



Donate and Support

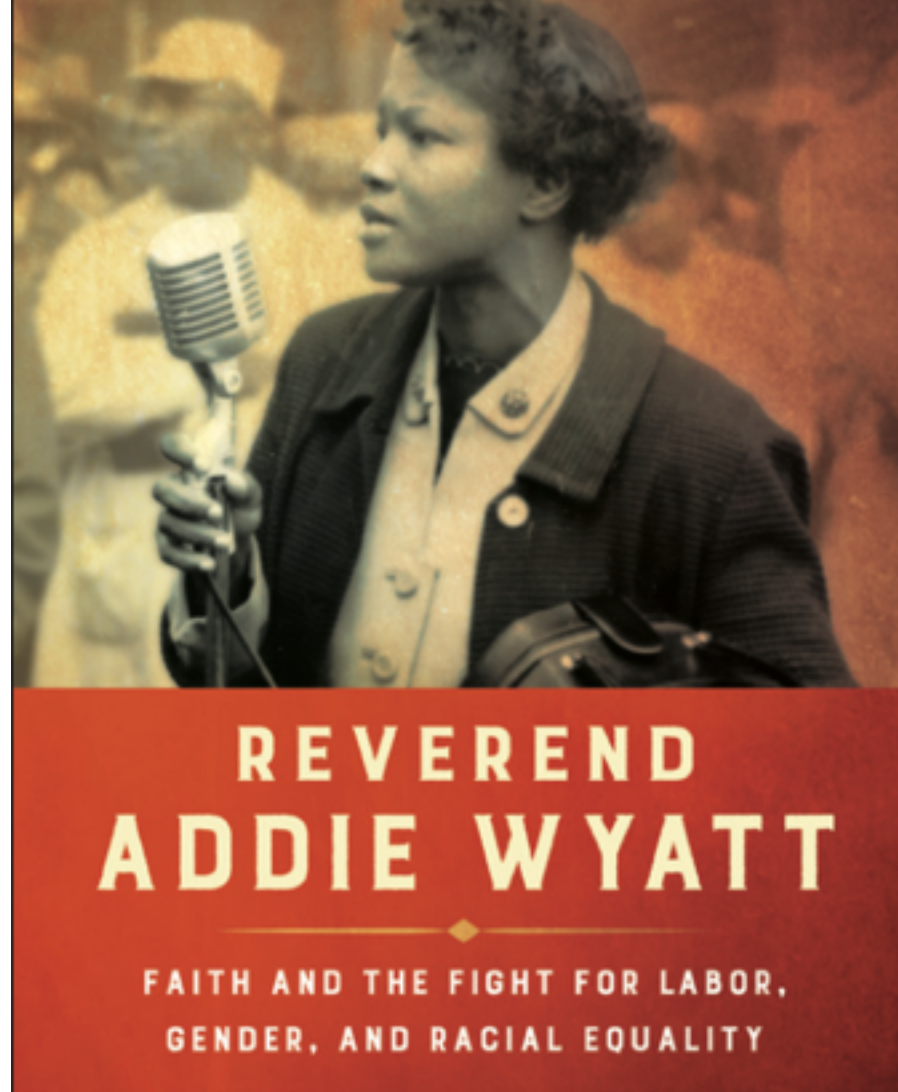
Reserve a Spring Tour!



Thank you to everyone who has taken a tour of the Frances Willard House Museum in April! There are three tour days left this month: **Sunday, April 24 and Thursdays, April 21 and 28 at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm.** Next month tours will be held on **Sundays, May 1 and 22 and Thursdays, May 5 and 19 at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm.** We'd love to see you – reserve your spot today! Don't miss the opportunity to explore this unique site of women's advocacy and community building.

Admission is \$15 per person and free for students at all levels. Reservations and masks are required. To RSVP, email info@franceswillardhouse.org or call (847) 328-7500.

April 24 – Views: Reverend Addie Wyatt



Join author Marcia Walker-McWilliams at the Frances Willard House Museum on **Sunday, April 24 at 4pm Central Time** for a virtual discussion of the life and activism of Reverend Addie Wyatt. Labor leader, civil rights activist, outspoken feminist, African-American clergywoman – Wyatt stood at the confluence of many rivers of change in twentieth century Chicago and the United States. She was the first female president of a local chapter of the United Packinghouse Workers of America, worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and Eleanor Roosevelt, and appeared as one of *Time* magazine's Women of the Year in 1975.

