



At the Center for Women's History and Leadership

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Happy Archives Month!

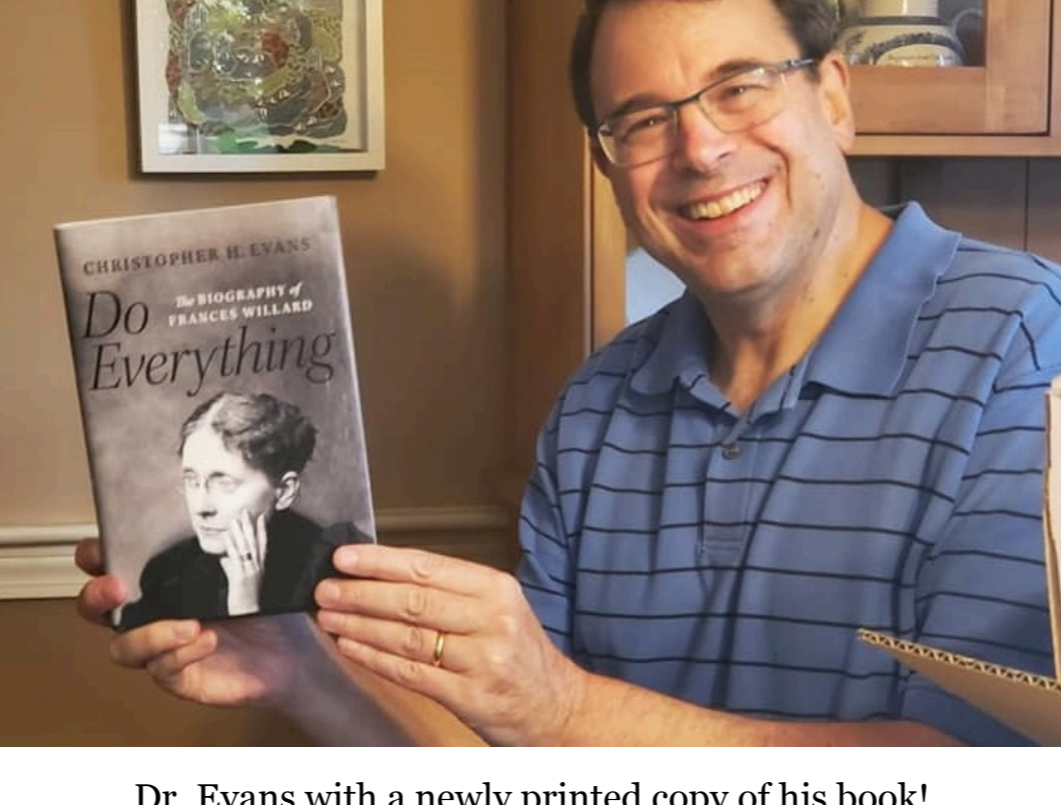
Guest Editors: Janet Olson and Kristin Jacobsen



October is here, and so is American Archives Month! Did you say "What's in the WCTU Archives?" We're glad you asked! Our collections document the history and impact of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Materials date from the 1830s to the 2000s and include letters, documents, images, periodicals, biographical and subject files, and scrapbooks. These resources are used by researchers of all ages to explore women's history, social reform, addiction studies, and more. 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. And if you have questions about the fascinating world of archives, join us on Twitter for #AskAnArchivist Day on October 12!

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Do Everything Book Talk and Tours!



Dr. Evans with a newly printed copy of his book!

A perfect demonstration of the value of archives is Do Everything: The Biography of Frances Willard, a brand new book by Dr. Christopher Evans and the first new biography of Frances Willard in 35 years. Over the past five years, Evans spent countless hours in the WCTU Archives, and his industrious research has revealed previously unused sources that add new perspectives for understanding Willard's life and work. Evans says: "This book would not have been possible without the collection of the Frances E. Willard Memorial Library and Archives." Do Everything is now available through your local independent bookseller, Oxford University Press, and Amazon.

