

Letitia

According to the 1850 census, Letitia was born sometime around 1823 in Tennessee. She's very likely the daughter of Jonah Keen/King who is listed in the 1830 Washington County census with a daughter Letitia's age. The Jonah Keen family lived in close proximity to the William Grimsley family, which also gives credence to the theory of her parentage, as she would later marry John Grimsley.

In 1812 Washington County, there is a deed recorded Between William Grimsley and Jonah Keen. Grimsley sold for \$150, fifty acres of land in Washington County, on the north fork of Kendrick's Creek (correct location). It mentions a conditional line by Grimsley and Mathias Keen. There are no other deeds by Jonah Keen/King or any registered by Mathias Keen/King.

The 1830 census lists Jonah L. King, aged 20-30 with a daughter, aged under five. This may be Letitia's family. In 1846, Jonah Keen wrote a will, but mentioned no daughters, only sons, Robert A. and Joseph. He willed them property adjoining John W. Cox. The 1850 census lists James Keen, aged 93 with 32-year-old Robert in the household.

On 15 September 1840, Letitia married John Grimsley in Washington County. The 1850 census shows a 27 year old Letitia with children, Thomas 9; Caroline 8; Adaline 6; Lofton 7; Ann 4; and John 2, but there is no husband in the household. Household #1634-1669 shows John Grimsley (teacher) 34; Polly A. 29; Atta J. 12; Mary A. 10, Virgil H. 8; William 6; and David A. 4. It seems very unlikely that this is the husband of Letitia since the children of both are very close in age and the county would probably not have let John be a teacher if he were divorced, or if he were fraternizing with another woman. So, where is John Grimsley?

In January 1852, Latitia Grimsley brought a bastardy suit against Thomas H. Copas. She had an attorney and Thomas paid \$40 for the first year's allowance for "illegitimate children". Nathan Copas, his brother, was the security on the bond. In November 1852, Thomas paid the 2nd year's allowance and in 1854, he paid the 3rd year's allowance, the final payment. This lists Letitia as "Letitia Goad, formerly Letitia Grimsly". Her son, Thomas seems the likely "illegitimate" child of Thomas H. Copas. In his attempt to draw a military pension, he sent papers, which stated that he took his date of birth, 20 Mar 1837, from an old family Bible. This makes his birth a full 3 years before her marriage to John Grimsley. He however, states that his father is an "unknown Keen". I find it quite unlikely that Letitia was married before John Grimsley, as she would have been under age 17.

On 8 November 1853, Letitia Grimsley married William Goad in Washington County. On the same day, William deeded to "Leticia Grimsly" 125 acres. The deed reads, "...the said William Gourd for and in consideration of the services of the Leticia Grimsly in helping to take care of his children and to see that they are well provided for and to do all that is necessary in helping to raise his the said Gourd's children until they arrive at lawfull age the said Leticia Grimsly is to have full possession of the said land during her

natural life with the aforesaid W^m Gourd; the said Gourd is to have a life estate in the land and then the land is to be equally divided amongst their children..." I don't believe they had any children together.

Washington County, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, book 16, reads, "Satisfactory evidence has been exhibited to the court that land warrant no. 34.245 for 160 acres issued on the 16th day of July 1856 in the name of Letitia Grimsley, widow of John Grimsley, dec'd under act of Mar 3, 1855 that s^d Letitia Grimsley departed this life in s^d county on the 12th day of February 1858 intestate without having sold or assigned s^d warrant bearing the following named children to wit--Caroline, Loftin, John, Adaline and Anna who are her only lawful surviving children and heirs at law and that s^d children are all minors. It further appears to the satisfaction of the court that it would be to the interest of s^d minors to have s^d land warrant sold and the proceeds thereof applied to their benefit." Note that Thomas is not listed in this list of heirs. At this time, he would have been around 21, a legal adult. Could this be why he's not listed as an heir?

William Goad died sometime before Letitia died on 12 Feb 1858. William's son, Peter is found in the A. J. Peoples household as a farm laborer, along with Loftin Grimsley, Letitia's son. After Letitia's death, guardianship of her "minor heirs" was given to A. G. Graham. They are not with him in the 1860 census, though. Letitia had been issued a land warrant for 160 acres on 16 Jul 1856, as a "widow of John Grimsley" and this was ordered to be sold and the proceeds used to care for her children, Caroline, Loftin, John, Adaline and Anna. No mention is made of William's daughters, Elizabeth and Nancy.