The Latimers

of All Saints parish in Oxford and Headington

Stephanie Jenkins

2006; revised 2011

Brief biographies to accompany the diaries of
Mrs Elizabeth Latimer (née Jones) (1773–1843)
and her daughter
Elizabeth Mary Jones Latimer (1800–1891)
who lived in Headington House between 1815 and 1845

Diary of Mrs Elizabeth Latimer

- January 1830 to September 1836 (with gaps)
  All written in English
  (owned by a descendant of Frederic Latimer in London)

Miss Mary Latimer

- March 1817 to September 1821
  1817–19 in English, 1820 in French, and 1821 in Italian
  (owned by a descendant of Frederic Latimer in Australia)
- Diary covering the period October 1821 to 1825
  1820 in French, 1821–1825 in Italian , French, and German
  (owned by the Oxfordshire Record Office)

Latimer, Edward senior (1775–1845)

Edward, the head of the Oxfordshire Latimers, was the son of **John LATIMER** and **Elizabeth ROUTLEDGE**. He was born on 28 October 1775 in Holmfoot, Kirklinton, Cumbria (where there are numerous Latimers straddling many generations), and was baptised there six days later. Another branch of his family also moved down south, to London.

By 4 March 1797, when he was 21, he was listed in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* as a trader who would accept banknotes, and in the following year he was made a Freeman of the city and was trading as a wine merchant. An advertisement he took out in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* of 21 July 1798 to announce 'a capital stock of choice old port' gives his address as 'near Saint Mary Hall Lane, High Street'. This suggests his shop was then on the south side of the High Street, near Oriel Street, in the parish of St Mary the Virgin. Later that year he appears to have become a Freeman of the City.[1]

On 24 June 1799 Edward Latimer married **MISS ELIZABETH JONES** at St Andrew's Church, Headington: this suggests that Elizabeth was living in Headington at the time (possibly staying with her aunt, Miss Mary Jones, at Headington House). Their wedding was reported in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* of 29 June 1799:

> On Monday last was married at Headington, by the Rev. W. Stratford, Mr Edward Latimer, Wine Merchant of this city, to Miss Jones, daughter of Mrs Mary Jones, Tea Dealer, in the High Street.

After the wedding the couple first lived in All Saints parish in Oxford, and Edward is listed as a Freeman of that parish in the City Poll Books of 1802 and 1812. This suggests that he opened his wine shop at 10–12 High Street (in Mary Jones's property in All Saints parish) around the time of the wedding. The Latimers had fifteen children the Latimers baptised at All Saints Church between 1800 and 1816, and they were probably all born over the shop, whose grounds extended much further back than today, as the extension to the market had not then been built. The family always refer to this home as "Oxford House". From 1813 Edward Latimer rented Swanbourne House on the other side of the High Street (probably No. 118) for his huge and growing family.

In 1804 Edward Latimer was elected on to the city council, and purchased a Chamberlain's place in September 1814.

On 13 June 1815, Edward Latimer and his wife Elizabeth inherited from his wife's aunt Mary Jones the Manor of Heddington [sic], centred on Headington House,[2] and other farmland in Headington, as well as Nos. 10–12 High Street in Oxford. He and his wife thenceforth

---

[1] See *Oxford Council Acts*, 31 October 1798, which records that 'Mr Ed. Latimer, winemerchant, of St Mary's, and Messrs. Morrell, brewers, in St. Thomas's, are to be written to take up their freedom within a month or they will be proceeded against.' St Mary's Parish, sandwiched between the parishes of All Saints and St Peter in the East, comprised the middle third of the High Street (east of Turl Street and west of Longwall), plus Catte Street, Oriel Street, and Grove Street (now Magpie Lane).

[2] The Headington Enclosure Act of 1801 makes a clear distinction between this manor, attached to Headington House, and the better-known one of Headington: 'Henry Mayne Whorwood, Esquire, is Lord of the Manor of *Headington*; and *Mary Jones*, Spinster, is Lady of the Manor of *Heddington*, in the said Parish of Headington'.

were very wealthy, and held the title of Lord and Lady of the Manor of Heddington until his wife's death in 1843.[3]

At first the Latimers continued to live in the High Street, but in about 1820 they moved up permanently to their country home in Headington.

Edward continued to run his business as a wine merchant from the premises in Oxford's High Street until his death in 1845.[4] That he was a purveyor of fine-quality wine is emphasized by the poem *Brasenose Ale*, which refers to 'Latimer's immortal tun'.[5] The Revd William Tuckwell reports the following story about Latimer and the Duke of Marlborough in the 1830s: [6]

> The chief wine merchant was Latimer, a tall, gentlemanlike, handsome man, with a fine house on Headington Hill. One of his stories deserves recital. A county magnate, notorious for his meanness, had ordered six dozen of a fine brown sherry, which he sent back by-and-by, minus one bottle, with a message that the Duke had tried the wine and disapproved of it. 'Put it back,' said Latimer to his cellarer, 'and we'll call it the Duke's wine.' Entertaining a party at luncheon soon after, he narrated the incident, and proposed that they should try the wine. Up came a bottle; the guests smelt, tasted, looked at one another, said nothing, till Latimer's glass was filled. It was toast and water; so was the whole binn: the bottles had been opened, the wine drawn off, the simpler fluid substituted.

In 1823, soon after moving to Headington, Edward Latimer offered his High Street premises at 10–12 High Street, just to the west of the covered market, to the Market Committee, who wished to see the market extended;[7] but his price was too high, and the affair dragged on for years. In 1836 Latimer was still being very awkward, asking for the excessive price of £15,200.[8] The committee then sought to buy just the rear of his premises, and Latimer wrote to them:

> They set out on a magnificient [sic] scale to make a market place creditable to themselves and to the university and city of Oxford and then they dwindle into insignificance…. Public works are carried out with a spirit, energy, liberality etc., on a scale of magnificience [sic] which does credit to the parties in every town in England but Oxford, but this famed city which ought to be an example to all the kingdom is notorious for having its public works executed on a stingy, narrow-minded, diminutive contemtible [sic] scale which must be owing to a want of exertion on the liberal portion of a committee over little minds to whom the above epithets might be applied. [9]

Latimer refused to co-operate, and another plan was adopted; but in March 1838 they were forced to renegotiate with Latimer, who offered them the rear of his premises for £6,200. The committee's final offer was £5,000, and they made no consideration of Latimer's request to

---

[3] N. Dalgeth, Solicitor wrote on 17 October 1839: 'I do not know exactly the Title of Mr & Mrs Latimer to the Manor but I conceive Mr Latimer is entitled as Lord during their joint lives only' (draft Deed of Enfranchisement relating to Headington Baptist Chapel, OA CLA I/x/3).

[4] Boots Opticians operate from 10–12 High Street in 2011; and Pizza Hut below was presumably once the Latimer wine cellar.

[5] W. Tuckwell, *Reminiscences of Oxford* (Cassell & Company Limited, 1901), p. 258.

[6] Tuckwell, *Reminiscences of Oxford*, p. 250.

[7] Oxford City Archives, FF2. 1a Mkt. Cttee. Min. Bk. 1772–1735, 185.

[8] Oxford City Archives, FF2. 1a Mkt. Cttee. Min. Bk. 1735–1864, 45. Mrs Latimer wrote in her diary on 12 May 1835: 'Mr L attended a Gas Meeting and saw at Oxford Drs Gilbert & Bliss relative to the Market Committee, wherein he was concerned about the Oxford House.'

[9] Oxford City Archives, FF2. 1a Mkt. Cttee. Min. Bk. 1735–1864, 55.

run waste water across the land to Market Street. Latimer protested indignantly that it was 'a most unreasonable thing…. Do they fancy because I am a wine merchant that I am to bottle it?'[10]

Latimer eventually sold the rear of his premises on 22 August 1838,[11] fifteen years after the start of negotiations. In November 1838 he tried to sell part of the rest of the site to the committee, but was unsuccessful.[12]

Edward Latimer's land in Headington included Bayswater Mill, and in 1830 he unsuccessfully prosecuted Joseph Simmons, a labourer of Headington, for stealing a bushel of wheat from that mill worth 2/-.[13] Around this time he appears to have gone into partnership for a period, as his wine business is listed as 'Latimer & Scott' in 1830.[14]

The 1841 census shows Edward Latimer living at Headington House with his wife, his three unmarried daughters, and four female servants. Four years later both he and his wife were dead: Elizabeth died first on 21 March 1843, and Edward at the age of 70 on 18 November 1845. He was buried six days later at St Andrew's Church in Headington. The report of his death in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* was brief and to the point: 'DIED. On Tuesday last, Edward Latimer, Esq. of Headington, near this city.'[15]

Under his will Edward Latimer insisted that Headington House and other land and property nearby be sold by auction one year after the May following his decease, but this was extended to two years by a codicil dated 29 September 1845. On 2 June 1848 the sale duly took place on of Headington House, its immediate land (12 acres),[16] 'about 31 acres of arable land now in my occupation on the south side of the Turnpike Road and adjoining the Britannia Public House',[17] and 'about 26 acres of grass and meadow land extending from the road between Headington and Barton Northwards to the Headington Brook'[18] Most of the land to the south of the London Road was bought by a speculator, William Mead Warner of Banbury, and so New Headington village came into being in 1851.

