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Florence Nightingale: One Woman's Vision

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House of Learning Lecture

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Introduction

Welcome to this House of Learning Lecture, sponsored by the Harold B. Lee Library. My name is Beth Vaughan Cole, and I would like to thank all of the library staff that worked so very hard to make this exhibition possible. I would especially like to thank Betsy Hopkins and Russ Taylor from the Library, and from the College of Nursing, I would like to thank the whole Nightingale Committee: Jean Bigelow, alumni; Sherry Poulson representing the College of Nursing Community Volunteer Leadership Council; Karen Lundberg and Cheryl Corbett from the College of Nursing Faculty, who contributed greatly to the Nightingale project ; and, in particular, I would like to thank Glenda Christiaens from the faculty who worked closely with Betsy and Russ. You will see the fruits of their excellent work in the exhibit. I would like to acknowledge the BYU Department of Statistics and their contribution to the exhibit, and the role that statistics has in the history of nursing. And, I would like to thank Sherry Poulson and Janet Sirstins for greeting everyone in period costumes today.

A deep debt of gratitude is due to David Magee for his careful gathering of the material in the Victorian Collection. He recognized the value of these items. The collection is more than the Nightingale items. Last year, the Harold B. Lee Library created a Robert Burns exhibit with materials from this same collection. Preserving the past is a major goal for most libraries. Through the vision and capacity of the Harold B. Lee Library staff, they purchased the materials from Mr. Magee in 1969.

As most of you know, this is the 100th year anniversary of Florence Nightingale's death, which gives us a perfect occasion to focus a bit of attention on her enormous contribution to establishing the profession of nursing. It also gives the profession an opportunity to highlight a bit of its history and contributions to society. I have organized my presentation into five parts. The first is a brief history of the Nightingale family and Victorian England, followed by Florence Nightingale's early years, 6 people who influenced Florence, The Crimea and Nightingale at the Barracks Hospital, and after the Crimean War. As a psychiatric nurse, I am fascinated by interpersonal dynamics and I believe that you will find the people in Florence's life very interesting. Florence Nightingale was a remarkable woman. I hope you will get to know her a bit better through this lecture and value her extraordinary contribution to society.

The information for this presentation was generally taken from three books, Barbara Dossey's *Florence Nightingale: Mystic, Visionary, Healer*, Mark Bostridge's *Florence Nightingale: The Making of an Icon*,

and Gillian Gill's *Nightingales: the Extraordinary Upbringing and Curious Life of Miss Florence Nightingale*.

Victorian England and the Nightingales

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy, on May 12th, 1820. She was obviously named after the city of her birth, as was her sister, Francis Parthenope, who was born a year earlier. Parthe (or Pop) was born in Naples, Italy, and named for her mother, Francis, and after the Greek name for Naples, Parthenope; where she was born. Parthe and Florence Nightingale's parents were Frances (known as Fanny) and William Edward Shore. Both children were born in Italy, where the Nightingales were on an extended honeymoon while their home at Lea Hurst was being renovated.

As was typical of the time and society, generally only male heirs would inherit property. Peter Nightingale, of Lea, was the childless uncle of William Edward Shore. Peter was known as a bit eccentric though very prosperous in his time. He left his estate, Lea Hurst, to his nephew, William Edward Shore, who was the son of his sister, Anne. Again, typical of the time, William Edward Shore changed his name when he inherited the Nightingale estate. At age 21, he changed his name to William Edward Nightingale and was known widely as W.E.N. On receiving the estate there were expressed directions that if W.E. N. had no male heirs the estate would go to a male heir of W.E.N.'s sister, Mary Shore Smith. (This is an important element in the character development of Florence and I will touch on it again).

