was attached to the spies belonging to said Campaign. – Said Company formed part of the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Sevier the Majors in said Regiment were Jesse Walton and Jonathan Tipton. – During said Campaign the troops marched through the Indian Country to the mouth of Long Creek up the same though along the dividing ridges the Dumpling Creek where the spies met the Indians, where a small skirmish took place – from thence to Sevier's Island on French Broad River crossing said River at the Indian trace, thence to Boyd's Creek and up the same near the head, fell in with a large party of Indians, this was late in the fall, when a battle was fought, in which it was then understood that about eighteen or twenty-two Indians was killed – some of the Americans were killed in said engagement. – From thence they troops were marched to Sevier's Island on French Broad and stationed until a Junction was formed with the Troops from Sullivan County; when the Sullivan Troops arrived and joined the regiment under Colonel John Sevier, the whole marched from thence to Little River, thence to Tennessee River, crossing the same thence to an Indian town called Chota which the Troops destroyed and killed one Indian. – The troops were thence marched to Tellico, and burnt the town and destroyed the Corn belonging to the Indians, thence the Army marched to a town called Chilhource [sic, Chillicothe?], which down was destroyed by burning, and all the corn found there in Cribbs, the same being gathered, the troops burnt, except what the troops used – at which place the troops were discharged and returned home, having performed a tour the troops volunteered for, being a tour for three months. And again about the month of September in the year 1780, the said Joseph Gist still residing in the County of Greene in the State of Tennessee entered the service of the United States as a Volunteer Militia man on a tour for three months, in the Company commanded by Captain Thomas Wood, which belong to and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Sevier, one of the Majors was as affiants believe was James Hubbard. – This Company marched from Greene County taking pretty much the same route described in the first Campaign until we crossed the Tennessee River at a Ford called and then known by the name of the Virginia Ford. – Thence the Army marched, crossing Tellico River thence crossing Hiwassee River – near Hiwassee River procured three Indians who acted as Pilots for the Army – Near Hiwassee River, received from John Watts and Indian chief a lady called Nancy Ireland, who had been retained as a prisoner by the Indians, from thence to Bulls Town, and took prisoners on the route, thence to Vanns Town. – Thence crossing the country, to a small town or village, where the troops killed a white man engaged in furnishing the Indians with ammunitions of War &c. – From thence the troops marched to the headquarters of Coosa River, thence to a town called Eastonaller [?], from thence to Shoemake town, thence to an Indian Town on Hiwassee River, where the army crossed, from thence returned home, pretty much by the same route we marched on. – This last Campaign was carried on against the Chickamauga Indians – During the Campaign said Joseph Gist acted as a Spy. – And performed a tour of three months and further affiants sayeth not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me August 22nd, 1832
S/ Waman Leftwich, JP
S/ Thomas Gist Senior, F his mark
S/ Abel Pearson
[p 6: On August 22, 1853 in Monroe County Kentucky, Elizabeth Gist, aged 65, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Gist, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of $80 per annum; that she married him January 7, 1816; that her husband died in Monroe County Kentucky July 30, 1844; that she remains his widow; that she had 3 children by her husband, the first a son was born November 1918 18, 2nd a daughter born June 29, 1824 and 3rd a son born July 3, 1826. None of the children are named in this document. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 9: On October 24, 1853 in Monroe County Kentucky, the widow filed an affidavit in which she said that the only evidence of her marriage she could find on the public record was a copy of her marriage bond in which she is referred to as Betsey Springer. That her name was Elizabeth Springer but she was called Betsey by many of her neighbors and by her husband.]

[p 14: Marriage bond dated January 3, 1816 for the marriage of Joseph Gist to Betsey Springer]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]
Hannah⁵ (Breed) and Joseph² Gist moved from the Fairforest Creek settlement in present Union Co., S.C. in 1776 with his parents, Benjamin and Mary (Jarrett) Gist, to Washington County, North Carolina, where, in 1777, he enlisted, serving as an Indian spy in the regiment commanded by Col. John Sevier, serving different enlistments until 1780 under Col. Servier, Majors Jesse Walton and Jonathan Tipton, and Capt. James Stinson (his brother-in-law.)

When Greene County was organized from Washington County in 1783, their home was in the latter county. On August 23, 1784, Joseph Gist was a delegate from Greene County to a convention to consider the formation of a new state, to be called the state of Franklin, to be organized from Washington, Sullivan and Greene counties. (Rev. War Pension W 7517, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Samuel C. Williams, History of the Lost State of Franklin, p. 30.)

Joseph Gist owned several tracts of land in Greene County, North Carolina, (now Tennessee) some of which he sold in 1795 and 1796. About 1801 he and his family moved to Barren County, Kentucky, rejoining Hannah’s sister, Priscilla⁵ (Breed) Howard, and her brothers, Avery and Nathan Breed. Their names appear on the membership list of the Mill Creek Baptist church in 1801. At the July Court, 1801, Barren County, Kentucky, it was ordered that Thomas Gist, Joseph Gist, and Nathan Breed view the nearest and best way for a road from the state line near Capt. Gist from thence to near Thomas Flippens, and report to Court. (Barren Co., Ky., Orders, Bk. 1, p. 99). In 1819, Joseph Gist was appointed one of the executors of the will of his brother-in-law, Avery Breed. (Barren Co., Ky., Wills, Bk. 1, p. 35.)

