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College of Nursing
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Florence Nightingale: Life & Legacy



Florence Nightingale
1820-1910

- 2a. Florence Nightingale: **LIFE** (1820-1910)
- 2b. Florence Nightingale: **LEGACY** (1910-2025+)

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Overview of PPT #2a

2a. Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)L: LIFE

2b. Florence Nightingale (1910-2025+): LEGACY

Florence Nightingale: Significant Contributions

References



Land Acknowledgement

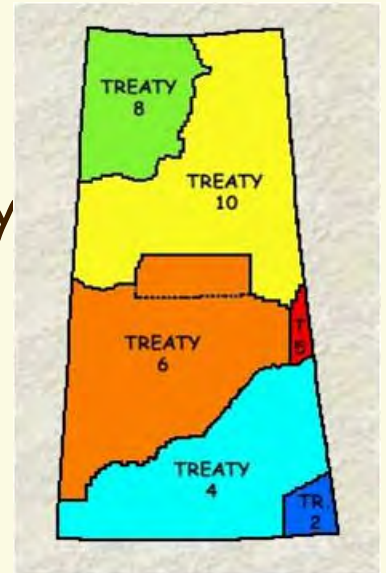


National

- In Canada, from coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the ancestral unceded territories and treaty lands of the First Nation, Inuit, and Métis peoples who have been displaced with colonization.

Provincial

- We acknowledge in this province, the University of Saskatchewan is on Treaties #2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 lands.



Local

- In Saskatoon, we are on Treaty #6 land.

Florence Nightingale 1820-1910

LIFE



1820: Date of Birth:

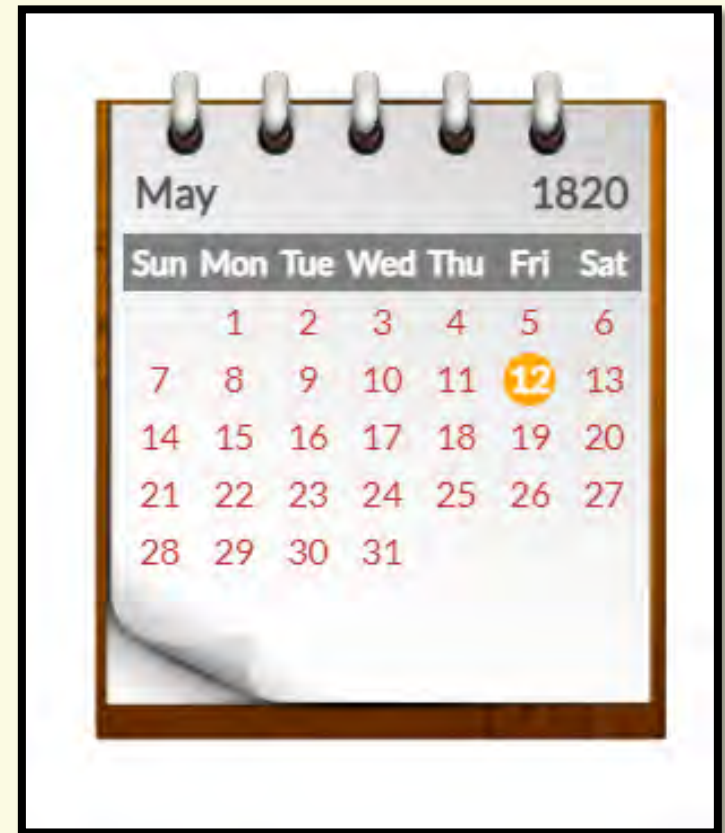


Birth of Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was born
May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy.

Her wealthy and well-connected
English parents were there on an
extended vacation or honeymoon

(Florence Nightingale Museum [FNM], 2023d;
FNM, 2025).



1820: Place of Birth:



Florence Italy

- Florence Nightingale was named after the city where she was born Florence, Italy.

Older Sister

- Florence had one older Sister Francis Parthenope Nightingale.
- Parthenope was born a year earlier 1819, and was also name after the city of her birth Naples

(FNM, 2023d, 2023l, 2025)



1819-1890 Nightingale Sister:



Frances Parthenope (nee Nightingale) Verney
(1819-1890) c. 1874



Florence Nightingale
(1820-1910)

1825 Nightingale Family Homes:



Embley Park was the Nightingale family home from 1825 until her death in 1910. Located in East Wellow, England, Embley Park is now a school (FNM, 2023o).



