

Florence Nightingale: Life & Legacy



Florence Nightingale 1820-1910

2a. Florence Nightingale: Life (1820-1910)

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

Land Acknowledgement



National

 In Canada, from 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.

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)

Florence Nightingale 1910-2025+

LEGACY



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).

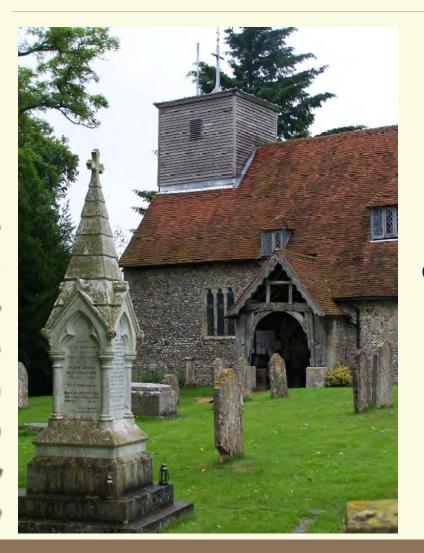


New plaque on rebuilt premises All images © English Heritage



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

1910 Grave of Florence Nightingale



Florence Nightingale is buried in the churchyard of St Margaret's Church in East Wellow, Hampshire, near Embley Park one of the family homes There is a family monument of her parents but just her initials F.N. 1820-1920 And dates of birth and death. (McDonald, CJ. 2025) The offer of burial in Westminster Abbey was declined by her relatives





Past Possessions of Florence Nightingale - Medicine Chest

 One Medicine Chest came to Canada in 1912 when the Milsoms (Isaac & Mary Ellen & family) immigrated to Saskatoon, SK for Isaac to do landscaping for the city, bringing the medicine chest with them

 Another medicine chest (box) went to the Florence Nightingale Museum in 1989 after being first given along with many of her possessions to the Nightingale Training school at St Thomas Hospital

• (FNM, 2025; Kent-Wilkinson 2021)



Florence Nightingale Statue in Florence, Italy

- After Nightingales death the city of Florence, Italy where she was born, erected a statue in her honour at The Basilica of Santa Croce.
- The statue was created by Francis William Sargent in 1913.

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



Florence Nightingale Statue, Florence, Italy



Florence Nightingale Statue in London, England

- Statue by Arthur George Walker, 1915, commissioned in 1910
- Erected in Waterloo Place,
 St James's, London, England

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



Statue by Arthur George Walker, 1915 Waterloo Place, St James's, London, England

1925: Badge of Nightingale Training School



The Badge of the Nightingale Training School.

Introduced by Dame Alicia Lloyd Still in 1925,

The color blue was chosen as being the color of the ribbon of the

Order of Merit of Miss Nightingale.

The center of the design portrays the head of Miss Nightingale in relief,

with the words, "Schola Sancti Thomae."

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

1939 Nightingale Postal Stamp





In 1939 Belgium issued
a semi-postal stamp
in honour of Nightingale
in recognition of her work
with the Red Cross
when in Belgium

1951 Collection of Letters



Past Possessions of Florence Nightingale

Collection of Letters in USA

- Florence Nightingale left countless gifts to the world of nursing, and some of those treasures are in the possession of the <u>University of Alabama at Birmingham</u> (UAB, 2020) in the United States of America.
- The UAB Reynolds-Finley Historical Library, has 48 letters, a newspaper clipping, and a photograph of Nightingale from her era.
- Most of the letters were handwritten by Nightingale and several others were dictated and signed by her.
- The letters, dated between <u>1853 and 1893</u>
 were purchased in <u>1951</u> from a New York bookstore (UAB, 2020).



1954 FN Museum



Florence Nightingale Museum in Turkey

- The museum was opened in memory of the English nurse Florence Nightingale who came to Istanbul in 1854 to tend the Turkish and allied soldiers of the Crimean War.
- The hospital was at the Selimiye Army Barrack and now the room in the northwest tower has been turned into a museum.

(All About Turkey, 2025)



Image Credit: Sadik Gulec / Shutterstock



Florence Nightingale in Turkey (Cont.)

 The exhibits include Florence Nightingale's personal belongings, photographs, certificates, medallions and the bracelet that sultan Abdulmecid presented to her.

 In order to visit the museum you need an official permit in advance since this is located inside a high security military

area.

