



Donate and Support

Do Everything Book Launch!

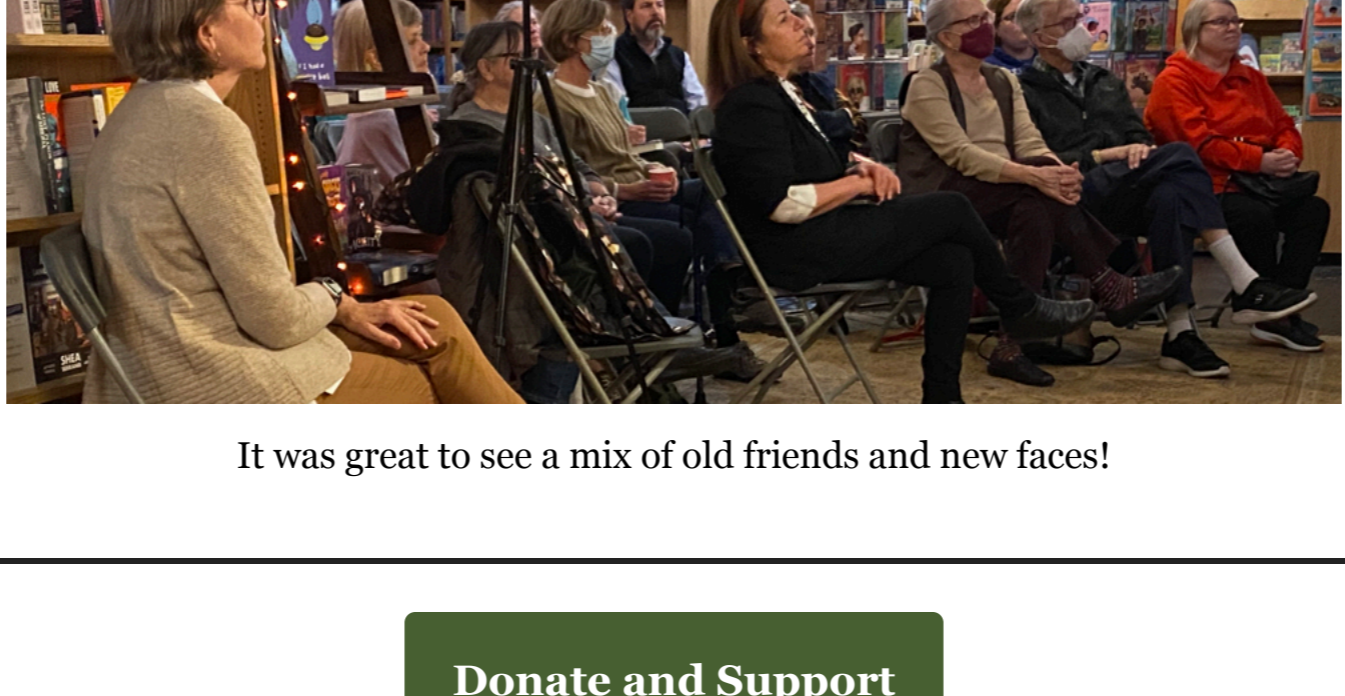


Christopher Evans and Janet Olson in conversation at Bookends and Beginnings.

Thank you to everyone who joined the Frances Willard House Museum and WCTU Archives at Bookends and Beginnings on October 20 for the launch of Dr. Christopher Evans's new book, *Do Everything: The Biography of Frances Willard*. We enjoyed a fascinating discussion with Evans and Willard House Archivist Janet Olson about the new perspectives Evans has brought to the complex interpretation of Willard's life, work, and legacy.

A recording of the conversation is now available on our YouTube channel.

Do Everything can be purchased through your local independent bookseller, Oxford University Press, and Amazon. [Order your copy today!](#)



It was great to see a mix of old friends and new faces!