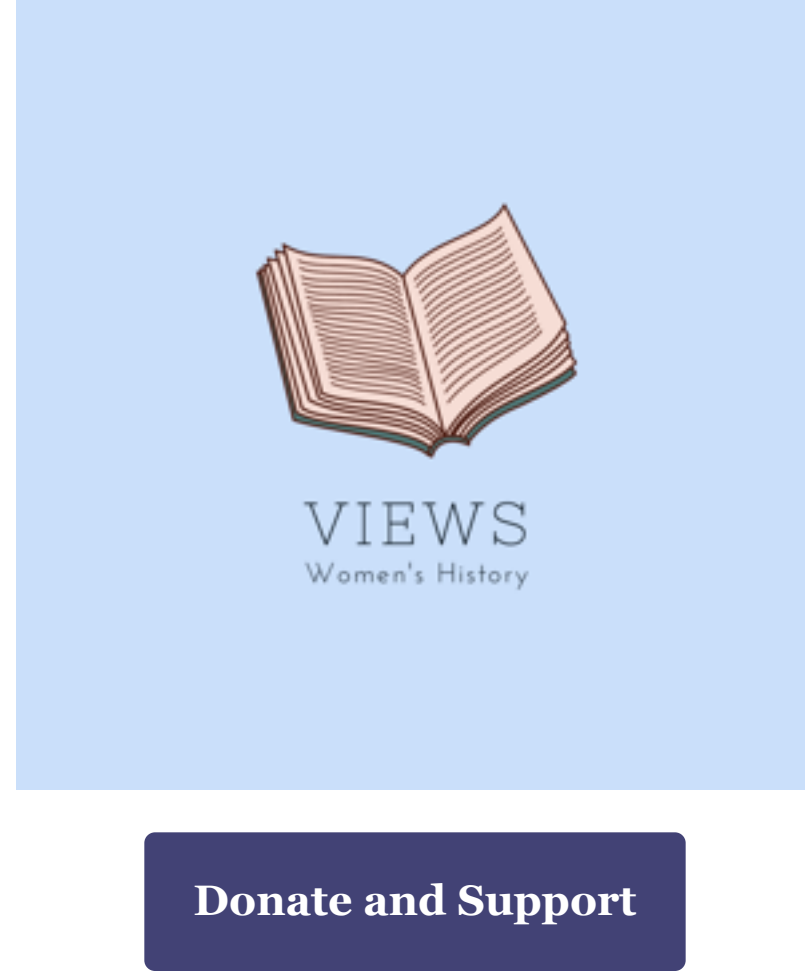
In her biography, Walker-McWilliams illuminates how Wyatt's personal experiences with overcoming poverty and discrimination drove her lifelong commitment to social justice and the collective struggle against economic, racial, and gender inequalities. A parallel journey led Wyatt to develop an abiding spiritual faith that denied defeatism by refusing to accept such circumstances as immutable social forces. Drawing on oral histories, interviews, personal papers, and extensive archival materials, *Reverend Addie Wyatt* is the inspiring portrait of a woman who defied injustice in its many guises.

Please RSVP [here](#) for Sunday, April 24 at 4pm Central Time. A Zoom link will be sent shortly before the event to everyone who registers.

Marcia Walker-McWilliams is the Executive Director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium at the University of Chicago. She works with community members and BMRC institutions to facilitate the discovery, preservation, and use of Black historical collections.

Reverend Addie Wyatt: Faith and the Fight for Labor, Gender, and Racial Equality can be purchased from the University of Illinois Press [here](#).

This program is part of the **Views** series at the Willard House, which highlights new research and writing in women's history. This season features conversations with scholars exploring the theme **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?



Donate and Support

Women's History Around Town: P. Gabrielle Foreman at Northwestern



This May, Northwestern University will host two public events with P. Gabrielle Foreman, Professor of American Literature and African American Studies and History at Penn State University. Foreman is the founding faculty director of the award-winning **Colored Conventions Project**, housed at Penn State's Center for Digital Black Research/#DigBlk, which she co-launched and co-directs with Shirley Moody-Turner.

