Grisham Ancestry

For

Client: *******



Date: 10 November 2026

Presented By:

Genealogy Researcher: Denise Huth

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Research Objective

1. Using documentary evidence, identify the parents of William Grisham (b.1821; d.1904) who married Mary Davis Reed and lived in Tennessee.
2. Using documentary evidence complete biographies for William Grisham, his son Samuel Richard Grisham, and his grandson Ira Leon Grisham.

SYNOPSIS:

William Grisham (b. 1821; d. 1904) parents were identified as John and Sarah Grisham. Biographies for William Grisham, his son Samuel Richard Grisham, and grandson Ira Leon Grisham were completed.

SUMMARY OF KNOWN (BACKGROUND) INFORMATION:

The following background information was provided by the client who was a descendant of William Grisham[1]:

- Ira Leon Grisham Sr was the grandson of Samuel R. Grisham who owned a grocery store.
- Ira Grisham Sr and Samuel R. Grisham were buried in the same cemetery which was located somewhere east of Nashville, Tennessee.

A preliminary search was conducted to locate any existing research referencing Ira Leon Grisham Sr. The reviewed existing sources are summarized as follows:

- Ira Leon Grisham Sr (FamilySearch ID Number LYM4-DHF) was located on the FamilySearch.org website.[2] He was the son of Samuel Richard Grisham and grandson of William Grisham.

The client was advised of the FamilySearch information and that his ancestral line did not continue past Samuel Richard Grisham's father William Grisham in this database. The client did not have access to the internet and wanted some of the information contained in the FamilySearch database. Since the client expressed a desire to have information about the lives of his ancestors, biographies for Ira Leon Grisham Sr, Samuel Richard Grisham, and William Grisham were included in this report.

[1] Telephone interviews with client (private address) by Denise Huth (private address) on 27 October 2026 and 28 October 2026.
[2] "Ira Leon Grisham Sr," Intellectual Reserve, Inc. FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/LYM4-DHF ; accessed 27 October 2026).

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LOCALITY:

During the period that was researched, the Grisham's appeared to have resided primarily in Wilson County, Tennessee. A summary of the relevant information about this location is included in the appendixes.[3]

NOTATIONS:

NAMES:

Variations:

During this time period in the United States, variations in the spelling of names was common due to the lack of a universal grammatical standard. Sometimes names were spelled phonetically (i.e.: How the word sounded). For example, Grisham, Gresham, Grishim, Grishom, Grisom, Grissom, Grissum, Grissome, Grissim, and Grisson.

In this research report, the current accepted method of spelling given and surnames was applied to facilitate reading comprehension (i.e.: Grisham). Sources should be examined for the actual spelling used in the documentations.

PLACE NAMES:

To avoid repeated use of the entire place name (i.e.: city, county, state, and country), shortened versions of locations (i.e.: Lebanon) were used in this report.

A MATTER OF TIME:

Dates:

Documents may contain dates which are not entirely accurate. There are several reasons for these discrepancies including, but not limited to: (1) the reliability of informants' memories, (2) duration of timelapse between occurrences and recording of life events, and (3) estimations of dates/years. For example, census records estimate birth, marriage, and immigration years and therefore actual dates of these events could be within a few years of the listed year.

STARTING POINT:

When commencing any research, the standard is to proceed from known to unknown information. Research begins with the most recent records and progresses back in time. In this case, the more recent records include those pertaining to Ira Leon Grisham Sr.

[3] See Appendix A.

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SUMMARY (ANALYSIS) OF FINDINGS:

GENERATION 1

Ira Leon Grisham Sr

Born 1899; Died 1981

On September 23, 1899, Ira Leon Grisham, son of Samuel Richard Grisham and Minnie Cloyd Spears, was born in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee, United States.[4] Three months later, Minnie purchased a lot on Spring Street in the same city which may have been the family's primary residence for the rest of their lives.[5]

During the Christmas season in 1900, a letter to Santa Claus was submitted to the local newspaper on behalf of fifteen-month-old Ira requesting "please bring me two legs that I can walk on, and a tongue that I can talk with, and some more teeth, and something to use them on."[6]

The St Louis World's Fair, also known as "The Louisiana Purchase Exposition" (1904), was attended by over 19 million people to include Ira, his parents, and his maternal grandparents James Thomas Spears and Permelia Ann Ellis.[7] The family may have drank the newly introduced Dr. Pepper while viewing some of the many exhibits, including a blue whale, electric streetcar, and a "radiophone" invented by Alexander Graham Bell. John Phillip Sousa and his band performed, Helen Keller gave a lecture, and Apache War Chief Geronimo was present.

During the Christmas season in 1907, Ira wrote a letter to Santa Claus requesting "a wagon, all kinds of good things to eat, a nickel bat, a mitt, a rubber ball, and a little horse".[8]

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[4] Tennessee, U.S., Delayed Birth Records, 1869-1909, imaged, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2282 : accessed 1 November 2026); Ira Leon Grisham (b. 23 September 1899). Citing Tennessee Delayed Birth Records, 1869–1909. Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee State Library and Archives. 4 February 1942. File Number 104539.

[5] Wilson County, Tennessee, deed records (1789-1965) and indexes (1789-1934); imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:260024?filmNumber=8332683 : accessed 4 November 2026); Minnie C Grisham purchased land on Spring Street, Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee; 8 December 1899. FamilySearch Film Number 8332683.

[6] "Letters to Santa Clause," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 20 December 1900, imaged, *FamilySearch,* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-13T3-66C3 ; accessed 31 October 2026). Ira Leon Grisham's letter to "Kris Krinkle", Volume 12, Number 45.

[7] "Louisiana Purchase Exposition," *Wikipedia*, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase_Exposition ; accessed 4 November 2026); and "The News," *Lebanon Democratic* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 8 September 1904, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-93T3-2Z6F : accessed 31 October 2026), Ira Leon Grisham and his parents returned from the World's Fair. Volume 16, Number 31.