Lea Hurst in Derbyshire was the Nightingale family's summer property (FNM, 2020b; Montanez, 2024).

1820-1832



Early Years- Growing Up

- Florence and her older sister Parthenope had a Liberal-humanitarian upbringing; they benefited from their father's advanced ideas about women's education.
- They studied history, mathematics, Italian, classical literature, and philosophy
- From an early age Florence, displayed an extraordinary ability for collecting and analyzing data which she would use to great effect in later life.
- They benefited by traveling extensively in Europe with their parents and meeting influential people. (McDonald, CJ. 2025b)

1832-1839



Teenage Years

- In her teenage years, Florence discovered a talent for nursing while caring for her family and their servants during a flu epidemic.
- Florence felt she had a vocation for a profession that was not well respected by her affluent and well-connected family and friends (Preston, 2020).

1844



Nightingale Trains as a Nurse in Germany

- Nightingale's father eventually gave Florence permission to go to Germany in 1844 at age 24 to receive training as a nurse in a hospital in Kaiserwerth, Germany.
- Nightingale's first experience of ward work occurred during her three-month stay in Kaiserwerth with the Protestant Deaconesses, who managed a school, orphanage, and hospital (FNM, 2023p).
- Nightingale's had an annual income of £500 from her father
- (roughly £40,000/ US \$65,000 in present terms), this allowed her to live comfortably and to pursue her career.

(McDonald, CJ, 2025b, 2025c)



1853



Superintendent

- Florence Nightingale in 1853 was the Superintendent of the 'Establishment for Gentlewomen During Illness' in Upper Harley Street in London (Preston, 2020).
- This was a small hospital for 'gentlewomen, of good family, well educated' but who were of limited income, which seemed to mean mainly governesses.
- Nightingale's father also gave her a generous allowance of £500 a year, equivalent to an income of £64,000 today.

(McDonald, CJ, 2025c; Preston, 2020).



1854



Cholera Epidemic in London, England.

- When a cholera epidemic hit London in 1854 Florence Nightingale rushed to volunteer at London's Middlesex Hospital.
- More than 500 lives were lost in ten days, many of them prostitutes working around Oxford Street.
- Florence Nightingale helped save lives during this cholera epidemic. Her move to the Crimea came in fall of 1854 (Preston, 2020).



Middlesex Hospital,
London, England
(Stock)

1854-56



Crimean War 1854-56

- Florence Nightingale brought 38 volunteer nurses with her to the Crimea. The assumption was she also brought medicine chests with her to use in caring for the wounded soldiers.



Medicine Chest (Box)
Florence Nightingale Museum
(FNM, 2023h; 2025)



Medicine Chest once owned by FN
came to Canada in 1912,
now located CoN, USask
(Kent-Wilkinson, 2021)

1854-56



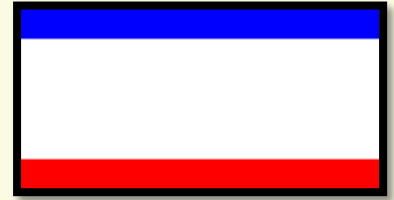
Crimean War, 1854-56

- In October of 1854, after war was declared against Russia, Florence Nightingale with 38 nurses traveled to Istanbul to organize a nursing unit to care for the wounded from the Crimean battlefield
- The Crimean War was fought between October 1853-March 1856 (All about Turkey, 2020).
- "...although assured of abundant supplies, and splendid facilities, her nurses walked into horror" (McDonald, C. J., n. d. d).
- Eleven of Florence's 38 nurses died of illness while working in the Crimea (Preston, 2020).

(see McDonald, C. J. for list of names the 38 nurses....)

McDonald, C. J. (2025d). *Florence Nightingale: The 38 nurses*. County Joe McDonalds tribute to Florence Nightingale.
<https://www.countryjoe.com/nightingale/38.htm>

1854-56



Crimean War 1854-56

- Florence Nightingale developed her skills during the Crimean War (British Red Cross, 2023; McDonald, 2010; RTE Newsroom, 2020).