W.E.N.'s father, also a William Shore, was a successful banker. They could trace their family back to the 15th Century. Their family started the first banking business in the town of Sheffield, England, in 1774. Coming from a wealthy family and because there was a strong commitment to education, W. E. N. first attended college at Cambridge and then at Edinburgh. At the time when W.E.N. went to Cambridge, he was allowed to attend school, but not to graduate because he did not belong to the Church of England. W.E.N. loved learning and was known for his keen intellect and breadth of knowledge combined with a deep curiosity for learning. Well educated and an excellent property and money manager, W.E.N. was successful in his own right all of his life.

Brother and sister, W.E.N. and Mary married into the William Smith family. W.E.N. married Francis Smith (usually called Fanny) and Mary (called Aunt Mai by Florence in her many letters) married Sam Smith. W.E.N. married Francis Smith in June of 1818. W.E.N. was 24 and Fanny was about 30. Fanny was the sister of his friend, Octavius Smith. Octavius and W.E.N. were friends at Higham Hall (Bostridge, 2008, p.18). Higham Hall was a school where the head master was Unitarian. W.E.N. went to Cambridge at the same time as Sam Smith, another of Fanny's brothers. There is a record of the Smith family visiting the Shores when W.E.N. was ten years old. The families knew each other for many years laying a foundation for the future marriages.

Let me introduce you to Fanny Smith and her family. She was one of 12 children born to Martha (known as Patty) and William Smith. Ten of the children lived to adulthood. Fanny's father was William Smith, MP (Member of Parliament). He was a well known member of the Whig Party and Patty and William entertained many of the important notables of the day. William Smith had an extensive library and an outstanding art collection, which included pieces by Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Reynolds and others.

The Smiths were Unitarian, and thus were also part of the “Dissenters” in English society. Dissenters included anyone not a member of the Church of England (Anglican Church). Fanny’s father, William Smith, was a close colleague of William Wilberforce, Thomas Clarkson, and others, who fostered the abolition of slavery (if you have seen the movie *Amazing Grace* recently you know about the history of this legislative issue in England). While William Smith was not a Member of Parliament when the final vote was taken, he had actively worked for years to pass antislavery legislation. William Smith had two other main goals for serving in Parliament. They were the extension of religious liberty (for “dissenters” were often persecuted) and the reform of Parliament, which was thought to be very corrupt and overly influenced by the “Crown”. He lived to see many of these changes occur in his life time. The author Bostridge (2008) noted William Smith was liberal in his religious views and open to exploring many religions, a trait he passed on to his granddaughter Florence.

Fanny Nightingale was known as a beauty; very poised and gracious. W.E.N. and Fanny were known for their social parties that engaged many of the notables of the day. Fanny was well suited for her role in society as the wife of an influential businessman. She loved the social world of politics that she had learned in her own home. After the birth of their two children, W.E.N. and Fanny moved into the remodeled Lea Hearst. In 1925, W.E.N.’s wealth allowed them to purchase an additional elegant home in Embley Park, Romsey, Hampshire, where they would be closer to the social and political activities associated with London. There were many notable people living nearby, along with several of Fanny’s sisters.

Florence Nightingale’s early years

There are surviving letters that Florence Nightingale wrote at age 7. She kept up correspondence with many people over her life time and much of her prolific letter writing remains today. It was not unusual for a letter to be written several times and sent to different people. Even letters written to others could be requested to be returned and then collected as part of a diary or travelogue. Before she became famous she wrote to many notable people. She wrote to a large number of family members and friends frequently, even several times a week. As she began her campaign for health reform, she wrote letters to family friends who also were political leaders or influential in society. But I am getting ahead of myself.

There were at least three major influences in Nightingale’s early life; her education, her health as a child and her interest in the health of others, and her religious education and strivings.

When Florence was 7, a governess was hired to educate her and Parthe, yet her most influential tutor was her father, W.E.N. Florence was an excellent student. W.E.N. took over Parthe’s and Florence’s education. They studied geography, history, languages and mathematics. Florence studied French, German, Italian, and Turkish history. She was fluent in Latin, Greek, French, German and Italian. She was particularly drawn to making lists and organizing information. She liked math and how it solved questions and problems. She enjoyed talking with her father about social issues, politics, and many ideas that stirred her thinking. Dossey (2010) says Florence was “his intellectual companion” (p.17). She spent long hours studying and preparing her lessons with her father.