[8] "Democrat's Little Friends Send Letters to Santa Claus," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 12 December 1907, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS42-2SCM-J : accessed 31 October 2026), Ira Leon Grisham requested toys from Santa. Volume 19, Number 44.

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Samuel and Minnie Grisham hosted the wedding of her sister Lenna Spears in their home and Ira was the "pillow*[ring]* bearer" (1908).[9]

In the summer of 1915, Ira and his parents camped and fished on the Caney Fork, near Lancaster, Smith County, Tennessee.[10]

During the United States of America involvement in World War I (1917-1918), Ira registered for the draft and worked as a clerk at his father's grocery store "S.R. Grisham and Son."[11] He was 5'4", approximately 135 pounds, with gray eyes, and light brown hair.[12] Possibly due to his handsome physique and captivating grey eyes, Ira caught the attention of Nona Belle Hale and the couple married on the 16 December 1923 which was a "pleasant surprise" to their many friends.[13]

Following a bite from a pet dog, Ira completed a rabies antitoxin treatment but experienced a severe paralysis reaction to the medication and was admitted to the Martha Gaston Hospital (1934).[14] After several days in the hospital, Ira's condition had "slightly improved". According to physicians, Ira's reaction occurred about once in 20,000 cases.

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[9] "Out of Town Weddings," *The Nashville American* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 19 September 1908, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-13T3-X3Z2 : accessed 31 October 2026), Leon Grisham pillow bearer at Lenna Spears' wedding; page 7.

[10] "Local News," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 8 July 1915, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-Q3T3-G6VP : accessed 31 October 2026), Mr. and Mrs. S.R. Grisham and son Leon camped at Caney Fork. Volume 21, page 5, FamilySearch Film Number 8991086; and "Local News," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 15 July 1915, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-93T3-G6MX : accessed 31 October 2026), S.R. Grisham and son Ira returned from trip and S.R. Grisham erected a grocery building. Volume 27, Number 22, page 5, FamilySearch Film Number 8991086.

[11] U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947, Ira Leon Grisham (b. 23 September 1899), 16 February 1942; imaged, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2238 : accessed 2 November 2026); and "Weddings Among Our Neighbors," *Nashville Banner* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 26 December 1923, imaged, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 2026), Ira Grisham and Nona Belle Hale's wedding announcement.

[12] U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947, Ira Leon Grisham (b. 23 September 1899), 16 February 1942; imaged, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2238 : accessed 2 November 2026).

[13] Marriage licenses and bonds, 1840-1953; indexes, 1838-1900, 1838-1953; imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:823750?filmNumber=5728977 : accessed 5 November 2026); , Leon Grisham married Nona Belle Hale, 15 December 1923. citing Tennessee. County Court (Wilson County). FamilySearch Film Number 5728977; and "Weddings Among Our Neighbors," *Nashville Banner*, 26 December 1923.

[14] "Victim of Paralysis in Improved Condition," *Nashville Banner* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 15 June 1934, imaged, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 5 November 2026), Leon Grisham hospitalized following dog bite. Volume 59, Number 67, page 12.

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Sometime after his father retired from the grocery business, Ira's career change to auto radiator repair man.[15] During the United States of America involvement in World War II (1942), Ira registered for the draft and claimed self-employment.[16]

When his mother died (1953), Ira inherited the family's house and lot at 236 (South Side) West Spring Street and his sister Edith Johnson (neé Grisham) inherited the family's house and lot at 233 (North Side) West Spring Street in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee.[17]

On May 22, 1981, at approximately 2130 hours, Ira and his son were traveling northbound on U.S. 231 in Rutherford County, Tennessee when a drunk driver traveling south in the northbound lane crashed head on into their vehicle.[18] Ira's son was pulled out of their burning vehicle and received medical attention. Tragically, Ira died at the scene. He was buried in Wilson County Memorial Park, Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee.[19]

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[15] "Grisham Retires after 17 years in the Grocery Business," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 15 September 1932, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-13T3-JK6W : accessed 31 October 2026), S.R. Grisham sold his grocery business and retired. Volume 44, Number 37, page 1; and 1940 United States Federal Census, Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee, population schedule, Enumeration District 95-12, Sheet 14-B, House Number 263, line 45; imaged. *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2442 : accessed 5 November 2026); Leon Grisham (b. 1900) and wife Nona Bell; citing United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627, 4,643 rolls.

[16] U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947, Ira Leon Grisham (b. 23 September 1899).

[17] "Mrs. Minnie Grisham, 79, Dies at Lebanon," *Nashville Banner* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 9 February 1953, imaged, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 2026), Minnie Cloyd Grisham (d. 8 February 1953). page 2; and Tennessee. County Court (Wilson County), Administrator's and Executors settlements, 1839-1844, 1850-1965; imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:255629?filmNumber=4770388 : accessed 31 October 2026); Ira Leon Grisham and Edith Grisham Johnson inheritance, 27 April 1954. FamilySearch Film Number 4770388.

[18] "Eight Killed in State Holiday Weekend Traffic Accidents," *The Leaf-Chronicle* (Clarksville, Tennessee, United States), 25 May 1981, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 4 November 2026), Ira died in vehicle accident. Son pulled from burning car. page 2; and "Rutherford Man Bound in Vehicular Homicide," *The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 1 September 1981, imaged, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 2026), Ira Leon Grisham (d. 22 May 1981). page 21.

[19] Maintained by Barry Turner (contributor 49236619), Memorial page for Ira Leon Grisham (b. 23 September 1899; d. 22 May 1981); imaged, *FindaGrave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/191440132/ira-leon-grisham : accessed 6 November 2026); FindaGrave Memorial ID 191440132, data entry: 16 July 2018.citing Wilson County Memorial Park, Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee, United States.

