

Freda Seaton on moving to the UK ([SA 69/2/10/1](#))

Freda Seaton describes moving to the UK from Jamaica in 1957, commenting on her first impressions of England and homesickness for her 'sunshine country'. Freda followed her husband, who had moved two years previously. The interview was recorded in 2020 by Ewewright Arts Foundation for the Tilbury Bridge Walkway of Memories installation.

“I’m a Jamaican, born and bred. After the war was over, in Jamaica, all the travel service were applying for people to come to England to build up back the country. And then we all decide we want to take a trip. So, my husband, he was nineteen years old, nineteen. And he decide, to come to England to see what this thing was about. So, we, well not me yet, he booked up his fare, he head for on the ship, Castel Bianca he came on. Spent three weeks and a little on the water and then he arrived in England and then he left me home with me children. Well, when I say children, I had two children first and I was expecting another one. And then, after he came, he worked hard in this country and then he sent for me. I was twenty-two years old when I came, 1957.

And the ships start coming in and in and planes start coming in and in. It wasn’t easy. It was cold! The place to us looked like a factory. It just, it was horrible, horrible, horrible. Leaving a sunshine country. I write letters home to my mum and she just used to say; ‘Where ever you bound you must obey, so it will get better’.

It was an old saying - ‘Go to England for five years’. That’s everybody come here for five years. Everybody come here five years and I still end up here, sixty, what will I say? Sixty-three years!”