Most Nightingale historians note that Florence had many illnesses as a child. Large estates were drafty and Nightingale was frequently ill. Also, a large estate required many people to manage the grounds, the house and all its activities. Fanny and Florence would visit the villagers and take them food and herbs to help them in their illnesses. There are several stories about Florence caring for her “sick dolls as a young child.” There are surviving letters of Florence as a young girl and her notes on the illnesses of family members. She wrote about caring for an ill cousin. When she was 9 her cousin, Bonham (Bonny) Carter, died. He was only 10 and his death affected her greatly.

Dossey (2010) wrote that Nightingale grew up in a world that was “deeply religious; the church and religion were an integral part of everyday life.” Through letters and writings of Florence, there is record of her serious approach to her religious studies as a young girl. She would often include scriptures in her letters. One letter 10-year-old Florence wrote to her mother in 1830 included a list of things she would do: “pray regularly” and “visit the poor people and take care of those who are sick.”

Nightingale wrote about her “Call from God” later in her life. When she was 16, she believed the message was, “That a quest there is, and an end, is the single secret spoken.” She tried desperately to get her parents to allow her to go to Kaiserwerth, Germany, where a hospital was experimenting with educating deaconesses (Protestant nurses). In England there were two tracks to becoming a nurse. Catholic nuns had orders devoted to caring for the sick. And poor women, often with questionable reputations, were assigned by the courts or hired by families to care for the sick in their homes. Florence believed there was a better way to care for people who were sick.

In 1850, on a trip to Egypt with family friends, the Bracebridges, Nightingale had another Spiritual experience. Dossey (2010, p. 65) reports, “She recorded in her diary, ‘God called me in the morning and asked me, Would I do good for Him, for Him alone without the reputation (meaning self interest)?’” By that time, Nightingale had refused two marriage proposals and questioned the purpose of her life.

Let me introduce you to 3 women who strongly influenced Florence Nightingale and 3 men, for they helped build the foundation of her great contribution to society: The women were her Aunt Mai, Harriet Martineau, and Selena Bracebridge, and the men were Lord Sidney Herbert, Prime Minister Lord Palmerston, and Richard Monckton Milnes. There were many others who played important roles in Florence’s life and the health reforms she instituted. I encourage you to read one of the many biographies of her.

6 people who influenced Florence Nightingale

Florence’s Aunt Mai (her father’s sister) was an influence early in her life and shared her spiritual interests. She was Florence’s advocate with Florence’s mother, supporting Florence’s intellectual interests. This was extremely important as Florence tried to separate herself from her family’s belief that Florence’s only role should be as a married woman. The strength of those beliefs was so singular and so etched in society that Florence’s wonderful contributions need to be recognized against this backdrop.

Harriet Martineau was a friend of Nightingale's Aunt Julie, one of Fanny's sisters. Both Harriet and Aunt Julie were concerned about social reform and the women's suffragette movement. They were concerned about the living conditions of children and the elderly. Both women were single and concerned about the limited options for women who were widows or did not marry. Harriet Martineau was a noted journalist and writer. Almost twenty years older than Florence, Harriet's early work focused on injustices to workers. She wrote historical books, such as *Society of America*, and *History of England during the Thirty Years' Peace (1849)* (Dossey, 2010 pp. 214-215). Martineau wrote over 1500 newspaper columns and is recognized as the first woman of sociology for her methodological and analytical comparisons of societies. I'll note her role in social reform with Florence Nightingale a little later.

Selina Bracebridge and her husband Charles were close friends with the Nightingales. They had no children of their own and Nightingale would travel with them on extended trips. Selina rescued Florence on several occasions from the contention within the Nightingale family due to Florence's refusals to marry and her desire to find a purpose for her life. Selina introduced her to Sidney Herbert.

