

Florence Nightingale in Holloway

A few, often minor, contemporary issues at the start of the 21st century



Lea Hurst (1887)

Edited by George Wigglesworth

Third edition, Nov 2010

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Florence Nightingale

Explanation

My previous historical searches arose from finding nothing was known by those I talked to about some things in the villages of Dethick, Lea & Holloway even though details had been published 100 years earlier. I resolved to collect what once had been known. In doing this I was influenced by the many reminiscences of village folk and a remark that the names on war memorials would soon mean nothing, even to those seeing them weekly on a Sunday.

Experience suggested that there were those better informed about the Alsop, Wass and Smedley families and there was quite enough written about the Babingtons and Nightingales and these five could be therefore marginalised. However I naturally found those names in my various searches.

This second edition arose from the differing views of the way, on her return from the Crimea, that Florence went from the early Whatstandwell Bridge Station to Lea Hurst. Four influential pieces of contemporary, local evidence have been found and cause major changes in [1] below. I am grateful for the responses of Mark Bostridge and Hugh Small s. I am however most indebted to John Slaney whose continuous and immediate responses have enabled these searches to proceed so fast.

George Wigglesworth

Florence: a personal view

I would hope a balanced view could develop now even though a very one-sided picture has often been presented in the past. Alas some inaccuracy has been perpetuated by some over enthusiastic villagers who didn't have a reference to a time scale. There is also an opposite view of often justifiable class antipathy. There is an interesting antithesis between the Nightingale family style of life and the 'cottagers' who lived in the village. I think Florence's obvious invaluable contribution to nursing and health nationally and internationally has been writ large. The enormous extent of her charity in the village may not be realised. Her life in Holloway is far, far less nationally important, generally treated as a very minor feature but one which Lea and Holloway are justified in investigating and broadcasting more widely.

Florence Nightingale and Holloway

I am intrigued by the fiefdoms of Nightingale, Smedley, Wass, Walker, Babington. I have found no useful evidence about some of them [although I haven't specifically searched] but I do know that widely dispersed details do exist. For example Florence, it is said, took carriage rides 'round the Estate'. Does this mean just the 'Park' or the Nightingale properties, if so which villages are included in the 'estate'? It was still an estate of over 650 acres in 1946. I think that although the Nightingales were the biggest, involved as they were with most property and industry – the family of William [WEN] was not here in person for long periods and these others, often as tenants within the Nightingale estate, being here all the time, can be seen also to play their important part in village life.

I have not searched for but have found few meaningful accounts of managing the estate, its farming, property and industry. The extensive actions of Yeomans and any other estate manager on behalf of WEN, Florence or Shore are not known to me. Mr Turner had a day book of Peter Nightingale [II], now in the local Records Office which would be a good start in documenting the estate.

There are various gaps and contradictions in my knowledge and I think they are not resolved for me in the numerous histories. This booklet sets out to concentrate on areas which are far from clear to me, omitting things of greater importance that are widely publicised and known. As I said, Florence's charitable concerns for the villagers are immense.

Florence showed as much or even more concern with the overall effectiveness of nursing on health as with hands on nursing. Both featured in her activities concerning villagers but we have most evidence of the extent of the former. It extends into her charitable contributions to the villagers' welfare but she also displays her informed attitudes to health more generally but here especially for those within the village.

Such an attitude to local welfare was characteristic of some wealthy families in the 19th century. The term '*noblesse oblige*' has been used. It was a time when little social provision was made nationally. It was a concern fostered in Florence's childhood when she accompanied her father, mother or Aunt Julia round the villages. It is also obvious how she was involved directly with the family matters concerning the health of her relations.

See also

<http://www.crichparish.co.uk/webpages/whatstandwellcoffeehouse.html>

Little mention is made in the literature of actual nursing by her in the village. She rubbed the back of one individual more than once we are told and present day descendants make reports which must be second or third hand. However such reports must be seen in some doubt when people themselves claim to have met Florence when in fact they were not born when she last visited Lea Hurst. It is beyond dispute she arranged for the sick to be sent broth and calves foot jelly but they would be made by staff in the kitchen and delivered by the coachman. She arranged and herself paid for some of them to get eggs, milk, meat and 'cocoatina' - even good ale.

Perhaps her wider influence was through her health education, either face to face with individuals, speaking to groups or producing booklets for country folk such as the villagers. The nursing of typhoid victims, bug and flea control are documented. She advocated fitting lids over chamber pots. Without a doubt she continued to work in an authoritarian way at Lea Hurst. Servants said that if you saw Florence coming you dived through the nearest door to get out of her way. She instructed Nurse Swann from the village to go and live in the accommodation over the stables in order to nurse an outside servant, John Terry, with smallpox until he was cured [although in fact he died]. She would see meals were left on the doorstep.