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GENERATION 2

Samuel Richard "S. R." Grisham

Born 1858; Died 1945

On April 8, 1858, Samuel Richard Grisham, son of William Grisham and Mary D. Reed, was born in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee, United States.[20]

Vanderbilt University's (Nashville, Tennessee) records listed Samuel Richard Grisham from Lebanon enrolled from 1877-1879.[21] Samuel's first-year (1877-1878) undergraduate courses were Latin, English, English History and Literature, and Criticism. During the summer break (1878), Samuel returned to Lebanon to enjoy his vacation.[22] His second year (1878-1879) undergraduate studies included Latin, Modern Languages, History, and Mathematics.[23] After the conclusion of his second year, Vanderbilt University enrollment records did not contain Samuel's name which indicated he did not return to finish his studies and graduate.

By 1880, Samuel was a printer who later obtained membership in the Register Typographical Corps and relocated to Nashville, Davidson, Tennessee.[24] Samuel maintained connections to his hometown when he purchased land by Anderson Street in Lebanon on 10 March 1884 and married

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[20] United States, World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:126512?filmNumber=4184526 : accessed 6 November 2026), Ira Leon Grisham (b. 23 September 1899) and father Samuel Richard Grisham; Tennessee, Death Records, 1914-1966; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:126512?filmNumber=4184526 : accessed 6 November 2026); Samuel R. Grisham (b. 8 April 1858, d 30 April 1945, 7 May 1945). Citing Tennessee State Library and Archives (Nashville, Tennessee), Tennessee County Court (Davidson County), and Tennessee Division of Vital Records. Certificate of Death Number 6523; FamilySearch Film Number 4184526; and Marriage Licenses and Bonds, 1840-1953; indexes, 1838-1900, 1838-1953; imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:823750?filmNumber=5725653 : accessed 6 November 2026); William Grissom (a.k.a.: Grisham) and Mary D. Reed marriage, 19 August 1839. citing Tennessee. County Court (Wilson County) and Wilson County (Tennessee) County Court Clerk. FamilySearch Film Number 5725653.

[21] Vanderbilt University, Register of Vanderbilt University...Announcement; imaged. *HathiTrust* (https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005810127 : accessed 7 November 2026); Samuel Richard Grisham from Lebanon listed as undergraduate student. 1877–1879. citing University of Michigan. page 13.

[22] "Personal Mention," *The Lebanon Herald* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 6 June 1878, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:321570 : accessed 7 November 2026), Vanderbilt student Samuel R. Grisham returned home for long vacation. Volume 17, Number 28, page 5, Family Search Number 8991052.

[23] Register of Vanderbilt University...Announcement. Samuel Richard Grisham from Lebanon listed as undergraduate student. 1877–1879.

[24] "Lebanon-Personal Matters," *The Daily American (The Tennessean)* (Nashville, Tennessee), 11 April 1884, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 2026), Samuel R. Grisham and Fannie Bell Read marriage announcement. volume 9, page 6; and "Personals," *Nashville Banner* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 21 May 1880, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-Q3RR-7V3T : accessed 6 November 2026), Samuel Grisham arrived in Nashville, Tennessee. Volume 5, Number 35.

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Fannie Belle Reed in her father's home located six miles south of Lebanon on 8 April 1884.[25] The couple lived in Nashville about eight years before Fannie suffered from a case of diarrhea and died on 3 September 1892.[26] She was buried in Arnold-Sellars Cemetery in Cainsville, Wilson, Tennessee.

In 1896, Samuel's dedication to the newspaper industry resulted in his advancement to editor of the Lebanon Tribune newspaper.[27] Samuel convinced Minnie Cloyd Spears to be his wife and they were married 18 August 1897 in Wilson, Tennessee.[28] Ten months later, their daughter Annie Lucile Grisham was born but her time with her parents was short-lived.[29] On September 2, 1898, Annie died and was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee. One year later, Samuel and Minnie welcomed their son Ira Leon Grisham (b. 23 September 1899) into the family.[30]

In December 1899, Minnie Cloyd Grisham (neé Spears) purchased land on Spring Street in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee which may have been the family's primary residence for the rest of

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[25] Wilson County, Tennessee, deed records (1789-1965) and indexes (1789-1934); imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:260024 : accessed 6 November 2026); Samuel R. Grisham purchased land by Anderson Street in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee, 10 March 1884. citing Wilson County (Tennessee). Register of Deeds. FamilySearch Film Number 8332677; "Lebanon-Personal Matters," *The Daily American (The Tennessean)*, Samuel R. Grisham and Fannie Bell Read marriage announcement, 11 April 1884; and Marriage Licenses and Bonds, 1840-1953; Indexes, 1838-1900, 1838-1953; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:823750 : accessed 6 November 2026); S.R. Grisham and Fannie B. Reed marriage license. 8 April 1884. citing Tennessee. County Court (Wilson County) and Wilson County (Tennessee) County Court Clerk. FamilySearch Film Number 5728960.

[26] "Mortality Report," *The Daily American-The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 11 September 1892, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 6 November 2026), Fannie Grisham, 27 years. Cause of death: Diarrhea, Volume 18, Number 5794, page 14; and Maintained by Dennis Holt (Contributor 47675956),Memorial page for Fannie Belle Grisham (b. 18 May 1865; d. 3 September 1892); imaged. *FindaGrave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42859423/fannie-belle-grisham : accessed 6 November 2026); Burial of Fannie Belle Grisham wife of S.R. Grisham. Database addition: 8 October 2009. citing Arnold-Sellars Cemetery, Cainsville, Wilson County, Tennessee, United States.