1854-56

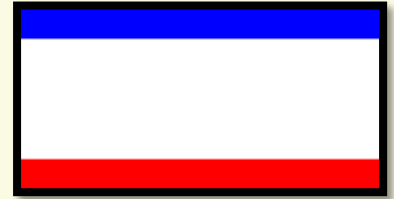


Crimean War 1854-56

- Nightingale and her nurses found deplorable conditions when they arrived in November 1854;
- Poor care for wounded soldiers was being delivered by overworked medical staff in the face of official indifference.
- Medicines were in short supply, hygiene was being neglected, and mass infections were common, many of them fatal.
- Ten times more soldiers died from illnesses such as typhus, typhoid, cholera, and dysentery than from battle wounds; with overcrowding, defective sewers and lack of ventilation.

(McDonald, 2010)

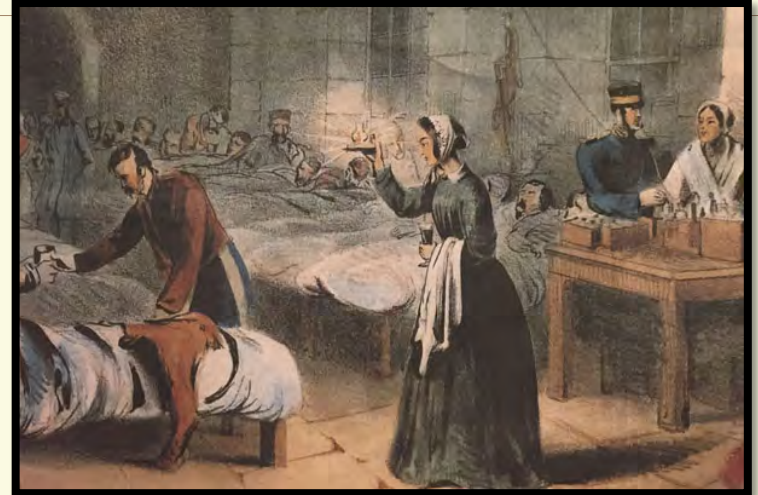
1854-56



Crimean War

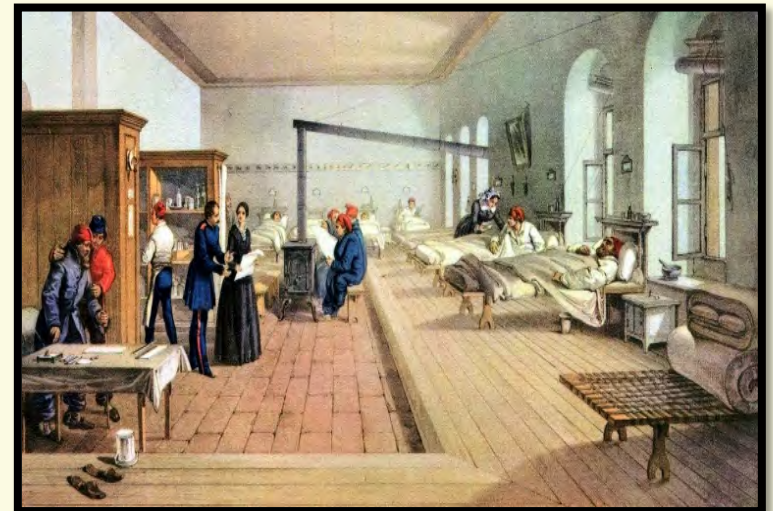
- Florence Nightingale -
- Crimean War, hospital ward

before ...



after...

- social distancing
- ventilation



1854-56



'Lady with the Lamp'

- Florence Nightingale became known as the 'Lady with the Lamp' during the Crimean War 1854-56
- Label resulted from the rounds she made at night of the wounded soldiers (Miles, 2020)



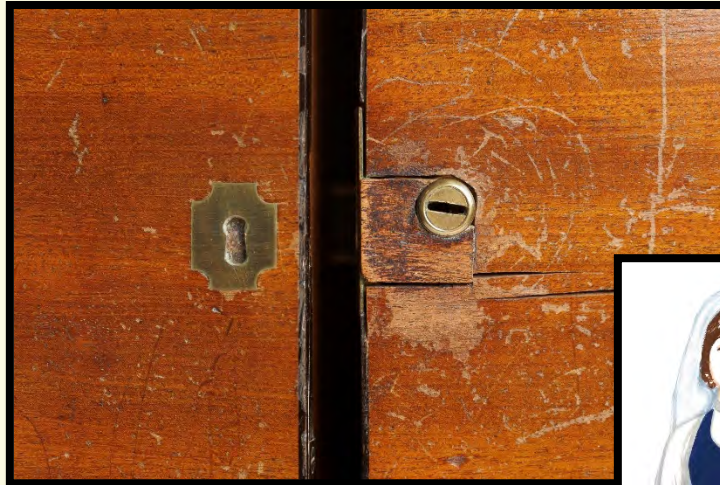
"Lady with the Lamp" or "Lady with the Hammer"