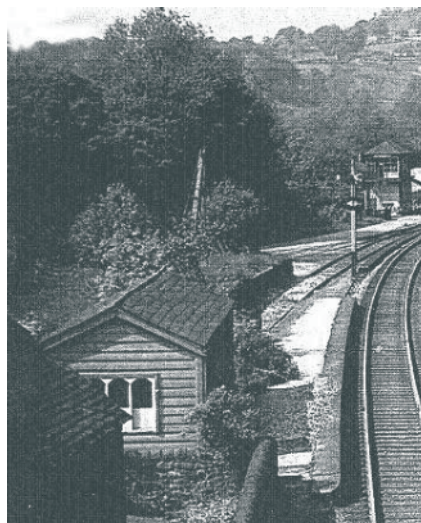
It must be remembered that Florence was in Holloway for a small proportion of the time. She enquired about individual cases by letter, their treatment and progress often through Dr CBN Dunn, MRCS, the local doctor, [and his successor Dr G G McDonald]. He lived at 'The Tors', Crich and acted professionally for the Belper Union. There are still remaining 90 letters to him. She asked about the abilities and popularity of the new village nurse. Dr Dunn died in 1892. Mr Yeomans, [manager] was consulted at times.

Perhaps her greatest effect was over the hospital at Buxton, a dreadful institution run like a workhouse with no night-time supervision even of wards of bed-bound patients. Buxton was seemingly the hospital associated with this area, possibly because the doctor referred patients there. It was however half as far again as Derby where Florence must have had influence; Chesterfield had a hospital from 1854 and was even nearer. There was a hospital at Wirksworth. Characteristically she did not intervene directly and thus protected the village patients and Dr Dunn from allegations that they were the source of her information. The Duke of Devonshire was one of her proxies! It was built to extend the facilities of the Buxton Bath Charity using part of the the stables before the dome was added. Perhaps two thirds were used for the hospital, intended in 1859 for 45 women and 65 men.

It must be considered whether the most important contribution was her charitable involvement. She paid for doctors' visits, hospitalisation, necessary medical aids like water beds, flannel for petticoats or, in the case of men, for chest warmers. She wrote that her work at Lea Hurst cost her £500 a year [by one calculation £34,000 in today's money!]. The doctor's bill was £160, hospitalisation of anyone cost ten shillings a week which she funded. In one case £60 was advanced for the care of the wife of a village stone mason.

All this was part of her concern for villagers on the estate here but was also true at Embley. In Holloway and Whatstandwell she financed reading rooms/coffee houses as an alternative to drinking in pubs. She pressed for more non-alcoholic activities in the Wakes Week celebrations. A savings bank was set up and she matched children's savings. [It reads as if girls taking up work were the main initial beneficiaries but workmen were considered later.] She outfitted girls going into service. Perhaps her greatest influence was on the school, its expansion onto a new site having been supported financially by her father and her. She bought books, maps, charts and equipment both for the pupils and the staff. Successful students were rewarded by a tea party at Lea Hurst to the envy of the others and the distress of mothers of the excluded.

Her nursing of family members was often at places away from Holloway such as Embley and Claydon. It is obvious she extended to these cases her knowledge and understanding but she also had a more immediate presence in her mother's case for example, sleeping in an adjacent room, directing servants and offering her own comforting acts and services through 'hands on' care.



Whatstandwell
Bridge
Station

More minor issues

1 The end of the journey from the Crimea to Lea Hurst, 7th Aug 1856.

It seems sensible to see how any Whatstandwell story fits with the general account of Florence Nightingale's return from the Crimea in the hope that it reveals some dates and times and must be seen alongside a more careful relating of detailed evidence such little as there is.

We have details of two parties of nurses travelling home. On 4th July 1856 the steam transport *Thames 92* docked at Spithead with 7 lady nurses, 16 Second Class nurses and two hospital staff. On 23 July *ST Ottawa 137* docked with others. Florence wrote over a hundred reports about her nurses and resolved to leave after the last patient who in fact left on the 23rd July. Florence travelled from the Crimea embarking on a French vessel, the *Danube* in Constantinople for Marseilles via Athens and Messina on 28th July, incognito as Miss Smith, with Aunt Mai [née Shore] Smith who had been some time in the Crimea. They were accompanied by a Queen's Messenger to deal with formalities. He would draw attention to the party if he travelled as such. However he may have been seen as a paid employee accompanying two ladies on their travels. We hear no more about him and do not know where he parted company. Mother Fanny and sister Parthenope asked Aunt Mai repeatedly for details of her plans but she said they had not been determined. That the enquiry was serious is indicated by one of their proposals, namely that they all met in Aix. Florence seems to have assiduously avoided any celebrations or re-unions anywhere, even finally on what was the Whatstandwell station platform of that time.

