



Donate and Support

Reserve an April Tour!

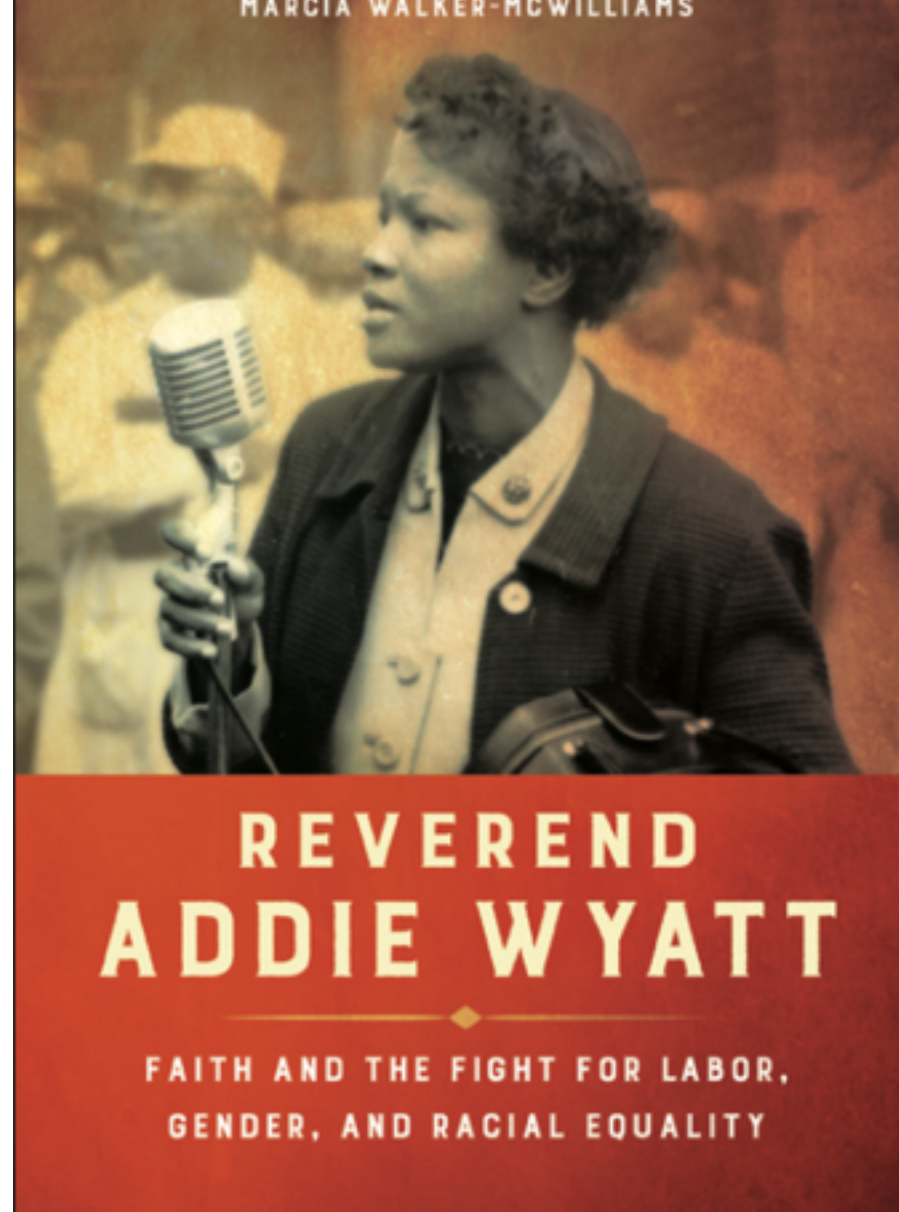


Thank you to everyone who came on an Exploring Women's History tour for Women's History Month! We share women's stories all year long – if you didn't get a chance to stop by in March, we'd love to see you in April!

Our first April tour day is tomorrow, Sunday, April 3 at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm. The full tour schedule for this month is **Sundays, April 3 and 24 and Thursdays, April 14, 21, and 28 at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm.** 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.