In 1848, on a trip with the Bracebridges to Italy, Selina introduced Florence to Elizabeth and Sidney Herbert. Sidney Herbert's wife, Elizabeth, was another young woman that the Bracebridges had befriended. Herbert was a wealthy landowner in Wiltshire, England, who was committed to providing better living and welfare resources for his tenants and villagers. He entered parliament at age 22 and was a Member of Parliament from 1832-1861. In 1841 he was Secretary to the Admiralty and then the Secretary of War from 1845-46, and again from 1854-55 during the War in Crimea. He was a serious reformer and he worked to reform the War department and other government agencies. Over his lifetime he had many important political positions. He wrote the official invitation to Florence go to Turkey and the Crimean War as the Superintendent of Nurses. He supported Florence in her quest for health reform.

Lord Palmerston was a neighbor of the Nightingales at Embley Park. He was Prime Minister from 1855-58 and 1859-65. He was known as a great British statesman and had significant political positions from 1809-1865. One of his talents was his astute use of public opinion to influence government. He was a key supporter of Nightingale, her reformist ideas, and her work for nursing.

Richard Monckton Milnes, also known as Lord Houghton, courted Florence for 7 years before she refused his hand in marriage. He soon married another woman, but he and Nightingale remained friends for life. He supported her reform efforts and gave her advice after the Crimea.

The Crimea and Nightingale at the Barracks Hospital

I realize this has been a long time in setting the frame, but Nightingale was a rather complicated woman and it seemed a little unfair to just discuss her work in the Crimea without having an understanding of what happened before that event.

Lord Shaftesbury (also called Lord Ashley) was a great reformer, advocating for child labor laws, and 10 hour work days and other important reforms. He advised Nightingale to read the British governments'

Blue Books. These Blue Books were the British government's parliamentary reports. They were like almanacs or compilations of statistics and information. They greatly influenced Nightingale and taught her how to organize information in significant and persuasive ways.

Nightingale visited Kaiserswerth Hospital twice; once in 1850 for 2 weeks and later for 3 months in 1851. Here she learned that to ensure quality, there had to be organization and rules. She wrote over 100 pages of notes of her careful observations and activities. She wrote to others about the "sacredness" of her work there (Dossey, 2010, p. 76). Most Nightingale biographers note she developed some of her beliefs about administration and organization from these experiences.

Finally, in 1852 Nightingale was able to build a life separate from the social entanglements of her family. After watching his daughter care for his dying mother, Grandmother Shore, Florence's father gave her an annual allowance and helped her move into a place of her own. He went against his wife and Parthe's wishes and gave Florence permission to develop her own life.

A charitable "Institution for Sick Gentlewomen" was being reorganized and Lady Canning and Elizabeth Herbert recommended Florence for the position of Superintendent. Dossey (2010, p. 86) notes, "Keeping with social protocols of the time, which dictated that a lady of Nightingale's class could perform only charitable or philanthropic work," Nightingale received no salary as superintendent; however, she was able to hone her administrative and organizational skills there. Nightingale focused on the environment, along with the care of the women. She applied her budgetary and mathematical skills in her quarterly reports. After completing her contract of one year, she left Harley Street Hospital. She had faced drunken workmen, limited supplies and resources, poor daily dietary support, and a variety of problems with the nurses.

To many of us historical novices, the origins of the Crimean War may not be clear. In the 1850s England wanted to maintain naval control in the eastern Mediterranean to protect their trade routes with India. Both France and Russia claimed they would protect Christians in the Holy Land: France representing the Roman Catholics and Russia the Greek Orthodox Church. A conflict between the Roman Catholic monks and the Orthodox monks in Jerusalem broke out and several Orthodox monks were killed. The Russians held the Turkish government responsible and moved troops in position to attack. After the Russian naval fleet wiped out the Turkish fleet, the English and the French governments demanded that the Russians leave the area, which they declined. It was March 1854 when Britain sent troops to Turkey.