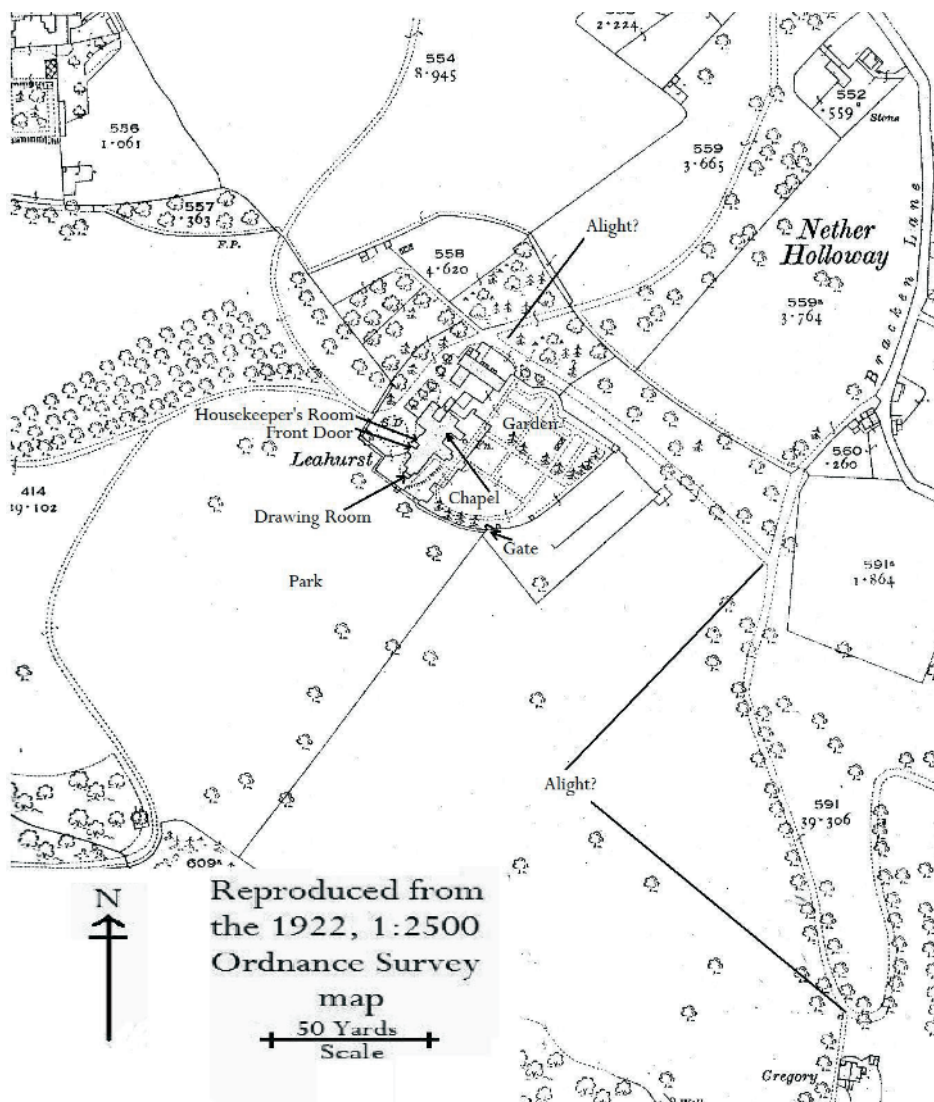
It took at least 20 hours to make an express journey from Marseilles to Paris. She broke her overnight journey through France in Paris. She visited M. Mohl whose wife, Mary ['Clarkey'], Florence's friend, was, it emerged, in England. She probably spent the night at their home on Rue du Bac. During the late morning or afternoon of 6th August indications are that Miss Nightingale may have paid social visits to the Mother Superior of the Order of Sisters of Charity also in the Rue du Bac at the Convent of St. Vincent de Paul before re-uniting with her Aunt Mai for the overnight Channel crossing, perhaps via Dover.

She refused a warship as transport across the Channel, a civic reception by the Mayors of Dover and Folkestone with ceremonial arches and military ceremony and so on. Her arrival and stay in London are obscure. She visited the Bermondsey Sisters of Mercy, knocking on the door at 8.0am on the 7th, accompanied by an Aunt before travelling that day to Derbyshire by train. A party of nuns from that order served alongside Florence's other nurses.

