



Queen Nanny, also known as Granny Nanny, was a Maroon leader in Jamaica during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Maroons were forced enslaved servants in the Americas who escaped and formed independent settlements. Nanny herself was an escaped enslaved servant who had been shipped from Western Africa. Nanny and her four brothers were sold into enslavement and later escaped from their plantations into the mountains and jungles that still make up a large proportion of Jamaica. Nanny and one brother, Quao, founded a village in the Blue Mountains, which became known as Nanny Town.

Nanny Town's placement in the mountains away from European settlements, thrived and multiplied. Nanny made numerous successful raids to free enslaved servants being held on plantations and it has been widely accepted that her efforts contributed to the escape of almost 1,000 enslaved servants over her lifetime.

The British colonial administration became embarrassed and threatened by the successes of the Nanny and the Maroons. Plantation owners who were losing their forced enslaved servants and having equipment and crops burned by Maroon raiders demanded that colonial authorities act swiftly. Captain William Cuffee, known as "Captain Sambo", is credited as having killed Nanny in 1733 during one of the many and bloody engagements of the war. The war itself lasted from 1720 until a truce was declared in 1739. After Nanny's death, many of the Maroons moved across the island to the more sparsely inhabited Western side of Jamaica. Nanny Town was eventually captured by the British and destroyed in 1734.

Nanny's life and accomplishments have been recognized by the Government of Jamaica and she has been honored as a National Hero and awarded the title of "Right Excellent". Currently, there are only seven such National Heroes and Nanny is recognized as the only woman. A modern portrait of Nanny, based on her description, appears on the Jamaican \$500. ❤️ 🖤 🟢

Source: <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/queen-nanny-maroons-1733/>