News of the appalling conditions of the military hospitals, the treatment of the English soldiers, and the poor organization of the army was exposed to the public through "the first modern war correspondent" William Howard Russell (Dossey, 2010, p. 109). Within two days of the newspaper article which stirred the British public, Nightingale was invited to lead a volunteer group to Scutari.

She contacted Lord Palmerston who was serving as Home Secretary at the time. She contacted Elizabeth Herbert, Selina Bracebridge, her housekeeper Mrs. Clarke, and others. Sidney Herbert invited Florence "to go to Scutari and supervise a group of nurses on behalf of the government" (Dossey, 2010, p. 112).

It was October, 1854, when Nightingale left for Scutari with Selina and Charles Bracebridge, and the nurses she had selected to accompany her. Her Uncle Sam went only part way with her. She was 34 years old. There are many details about her work there which are well documented. I hope you will take some time to read the whole history of this epic event. You will find more information in the exhibit on the third floor of the Harold B. Lee Library.

Nightingale took 14 lay nurses and 10 Catholic nuns. One of the nuns was Mother Mary Clare Moore, who remained a life-long friend. On her way to Scutari, Nightingale picked up some supplies that proved invaluable for the care of the soldiers. Lord Herbert had given Nightingale authority over the nurses with her and those to come. When Florence and the others got to Scutari, however, there were many barriers to providing care. First, the chief medical officer was Dr. Hall. He was not informed of her coming and was not pleased to have a group of women on his hands. Over time, Florence made friends with several of the physicians and helped institute the use of chloroform for surgery. In the beginning, Florence waited until she was invited to help. While they waited, Florence and the others set up their quarters in the Barracks hospital. The nurses' quarters were cramped to say the least.

Nightingale wrote, "There were 1,715 Crimean casualties at the hospital and 650 at the General Hospital nearby. And another 570 were coming. There were 1,859 wounded and 480 killed at Inkerman. The physicians soon invited the nurses to help care for the wounded soldiers (Dossey, 2010, p. 125).

When Nightingale and her team arrived at the Barracks Hospital in Scutari the conditions were described as deplorable. Bostridge called it "Calamity unparalleled" (2008, p.215). Almost immediately, Nightingale began taking notes on the conditions. The blankets were filthy. The Hospital sat over cesspools and the sewer lines were blocked. Vermin ran rampant. The windows were kept closed against the cold, trapping the sewer gases inside. Ordering supplies was chaotic. There were no working laundry facilities and there was no one designated to facilitate the repairs, so the boiler was idle. The food was deplorable. There were 13 pots used for both cooking meat and cooking tea. Florence wrote, "We have now 4 miles of beds", Dossey p. 125.

Nightingale kept track of the soldiers' wounds, illnesses and deaths. By January 1855 there were 2,500 men in the Barrack Hospital, 1,122 men in the General Hospital nearby, and 250 convalescents behind the Hospital. Frostbite, dysentery, gangrene, typhus, typhoid, and Crimean fever were overwhelming the hospital. Then another group of 1,200 sick troops were to arrive. Two additional hospitals were opened.

(Gill, 2004, p. 382-3) "With an expert understanding of disease and possessed with the financial resources to allow her to take various measures, in the first four months... Florence Nightingale was the first person to institute a rational system for receiving and housing the patients as they arrived. Appalled by the filthy, blood-and-waste-soaked conditions the men arrived in, she made it a priority that the men and their linen should be washed and kept clean. She bought huge quantities of shirts and sheets so that the linen could be changed. She campaigned untiringly and against great resistance to set up a laundry where the hospital linen would all be boiled to destroy the lice. She spent hours with her most skillful nurses washing wounds and changing dressings. She instructed her nurses to take a clean piece of rag for

each patient, not use the same sponge for all the men, as had been the practice for medical officers and orderlies before. She bought mops, buckets, scrubbing brushes, and soap, and induced orderlies to clean the wards... She instituted an efficient extra diet kitchen to provide the sickest men with thin cereal, chicken and beef broths, savory jellies and lemonade...."

