



**Collection Close-Up:
An Exceeding Fondness for Books**



Our latest **Collection Close-Up** is now live on our [YouTube Channel](#)! In "**An Exceeding Fondness for Books: The Libraries at the Willard House,**" Museum Director Lori Osborne explores favorites from the book collections at the Museum. Amongst some of the Willard family's oldest possessions, the books reveal much about who owned them, shared them, and cared for them over many years.



Our free public programs happen only with your support. We hope you will consider making a donation [here](#). Thank you!

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That's a Wrap for 2023 Tours!



Thank you to everyone who took a tour of the Frances Willard House Museum this year! We look forward to welcoming in-person visitors again when we reopen for Women's History Month in March 2024. In the meantime, we are still accepting group tour reservations. Find out more and book a group tour by emailing info@franceswillardhouse.org.



Guest Editors: Janet Olson and Kristin Jacobsen

More from your friends in the WCTU Archives, because one newsletter wasn't enough!

Archives, Anniversaries, and a Sneak Preview of 2024

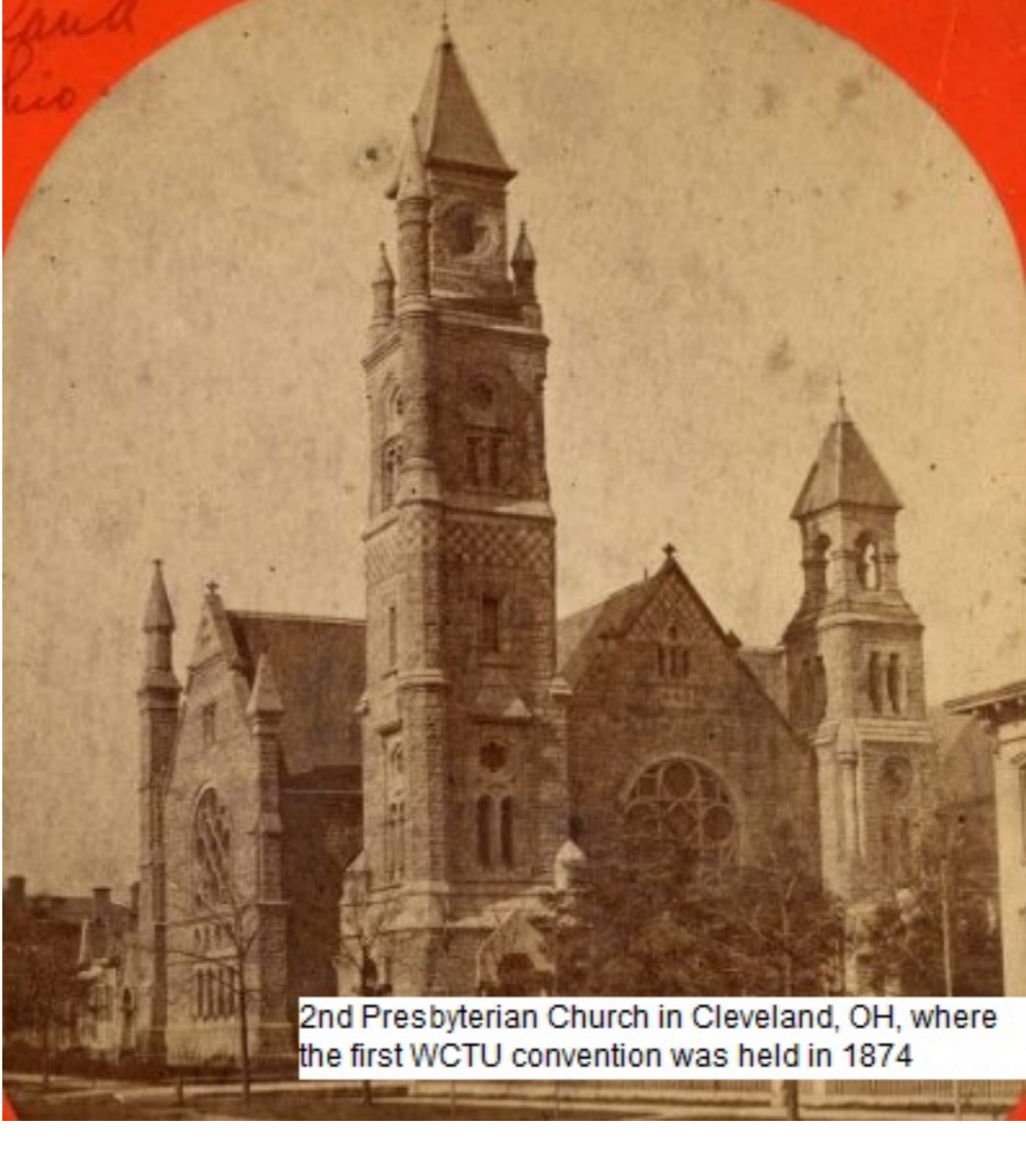
Anniversaries! We all have them (some call them birthdays), and they're not just for people. Institutions, organizations, departments, towns, and countries commemorate their founding by looking back at why they were formed, what they have done, who has been involved, and how they have changed over time. Even national events and turning points generate future commemorations, either annually or marking decades or centuries (think of Juneteenth or the Suffrage Centenary). Where do the planners of these events turn for information, stories, facts, images, and artifacts? Yes, the answer is **in the archives**. For an archives, anniversaries offer a great opportunity to make more people aware of the valuable resources held in our collections.