[27] "Announcements," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 17 September 1896, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-93T3-G6MX : accessed 31 October 2026), Sam Grisham, son of William Grisham, became editor and proprietor of the Lebanon Tribune, Volume 8, Number 31.

[28] Tennessee, County Marriages, 1790-1959, imaged, "FamilySearch," Intellectual Reserve Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1619127 : accessed 31 October 2026). S.R. Grishim married Minnie C. Spears, 18 August 1897; and "Marriages the Past Week," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 19 August 1897, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S.R.Grisham and Minnie C. Spears marriage license. Volume 9, Number 27.

[29] "Little Annie Lucile Grisham," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 8 September 1898, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), Annie Lucie Grisham (2 months, 6 days) died 3 Sept 1808. Volume 10, Number 30; and Stone Branches (contributor 47411175), Memorial Page for Lucile Grisham (d. 3 September 1898); imaged. *FindaGrave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98967042/lucile-grisham : accessed 7 November 2026); Lucile Grisham Memorial ID 98967042. Database Entry: 15 October 2012. citing Cedar Grove Cemetery, Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee, United States.

[30] Tennessee, U.S., Delayed Birth Records, 1869-1909, Ira Leon Grisham (b. 23 September 1899).

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their lives.[31] The following Christmas (1900), Samuel's father William Grisham, who had moved to Kansas, visited the family.[32]

During 1901, Samuel was elected the Assistant Superintendent of a Sunday School recently organized by the Railroad Mission at Lebanon.[33] He was also the Secretary and Treasurer of the Christian Endeavor/Young People's Society of Christan Endeavor which was an organization within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Wilson County Tennessee.[34] Samuel was eventually elected an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.[35]

In 1902, Samuel added a veranda to the rear of his home and worked at the Lebanon Democrat newspaper where he became known as the "Captain of the Linotype machine."[36]

In August 1907, Samuel and his brother-in-law Robert Mann visited Fred Jolley's country home located six miles north of Lebanon.[37] After walking up the steps to the porch, Robert was attacked by a dog that struck him on chest causing him to fall backward off the high porch onto the ground. The dog continued biting Robert which action was potentially fatal if not for Samuel's intervention. Samuel "ran and grabbed the brute by the back of the neck, pulled him off, and choked him down, not, however, before he had been bitten on the fingers and the back of the right hand." Following the encounter, Samuel was temporarily unable to perform his job as a linotype operator at the Lebanon Democrat newspaper.

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[31] Wilson County, Tennessee, deed records (1789-1965) and indexes (1789-1934), Minnie C Grisham purchased land on Spring Street, Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee.

[32] "Society...In Neighboring Towns (Lebanon)," *Nashville Banner* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 22 December 1900, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:255173 : accessed 31 October 2026), William Grisham visited his son S.R. Grisham. FamilySearch Film Number 8966431.

[33] "Railroad Mission at Lebanon," *The Nashville American-The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 25 June 1901, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com : accessed 31 October 2026), S. R. Grisham elected Assistant Superintendent of Railroad Mission Sunday School. Volume 25, Number 8963, page 3.

[34] "Lebanon Church Workers," *The Nashville American-The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 8 January 1901, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 2026), S. R. Grisham assigned to the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. Volume 25, Number 8800, page 3; and "Wilson County Endeavor," *The Nashville American-The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 24 April 1900, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 1906), S. R. Graham was Christian Endeavor Secretary and Treasurer. Volume 24, Number 8534, page 7.

[35] "Church Union," *The Commercial* (Union City, Tennessee, United States), 16 November 1906, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 2026), S. R. Grisham elected Cumberland Presbyterian Church Elder. Volume 16, Number 34.

[36] "The News," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 9 October 1902, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), Sam Grisham added a veranda to the rear of his home. Volume 14, Number 34, FamilySearch Film Number 8991084; and "Bouquets and Hints," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 11 February 1909, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S. R. Grisham employed with Lebanon Democrat 6-7 years. Volume 20, Number 51, FamilySearch Film Number 7899128.

[37] "Bitten by Vicious Dog," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 22 August 1907, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S.R. Grisham and Robert Mann bitten by dog at Fred Jolley's home. Volume 19, Number 28, FamilySearch Film Number 8991085.

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A year later (1908), Samuel was working at the Lebanon Democrat when his left hand was caught in a machine resulting in an injury described as "the thumb being lacerated almost to the bone through the fleshy part and being badly mashed."[38] Samuel's hand was "sewed up" and he wore a sling during his recovery which was expected to last about a month.[39]

Samuel accepted positions with religious organization such as chairman for the Pentecostal Mission Sunday School (1908), State Sunday School Executive Committee member (1909), and Methodist Church board member (1923).[40] He was affiliated with the Methodist Church for the rest of his life.

In December 1909, Samuel advertised an "Automobile Line" *(commuter service)* between Lebanon and Nashville, Tennessee using vehicles expected to be operational in the near future.[41] The service promised to be "first-class, the speed will be safe, the treatment of passengers will be courteous, the fare will be moderate, *[and]* the comfort and luxury of the most up-to-date mode of travel."[42] In July 1910, Samuel, who was the manager of the Automobile Line, filed bankruptcy alleging liabilities of $255.65 with all assets exempted and the company was dissolved.[43]

In the summer of 1915, Samuel Richard Grisham erected a building on the side lawn of his home on West Springs Street that became known as "S.R. Grisham & Son" grocery."[44] After operating

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[38] "Hand Badly Injured," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 16 April 1908, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S. R. Grisham injured left hand while working at the Lebanon Democrat. Volume 20, Number 9, FamilySearch Film Number 7899128.

[39] "The News," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 23 April 1908, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S. R. Grisham recovery from hand injury. Volume 20, Number 10, page 5, FamilySearch Film Number 7899128.

