MARY SEACOLE, the famed Jamaican nurse who became a national hero in Britain during the Crimean War, has been voted the greatest black Briton in a poll, ahead of boxer Lennox Lewis and singer Shirley Bassey.

More than 100,000 votes were cast in a recent poll on the Web site of Every Generation, an on-line resource for the black community.

SEACOLE

Seacole was one of the first black women to make her mark in black history after she set up a refuge to feed, house and nurse British soldiers during the 19th century war.

“Seacole stood up against the discrimination and prejudices she encountered,” said Sylvia Denton, president of the Royal College of Nursing, who added that against all odds, Seacole also had an unshakeable belief in the power of nursing. More than 100,000 votes were cast in the poll on the Web site of Every Generation.