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NEWSLETTER

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MARY SEACOLE'S GRAVE RESTORED IN LONDON

The grave of Mary Seacole, the Jamaican nurse who is best known for her work during the Crimean War, has been restored by the Lignum Vitae Club, a Jamaican women's organisation in London, together with the British Commonwealth Nurses War Memorial Fund. The grave, which lies in St. Mary's Cemetery, Harrow Road, London, was reconsecrated on Tuesday, 20th November in the presence of the High Commissioner for Jamaica, Sir Laurence Lindo, Lady Lindo, who is President of the Lignum Vitae Club, Miss Elise Gordon, Hon. Secretary, British Commonwealth Nurses War Memorial Fund, Miss Clover Jarrett, representing the Jamaican Nurses Association, who will maintain the frame, Mrs. Ruby Newnham, Miss Perri Burrowes, a Jamaican sister at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington and Mrs. Pamela Beshoff, vice-Chairman of the Lignum Vitae Club.

Sir Laurence Lindo laid a bouquet of flowers on the grave, the restored headstone of which reads:

"Here lies Mary Seacole, 1805-1881, of Kingston, Jamaica, a notable nurse who cared for the sick and wounded in the West Indies, Panama and on the battlefields of the Crimea, 1854-1856."

During the memorial mass, which took place in the chapel adjoining the cemetery, Miss Elise Gordon, Secretary of the British Commonwealth Nurses War Memorial Fund, said of Mary Seacole:-

" Today we pay tribute to a great nurse, Mary Seacole of Jamaica. She was born in 1805, according to her own statement, in Kingston; her mother was a Creole, her father a Scottish soldier. To her father she ascribes her love of camp life, and her energy and activity. From her mother she undoubtedly inherited her love of nursing.

But today we remember this brave, compassionate woman: through the joint interest of the Lignum Vitae Club - an organisation of Jamaican women in London, and the British-Commonwealth Nurses War Memorial Fund, Mary Seacole's name, and fame, are inscribed once more, in letters of gold and blue, over her resting place, which is to be reconsecrated in the presence of Jamaica's highest representative in this country. And her own colleagues, the Nurses Association of Jamaica will maintain it in repair for ever.

Let us remember Mary Seacole with gratitude and pride."

26th November 1973

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