A memorial tablet on the north wall of the Chancel of St Andrew's Church (see page 6) records the death of Edward Latimer and his wife, and says that they were buried 'in the family vault, in this churchyard'. As many of the family members who died later are scattered around the churchyard, it seems likely this vault went under the church and could no longer be used once the practice of burying people within churches was banned by law.

[10] Oxford City Archives, FF2. 1 Mkt Cttee Min. Bk, 1835–64, 125.

[11] Oxford City Archives, FF2. 1 Mkt Cttee Min. Bk, 1835–64, 145.

[12] Oxford City Archives, FF2. 1 Mkt Cttee Min. Bk, 1835–64, 154–6.

[13] Quarter Session Rolls, Epiphany 1830, Nos. 36–39.

[14] *Pigot's New Commercial Directory*, 1830. On 22 January 1834 Mrs Latimer refers to their son Charles going to London on 'Scott's business'.

[15] *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 22 November 1845, p. 8, col. 3.

[16] The house's park land then stretched up to London Road, including the site of the present Stephen Road and top of Old High Street and Osler Road. This explains the position of the bridges that cross Cuckoo Lane, installed by a later inhabitant.

[17] Plots 25 and 27 on the Headington Enclosure map of 1804.

[18] Plots 89 and 91 on the Headington Enclosure map of 1804.

Latimer, Mrs Elizabeth (1773–1843) (née **Jones**)

The diaries dating from 1830 to 1836 were written by
Mrs Elizabeth Latimer (or Eliza, as she calls herself on the title page)

Mrs Latimer was born Elizabeth Jones in All Saints parish, Oxford on 24 October 1773,[19] the daughter of **WILLIAM JONES** (b.1748) and **MARY FORTY** (1753–1822). Elizabeth's father William had been a goldsmith of Oxford's High Street, but appears to have gone bankrupt in about 1784: he started up again as a milliner, and then may have taken over the family fish shop. Her mother Mary was the only daughter of William Forty (a butcher of St Michael's parish) and his wife Mary.

When Elizabeth married Edward Latimer in Headington on 24 June 1799 she was not a wealthy woman, and her father's sister, Miss Mary Jones (1741–1815) was probably her husband's landlord. Possibly she already knew, however, that one day she would receive a huge inheritance from her Aunt Mary. On his death in 1795 William Jackson, the founder of *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, had left her aunt Headington House and large tracts of land in Headington, and became Lady of the Manor of Heddington[20] on 3 June 1795 when his will was proved. In addition Jackson's sister Mrs Sarah Grimshaw, who under the will inherited Nos. 10–12 High Street, immediately conveyed them Miss Mary Jones.[21] The Headington Enclosure Award of 1805 shows that Mary Jones owned about 175 acres there in her own right, and held another hundred or so as a lessee of Magdalen College.

On her death in 1815, Miss Jones left all her property to her niece Mrs Elizabeth Latimer and her husband.

Mrs Latimer gave birth to fifteen children in eighteen years, so perhaps it is not surprising that she suffered from ill health during the period covered by the diaries. The trouble she had with her knee means that when only in her fifties she could not even get out into the garden without her bath-chair. She was a deeply religious woman who cared very much for her family.

Mrs Latimer died at the age of 69 on 21 March 1843, and was buried at St Andrew's Church seven days later. On her death, her husband ceased to be Lord of the Manor of Heddington, as he only held the title through her.

[19] The date 24 October is recorded as her birthday in her daughter's diary. According to her age at her death she was born in 1774; yet her baptism took place on 25 October 1773, according to the records of All Saints Church.

[20] Not to be confused with the Manor of Heddington: see note on Headington House and its manor at the end of this booklet.

[21] The exact relationship of the Jacksons and Mary Jones is of course is the biggest mystery of all. There is more on the Jones family at the end of this booklet.

1. Elizabeth Mary Jones Latimer (1800–1891) (always known as Mary)

The diaries dating from 1817 to 1825 were written by Mary Latimer

Mary was the eldest of the fifteen Latimer children (twelve of whom survived to adulthood). Born in Oxford on 16 March 1800, she was baptised one month later at All Saints Church in the High Street[22] and spent her childhood in that parish.

In 1818, when she was 18, the family moved permanently into Headington House, and Mary took over many housekeeping duties. She was obviously very intelligent, and taught her eight younger brothers before they went away to board at prep school, and also tutored her two younger sisters.

Mary started writing a diary on her seventeenth birthday on 16 March 1817, and the volumes covering the years 1817 to 1825 survive.

It is evident from her diary that Mary fell in love with a 'Mr Peters' from Cornwall who frequently visited the Latimer home from 1818, and whom she taught French: this is almost certainly Jonathan Peters, graduate of The Queen's College[23] and eleven years her senior, who was a witness at her aunt's wedding at All Saints Church on 14 November 1820. The relationship was curtailed in October 1822, and Mary never married.

Mary immersed herself in good works, and in 1832 she nursed the victims of Oxford's first great cholera outbreak. Although she travelled widely, she remained based in her family home until her father's death in 1845. In addition to a one-twelfth share of the Headington estate, Mary inherited 40 acres of land on the north side of the Headington (or Bayswater) Brook[24] and 25 acres to the south.[25] Hence an 1852 directory describes her as one of Headington's principal landowners.[26]

On 11 September 1845 Ann Gibbs (29), described as "lady's maid to the Misses Latimer" was found "hanging to the beam in the kitchen quite dead about six o'clock that morning". The verdict was that she had destroyed herself, being at the time of unsound mind, and she was buried in St Andrew's churchyard on 14 September.

In 1849 Mary worked with the cholera victims of the second major Oxford outbreak.

Mary is hard to find in the 1851 census, and she may just have been travelling abroad that Easter, as in her obituary she was described as a 'considerable traveller'.

---

[22] All Saints Church has been Lincoln College Library since 1975.

[23] His entry in *Alumni Oxonienses* reads: 'Peters, Jonathan, s. John of St Austell, Cornwall, gent. Exeter Coll., matric. 12 May 1808, aged 19; B.A. 1813, M.A. 1818.

[24] The Bayswater Brook runs from the east of the Bayswater Road to the west of Marsh Lane in Marston. The 40 acres farmland that Mary was awarded to the north of the brook was to the West of Wick Farm (Plots 92 and 93 on the Headington Enclosure Map of 1802).

[25] The 25 acres of land that Mary was awarded to the south of the Bayswater Brook was Plots 72, 73, and 74 off the north side of Dunstan Road to the north-west of Lower Farm, and Plot 67 on the other side of the Road (now Headington Cemetery).

[26] *Gardner's History, Gazetteer & Directory of the County of Oxford*, 1852, p. 796.

By 1861 Mary was certainly back in Headington and was living with her brother Digby and his wife. She spent the rest of her life with them (the last six years with Digby's widow), first at 10 St Andrew's Road and then at Unity House in St Andrew's Lane.

In the 1861 census Mary is described as a 'Land Proprietress' and in 1871 as a 'Land-owner'. In the *Return of Owners of Land* of 1873 she is listed as owning 65 acres, 2 roods, and 17 perches with a gross estimated rental of £227-5s: this matches exactly in size the farmland she was left by her father

Mary's good works in Headington continued throughout her life: at the age of 68 she is listed in the Headington Parish Magazine as being St Andrew's Church's Lady Visitor with responsibility for Barton (then consisting of 39 houses with 115 inhabitants);[27] and at the age of 72 she was Treasurer of the Coal Club.[28]

In the 1881 census Mary is described as a 'Gentlewoman'. In 1882 she sold her land on the south side of Dunstan Road to be used as Headington Cemetery. By 31 March 1885 when she made her will she was evidently blind, although this did not prevent her joining 'heartily' in the service held at St Andrew's Church to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1887.[29] She last appears in the 1891 census, described as 'Living on her own means', and died on 1 September that year at the age of 91: despite being the eldest of fifteen, she outlived all her siblings except Sturman. Three days later she was buried at St Andrew's Church, but no inscription to her can be seen today, possibly because of the typically frugal request in her will that no more than twelve pounds was to be spent on her burial arrangements.

When Mary's will was proved, the gross personal value of her estate was £2,200.16.1. She left her five cottages in Old High Street, Headington[30] to her sister-in-law Harriet (Digby's widow), to pass to her nephew Roynon Latimer (Frederic's third son) after Harriet's death, and most of the rest of her estate was distributed among all her nephews and nieces. She even itemized tea spoons in her will, just as her father had done well over fifty years before.

Mary's obituary in the *Oxford Times* of 5 September 1891 read as follows:

> **HEADINGTON**
>
> This week we regret we have to chronicle the death of Miss Latimer, who for the best part of a century has been intimately connected with this village. Born on March 16th, 1800, at Headington[31] (when George III was king), she was able to join heartily in the service held in the parish church to commemorate her Majesty Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The eldest daughter of the late Edward Latimer of Headington House; possessed of considerable personal attractions and rare intellectual powers, she was a popular figure in Oxfordshire society before many of us now well on in years were born. For 50 years she was an active visitor among the poor, and through two severe cholera epidemics she lovingly

[27] *Headington Parish Magazine*, June 1869. The duty of the District Visitors was to 'undertake to acquaint themselves with every case of want and distress in their several districts', and to distribute the funds of the District Visitors' Benevolent Society appropriately among the deserving poor.

[28] *Headington Parish Magazine*, January 1873.

[29] Obituary, *Oxford Times*, 5 September 1891.