Children of Joseph and Hannah⁵ (Breed) Gist (names and births from Joseph Gist Bible, formerly owned by Mrs. Orin Gist Gray, Batesville, Ark., lost in a fire):

i. Sarah⁶ Gist, b. Nov. 13, 1773, m. David Hardin
ii. William B.⁶ Gist, b. Sept. 25, 1775, m. Mary Wood
iii. Mary⁶ Gist, b. Oct. 24, 1777, m. Jesse Harrison
iv. Christopher⁶ Gist, b. Dec. 1, 1779, m. Elizabeth Wood
v. Amy⁶ Gist, b. April 15, 1782, m. John Hardin
vi. Priscilla⁶ Gist, b. Nov. 20, 1785, m. Howard Mercer
viii. Anna⁶ Gist, b. March 12, 1791, m. Elihu Harlan

For further records on this family, see: Christopher Gist of Maryland and Some of His Descendants, by Mrs. Jean M. Dorsey, 891-A, Ronda Sevilla, Laguna Hills, California.

*******
December 20, 1933.

Mrs. David L. Hill,
253 Puritan Apts.,
Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter relative to one Joseph Gist, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data contained herein are obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War claim for pension, W.7517, based upon his military service in that war.

Joseph Gist enlisted, place not stated, the first of April 1777 and served six months as Indian Spy in Colonel John Sevier's North Carolina Regiment. He enlisted the first of April 1778 and served six months as Indian Spy in Colonel John Sevier's North Carolina Regiment. While a resident of Greene County, in what was later, Tennessee, he enlisted in 1779, served three months as Indian Spy in Captain James Stinson's Company, Colonel John Sevier's North Carolina Regiment and was in several skirmishes with the Indians. He enlisted about September 1780 and served three months as Indian Spy in Captain Thomas Wood's Company, Colonel John Sevier's North Carolina Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 3, 1832 at which time he was aged about eighty-one years and a resident of Monroe County, Kentucky.

He died July 30, 1844 in Monroe County, Kentucky.

Soldier married January 7, 1816 in Barren County, Kentucky, Elizabeth or Betsey Springer.

She was allowed pension on her application executed August 23, 1853 at which time she was aged sixty-five years and a resident of Monroe County, Kentucky.

The soldier, Joseph Gist and his wife, Elizabeth or Betsey, had three children, a son born November 19, 1818, a daughter, born June 29, 1824 and a son born July 3, 1828, no names are stated.

In 1833 one Thomas Gist, Sr., was living in White County, Tennessee, and then aged sixty-eight years, no relationship to soldier stated.

In 1853 Jesse Springer stated that soldier and Elizabeth or Betsey, were married in his presence, but stated no relationship to the family. There are no further family data.
Thomas recorded a Land Warrant # 6507 on August 15, 1827 for land in White County, TN. He appears in the 1835 Pension Roles in White County, TN, age 70, enrolled March 4, 1831.

Family information states he was born on October 10, 1764 and gives his date of death as March 22, 1837.
State of Tennessee, White County: SS

On this 21st day of August in the year 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Judge of the Circuit Court of White County, now sitting, Thomas Gist a resident of White County, and State of Tennessee, aged about Sixty eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and Served as herein stated.

The first tour he served was as a volunteer commanded by Colonel John Sevier, Major Jesse Walton and Major Jonathan Tipton, and Captain James Stinson, he entered the service some time in the latter part of the summer or first of the fall of the year 1779, but cannot tell the day of the month or the month; he was discharged by being mustered out of the service, not having been discharged in writing; by the commanding officers, a short time after Christmas in the same year, he thinks he served three months this tour. During this Campaign, and as is believed in the month of September, he was in the battle of Boyd's Creek, in what is now East Tennessee, and in Sevier County he thinks.

The Indians consisting of Cherokees were defeated & about Eighteen of them killed and many wounded. The field officers who commanded were Colonel Sevier, Majors Walton & Tipton – he then lived in Greene County in what is now the State of Tennessee, and marched from that place through the wilderness country, or nearly so to the place of the engagement. He was not in any other engagement during this tour; but was actively engaged in the enemy's country, and burned the town of Telico, Chota and Chilhowa. He can prove this tour of service by Abel Pearson¹ who served with him; and he knows of no other person by whom he can prove it except Samuel Weaver² & Joseph Gist.³

In the spring of the year 1778, as he believes, and before he served the tour above named he entered the service of his country as an Indian spy, under Captain John Newman, he then lived in Greene County – Newman commanded a company on the frontiers. He was sent out on the borders to spy in that part of what is now Tennessee then nearest the Indian nation, in company with John How, who took sick and returned home and died. Then Absalom Wood & John Wood came to this applicant, who after staying a few months returned home, and this applicant remained in that service one year lacking nine days. He thinks he was then discharged by Captain Newman in writing, but from the length of time he is unable to say what has become of his discharge. He has not now got it nor has he seen it for many years. He entered as a spy voluntarily as he believes. He was not in any engagement during this time, but there were some incursions by the Indians and some lives of the citizens lost and some property destroyed. He does not know of any person by whom he can prove this service.

