



**Archives Month Update: Black Women in the WCTU**



The ever-growing *Black Women in the WCTU* spreadsheet, with portraits of prominent Black WCTU leaders.

October – American Archives Month – has been busy and productive for the Willard House Museum and Archives, filled with new digital projects, blog posts, programs, and presentations. We close out the month with a progress report on the *Black Women in the WCTU* project, an outgrowth of the *Truth-Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells* digital exhibit.

Using our extensive archival records, we are working to create a comprehensive research database that documents the significant but unexplored role of Black women in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. This summer, we were chosen as a host institution for Northwestern University's [Chicago Humanities Initiative](#). CHI matched us with a graduate student intern who would continue the compelling and time-consuming work of sifting through records to collect names, union locations, and other documentation of Black WCTU members. Our intern, Northwestern Philosophy PhD student Amelia Perkins, did – and continues to do – a stellar job. She reflects on her experience in a new [blog post](#).

You can learn more about the project in a video presentation given by Archives staff members Janet Olson and Kristin Jacobsen for the Chicago Area Archivists "Open Archives" program: [Let the Records Speak: Uncovering the Stories of Black Women in the WCTU](#). Janet and Kristin describe the origins, goals, and progress of the project and invite volunteers – working remotely or on-site – to help us add to the database. Interested? Contact us at [archives@franceswillardhouse.org](mailto:archives@franceswillardhouse.org)!

**Handicraft Hour Continues on November 21!**



Thank you to everyone who attended our Archives Month Handicraft Hour on October 17! We enjoyed a fascinating presentation about the history of quilts and women's activism by quilting expert Laura Hopper (pictured), and Willard House archivist Janet Olson shared highlights from our unique collection of handmade nineteenth-century quilts.



Our next Handicraft Hour will take place on **Sunday, November 21 at 4pm Central Time** and will feature a presentation dedicated to the culinary arts. Marie Pellissier, a former Willard House intern and a current History PhD candidate at William and Mary, will discuss the roots of Thanksgiving foods in New England cuisine and the relationship between Thanksgiving and women's reform movements.