(All About Turkey, 2025)



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Florence Nightingale's Past Possession: Medicine Chest

- In about 1956, the Nightingale Medicine Chest in Canada was donated to the University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine by Dr. H. D & Mrs. Weaver of Saskatoon, SK. (University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing Archives, 1961)
- In about 1918, the Nightingale medicine chest was given to the Weavers by a former resident of Saskatoon, Mr. Isaac Milson who had bought it with his wife and family when they immigrated to Canada in 1912 (Census of Canada, 1916)
- In about 1890, in England, Lady Verney (sister of Florence Nightingale) gifted the medicine chest to Mr. Isaac Milsom (head gardener) (University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing Archives, 1961)
- Mary Ellen (McNabb) Milsom (Issac's wife) was an intimate friend of Florence Nightingale (Saskatoon Daily Star, 1917).



International Nurses Day (IND)

• IND is an international day observed around the world on 12 May (the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth) each year, to mark the contributions that nurses make to society. ICN has celebrated this day since 1965 (International Council of Nurses [ICN], 2023).



In 1989, the FNM opened in London, England

 This museum celebrates the life, work, and legacy of the best known figure in nursing history - Florence Nightingale, with a collection of over 3000 exhibits (FNM, 2025)





The FNM is located on the campus of St. Thomas Hospital and the (now named) Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery (founded in 1860).

The museum is across the Thames from the Buildings of Parliament and Big Ben next to Westminster Bridge (FNM, 2025).

In 1989, the FNM opened in London, England

In 2018, Dr. Kent-Wilkinson visited the FNM in England for the first time; She was curious to see if the FNM had a medicine chest.

"It was validating to see that the medicine chest displayed was different than ours in Canada, it was of the same era., but a small box"





Medicine Chest (box) (Approx. Size: 6"h, x 5"w, x5"d) Florence Nightingale Museum, London, England. FNM: #0694 and 0596

FNM, 2023h, 2025)

FNM Exhibit: Medicine Chest/Box

- The FNM has many of Florence
 Nightingale's possessions as
 exhibits (nursing notes, desk,
 uniforms), the 'medicine chest' or
 'box' displayed is a feature exhibit.
- It does looks to be of the same era as the larger medicine chest that coincidently came to Canada in 1912 (when Mr. Isaac Milson and family immigrated to Canada).
- Could they have been a companion set at one time?





Exhibits of personal items that once belonged to Florence Nightingale in a display case. The documentation below is most significant ... that Parthenope often gave her famous sister's personal items to friends and family (FNM, 2018,

2023, 2025)

A piece of lace, a purse and brooch that belonged to Florence. The locket of hair possibly belonged to her mother or sister. Parthenope distributed locks of Florence a hair to close friends and family.

FNM: 1004, 0097, and 0099

FNM Exhibit: 1918 (Spanish) Influenza Pandemic

In 2017/2018, the FNM showcased a series of exhibits on the 1918 pandemic to mark 100 years since a global pandemic that infected 500 million people, about a third of the world's population at the time, in four successive waves.

(FNM, 2018)



Exhibit: A Truly Global Pandemic "Wall Mural at FNM in 2018

FNM Exhibit: 1918 (Spanish) Influenza Pandemic (cont.)

• The death toll was estimated to have been somewhere between 17 million and 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in human history (FNM, 2023, 2025; Rosenwaldn, 2020; Spreeuwenberg et al., 2018).



Exhibit: A Truly Global Pandemic "Wall Mural at FNM in 2018

2018 Future Prediction:

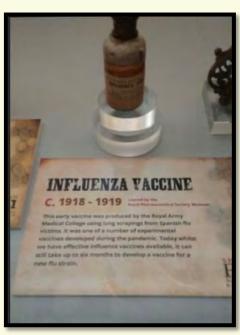
 The prediction in the last two paragraphs of the exhibit are enlarged below: The planetary Aspect 10th prevalency is appeared to the series of the se

Spanish Flu Pandemic. "A century on from the deadly Spanish flu in 1918, could an equally catastrophic flu outbreak happen again? Today there is still no universal flu vaccine. Air travel would help an outbreak spread swiftly, and public services would still be overwhelmed, with so many people off sick. So far we have escaped such a pandemic, but many scientists believe it is only a matter of time. When a pandemic strikes, nurses will once again take on a central role caring for the sick and dying, using infection control" (FNM, 2018).

FNM Exhibit: Influenza Vaccine C. 1918-1919

Loaned by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Museum

- "This early vaccine was produced by the Royal Army Medical College using lung scrapings from Spanish flu victims.
- It was one of a number of experimental vaccines developed during the pandemic.
- Today, whilst we have a number of effective influenza vaccines available,
- it can still take up to six months to develop a vaccine for a new flu strain" (FNM, 2018).