[30] Four of these had been given to her eldest brother, John, by his father in his lifetime, and the fifth bequeathed to him by his will in 1845.

[31] In fact, she was almost certainly born in All Saints Parish, Oxford: all the censuses from 1851 to 1891 confirm that she was born in Oxford rather than Headington.

> nursed and tended many poor sufferers, herself escaping unscathed through the dreadful periods. Her broad sympathies, bright cheerful disposition, and generosity, endeared her to all with whom she came in contact. A considerable traveller for those early days in the century, she spoke the chief European languages fluently and well, and was no mean classical scholar. Although so advanced in years, her intellect was good and strong up to the day of her death, which took place somewhat suddenly on Tuesday morning last. In her has passed away one of the old school of gentlewomen, a staunch friend, a true Christian, and Headington's oldest inhabitant.

Mary was buried at St Andrew's Church on 4 September 1891, probably in the same grave as one of her siblings.

2. John Edward Latimer (1801–1849)

The diarist's eldest brother, John, was born on 30 March 1801 and baptised at All Saints Church, Oxford on 16 April. He matriculated at the University of Oxford on 16 December 1818, aged 17, and was a postmaster at Merton College from 1819 to 1822.

John obtained his BA in 1824, and was intended for the Church, but when he was nearly 29 decided to change to law. On 20 January 1830, he left home to be articled to an attorney in Birmingham called Griffiths, and when he qualified as a solicitor in 1836 he remained there. On 16 June 1837 his bankruptcy was listed in the *London Gazette*.

John does not appear to have returned to the Oxford area, although there is a signature of a John Latimer, a 'Justice of the Peace for the Ploughley Hundred in the County of Oxford' on a summons signed in Bicester on 25 October 1839.[32]

The 1841 census shows John, a single man of 40 described as an attorney, lodging in Birmingham in the home of the brass founder James Swift.

Despite being the eldest son, John did not succeed as Lord of the Manor of Heddington when his father died in 1845, and only inherited from his father a cottage in Old High Street, Headington (in addition to the four cottages there that had already been given to him), £3000, and a one-twelfth share in the Headington estate.

On 25 September 1848, when he was one of the parties who signed an Indenture conveying the land destined to become New Headington village to William Mead Warner, John is described as being 'of Headington'.

On 6 February 1849, when John signed his will, he was residing at 6 The Crescent, Camberwell Grove, Surrey in the home of his married sister Caroline. Just 18 days later, on 24 February 1849, he died at Camberwell Grove. He does not appear to have had a wife or children, and left the bulk of his estate to Sturman (whom he urged to marry and resume his profession). Probate was granted on 8 March 1849.

[32] Oxfordshire Archives, Blackthorne IV/i/1.

3. Jane Sturman Margaret Latimer (1802–1872)

The diarist's sister, Jane (referred to in the Italian section of Mary's diary as 'Jeanette') was born on 9 December 1802, and baptised on 20 December that year at All Saints Church, Oxford. When Mary's diary commences in 1817, Jane was evidently bright and alert, and learning Italian at the age of 14; but she started to suffer from fits, and thereafter did not attend church or appear in any company other than that of her family and closest friends.[33]

Jane lived with her parents until their deaths. Her father left money for her two younger sisters to look after her after his death:

> for the maintenance comfort and support of my daughter Jane for and during the period of her natural life in such a manner as she has hitherto been accustomed to receive from her Mother and from me'.

He also added:

> 'I require that my daughter Jane shall have 5 sovereigns placed into her hand every quarter day ... and that she shall not be required to give any account of it'; and 'I require my daughter Jane to live with one or both of my daughters Caroline and Louisa as they may agree that is if they will kindly take her under their care.

It appears that Jane initially stayed in Headington House with her two unmarried sisters, Mary and Louisa, but when it was sold in 1848 she then went away to live with Caroline, her only married sister, and she remained in Surrey for the rest of her life. She can be seen there with her sisters in the 1851, 1861, 1871 censuses.

Jane's death was announced thus in the *Headington Parish Magazine* of May 1872:

> Death.—On the 14th of April, at 113, The Grove, Camberwell, in the 70th year of her age, tenderly regretted, Jane Sturman Margaret, second daughter of the late Edward Latimer, Esq., of Headington.

Jane was buried in the same vault in Norwood cemetery as Caroline's husband, John Latimer Nichol.

[33] Mary never mentions her as a companion in the later parts of her diary, but tends to bracket her with her baby sisters.

4. Edward William Forty Latimer (1803–1881)

The diarist's second brother, Edward, was born on 25 November 1803 and baptised at All Saints Church, Oxford on 20 December that year. He went to Rugby School, and we read in Mary's diary of his interview with the Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford on 31 December 1821. The next day he was matriculated at the University, aged 18. He was an exhibitioner at Lincoln College from 1822 to 1830, obtaining his BA in 1827, and his MA in 1828.

In 1829 Edward brought a successful prosecution against Richard Jaycock alias Jacobs of St Thomas, Oxford for stealing his jacket, worth 3/-.[34]

Edward was Rector of Waddesdon, Bucks from 1829 until his death on 14 March 1881, and he never married. *Crockford's Directory* for 1860 shows that he had been Rector of the second portion of Waddesdon (with a gross income of £178 a year and a house) since 1829, and of the first portion (with a gross income of £220 a year and a house, and a population of 1743) since 1830. In 1830 he became a Freeman of the City of Oxford.

Edward was left very little in 1845 under his father's will: just a one-tenth share in the money raised from the sale of 15 High Street, Oxford – and he had to wait 27 years to get this, because his father stipulated it was not to be sold until after his sister Jane's death.

The 1851 census shows Edward, aged 47 and described as the Rector of Waddesdon, living alone at Sydney Villa in New Road, Kensington with a servant. Except for the fact that he later had a housekeeper and a general servant, his situation was exactly the same in 1861 and 1871.

Edward died in London at the age of 77 on 15 March 1881.[35]

[34] Quarter Session Rolls, Trinity 1829, 39–45.

[35] Death registered Fulham district first quarter of 1881, Vol. 1a, p. 165.

5. Digby Latimer (1808–1884)

The diarist's third surviving brother, Digby, was born in Oxford on 24 March 1808 and baptised at All Saints Church, Oxford on 1 May. On 11 January 1819, when he was only ten, he went off as a boarder to Westminster School in London, the first time he had ever left home; he did not go away to board at prep school like all his younger brothers.[36] He then followed his brother Edward to Lincoln College, matriculating on 11 October 1825, aged 17. He obtained his BA in 1831 and MA in 1833. He was admitted as a barrister-at-law at Lincoln's Inn in 1835.

In 1840 Digby purchased over four acres of land (Headington Inclosure Award No. 5) on the east side of Slade in the area of Wood Farm for £172; and in 1844 he paid £246 for a cottage and blacksmith's shop, yard, garden and orchard at the west end of Old Headington, buying the freehold in 1847.

On 6 June 1844, at Charlton Kings near Cheltenham, a place often visited by the Latimers, Digby married **HARRIET LYNE** (1808–1892), daughter of the Revd Charles Lyne, the Rector of Mevagissey, and his wife, who was also named Harriet.[37] In 1845, Digby inherited the Manor of Heddington on his father's death and became its new Lord. He was presumably chosen because he was the oldest son who was resident in Headington. He also inherited his father's estate at Shotover Hill (totalling 85 acres) and a quarry. He was also given a one-twelfth share in the Headington estate.

Digby and his wife began their married life at 10 St Andrew's Road. They appear to have had no children, and by 1851, Harriet's spinster sister (Miss Celia Cregoe Lyne) and her maternal aunt (Miss Celia Cregoe, aged 62) had moved in with them. The aunt died in 1857 and was buried at St Andrew's Church on 22 January.

By the time of the 1861 census, Harriet's sister Celia had moved out and was living with Sturman, her other brother-in-law; while the diarist was living with her brother Digby and his wife at 10 St Andrew's Road: she remained with the family until her death 30 years later. By the time of the 1881 census the three of them had moved to Unity House in St Andrew's Lane.

Digby was a Churchwarden at St Andrew's Church from 1850 to 1864. His wife was equally worthy: in 1869 she is listed in the *Headington Parish Magazine* as the Lady Visitor responsible for part of New Headington village; in 1873 as Treasurer of the Coal Club; and in 1881 she was responsible for collecting the magazine subscriptions.

On 9 October 1852 *Jackson's Oxford Journal* reported that while the Latimers and their servants were at divine service the previous Sunday, thieves broke into his house, taking jewellery and other articles to the value of about £100. Three ladies happened to be in the house at the time, in different apartments, and the thieves fled after opening the door of one of these apartments.

---

[36] The *Record of Old Westminsters* shows that he was initially admitted on 13 January 1818, and *readmitted* on 21 January 1822.

[37] Mrs Harriet Lyne (née Cregoe) was the sister of the Captain Frind Cregoe of Charlton House at Charlton Kings near Cheltenham who is mentioned frequently in the diary. Her daughter Harriet would have met Digby at Charlton Kings, where they were married. (Digby's younger brother Sturman may also have met Harriet's younger sister, his future wife Emma Jarrett Lyne, there, although as his marriage took place six years later he may of course have met her on a visit to her sister in Headington.)

In 1860 Digby's only book, *The Chancellor's Court in the University of Oxford and the Position of Persons Prosecuted for Libel Therein* was published.

