




Who Was Lewis Latimer?

Born in 1848 to self-emancipated Virginians, Lewis Howard Latimer was a Black **inventor** who combined his love of art and science to improve life for others.

Without access to formal education, Lewis Latimer taught himself how to draw and became a **chief draftsman, patent expert, and inventor**. He worked with inventors like Alexander Graham Bell, Hiram Maxim, and Thomas Edison, and made many improvements to the process of creating the lightbulb that made **electric lighting more affordable**.



Although he wasn't credited for all that he did, Latimer owns and shares **seven patents** for designs including an early air conditioning unit, a safer train bathroom, and more!



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Lewis Latimer the Poet

In addition to being an inventor, Lewis Latimer was also a **musician, artist, and poet.**

In 1925, his family published *Poems of Love and Life*, a collection of **twenty-two poems.**

Friends

By Lewis Latimer

Friend of my childhood,
Of life's early days
When together we wandered
Through bright sunny ways,
Each true to the other,
Till full manhood came,
And found the old friendship
As ever the same.

Came summer and winter,
Years waxed and years waned.
Youth it had left us
But friendship remained
And now as with white locks
I bent o'er life's page,
The friend of my childhood
Is the friend of my age.

*POEMS of LOVE
and LIFE*

BY
LEWIS HOWARD LATIMER


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Lewis Latimer the Artist

Lewis Latimer **saw many connections between art and science**, and he loved how drawings could bring things to life.

Check out some of his drawing tools and the portrait that he drew of his daughter, Jeanette!



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