And the 'Lady with the Lamp'? In reality, Nightingale was known to the troops as 'The Lady with the Hammer' after she broke into a locked storeroom to release much-needed medical supplies, in defiance of a military commander who had blocked her every move. They revered her for it, of course. But as William Russell knew, a powerful, belligerent, rebel woman was far too coarse and unladylike for the readers of *The Times*, so in the finest traditions of journalism, he simply **made it up**.
(Miles, 2020)

Miles, R. (2020, April 23). *Rebel women, Florence Nightingale*. Hachette UK. Little, Brown Book Group. Virago Press. <https://www.virago.co.uk/virago-news/2020/04/23/rebel-women-florence-nightingale/>

Lock has been Repaired on the Nightingale Medicine Chest in Canada

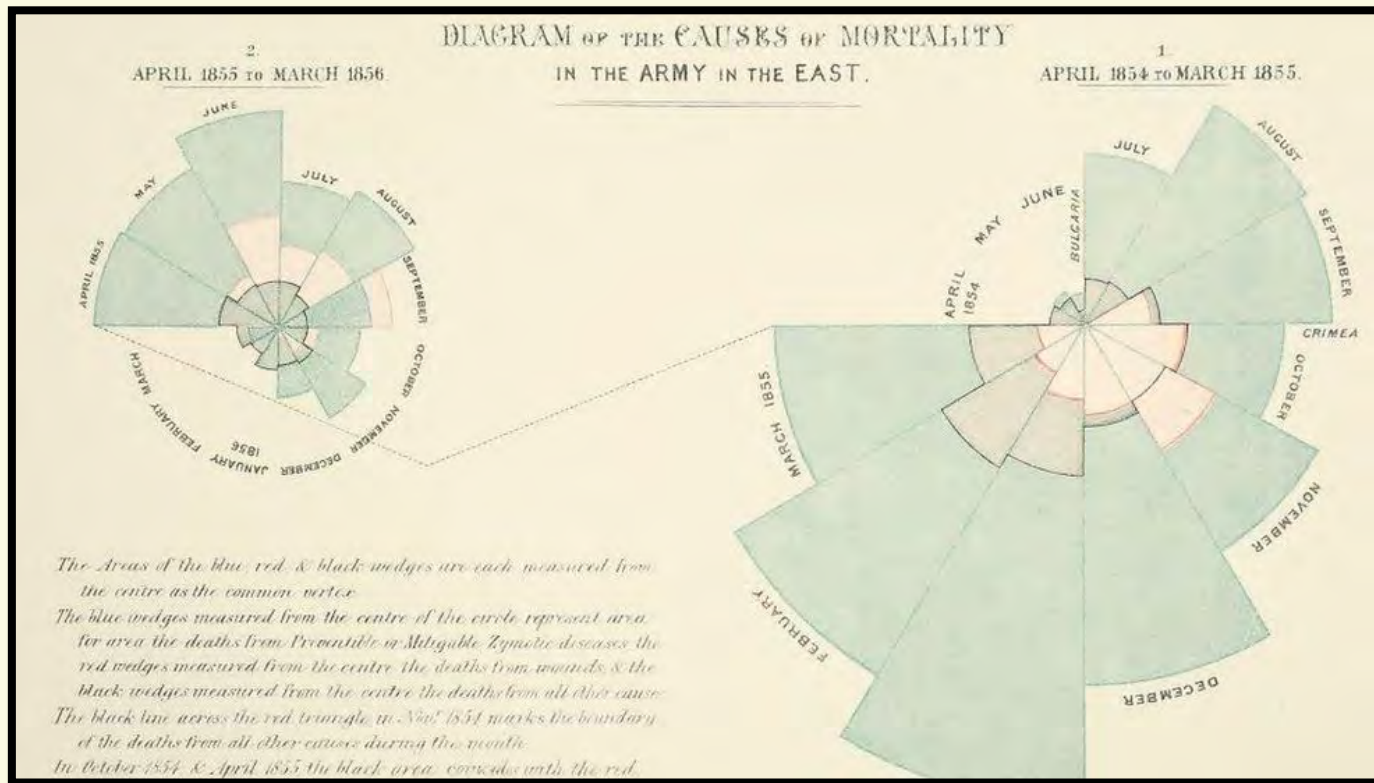


- From the Miles (2020) book "Nightingale was known to the troops as 'The Lady with the Hammer' after she broke into a locked storeroom to release much-needed medical supplies"...
- QUESTION: Could it actually have been a locked medicine chest that Nightingale broke into, as the lock has been repaired on the Nightingale Medicine Chest in Canada... we may never know?