The 1851 census described Digby as a barrister 'not in actual practice',[38] and he did not obviously undertake any paid employment in middle life. Although he still owned land after the 1848 sale, he is not listed in any census as a landowner; and, unlike his sister Mary and his brothers Sturman and William, he does not appear in the *Return of Owners of Land* of 1873. This must be because of his bankruptcy in 1871, when he was operating as a chemical agent.[39] That year the Lordship of the Manor of Heddington and the remnants of its land was bought at auction for £330 by Alfred Gillett, a Banbury banker. The extent to which Digby sank is shown by the fact that in the 1881 census, at the advanced age of 73, he is away from home and described as a mere 'cashier',[40] while his elder sister back in Headington is the head of his household.

After the death of his brother Frederic in 1870 Digby supported Frederic's 11-year-old son Roynon through school and university.

Digby died intestate at the age of 76 on 11 December 1884, and was buried at St Andrew's Church, Headington on 16 December 1884. His obituary in the Headington Parish Magazine reads:

> On Thursday, December 11th, passed away from our midst DIGBY LATIMER, who for the greater part of his life of 76 years was resident in this parish, and won the respect of all classes. He was essentially a courteous, upright *gentleman*, God-fearing and true. He set a noble example of bearing crushing misfortune with cheerful courage; and few persons we believe had lived with more realizing faith in the presence and love of God the Father, or died with less fear or self-reproach.

Digby's widow, Harriet, outlived her husband by eight years: she died, aged 84, in 1892 and was buried in the same grave as Digby on 2 August that year.

J. R. Mallam sold the contents of their house in Church Lane at an auction on 21 September 1892. These included 'valuable antique furniture, old china and glass, well-made modern furniture, carpets, pictures, electro-plated articles, cutler, glass, china, and household effects'.

[38] Unfortunately in 1861 and 1871 he was away from Headington on census night. so it is not easy to ascertain how he described himself over the next twenty years.

[39] The bankruptcy of Digby Latimer and George Latimer is reported in *The Times* of 25 January 1871, p. 8, col. a.

[40] At the time of the 1881 census Digby was staying at Lee in Kent with Frederick Pemberton Koe, whose eldest son was presumably named Digby Latimer Koe after him. Mary Latimer in her will describes Koe as her 'friend'.

6. George Burton Potts Latimer (1809–1870)

The diarist's fourth surviving brother, George, was born on 28 June 1809, and baptised at All Saints Church, Oxford on 18 February 1811. He was sent to board at Park Hill School in Bath on 28 January 1819, when he was nine years old, and then followed Digby to Westminster School, where he was admitted on 24 September 1822, becoming a King's Scholar in 1824.

George matriculated at the University of Oxford on 3 July 1828, aged 19, and obtained his BA at Pembroke College in 1833, but did not collect his MA until 1852. On 23 July 1832 (while still at college), George was made a Freeman of the City of Oxford.

By 1839 George had become a clergyman, and by the time of the 1841 census he was Curate of Tynemouth in Northumberland and staying in Church Road, Tynemouth with an independent lady called Mary Bradshaw and her daughter Mary (15) and son Benjamin (13). In the fourth quarter of 1841 George married in Tynemouth **MARY BRADSHAW**, who was born in North Shields. [41] (Mary was older than his landlady's daughter of that name, but is likely to have been a relation.)

George and Mary had just one surviving child, Elizabeth, who was born in the Tynemouth area in 1844/5.[42] (There may have been other children who died, but there are too many births registered in the Tynemouth district in the relevant period of 1842 to 1848.)

On his father's death in 1845, George inherited two one-twelfth shares in the Headington estate as well as his father's estate in Birmingham, and 'the advowson and next presentation to St Paul's Chapel Birmingham together with the house and premises and everything belonging to the said Chapel'. He thus became perpetual curate of St Paul's in Birmingham in 1848, and *Crockford's Directory* for 1860 shows that the population of his parish was 14,403, and his income £250 per year (plus a house).

The 1851 census shows George (47) and Mary (45) living at 42 St Paul's Square, Birmingham with their five-year-old daughter Elizabeth and three servants. By 1861 Mary had died, and George was living with Elizabeth, now 15, and two servants at 1 Brook Street, Birmingham. In that year, together with J.S. Pollock, he published his only book, *Pastoral Advice of the Rev. John Wesley, extracted from his works*

On 22 February 1866, at the age of 55, George married his second wife, **ELIZABETH SARAH CLARK**, third daughter of William Clark of Bedford Hall in Northumberland,[43] and the following year he left St Paul's. Possibly he and his wife went to Bengeo, a town just to the north of Hertford: the *Headington Parish Magazine* of June 1869 lists a 'George Latimer of Bengeo' as generously giving £5 to the St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund.

George died at Northumberland in 1870 at the age of 61.[44] His bankruptcy as a chemical agent was reported in the *London Gazette* on 24 January the following year.

---

[41] Marriage registered in the Tynemouth district, Vol. 25, p. 426.

[42] Birth registered in the Tynemouth district first quarter of 1845, reference wrongly transcribe in Free BMD.

[43] *Record of Old Westminsters*.

[44] Death registered second quarter in the Tynemouth district, Vol. 10b, p. 101.

7. Charles Latimer (1810–1844)

The diarist's fifth surviving brother, Charles, was born on 28 August 1810 and baptised at All Saints Church, Oxford on 18 February 1811. He was sent to board at Park Hill School in Bath with his brother George on 28 January 1819, when he was eight years old. On 27 May 1823 followed Digby and George to Westminster School, where he was made a King's Scholar in 1824.

The *Record of Old Westminsters* states baldly '*left* 1826'. He would only have been 16 at the time. He does not appear to have gone to university like his four older brothers and his two younger brothers Sturman and William, but went straight into the law. He was made a Freeman of the City of Oxford on 23 July 1832.

On 10 March 1836 Charles emigrated to Upper Canada and was active in the reform agitation of 1837. He was in consequence sent to prison in December that year, but was acquitted of treason in the spring of 1838.

He then went to the USA, where he joined the Patriot cause, working on a scheme to encourage Canadian emigration, and in1839 he was admitted to the Illinois bar. He died in violent circumstances in Wisconsin on 23 February 1844, when he was aged only 33. A report in *The Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette* on Saturday, June 29, 1844 (p. 1, cols. 2–3) gives a sanitized version of his death:

DEATH OF CHARLES LATIMER, ESQ. IN THE UNITED STATES

Several weeks since a rumour reached Oxford that Mr. Charles Latimer, son of Edward Latimer, Esq., of Heddington House, near this city, had fallen in one of those fatal affrays which are the disgrace of some portions of the United States. The intelligence not having come in a definite form, hopes were entertained that the rumour was unfounded; but it is with the most painful regret that we announce that Mr. C. Latimer met with a sudden and violent death on the 23rd day of February last, by a rifle shot, at Mineral Point, in the territory of Winsconsin [sic]. We have now before us an American paper, which reports the proceedings of a meeting held in consequence of Mr. Latimer's death, to vindicate his memory, and express the strong affection of his friends. We have also an authenticated copy of resolutions entered upon the records of the District Court, which set forth the feelings of the Bench and Bar on this painful event, and record the high esteem entertained for the deceased; one of the resolutions being couched in the following terms:—

'That in the death of Charles Latimer society has lost a worthy member, the Bar one of its brightest ornaments, and his brothers of the bar a cherished and esteemed friend.'

This tragical affair is veiled in mystery. Of the circumstances which led to it nothing is known here beyond the vaguest rumour, and from the Report to which we have referred, it would appear, that even on the spot the facts are unknown, and that it is attempted to screen the living at the expense of the dead. Under these distressing and mysterious circumstances it is some consolation to those in this city who loved and honoured Charles Latimer, for his high integrity and generous nature, to find that those in America who best knew his character, and were in habits of intercourse with him, are strongest in their expressions of admiration and esteem.

Mr Charles Latimer united in his own person a rare combination of qualities. He possessed a sound mind in a sound body. His mental powers were broad and massive, and his acquirements and information extensive. He had great decision of character; and though his will was powerful, and his feelings strong, he was remarkable for coolness and self-possession. He was ingenuous and candid in the highest degree, and his kindly and cheerful spirit endeared him to those who enjoyed his unrestrained intercourse and intimacy. Mr. Latimer was educated at Westminster School, and after remaining about five years in Oxford, emigrated to the United States, and having devoted

himself to the study of the law was practising with honour and success when his carer was cut short by the murderous rifle, probably owing to some private or political dispute, but of which nothing is known with certainty. Mr. Latimer was in his 31st year.

The following extract from the *Milwaukee Journal* of 27 March 1921 suggests that Charles was responsible for his own death

Stories of Old Wisconsin No. 48: A Duel at Old Potosi

… A typical affray of the lead mines was the killing of Charles Latimer, at Potosi, in 1844. Latimer was a lawyer by profession, who had fled from Canada to escape punishment for his activities in the so-called Patriots' war. At Potosi he speedily gained the reputation of a good citizen and honest man, although his manner was considered arrogant and overbearing.

There was a large foreign element in the lead mines, and deep feeling was manifested over the question of the rights of aliens to participate in governmental affairs…. In Potosi, in the winter of 1844, a popular mass meeting was held, over which Latimer presided as chairman: a memorial to congress was drawn up, and a petition was prepared to the territorial legislature asking that aliens be permitted to vote for delegates to the constitutional convention then impending. Despite severe weather and "dangerous traveling", a large assemblage gathered to consider this "subject of all-absorbing interest". Out of this heated atmosphere grew the killing of Latimer shortly after.