She had rejected any local celebration. From The Derby Mercury [20th August 1856] and the Morning Chronicle [18 Aug 1856] and the Midland Counties Herald we read she was met and greeted by Lady Auckland. This was Mary, the eldest daughter of Francis Edward Hurt of nearby Alderwasley, close family friends. [Francis paid for the erection in 1861 of the drinking fountain still to be seen on the old Whatstandwell Bridge station.]

Two trains were timetabled to arrive at Whatstandwell Bridge Station changing, at Derby, one an express. [This is seemingly wrongly stated in local papers and even in the Times obituary to be on the 8th August, a date seemingly confirmed by the plate on the commemorative papier maché writing desk later presented by villagers.] The express made a connection to Whatstandwell Bridge station at 4.27, the slower at 7.47 more in keeping with the reports of evening and a family after dinner in the drawing room. If it was pre-arranged [say by telegram] and 'met' implies transport then a carriage seems likely. It was the end of many days' journeying across Europe with a final $4\frac{3}{4}$ hour train journey by a person suffering fatigue and in far from the best of health, the alternative being at least a $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk, perhaps along a well used horse tow path followed by a 200' climb. She may well have been dropped near Lea Hurst, walking the last bit. This may account for the widespread view that she walked all the way from the station, by whatever route, not appreciating she had, in fact, been met. A carriage coming from the station would not be seen from Lea Hurst until a few yards from the house. It seems more likely that Lady Auckland dropped her off a little way from the house, maybe to avoid intruding on a family reunion or perhaps for there to be time for Florence to compose herself for greeting them, her sister and mother, initially at least, having been so vehemently against her nursing ambitions. It is said many family letters record her walk from the station. However it is likely Florence did not correct this misconception.

It seems most reliably said that she was seen by the housekeeper, a tearful Mrs Watson, to her great surprise, from her room at the front of the house - a lady in black walking alone, coming up the drive. This may account for the widespread view that she walked all the way from the station, by whatever route, not appreciating she had in fact been met there. In the literature this event is variously attributed to Mrs Watson, a butler, the family, at the back gate, back door, or passing by the drawing room window by Florence's immediate family. Her arrival was clearly unexpected. Perhaps illness, but more probably fatigue from her labours over two years in the Crimea culminating in this long journey by sea and land, then caused her confinement to her room from the next day.



Map of Lea Hurst

Unfortunately the most lasting images come from documentaries or films. These lead you to imagine she used the present Whatstandwell Station with its lattice work footbridge, the one only to be built forty years later. She is often seen getting out of a third class compartment because Butterley museum doesn't have a superior rolling stock of suitable date. She is to be seen as a lively young woman lugging her canvas holdall across the fields.

This marks the passing from times in the Crimea to her efforts and influence, for example, nationally and internationally. It started next day with village celebrations, including 'a peal on the village bell' and a prayer of thanksgiving in a chapel but soon grew. There were in Derbyshire crowds of people seeking her influence on their health or military pensions for example, or just to catch sight of one of such wide repute. A fuller account is to be found at http://www.wigglesworth.me.uk/local_history/index.htm

2 Local ailments

Various ailments bore on her life. It seems likely they were not connected. In her childhood weak legs seemingly required the use of support for her legs. Lead poisoning has been postulated as the cause of Florence's illness. The source of water supply is not known to me, altitude of water table and lead content of the water seems crucial. Most 'wells' I know of are in sites below human habitation where gravity feed could transfer microbial pathogens or possibly near enough native lead deposits to dissolve mineral ions. Holywell [Hollywell] on Leashore which was reputed to be the source of the later [1880] typhoid epidemic, could perhaps share the supply to Lea Hurst and is now closed up. 'Well' is used locally for what might be likened to a drinking trough elsewhere, not the walled shaft I associate with nursery rhymes about Pussy. Mainly I feel she was not in Lea for sufficient time nor near enough the smelter nor down wind, especially compared to locals. Lead pipes seem much more of a risk! 'Bellanding' was always very localised, and the prevailing wind from the fairly distant lead smelter was towards 'Sodom', away from Lea Hurst. Even some of the lead workers had long lives as a look at the census suggests. Brucellosis from imbibing unpasturised goat's milk in the Crimea seems the more obvious risk causing later complaints and seems to be accepted these days.