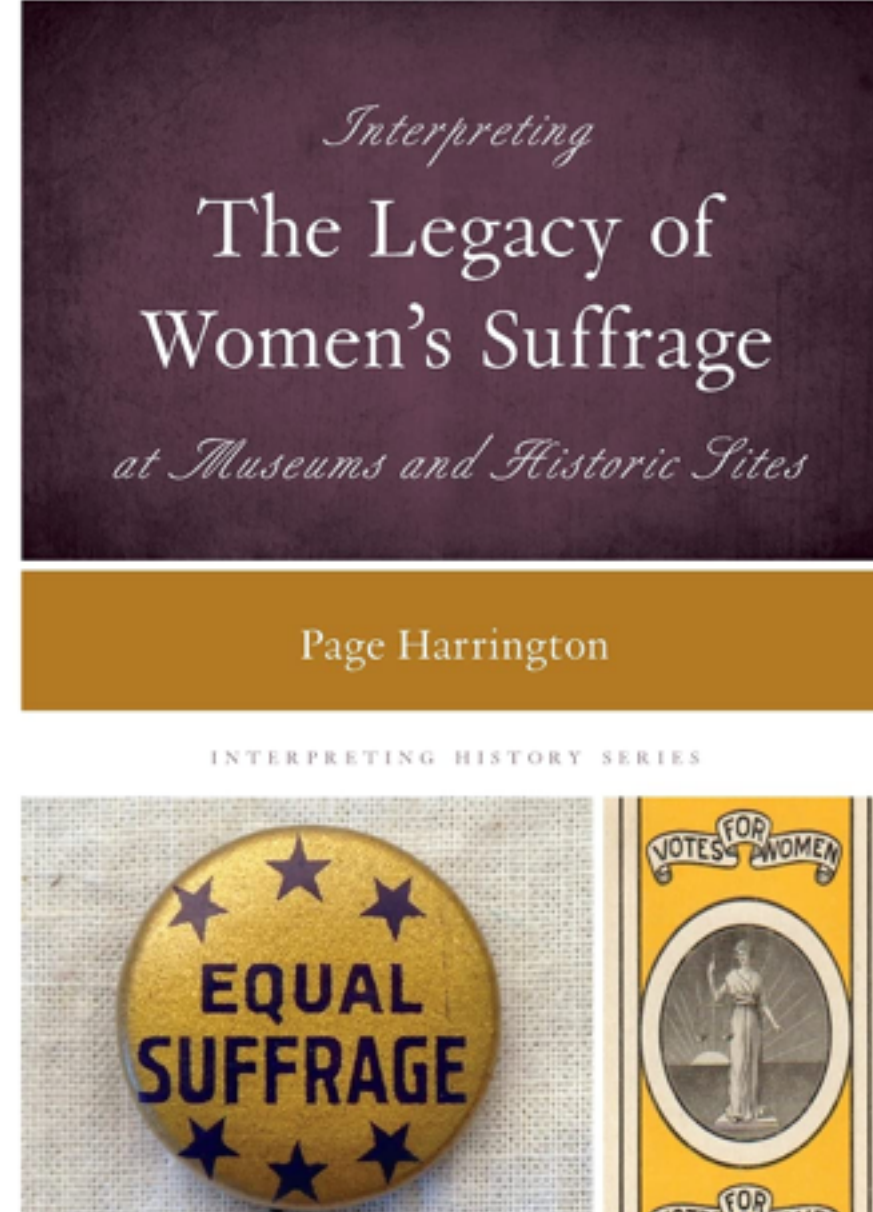
Reverend Addie Wyatt: Faith and the Fight for Labor, Gender, and Racial Equality can be purchased from the University of Illinois Press [here](#).

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?



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Views: Women's Suffrage Revisited



Thank you to everyone who attended **Views: Women's Suffrage Revisited** on March 27. We enjoyed a fascinating conversation with Page Harrington about the process of re-examining the history of the women's suffrage movement at museums and historic sites. You can watch a recording of the event [here](#). You can purchase Harrington's book [here](#) with a 30% discount using the code: RLFANDF30

Truth-Telling at the Oberlin Heritage Center



On March 29, Willard House Director Lori Osborne gave a virtual presentation at the Oberlin Heritage Center on the award-winning digital exhibit [Truth-Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells](#). Willard lived in Oberlin as a young child while her parents attended Oberlin College, an experience that she later referred to during her conflict with Wells. You can watch a recording of the event [here](#).