Why the title Do Everything? For the answer, watch an interview with Evans on our YouTube channel hosted by Willard House Archivist Janet Olson. Evans addresses what the idea of Do Everything reveals about Willard's leadership, as well as the legacies of her vision.

Attention Evanstonians! Evans will be at the Bookends & Beginnings bookstore for an in-person book talk and signing on Thursday, October 20 at 6pm. The conversation will be moderated by Janet Olson and will focus especially on the ways in which Evanston's community of women shaped Willard, as well as the new insights Evans has brought to her complex story. Find out more and register here.

In honor of the book launch, this October the Frances Willard House Museum is holding Do Everything Tours focusing on Willard's early education and the development of her leadership skills and tactics. These will be our last tours of the 2022 tour season. We will reopen for monthly tours in March 2023.

October tours are on the following days:

- Sundays, October 9 and 16
Thursdays, October 13 and 20

Tours are at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm by reservation only. Masks are required. Visitors should request a tour by emailing info@franceswillardhouse.org or calling (847) 328-7500. Tour fees are \$15 per person. Admission is free for students at all levels. Payment must be made online or over the phone once the tour day and time has been confirmed.

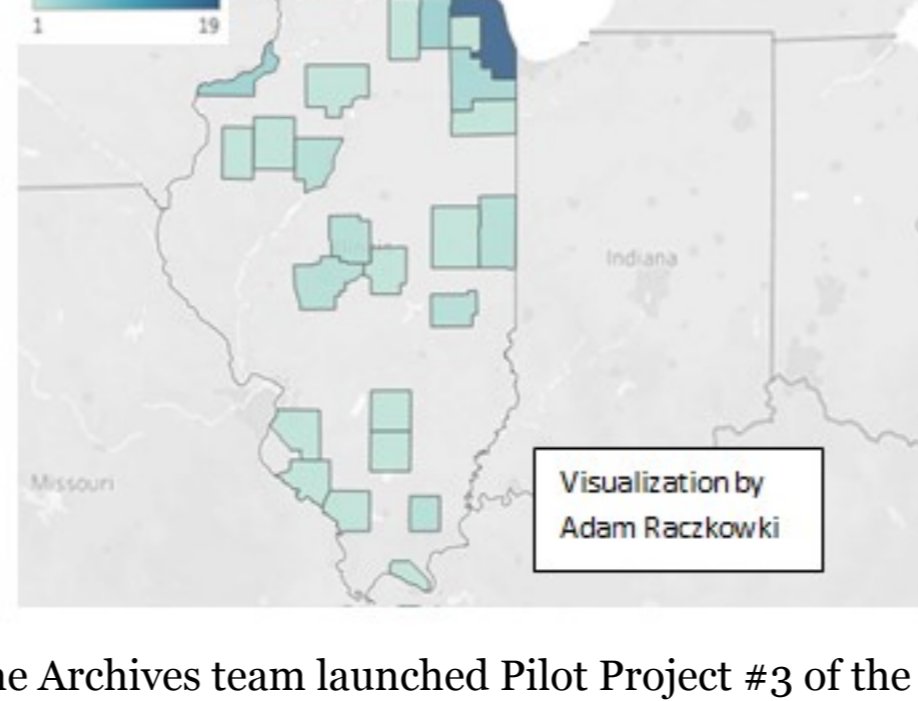
An Archivist's Tale

Table with columns: WCTU Archives Subject Files Inventory, Title, Date, and Cross-reference. Lists various subject files like National American Woman Suffrage Association, National Council of Women of the United States, etc.

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.

