

1. Miss Nightingale Said....

A brief and illustrated overview of the long life and many achievements of Florence Nightingale. (30 minutes)

2. Florence Nightingale's Reluctant Life in Portraiture

Florence Nightingale disliked having her portrait taken as much as she hated being a celebrity, yet it was largely through the visual representations of her face and person in the press that she gained iconic status in Victorian England. Used as a model by her artistic and adoring sister and cousin, sketches of the young Nightingale contrast sharply with the photographs and paintings of her later years, when the pressures of her work and ill health are very apparent. Representations of the idealised Angel of the Crimea tell as much about attitudes of her time as they do about the reality of her life. Natasha McEnroe will examine Nightingale's life through a selection of images of her, and will consider whether they can shed some light on the controversy around the mysterious illness of her later years. (45 mins)

3. "A Vast Field of Suffering and Misery": Nightingale at Scutari

The mid-19th century popular press enabled the Crimean War to become the first conflict in which news from the field of battle was reported back swiftly to a waiting British population. The lack of care for soldiers and the conditions of the base hospitals so appalled the general public that action had to be taken. The true conditions of the infamous barracks hospital at Scutari will be examined, not just through the eyes of Nightingale herself, but from the point of view of her team of nurses, the findings of a Sanitary Commission, and the writings of the Reverend Sydney Godolphin Osbourne. (45 mins)

4. Mrs Gamp or Florence Nightingale?: Nursing and Medicine in the Victorian Age

This talk provides a broader context to caring for the sick in the 19th century, comparing the early Victorian domiciliary nurse with the post-Nightingale reform of the profession, evidenced in the Nightingale Training School, founded in 1860. Through the most famous pre-reform nurse, Dickens' character Mrs Gamp, Natasha McEnroe will examine whether domiciliary nurses were actually quite as dirty, dishonest and drunken as they have been portrayed. The links between nursing and housework, and the changes to hospital design and care in the home towards the end of the 19th century will also be explored. (45 mins)

5. Francis Galton and Florence Nightingale: A Match Made in Statistical Heaven?

Francis Galton (1822-1911) and Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) shared both a passion for statistics and a conviction that their ideas could change society for the better. Despite corresponding with each other, and being connected by marriage and other ties of friendship, they never met in person. Natasha McEnroe, Director of the Florence Nightingale Museum and past Curator of the Galton Collection has a unique view of how the interests of these two Eminent Victorians are reflected in the museums dedicated to their memories. (45 mins)

6. A Woman of Words: Florence Nightingale's Life and Works Through Her Personal Correspondence

To describe Florence Nightingale as a woman of letters is an understatement. Writing was her primary way of communicating, and arguably, it was as a writer that she found her own sense of identity. Part of the interest for us in reading her letters today is the insight we get into her character - a political animal, she was clearly expert in getting her own way, varying her approach depending on who her correspondent was and her wit and use of irony add spice to her letters. Through this best documented of all Victorian women, we gain a clearer understanding the remarkable age in which she lived. (45 mins)

- 7. 'No bows, no curls, no jewellery and no hoop-skirts': An American Nurse in Victorian London** If Florence Nightingale is the most famous of British nurses, then perhaps Linda Richards holds the same distinction on the other side of the Atlantic. Inspired by the work of her idol, Richards nursed in the American Civil War, later enrolling to become America's first professionally trained nurse in 1872. A keen traveller, Linda Richards set out to London to meet Florence Nightingale and to work under the Nightingale system in British hospitals. This talk will examine both the connections and the differences between the two women, who together laid the foundations of modern nursing. (45 mins)

8. The Hospital in the Outfield: The Art of Nursing in the First World War

Society beauty Millicent Sutherland was possessed of a strong social conscience. But her interest in improving conditions for factory workers made her an embarrassment to both her class and her gender, earning her the nickname 'Meddlesome Millie'. Widowhood in 1913 gave the Duchess increased independence and as soon as war was declared, she departed to France to establish an ambulance unit under the French Red Cross. With a small team of nurses in the northern French countryside, she cared for the wounded soldiers in a series of temporary locations, beautifully depicted by the artist Victor Tardieu in a series of oil paintings now on display at the Florence Nightingale Museum. (45 mins)

9. A tour of St Thomas' Hospital

A 45 minutes walking tour of this historic hospital on the banks of the river Thames. The tour will take in the Victorian chapel and the Governor's Hall. Admire the beautiful Royal Doulton tiles of nursery rhymes, now fully restored, that once brightened the walls of the children's wards. Brave the underground basement passages and see the mysterious "white rabbit" murals, dating from the Second World War. The tour will end in the Florence Nightingale Museum.

10. How to Die Like a Victorian

The Victorian preoccupation with death and dying might seem morbid to modern eyes. But have we now gone too far in the opposite direction?

In 21st century Britain, death tends to be hidden from public view. Today, medical professionals and undertakers take on many of the duties which in the past would have been carried out by the deceased's relatives, such as washing and 'laying out' the body. Unlike the Victorians, today we experience a lack of familiarity with the dead which has led to the discussion of death becoming almost taboo and a subsequent rise in so called 'death anxiety.'

This talk will examine 19th-century memorial traditions and show how they are more relevant to modern day practices than we might think. (45 mins)