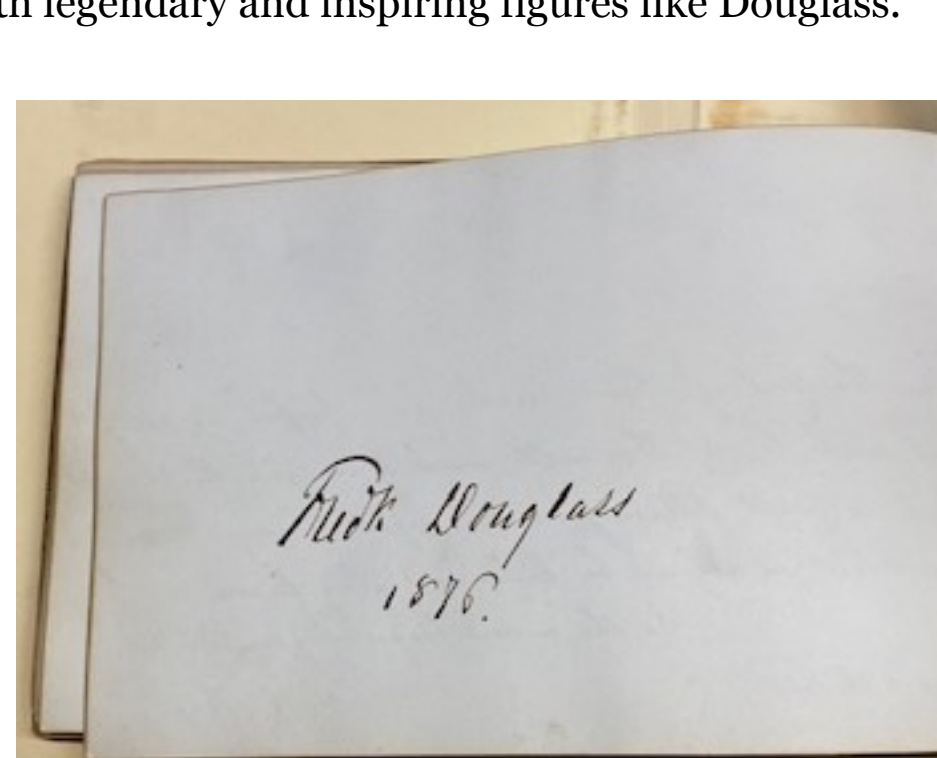
Collection Highlight: Ruby Gilbert Meets Frederick Douglass

On February 10, 1876, Frederick Douglass gave a lecture at Evanston's First Presbyterian Church on his "Reminiscences of John Brown." The hall "was filled to its utmost capacity" with listeners eager to hear "the venerable abolitionist." One of the attendees was Ruby Gilbert – the bookkeeper and eventual owner of the Woman's Temperance Publishing Association, a close friend of the Willard family, and at one point a resident of the Willard House.



Portrait of Ruby Gilbert

Douglass signed Gilbert's autograph book, which is now housed in our Archives. This small piece of our collection demonstrates the ways in which nineteenth-century women sought to document and remember their lives – especially their encounters with legendary and inspiring figures like Douglass.



Douglass's signature in Gilbert's autograph book, dated 1876

Happy National Library Week!



Willard's working library in the "Den"

April 3 to 9 is National Library Week! Frances Willard was an avid reader and aspiring writer from a young age. There are two historic libraries in the Willard House. The first, located in the front parlor, belonged to the Willard family. The second was Frances Willard's working library and spans six bookcases in her upstairs office. Willard's book collection fueled her reform work and inspired her writing. Filled with handwritten comments and annotations, each book offers a window into her world and her mind.



One of the shelves, featuring Willard's copy of *History of Woman Suffrage* (signed by Susan B. Anthony)

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