3 Services attended

Where religious services were attended is seemingly varied. The Parish geographically is Ashover which encompasses the church at Dethick but Crich was much nearer and known to be used by the Nightingales. There is a happy memory of Mary Brown of the two Nightingale girls each putting a golden coin into the collection. Lea Free Chapel would be used certainly if available in the first few years being so near Lea Hall and being Nightingale founded. It reflected beliefs not C of E, but Unitarian for example. Lea Free Chapel in 1841 was a very important location of Sunday education for the children of artisans. It was closed for some years for doctrinal differences at about that time. It was at one time Methodist but Smedley also built a 'Methodist' Church on what is now Church Street and there were two others which were non conformist! Fortunately the religious beliefs of Florence and her father were seemingly flexible and to some extent, at times, Unitarian.

4 Peter Nightingale the younger

It was from Peter II that Florence's father inherited some of his vast wealth. I personally cringe at the use of the sobriquet 'Mad Peter' as I guess he was much like many of his social contemporaries but many biographers subsequently, in their writings, have seized on this 'local colour'. His family was charitable [including him, eg he paid for the inoculation of poor children on three occasions about 1793]. I am led to believe his mistress and 'love daughter' were provided for in his will with money and property at Wood End. Now there's a thought! If only it had been a boy conceived in wedlock how different things would have been!

5 Daffodils

Rumour has it that Russian Soldiers, grateful for Florence's kind treatment of them in the Crimea as injured or unwell enemies, presented her with daffodil bulbs [presumably Russian or Crimean] and these she planted at Lea Hurst, in the garden or maybe starting the Derwentside colony.

Wild Daffodils still grow extensively in the DWT Derwentside reserve, part of the Lea Hurst estate even up to its sale in 1946. *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, the Lenten Lily or wild daffodil is said to be "almost certainly native" in Derbyshire. The colony centred on the Holmesford crossing of the Derwent is expanding and earlier it even extended into the area downstream of the aqueduct used for an early sewage works. There are populations of wild daffodils in Lea

Wood, Derwentside, Leashaw Meadows, Hollins Wood and Shining Cliff Meadows which are all very close to each other and could represent a naturally established population dating back many centuries. There was however a fashion for planting, maybe in the late 1800s. Recently volunteers attended to the garden at Lea Hurst where Florence might have planted daffodil bulbs but no suitable plants are recalled. A gardener had no recollection of snippets of information about Florence's Crimean daffodils being passed on.

Only detailed DNA analysis would usefully take us forward. There are 4 or 5 different species that grow wild in the Crimea [including *N poeticus* linked in legend with Narcissus] , but it should be remembered they have been used for hybridisation for the garden. It seems there is no evidence at the moment to allow wild or domesticated daffodils here to be connected with the Crimea. Happily the present farmer has found ways to make daffodils even more common in the meadows by the Derwent.

6 The Jug and Glass

Neither I nor Stephen Turner have found evidence that the Jug and Glass Row was built or used, as it is written, as a hospital rather it was built and used as weaver's cottages. It is associated with the Smithurst name. [See also p 13]

7 Wide significance

A Navajo Indian visiting the area recently and being shown Lea Hurst was fascinated having been taught about her in Connecticut in the 1960s and he was entranced to hear her voice from a wax cylinder. She is a person of wide note.

8 Two supposed suitors

There follows an introduction to reprints and a bibliography I make available in another booklet namely 'John Smithurst, of Lea, William Shore & Florence Nightingale' about two of her supposed and less well known suitors.

That she never married is a matter biographers have dealt with and attribute to many features of her life but to me, most probably, it developed from her 'call' together with her perception and rejection of married women's roles at that time. That she was seen as a wealthy, gifted 'catch' must have been apparent although her personality, if known, may have deterred some. Such issues are not a concern here.

One of the first notable suitors must have been George Henry Nicholson, rejected, at least in part, because he was demonstrably a first cousin. William Shore [a second cousin of Florence] is mentioned, becoming an American 'remittance man' in Wisconsin, that is to say he lived on money from abroad. He was born in Gainsborough, son of George [first cousin of Florence's father] and Matilda. He went to Fox Lake about 1853 where he knew the family, of an employee previously on his father's estate. He was described as an aloof, sedate, melancholy, scholarly, well dressed gentleman. He is characterised by ladies admiring his courtly manner, by men for his silver-mounted gun and hunting dog, one brought from England and one buried under him. To boys he was a hero with a gun, a dog and nothing to do! His estate included 150 acres of choice hunting and fishing land and he died a wealthy landed man in 1868.

Richard Monkton Milnes is widely written about as a persistent suitor, refused finally in 1859. It has however been speculated there could be yet another and here we deal with this third [or fourth ...] because of his connection with Lea, namely John Smithurst (1807-67). A dubious romantic story has developed in Canada but it should not be allowed to diminish his important role, for instance in the Hudson Bay Territory.