¹ Abel Pearson S3661
² Samuel Weaver S3516
³ Joseph Gist W7517
Captain Newman was under Col. Sevier.

In the month of September in the year 1781 as he thinks he again entered the service of his Country as a volunteer under Captain Samuel Williams; the field officers under whom he was placed were Colonel John Sevier, Colonel Charles Robertson, Major Walton, McNoble, and Jonathan Tipton. He entered the service in what is now Greene County Tennessee. He was marched through the Turkey Cove, passed through Burke County in North Carolina, thence to Ramsour's Mill, thence to Tuckaseegee Ford on Catawba River; thence to Camden, from thence to the high hills of Santee where he was attached to the Brigade commanded by General Marion [Francis Marion]. He assisted in taking a British Hospital and Eighty four prisoners. This was near Moncks Corner. He there became acquainted with Colonel Maham who commanded dragoons. He continued with General Marion until he served out a Tour of three months and was mustered out of the Service by his officers at Nelson's ferry on the other or Charleston side of Santee, and returned home at his own expense. Applicant can prove this tour of duty by Abel Pearson.

Applicant furnished his own horse in the tour he went under Captain Stinson, and in the tour he served under Captain Williams with General Marion. His understanding is that in each of the above tours of duty he went as a volunteer, to avoid the necessity of a draft for when orders came for men to be called out he went voluntarily. This applicant not recollecting dates, has referred to a history of some of these transactions for the purpose of seeing when the Battle of Boyd's Creek &c was fought.

This applicant performed other services in the revolutionary war in tours against the Indians which are not here to set forth.

He the said Thomas Gist hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

The Court propounded the following interrogatories to the applicant:

1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer: I was born in Virginia; but cannot say in what County. From the best information I have I was born on the 10th day of October 1764.

2. Have you any record of your age: and if so, where is it? Answer: I have not any record of my age.

3. Where were you living when called into Service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war; and where do you now live? Answer: I was living in Greene County when called into Service. I left Greene County four or five years after the war and settled in Knox County now in Tennessee and lived there about nine years. I then removed to Barron County in Kentucky where I remained till about twenty three years ago, I then removed to Jackson County in this state, and remained there about two years and from thence I removed to White County where I now live and have lived for the last twenty one years.

4. How were you called into Service: were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a Substitute, for whom? Answer: I have Stated in the foregoing declaration the manner of my entering the Service as well as I can.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service. Answer: The only regular officers I became acquainted with was General Marion and Colonel Maham. I have already stated the most material circumstances attending my service as well as I can recollect, my memory is frail.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and, if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer: The only discharge I ever received in writing was from Captain Newman, and that I have lost or mislaid so that I cannot procure it. I have no knowledge where it is or what became of it.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier in the revolution. Answer: John Jett Esq., Joshua Pennington, Colonel Joseph Herd, Archibald
Cannon, James Williams, Thomas Bounds, Colonel Joseph Neville, & John Scoggin.
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.                           S/ Thomas Gist, X his mark
S/ A. Debrell, Clk

[p 10]
Able Pearson makes oath in open court that he knows that Thomas Gift the foregoing applicant Did
Serve in the War of the revolution under Captain Stinson, and under Captain Williams as he has set
forth in the foregoing declaration, he the said Pearson having been in the same service at the same
times.                                                                  S/ Abel Pearson

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.
S/ Anthony Debrell, Clerk
[John Scoggin, a clergyman, and Joseph Neville gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $59 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a
private for 17 months in 21 days in the North Carolina militia.]

Miss Maggie McManaway
Stewartsville, Route 1
Va.

Madam:

I have to advise you from the papers in
the Revolutionary War pension claim S. 1762,
it appears that Thomas Gist was born October
10, 1764 in the state of Virginia.

While a resident of Green County (which
was later Tennessee), he served with the North
Carolina Troops, as follows—
From the spring of 1778, about one year as an Indian Spy in Captain John Newman's Company, under Colonel Sevier; in 1779, three months as a private in Captain James Stinson's Company under Colonel Sevier, and was in an engagement with the Cherokee Indian at Boyd's Creek; and from in September 1781, three months in Captain Samuel Williams' Company, Colonel John Sevier's Regiment, and was in the battle of Monks Corner. He was also out in other tours against the Indians, no officers stated.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 31, 1833, while a resident of White County, Tennessee.

There are no family data.

The above noted Thomas Gist (all spellings of that name searched) is the only soldier of that name found on the Revolutionary War records of this Bureau.

Respectfully,

WINFIELD SCOTT
Commissioner.