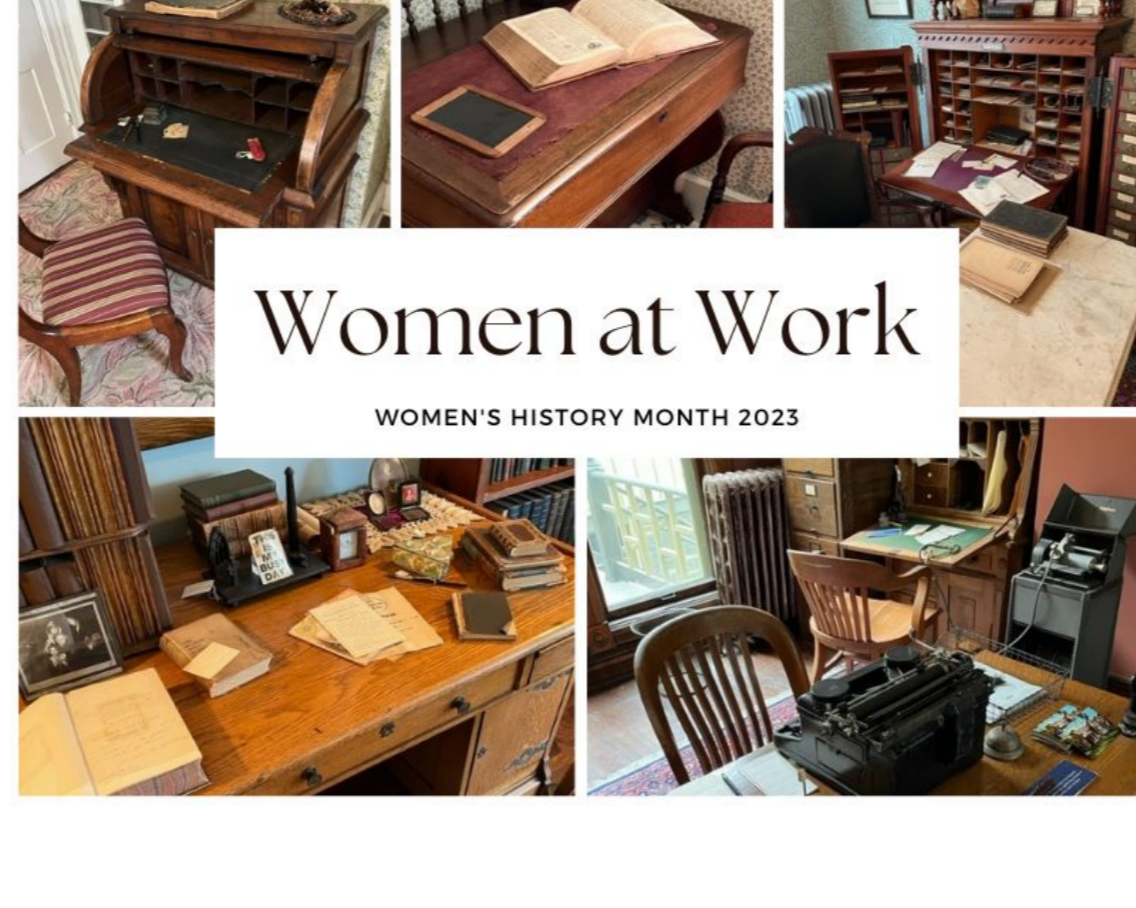




Donate and Support



There's still time to celebrate Women's History Month with the Frances Willard House Museum! You can...

- 1) [Support our efforts](#) to uncover and share women's stories
- 2) Take a tour of the historic home and workplace
- 3) Watch a recent virtual event, including a [Views program on Faith in Women's Higher Education](#) and a Chicago Collections Consortium [conversation](#) with Archivist Janet Olson
- 4) Explore our [online content](#), including our [blog](#), [digital exhibits](#), [YouTube channel](#), and social media profiles
- 5) Share this newsletter with a friend!

