

**Panel 13      Black and Ethnic Minorities in the Royal Navy and at Chatham Dockyard in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

**During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, many people from Black and Ethnic minority backgrounds contributed to the economic, social and cultural life of the Medway Towns. Some even found employment at Chatham Dockyard.**

Some were simply passing through the Towns - hundreds of entertainers, clergymen and itinerant workers lived here for short periods of time before settling elsewhere but some did settle in the Towns, marrying local girls and raising families in the area.

One long term black resident was Joshua Campbelton who was born around 1820. He served in the Royal Navy for more than twenty years. In 1851, he married Harriet, a local Chatham girl. By 1864, Joshua had left the Navy and was working as a labourer in Chatham Dockyard. Whilst working on the ironclad, *Achilles*, Joshua was injured in an accident and his leg was amputated. He continued to work in the Dockyard and spent his last years living in the John Hawkins Hospital where he died in 1902.

Visitors came to the Medway Towns from across the world to see the famous naval dockyard. In 1895, the Bechuanaland chiefs Khama Sebele & Bathoen visited Chatham Dockyard. Bechuanaland is now part of Botswana.

1.

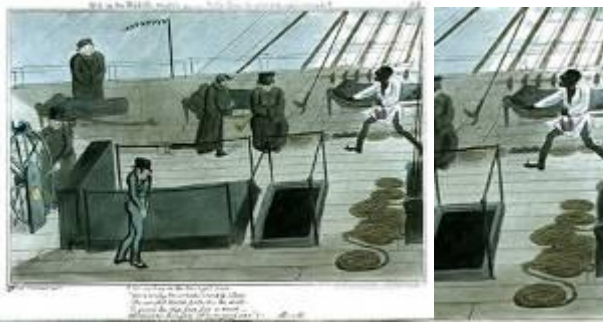


**Master B. Finding things not exactly what he expected, 1835**

George Cruickshank (engraver)

Courtesy: © National Maritime Museum, London

2.



**Mr B on the Middle Watch – cold blows the wind and the rain's coming, 1835**

George Cruickshank (engraver)

Courtesy: © National Maritime Museum, London

3.



**The Mess Kid. A Sailor's Life at Sea. No. 2**

W. Kohler (printer), W. Spooner (publisher)

Courtesy: © National Maritime Museum, London

4.



**Life on the Ocean: A Midshipman's Berth in a British Frigate at Sea (HMS Hyperion), c. 1830**

A. Earle

Courtesy: © National Maritime Museum, London

5.

**Image of the Bechuanaland Chiefs**

Courtesy: © Royal Engineers' Museum/Library