[40] "Ida May May Wolfenden Resolutions Adopted," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 19 November 1908, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), Pentecostal Mission Sunday School Chairman S.R. Grisham expressed sentiments on Death of Ida May. Volume 20, Number 40, page 3, FamilySearch Library Film Number 7899128, "Sunday-School Organizer for Tennessee in Lebanon," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 20 May 1909, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S. R. Grisham served on the State Sunday School Executive Committee. Volume 21, Number 13, FamilySearch Film Number 7899128; and "Quarterly Conference Held," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 27 September 1923, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S.R. Grisham named Methodist Church board member. Volume 35, Number 39, FamilySearch Film Number 8991086.

[41] "Automobile Line from Lebanon to Nashville," *Nashville Banner* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 21 December 1909, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com : accessed 31 October 2026), S.R. Grisham promoted Automobile Line. Volume 34, Number 219, page 3.

[42] "Automobile Line to Nashville," *Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 16 December 1909, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), Manager S.R. Grisham advertised Automobile Line to Nashville. Volume 21, Number 43, FamilySearch Library Film Number 7899128.

[43] "Scattered Bits of News of Nashville," *The Nashville American-The Tennessean* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 22 July 1910, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 2026), S.R. Grisham, manager of Automobile Line, filed bankruptcy. Volume 4, Number 72, page 6.

[44] "Local News," *Lebanon Democrat*, Volume 27, Number 22, page 5, 15 July 1915; and "Weddings Among Our Neighbors," *Nashville Banner*, 26 December 1923.

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for seventeen years, Samuel sold the company to the Cumberland University Athletic Association and allegedly retired from the grocery business.[45] The same month the store closed (September 1932), Samuel was commissioned by the Board of Mayor and Alderman as a special night watchman responsible for patrolling the fire district to ensure all doors were locked.[46] The fire district's businessmen were expected to contribute to Samuel's salary as no provisions had been made by the city toward compensation.

In 1934, Samuel returned his former profession and became owner/manager of Spot Cash Grocery located on West Spring Street near Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee.[47] In 1941, Samuel and his wife Minnie sold the store and land where it was located.[48]

The first week of November 1936 Samuel suffered a stroke that caused paralysis and convalesced at his home located on West Spring Street in Lebanon, Tennessee.[49]

On April 24, 1945, Samuel was visiting his daughter Edith when he became ill and was admitted to Oak Ridge Hospital in Oak Ridge, Anderson, Tennessee.[50] He died six days later from "Myocardial fibrosis due to Arteriosclerosis" and was also found to have "Multiple Pulmonary Infarcts". In layman's terms, Samuel died from a buildup of scar tissue in his heart muscle and hardening of the arteries with another diagnosed condition of lung tissue death due to a blocked or severely restricted blood supply.[51]

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[45] "Grisham Retires After 17 Years in Grocery Business," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 15 September 1932, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S. R. Grisham sold grocery business to the Cumberland University Athletic Association and retired. Volume 44, Number 37, FamilySearch Library Film Number 8991055.

[46] "S. R. Grisham Goes on Special Night Patrol," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 22 September 1932, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), S.R. Grisham commissioned to patrol fire district. Volume 44, Number 38, page 8, FamilySearch Film Number 8991055.

[47] "Spot Cash Grocery," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 8 February 1934, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), Spot Cash Grocery advertisement with S.R. Grisham, Manager. Volume 46, Number 6, page 8, FamilySearch Library Film Number 8991055; and "Our Folks," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 22 October 1936, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), Samuel R. Grisham a student at Vanderbilt, member of Lebanon Democrat staff, and operated a grocery store. Volume 48, Number 43, FamilySearch Film Number 8991057.

[48] Wilson County, Tennessee, deed records (1789-1965) and indexes (1789-1934); imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:260024 : accessed 31 October 2026); S.R. and Minnie Grisham sold town lot with store building on West Spring Street, Lebanon, Tennessee. 27 October 1941. citing Wilson County (Tennessee). Register of Deeds. pages 436-437, FamilySearch Film Number 8332769.

[49] "Purely Personal," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 12 November 1936, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), Sam Grisham suffered stroke of paralysis. Volume 48, Number 46, page 5, FamilySearch Library Film Number 8991057.

[50] Tennessee, Death Records, 1914-1966. Samuel R. Grisham (b. 8 April 1858, d 30 April 1945).

[51] "Myocardial Fibrosis: Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatment," *Oklahoma Heart Hospital*, (https://www.okheart.com/news/myocardial-fibrosis-symptoms-diagnosis-and-treatment/ ; accessed 8 November 2026); "Arteriosclerosis," *Cleveland Clinic*, (https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/24870-arteriosclerosis ; accessed 8 November 2026); and "Pulmonary Infarction: Symptoms, Causes, and Treatment," Fullspan Health,

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On May 1, 1945, Lebanon Methodist Church Doctor Lavens Thomas conducted the funeral service for Samuel Richard Grisham and he was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee.[52]

Medical News Today, (https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/pulmonary-infarction ; accessed 8 November 2026.

[52] "Deaths," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 3 May 1945, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:24781 3 : accessed 31 October 2026), Samuel Richard Grisham died 30 April 1945 and was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Volume 57, Number 18, page 10, FamilySearch Library Film Number 8991060.