Our Women's History Month 2023 theme is **Women at Work**. Throughout the month, we have been highlighting the hidden stories behind the desks in the Museum to show the ways in which historic homes functioned as workplaces.

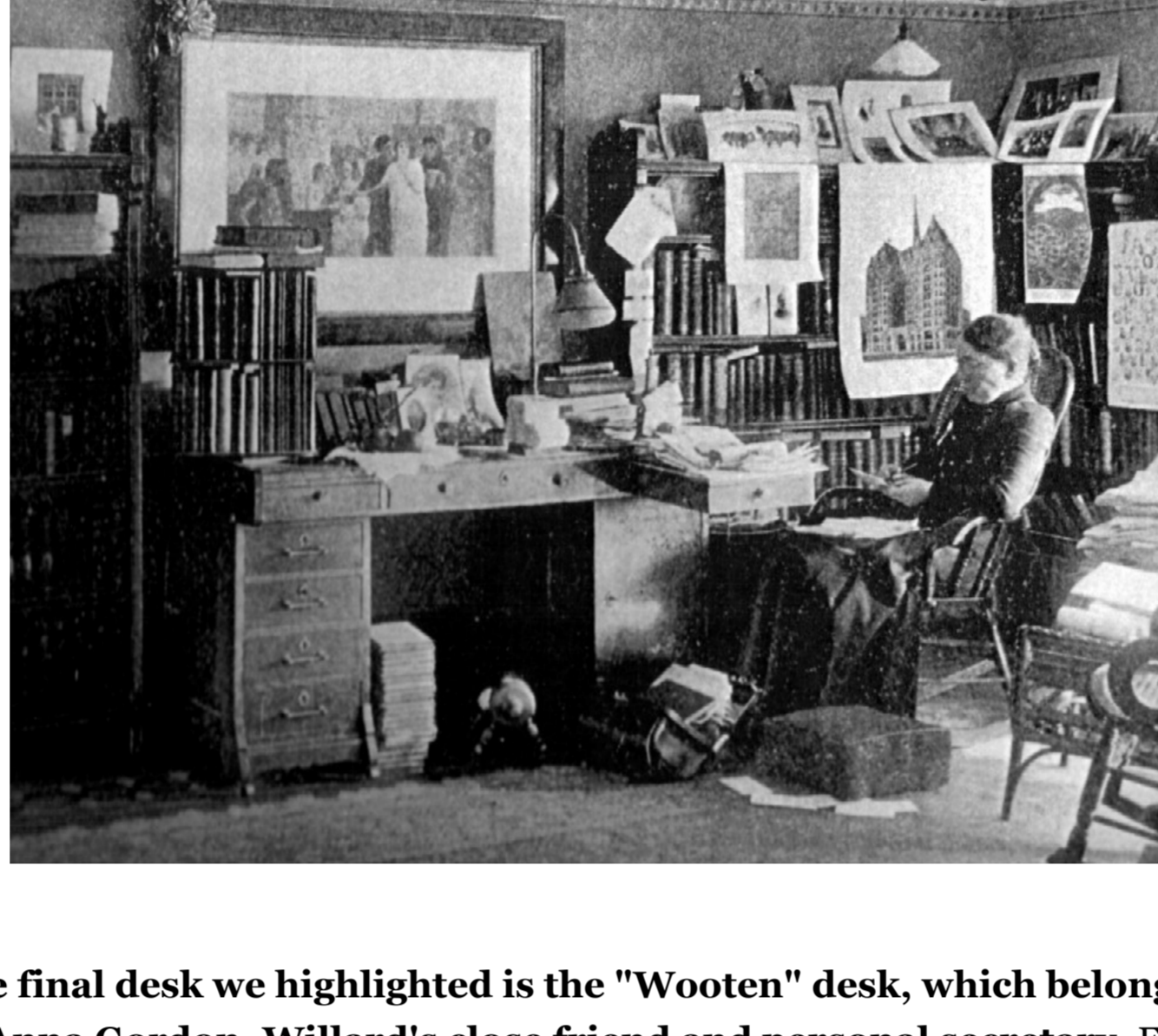
We began with the desk of Frances Willard's mother, Mary Thompson Hill Willard. Found in her upstairs bedroom, this small desk was the scene of much activity. Whether reading and clipping newspapers, keeping track of the household accounts, corresponding with friends and family near and far, or creating dozens of scrapbooks documenting her famous daughter's achievements, Mary Willard was busy at work at this desk. You can read about her interesting life story on our [blog](#).



