

**LATIMER: A BRIEF  
HISTORY AND  
GENEALOGY OF GEORGE  
GRISWALD LATIMER**

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Latimer: a brief history and genealogy of George Griswald Latimer by Madison C. Bates

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**MADISON C. BATES**

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# LATIMER

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A Brief History and Genealogy

OF

GEORGE GRISWALD LATIMER

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BY

MADISON C. BATES

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## Explanation

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These pages of family history are not intended to give a complete genealogy of the Latimer family in America, much less to trace the family history back to England from whence they came.

The primary purpose has been to group together a brief outline of the family of George Griswald Latimer in such form as will enable the now living descendants of the family to know better each other and to keep alive among themselves the desire to be worthy of the family name, and to keep alive also the memory of those who so worthily served their day and generation and who have long since or later entered into their reward.

The direct line of George Griswald Latimer is here given, back as far as definite information could be had, down to Joseph Latimer, the father of George Griswald, also all the children of Joseph are given and briefly mentioned.

Van Norman Feb. 16, 1948

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For convenience, the whole is given under these three divisions:

1. The direct line from Robert Latimer, Sr., down to Joseph Latimer, and the move from Connecticut to Tennessee of Colonel Jonathan Latimer and family.

2. The immediate family of Joseph Latimer and their settlement in Illinois.

3. The family and descendants of George Griswald Latimer given in full.

M. C. BATES

# Early Latimer Genealogy

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## PART ONE

The first Latimer known in America was

### I

ROBERT of New London, Connecticut, in 1660. It is probable that he came first to Boston in 1635, as he came over in the Hopewell and the Hopewell came to America in 1635. He had a son

### II

ROBERT, born Feb. 5, 1664; supposedly at New London. He had a son

### III

JONATHAN, born in 1698, and married to Borodel Dennison. They had a son

### IV

JONATHAN, born March 27, 1724. He married Lucretia Griswald, daughter of George Griswald, who graduated in the first class of Yale College as valedictorian. They had a son



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## V

JOSEPH, born at New London, Connecticut, January 8, 1766, and died at Cherry Grove, near Abingdon, Illinois, August 18, 1846.

### MOVE TO TENNESSEE

It was about one hundred and thirty years after the appearance of Robert Latimer in New London when his great grand son, Col. Jonathan Latimer, emigrated with his family from Connecticut and went into what was then the Territory of Tennessee. This was a long overland journey for that day and it is said it was made with wagons drawn by oxen. Much of the way was over a rough country and over poor roads, if indeed there were more than blazed trails. The part of Tennessee they came into was what is known as the Cumberland country or the country lying on both sides of the line between Tennessee and Kentucky and between the western foothills of the Cumberland Mountains on the east and the Tennessee River on the west, with the Cumberland River running through it from east to west. Much was made in those days of rivers as a means of traffic and travel. The exact location these new comers selected was in Robertson County and about ten miles north of the Cumberland River and fifteen or twenty miles northeast of Nashville, later the capital of the State.

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It has been thought strange that Colonel Latimer, then an old man, would have undertaken so long and difficult a move. But the explanation has been supposed to be, and doubtless it is the correct one, that the move was made that he and his sons might avail themselves early of the government offer of free land to those who had been soldiers in the Revolution. Mr. Latimer himself had served as a Colonel and had several sons that had served with him under his command in that war. This taken together with the fact that when the move to Tennessee was made, all or nearly all the family, married and single, were included, make this explanation seem altogether probable.

The sorrowful event in the move was the death of Col. Latimer when they had reached almost the end of the long and tedious journey. He died en route in 1790, between 66 and 67 years old and was buried in Tennessee, near Nashville.

# The Family of Joseph Latimer

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## PART TWO

JOSEPH LATIMER was born in New London, Connecticut, Jan. 8, 1766, and died at his home in Cherry Grove, near Abingdon, Illinois, August 18, 1846.

MISS ANNA DOBBINS, his wife, was born in South Carolina, May 10, 1776, and died at Cherry Grove February 9, 1853.

They were married at Gallatin, Tennessee, 1795. We may well believe that a kind Providence had watched over them and led them to the consummation of this union. He was born in New England of English ancestry. She was born in South Carolina of Scotch Irish parentage, while they were married in the then western border of American civilization. In their children thus was mingled the characteristics of the conservative and the tenacious English and that of the energetic and self-reliant Scotch Irish. They were in perfect agreement as to religion. Both were strict Puritans. Their lot had been cast in the region that became one of the centers of the great religious awakening known as the