Reform was needed desperately and Nightingale pushed forward. She would meet with any military or civilian official who would help her improve the conditions for the men. She wrote letters to Herbert and pressed for reform in three areas—food, hospital furniture and clothing—and permission to organize a daily routine (Dossey, p. 145). She wrote to Lord Shaftesbury and Lord Palmerston for a sanitary commission to come to the Crimea. Dr. John Sutherland, an authority on sanitation, headed this commission and was instrumental in removing the putrid matter and repairing the sewers.

Overcoming resistance from many sources, Nightingale worked indefatigably to improve the wretched conditions of the men. It was described that she would work 20 hours a day. She and her nurses would care for the wounded and help them write letters to families back home. For many of the dying men, she wrote letters to their families, talking about them and giving great comfort to the families. Nightingale was the only nurse allowed to go into the wards in the evenings, which she often did. She was known for comforting the men and offering words of encouragement. Even if she did not talk to them personally, watching her minister to the needs of their colleagues endeared her to the men she worked to serve. At night as she walked the rows of wounded, ill and dying, carrying the Turkish lamp that you will see in the exhibition. Accounts of her ministering to the sick and wounded were reported by the soldiers on their return to England. Nightingale's reputation as the Lady with the Lamp was immortalized by Longfellow in his poem "Santa Filomena."

By May 1855 Nightingale became extremely ill and was diagnosed with Crimean fever. She was critically ill for two weeks and was weak and unable to care for herself for several more weeks. She was "weak, pale and emaciated" (Dossey, 2010, p. 162). (During her recovery, Lord Herbert gave her a terrier and the troops gave her an owl to replace her beloved pet owl Athena. Please note the owls in the exhibit.) She returned to the Barracks Hospital in July. Florence suffered from residual effects of this illness the rest of her life. The war ended in March 30, 1856. Nightingale wrote that she would stay until the last soldier left the hospital. She returned to England quietly in July 1856. "She saw her achievements in the Crimea as only the starting point for her future work," (Dossey, 2010, p. 176).

After the War

Just as the squalid conditions of the army conditions were fodder for the British newspapers, Florence's compassionate care of the soldiers was equally newsworthy. She received recognition from Queen Victoria and the others. Money was donated to the "Nightingale Fund" to open the first secular nursing school based on Nightingale's principles (Dossey, 2010, p. 172), even amongst controversy.

After returning home by the back route, so she would not draw attention, Nightingale needed time to recover from her Crimean experience. She was weak and frail. Plagued by nightmares and poor health, she refused most social engagements. Her chronic illness continued to compromise her health. Anyone who wanted to meet with her had to meet her at her residence. Her Aunt Mai stayed with her until

1859. She took care of her, helped organize her visitors, and would transfer letters and papers to the people with whom she wanted to communicate.

Deeply affected by her experience and the many deaths she observed, Nightingale dedicated the rest of her life to the reform of the army's Medical Department. She wrote papers, based on the data and evidence she had acquired from Scutari. She remained in close contact with Lord Herbert and Lord Palmerston and many other contacts in British politics. She contacted Harriet Martineau, the newspaper woman, to get her story out about the poor sanitary and health conditions.

Probably because of her careful data gathering and many reports about conditions in the Crimea, and her contribution to the *Royal Commission Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Army*, Nightingale was inducted into London Statistical Society in 1860.

In 1860 with the help of medical statistician William Farr, she published *Notes on Hospitals*. They had gathered data from 15 hospitals. She pushed for reforms in gathering basic hospital statistics. She believed that through statistical analysis of important information, better decisions could be made. You would know what elements you were really working with and measure any improvement (Dossey, 2010, p. 252). Does that sound familiar to you? Today the popular wording is Evidence Based Practice. Don't forget them. They are essential to the credibility of the profession. With more and better data we can move the profession forward, and most of all, provide better nursing care. It was a very important book for its time. I encourage you to read more about it.