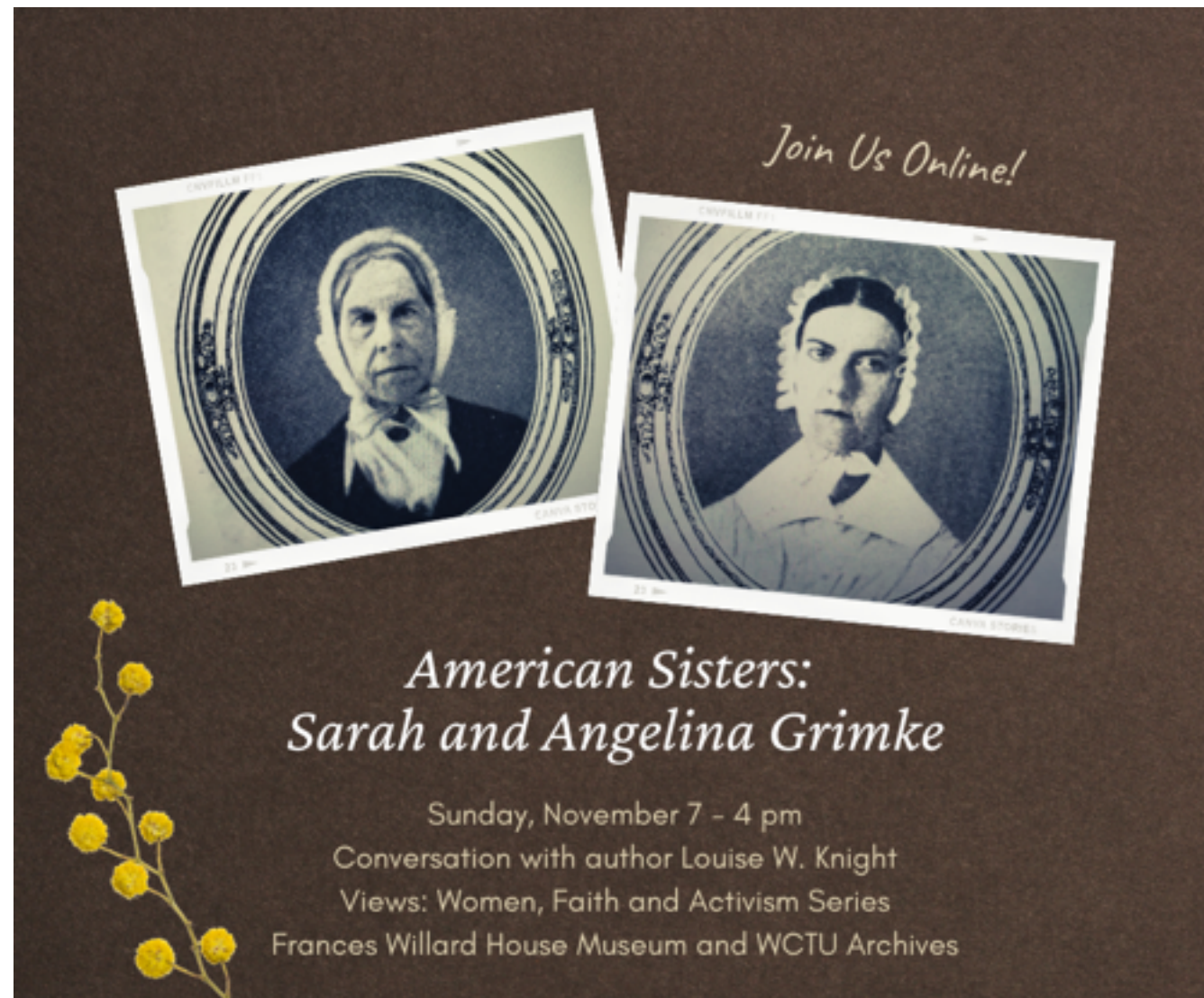
Please RSVP for this free virtual program [here](#). A Zoom link will be sent shortly before the event to everyone who registers.

*Handicraft Hours* are part of the *Arts at the Willard House* program series, which explores the connections between women's creativity, community, and social change.

**Donate and Support**

Our programs will remain free this year, but we are encouraging those who can to support our work by making a donation. Donations of any size make our work possible. Thank you!