Black Women of the WCTU Progress Report



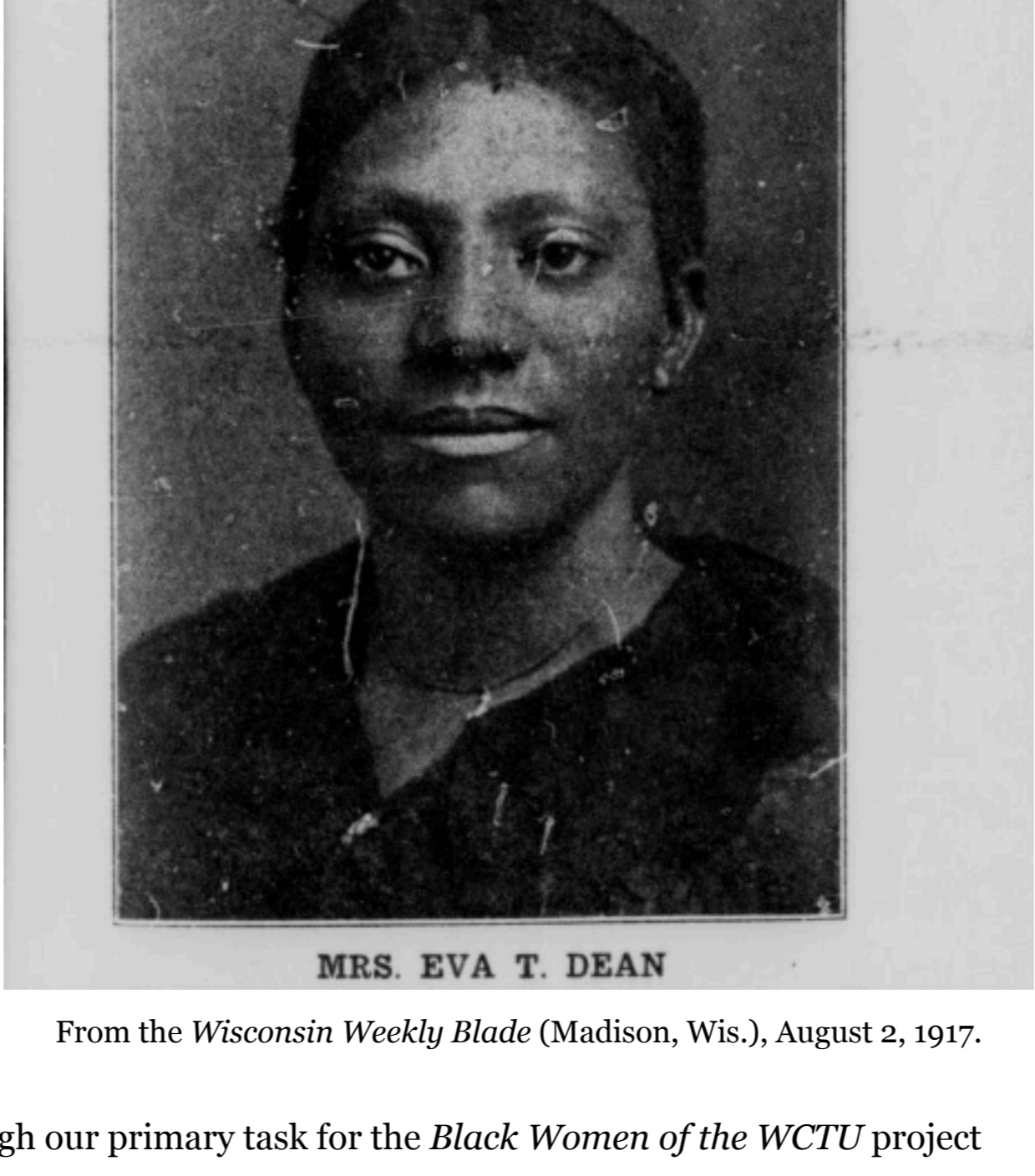
This summer the Archives team launched Pilot Project #3 of the Black Women of the WCTU research database project, which involved identifying Black leaders from all the WCTU unions in our own state of Illinois. Highlights of this summer's work include:

- Our stellar group of interns and volunteers: Karl Bullock, Liz Morris, Adam Raczkowski, and Chloe Rybacki. Special thanks to Project Manager and Data Wrangler Raczkowski!
Sources: The WCTU Archives has a full run of annual reports from the Illinois WCTU, making the state a good choice for a pilot project. Reports were augmented by historical newspapers, census records, and more.
Database 3.0: A shared Google spreadsheet for data gathering by multiple researchers.
Demographics research: To determine where Black unions were most likely to be located, Raczkowski used U.S. Census data from 1880-1940 to map the racial makeup of Illinois counties over time.
Detailed progress report: With an emphasis on Pilot Project #3, the report also summarizes the work done in the earlier stages of the project.

The results include 306 Illinois names added, 50+ Illinois unions identified, and many process-related lessons learned. The database now includes over 1,000 names of individual women and the locations of 150 Black unions across many states - a drop in the bucket compared to the information waiting to be gathered and made available to researchers, but encouraging progress nonetheless. We are confident that we have identified a viable process for expanding into other states and engaging the help of outside researchers.

You can read the entire 20+ page progress report here. Many thanks to our Project Manager for his work on the report!

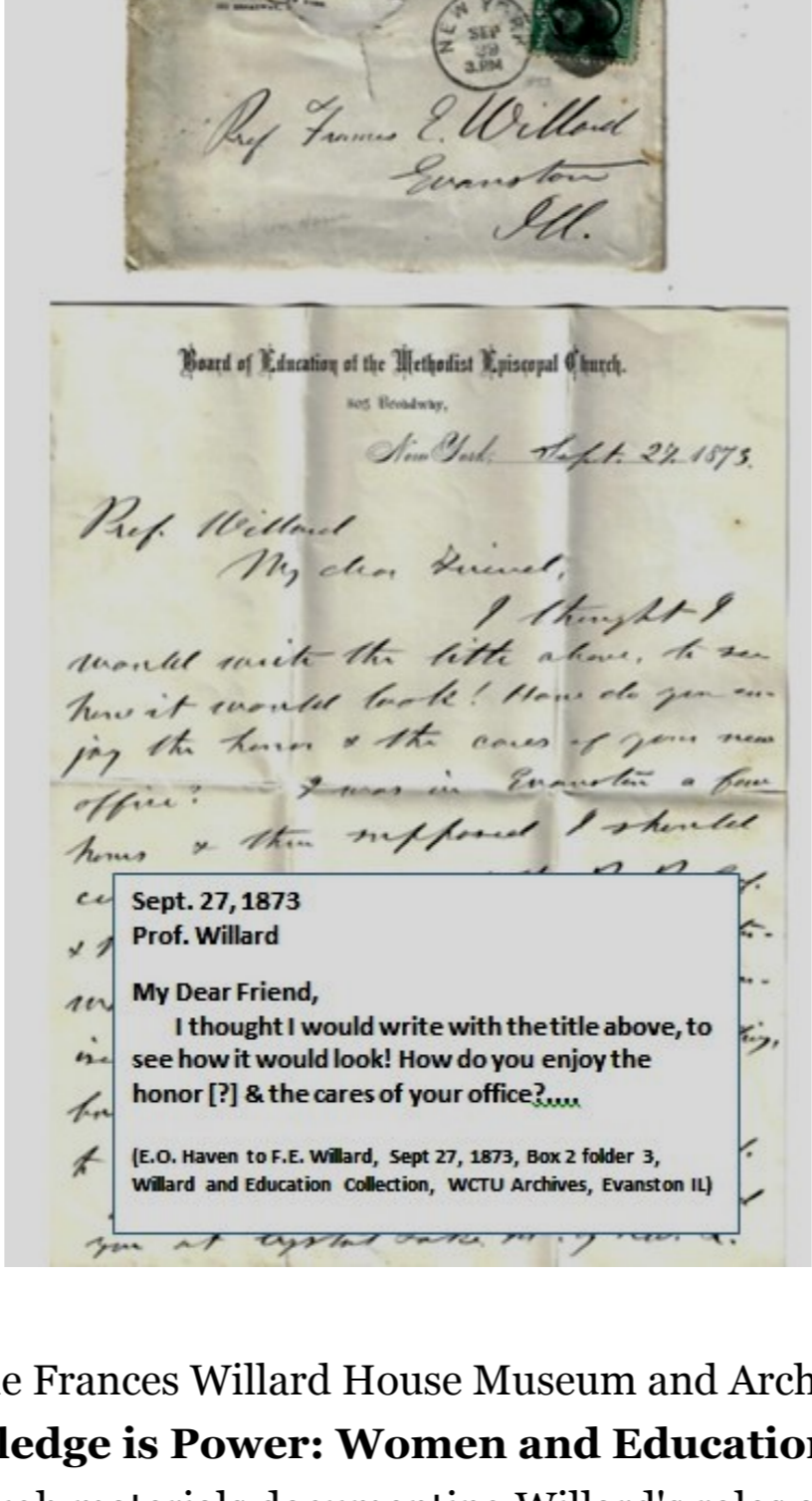
Meet Eva T. Dean



From the Wisconsin Weekly Blade (Madison, Wis.), August 2, 1917.

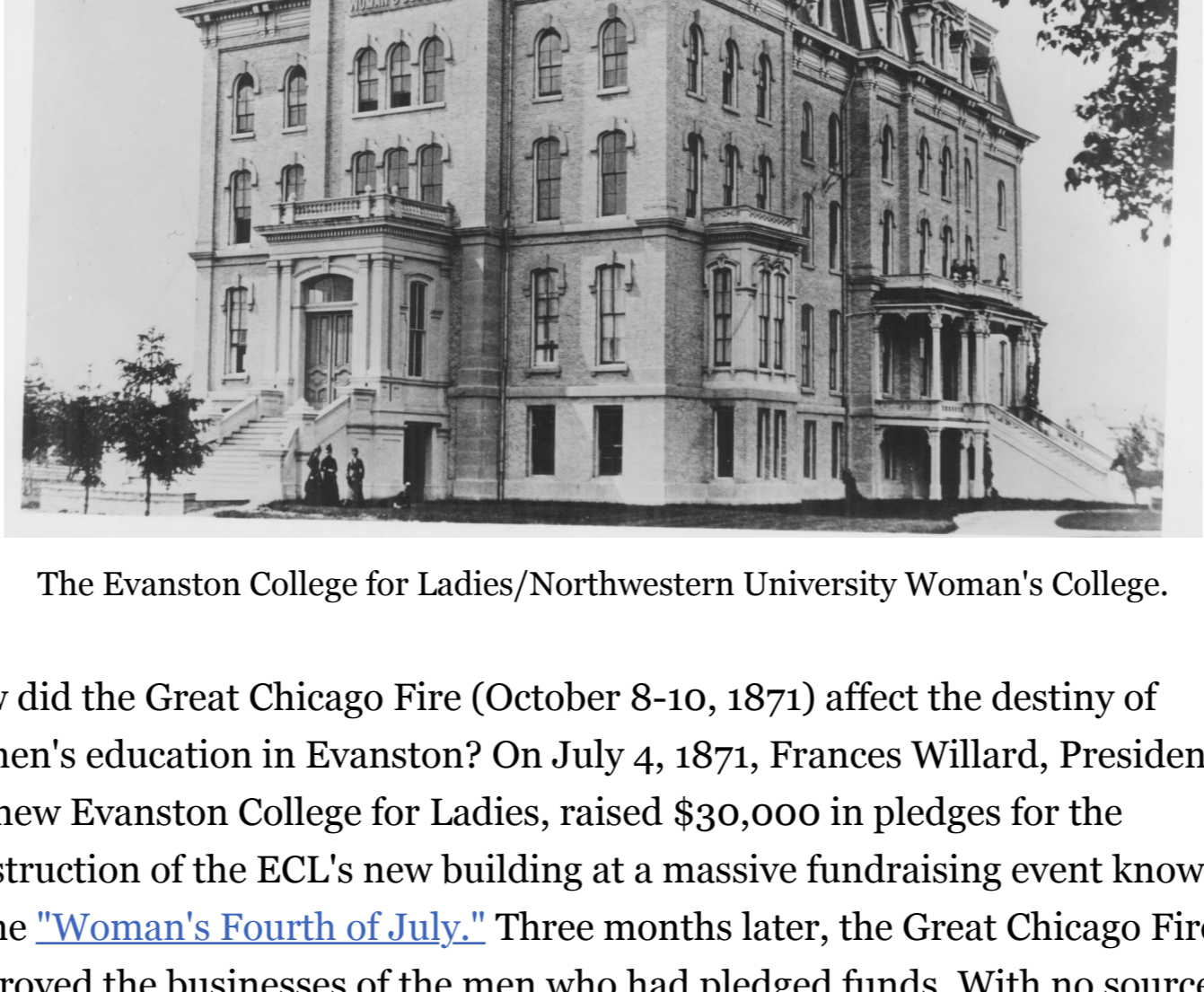
Although our primary task for the Black Women of the WCTU project is gathering data, it's hard to resist wanting to know more about the women whose names we find - many of whom participated in multiple organizations. For example, Eva T. Dean, from Champaign, Illinois, was a very active WCTU officers during the 1910s and 1920s, serving as a State Superintendent, among many other roles. Her reports, published in the Illinois WCTU Annual Meeting Minutes, provide insight into efforts to increase Black women's participation throughout the state. When our researchers looked further, they discovered that Dean was mentioned over 50 times in digitized historical Black newspapers, demonstrating her impressive activism in the WCTU and beyond.

