

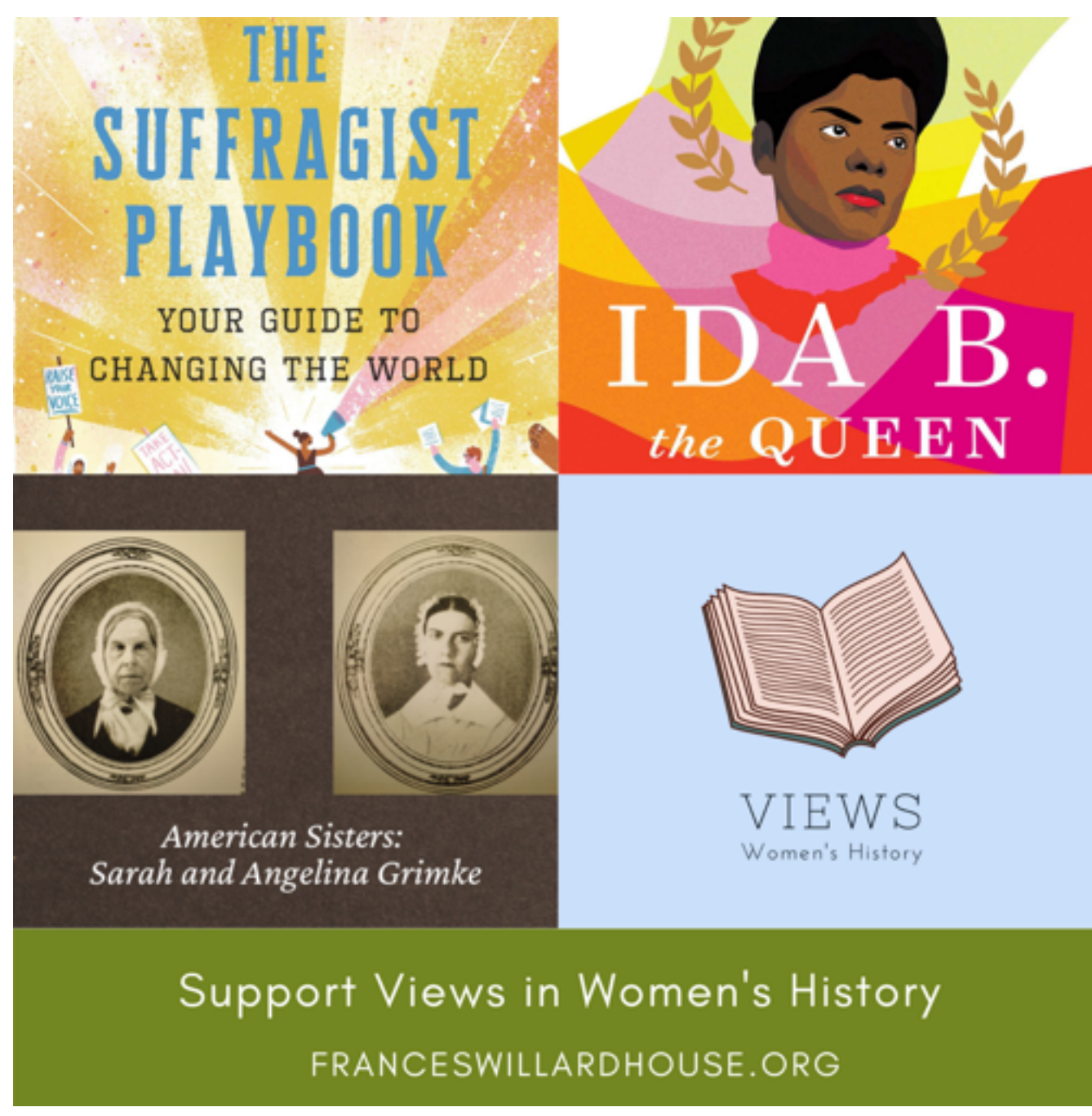


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Our Year in Review

Even in the midst of challenging times, 2021 has been a remarkable year for the Frances Willard House Museum and Archives. We found creative ways to maintain and expand our public programs, digital content, and research services for audiences here in Evanston and around the globe. And we couldn't have done it without [your support!](#)

We are deeply grateful for the staff members, interns, volunteers, and supporters who make this work possible. As the Willard House rings in 2022, we will – in Willard's words – continue to "look up and off, and on and out!"