At the age of 28, so the story goes, John fell in love with his 16-year-old 'cousin' Florence. He was born on the 9 Sept 1807 in Lea, son of William and Christina, [elsewhere rendered as Christina and Christie] to be baptised in October at Dethick less than a mile away, a chapelry within Ashover Parish. His two brothers are mentioned in his will. There are a few of that unusual name in the adjacent villages.

The 'licensing' of the Jug and Glass in Lea which has been found is between 1753 and 1763 and was by Enoch Smithurst. The date stone outside the pub is inscribed, SSE 1782 probably standing for Smithurst, 'S' [probably Sarah who was perhaps one of two wives] and Enoch. The surname survived in the village according to the 1841 census.

One called John Smithurst was Clerk at Dethick 1819-1831 it seems but 'ours' was too young. Someone of the same name, and very likely in this case to be he, seems to have been involved in speculative building, appearing in Wirksworth Court sued for payment in 1834. There seems no evidence within the IGI and family trees published of the Smithursts being perceptibly connected with the Florence Nightingale line genetically [unless illegitimately]. However it must be recognised that Florence had over forty cousins on her mother's side

to which must be added those on the father's side and thus I may not have discovered all their surnames.

Lea Hall was owned by the Nightingales and initially was the home of Florence's parents. The Jug and Glass was where Nightingale rent days were located and just possibly there was a connection with the landlords of both pub and estate. So the person, John, is established as the one born in Lea [1807] dying in Canada, at Elora [1867]. His extensive lineage is hidden.

Without a doubt Florence's parents had strong views about a need to marry and about the 'suitability' of any partners. That they opposed this marriage, if it was a real possibility, is easily assumed but their grounds are not stated. Evidence that it was based on blood relationship seems dubious for the prevailing tendency of the times was that true first cousins often married. Mind you 'cousin' is also a word used with less precise meaning in those times. Today cousin, unless qualified, should mean first cousin, a blood relation. Family historians may use 'cousin', [in inverted commas as it were], where they do not define the exact, distant, blood relationship. The term 'Aunt' has been used for a family friend where children might be referred to as cousins although there is no blood relationship. Cousin matings are used in, for example, plants and horses where disadvantaged offspring, however that is defined, may be disposed of. Genetically, in the jargon, it mainly revolves round increased chance of accumulating 'homozygotic recessive genes' and some may be harmful such as haemophilia. However this was not known then. The Church of England makes no ruling about cousin marriage however close. That Smithurst might be seen as socially unsuitable revolves around his description as 'employed by a merchant,' employed by Arkwright and as a speculative builder.

He subsequently was admitted, 26 Dec 1838, as a deacon at the Church Missionary Society at St James, Westminster. As such he officiated at a wedding in Islington April 1839. He was ordained and appointed to Fort Garry in the Red River Colony of the Hudson's Bay Company and played an important part there among the migrants and indigenous people. The book by Fritz Pannekoek, reviewed by the Rev. Dr E R Griffin deals with the more contentious events of his subsequent ministry at Elora. Here he established an estate of three or four hundred acres from the Queen's Bush.

In conclusion therefore one might assume that Smithurst had an affection for his birth place of Lea and of Lea Hurst after which he named his estate. No blood relationship with Florence can be found. The gifts of a bible and communion set reflect more a routine gift through the CMS to pastors acting as

missionaries and their parish rather than a personal gift by the family. What is clear is that there are many interpretations. In fact the only references to any liaison trace back towards John Smithurst and none in Florence's direction.

9 Chapel windows

Norman Keen wondered if the window of St Mary's chapel just beyond Lea Hall [a former Nightingale residence] was incorporated by WE Nightingale into his rebuilding of Lea Hurst. Also recorded in 'The Ancestor' by JC Cox in the 20th century writing about Crich Chantries in relation to the Crich Cartularies is the removal of the East Window of Wakebridge *'The considerable remains of this chapel were cleared away in the 'forties' of the last century, [the 19th, Ed.], when the east window was moved into the grounds of Mr. Nightingale at Lea Hurst, which was long the residence of Florence Nightingale of immortal memory,...'*

However although there is a two light, pointed window with quatrefoil on the NW side of Lea Hurst near the Housekeepers room. It is too large and too devoid of weathering to be either original window. The dimensions in a sale catalogue in 1946 suggest the Chapel and 'adjacent tile room' were in the SE corner of the main wing of the house now named 'Kitchen/breakfast room and utility pantry.

