

Social reformer

**Angelica Fraser**

**1823-1910**

The twelfth child of an Aberdeen merchant, Angelica Fraser sought comfort in religion after her mother died when she was 12. This, followed by an unhappy teenage love affair, persuaded her to give her life to social reform.

Angelica first worked as a district visitor among the poor and, in her early thirties, began striving to improve the working conditions of tailors.

A campaigner against alcohol, she helped establish the Edinburgh Tailors' Abstinence Union in 1875, and co-founded the Scottish Ladies' Temperance Society.

Her core belief was that wider social and economic emancipation would result from helping the individual gain self-respect.

In 1879 Angelica moved to London. She called a conference of tailors the next year.

She eventually raised over £1,000 to establish Tailors' Hall, which had a lecture hall and reading-room to help members improve themselves.

Angelica died in November 1910 having attended her last meeting at Tailors' Hall just weeks before.

Perhaps the greatest tribute was that she came to be called the Florence Nightingale of Tailors.

- Read the Oxford DNB biography here: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/dnb/59507.html>.