



Postcard image of Lea Hurst, the Nightingales' Derbyshire home. From a private collection.



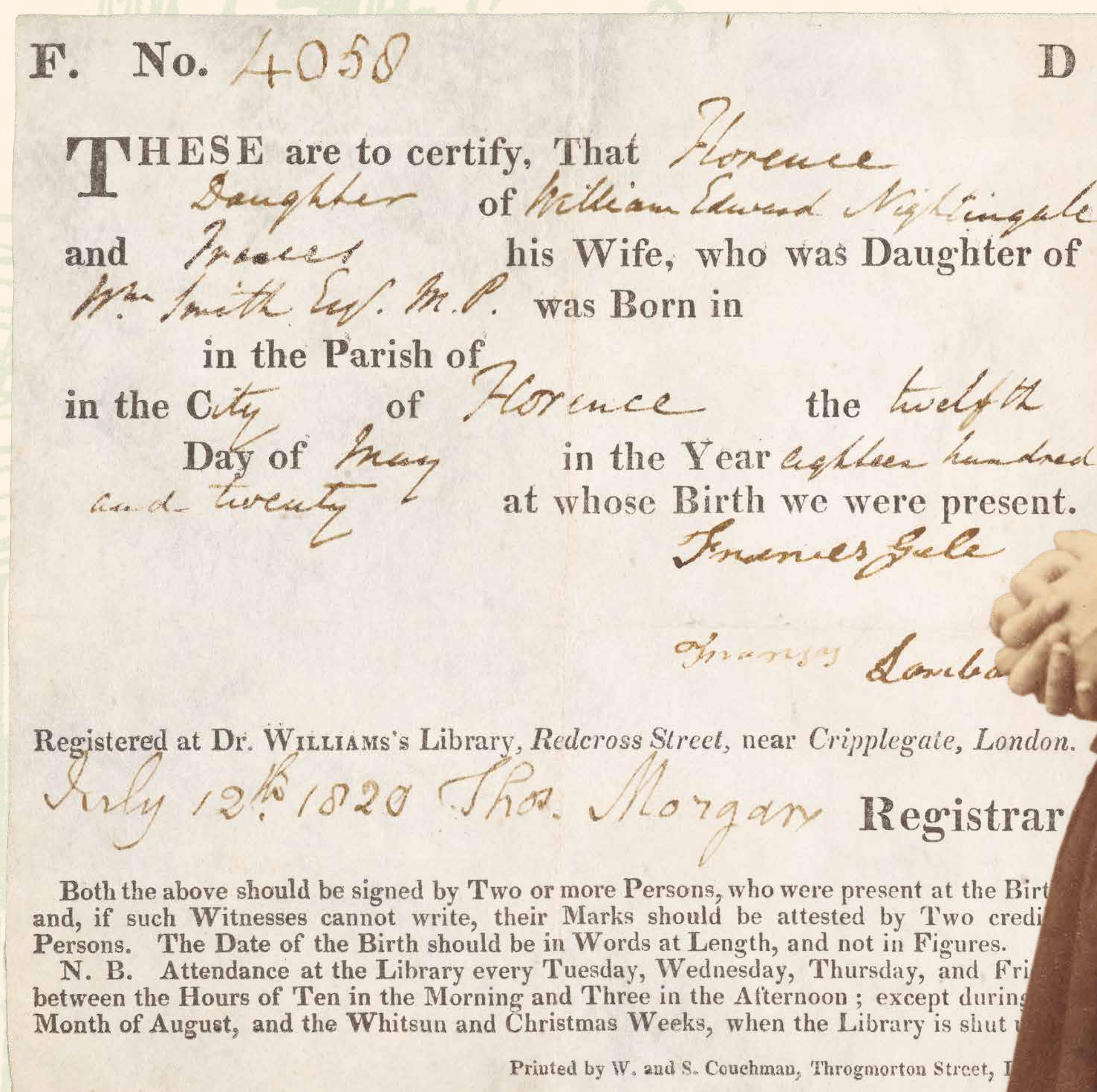
# Florence Nightingale Comes Home

**Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) is famously the lady with the lamp, the nurse everyone can name. From the moment in 1854 that she set sail to lead the British army's nursing operation in the Crimean War, she has been a semi-mythical figure: immortalised in print, image, statues, buildings and memorabilia.**

Although famously born in Florence, throughout her life Nightingale had an enduring connection to the East Midlands. The Nightingales had Derbyshire roots and Florence spent much of her childhood in the county.

As an upper-class woman from a wealthy family, Nightingale's early life was centred around the demands of the home and family. A woman of her social class was not expected to forge an independent life or a professional career.

Nightingale had a complex relationship with home. She struggled to break away from the constraints of family life, yet her subsequent work was continually shaped by her vision



Certificate of registration of Florence Nightingale's birth, 12 July 1820. Claydon House Trust, Nightingale Papers, N461/14 a-b.

of home, and what made a good home.

She drew on the language and image of home in her appeals to the British population on behalf of the ordinary soldier, and her efforts to improve working people's health focused on the sanitary condition of their homes. Her nursing training system, which remained enormously influential well into the 20th century, was inspired by the organisational structures of home and family.

Nightingale also called for reforms of hospitals and other healthcare institutions to make them more home-like.



Photograph of Florence Nightingale taken after her return from the Crimean War. Claydon House Trust, Verney/Claydon Estate Papers, Verney 13/48/7.

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