

## **Library sources on Elizabeth Fry**

Elizabeth Fry, nee Gurney, was born in Norwich in 1780 to a Quaker family. She married Joseph Fry in 1800. They settled in East London and had 11 children. In 1813 Elizabeth Fry became interested in prison conditions and began visiting Newgate Prison. Throughout her life she campaigned for penal reform and the abolition of capital punishment and travelled across Britain and into Europe visiting prisons. She also worked with the homeless and poor and established a training school for nurses. She died in 1845 and was buried in Barking; her headstone has since been moved to Wanstead Quaker Burial Ground.



*Print after a watercolour by  
R. Dighton (ca. 1820) [88/AXL 58]*

The collections of the Library of the Society of Friends contain a wide range of resources for the study of Elizabeth Fry. These include printed material, manuscripts and images; selections of these are outlined in this guide.

### **Dictionary of Quaker biography**

A useful starting point for researching the life of Elizabeth Fry is the typescript *Dictionary of Quaker biography* (DQB). It contains several entries for Elizabeth Fry, together with an extensive bibliography of works about her held within the Library's collections. The Dictionary of Quaker Biography is located in the Library's Reading Room.

### **Printed works by Elizabeth Fry**

The following published works by Elizabeth Fry, are held within the Library's collections and are available for reference:

Fry, Elizabeth. *Elizabeth Fry: a Quaker life: selected letters and writings*. Introduced and edited by Gil Skidmore. Lanham, Md.: Altamira, 2005. 007 FRY

Fry, Elizabeth. *Life of Elizabeth Fry*. Compiled from her journal ... by Susanna Corder. London: W. & F. G. Cash, 1853. 092.4 FRY/COR

Elizabeth Fry. *Memoir of the life of Elizabeth Fry with extracts from her journal and letters*. Edited by two of her daughters. 2nd ed. revised and enlarged. London: J. Hatchard & Son, 1848. 2 vols. 092.4 FRY

Fry, Elizabeth. *Observations on the visiting, superintendence, and government of female prisoners*. London: John and Arthur Arch, 1827. SR 063.3 FRY

Fry, Elizabeth and Gurney, Joseph John. *Report addressed to the Marquess Wellesley, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland*. London: John and Arthur Arch, 1827.

SR 066.32 FRY

### **Printed works about Elizabeth Fry**

Numerous works have been published about Elizabeth Fry and her work. Below is a selection held within the Library's printed collections and available for reference:

Drenth, Annemieke van and Haan, Francisca de. *The rise of caring power: Elizabeth Fry and Josephine Butler in Britain and the Netherlands*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 1999. 092.4 FRY/DRE

Gurney, Elizabeth. *Elizabeth Fry's journeys on the continent 1840-1841 : from a diary kept by her niece / edited, with an introduction, by R. Brimley Johnson*. London: John Lane, [1931]. 092.4 FRY/DEB

Gurney, Joseph John. *Notes on a visit made to some of the prisons in Scotland and the north of England, in company with Elizabeth Fry; with some general observations on the subject of prison discipline*. London: Printed for Archibald Constable and Co., 1819. SR 063.3 GUR

Hatton, Jean. *Betsy: the dramatic biography of prison reformer Elizabeth Fry*. Oxford: Monarch Books, 2005. 092.4 FRY/HAT

*An Hour in His Majesty's gaol of Newgate on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1820*. London: Henry Teape, [1820]. Box 184

Kent, John. *Elizabeth Fry*. London: Batsford, 1962. 092.4 FRY/KEN

Rose, June. *Elizabeth Fry*. London: Macmillan, 1980. 092.4 FRY/ROS

Timpson, Rev Thomas. *Memoirs of Mrs. Elizabeth Fry: including a history of her labors in promoting the reformation of female prisoners, and the improvement of British seamen*. 2nd ed., revised with additions. London: Aylott, 1854. 092.4 FRY/TIM

Whitney, Janet. *Elizabeth Fry: Quaker heroine*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1936. 092.4 FRY/WHI

Further printed material can be identified through the Library's online catalogue at [www.quaker.org.uk/cat](http://www.quaker.org.uk/cat)

### **Manuscript sources relating to Elizabeth Fry**

The Library holds the following unpublished collections and items relating to Elizabeth Fry, available on request for research in the Library's Reading Room:

Diaries of Elizabeth Fry 1797-1833; 1837-1845. 47 vols. MS VOL S 255-271

Autograph pass to Newgate Prison. MS BOX 7/12/17

Elizabeth Fry correspondence: letters to her daughter Richenda 1820-1845. 85 letters. TEMP MSS 61

Elizabeth Fry Notabilities: domestic / foreign [a collection of letters received by Elizabeth Fry]. 2 vols. TEMP MSS 64, MIC 159-160

Correspondence of Elizabeth Fry and her family 1815-1849. 19 items. Holographs.  
TEMP MSS 743

### **Pictures of Elizabeth Fry**

The Library's picture collections are a rich resource for the study of Elizabeth Fry. Images of her held in these collections include:

- Portrait. Head and shoulders profile silhouette. F60
- Portrait. Head and shoulders ca. 1799. Photograph of a pencil sketch by Amelia Opie. F64
- Portrait. Half length with bonnet. Photograph of the painting by C.R. Leslie. F68
- Portrait. Full length in Quaker dress with bonnet. Colour engraving on postcard of the painting by G. Richmond. F73
- Elizabeth Fry reading to the prisoners in Newgate Gaol. Print after a watercolour by R. Dighton (ca. 1820) 88/AXL 58
- Elizabeth Fry and Mary Sanderson at Newgate by Henrietta Mary Ada Ward, 1895. Oil on canvas. Reading Room
- An hour at Newgate exhibiting Mrs Fry and her friends, 1820's. Engraving, probably by Thomas Rowlandson. III 40

### **Further information**

#### **Library opening hours**

Tuesday- Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Please note the Library normally closes for one week in the spring and in the autumn. It is advisable to telephone or email prior to visiting. New readers will need to complete a registration form and show proof of permanent address. The registration form can be downloaded from our website [www.quaker.org.uk/library](http://www.quaker.org.uk/library) or requested from the Library.

For further information or help in using the Library please contact us by either email to [library@quaker.org.uk](mailto:library@quaker.org.uk), or telephone 020 7663 1135 or write to:

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