As the Frances Willard House Museum and Archives gears up for the 150th anniversary of the WCTU's founding – coming up rapidly in 2024 – we have several dates to commemorate, and 150 years of history to share.

First came an event that was shocking in its time. In **December 1873**, women in Fredonia, New York marched, praying and singing, into saloons to shame the occupants into desisting from drinking or purveying alcohol. The group's success in closing some establishments led to similar actions across the country. It came to be called the Woman's Crusade, and it spread across the country during the winter and spring of 1873-1874. (You can find more details on our [blog](#).)

In **August 1874**, many Crusaders attended the first National Sunday School Assembly in Chautauqua, New York and recounted their achievements. Those present decided it was time to capitalize on the momentum of the Woman's Crusades and establish a national temperance group for women. They left Chautauqua with a plan.

On **November 18, 1874**, one representative from each United States congressional district gathered for a convention in Cleveland, Ohio, where they named their new organization the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, drafted a constitution, elected officers, and developed a "Plan of Work." The rest is history – 150 years of it – and that's where the Archives shines, with our extensive collections in all formats.



The Museum and Archives will build on the key events noted above as we commemorate this important anniversary. Watch our newsletter for special events and online content during the coming year!

**Speaking of Anniversaries...
Happy 50th, National History Day!**

National History Day/History Fair 2024



National History Day (also known as History Fair) turns 50 in 2024! We applaud this wonderful opportunity for middle and high school students to explore history through primary sources. In recent years, we've seen and heard from many students (singly and in enthusiastically noisy teams) working on projects relating to Suffrage, Temperance, Frances Willard, and more. The NHD themes are always broad enough to encompass many different topics, presented in numerous formats – originally poster exhibits and essays, now including websites, videos, and performance pieces. The theme for 2024, befitting an anniversary year, is "**Turning Points in History**" – a time to look back and see what events, movements, and people have left their mark on history. If you know of History Day students who are looking for a topic, send them our way. Visit our [NHD webpage](#) for ideas!

Farewell to Another Archives Month!

We'll end October with this classic quote from Frances Willard about the value of archives:

We think the record of these days will be helpful in future great reforms, and so we urge each Union, local, state and national, to preserve its archives sacredly; to have scrap-books of its history as written up by current journalists, for while they may abuse us one day they are sure to praise us the next, so that the general average is not far from fair. Literature, badges, banners, mottoes, programs, photographs, should all be kept. In the Temple we are to have a collection of these from all over the world, and I wish once more to urge that every Union in foreign countries send us some souvenir of its work. My own private collection, including mother's many scrapbooks (among which the "Abuse Scrapbook" has grown to a quarto this year!), will belong to this collection which I believe may become one of great value. Frances Willard, from the President's Address to the 1891 National WCTU Convention

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Frances Willard, 1891

The Archives and Museum staff, all part-timers, work hard to provide access to our collections for visiting researchers, and reference services for those who can't visit in person. We juggle the tasks of organizing material, preparing digital exhibits, promoting our collections, and planning and producing public programs. We love what we do in preserving and interpreting this history, and we greatly appreciate our supporters whose donations make it possible for us to maintain our collections and services. Please visit our [donation page](#) for information on how to help us continue our work. And Happy Archives Month!

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