Donate and Support

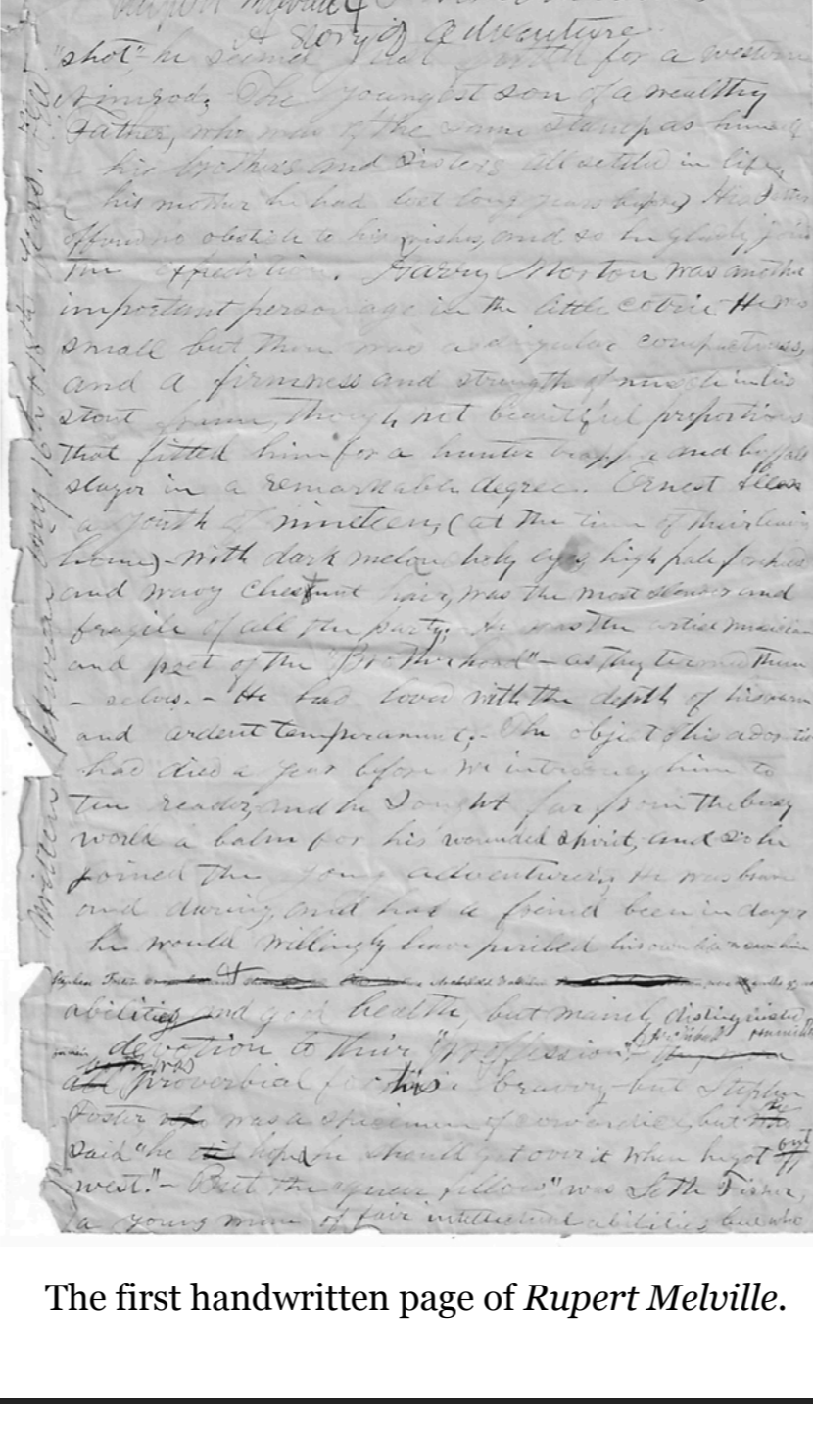
Save the Date for Collection Close-up!



Thank you to everyone who came on a tour of the Frances Willard House Museum this spring, summer, and fall! Our regular tour schedule will resume in March for Women's History Month. Until then, special group tours are available upon request by emailing info@franceswillardhouse.org or calling (847) 328-7500.

We are pleased to announce a busy winter schedule of virtual programs! In addition to our *Views* book talks, *Handicraft Hour* will return under a new name: *Collection Close-up*. Each *Close-up* will provide a detailed exploration of a collection item relating to this year's programming theme, *Knowledge is Power: Women and Education*.