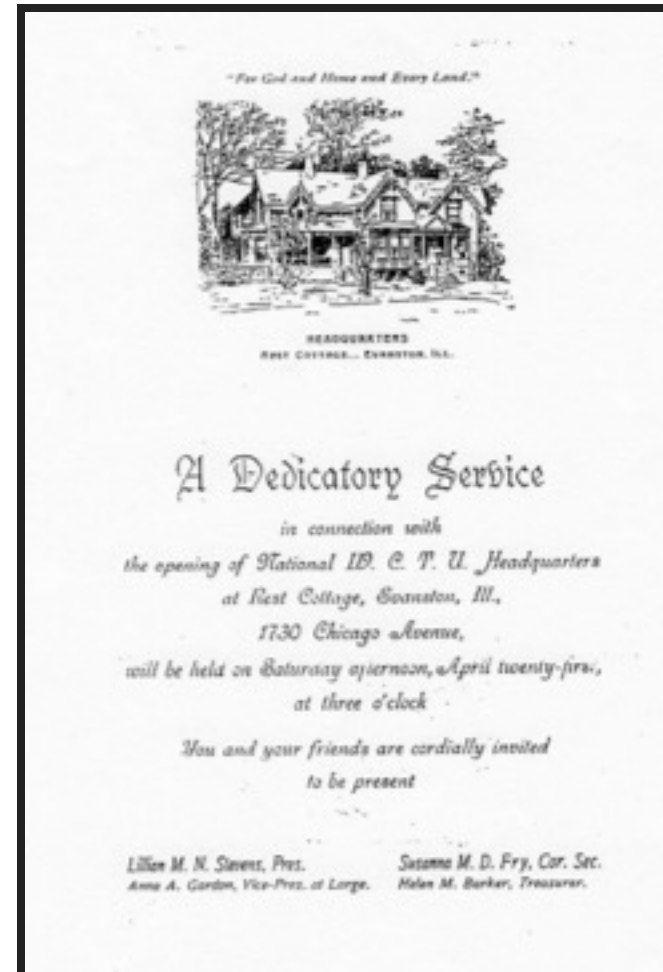
On May 2 at 4pm, Foreman will be in conversation with Northwestern Professor Danielle Bainbridge about *The Colored Conventions Project, Digital Humanities, and Black Interventions in the Past and Present*. On Wednesday, May 4 at 5pm Foreman will give a lecture, *Go Back and Get It: Black Loss, Black Recovery, Black Resurrectionary Poetics*. Both events are free and will be held in-person at the McCormick Foundation Center Forum Auditorium, 1870 Campus Drive.

The Colored Conventions Project (CCP) brings seven decades-worth of early nineteenth-century Black organizing to multiple audiences through online exhibits, digital records, and teaching guides. Northwestern University recently released a new CCP web exhibit, *Black Organizing in Pre-Civil War Illinois: Creating Community, Demanding Justice*.

The CCP is a model for researchers, organizations, and community members interested in using the digital humanities to collaboratively document and share Black women's participation in social movements – a central goal of the Willard House's *Truth-Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells* web exhibit and ongoing *Black Women in the WCTU* research database project.

This Week in Willard House History: A Museum Opens in 1900

On April 21, 1900, visitors were invited to tour the Willard House for the first time. Two years after Frances Willard's death, the WCTU transferred their national headquarters to the north side of "Rest Cottage" (Willard's nickname for her home) and transformed the other half of the house into a museum, keeping the rooms "sacredly intact." Over two hundred people attended the "dedicatory service" and took a tour day – making the Willard House one of the first house museums in the United States dedicated to the life and work of a woman.