Collection Highlight: Professor Willard



In keeping with the Frances Willard House Museum and Archives' theme for this year - Knowledge is Power: Women and Education - the Archives staff combed through materials documenting Willard's roles at the North Western Female College, the Evanston College for Ladies, and the Northwestern University Woman's College. They uncovered this delightful letter from Erastus O. Haven, the Northwestern president who brought coeducation to the university in 1869. Haven continued to be a friend and supporter to Willard after he left Northwestern in 1872. In 1873, when the ECL merged with Northwestern and Willard became Northwestern's first Dean of Women, she resigned in June 1874, dissatisfied with her subordinate role. In October 1874, the WCTU was formed, Willard joined the new movement, and the rest of her career path is history. But let's play "what if"! If the fire hadn't sent the ECL's future up in smoke, would Willard have continued to empower women through higher education? Or was leading an international social reform movement her destiny?

October History Note: The Great Chicago Fire and Women's Education in Evanston



The Evanston College for Ladies/Northwestern University Woman's College.

How did the Great Chicago Fire (October 8-10, 1871) affect the destiny of women's education in Evanston? On July 4, 1871, Frances Willard, President of the new Evanston College for Ladies, raised \$30,000 in pledges for the construction of the ECL's new building at a massive fundraising event known as the "Woman's Fourth of July." Three months later, the Great Chicago Fire destroyed the businesses of the men who had pledged funds. With no source of financial support, the ECL struggled to survive. In 1873, it became part of Northwestern University, and Willard became Northwestern's first Dean of Women. She resigned in June 1874, dissatisfied with her subordinate role. In October 1874, the WCTU was formed, Willard joined the new movement, and the rest of her career path is history. But let's play "what if"! If the fire hadn't sent the ECL's future up in smoke, would Willard have continued to empower women through higher education? Or was leading an international social reform movement her destiny?

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