Our first *Collection Close-up* will be held via Zoom on Sunday, November 20 at 4pm Central Time. Fiona Maxwell (Willard House Director of Museum Operations and Communications, University of Chicago History PhD candidate) will share the story behind *Rupert Melville and His Comrades: A Story of Adventure*, a novel written by Frances Willard as a young girl. The WCTU Archives houses the entire 165-page (unfinished) manuscript. The enjoyment Willard derived from the process convinced her that "write I could and should and would." Stay tuned for more information and a link to register. In the meantime, you can learn more about Willard's early growth as a writer on our [blog](#).



The first handwritten page of *Rupert Melville*.

Wrapping Up Archives Month



With the end of October, we say farewell to another busy Archives Month. A fellow archivist noted recently, "I can honestly say it never gets old witnessing a researcher experience a genuine moment of discovery." We are the WCTU Archives agree! It's why we do what we do. What truly never gets old for us as archivists is the realization that our work has an impact, as evidenced by the final results of researchers' work after years of archival visits.



Dr. Evans signing a copy of *Do Everything*.

Just last week we celebrated with Chris Evans at a book-signing event for his new biography of Frances Willard – the first new biography of Willard since 1986. The icing on the archival cake is that Evans's book cites the work of other recent scholars who have also experienced moments of discovery in the WCTU Archives: *Writing out My Heart* (1995) by Carolyn DeSwarthe Gifford, *Equality: An American Dilemma* (2019) by Charles Postel, and *In League Against King Alcohol* (2020) by Thomas Lappas to name just a few, as well as dissertations by Rachel Bohlmann, Leslie Dunlap, and Amy Slagell. The chain of information-building goes on, Archives Month after Archives Month. And it never gets old.



Charles Postel, Thomas Lappas, and Leslie Dunlap hard at work in the WCTU Archives.

To learn more about our collections, visit our [website](#), [blog](#), and social media accounts ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)). To schedule a research visit, submit an online [research request](#) or email us at archives@franceswillardhouse.org.