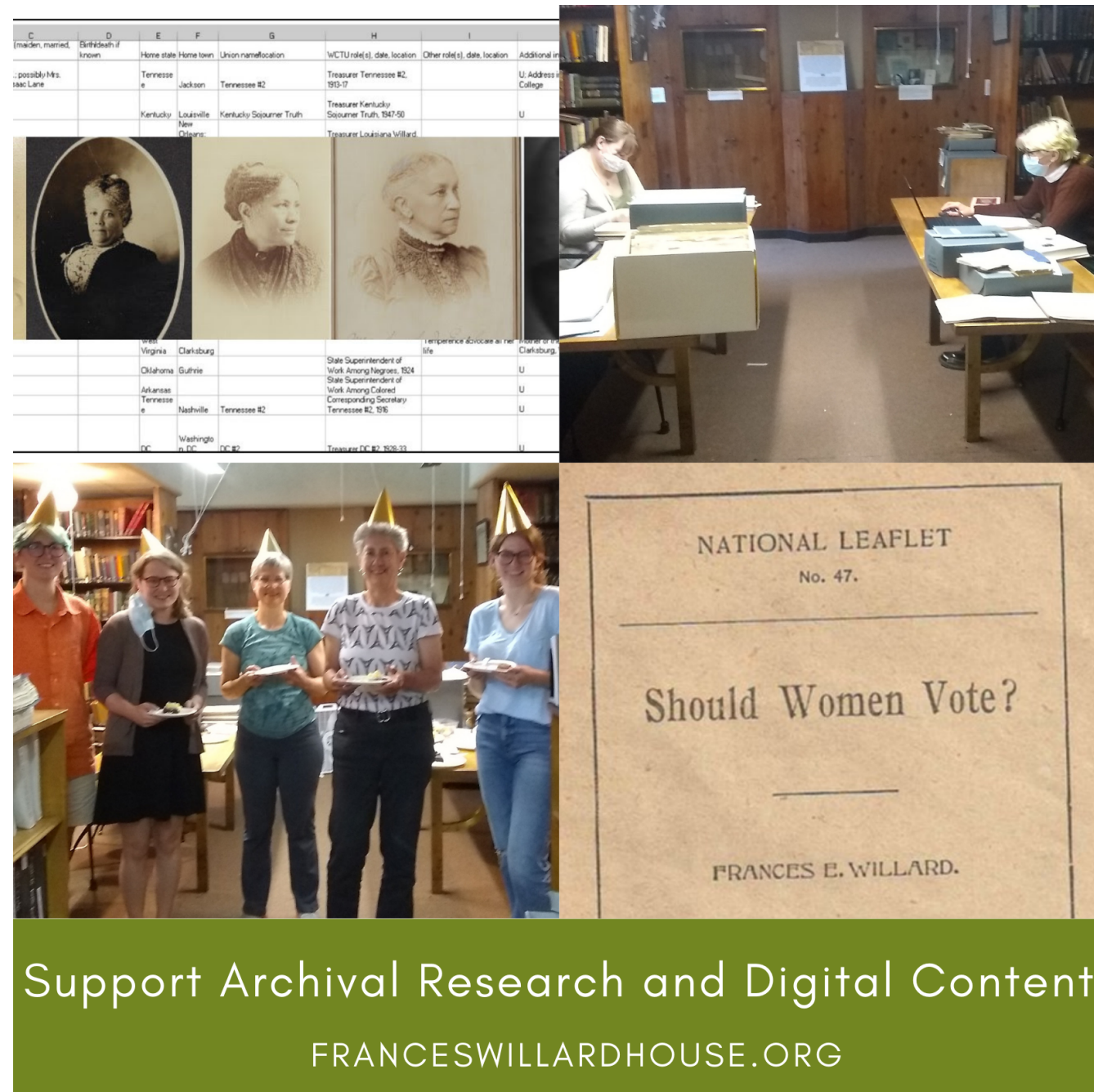
Bringing our *Views* series online, we hosted virtual conversations with scholars and authors about innovative women's history projects, including *The Suffragist Playbook: Your Guide to Changing the World* by Lucinda Robb and Rebecca Boggs Roberts, *Ida B. the Queen* by Michelle Duster, and *American Sisters: Sarah and Angelina Grimké and the Fight for Human Rights* by Lucy W. Knight. You can access recordings of all of these programs on our [YouTube channel](#).



