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*With an Introduction
by Robert Barnes*

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GIST FAMILY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON.

1. CHRISTOPHER GIST,¹ the ancestor of this family, came to Maryland and settled in Baltimore County before 1682, though the precise date of his arrival is unknown. 7 March 1682, Robert Clarkson, of Anne Arundel County, conveys to Christopher Gist of Patapsco River, Baltimore County, planter, and Richard Cromwell of the same place a tract of 245 acres, called South Canton, in Baltimore County (Balto. Co., I. R. no. A. M., 179-181). And, 14 Jan. 1682, Christopher Gist and Edith his wife and Richard Cromwell convey to William Cromwell, all the parties being "of Patapsco River, in the Province of Maryland," 84 acres, part of South Canton. Richard Cromwell appoints "my brother Christopher Gist" his attorney to acknowledge the deed (*ibid.* fol. 193-195). 6 March 1682/3, "Christopher Gist" was a member of the Grand Jury for Baltimore County (Court Record), and he was commissioned, 4 Sept. 1689, one of the Justices of the County (Archives, xiii, 243). 5 June 1683, Thomas and Ann Lightfoot, orphans of John and Elizabeth Lightfoot, are apprenticed to "Christopher Guest" (Court Record). Thomas Lightfoot died before 1688, but had married in the meantime and left a widow Rebecca (Larkin) who gave bond, 7 August 1688, to "Christopher Guest" of Baltimore County, planter, for the conveyance of 320 acres formerly called Utopia, but now called Rebecca's Delight (Balto. Co., R. M. no. H. S., 279-281). The will of "Christopher Guest" of Baltimore County, dated 17 February 1690/1, was proved 10 March following (Balto. Co., R. M. no. H. S., 331). He leaves his estate equally between "my dearly beloved wife and childe." His wife is to be executrix. To John Robinson is left a two year old heifer. To "my brother Richard Cromwell's child," a two year old heifer. £5 to "my mother Guest if she be living." Christopher Gist's wife was Edith Cromwell, sister of William, John, and Richard Cromwell, and she was thrice married. Her second husband, Joseph

Williams, died in 1692, and his will, dated 24 September, was proved 3 November of that year (Annapolis, vi, 20 back). His wife Edith is appointed executrix, and four children are named, but of course they were by a former wife. Her third husband was John Beecher, but their wedded life was of brief duration, as she died in 1694. The will of Edith Williams of Patapsco River, Baltimore County, is dated 23 May 1694, but no date of probate is given. Her brother Richard Cromwell and Mr. Thomas Staley are requested to take "into their custody and tutelage my son Richard Gist, who I request may be put to school and there kept till he can wright and cast accompt fitting for Merchants Business." The same persons are requested to receive and take care of testatrix's estate, and deliver it to her son Richard Gist at 21 years of age (Balto. Co., R. M. no. H. S., 510). Although the date of probate is wanting, the following entry will give a close approximation. 16 June 1694, came John Beecher who married Edith the relict and executrix of Joseph Williams, late of Baltimore County deceased, and craved time to account &c. (Test. Proc. xv, 88). It is then apparent that the testatrix died in 1694 between 23 May and 16 June, but it is rather remarkable that, though married to John Beecher, she styles herself "Edith Williams" in her will. Christopher Gist¹ and Edith (Cromwell) his wife had an only child:—

2. i. CAPT. RICHARD GIST² b. 1684; d. 28 Aug. 1741; m. Zipporah Murray.

2. CAPT. RICHARD GIST² (*Christopher*¹) was born in 1684, and died 28 August 1741. "Mr. Richard Gist" was 48 years old in 1732 (Chancery, I. R. no. 2, 60), and 49 in 1733 (Balto. Co., H. W. S. no. 3, 172), while "Capt. Richard Gist" was 54 years old in 1737 (A. A. Co., I. B. no. 1, 101). The date of his death is entered in the register of St. Thomas' Church, Baltimore County. 3 Nov. 1692, Edith Williams of Baltimore County, widow, gives to her son Richard Gist, a negro to be delivered to him at 16 years of age (Court Record) and, 21 Feb'y 1693/4, Thomas Hammond of Baltimore County, Gent., and Rebecca his wife late relict of Thomas Lightfoot of said County, Gent., deceased, convey to Richard Gist, son and heir of Christopher Gist, late of said County, Gent., deceased, the tract

