

NATHANIEL GIST
Ensign, North Carolina

Nathaniel Gist, Ensign, is a documented Revolutionary War Soldier by the D.A.R.: born in Maryland c. 1736; died October 7, 1780 NC [Battle of Kings Mountain]. His wife was Mary Howard. Although the D.A.R. does not mention a brother, Richard, family lore states he, too, was a Soldier and likewise died in the same battle. Both men are said to be buried in the Kings Mountain Battleground Cemetery in Blacksburg, South Carolina.

Nathaniel's son, Captain Benjamin Gist, also served. [*Historic Greene County and Its People*, page 117-18]

Recently, the East TN Historical Society published an update of the First Families of Tennessee Registry. Ensign Nathaniel Gist is shown to be a very early settler in what would become Greene County.

There is confusion between Ensign Nathaniel Gist and another man of this name who was General Nathaniel Gist. General Gist survived the war and is said to have died about 1812 at Canewood plantation, Clark County, Kentucky.

A brief biography for Ensign Nathaniel Gist is found at Find-A-Grave:

Kings Mountain Battleground Cemetery
Blacksburg, Cherokee County, South Carolina

On October 7, 1780, brother met brother, neighbor met neighbor, Patriot met Loyalist on a battlefield in rural South Carolina. The battle lasted an hour: the brevity belied the import. Thomas Jefferson proclaimed the Battle of King's Mountain turned "the tide of success which terminated the Revolutionary War, with the seal of our independence."

Fewer than one thousand American Heroes, through skill, luck, and the leadership of cunning strategists, defeated Patrick Ferguson, a brilliant star of the British military might. Ensign Nathaniel Gist and his brother, Richard Gist, were two of those Heroes. They both fought and died in that battle.

The participation of the brothers Gist in the Battle of King's Mountain was documented in the "The Patriots at Kings Mountain" by Bobby Gilmer Moss which, along with "King's Mountain And Its Heroes: History Of The Battle Of King's Mountain, October 7th, 1780, And The Events Which Led To It" by Lyman Copeland Draper, Anthony Allaire, and Isaac Shelby, has long been recognized as the definitive listing of the participants.

Relatively nothing was known of this brave man. His story is confused with that of General Gist. In many family trees, General Nathaniel Gist is recorded as being the soldier who was killed at the Battle of King's Mountain. It was not General Gist and there is an article from Wikipedia included below to help distinguish the two. May this memorial serve as an expression of the gratitude we have for Lt. Lyon for braving the unknown to help build a new country: our America.