We launched a new program series, *Arts at the Willard House*, which uses the arts to explore women's creativity, community, and social change. Events have included virtual Handicraft Hours as well as our first in-person program since the start of the pandemic: a "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" on the front porch. This re-creation of a nineteenth-century "literary and musical entertainment" featured storytelling pieces by Fiona Maxwell and American parlor guitar music by the Waller and Maxwell Guitar Duo.



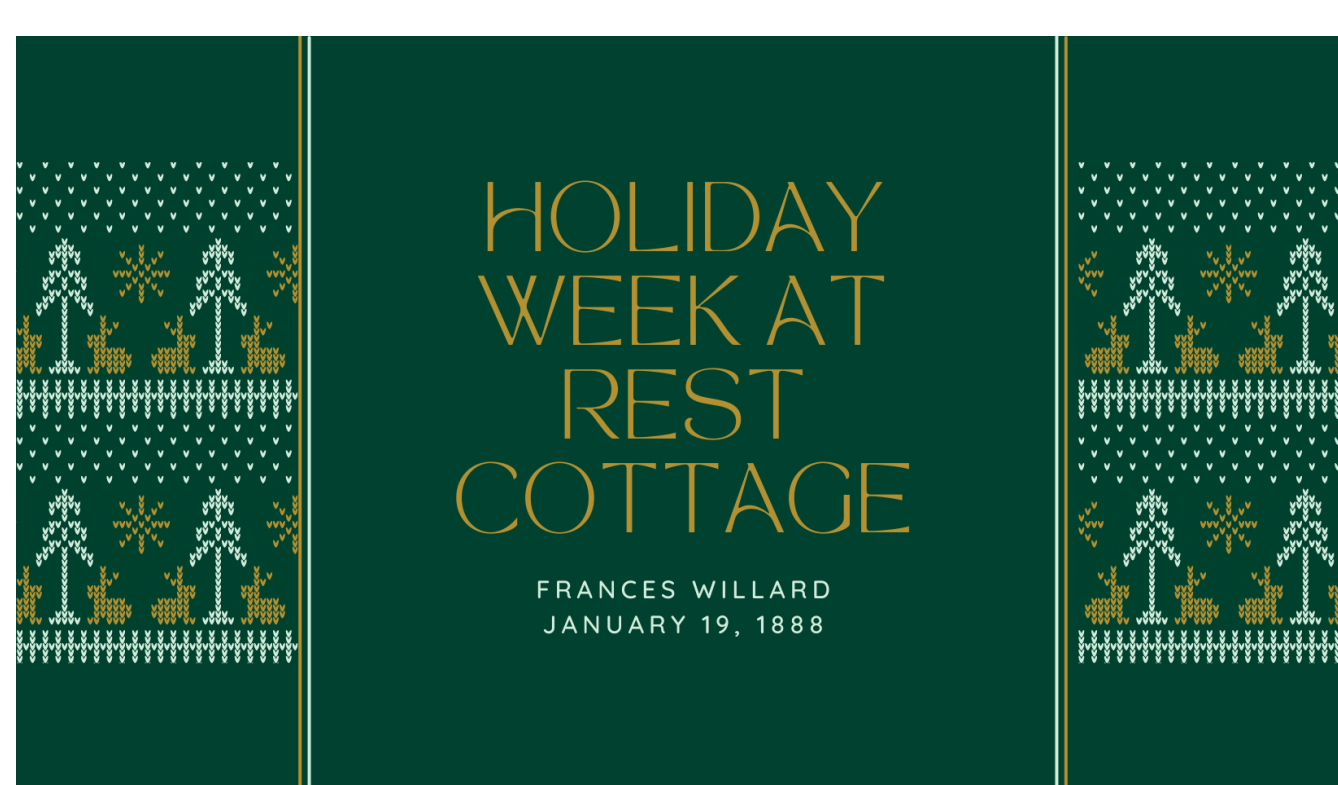
After reopening for tours this summer, docents have offered a variety of themed visitor experiences, including August suffrage tours, September *Do Everything* tours, and December holiday tours.