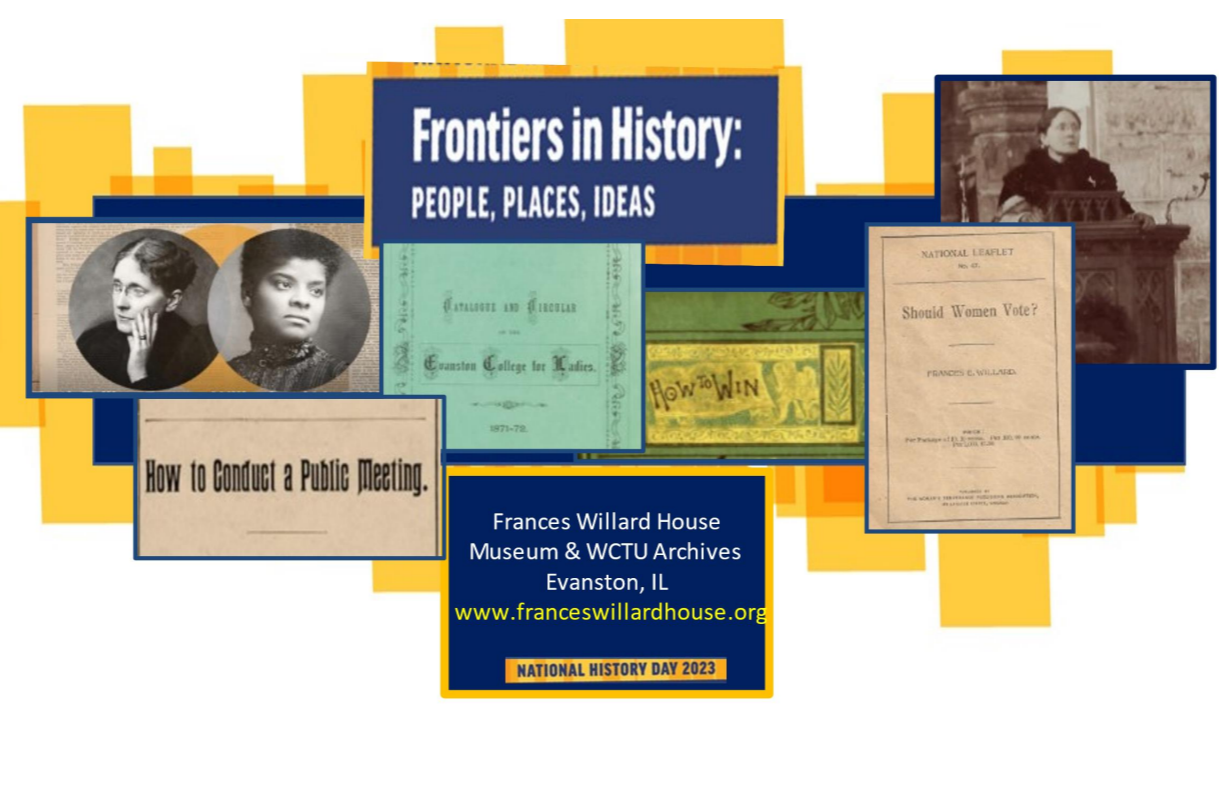
An Archivist's Tale

WCTU Archives Subject Files Inventory				
The files listed below under Main Subject represent folders in our Subject Files Collection. The list also includes cross-references to other related collections. For more information about the contents of the folders, please complete our reference request form or contact us at archives@franceswillardhouse.org .				
Main subject	Subheading 1	Subheading 2	SEE / SEE ALSO 1	SEE / SEE ALSO 2
National Association				
Women Suffrage Association	Cooperation with WCTU			1959
National Council of Women of the United States			International Council of Women	Cross reference
National Education Association				1907-1908
National Pageant				1931
National Temperance Educational Fund				1933-1935
National Temperance Institute				1933-1935
National Woman's Institute of Free Speech (NIF)				1931-1937
Native Americans			Indian Territory in WCTU State Collection	1939-2000
President McKinley			Down Hill (vertical file box)	1911-1922
President McKinley			Down Hill (vertical file box)	1911-1922
New Crusade Day				1933-1934
New Parkers National WCTU			Foster, Judith Ellen	1933-1934
Non-alcoholic Beverages			Beverages – Nonalcoholic	Cross reference
Non-Profit University	Charter Amendment re Alcohol		Mother Kull Home (Keamey, NE)	1966
Nursing Homes				Cross reference
One and by Leaf			Young Women's Christian Temperance Union	1934-1938

A glimpse of our new digital subject files inventory.

What do archivists do? In a new [blog post](#), Assistant Archivist Kristin Jacobsen reflects on the year-long project, funded by a grant from the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB), to reorganize and provide access to our 700+ subject and biographical files. Jacobsen, the Project Manager for the grant, describes the genesis of the project, unexpected benefits, and lessons learned. And the results? The folders are all organized with standard titles, and a searchable list of subject files is now available [online](#). The project makes it easier for archives staff to provide reference services and gives researchers a better idea of the materials they can find here.

National History Day: *Frontiers in History*



Archives Month is a great time to start talking about readiness for National Student History Day/History Fair, and the WCTU Archives is ready to welcome student researchers! This year's theme is *Frontiers in History*. With the goal to "agitate, educate, organize," WCTU members pushed social boundaries, crossed new frontiers in the United States and the world, and paved the way for women to vote, lead, and effect positive change. The WCTU intersected with women everywhere and in many ways. If you know a middle- or high-school student (or educator) who is looking for projects, send them to our [National History Day 2023 page](#). It's packed with information and suggestions!

Happy National Cat Day!



Happy National Cat Day from Frances Willard's celebrity cat, Toots! Toots' adventures filled newspaper columns and inspired children's stories. He corresponded with other temperance and suffrage cats around the globe and published letters and articles in the WCTU's journal, the *Union Signal*. The records of this remarkable network of feline reformers can be found in our Archives.



TOMMY NORCROSS SEWALL, A FRIEND OF TOOTS

Donate and Support



Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

