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THE SEVIER COUNTY

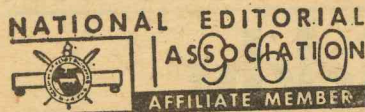


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Guerriere." He died of Yellow Fever on board the United States Steamer "Petula," anchored in the harbor of Vera Cruz, Mexico, October 22, 1847. This was during the Mexican War.

At the time of his death he was the owner of almost one thousand acres of land, located on the Creek that now bears his name. He was survived by his widow and two children, Paul Gist and Mirusa Gist. Paul Gist became a well known physician in Talladega, Alabama.

The Sevier County Gist family belonged to the Maryland Gist family, one of the most famous American families. It included General Mordecai Gist of Revolutionary War fame and Christopher Gist, Indian scout and Washington's close friend and guide at the outbreak of the French and Indian War.

I hope the Highway Department will change the marker and thus help preserve the historic association of the "Gist" family with early Sevier County.

Yours,
Joe Sharp

Letters To The Editor

WANTS STREAM NAME CHANGED TO 'GIST'

Dear Editor:

I would like to call attention to the proper officials of the State Highway Department to an error in the marking of an old and historic stream in Sevier County. I refer to the marker which reads "Guess Creek" and is located on Chapman Highway about two miles below Sevierville. The marker should be "Gist Creek," and this name is found on old grants and deeds, dating back for over 125 years. "Guess" is a local variation of the family name "Gist," but the latter is the correct spelling of the name.

I think this Creek got its name from Spence Clack Gist, who served in the United States Navy from 1826 until 1847. He was a Lieutenant Commander at the time of his death, but never attended the

Naval Academy which was not established until 1845—his training was received on board various ships.

Lieutenant Gist was a grandson of Spencer Clack, one of Sevierville's first settlers. His mother was Frances Clack and his father was Mordecai Gist. His paternal grandfather was Joshua Gist who settled at the mouth of Dumplin Creek on the north bank of the French Broad River about 1780. Gist's Fort or Station was located there during the frontier period of our County's history and Joshua Gist served in Sevier County's first court.

Lieutenant Gist was born in Sevier County in 1805 and was married to Angelina Porter in 1833. After his enlistment in the Navy he saw service on such famous early American ships as the "Schooner Shark and Frigate