Utopia, now called Rebecca's Delight (Balto. Co., R. M., no. H. S., 417). This was the tract for the conveyance of which, Rebecca widow of Thomas Lightfoot gave bond 7 August 1688 (see above). The will of Richard Cromwell, uncle of Richard Gist, is dated 12 August 1717, and was proved 23 September following (Balto., Lib. 1, fol. 144). Among other provisions he leaves two negroes to Edith daughter of Richard Gist, and bequeaths £30 and a gold ring to "my cosen (*i.e.*, nephew) Richard Gist." Capt. Gist was commissioned 2 March 1727 one of the Justices and Commissioners of Baltimore County and was reappointed continuously until his death. From 1 February 1735, he was Presiding Justice (Commission Book). The act for laying out and erecting Baltimore Town which passed the House 30 July, and was signed by Gov. Calvert 8 August, 1729, appointed Capt. Gist one of the seven Commissioners for carrying out its provisions, and he represented his County in the Provincial Assembly the last two years of his life 1740-1741 (House Journals). He is styled "Captain" in a deposition made in 1737 (see above) and in the House Journal in 1741, and doubtless held a commission as Captain in the County militia. Richard Gist married, 7 December, 1704, (*Friends' Records*), Zipporah Murray, daughter of James Murray (d. 1704) of Baltimore County and Jemima his wife, daughter of Capt. Thomas Morgan (d. 1698). 6 July 1711, Josephus Murray of Baltimore County, planter, conveys to his "sister Zipporah Gist" a tract of 100 acres in Baltimore County, called "Brother's Good Will" (Balto. Co., T. R., no. A, 141). Josephus Murray was one of the sons of James Murray and is named in his father's will. Mrs. Zipporah Gist survived her husband, and was living 25 April 1760 when she resigned her dower in some lands conveyed by her sons Christopher and Nathaniel Gist (Balto. Co., B. no. H., 149). Capt. Richard Gist gives, 5 Sept. 1728, to his "son Christopher Gist," 350 acres in Baltimore County (I. S. no. I., 196); to his "son Nathaniel Gist" he gives, 6 March 1731, the tract Gist's Search, 284 acres, in Baltimore County (I. S. no. L, 201); and to his "son Thomas Gist" he gives The Addition, 216 Acres, in Baltimore County (H. W. S. no. I. A., 189). There appears to be no deed of gift to his son William, but there cannot be the slightest doubt that William was the son of Capt. Richard,

and he doubtless received from his father an equal share with his brothers. Edith Gist, Richard's daughter, is named in the will of her great uncle, Richard Cromwell cited above, while another daughter is known through a deed of her brother. 26 March 1742, Christopher Gist of Baltimore County, merchant, and Sarah his wife, convey to his sister Jemima Seabrooke and William Seabrooke her husband, tract Pleasant Green, 100 acres, in Baltimore County (Balto. Co., T. B. no. A, 132).

