

History: KS2

Histories in the Headstones



Titus Webb: Died 16th May 1881 aged 85

Titus Webb was born in Kingswinford in 1796, the youngest child of Benjamin Webb and his wife Phoebe. The family were scythesmiths and spade makers. Titus decided to leave Lye and sailed across the Atlantic to seek his fortune in America. The journey by sea took around 6 weeks, but if the weather were rough it could take much longer. Titus would have travelled in cramped conditions in steerage and he may even have had to cook his own food. The biggest dangers passengers could face would be fire and shipwreck.

Titus may have set sail in the early 1830s as by 1835 he is registered as living in Mott Street, New York. Titus became an American citizen in 1847.

In 1840 Titus married Catherine and he became a Crockery Ware Merchant in New York. Titus travelled back and forth to England on several occasions and his last trip was in 1860 when he sailed on the ship called the **Vigo**. He arrived back on 7th November, a few months before the start of **The American Civil War**.

Following his wife's death in 1870 Titus returned to England. In 1881 he was a widower living in the High Street, Lye with the Hyrons family. John Hyrons wife Susannah was Titus' great-niece.

Titus died in 1881 and was buried in Lye Cemetery.

Research Questions:

1. Look at the 1911 census return Titus Webb. What was his address?

2. Can you find this address on a current map? Can you find the address on an historic map dating from around that year?

3. Why might people choose to travel to America in the 19th Century?

4. Can you plot Titus' journey on a modern map?