In January 1860 Nightingale published her *Notes on Nursing* which sold 15,000 copies in a month. The book wasn't for hospital care, but for people to take care of their families and friends. You can easily find copies today of this renowned book.

Lord Herbert died in 1861 and Lord Palmerston died in 1865, and Nightingale believed that her ability to influence additional reforms would stop with their deaths, but she continued to seek reforms for British military hospitals and community hospitals.

Let me just say a few words about Florence and her work in India. Even though she rarely left her quarters after moving into South Street House in London, she gathered and wrote careful papers on British military hospitals and health care. Her relationship with Dr. Sutherland, who was the Sanitary Commissioner in the Crimea, continued until his death in 1891. He assisted her with much of her work on hospital reform and military health care reforms in India. Other friends became life-long friends as well. Benjamin Jowett was an Oxford professor and one time vice-chancellor. He corresponded with Florence for 33 years and frequently visited her.

From the 1600's through the 1900's, India and Britain were closely linked. In 1857, relationships took a negative turn with an uprising near Delhi. A brief skirmish turned into a massacre of Europeans in Delhi and across northern India. The British army responded with "a vengeance" (Dossey, 2010. P. 270). Although British troops regained order, relationships with the native people of India deteriorated, prompting additional British troops to be deployed. The increase in troops and Florence's investment in continued interest in army medical reform, consumed much of her time from the 1860's through 1880's.

Much of her work included gathering data from local Indian towns and health care facilities about illnesses and deaths, along with sanitation conditions.

Before we close today, I would like to talk about two other areas of Nightingale's contributions: her contribution to nursing education and her contribution to the women's movement of the 1880's. The Nightingale fund that was started while Florence was in Scutari, and evolved into St. Thomas's Hospital and the Nightingale School of Nursing. The School of Nursing opened July 9, 1860. Due to pressures to complete her many reports in behalf of military medical reform, Florence was not involved in the oversight of this nursing program until the 1870's. She was very involved in nursing reform through advocating for nurses in military settings and pushing for hospital, workhouse, and nursing reform. Several of the letters in the Harold B. Lee Library exhibit are between Florence and Dr. Joseph Bell, who was a surgeon and lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and organized the first training program for nurses in Scotland. Please take some time to view this wonderful exhibit.

As mentioned before, single woman, whether widowed or never married, had few options in Victorian England. They did not have access to college education and could not own property. With minimal education they could be governesses. Roles such as laundress and seamstress barely kept women and their families from the workhouse. Unless families could afford to care for their single women relatives, they were ill treated and suffered great poverty. In 1866 the first petition from the Women's Suffrage Committee was presented to Westminster Hall. English women received the vote in 1918; thus, it was 50 years of advocating. Florence's cousin, Barbara Leigh Bodichon and other women that helped Florence advocate for sanitation and nursing reform, were involved in advocating for women's rights. While Florence supported their efforts, she was not actively involved. She believed that she needed to continue her efforts in behalf of the soldiers of Scutari. However, due to her efforts to reform and advance nursing as a noble profession, she dramatically changed society's perceptions of the usefulness of women and employment opportunities for women.

I have tried to summarize Nightingale's contributions to society, but it seems to end up in an extensive list of the many changes she fostered. She transformed nursing from menial work to a role for women of good reputation who could contribute to society. She used her strong faith, Christian belief and intellectual understanding to transform nursing, sanitation, hospital administration, and hospital organization by educating herself and others. She used her intellect to carefully analyze and interpret relevant data and knowledge. Nightingale communicated her understanding and knowledge in papers, and books, and she influenced politics and public opinion. She used every means she had to improve the care and health of "her" soldiers. Generations later, we recognize the contribution of this woman to the foundation of nursing and statistics. A century after her death, we are still inspired by her life's story. Florence Nightingale was a great woman.

I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

I hope that you will enjoy the exhibit and the afternoon, please join us for refreshments in the foyer outside the auditorium. We have time for a few questions.