Infection Control Skills

The Infection control skills Nightingale honed during the Crimea proved to be critical lessons on how infections spread and how to design military or field hospitals in combatting the 1918 Flu pandemic (McDonald, 2010).





Environment/Gardens/Pets

- Miss Nightingale was early to recognize the importance of fresh air and the therapeutic effect of gardens on patients' wellbeing; she championed hospitals having their own gardens (Thompson, 2020).
- Perhaps this is one of the reasons why Mr. Milsom, the gardener at Claydon House and his wife were family friends.
- Nightingale spent most of her summers at Clayton house



Animal Therapy

- The value Miss Nightingale placed on nature's healing qualities extended to animals; she was an early pioneer of pet therapy (Thompson, 2020). She had several cats in her lifetime.
- Nightingale wrote that "a small pet is often an excellent companion for the sick" in her book 'Notes on Nursing'.
- Some of the soldiers in the hospitals at Scutari were allowed to keep pets.
- One such animal was a tortoise called 'Jimmy', and his shell is a prized display at the FNM in London.



Jimmy the Tortoise, 19th century (Display No. 59: FNM, 2020c)

2020 - 200th anniversary

Florence Nightingale's 200 anniversary of her birth

World Health Assembly designated 2020 'International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife'

(World Health Organization [WHO], 2020a)



2020, Fall

2020 Recommendations for the Florence Nightingale Medicine Chest (Needs for Management and/or Development)

(Email to: Acting Dean Cindy Peternelj-Taylor, and Mark Tomtene, Director of Operations and Strategic Planning, College of Nursing):



Recommendation re Nightingale Medicine Chest be Re-located:

- Since 2014 the Florence Nightingale medicine chest display has been located on the 4th floor of Ewing, with the College of Nursing faculty offices. The display case is in the atrium beneath a skylight midway between two long hallways, near the staircase descending to the 3rd floor of School of Public Health faculty offices.
- "I recommend the FNMC display case be moved, as the direct UV light of the skylight, according to Luo et al. (2020) is not conducive to the care and protection of artifacts".......Thanks Arlene Kent-Wilkinson RN, PhD 3

2020 - 200th anniversary

March 20, 2020 Global COVID Pandemic started May 12, 2020: 200thAnniversary Florence Nightingale Birthday

Medicine Chest Research began"
Document Search of Archives, Genealogy Data Bases,
Country Census, Literature:

- Ancestry.com
- College of Nursing Archives
- Country Census: Canada, England, Ireland
- City of Saskatoon Archives
- My Heritage.com
- Nursing Books
- Professor Emeritus
- Star Phoenix Archives
- USask Archives

2022, March 1,

Collaboration with Florence Nightingale Museum London, Eng

- On March 1, 2022, Zoom Meeting with Mr. David Green, Director of FNM in London (Arlene, Helen, David)
- Discussed future ideas for collaboration



Research on Nightingale Archive in Canada

- Faculty at the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada are commencing research on an artifact that once belonged to Florence Nightingale
- Literature review and archival search started in 2020





2022, May

Florence Nightingale Medicine Chest Nurses Week May 9-15, 2022 Featuring students.

(L to R) Current USask College of Nursing 3rd year students Kiandra Pennell and Ashlyn Froehlich check out the historical chest on May 6th.2021





University of Saskatchewan. (2022, May 12). Florence Nightingale medicine chest: Historic medicine chest located at the University of Saskatchewan. College of Nursing

https://nursing.usask.ca/news/2022/20220512florence-nightingale-medicine-chest.php

2023, February 8





Florence Nightingale's Possessions: Wheelchair

- The wheelchair is currently owned by Johns Hopkins University in the USA.
- Made from mahogany and iron, the customized chair was used by the nursing reformer to move around her home after contracting "Crimean fever" in 1855,
- Her wheelchair was bought in 1921 by Dr Howard Kelly, chairman of gynecology at Johns Hopkins.
- The Baltimore university restored the chair and donate it to the Florence Nightingale Museum in London

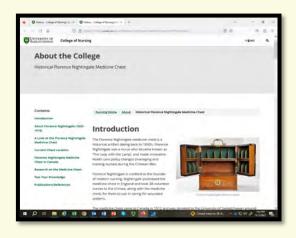
(British Broadcasting Corporation, 2023)

British Broadcasting Corporation. (2023, February 8). *Florence Nightingale wheelchair could return to London* https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-64556525