Invitation to the opening of the National WCTU Headquarters at Rest Cottage, 1900

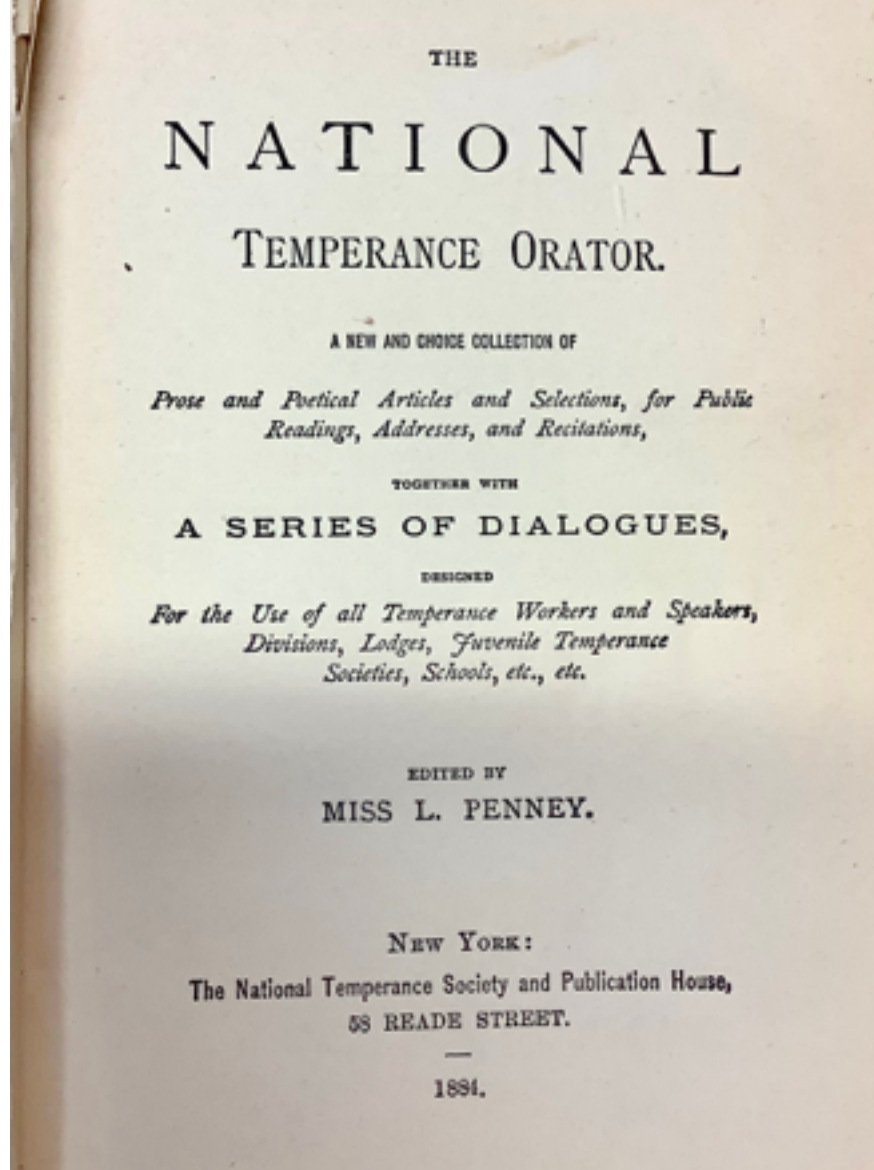
Learn more about the Willard House's opening in this [blog post](#) by Museum Director Lori Osborne. To get a sense of what it was like to tour the house during the early 1900s, explore Museum Operations and Communications Director Fiona Maxwell's [virtual reenactment](#) of a "Historic Rest Cottage" guidebook from 1911 and her accompanying [blog post](#), which discusses the evolution of commemorating Willard and women's work at the site.