Before a Saturday night barroom crowd, Latimer was heatedly holding forth on the vexed subject of the right of foreigners to vote after a three months' residence. His observations upon the character and peculiarities of the native Americans provoked such feeling that a brawl ensued and Latimer was severely beaten. Sunday morning, Gloster (who had first knocked Latimer down) went to him with an apology, admitting that his conduct was overhasty. The two parted with friendship seemingly restored.

Latimer brooded over his treatment, however, and on Monday sent Col. White (another participant in the brawl) a note challenging him to a personal combat. White accepted and a meeting was arranged for the following morning with Gloster as White's second and one Kaltenback as the second of Latimer.

Before dawn all the parties to the proposed duel were arrested and held on bail. This interference, however, merely caused them to change the place of meeting from Wisconsin to Iowa territory. White and Latimer crossed the Mississippi intent on slaying one another, but mutual friends succeeded in patching up a truce at the last moment and thus the second chapter of the affair, "deeply stained with riot and disgrace, ended".

All would now have been well had not Latimer become convinced that Gloster intended to do him further injury. Reports were brought to him by industrious busybodies that Gloster was making threats against him, until, goaded to desperation, he determined to end the situation once for all. Saturday morning, armed with a pistol, he went in search of Gloster.

The latter soon appeared on the street, when Latimer asked if he was armed. Gloster said he was not, but soon would be. Passing on to the saloon he procured and loaded a gun, while Latimer walked excitedly up and down in the street. In a few minutes Gloster reappeared, announced that he was ready, and the two men began shooting. At Gloster's second shot Latimer fell mortally wounded.

A justice's court of inquiry speedily acquitted Gloster of blame and ordered him discharged. But the neighboring Lancaster paper commented warmly on the conduct of the magistrate, who by enforcing the violated bail might readily have prevented the tragedy, while it feelingly lamented that the affray "will be quoted from Dan to Beersheba as a sample of the morals of the mines".

.

8. Sturman Latimer (1812–1892)

The diarist's sixth surviving brother, Sturman, was born in Oxford on 4 January 1812. He and Louisa are the only Latimer children whose baptisms are not recorded at All Saints Church. He boarded with his brothers at Park Hill School in Bath and then followed Digby, George, and Charles to Westminster School, where he was admitted on 15 June 1824, becoming a King's Scholar two years later.

Sturman was the only brother to go to the University of Cambridge, being admitted to Trinity College at the age of 18 on 2 June 1830 and matriculating the following Michaelmas Term. He obtained his BA in 1834. He trained as a lawyer, and initially went to Liverpool.

Under his father's will in 1845, Sturman inherited a mortgage worth £3500, and a one-twelfth share in his Headington estate. On 5 May 1849 he was made a Freeman of the City of Oxford at the age of 37. At this point he seemed to be hanging around in Oxford with no employment and no wife. But in 1849 his brother John died and left him an annuity "in the hope that this addition to his own income for a few years may induce him to marry and resume in earnest the practice of his profession". The next year (8 August 1850) Sturman married **EMMA JARRETT LYNE** (1816–1888), the younger sister of his brother Digby's wife Harriet and described by his brother John in his will as his 'friend'. Sturman and Emma were married near Bath and were living in St Andrew's Lane, Headington (possibly at Unity House) by the time of the 1851 census. Sturman had obviously also swiftly followed John's other injunction, as he is described as an 'attorney and solicitor'. By 1853 he had an office at 41½ Queen Street, Oxford.[45] He rented The Rookery from the Finch family until 1857, and then moved to Old High Street (probably No. 84).

By 1871 his wife's sister Miss Celia Cregoe Lyne had moved from Digby's house to theirs: she was to remain with them until her death at the age of 70 in 1885. In the 1871 census Sturman is described as a 'solicitor and landowner', and in the *Return of Owners of Land* of 1873 he is listed as owning 27 acres and 2 perches in Headington, with a gross estimated rental of £83.

Sturman had no children, but he may have been the guardian of his orphaned godchild and second cousin Georgina Jane Latimer, who was baptised at the age of ten at Holy Trinity Church in Headington Quarry on 17 August 1873.

By the time of the 1881 census, Sturman is listed as retired. His wife died on 17 May 1888, and in 1891 he lived alone in his house with two servants.

Sturman and his wife Emma also immersed themselves in good works in Headington: in 1858 Sturman joined in establishing a reading room in Headington, and in 1869 Emma was the Lady Visitor for twenty houses in Old High Street. On Tuesday 12 May 1870 the Bishop of Oxford, his curate, and the clergy of five parishes met at his house before processing to St Andrew's Church for a special confirmation service, and were entertained by him to luncheon afterwards.[46] He was a Trustee/Manager of Headington National School from at least 1873 to 1892. In 1868/9 and again from 1874 to 1878 he was the Churchwarden at St Andrew's, presumably having taken over the job from his older brother Digby. In 1882, however, he declined to serve again as Churchwarden, but was re-elected as a member of the Burial Board:[47]

[45] *Lascelle's Oxfordshire Directory*, 1853. No. 41 was on the north side of Queen Street, near Carfax. The building was demolished in the 1980s in order to create the Queen Street entrance to the Clarendon Centre.

[46] *Headington Parish Magazine*, May 1870.

[47] *Headington Parish Magazine*, May 1882.

perhaps he helped to persuade his sister Mary to sell some of her land for the much-needed new cemetery which opened in Dunstan Road in 1885.

On 17 May 1888 Sturman's wife Emma died, aged 72. She was buried in St Andrew's churchyard five days later.

The last of many references to Sturman in the *Headington Parish Magazine* is in June 1892, when (still a Manager of the Headington National School at the age of 80) he signed a testimonial to the Mistress of the Girls' School, Miss Elizabeth Drake, who was leaving to marry John Mattock the rose-grower. On the 24th of that month Sturman, the longest-surviving of the Latimer siblings, was dead. He was buried beside his wife at St Andrew's Church, Headington on 29 June 1892: their grave is near Digby's.

9. William Latimer (1813–1881)

The diarist's seventh surviving brother, William, was born in Oxford on 12 May 1813 and baptised at All Saints Church on 15 July 1814.

William boarded at Park Hill School in Bath and followed his brothers Edward and Digby to Lincoln College, Oxford, matriculating on 4 March 1830, aged 16. He was an exhibitioner there from 1831 to 1839, obtaining his BA in 1833.

By 1840 he had followed his older brother George into the church, as in that year an entry in the baptism register of St Andrew's Church reads: 'By certificate from the Revd William Latimer'.

In 1845, under his father's will, he inherited jointly with his sister Louisa business premises and three adjacent properties in All Saints parish, as well as a one-twelfth share in the Headington estate.

When the Latimers sold their land to the south of the London Road in 1848, William bought back a ten-acre field to the north-west of Windmill Road (now occupied by Kennett Road), and this resulted in the unusual L-shape of New Headington village, which was laid out in the early 1850s. The *Return of Owners of Land* of 1873 lists William as owning a total of 34 acres 3 roods and 14 perches in Headington, with a gross estimated rental of £69-10s: this means that he must have purchased other land in addition to this field. In 1878 he first attempted to sell the site of the present Kennett Road as building land for a gentleman's mansion, but on 5 November that year sold it to William Banting,[48] and it was used for agricultural purposes. It was not developed until the 1920s.

William had a curacy at Broughton near Banbury, and later in Lambeth. In 1852 he was married at Godmanster Church, Huntingdonshire to **SARAH MATILDA PEARSE**, the eldest daughter of the Revd William Pearce, Rector of Hanwell, Oxfordshire. [49] They had two children in Lambeth in the mid-1850s: William Lawford Latimer and Catherine.

William had retired from being a clergyman by 1860,[50] and the family of four returned from London to Headington, living in Old High Street, and n the 1861 and 1871 censuses William is listed there, described as a 'Clergyman without cure of souls'.

On 31 December 1864 *Jackson's Oxford Journal* reported on the inquest on a male child born to William Latimer's servant Sarah Waltham while he was performing duty at Forest Hill. He and his wife returned at 10pm, finding Sarah in bed. Mrs Latimer was suspicious and they called for the constable, who found the child in their water closet. Sarah Waltham was placed under police surveillance, where she died, aged 22.

William Latimer's wife Sarah died at the age of 47 on 10 July 1867, leaving him a widower with two teenage children.

---

[48] The indenture relating to this sale is listed in the deeds to houses in Kennett Road, which was eventually built on William Latimer's land. William Banting was probably one and the same as the Bayswater miller of that name: this represents a reversal of fortune, since the Latimers once owned Bayswater Mill.

[49] Marriage announced in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* on 2 October 1852.

[50] Unlike his brothers Edward and George, he is not listed in *Crockford's Directory* for that year.

Like his brothers, William engaged in good works. The Headington Parish Magazine for May 1876 records:

> The Headington People will be glad to hear that the delightful Spelling Bee, held in the School Room last Monday, "cleared" more than eleven pounds. The Rev. W. Latimer, as Chairman, traced the history of Spelling Bees, showing how they crossed the Atlantic to this Country. He dwelt upon the educational advantages to be gained by all attempts of gatherings, such as the one before him, to educate themselves by Bees of different kinds.