*Upon Mr Nightingales Barn, (standing by the Yew tree
at the Town Head) in Lea, in y^e parish of Atterbury, in con-
trent which formerly was a Chappel, & is still called
The Chappel - Barn, is this Inscription, wrote upon each
side of a window. (which copied off in 1768.)*

*Of dm y f f f f
lxx 8277*



*Thys Chappel
was made.*

vizt Anno Domini 1478. Thys Chappel was made.

Relating to St Mary's Church in Lea

© British Library Board. Woolley Documents Add MSS 6670 f267 f109 p267

WORLD PREMIERE



Florence: The Lady with the Lamp

Opera, 1992, at Elora

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| | |
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| | [Initials represent Derby Mercury, Alan Griffin, Norman Keen, Daniel J Leafé, Hugh Small, Cecil Woodham-Smith, George & Margaret Wigglesworth.] |
| 1803 | Peter Nightingale Junior died [NK] |
| 1807 | John Smithurst born in Lea |
| 1808 | School founded at Common End, duly supported by Nightingales [NK] |
| 1808 | William Shore born Gainsborough |
| 1815 | WE Shore came of age and inherited estate & adopted the name Nightingale [G&MW] |
| 1817 | WEN & Frances Smith engaged [CWS] and then married [NK] |
| 1820 May 12 | Born in Florence at the Villa Colombaia [DIL] |
| 1820 July 4 | Christened Florence [DIL] |
| 1821 | Return to England. Work started on Lea Hurst [G&MW] |
| 1825 | Work finished at Lea Hurst and family moved in. [NK] |
| 1825 | Embley bought as main residence [G&MW][CWS] |
| 1832 | Begins education with WEN [DIL] [CWS] |
| 1837 Feb 7 | Gets 'call' to service [DIL][G&MW][CWS] |
| 1837 Sept 9 | First Grand Tour [DIL] |
| 1839 | Embley occupied 'finished or not' [CWS] |
| 1840 | Asked to study Mathematics but WEN regretted awaking this interest in a female [HS] |
| 1841 | Report on Unitarian Sunday School at Lea [AG] |
| 1841 June | Only Josh. Martin, Ag Lab. and wife at Lea Hurst in Census |
| 1842 | Met Richard Monkton-Milnes who was treated as one of the family at Lea Hurst [CWS] |
| 1842 | First works with poor of Holloway [DIL] |
| 1843 Sept | At return to Embley wanted to remain with poor & sick in Holloway [G&MW] |
| 1843 | Refused Henry Nicholson [CWS] |
| 1844 | Scarlet fever in the villages, out of bounds for Florence [CWS] |
| 1845 | Nursed her Grandmother, Mrs Shore at Tapton, Sheffield [G&MW] |
| 1845 | Nursed childhood nurse, Mrs Gale, at Lea Hurst [CWS] |

Time line

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 1846 July | At Lea Hurst [CWS] |
| 1848 | Holiday in Egypt [NK] |
| 1849 | Monkton-Milnes demanded a response to his proposal of marriage. [CWS] [HS] |
| 1849 | Derby/Matlock railway established |
| 1850 August | At Lea Hurst but family quarrels [CWS] |
| 1851 | 6 months as slave to Parthenope ended. Summer at Lea Hurst [CWS] |
| 1851 March | Eliz. Evans a landed proprietor of 88 was a visitor at Lea Hurst with 4 servants in Census |
| 1852 | Nursed Aunt Evans at Cromford Bridge House [CWS] |
| 1853 | Florence left home to live in Pall Mall [NK] |
| 1853 | WEN settled £500/annum on Florence |
| 1856 August | Arrived in England from Crimea [DIL] and met at Whatstandwell Bridge by Lady Auckland [G&MW] |
| 1856 | A Picottee Carnation 'Florence Nightingale' won a prize in the Midland Horticultural Show [DM] |
| 1856 Sept | Inhabitants round Lea Hurst presented Miss Nightingale with an inscribed writing desk [DM] |
| 1856 | Dr William Farr was influential over statistics |
| 1859 Sept | New school opened [NK] |
| 1860 Sept | Ill health still prevented her visiting Lea Hurst [DM] |
| 1861 April | Julia Smith, sister-in-law, shareholder, age 61 & niece H Bonham Carter age 40, 4 servants. Census |
| 1862 Nov | 'Flit on cheering angel' given as anagram for her name [DM] |
| 1863 Jan | James Croston published a booklet detailing Lea Hurst and environs [DM] |
| 1864 May | She appealed for begging letters to cease [DM] |
| 1865 May | Derby Town & County inhabitants purchased a life boat called the 'Florence Nightingale.' [DM] |
| 1867 | John Smithurst died at Elora, Canada, age 60 |
| 1868 | William Shore died at Fox Lake, Wisconsin |