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GENERATION 3

William Grisham

Born 1821; Died 1904

On July 1, 1821, William Grisham, son of John and Sarah Grisham, was born in North Carolina, United States.[53] When he was about six years old (1827), William's family moved to Wilson County, Tennessee. While still young, William joined the Methodist Church and remained a member for the rest of his life.[54]

The year he turned eighteen (1839) William was thrown into the adulthood arena with the following life events:

- John Grisham and his sons, Stephen and William, were indicted by a Wilson County Grand Jury for assault *(Note: The circumstances surrounding the crime were not found in the court record)*.[55] The men pled guilty and were each ordered to pay a five-dollar fine in addition to the cost of prosecution (7 February 7, 1839).[56]
- On August 19, 1839, William married Mary D. Reed and would become the father of twelve children.[57]

[53] "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 31 March 1904, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *Family Search* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary. Volume 16, Number 8, FamilySearch Library Film Number 8991084, **Document 1**; and Tennessee State Library and Archives (Nashville, Tennessee) and Tennessee. Probate Court (Gibson County), Probate records, 1824-1922; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:410026 : accessed 1 November 2026); Last Will and Testament of John Grissom (a.k.a. Grisham) named his wife and children to include William Grissom (a.k.a. Grisham). 11 February 1864. page 457, FamilySearch Film Number 4777074. **Document 4**

[54] "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat*, William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary, 31 March 1904. **Document 1**

[55] Tennessee. Circuit Court (Wilson County), Minute books, civil and criminal, 1810-1965; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:256096 : accessed 31 October 2026); John Grissom, Stephen Grissom, and William Grissom indicted by Grand Jury for assault and battery. 7 February 1839. FamilySearch Film Number 8475183.

[56] Tennessee. Circuit Court (Wilson County), Minute books, civil and criminal, 1810-1965; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:256096 : accessed 28 October 2026); John Grissom, Stephen Grissom, and William Grissom pled guilty to assault and battery. June 1839. FamilySearch Film Number 8475183.

[57] Marriage licenses and bonds, 1840-1953; indexes, 1838-1900, 1838-1953. William Grissom (a.k.a.: Grisham) and Mary D. Reed marriage; and "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat*, William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary, 31 March 1904. **Document 1**

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During the period between 1840 and 1850, William and his father John Grisham appeared to have been in close contact. The men were listed on the same page of the 1840 United States Federal Census which was not alphabetized and therefore inferred proximity of their residences.[58] When his father-in-law William Reed died (about 1849), William administered the estate and John Grisham acted as guardian of Mr. Reed's minor children.[59]

In 1855, William and Mary Grisham decided it was time for another adventure so they sold the twenty-five acres of property Mary inherited from her father and moved to the town of Lebanon, in Wilson, County where they eventually purchased land located on the north side of Spring Street and east side of Maple Street.[60]

The Lebanon Mayor and Alderman Board demonstrated great trust and confidence in William, who was a wool carder, when he was elected to the office of Town Constable whose duties included money collection (1860).[61] William also served as Lebanon's Mayor (1866).[62]

William's small wool carding business on Maple Street grew to the point it became necessary to expand and build "Lebanon Woolen Mills" which was described as an "immense three-story manufacturing establishment erected in the northern part of Lebanon…where he *[William]* carried on a combined wool carding and grist mill which was afterwards added cotton goods

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[58] 1840 United States Federal Census, Wilson, Tennessee, population schedule; imaged in *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8057 : accessed 27 October 2026); John Grisom and William Grisom listed on same census page; citing Sixth Census of the United States, 1840. (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

[59] Wilson County, Tennessee chancery court records: loose records books and index (Multiple years); imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:837015 : accessed 27 October 2026); William Grissom administrator of William Reed's estate. John Grissom guardian of Mr. Reed's minor children. 11 January 1850. citing Tennessee. Chancery Court (Wilson County). pages 85-88. FamilySearch Film Number 8479437.

[60] Wilson County, Tennessee, deed records (1789-1965) and indexes (1789-1934); imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:260024 : accessed 28 October 2026); William Grissum and Mary D. Grissum (nee Reed) sold inherited property. 6 September 1855. Citing Wilson County (Tennessee) Register of Deeds. page 545, FamilySearch Film Number 8332668; "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat*, William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary, 31 March 1904. **Document 1**; and Wilson County, Tennessee, deed records (1789-1965) and indexes (1789-1934); imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:260024 : accessed 28 October 2026); William and Mary Grisham purchased property on Spring Street and Maple Street. 18 December 1867. Citing Wilson County (Tennessee) Register of Deeds. page 587, FamilySearch Film Number 8265174.

[61] Wilson County, Tennessee, deed records (1789-1965) and indexes (1789-1934); imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:260024 : accessed 9 November 2026); William Grissom elected town constable. 17 December 1860. Citing Wilson County (Tennessee) Register of Deeds. FamilySearch Film Number 8549421; and 1860 United States Federal Census, Lebanon, (District 10), Wilson, Tennessee, population schedule, dwelling 1252, house number 1195, line 28; imaged in *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7667 : accessed 27 October 2026); , William Grissom was a wool carder; citing 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

[62] Tennessee. Circuit Court (Wilson County), Minute books, civil and criminal, 1810-1965; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:256096 : accessed 31 October 2026); Lebanon Mayor William Grisham and Alderman John C. Glenn court case. 6 April 1866. page 289, FamilySearch Film Number 8475189.

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manufacturing."[63] William with his partners John Glenn and B.D. Pendleton operated the factory until Glenn sold his shares and left the company (1866) and new partners were acquired. [64] William owned a firm entitled "Wm Grisham & Co. *[Company]*" which managed his ownership in Lebanon Woolen Mill.[65] In 1868, William sold his interest in the mill.

During the years he operated the mill, William's father John Grisham died (1864-1865) in Gibson County Tennessee. [66] In his last will and testament, John identified his wife and children who included Stephen and William.