Capt. Richard Gist² and Zipporah (Murray) his wife had issue:—

3. i. CAPT. CHRISTOPHER GIST,³ m. Sarah Howard; d. 1759.
 4. ii. NATHANIEL GIST, m. Mary Howard.
 5. iii. WILLIAM GIST, b. 1711; d. 19 Nov. 1794; m. Violetta Howard.
 6. iv. THOMAS GIST, b. 1713; d. 1788; m. Susan Cockey.
 - v. EDITH GIST.
 - vi. JEMIMA GIST, m. William Seabrooke.
3. CAPT. CHRISTOPHER GIST³ (*Richard*,² *Christopher*¹) was at first a merchant in Baltimore Town but, failing in business, he made an assignment to the firm of Cromwell and Stansbury, 6 June 1745 (Balto. Co., T. B. no. D, 202). In a later deed, dated 24 Sept. 1750, he styles himself "Christopher Gist late of Baltimore County, in the Province of Maryland, but now in the Colony of Virginia," and conveys to Tobias Stansbury, "Gist's Limepits" in Baltimore County, formerly surveyed and granted to Richard Gist, father of said Christopher, and where said Christopher formerly lived (Balto. Co., T. R. no. D., 94). He settled on the Yadkin, explored Ohio and part of Kentucky for the Ohio Company in 1750, and was the guide and companion of Washington on his journey to Lake Erie in 1753. With his sons Nathaniel and Thomas, he took part, as guide and scout, in Braddock's expedition, and was present on the fatal field of battle, where that officers troops were cut to pieces. 1 October 1755, Christopher Gist was commissioned Lieutenant in the Virginia forces (*Va. Mag.*, i, 285), and in 1756 he was captain (*ibid.*, ii, 44) of a Company of Scouts which he raised for service on the frontier. The same year he went to the Carolinas to enlist Cherokee Indians for the English service, and for a time he served as Indian Agent. He died in the summer of 1759 of smallpox, in South Carolina or Georgia. His

Journals, edited by Wm. A. Darlington, were published at Pittsburgh in 1893. Christopher Gist married Sarah, daughter of Joshua Howard of Baltimore County, whose will dated 3 July, and proved 4 Sept., 1738 (Balto. i, 296) names his sons Francis, Cornelius, and Edward Howard, and his daughters Sarah, Mary, and Violetta Gist, and Elizabeth Wells. It is interesting to note that these ladies were the aunts of the distinguished Revolutionary worthy, Col. John Eager Howard, who was the son of their brother Cornelius.

Christopher Gist³ and Sarah (Howard) his wife had issue:—

- i. RICHARD GIST,⁴ b. 2 Sept. 1729; killed at battle of King's Mountain, 1780; said to have descendants in South Carolina.
 - ii. VIOLETTA GIST, b. 4 July 1731; m. William Cromwell.
 7. iii. COL. NATHANIEL GIST, b. 15 Oct. 1733; d. early in following century.
 - iv. THOMAS GIST, settled in Kentucky; d. about 1786.
 - v. NANCY GIST, d. unmarried in Kentucky.
4. NATHANIEL GIST³ (*Richard*,² *Christopher*¹) married Mary daughter of Joshua Howard and sister to the wives of his brothers Christopher and William. They had issue as recorded in St. Paul's register:—
- i. ZIPPORAH GIST,⁴ b. 24 December 1732.
 - ii. CHRISTOPHER GIST, b. 21 September 1734.
5. WILILAM GIST³ (*Richard*,² *Christopher*¹) was born in 1711, according to a deposition made in 1767, wherein he gives his age as 56 years (Chancery, D. D. no. 2, 179). He died 19 Nov. 1794, and the date is recorded in the register of St. Thomas's Parish, Baltimore County, where his marriage and the births of his children are also recorded. He married, 22 October 1737, Violetta, daughter of Joshua Howard, named in her father's will as "my daughter Violetta Gist" (see above). Moreover, Cornelius Howard (son of Joshua) of Baltimore County, planter, conveys, 7 August 1771, to his "sister Violetta Gist and William Gist her husband," Lot 502 in Baltimore Town (Balto. Co., A. L. no. C, 650). She was therefore an aunt of Col. John Eager Howard of Revolutionary fame. William Gist³ and Violetta (Howard) his wife had issue:—

8. i. MAJ. JOSEPH GIST,¹ d. 30 Sept. 1738; m. Elizabeth Elder.
- ii. WILLIAM GIST, b. 23 Sept. 1742.
- iii. ANNE GIST, b. 25 Nov. 1747; m. 18 Nov. 1766, James Calhoun, First Mayor of Baltimore.

Twins:

9. iv. THOMAS GIST, b. 19 May 1750; d. 1808; m. Ruth Bond.
 - v. ELIZABETH GIST, b. 19 May 1750; d. 16 Feb'y 1794; m. 26 Nov. 1775, Ramsay McGee.
 - vi. JOHN GIST, b. 26 July 1752; d. unmarried 1782.
 - vii. VIOLETTA GIST, b. 13 March 1755.
 - viii. ELLEN GIST, b. 26 Sept. 1757.
- NOTE. Sarah Gist, whose marriage to Andrew McClure, 28 May 1772, is recorded in St. Thomas' register, was probably also a daughter of William Gist.

