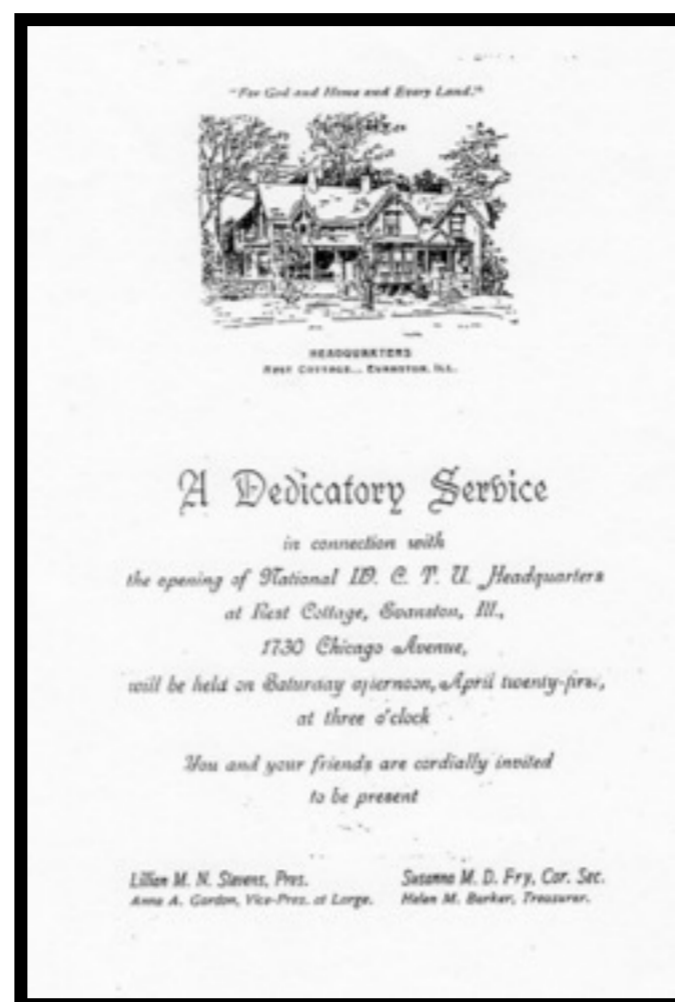




Francis Willard House Museum Turns 121!

The Francis Willard House – or Rest Cottage, as it was also known – opened as a museum on April 21, 1900, making it one of the first house museums in the United States dedicated to the life and work of a woman. In a new [blog post](#), Executive Director Lori Osborne explores the museum's opening day and reflects on the meaning of its 121st anniversary.



To get a sense of what it was like to tour the museum during the early 1900s, check out Museum Fellow Fiona Maxwell's [virtual reenactment](#) of a "Historic Rest Cottage" guidebook from 1911, and her accompanying [blog post](#), which discusses the evolution of commemorating Frances Willard and women's work at the site.

This Earth Day and Arbor Day, Visit and Support the Willard House Garden 🌸🌳

The gardens at the Willard House have been carefully restored to reflect the Willard family's nineteenth century garden. Lovingly maintained using only organic products and environmentally sensitive methods, we do this in support of a greener planet for all.



Frances Willard loved things that reminded her of her birthplace in upstate New York. On one of her trips back, she took some horse chestnuts to plant in her yard in Evanston. Two of them sprouted into trees, and one still stands today.



We invite you to stroll past the garden as it comes into bloom. Please consider making a [donation](#) (indicate that your gift is for the garden) to support the continued restoration and maintenance of this piece of living and growing history.

Update – Stay Tuned for Reopening!

Plans for reopening the museum to visitors are in the works, and we hope to open for prescheduled tours this summer. Stay tuned for more information about when and how to book your visit!

Our public programs will continue to take place online. The WCTU Archives has reopened by appointment only.

Visit our [website](#) for updates and lots more. You can find us online on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - links below.



April print from the Willard House Dining Room

Donate and Support