His daughter Kate won second prize (a cruet-stand) in that spelling bee.

In 1877, at the age of 64 William took up paid employment again, and was Chaplain to the Headington Union Workhouse for four years until his death.

William inherited Church House (16 St Andrew's Road) from his sister Caroline in the mid-1880s; but less than a year later, on 23 May 1881,[51] he himself died, aged 68, and his son sold Church House almost immediately. William was buried in his wife's grave at St Andrew's Church, Headington, on 30 May 1881: the grave is to the immediate left of the side path from St Andrew's Lane.

[51] *Alumni Oxonienses* gives the date of his death as 5 May 1881, but this must be a mistake.

10. Frederic Latimer (1814–1870)

The diarist's youngest and eighth surviving brother, Frederic, was born in Oxford on 11 July 1814 and baptised on 15 July at All Saints Church.

Frederic boarded at Park Hill School in Bath with his brothers, and may have gone to an Oxford day-school after that. He was not destined for university, and it was probably always intended that he should take over his father's wine business in the High Street.

Frederic was made a Freeman of the City of Oxford on 13 July 1838, and was probably already running the shop for his father, gaining total control on his death in 1845. In 1846 he put an advertisement in Hunt's Oxford Directory for 'Frederic Latimer & Co., Wine & Spirit Merchants, 11 & 12 High Street, Oxford' (see picture on next page). Under his father's will, he received two one-twelfth shares in the Headington estate, and his estate at Holloway near Birmingham consisting of land and ground rents.

Frederic married **MARY ANN ELIZABETH JONES** (usually called Marianne) in December 1846 at Edgeworth in Gloucestershire (where her uncle was vicar). Mary Ann was the daughter of George Jones, who was the fourth son of Roynon Jones of Nass, who lived at Rodleys Manor near Lydney.

Between 1847 and 1864 Frederic and Mary had thirteen children baptised at St Andrew's Church, Headington (of whom six died in infancy). Between 1856 and 1860 they lived at Church House (14 St Andrew's Road). Marianne's mother, Mrs Elizabeth Ann Jones, also came to live in Headington: she can be found lodging with John Medcalf the blacksmith and his wife at the time of the 1851 census.

Frederic became involved in public life in Headington, and in 1859 he was one of the two Surveyors of the Highways there. He was also Churchwarden of St Andrew's in 1867.

At the end of the 1860s Frederic and his family moved to 53 (now numbered 123) Iffley Road, which was then in the parish of Cowley St John. Frederic died there soon afterward in 1870 at the age of 56, and his body was brought back to Headington for burial at St Andrew's Church on 9 September 1870. Frederic's widow, Marianne, moved to the present 123 Iffley Road by 1875, and to 117 Iffley Road (with her spinster daughter Caroline) by 1891; on 21 February 1895 she was buried at St Andrew's Church, 25 years after her husband. There is no sign at the church today of their tomb, or those of their children.

The Latimer family wine business was taken over by Frederic's eldest son, Edward Hugh Latimer.[52] He went into partnership with James Hinton Tustin and for a short while the business was known as Latimer, Tustin & Co. The business soon became insolvent, and the first meeting of creditors was held on 29 June 1874. On 25 March 1875 the Reverend William Latimer and others sold the premises at 10–12 High Street to the Vice-Chancellor and others for £8,300.[53] Edward Hugh Latimer died in June 1876 at the age of 28 and Mrs Latimer (possibly Edward's mother rather than his wife) is listed as a wine & spirit merchant at 11 High Street in 1880 only, and then Mr J. Long, another wine merchant, is listed in directories from 1882.

[52] At the baptism of two of his children in All Saints Church in 1873 and 1874 he is described as a wine merchant at 11 High Street.

[53] H. E. Salter, *Oxford City Properties* (Oxf. Hist. Soc., 1926), p. 379. Valters' Oxford Post Office Directory still lists Mrs Latimer (presumably Edward Hugh's young widow) as a wine and spirit merchant there in 1880, but is probably just not up to date with the facts.

11. Caroline Stephens Latimer (Mrs Caroline Latimer Nichol (1816–1880)

Caroline was born on 26 October 1816 and she and her twin sister Emily were baptised at All Saints Church, Oxford on 4 January 1817. (Emily died soon after her first birthday.)

Caroline married her first cousin, **JOHN LATIMER NICHOL**,[54] a merchant, on 11 July 1838 at St Andrew's Church Headington. Although she was the second youngest child, she was the first of the twelve Latimer children to marry (and indeed the only one of the four daughters to marry at all). They first lived at Dowgate Wharf in London,[55] but later moved to Norwood in Surrey. They do not appear to have had any children.

In 1845 Caroline Latimer Nichol (as she was known) and her husband each inherited a one-twelfth share in the Headington estate. From 1848 Caroline cared for her elder sister Jane, as her father's will had enjoined, and her younger unmarried sister Louisa also came to live with her. Her brother John died at her house at 6 The Crescent, Camberwell Grove, in February 1849.

The 1851 census shows Caroline (34) living at 6 The Crescent with her husband John Nichol (43), who is described as a merchant of chemical products, and her sisters Jane (43) and Louisa (32), and four servants.

By the time of the 1861 census, the same family group was living with three servants at 1 Stafford Villas, De Crespigny Park, Camberwell.

John Latimer Nichol died at the age of 55 on 6 November 1863, and Caroline continued to live in Norwood with her two sisters. They can all be seen living at 113 Camberwell Grove at the time of the 1871 census.

But on the death of Jane in 1872, Caroline came back to Headington with Louisa, buying Church House (16 St Andrew's Road) from Frederick's creditors. She renamed it "De Crespigny Lodge" after her previous London home.

Mrs Caroline Latimer Nichol died at the age of 65 on 25 June 1880. She was buried at St Andrew's Church on 29 June 1880: her grave is to the south of the ancient cross, alone and away from the rest of her family.

Caroline left De Crespigny Lodge (Church House) to her brother William, and its contents were removed and sold at the Corn Exchange in Oxford by Mallam's on 19/20 October 1881 in about 700 lots.

---

[54] John Latimer Nichol, baptised at Gateshead on 10 September 1807, was the son of Anthony Nichol JP of Newcastle and Edward Latimer's older sister Elizabeth. John Nichol's unmarried sister Miss Mary Ann (1816–1896) was a well-known Headington character: she lived at Jessamine or Jesmond Cottage (83 Old High Street) and provided the money for the building of the British Workman.

[55] Dowgate Wharf is the address given for John Latimer Nichol on the 1848 indenture selling the land for New Headington village. Dowgate Hill is near the Thames in London EC4.

12. Louisa Latimer (1818–1873)

The diarist's youngest sibling, Louisa, was born on 6 April 1818, after the commencement of the diary. She was privately baptised just after three in the morning on 17 July 1818, when her family feared she was dying.

Louisa never married, and lived with her parents until their deaths. In 1845 Louisa inherited a one-twelfth share in her father's Headington estate jointly with her brother William..

She appears to have remained in Headington House with Mary and Jane until it was sold in 1848 and then (together with Jane) went to live with her married sister Caroline in Norwood, Surrey. She can be seen living with Caroline in the 1851, 1861, and 1871 censuses

After her sister Jane's death in 1872, Louisa returned to Headington with Caroline to live with her in De Crespigny Lodge or Church House (16 St Andrew's Road). She died on 17 December the next year at the age of 55, Her death was reported thus in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* on Saturday, December 20, 1873:

> Dec. 17, at De Crespigny Lodge, HEADINGTON, after many years of acute-suffering, Louisa, youngest daughter of the late Edward Latimer, Esq., of Headington, Oxon.

Louisa was buried in St Andrew's churchyard, Headington, on 20 December 1873. There is no obvious gravestone.

The next generation of Latimers

Of the twelve Latimer children who survived to adulthood, only four married. Of these, George, William, and Frederic had children, but Caroline had none.

Mary Latimer mentions a niece called **Mrs Adelaide Allen** in her will, but it is unclear which of her siblings was Adelaide's father (or mother).

Children of George Burton Potts Latimer (1809–1871)

and his first wife Mary:

- **Elizabeth Adelaide Latimer**, born 1844/5 in Tynemouth, Northumberland and registered simply as Elizabeth Latimer, was born in North Shields on 19 February 1846 and baptised at Tynemouth on 13 April. On 30 December 1871 at St John's parish church, Ladywood, Warwickshire she married **John Barrow Allen**. They had two children: Mary Georgina Allen and John Cecil Allen. She died in Cheltenham in 1885.

Children of William Latimer (1813–1881)

and his wife Sarah Matilda:

- **William Lawford Latimer** (born at Lambeth in 1853) was staying in Headington with his father and sister at the time of the 1881 census: he was then 27, and described as a law student, and apparently living in Wheatley. His father died a month later, and he inherited Church House from him and immediately sold it to Thomas King of 85 St Aldate's. On 22 September 1881 at St Mary's Church, Witney, he married Emma Dale, the daughter of the innkeeper Thomas Dale. William died less than three years later at the age of 30 on 22 January 1884.
- **Catherine Emily Latimer**, known as Kate (born at Coldharbour Lane, Lambeth in. 1855 and baptised at St Giles' Church Camberwell on 21 December that year) lived with her widower father until her marriage to George Edward Brockholes Parker (also known as Moon-Parker) at St Andrew's Church in Headington on 8 January 1884. Kate died suddenly in Montreal, Canada on 1 November 1900, and her husband died in Beirut in 1919.