6. THOMAS GIST³ (*Richard*,² *Christopher*¹) was born in 1713, according to a deposition made in 1767, wherein he gives his age as 54 years (Chancery, D. D. no. 2, 179). His will, dated 19 February 1787, was proved 9 April 1788 (Balto., iv, 297). He was a member of the Baltimore County Committee in 1776 (Md. Arch., xi, 363). He married, 2 July 1735 (St. Paul's) Susan daughter of John Cockey of Baltimore County. She was born 2 Nov. 1714 and died in 1803. Her will, dated 7 March 1799, was proved 12 February 1803 (Balto., vii, 152). Thomas Gist³ and Susan (Cockey) his wife had issue:—

- i. ELIZABETH GIST,⁴ b. 14 Feb'y 1736/7.
- ii. JOHN GIST, b. 22 Nov. 1738.
- iii. COL. THOMAS GIST, b. 30 March 1741; d. 22 Nov. 1813; commissioned, 4 Feb'y 1777, Colonel in Balto. Co. Militia (Md. Archives, xvi, 114.)
10. iv. GEN. MORDECAI GIST, b. 22 Feb'y 1742/3.
- v. MAJ. JOSHUA GIST, commissioned, 4 Feb'y 1777, 1st Major in Balto. Co. Militia (Md. Archives, xvi, 114.)
- vi. DAVID GIST, commissioned, 30 Aug. 1777, Second Lieutenant in Balto. Co. Militia (Md. Archives, xvi, 350.)
- vii. RACHEL GIST.

7. COL. NATHANIEL GIST⁴ (*Christopher*,³ *Richard*,² *Christopher*¹) was born 15 October 1733, and was present, with his father and his brother Thomas, at Braddock's defeat on the Monongahela, in 1755. He later served with distinction in the Revolution. He was commissioned, 11 January 1777, Colonel of the Additional Continental Regiment; was taken prisoner at Charleston, 12 May 1780; and was retired 1 January 1781 (Heitman's Register). He settled in Kentucky where he built his homestead "Canewood," and died early in the nineteenth century, at an advanced age. Col. Gist married Judith Cary Bell, daughter of David and

Judith (Cary) Bell, and grandniece of Archibald Cary, mover of the Bill of Rights in the Virginia House of Burgesses. They had issue:—

- i. HENRY CARY GIST.⁵
 - ii. THOMAS CECIL GIST.
 - iii. SARAH HOWARD GIST, m. Hon. Jesse Bledsoe, U. S. Senator from Ky.
 - iv. JUDITH CARY GIST, m. Dr. Joseph Boswell, of Lexington, Ky.
 - v. ANNE CARY GIST, m. Nathaniel Hart, a brother of Mrs. Henry Clay.
 - vi. ELIZA VIOLET GIST, m. Francis P. Blair. Their sons were Hon. Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General, and Gen. Francis P. Blair, Jr.
 - vii. MARIA CECIL GIST, first wife of Benjamin Gratz of Lexington, Ky.
8. MAJ. JOSEPH GIST⁴ (*William,³ Richard,² Christopher¹*) was born 30 Sept. 1738 (St. Thomas'). He was commissioned, 25 May 1776, quartermaster of Soldiers' Delight Battalion, militia of Baltimore County (Md. Arch., xi, 443); First Lieutenant 6 June 1776 (*ibid.* 467); and Major, 10 Sept. 1779 (*ibid.* xvi, 368). He married, 30 August 1759, Elizabeth daughter of John (d. 1762) and Jemima Elder, and his issue as recorded in St. Thomas's register:—
11. i. JOHN ELDER GIST,⁵ b. 1 Jan'y 1761; m. 13 Nov. 1783, Frances Trippe (St. Paul's).
 - ii. CECIL GIST, b. 12 Nov. 1762.
 - iii. JOSEPH GIST, b. 12 Aug. 1764; d. 15 Dec. 1786 (St. Paul's).
 - iv. JEMIMA GIST, b. 4 May 1766.
 - v. JOSHUA HOWARD GIST, b. 3 Feb'y 1768.
 12. vi. CORNELIUS HOWARD GIST, b. 25 Jan'y 1770.
- Twins:
- vii. WILLIAM GIST, b. 6 June 1772; d. 13 Oct. 1773.
 - viii. VIOLETTA GIST, b. 6 June 1772.
 - ix. ELIZABETH GIST, b. 21 March 1774.
 - x. JAMES GIST, b. 20 Feb'y 1776.
 - xi. OWEN GIST, b. 9 Jan'y 1778.
9. THOMAS GIST⁴ (*William,³ Richard,² Christopher¹*) was born 19 May 1750 and, dying intestate in 1808, his estate was administered by his widow Ruth and his son Thomas. The inventory was filed 5 Oct. 1808. Thomas Gist⁴ married Ruth daughter of John Bond and had issue (with perhaps others):—
- i. THOMAS GIST.⁵
 - ii. RUTH GIST, a minor in 1811.
 - iii. WILLIAM GIST, a minor in 1811.