1854-56



Cox comb Diagram



1857



Claydon House

- The Verney family's residence since 1700s. Located in the Aylesbury Vale near Middle Claydon, Buckinghamshire, England
- Sir Harry Verney (1801-1894) 2nd Baronet (Lord Verney) entered the British House of Commons, MP for Buckingham in 1832 and served for 52 years.



(Photo-Claydon House:
National Trust, 2020)

1857 (cont.)



Florence's Connection to Claydon House

- Sir Harry Verney's first wife Eliza (daughter of Admiral Sir George Johnstone Hope, K.C.B., M.P.) very much admired Florence Nightingale.
- Following his wife's death, Sir Harry proposed marriage to Florence Nightingale.
- In 1857, Florence rejected Lord Verney's offer (and 2 others previously) but introduced him to her sister Parthenope and they married the next year in 1858 (FNM, 2023, 2025; McDonald, 2001; McDonald, CJc)

Sir Henry Verney 2nd Baronet
(1801-1894) Verney as caricatured
by Spy (Leslei Ward) in Vanity Fair,
July 1882, Twnkl.com



1858



Marriage of Sister to Lord Verney

- Lord Verney's second marriage in 1858 was to Florence's sister Frances Parthenope Nightingale age 38, who then became Lady Verney (McDonald, 2001; McDonald, CJ, 2025c).
- Parthenope was a writer and journalist.
- **Frances, Lady Verney**, collected from the mass of papers preserved at Claydon House the *Memoirs of the Verney Family during the Seventeenth Century*, which contain a charming picture of the life and manners of the country gentlemen of that day (McDonald, 2001; McDonald, CJ, 2025c).

Frances
Parthenope
Nightingale



1858



Marriage of Sister to Lord Verney (cont.)

- Following the match of her sister and Lord Verney, Florence was a regular visitor to Claydon House (National Trust, 2020).
- The Nightingale sisters became much closer as Parthenope now was supportive of her sister's important work and vocation as a nurse.



(Photo-Claydon House:
National Trust, 2020)

McDonald, 2001; McDonald, CJ, 2025c)

1859-60



Notes on Nursing "*What nursing is and what it is not*".

- In 1859, Nightingale wrote 'Notes on Nursing'.
- Her book served as the cornerstone of the curriculum at the Nightingale School and other nursing schools, though it was written specifically for the education of those nursing at home.
- Nightingale believed nursing was a science and an art developed by practice and discipline;
- Nightingale was adamant the nurse was not just an assistant to the physician, rather training embodied teaching the nurse to help the patient live well. (Whitehead, 2020)



1859



Royal Statistical Society

- In 1859, Florence Nightingale became the first woman inducted into the Royal Statistical Society (VUSN Communications, 2020).
- Statistics (epidemiology) was another area where Florence Nightingale was a pioneer. She believed that good data was essential to decision-making and understanding.
- Florence used infographics before it was a word. She created charts and diagrams to convey facts in her reports.
- We see this today, the CDC, experts, and media regularly use diagrams, pie charts, and graphs to communicate about COVID-19 (VUSN Communications, 2020).

1860



Nightingale Training School

- Nightingale laid the foundation of professional nursing with the establishment of her nursing school at St. Thomas Hospital in London.
- The Nightingale School of Nursing was the first (secular) nursing school in the world; this institute was the stepping stone for establishing other training institutes for nurses (Aditi, 2020).

Florence Nightingale
Faculty of Nursing,
Midwifery & Palliative
Care, King's College
London, England



1860



Nightingale Training School (cont.)

- Nightingale's legacy as the first modern nurse educator is the one she is most identified with.
- Her model for formal education (as opposed to on-the-job volunteerism) laid the foundation for nursing schools with identified curriculum and supervision of training (Whitehead, 2020).
- Now called Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery, and Palliative Care; this school is part of King's College, London, England.

