



INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS
IN SCIENCE
FEBRUARY 11

History and Today: Inspiring Individuals

MEDICINE: JAMES BARRY



BORN: Cork, Ireland, 1789

DIED: London, 1865

WHAT WAS JAMES INTERESTED IN?

James was a skilled doctor and surgeon, and activist for better hygiene and living conditions for poor and marginalised communities

WHY DOES JAMES INSPIRE US?

- James was born Margaret Ann Bulkley, and assigned female at birth
- James' family travelled from Ireland in a small fishing boat to enrol James as a medical student at Edinburgh University. At this time, women could not become doctors
- After graduation, James joined the Army and travelled all over the world
- James was not afraid of speaking up for what was right, despite being arrested
- Whilst in South Africa, James performed one of the first known successful Caesarean sections in which both mother and child survived.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Did you know that in the past, women could not train to become a doctor? How does this make you feel?
- Did you know that the Royal College of Surgeons is in Edinburgh and their exhibition is open to visitors, if you wished to visit?

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JAMES?

<https://www.scotland.org/features/dr-james-barry>