In approximately 1870, William began a new business venture by starting "Wm. Grisham & Co., Wholesale and Retail Groceries and Dealers in County Produce."[67] Throughout the years of operation, the store had three different locations to include, "a house that stood where W. H. Brown's block now is, and, second, the lower room of the present *[Lebanon]* Democrat *[newspaper*] building and, third, a house that stood on Maple street near his *[William's]* own residence."[68] On one occasion, the origin of the products resulted in a criminal court case when three men stole "seven chickens and about three dozen eggs" from Hyrum Croffer and sold the eggs to William Grisham (1884).[69]

William accepted positions with the City of Lebanon including City Marshall (1873) and Corporation Tax Collector (1874).[70] During his City Marshall tenure, there was a "great cholera

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[63] "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat*, William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary, 31 March 1904. **Document 1**

[64] Wilson County, Tennessee chancery court records: loose records books and index (Multiple years); imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:837015 : accessed 9 November 2026); William Grisham ownership of Lebanon Woolen Mills. 9 September 1869. Citing Tennessee. Chancery Court (Wilson County). pages 7-21, FamilySearch Film Number 8554221.

[65] "Woolen Mills for Sale," *The Nashville Union and Dispatch* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States), 7 January 1868, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:398918 : accessed 9 November 2026), Lebanon Woolen Mills property of Wm Grisham & Co notice of sale at public auction; citing Filmed by the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Volume 34, Number 34, FamilySearch Film Number 8972413.

[66] Probate records, 1824-1922. Last Will and Testament of John Grissom (a.k.a. Grisham) named his wife and children to include William Grissom (a.k.a. Grisham). 11 February 1864. **Document 4**

[67] Wilson County, Tennessee chancery court records: loose records books and index (Multiple years); imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:837015 : accessed 9 November 2026); Wm. Grisham & Co. Wholesale and Retail Groceries receipt of purchase by Richard Green. 1 January 1870. Citing Tennessee. Chancery Court (Wilson County). FamilySearch Film Number 8411311.

[68] "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat*, William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary, 31 March 1904. **Document 1**

[69] Wilson County, Tennessee, Grand Jury book, 1882-1888; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha: : accessed 9 November 2026); Three men stole eggs and sold to William Grisham. September 1884. Citing Tennessee. Grand Jury (Wilson County). pages 133-136. FamilySearch Film Number 8663578.

[70] "County Directory-Lebanon," *Lebanon Herald* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 19 February 1873, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:321570 : accessed 7 November 2026), City Marshal William Grisham. Volume 16, Number 18. FamilySearch Film Number 8991052.; and Tennessee. Circuit Court (Wilson County), Minute books, civil and criminal, 1810-1965; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:256096 : accessed 31 October 2026); Corporate Tax Collector Wm Grisham. 1874. page 341, FamilySearch Film Number 8475193.

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epidemic" and William was charged with victim burials which subjected him to possible contamination.[71]

In May 1899, William Grisham "sold his home and grocery store on Maple Street" and moved in with his son who lived in Kansas.[72] William was described as "well-liked by his friends, being and honest, kindhearted old gentleman, whose truthful and simple ways always won the admiration of all" and "quite feeble" during the last five years of his life.[73]

On March 24, 1904, William, who had been in poor health for about two months, died of old age with complications from "Uremia" *(a buildup of waste products in the blood that occurs as a result of untreated kidney failure)* at the home of his daughter Margaret Ozment (neé Grisham) who lived in Columbus, Cherokee, Kansas.[74] "On March 31, 1904, James B. Grisham accompanied his father's body during transportation via train to the home of his brother Samuel Richard Grisham who lived in Lebanon, Tennessee. On April 2, 1904, funeral services for William were conducted in Samuel's home "under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge, of which he *(William)* had been a faithful member for over 40 years." William was buried alongside his wife in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee.

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[71] "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat*, William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary, 31 March 1904. **Document 1**

[72] "The News," *The Lebanon Democrat* (Lebanon, Tennessee, United States), 25 May 1899, imaged, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:247813 : accessed 31 October 2026), William Grisham sold home-business and moved to Kansas. Volume 2, Number 15. FamilySearch Film Number 8991083.

[73] "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat*, William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary, 31 March 1904. **Document 1**

[74] Births, deaths and marriages, 1894-1911; imaged. Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:619158 : accessed 31 October 2026); William Grisham died of Old Age with Uremia complications. 24 March 1904. citing Cherokee County (Kansas). County Clerk and Kansas. County Court (Cherokee County). FamilySearch Film Number 7579705. **Document 3**; "Uremia," Cleveland Clinic, (https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/21509-uremia ; accessed 9 November 2026). "Wm. Grisham Dead," *The Columbus Weekly Advocate* (Columbus, Kansas, United States), 31 March 1904, imaged, Ancestry, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com/ : accessed 31 October 2026), William Grisham obituary. He was survived by nine children and was a member of the Masonic Lodge. Volume 22, Number 48. **Document 2**; and "Wm Grisham," *The Lebanon Democrat*, William Grisham (b. 1 July 1821; d. 24 March 1904) obituary, 31 March 1904. **Document 1**

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FINAL CONCLUSIONS:

Research Objective 1:

The research objective of using documentary evidence to identify the parents of William Grisham (b.1821; d.1904) who married Mary Davis Reed and lived in Tennessee was achieved. William was the son of John and Sarah Grisham.

- In his last will and testament, John Grisham identified his wife and children who included his son William.
- John Grisham and William Grisham were named in the same court records wherein both were arrested together and John served as the guardian for the children of William Grisham's father-in-law.
- John Grisham and William Grisham were listed on the same page of the 1840 United States Federal Census which was not alphabetized and therefore inferred proximity of their residences

Research Objective 2:

The research objective of using documentary evidence to complete biographies for William Grisham, his son Samuel Richard Grisham, and his grandson Ira Leon Grisham was achieved.

Ancestral Relationships:

The following was the probable ancestral relationships suggested by the documentary evidence.

