



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

NURSING LEADER

Profile

Internationally renowned hospital reformer and founder of modern nursing whose dedication to improving healthcare delivery revolutionized the nursing profession on a global scale. Pioneer in using new statistical-analysis techniques to prove the need for enhancements in sanitation methods, patient nutrition and medical facilities.

Nursing career spans 50+ years of international service caring for the sick, impoverished and war-wounded; advocating for patient needs and preventive care; advising foreign governments on needed healthcare changes; and elevating the status, training and nobility of the nursing profession. Internationally traveled and multilingual skills (English, Italian, Latin and Greek).

Key Skills

- ❖ *Nursing & Healthcare*
- ❖ *Safety & Sanitation*
- ❖ *Statistical Analysis*
- ❖ *Quality Care Standards*
- ❖ *Hospital Reform*
- ❖ *Continuous Improvement*
- ❖ *Compassionate Care*
- ❖ *Patient Advocacy*
- ❖ *Preventive Medicine*

Career Highlights

VARIOUS HOSPITALS & FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS – US, UK, Europe, India
Nursing & Healthcare Advisor / Consultant / Advocate, 1860 to 1895

- ❖ Approached by the US Union government for advice on organizing field medicine (which subsequently prompted the creation of the US Sanitary Commission), and served as an inspiration for nurses during the Civil War.
- ❖ Campaigned to raise funds and awareness for public-health improvements in many different countries.
- ❖ Worked in hospitals serving economically disadvantaged populations throughout Germany, France, the UK and India.
- ❖ Devoted many years to developing practical sanitation strategies and improving public-health services in India and Pakistan.
- ❖ Authored and published *Notes on Nursing* that became a bestseller and is now considered a classic introduction to nursing. Championed the idea that working-class women were guardians of their families' health as part of a strategy to reduce the high mortality from preventable disease.

NIGHTINGALE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES – London, England

WOMEN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE – London, England

Founder / Co-founder & Director, 1860 to 1880

- ❖ Established and oversaw nurse training school within St. Thomas' Hospital (now called the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery and part of King's College London).
- ❖ Cofounded second nurse training academy (1869) in partnership with the first woman to qualify as a doctor in the US.
- ❖ Developed curriculum that not only drove the instructional programs at these schools, but also served as the cornerstone for programs at many other nursing schools subsequently opened worldwide.
- ❖ Instructed nurses in the delivery of knowledgeable, compassionate patient care, elevating the status, respect, training and overall influence of the profession during its formative years.
- ❖ Created teams of highly trained nurses who went on to serve at leading hospitals throughout Britain and Australia.

Career Highlights

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HEALTH OF THE ARMY – London, England

Advisor, 1857 to 1860

- ❖ Accepted invitation from Queen Victoria to help establish the Royal Commission on the Health of the Army (despite health complications caused by contracting “Crimean Fever” during the war).
- ❖ Wrote commission's +1,000-page report calling for drastic healthcare reform via improved sanitation, nutrition and preventive care that served as the impetus for a complete reform of both military and public hospitals.
- ❖ Invented groundbreaking polar-area diagram tool (representing statistical data in an easy-to-grasp graphical display) to dramatize the devastating results of unsanitary conditions and procure overwhelming support for reform.
- ❖ Credited with significantly reducing deaths in the Army; inspired the formation of the Army Medical College; and consequently turned attention to the sanitary design of hospitals and the training of professional nurses.

BRITISH ARMED SERVICES – Deployed to Scutari (*now known as Istanbul, Turkey*)

Nurse Team Leader: Crimean War, 1854 to 1856

- ❖ Recruited by the British Secretary of War to assemble, coordinate, train and lead the military's entire nursing contingent (comprised of 38 nurses) to care for ill or injured soldiers during the Crimean War in Turkey.
- ❖ Addressed deplorable conditions of military hospital by leading team in major facility cleanup and equipment sanitization effort coupled with a total reorganization of patient care.
- ❖ Halted common military practice of requiring Army nurses to serve as cooks as well as healthcare providers. Convinced military leaders of the need to allow nursing professionals to focus solely on patient needs, substantially elevating the quality of care.
- ❖ Pioneered the collecting/analyzing of data and systemizing of recordkeeping within the nursing field. Used informatics to calculate mortality rate and prove the need for a drastic overhaul of sanitary methods to reduce loss of life.
- ❖ Led the charge to create a government-sanctioned sanitary commission to address hospital overcrowding, defective sewers and lack of ventilation. Efforts reduced alarming rate of soldiers' death from typhus, typhoid, cholera and dysentery.

INSTITUTE FOR THE CARE OF SICK GENTLEWOMEN – London, England

Hospital Superintendent, 1853 to 1854

- ❖ Demonstrated an unwavering commitment to quality patient care in early career as a hospital superintendent (an unpaid position for women at the time).
- ❖ Combated religious prejudice barring the admittance and treatment of Roman Catholics, Jews and Muslims. Convinced hospital committee to administer healthcare to patients of all religious beliefs.

Visited dozens of hospitals in the UK and Europe (1844 to 1849) to master nursing basics, trained with the nursing Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul in Alexandria (1850) and studied at the Institute for Protestant Deaconesses in Germany (1851).

Education

Honors

- ❖ Jeweled broach awarded by Queen Victoria during the Crimean War, 1857
- ❖ Elected as the first female member of the Royal Statistical Society, 1858
- ❖ Royal Red Cross First Class, 1883
- ❖ Badge of a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, 1904
- ❖ British Order of Merit, 1907 (*first woman to receive this honor*)
- ❖ Badge of Honour (Norwegian Red Cross Society), 1910
- ❖ Immortalized as “The Lady of the Lamp” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his 1857 poem describing vigilant, 24x7 watch over patients.