Time line

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 1871 April | Only a housekeeper recorded at Lea Hurst in the census |
| 1874 | Father died [G&MW][NK] |
| 1877 | John Jerry died of smallpox |
| 1877 Dec | A chrysanthemum sport called 'Florence Nightingale' was of very good shape [DM] |
| 1878 | Began attempts to improve the hospital at Buxton |
| 1879 | Six policemen required to attend Wakes Week celebrations |
| 1880 | Nurses mother at Lea Hurst, Embley having been sold [G&MW] |
| 1880 | Organised a Penny Bank for school pupils [G&MW] |
| 1880 | Typhoid outbreak in Holloway, FN remaining until remedial work done [G&MW] |
| 1881 Feb | The 'Florence Nightingale' lifeboat stationed at Sunderland saved the lives of 18 people. [DM] |
| 1881 April | Only the family of Thomas France, Gardener, at Lea Hurst in census |
| 1881 April | William Yeomans, age 46, Estate Agent in census |
| 1881 Sept | Florence arrived at Lea Hurst [DM] |
| 1881 Dec | Florence left Lea Hurst in good health by rail in a specially provided Saloon to winter in London [DM] |
| 1882 Sept | Florence was staying at Lea Hurst [DM] |
| 1882 Nov | Florence, in mourning, left Lea Hurst by rail unnoticed for London [DM] |
| 1889 Feb | Mrs Smith, died age 91, sister of WEN and owner of the Lea Hurst estate which passed to her son [DM] |
| 1889 June | Sir Joseph C Lee and family took up residence at Lea Hurst [DM] |
| 1890 May | Parthenope died [DM] |
| 1890 July | Parthenope left her sister £500/annum for life [DM] |
| 1891 April | Only Thomas Slater, Gardener and his sister Mary Ann, Caretaker at Lea Hurst in census |
| 1892 | Dr Dunn died to be succeeded by Dr McDonald |
| 1896 | Wrote will |
| 1910 Aug 13 | Death of Florence Nightingale [DJL][NK] |

Time line

A personal wish

I have found nothing tangible about any farm before WEN built Lea Hurst. I was told that three farms were built about the same time as each other, The Hollins, a farm 'in the park' presumably precursor of Lea Hurst, and one up the Hollow. It has been said that it was a gabled house built about 1650 by Spateman. Not being preoccupied with the Nightingales I have just presumed any documents went to Embley and solicitors connected there and, with any luck, later to an archive. I however kept my eyes open, always looked on any old maps but never got a useful lead. My hopes were lifted when Lea Hurst got a new owners who are very interested in the history of the property and various features have come to light of the original WEN house.



Buxton Hospital

TESTIMONIAL TO MISS NIGHTINGALE.—The inhabitants of the neighbourhood in which Miss Nightingale resides, desirous of testifying their appreciation of her labours in the Crimea, and their gratification at her return to their locality, have subscribed liberally, and purchased a handsome papier mache writing desk, exquisitely inlaid with pearl, and largely furnished with choice stationery, &c. On the front of the desk is a silver plate bearing the following inscription :—"Presented to Florence Nightingale, on her safe arrival at Lea Hurst from the Crimea, August 8, 1856, as a token of esteem from the inhabitants of Lea, Holloway, and Crich."—Miss Nightingale was communicated with on Monday, and expressed a wish that the presentation might be made in as private a manner as possible; and, in accordance with that wish, only a very small deputation will wait upon her, in the course of this week, and, in the name of the subscribers, present to her the desk and an address.—*Courier*.

Derby Mercury 17th Sept 1856

RETURN OF MISS NIGHTINGALE.—We are happy to be enabled to record that Miss Florence Nightingale has arrived at her house in Derbyshire, after her arduous and honourable career of public service in the East. Miss Nightingale sedulously avoided that public welcome which would have greeted her had the day or place of her landing in England been made known. Desirous of preserving the strictest incognito, Miss Nightingale refused the offer of a passage in a British man-of-war, and embarked on board a French vessel, passing through France by night, and travelled through this country without being recognised to the station nearest to her own residence, where she arrived on Friday. There, however, on the platform she was met and greeted by Lady Auckland. Miss Nightingale, we regret to add, is suffering from the effects of her long and arduous self-devotion to the cause she has so nobly served.

Derby Mercury, 20th August 1856



LEA HURST, DERBYSHIRE,
THE HOME OF

Florence Nightingale.
Showing Crich Cliff in the Distance.

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