Finally, we dramatically expanded the original content available on our website, adding a slate of new [digital exhibits](#) and [blog posts](#) that address women's oratory, the connections between the suffrage and temperance movements, and more. Much progress has been made towards the long-term *Black Women in the WCTU* database project. Our Archives team has been hard at work processing new collections, welcoming on-site researchers and student groups, responding to inquiries, and crashing #ArchivesHashTagParties.

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New Year's at Rest Cottage



For the women of Rest Cottage (Willard's nickname for her home), New Year's was a time to reflect on past accomplishments, reconnect with one another, and make resolutions for the future. On New Year's Day in 1888, Willard, her mother, and her fellow WCTU workers "convened" in the "large home room of Rest Cottage Annex."

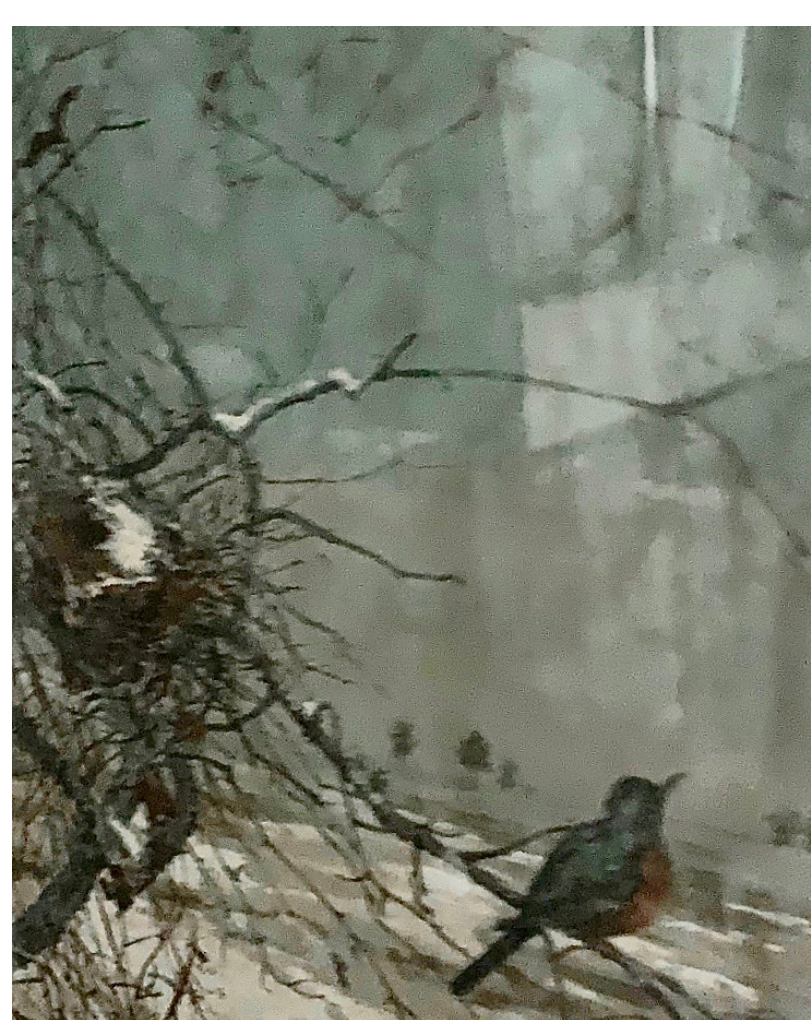
There they shared the resolutions they had formed for the coming year, one of which was to "have this motto, before dismissing any person's case of character, *'Let something good be said,'* – always something good." Willard later had this motto – a quote from a poem by Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley – painted on the fireplace in her upstairs office. It was meant to remind her, and all who entered the room, to strive for this challenging but meaningful ideal.



Experience this moment first-hand in our [video](#) from last year, which uses photographs and an 1888 first-hand by Willard to bring "Holiday Week at Rest Cottage" to life.



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December print from the Willard House Dining Room