We then turned our attention to the desk in Frances Willard's bedroom, which she used during her years as President of the Evanston College for Ladies (1871-1873) and as Northwestern University's first Dean of Women (1873-1874). From here she wrote fundraising requests to benefactors, graded papers for the classes she taught (with both male and female students), monitored her students' behavior through their [self-reports](#), and wrote lectures and speeches as she developed her [public speaking career](#). She also penned her 25-page letter of resignation here when she left Northwestern in the spring of 1874. You can read more about Willard and the history of women's higher education [here](#).



The next desk we highlighted is in Frances Willard's upstairs office, the center of her busy "Do Everything" working life. After serving as Corresponding Secretary for the newly founded Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) for five years (1874-1879), Willard was elected President. Sitting at her office desk, she wrote about temperance, women's suffrage, the eight-hour workday, stricter age of consent laws, women's inclusion in church ministry, and many other reforms in speeches, newspaper articles, and essays; she strategized for local, state, National, and World WCTU meetings; and she corresponded with colleagues, friends, and family members. She also directed the work of stenographers, typists, and editors who worked in other offices in the house.



The final desk we highlighted is the "Wooten" desk, which belonged to Anna Gordon, Willard's close friend and personal secretary. From this desk, Gordon managed Willard's busy schedule, coordinated their travels, organized the annual WCTU conventions, and managed her own and Willard's correspondence. The desk was originally a gift to Willard, but its labeled cubbies did not match her working style, so she gave it to Gordon, who used it for the rest of her life. After Willard's death in 1898, Gordon ran the house as the WCTU headquarters and as a museum. She became the fourth president of the WCTU, serving from 1914 to 1925, when the 18th and 19th Amendments – Prohibition and women's suffrage – were ratified.



Follow us on social media to read the full stories these fascinating collection items reveal about the history of women's work!

Donate and Support

April Tours

Thank you to everyone who came for a Women's History Month Tour at the Frances Willard House Museum! Registration is now open for our **April tours**, which will be held at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm on the following dates:

- Sundays, April 2 and 16
- Thursdays, April 6 and 27

Tours are available 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.



Faith in Women's Higher Education

Thank you to everyone who attended our March 16 **Views: Faith in Women's Higher Education** program! We enjoyed a fascinating first conversation with Dr. Andrea Turpin about the religious background of the first female and coeducational colleges. You can watch a recording of the event [here](#).