10. GEN. MORDECAI GIST ⁴ (*Thomas,³ Richard,² Christopher¹*) was born in Baltimore County, Md., 22 February 1742/3 (St. Paul's), and died in Charleston, S. C., 2 August 1792. In 1774, he was a member of the Baltimore Independent Cadets (Maga., iv, 373), but he soon occupied a more responsible position. In January 1776 he was made Major of Smallwood's First Maryland Battalion, and commanded it at the battle of Long Island in August 1776, in the absence of its Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel who were attending a court martial in New York. In 1777 he was promoted to Colonel, and was made Brigadier-General, 9 July 1779. He was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, and after the war settled near Charleston, S. C. He married, first, Cecil Carnan (b. 1742, d. 21 July 1770), of Baltimore County, daughter of Charles and Prudence Carnan of London, England, but she died shortly after marriage. Gen. Gist married, secondly, 23 January 1778, Mary Sterrett, daughter of James and Mary Sterrett, of Baltimore, and, thirdly, in 1783, Mary (b. 2 June 1749) widow of Capt. Benj. Cattell (b. July 1749, d. 1782) of South Carolina, and daughter of George McCall of Philadelphia, Penna. By his first wife, Gen. Gist had no issue. By his second wife he had a son:—

i. INDEPENDENCE GIST,⁵ b. 8 Jan'y 1779; d. 16 Sept. 1821.

By his third wife he had:—

ii. SUSANNA GIST, b. 12 Nov. 1784; d. 23 July 1785.

iii. STATES GIST, b. 1787; d. 1 Feb'y 1822.

11. JOHN ELDER GIST ⁵ (*Joseph,⁴ William,³ Richard²*) was born 1 Jan'y 1761. He married 13 Nov. 1783, Frances Trippe. St. Paul's register records his marriage, and the births of two children, both of whom died young:—

i. ELIZABETH GIST,⁶ b. 17 Oct. 1784; d. 25 Oct. 1784.

ii. JOHN GIST, b. 14 Dec. 1785; d. 14 Aug. 1786.

12. CORNELIUS HOWARD GIST ⁵ (*Joseph,⁴ William,³ Richard²*) was born 25 Jan'y 1770. He was Sheriff of Baltimore in 1797, and subsequently removed to Brooke County, Virginia, where he died in 1830. He married Clara Reinecker. In his will (proved 26 Oct. 1830) and recorded

in Baltimore (Lib. 13, fol. 474) he names the following children (order of birth uncertain):

- i. CORNELIUS HOWARD GIST.^o
 - ii. WILLIAM GIST.
 - iii. GEORGE REINCKER GIST.
 - iv. JOSHUA GIST.
 - v. JOSEPH GIST.
 - vi. LOUISIANA GIST.
 - vii. PAMELA GIST, m. Conrad Fite.
 - viii. EMELINE GIST, m. Rev. Joseph Boyle, D. D.
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