

Look out for newly-available records

A friend's family story said that William Lind Florence Phillips was born at sea around 1839 on the way to India. His wife was known to be Louisa Clarissa Appollis and his father was said to be William Alexander Phillips with the family possibly coming from Edinburgh. An involvement with the ship *Lady Flora* was part of the story.

Recently the British India Office Collection became available on www.findmypast.co.uk and a search showed a marriage in Madras on 21 January 1861 for William Lind Florence Phillips and Louisa Clarissa

Appollis with the groom's father given as William Phillips.

Surprisingly, just a few months later on 9 May 1861, there was a baptism for William Lind Florence Phillips and this added the useful information that not only was his father William Alexander Phillips but also that his mother was Jessy Margaret.

A search around 1839 provided a baptism on 3 April 1842 of William to Alexr and Jessie Margaret Phillips. Again there was a nugget of extra information: a birth date of 11 October 1841.

On 17 January 1842 William

Alexander Phillips married Janet Margaret Reid, Jessie being a diminutive of Janet. So young William, with a date of birth of 11 October 1841, was born three months before the marriage.

Wrack your brains to think where best you might start to follow up information. The 1841 Census for England, for instance, shows Jessie Reid born in 'foreign parts', so, the India records, as opposed to the UK baptisms, seemed a good place to begin tracking down her baptism (found on findmypast.co.uk).