2023, May 12, 2023

Launch of Nightingale Medicine Chest Website

- Nurses Week May 8-14, 2023
- Nightingale Medicine Chest Website launched May 12, 2023 anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth,



University of Saskatchewan. (2023, May 12). About the College *Historical Florence Nightingale medicine chest*. College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

https://nursing.usask.ca/about/florence-nightingale-medicine-chest.php

2023, February 8



Launch of the Florence Nightingale Exhibition in Belfast, Ireland

• On February 8, 2023, the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queens University in Belfast, Ireland *launched a Florence Nightingale exhibition* (Queens University, Belfast, Ireland, 2023)



(Queens University, Belfast, Ireland, 2023)



Political Map of Ireland, Wikipedia

2024 Lee Hurst-Nightingale's Childhood Home



Montanez, A. (2024, June 12). Florence Nightingale's childhood home just listed for \$4.8 million. Robb Report. https://robbreport.com/shelter/celebrity-homes/florence-nightingale-home-lea-hurst-1235651300/

2024

SSHRC Research grant 2022-2024 Research completed by Dec 31, 2024

Findings of archival documents and qualitative interviews with Robert and sister Jeanne Thomas, living descendants of one of the custodians of the Medicine Chest (Alice Weaver) validating that the medicine chest in Canada did in fact once belong to Florence Nightingale, through their memory account of seeing the medicine chest in 1956, and their family album of pictures

2025

- Updates to CoN Webpage
- Nightingale Medicine Chest: Banner
- □ Nightingale Medicine Chest: Poster
- Nightingale Medicine Chest: Handouts
- □ Nightingale Medicine Chest: PPTS 1-5

Florence Nightingale: Legacy



Florence Nightingale 1820-1910

About Florence Nightingale

Most Known For:

- Founder of modern nursing
- British social reformer
- Lady with the Lamp
- Statistician
- Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition
- Field hospital design
- Nursing education

Scientific Career:

Fields:

- Hospital hygiene and sanitation;
- Statistics





About Florence Nightingale (cont.)

Publications

1860: Notes on Nursing

Awards:

- 1883: Royal Red Cross
- 1904: Lady of Grace of the order of St John (LGStJ)
- 1907: Order o Merit

Museums:

- 1954: Florence Nightingale Museum in Turkey opened.
- 1989: Florence Nightingale Museum in London England opened. Over 300 artifacts.

Statues:

- 1913: Statue of FN in Florence, Italy where she was born
- 1915: Statue of FN in Waterloo Place, St James, London, England



Florence Nightingale's Contributions

Crimean War, 1854-1856

- Florence Nightingale's first famous contribution came during the Crimean War, 1854-56 (McDonald, CJ, 2025c). Nightingale came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organized care for wounded soldiers.
- When her reports got back to Britain about the horrific conditions for the wounded soldiers at the military hospital at Scutari (modern-day Uskudar in Istanbul), she raised public awareness of needed reforms.
- Nightingale gave nursing a favourable reputation and became an icon of Victorian culture, especially in the persona of "The Lady with the Lamp" making rounds of wounded soldiers at night as widely reported in The Times in London (McDonald, CJ., 2025d).

Florence Nightingale's Contributions (cont.)

Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition

- Nightingale believed 'epidemics could be controlled with better nutrition, ventilation and sanitation' (Panos, 2020).
- Nightingale later introduced policies for modern nursing practices of handwashing and sanitation regimes to control infection resulting in significant reductions to the death rates of the soldiers; policies that have saved millions of lives around the world since that time.



Florence Nightingale's Contributions (cont.)

English Social Reformer

- Nightingale had an important influence on campaigns to improve healthcare in the 19th and 20th centuries (National Archives, 2023).
- Nightingale's social reforms included improving healthcare for all sections of British society, advocating better hunger relief in India, helping to abolish prostitution laws that were harsh for women, and expanding the acceptable forms of female participation in the workforce (Garofalo & Fee, 2010).

Florence Nightingale's Contributions (cont.)

Founder of Modern Nursing

- Nightingale was the first to organize nurses and provide standardized roles and responsibilities for the profession.
- One of Nightingale's signal achievements was the introduction of trained nurses into the workhouse system in Britain from the 1860s onwards. This meant that sick paupers were no longer being cared for by other, able-bodied paupers, but by properly trained nursing staff.
- Nightingale set an example of compassion, commitment to patient care and diligent and thoughtful hospital administration.
- Nightingale's lasting contribution (and is most credited with) has been her role in founding the modern nursing profession (British Red Cross, 2023).

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https://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/highlights-of-the-collection/

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THANK-YOU

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