



Mary Seacole

Born: 23rd November 1805

Died: 14th May 1881

Mary Seacole helped people who were sick or wounded during the Crimean War.

She had applied to work as a nurse during the war but was told she would not be chosen.

Despite this, Mary really wanted to help so she paid for her own travel to Crimea.

Mary set up the 'British Hotel'; a place for soldiers to rest and recover.

Mary helped soldiers from both sides of the fighting. She wanted to help everyone.

Ira Aldridge

Born: 24th July 1807

Died: 7th August 1867



Ira Aldridge was an actor in plays at the theatre.

He moved to Britain from America and became one of the most well-paid actors in the world at that time.

Ira became very well-known across Europe especially for his acting in some famous plays written by Shakespeare.

On the last night of his plays, Ira would speak directly to the audience about the unfair ways black people were treated.



Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Born: 15th August 1875

Died: 1st September 1912

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was a composer. He wrote many beautiful pieces of classical music.

Samuel played the violin and studied at the Royal College of Music in London.

Samuel's work was enjoyed by many people, but he didn't receive much money for his work.

On one tour of America he met with President Roosevelt at The White House.

Phillis Wheatley

Born: 8th May 1753

Died: 5th December 1784



Phillis Wheatley was the first African-American to have poetry published.

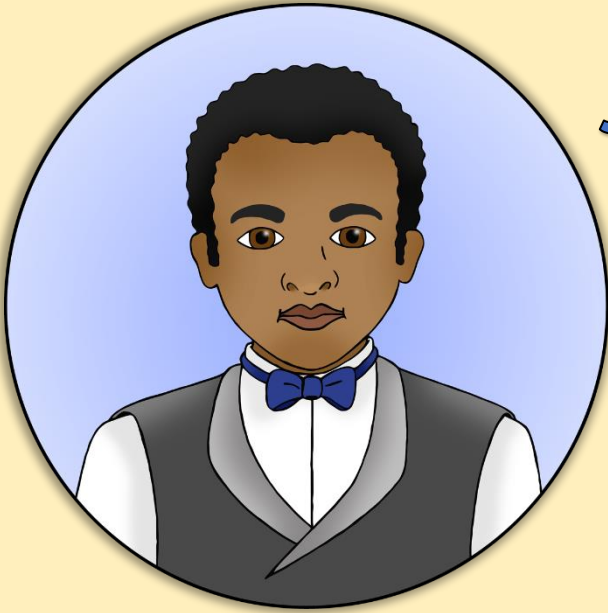
Phillis was forced to work for no money from a very young age. Despite this, she showed a great talent for writing.

She wrote her first poem when she was 14. At the age of 20 she moved to London and then had her poetry published.

At that time, many people thought that black people couldn't write such beautiful words.

Phillis proved them all wrong.

John Edmonstone



Born: Unknown

Died: Unknown

John Edmonstone had a great interest in animals and the natural world.

After becoming a free man, John worked as a taxidermist, which involves preserving animals that have died.

In Edinburgh, John taught other people his skills. One of these people was a young Charles Darwin.

John and Charles spent many months working together. John told Charles about his travels and the animals he had seen.

Charles was inspired to go on his own adventures and wrote some very important books.