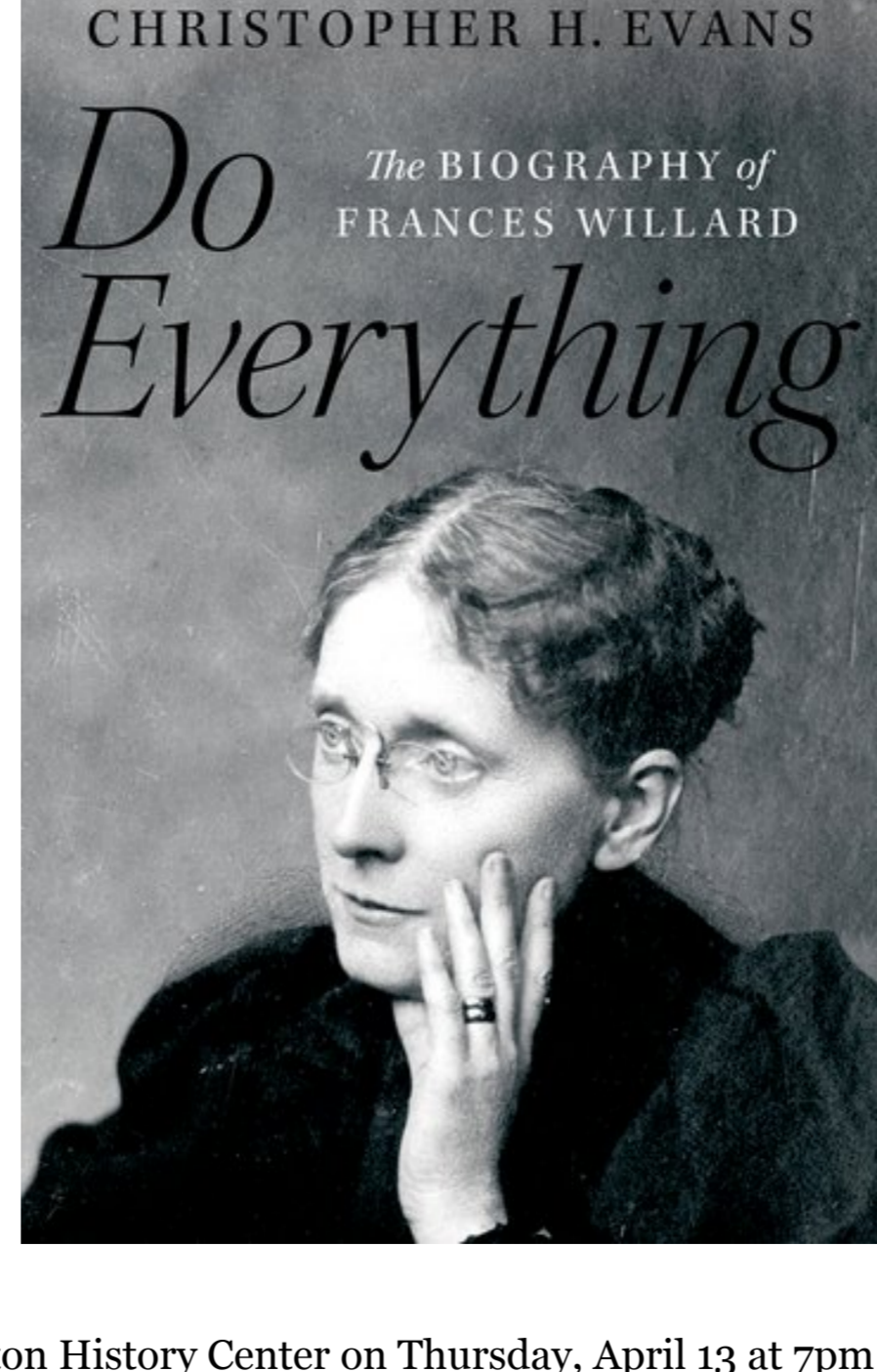


Conversations with Chicago Collections

On March 15, our Archivist Janet Olson had a lively conversation with Jeanne Long, Director of the Chicago Collections Consortium, about the collections at the Frances Willard House Museum and Archives – one of many great Chicago-area resources for Women's History Month (and all year round). The video is now available [here](#).



Women's History Around Town: Dr. Christopher Evans at the Evanston History Center



Join the Evanston History Center on Thursday, April 13 at 7pm Central Time for an online presentation by Dr. Christopher Evans, author of **Do Everything: The Biography of Frances Willard**, the first new biography of Willard in 35 years. Willard, one of the most prominent American social reformers of the late nineteenth century, made her home in Evanston for three decades. Evans will discuss his examination of Willard's life, her contributions as a reformer, and her broader legacy as a women's rights activist. For tickets and more information, click [here](#).

You can learn more about Evans' new Willard biography by watching a recording of the October 2022 [book launch](#), which was co-sponsored by the Frances Willard House Museum and Beginnings bookstore.

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