

Find other records to fill gaps

However, while the British India Office Collection had provided a clear picture in India there was still that birth at sea to find. A search of the Families in British India website (www.fibis.org) offered 'Arrival and Departure Notices' in the *Madras Almanac*. And on 13 January 1842 Jessie Reid arrived in Madras aboard the *Lady Flora* – '& 1 infant born at sea Oct 11'!

But why was Jessie travelling back to India, on her own and six months' pregnant? Clearly William was expecting her as the wedding took place just four days later. Jessie had boarded the *Lady Flora* in London and a search of the 1841 London census showed a Jessie Reid of the right age, born in 'foreign parts', as a servant to the Farren family whose five-year-old daughter was also born in 'foreign parts'. Back to the *Madras Almanac* and the Farren family sailed from Madras to London on 2 February 1841. Servants aren't listed but it seems likely that Jessie was with them. She

would have been just pregnant but probably not aware of it.

The India records gave a baptism for Jessie as Janet Margaret to John Reid and his wife Elizabeth Munro, and www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk offered a possible marriage in 1816 in Edinburgh of John Reid to Elizabeth Munro 'daughter of John Munro Labourer Haddington'.

Ask: has someone been there before?

Having decided it was time to have another look at family trees available online I turned to Ancestry's Public Member Trees. A longstanding brickwall – over 30 years! – was my 2x great-grandfather Joshua Septimus Green. It had been easy to get back to him via my father, David Green, his father, also David, and his father Joshua Herbert Green whose 1872 marriage certificate gave his father as Joshua Septimus Green, druggist. Equally easy to find was Joshua Septimus's 1842 marriage to my 2x great-grandmother, Ann Calow, and the births of Joshua Herbert and his

sister Jemima. Joshua Septimus's own baptism in Chadkirk Chapel, parents Edward Green and Mary née Ridgway, had been found and I'd also moved two or three generations back.

But apart from an 1841 Census entry with his first wife Elizabeth and son Charles there is no record of Joshua Septimus in the censuses. In 1851 Ann, shown as married, is with the two children and in 1861 she is shown as a widow. There is no likely entry for Joshua in either census and no death anywhere which fits.

So what happened to him? Without much hope I typed the name into Ancestry's Public Member Trees search and there he was, with a third 'wife' and his son from his first marriage in the 1850 Census in New York! There was also evidence of his arrival in the passenger lists.

There's still a lot more to do but at least I have a start!

Try an internet search

Working on my husband's family, we knew that one line went back to the Pugh family in the tiny Merionethshire village of Trawsfynydd. Census and birth, marriage and death information had taken us back to a David Pugh born there around 1816.

A Google search on 'Trawsfynydd Parish Registers' revealed that the

While online trees do need to be viewed with a judicious frame of mind, they can provide useful information – wherever those relatives ended up in the world. Shown here (from Ancestry), Mary's ancestor on the 1850 US Census, with one of his children from his first marriage and his third wife – despite his second wife being alive in England at the time.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in 15th Ward in the County of N. York State of N. York enumerated by me, on the 16th day of Aug, 1850. G. H. Haytine Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	DESCRIPTION.			7	8	9	10 11 12 13			
			Age	Sex	Color				Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.			
		Adalaid Heibbs	2	f				New York				
		Julia C. Heibbs	1	f				"				
		Elizabeth Hunt	18	f				"				
	1247	James A. Ashpell	27	m		Drainage maker		England				
		Ann Ashpell		f				New York				
		George W. Ashpell	4	m				"				
		Samuel Ashpell	2	m				"				
	1248	Joshua S. Green	27	m		Apothecary		England				
		Julia S. Green	25	f				Ireland				
		Charles H. Green	12	m				England		1		
	1249	Walter S. Styles	28	m		Printer		New York				
		Susan Styles	27	f				"				
		Almira Styles	8	f				"		1		