Children of Frederic Latimer (1814–1870)

Frederic and his wife Mary Ann Elizabeth Jones had the following fifteen children, of whom only seven reached adulthood:

- **Edward Hugh Latimer** (1847–1876) married Anne Luker, and they had four children: Annie (1871–1873); Alice Gertrude (b. 1873); Frederick Digby, known as Digby (b. 1874), and Violet Edwardine (b. 1877). Edward died at the age of 29 and was buried at All Saints Church on 28 June 1876, and by 1881 Annie had taken her three surviving children to live with her younger brother Walter Luker and his wife in St Mary's Road, East Oxford. Walter was a college bedmaker, known to the family as 'Filthy Luker'.
- **Unnamed son**, born on 12 June 1848 at Mary Ann's mother's house at Rodleys Manor House, Gloucestershire, who only survived a few hours
- **Stillborn daughter**, born in Headington on 16 May 1849, announced in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*
- **Frederick Nichol Latimer** (1850–1891). Married Edith, but appears to have had no children. At the time of the 1881 census, when he was 30, he and his wife were living in Warwickshire at the Brewery Stores, 71 Warwick Street, Leamington Priors. Frederick was then described as a brewery agent, and his unmarried brother D'Oyley was living with him.
- **Caroline Emily Latimer** (1853–1896) did not marry, and was living at 53 (now 123) Iffley Road with her mother at the time of the 1881 census, with her occupation given as a governess. She later lived with her mother at 50 (now 117) Iffley Road. Caroline had inherited all the portraits of the Latimer family, leaving the portrait of their grandfather Edward Latimer to her brother Roynon, and all the rest to her sister Mrs Florence de Spear. Her mother was buried at St Andrew's Church on 21 February 1895 and she was buried there the next year, on 31 October 1896. Her estate on her death totalled £2,968.16.7 net.
- **Florence Marian Latimer** (1853–1941) married in 1877 **Hugh de Spear** (born Udy Spear in St Issey, Cornwall in 1838), who was matriculated at the University of Oxford at the age of 32 on 15 October 1870. By 1881 he was headmaster of the High School in Barnsley, Yorkshire. They were at Sipson, Slough in 1896, and at Yarnton in Oxfordshire in 1901. They had no children.
- **Fortunata Latimer** was baptised at All Saints on 21 April 1855 and buried there on 31 August 1855
- **Adeline Frances Latimer** and **Julia Blanche Latimer** (probably twins) were both were baptised at All Saints 30 March 1856, and they were buried St Andrew's on 4 April 1856 and 2 July 1858 respectively.
- **Harriet Digby Latimer** was baptised at St Andrew's on 15 July 1857 and buried there on 29 September 1857.
- **Louisa Frederique Latimer** (1858–1891+) married the Revd William George Rouse (eldest son of Felix Rouse, of Rouse Leuch, Worcestershire) at St Mary Mag-

dalene Church, Bayswater, on 9 October 1879, and they had two children: Aubrey Charles Felix Rouse (b.1880) and Mary Constance Rouse.

- **Roynon Jones Washington Latimer** (1859–1930) was the only one of Frederic's children to go to university, supported by his uncle Digby. He matriculated from St Alban Hall, Oxford, on 4 February 1881, and at the time of the census two months later he was an assistant master at Carlton House School (now 239/241 Iffley Road), boarding there with the schoolmaster and his family, another assistant master, and 19 boys. In 1890 Roynon became curate of Wilsford with Woodford in Wiltshire. He married Louisa Annie McLintock, and they had three children: Gladys Latimer (Mrs Carey) (1887–1979); Dorothy Probyn Latimer (1887–1960); and Roynon Digby Nevill Latimer (1890–1928). In 1929 Roynon was Rector of Whitsbury (then in Wiltshire, now in Hampshire).
- **Constance Latimer** was baptised at St Andrew's on 23 August 1860 and buried there five days later.
- **Robert Bruce Latimer** was baptised at St Andrew's on 6 November 1862 and buried there on 17 December 1862
- **D'Oyley Fleetwood Latimer** (1864–1891+) was living with his brother Frederick in Leamington Priors, Warks in 1881, when he was 17, described as having no employment.

The Jones family

Thomas Jones, a fishmonger[56] of the High Street in All Saints parish, married **Elizabeth Cary** of Kidlington at All Saints Church on 20 August 1732. Their children were as follows:

- **Anne Jones** (no evidence of baptism, would expect 1733). *Jackson's Oxford Journal* says she was buried on 7 November 1778.
- **Margaret Jones** (no evidence of baptism, would expect 1734). Probably the one of that name buried at All Saints on 22 June 1791.
- **Elizabeth Jones** baptised at All Saints on 28 March 1735. Probably the one of that name buried at All Saints on 29 June 1808.
- **Thomas Jones** (baptised at All Saints on 1 March 1736) married Elizabeth Yates or Yeats of St Aldate's at All Saints on 23 September 1769. One of the witnesses is the goldsmith Edward Lock. (He may be the Thomas Jones, grocer, elected on to council in 1772 and a Chamberlain from 1774 to 1801+.) Their son **Richard Yeats Jones**, was baptised at All Saints on 10 June 1770.
- **Jane Jones** (no evidence of baptism, would expect c.1738).* Probably the woman of that name buried at All Saints on 31 May 1805.
- **MARY JONES** (baptised at All Saints on 27 April 1741) became Lady of the Manor of Heddington. *See separate entry below*.
- **James Jones** (baptised at All Saints on 26 May 1743). Probably the man of that name with a wife called Phoebe whose son James was baptised at All Saints Church on 28 January 1776.
- **WILLIAM JONES** (baptised at All Saints on 28 September 1748) and father of Mrs Elizabeth Latimer. S*ee separate entry below*.

Thomas Jones died when his eldest child was only 12 and probably before his youngest child had been born, and was buried at All Saints on 23 December 1747. It is understood that William Jackson paid for the three boys, Thomas, James, and William, to be sent away to school, but this is unconfirmed.

Mrs Jones continued to run the fish shop (which was also the post coach office) with the help of her four eldest daughters Anne, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Jane, none of whom married. Mrs Jones died intestate and was buried at All Saints on 9 April 1773, and her four daughters continued to run the shop. In 1775 they moved it to 16 High Street: this row of shop in front of the market (which had just opened) was known as New Parade.

[56] He was a university fishmonger, but is not listed in *Alumni Oxonienses* as having matriculated as a tradesman

Miss Mary Jones (Lady of the Manor of Heddington)

Mary Jones, the aunt of Mrs Elizabeth Latimer, was baptised at All Saints Church on 27 April 1741. She never married, and went to work for William Jackson, founder of *Jackson's Oxford Journal* and Lord of the Manor of Heddington. It is possible that she was Jackson's maid Mary, referred to by Parson Woodforde in his diaries in 1763, who reserved copies of the Journal for him twice when he was away. Jackson left her Headington House and land in Headington by his will of April 1793:

> To **Mary Jones** of the parish of All Saints in the City of Oxford daughter of the late Thomas Jones of the same place fishmonger I give my dwelling and its appurtenances with the two brick tenements abutting thereon westward these all three freehold. I also give to her the said **Mary Jones** my New Built premises at Headington in the County of Oxford [Headington House]. The House, gardens, and part of the Pleasure Ground are Copyhold ...held under Henry Whorwood Esquire and surrendered to the use of my Will. The Stabling Barn and the rest of the Pleasure Ground are freehold. I also give to the said **Mary Jones** all my furniture plate and linen both at Oxford and Headington Together with the Copyhold farm rented by Joseph Holly also surrendered to the use of my Will. To **Elizabeth** and **Jane Jones** sisters of the said Mary Jones I give and bequeath one hundred pounds each. To the before named **Mary Jones** I also give my leasehold farm at Barton occupied by William Serman and one thousand pounds in money

This increases the share left to her in an earlier, superseded will written in 1775 when Mary Jones was aged 34, and before Headington House was built. Three earlier beneficiaries (Jackson's brother Joshua and Mary's sisters Anne and Margaret Jones) had died in the 18-year gap between the wills.

William Jackson was buried on 28 April 1795 at All Saints Church. His short obituary appeared in a box with black borders on page 3 of Jackson's Oxford Journal for Saturday 25 April 1795:

> Died on Wednesday Morning last, aged upwards of Seventy, William Jackson, Esq. Proprietor & Publisher of this Journal ever since its first Establishment – In his publick Characterisation his Loss will be long felt – In private Life he was warm in his Attachments, and sincere in his Friendships.

Jackson's will was proved on 5 June 1795. Jackson's sister, Mrs Sarah Grimshaw, who died in 1804,[57] inherited Nos. 10–12 High Street (the printing office of *Jackson's Oxford Journal* was at No. 12) when her brother died, but she immediately conveyed them to Mary Jones.[58]

[57] *Jackson's Oxford Journal* for 22 September 1804 reports on the death of Mrs Sarah Grimshaw of Wellclose House, Leeds.

[58] H. E. Salter, *Oxford City Properties* (Oxf. Hist. Soc., 1926), p. 379.

