

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Gist W7517
Transcribed by Will Graves

Elizabeth Gist
8/12/08 rev'd 8/29/15

f51NC

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 11]

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.]

[p 28]

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](#)

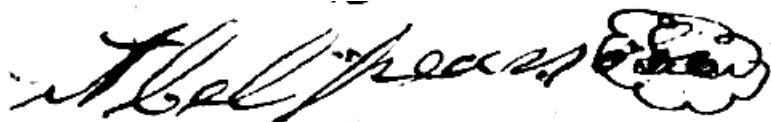
who is an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of the United States of the 7th June A.D. 1832, and have been acquainted with an known the said Joseph Gist for upwards of fifty-three years, and that the said Joseph Gist on or about the year 1779 the said Joseph Gist entered the service of 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 Cribs, 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Abel Pearson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The name "Abel" is written in a large, flowing script, and "Pearson" is written in a smaller, more compact script. The signature is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the printed name "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 19 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.]