1. **Ira Leon Girsham Sr** was the son of Samuel Richard Grisham and Minnie Cloyd Spears.
   - Ira was born 23 September 1899 in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee; married Nona Bell Hale in 1923; and died 22 May 1981 in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee.
2. **Samuel Richard Grisham** was the son of William Grisham and Mary Davis Reed.
   - Samuel was born 8 April 1858 in Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee; married Fannie Belle Reed in 1884 and Minnie Cloyd Spears in 1897; and died 20 April 1945 in Oak Ridge, Anderson, Tennessee.
3. **William Grisham** was the son of John and Sarah Grisham.
   - William was born on 1 July 1821 in North Carolina; married Mary Davis Reed in 1839; and died 31 March 1904 in Columbus, Cherokee, Kansas.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH:

Further research and testing are required to strengthen the hypothesis that William Grisham was the son of John and Sarah Grisham. The following are some recommendations:

Documents:

1. It is strongly recommended the FamilySearch database be accessed and the Grisham ancestry previously researched be viewed and checked for accuracy. Free access is available online at FamilySearch.org.
2. The FamilySearch database claimed the parents of John Grisham were Stephen Grissom (a.k.a. Grisham) and Temperance Galahan but there were no sources verifying this relationship. Additional research is recommended to confirm this connection.
3. Search religious documents for valid birth records regarding William Grisham and his parents. Specific focus on Methodist Church records (1780-1830) in North Carolina.
4. Search military records (i.e.: War of 1812, Civil War) for enrollments of William Grisham and John Grisham which would assist in verifying the exact area of origination in North Carolina.

DNA Evidence:

1. Consider submission of genetic samples for YDNA testing.
2. Identify direct male descendants of John Grisham and Stephen Grisham and request submission of genetic samples for YDNA testing.
3. Consider submission of genetic samples for atDNA (autosomal) testing.
4. Request descendants of John and Sarah Grisham submit genetic samples for atDNA testing.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH:

Additional research can be located at FamilySearch.org

FINAL NOTE:

The conclusions in this research report were based on records found in 2026. The location of documents with direct evidence or information previously unknown may result in modifications to the conclusions.

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APPENDIX A

Localities

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Some reasons a regional evaluation was beneficial and included in this report were (1) Increase the probability of finding genealogical records because jurisdictions and boundaries can change over time resulting in a subsequent change in record location, and (2) Identify communities where ancestors may have resettled.

Tennessee:

On October 26, 1799, Wilson County, Tennessee was formed from Sumner County, Tennessee.[75] Records began as follows: Land (1789), Probate (1800), Marriage and Court (1802), Census (1810), Birth (1881) and Death (1908). Statewide registration for births and deaths began in 1908 (1913 missing) with general compliance by 1927. In 1881, a fire may have damaged courthouse records. The 1800 and 1810 censuses were lost.

[75] "Wilson County, Tennessee Genealogy," Intellectual Reserve, Inc. Family Search (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Wilson_County,_Tennessee_Genealogy ; accessed 28 October 2026).

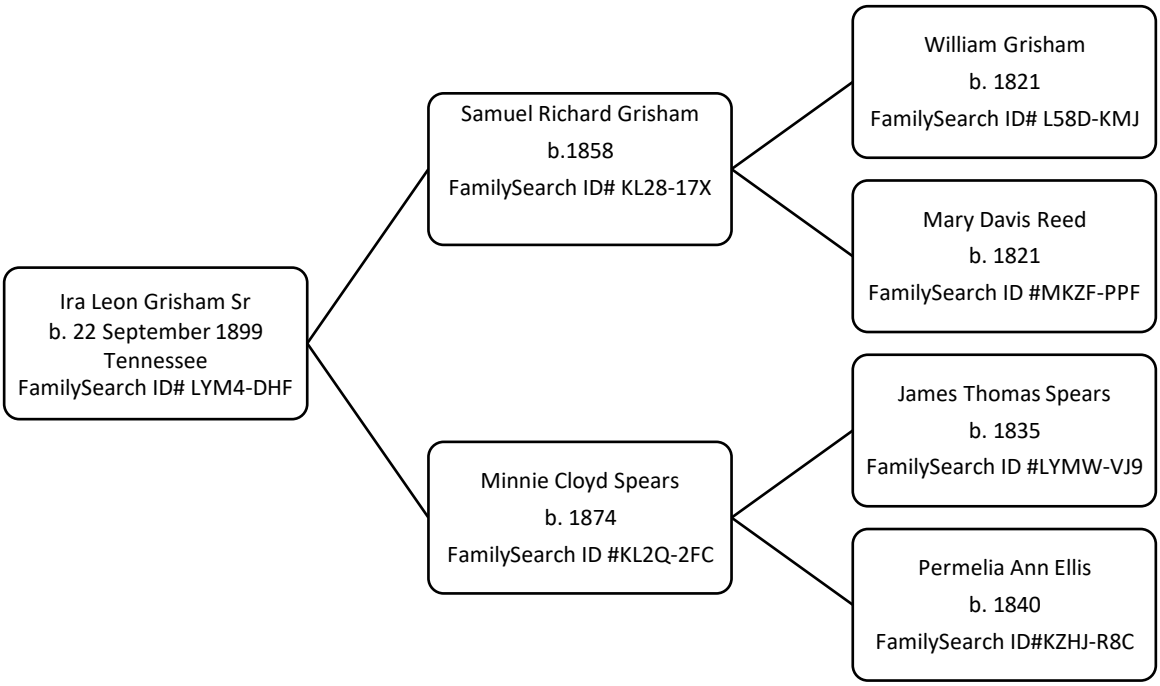
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APPENDIX B

Pedigree Chart: Ira Leon Grisham Sr.

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Possible Paternal Ancestry Pedigree for Ira Leon Grisham Sr.[76]



[76] FamilySearch ID numbers are included with the names and can be used to view the additional research online at FamilySearch.org.

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APPENDIX C

Digital Copies of Pertinent Documents

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Refer to Documents:

Note: Due to copyright restrictions, all source citations could not be accompanied by documents.

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