Mary Seacole

Who Was Mary Seacole?

• Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica in 1805.

• Mary's mother was Jamaican.

• Mary's father was Scottish.

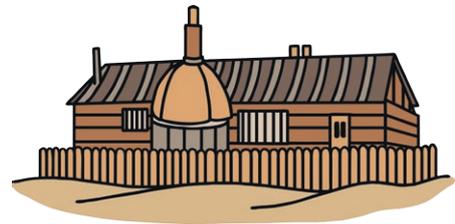• Her mother was a nurse.

In 1836, Mary married a man called Edwin Seacole.

Mary's Life

• Mary started to help her mum when she was young.

• She looked after ill people.

• She worked with her mother in a Jamaican hospital.

• Mary went to lots of places to help others.

Why Is She Remembered?

• In 1853, the Crimean War began.

• In 1854, Mary went to Britain to ask to help.

• She was turned away because she had black skin.

• She went to the Crimea.

• She set up a 'British Hotel' and cared for lots of people.

• She gave people food and clothes.

• She was known as Mother Seacole.

• After the war, Mary got a medal for being brave.

• In 2016, a statue of her was built in London.

Mary Seacole

Who Was Mary Seacole?

Mary was born in Jamaica in 1805. Her mother was Jamaican and her father was a Scottish man in the British army. Her mother was a nurse and ran a house called Blundell Hall. Mary's mother helped to heal people here.

In 1836, Mary married a man called Edwin Seacole. He died eight years later.

Mary's Life

Mary began helping her mother when she was young and learnt many of her nursing skills from her. She looked after many ill people with her mother. After her mother's death, she took over the running of Blundell Hall by herself. Mary also visited many other places where she helped to treat people with diseases.

Why Is She Remembered?

In 1853, the Crimean War began. The following year, Mary sailed to England to offer to help. She wanted to help but was turned away because she had black skin. People were often treated differently due to their skin colour.

Mary paid for herself to sail to the Crimea. Here, she set up a hosptial known as the 'British Hotel' where she cared for many injured soldiers. She even went out to help people in the middle of a battle.

She became known as Mother Seacole due to her services. When the war had finished, she received a medal of bravery and in 2016, a statue of her was built in London.
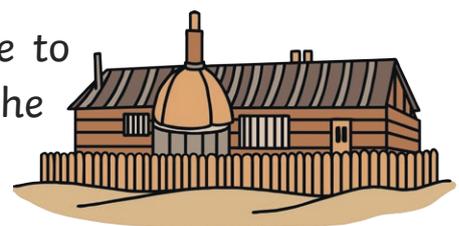
Mary Seacole

Who Was Mary Seacole?

Mary was born in Jamaica in 1805 to her Jamaican mother and her Scottish father. She was known as Mary Grant. Her father had visited Jamaica due to being in the British army. Her mother was a nurse and a healer, using many herbal remedies to treat patients.

Her mother ran a healing house also known as Blundell Hall.

In 1836, Mary married a man called Edwin Seacole. He died eight years later.

Mary's Life

During her early life, Mary assisted her mother at Blundell Hall. She learnt how to treat ill people and on occasions was asked to assist at the British Army Hospital. In 1843, Blundell Hall burned down and had to be replaced. This was followed by the tragedy of her mother's death. Over the years, she treated many illnesses including cholera, which killed over 32,000 Jamaicans.

Why Is She Remembered?

Most famously, Mary is known for her work during the Crimean War. In 1853, the war began and disease spread immediately. Mary sailed to England to ask to be sent to the Crimea, along with other nurses. She was refused because of her black skin. Using her own funds, she sailed to the Crimea and opened an establishment called 'The British Hotel'. She tended to sick and injured British soldiers and became known as Mother Seacole due to her hospitability. During battles, it is thought that she distributed food, clothing and blankets.

Post war, Mary was awarded a medal of bravery. After her death, Mary was forgotten for almost one hundred years. Many people, including Jamaican nurses, fought to remind people of her. They named a building in Jamaica after her and in 2016, a statue was erected in London.