**Views Returns on November 7!**



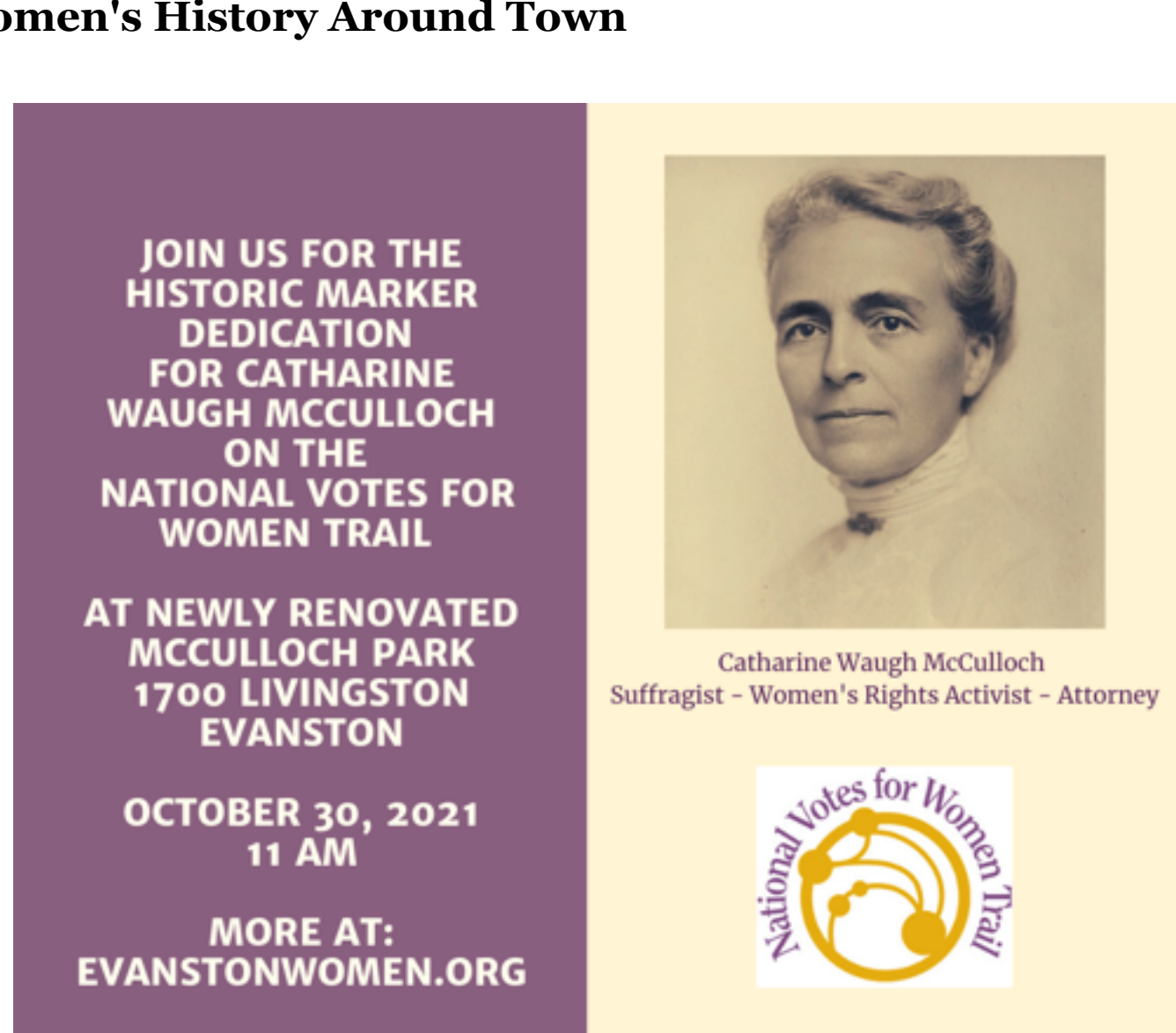
The first *Views* program of the season will feature author Louise W. Knight in conversation about her forthcoming book, *American Sisters: Sarah and Angelina Grimké and the Fight for Human Rights*. Originally from a slave-owning family in Charleston, South Carolina, during the 1830s the Grimké sisters rejected slavery, converted to Quakerism, and later became key figures in the abolition and women's rights movements.

Register for this free virtual event [here](#). A Zoom link will be sent shortly before the event to everyone who registers.



The *Views* program series highlights new research and writing in women's history. This season will present conversations with scholars exploring the theme of **Women, Faith, and Activism**. For generations of women, their faith was a key source of personal exploration and reform motivation. What does that mean today – and what understanding can we gain by examining this in the past?

**Women's History Around Town**



**Today – Catharine Waugh McCulloch Historic Marker Dedication**  
The National Votes for Women Trail Marker for Catharine Waugh McCulloch will be dedicated on Saturday, October 30 at 11am in newly renovated McCulloch Park (1700 Livingston Avenue, Evanston, Illinois). McCulloch was a lawyer, suffragist, political activist, and life-long supporter of women's rights. She lived in Evanston for fifty years, from 1895 until her death in 1945. The Evanston Women's History Project at the Evanston History Center led the effort to add McCulloch's marker, with Lori Osborne, the Executive Director of the Willard House, serving as the Illinois coordinator of the National Votes for Women Trail. All are invited to join us for the dedication ceremony. More information [here](#).



October print from the Willard House Dining Room

**Donate and Support**

