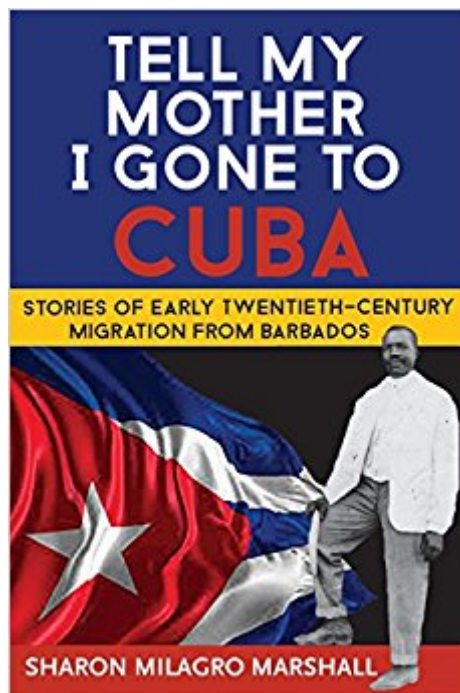




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Tell My Mother I Gone To Cuba: Stories Of Early Twentieth-Century Migration From Barbados



Synopsis

2016 Foreword INDIES Finalist Barbadians were among the thousands of British West Indians who migrated to Cuba in the early twentieth century in search of work. They were drawn there by employment opportunities fuelled largely by US investment in Cuban sugar plantations. *Tell My Mother I Gone to Cuba: Stories of Early Twentieth-Century Migration from Barbados* is their story. The migrants were citizens of the British Empire, and their ill-treatment in Cuba led to a diplomatic tiff between British and Cuban authorities. The author draws from contemporary newspaper articles, official records, journals and books to set the historical contexts which initiated this intra-Caribbean migratory wave. Through oral histories, it also gives voice to the migrants' compelling narratives of their experience in Cuba. One of the oral histories recorded in the book is that of the author's mother, who was born in Cuba of Barbadian parents.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"*Tell My Mother I Gone to Cuba* is incomparably relevant as a sociological documentation of the times and circumstances of a people who had to grow roots in a foreign environment, adapt, resist and develop a whole new set of principles founded on the bedrock of the initial home-grown ones. It is a tale of resilience, bravery and ability to bend without breaking. It is sure to become the source on the subject of Barbadian migration to and settlement in Cuba.-Carlos Moore, ethnologist and social scientist

This book has been a labour of love. It honors my maternal grandparents, who migrated from Barbados to both Panama and Cuba, as well as the countless other brave and adventurous souls who left small islands in search of a better life.

Thoroughly enjoyed author Sharon Marshall's book about the migration of Barbadians and others from the Caribbean to Cuba to work in the sugar industry at the turn of the last century. The recollections of survivors and their descendants are compelling. I was unaware of this segment of history. An important contribution illustrating the link between Barbados and Cuba, other nations in the Caribbean and the Americas. I highly recommend it.

This is a very exciting and informative book. I could not put it down. Thank you Dr. Marshall for making me aware of this part of our history.

"Tell my mother I gone to Cuba" is a fascinating and enthralling journey into a chapter of Caribbean history that has impacted our lives to a greater extent that most of us probably recognize. For persons like myself, who knew some but not all of the story, the book illuminates a path towards enlightenment about this era. It's as painful to learn of the significant challenges many Barbadians faced as they attempted to integrate into Cuban society, as it is joyful to witness them celebrating their Barbadian identity and keeping much of their cultural and social norms alive, thousands of miles away from home. It's nothing short of amazing that Dr. Marshall is able to pull many strands of material that were clearly derived from hundreds of disparate sources and weave them seamlessly into an informative and exciting tale that wends its way from Barbados to Cuba and back. The eyewitness interviews give the book warmth, vibrancy and authenticity. By the time you finally put the book down, you will, for example, feel an intimate knowledge of Rufus Hoyte, one of the eye witnesses which the author presents with clarity and sensitivity. The dignity that characterized his life makes us all want to embrace him out and proudly claim him as our own. The author's personal note at the end of the book, is very touching and reminds us that the first Barbadians who migrated to Cuba many, many, decades ago, initiated a flow of social and cultural forces that spawn the thousands of miles of the Caribbean Sea between Cuba and Barbados and continue to touch our lives to this very day.

Thank You Sharon for enlightening me with this knowledge of my bayan history that I did not know about. I was totally intrigued by the stories and relationships that had existed during that timeline;

also the entrepreneurship experiences that the Bajan / West Indians created. Great book!

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