The 1804 Headington Enclosure Award document states: "Mary Jones, Spinster, is Lady of the Manor of Heddington, in the said Parish of Headington", and summarizes her land thus:

JONES, **Mary** in lieu of freehold lands:	**No.**	**Acres**	**Roods**	**Perches**	**Skin**
1st allotment	2	8	2	13	7
2nd allotment	25	26	1	37	7
3rd allotment	89	17	3	24	7
4th allotment	27	0	3	13	7
5th allotment	84	0	2	4	7
JONES, **Mary** in lieu of copyhold lands under Headington Manor	93	16	3	11	7
JONES, **Mary** in lieu of other copyhold lands under Headington Manor	72	13	0	20	8
JONES, **Mary** in lieu of other copyhold lands under Headington Manor: two allotments:					
1st	74	3	1	19	8
2nd	67	1	1	15	8
JONES, **Mary** in lieu of other copyhold lands under Headington Manor	92	23	3	20	8
JONES, **Mary** in lieu of copyhold Cottage Common under Headington Manor	73	2	3	3	8
JONES, **Mary**, Lessee of Magdalen College:					
1st allotment	91	9	1	11	8
2nd allotment	48	56	2	28	8
3rd allotment	44	13	2	29	78
4th allotment	42	13	1	0	8

On 13 June 1815, two months before her death, Mary Jones wrote a will, leaving all her personal property to Edward Latimer and Elizabeth his wife, except for some smaller bequests, including £5000 each to Elizabeth's brother Thomas and her sister Mary Ann, and to another nephew, James Jones of Bath (probably the son of her brother James). Two of the three people who witnesses her will were Oxford printers by profession (Charles Haldon and Jonathan Lowndes). *Jackson's Oxford Journal* of 12 August 1815 reported: 'On Wednesday last died, at her house in the High-street, in this city, after a short illness, Mrs. Mary Jones, stationer, much respected by a numerous circle of friends.'

Mary Jones's will (PRO PROB 11/1572, folio 16) was proved on 31 August 1815. She made the Revd Dr Tatham of Lincoln College (mentioned in the Latimer diaries) Trustee of her Will.

William Jones (father of Mrs Elizabeth Latimer)

William (baptised at All Saints on 28 September 1748, probably posthumously) was Mary Jones's brother, and the father of Mrs Elizabeth Latimer. He was taken on as an apprentice goldsmith by George Tonge (son of a fisherman) for seven years on 5 January 1763.[59] On 6 April 1771 William announced in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* that he was a working goldsmith/jeweller, and that he had opened a shop in High Street opposite Mrs Jones, fishmonger (his mother). He served on the council from 1772, was Chamberlain in 1790, then fades from council records. In 1775 he moved his shop to New Parade (probably 15 High Street, which was just five doors to the west of his sisters' fish shop).

[59] See entry on William Jones in Natalie Hansen, *Oxford Goldsmiths before 1800*, pp. 142–4.

On 28 January 1772 William married Mary Forty (born 22 November 1749) at St Michael's Church. She was the only daughter of William Forty (a butcher of St Michael's parish) and his wife Mary. They had the following children:

- **William Jones**, bapt. St Michael at the Northgate 12 October 1772, buried at All Saints on 14 October 1772.
- **Elizabeth Jones (Mrs Latimer)**, bapt. All Saints 25 October 1773.
- **Mary** and **William Jones,** twins, bapt. All Saints 16 April 1775 (both buried there seven days later).
- **Mary Anne Jones (Mrs Cleoburey)**, born 26 October 1776, bapt. All Saints 1 November 1777, died 25 January 1847.[60]
- **Thomas**, baptised on 1 August 1780 at All Saints.[61]

William appears to have gone bankrupt in about 1784 and moved up the street near to St Mary's Church and started again as a milliner; he also sold fishing tackle. It is possible that his wife took over the family fish shop, as the following advertisement appeared in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* for 25 February 1786: 'Mrs Jones, Fishmonger, wants a person who knows how to dress plain victuals, and will undertake the remaining work of the house – small family where a nursemaid is kept.' In early 1786 William's children were aged 13, 9, and 6, and appear to fit the bill.

William Jones does not appear in the burial register of All Saints Church, but he appears to have been dead at the time of his daughter Elizabeth's wedding to Edward Latimer in June 1799, as she was described as 'daughter of Mrs Mary Jones, Tea Dealer, in the High Street'.

Mrs Mary Jones died on 13 July 1822 and was buried at All Saints five days later.

[60] Mrs Cleoburey was very close to Mrs Latimer. At All Saints Church on 14 November 1820 she married William Cleoburey (1793–1853), an Oxford surgeon. He was 27, and she was 44. William was the son of the Revd. John Cleoburey, Vicar of St Helen's Church in Abingdon 1776–1800. His practice was originally in St Aldate's (on the site of the present Museum of Oxford), but in 1822 he was elected Surgeon to the Radcliffe Infirmary and around this time moved to 22 St John Street. He specialized in ophthalmology, and was the first Radcliffe surgeon to be qualified a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. He died in 1853 at the age of 60. His brother Christopher Cleoburey (1794–1863) is also mentioned in the diary: he was a Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford and Rector of Lydiard Millicent in Wiltshire.

[61] Thomas Jones, Esq is described as being of Wendlebury House in the announcement of his marriage to Miss Jane Peake, youngest daughter of Mr Peake of All Saints, where the marriage took place on 12 March 1827. Their only child, Thomas Forty Jones, was born on 4 September 1830 and baptised at Wendlebury on 7 November 1830. He died just before his fifth birthday, and was buried at Wendlebury on 14 July 1835, with his death announced in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*.

Edward Latimer's ancestry

David LATIMER (b.1676), the *great-grandfather of Edward Latimer of Headington*, inherited Holmfoot in Kirklinton, Cumbria through his marriage to the heiress **Margaret GRAHAM** on 24 December 1700. He was buried at Clift, Cumberland on 19 November 1736.

Thomas LATIMER, their son and *Edward's grandfather*, went to Virginia, where he married **Margaret STÜRMAN**. He returned to the United Kingdom, and died of consumption in Dumfries in about 1764, when his son John was only 13.

John LATIMER was *Edward's father*. He was baptised at Anguswell, Kirklinton on 18 May 1749, and married **Elizabeth ROUTLEDGE** (born in Arthuret, Cumberland on 18 December 1750) on 17 April 1770. They had twelve children:

- **John LATIMER** was baptised on 2 July 1771 at Holmfoot, Kirklinton, and inherited Holmfoot in 1794. He married **Elizabeth SKELTON**, and two of their children, both baptised at St Pancras Old Church in London, were as follows:

  Edward Sturman LATIMER, baptised on 28 July 1820

  George Washington LATIMER, baptised on 15 July 1824. George and his wife **Eleanora** were the parents of **Georgina Jane LATIMER**, who was born in 1863 and adopted ten years later by her second cousin Sturman.

- **Thomas LATIMER** was baptised on 23 July 1771.

- **Margaret LATIMER** was baptised on 2 November 1774. She married **Robert FERGUSON** at Kirklinton on 4 July 1812

- **Edward LATIMER** was born on 28 October, and baptised on 3 November 1775

- **Sarah LATIMER** was baptised on 13 March 1777.

- **Mary LATIMER** was baptised on 12 December 1778. She married a Dr Bulley.

- **Sturman LATIMER** was baptised 18 September 1780. He set sail for America, where he was to receive property left by his grandfather, but caught yellow fever at a stop for a few hours on a West Indian island and died on board ship

- **Elizabeth** or **Eliza LATIMER** was baptised on 5 June 1782. In 1805 she married **Anthony NICHOL** of Gateshead at Kirklinton (later described as a J.P. of Newcastle upon Tyne). They were the parents of:

  John Latimer NICHOL, baptised at Gateshead on 10 September 1807. He married his cousin **Caroline LATIMER** on 11 July 1838 at St Andrew's Church Headington, and died at Norwood, Surrey on 6 November 1863. They had no children

  Fanny NICHOL is mentioned in the diaries.

  Elizabeth or Eliza NICHOL, baptised on 26 December 1814 at Kirk Andrews upon Esk, Cumberland.

  Mary Ann NICHOL, born on 16 January 1816 and baptised 16 September 1816 at Kirk Andrews. She did not marry, and came to live in Headington. She died there on 23 August 1896 and was buried at Headington Cemetery in the same grave as her sister Margaret.

  Margaret NICHOL (described as fifth daughter), born on 13 May 1819. She did not marry, and died on 25 October 1891 at Oxford. She was buried at Headington cemetery.

- **Robert Latimer** was born on 26 February 1784 and baptised on 25 February 1785. He did not marry, and died of consumption in 1805 aged 20 (death reported in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*)

- **Eleanor** or **Ellen LATIMER** was baptised on 13 April 1787. She married **John ATKINSON** of Cornhill at St Pancras Church on 26 March 1817. Their children were:

  Eliza, **Ellen**, **Margaret**, and the 'sullen' **Edward ATKINSON**

- **Ann LATIMER** was baptised on 1 February 1789. She did not marry, and died of consumption in 1808 aged 19 at Holmfoot House (death reported in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, with age wrongly given as 17)

- **David LATIMER** was baptised on 25 April 1792. He married Anne **MOODY**, daughter of a Doctor of Medicine, at Kirklinton on 24 March 1825. He was buried on 28 January 1838.

John, the father of Edward Latimer, died of gout at the age of 45 in 1794. His mother Elizabeth died in 1823.