



## HISTORY OF MARY PRINCE c 1788 – 1833

Mary Prince was a Bermudian woman born into slavery at Brackish Pond, now known as Devonshire Marsh in Devonshire Parish, Bermuda. Her parents were both enslaved: her father – whose only given name was Prince – was a sawyer held in bondage by David Trimingham; her mother – was a house servant held in bondage by Charles Myners. When Myners died in 1788, Mary Prince and her mother were sold as household servants to Captain Darrell, who gifted Mary to his granddaughter, Betsey Williams. When she was 12, Mary Prince was sold for 38 pounds sterling to Captain John Ingham of Spanish Point. She was subjected to the many indignities of enslavement and was often flogged. As punishment, she was sold to another Bermudian, likely Robert Darrell, who sent her in 1806 to Grand Turk to work in the salt industry. Mary returned to Bermuda in 1810 and was sold to John Adams Wood in 1818 and sent to Antigua to be an enslaved domestic. She joined the Moravian Church, and in December 1926 married Daniel James, a former bondsman who had bought his freedom and worked as a carpenter and cooper. For this, she was severely beaten by her master.

In 1828, Wood and his family took Mary with them to London as a household bondswoman. After years of abuse, Mary ran away from her enslaver and took shelter with the Moravian church in Hatton Garden. Within a few weeks, she had employment with Thomas Pringle, an abolitionist writer and Secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society – she ‘broke the silence’ by telling her story to the anti-slavery society. In 1829, Wood refused to either manumit Mary or allow her to be bought out of his control. His refusal meant that she could not return to Antigua, without being re-enslaved. Her autobiography, ‘The History of Mary Prince’ published in 1831, was the first account of the life of a black woman to be published in the United Kingdom. A first-hand description of the brutalities of enslavement, released at a time when slavery was still legal in the British Caribbean colonies and Bermuda, it had a galvanising effect on the anti-slavery movement. It also led to two libel cases at which Mary Prince had to testify. As a personal account, Mary Prince’s story contributed to the debate about slavery in a manner different from reasoned analysis or statistical arguments. It was direct and authentic. Mary Prince spoke of slavery with the authority of personal experience.

Mary Prince is known to have remained in England until at least 1833 – the year that the British Parliament passed the Slavery Abolition Act.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

DESIGNER	Jamie McDowell
PRINTER	Brebner Print
PROCESS	Lithography
STAMP SIZE	28mm X 42mm
PERFORATION	13.33 Per 2cms
PANE	50 (2 X 25)
PAPER	CASCO Crown Watermarked
VALUES	.50c, \$1.00, \$1.15 and \$1.35
RELEASE DATE	18 July 2024

*an infant, old Mr. and there was a division of slaves and other property of the family. I was with my mother by*