

Mary Seacole

Who Was Mary Seacole?

Mary Grant 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 was black. People were often treated differently due to their skin colour.

Mary paid for herself to sail to the Crimea. Here, she set up a hospital 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.