Florence Nightingale
Faculty of Nursing,
Midwifery & Palliative
Care, King's College
London, England



1861



Claydon House in Summers

- After 1861 Florence was asked for advice on the building of hospitals and the training of nurses.
- Sir Harry gave Florence a number of rooms at Claydon to work on her numerous books on nursing and to meet important people.
- Florence spent many years at Claydon, particularly in the summer; although she never married or had children she was a favorite aunt to the children of Edmund Verney, Sir Harry's eldest son (McDonald, CJ, 2025c; National Trust, 2020).



(Photo-Claydon House:
National Trust, 2020)

1870s



Red Cross

- Florence inspired Red Cross founder Henry Dunant. She went on to directly influence the setting up of the British Red Cross in 1870.



- In the 1870s, Florence worked with the government to push for legislation to significantly improve sanitation.

(British Red Cross, 2023)

1882



Leadership

- By 1882, several Nightingale nurses had become matrons at several leading hospitals in London, and throughout Britain.

(McDonald, CJ, 2025c)



1883



Royal Red Cross Medal

- In 1883 Florence was the first recipient of the 'Royal Red Cross Medal' for exceptional services to military nursing.
- The Royal Red Cross Medal was established by Queen Victoria by Royal Warrant in 1883. The Cross is awarded to members of the Nursing Services of the Armed Forces in recognition of devotion, acts of bravery, and meritorious service.
- (McDonald, CJ, 2025c)



1886



Claydon House

- Nightingale spent most of her summers at Claydon House, writing and enjoying the gardens.
- Photograph of Nightingale and nurses from the Nightingale Training School at Claydon, 1886.



(FNM, 2025: McDonald, CJ, 2025c)

(FNM Collection-Display No 104: 2020n). 35

1890



Nightingale Pledge

- Named in honour of Florence Nightingale, the pledge is a modified version of the Hippocratic Oath.
- Developed in 1893 by a group in Detroit, Michigan, the pledge was inspired by the work of Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.
- The pledge is often used at US nursing pinning ceremonies but not used outside of USA. Many modifications made over the years.
- (McDonald, CJ, 2025c)



1889



Claydon House

In 1889, Mr. Isaac Milsom & family moved from Ireland to England to begin to work for Lady Verney as a gardener at Claydon House

(England Country Census, 2023/Ancestry.com)



(Photo-Claydon House:
National Trust, 2020)

1890 Gift: Medicine Chest



- Lady Verney (Florence's sister) gave this medicine chest to her gardener: Mr. Isaac Milsom, head gardener at Claydon House, where she lived.
- Lady Verney often gave possessions of her famous sister away to friends and family (as stated on an exhibit in the FNM, 2018)
- Mr. & Mrs. Milsom were friends of both the Nightingale sisters (CoN archives: Brown et al., 2008; Saskatoon Daily Star, 1917), University of Saskatchewan, 1961). Florence Nightingale often stayed at Claydon House in the summers (FNM, 2023n).
- As Lady Verney died in 1890, she may have gifted the medicine chest before she passed as a useful gift to the Milsom family who had many children.
(Kent-Wilkinson, 2021)



1890-1910



Last Two Decades

- Florence Nightingale spent much of the last two decades of her life as a housebound invalid, suffering from what may have been brucellosis, that she acquired during her time in the Crimea.

(FNM, 2025; McDonald, 2001; McDonald, CJ, 2025c)



Florence Nightingale in her later years
© Universal History Archive/Universal
Images Group via Getty Images

1904



Lady of Grace of the Order of St John (LGStJ)

- In 1904, Nightingale was appointed a Lady of Grace of the Order of St John (LGStJ)

(FNM, 2025; McDonald, 2001; McDonald, CJ, 2025c)



Breast star of a Knight of Grace
of the Order of St John

1907



Order of Merit

- In 1907, Nightingale was awarded the *Order of Merit*;
- First female to receive the award;
- The Order of Merit is an award for notable work in the armed forces, science, art, literature, or for the promotion of culture.

(FNM, 2025; McDonald, 2001; McDonald, CJ, 2025c)



1910: Death



Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

Died peacefully in her sleep
August 13, 1910 at age 90
in her home at 10 South Street
in Mayfair, London
(FNM, 2025; McDonald, 2001; McDonald, C.J.
2025c).



New plaque on rebuilt premises
All images © English Heritage



1907, watercolour of Nightingale
at age 87 by Frances Amicia de
Biden Footner (1874-1961)

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