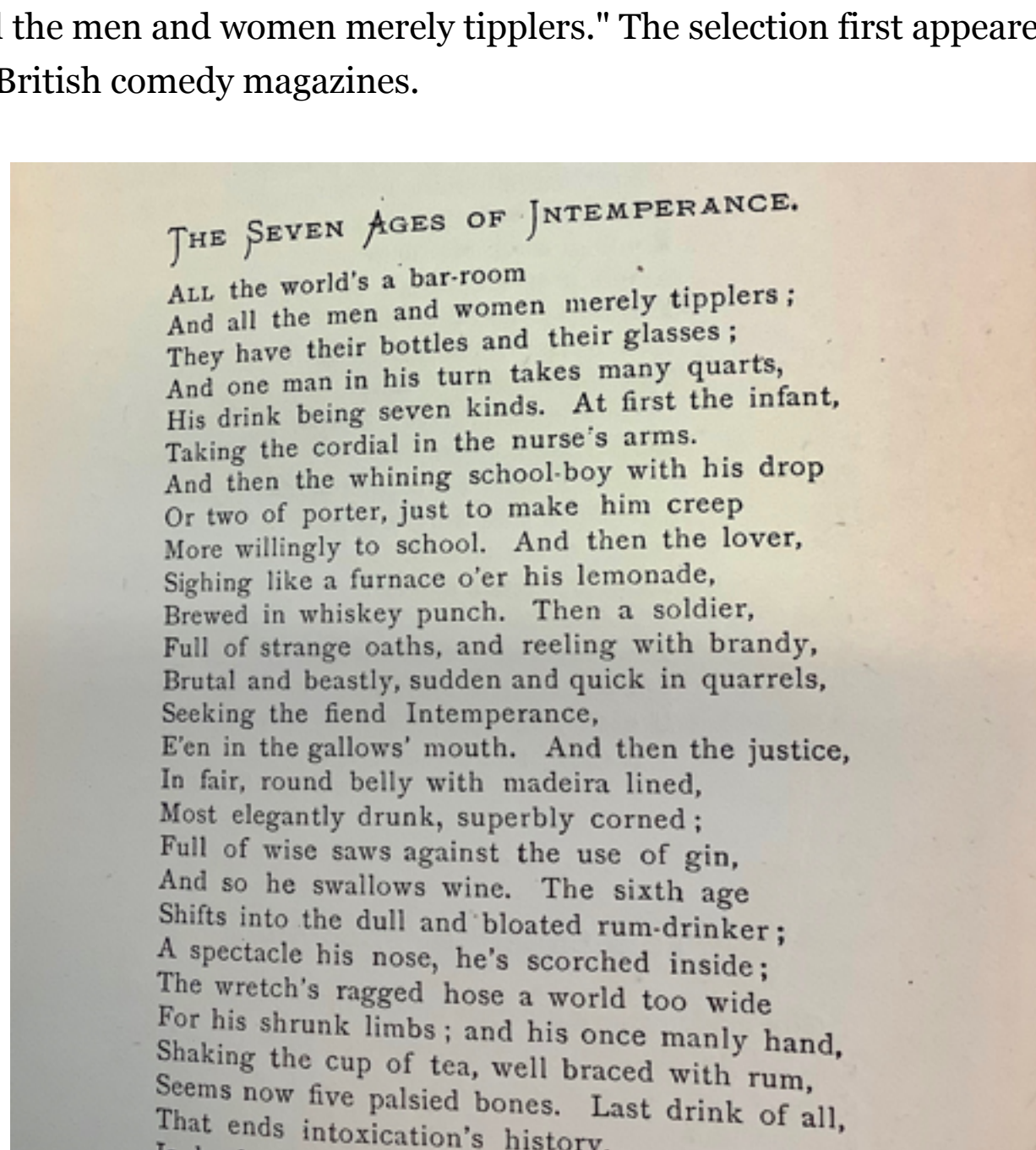
WCTU workers in front of Rest Cottage, early 1900s

Collection Highlight: All the World's a Bar-room

Did you know that Shakespeare is in the Willard Archives? (Well, sort of.) In honor of Shakespeare's birthday (April 23), we're highlighting the ways in which nineteenth-century temperance advocates adapted his poetry to further their cause.



The *National Temperance Orator* (1884) was one of many temperance "reciters" compiled by Lizzie Penney for the National Temperance Society. It featured a range of prose, poetry, and dialogues for speakers of both genders and all ages – including "The Seven Ages of Intemperance," a monologue parodying the famous "Seven Ages of Man" speech from *As You Like It*. The temperance version replaces every line to drinking: "All the world's a bar-room / And all the men and women merely tipplers." The selection first appeared in 1830s British comedy magazines.



Learn more about the printed performance materials housed in the Willard Archives by exploring our digital book history exhibit, [Performing Temperance](#).

Donate and Support

