

Donate and Support



Bicycle Month is flying by at the Frances Willard House Museum and Archives, with lots of activity indoors and out (as well as online!). During the coming weeks, you can...

- 1) Take a **Bicycle Month tour** of the Museum
- 2) Watch a recording of our May 7 **Views program** on ***Bicycle Fashions and the New Woman***
- 3) Explore new resources pertaining to our ***Black Women of the WCTU*** research database project
- 4) Celebrate Mother's Day by exploring the life and work of Frances Willard's mother, ***Mary Thompson Hill Willard***
- 5) **Support** the continued restoration of our historic gardens
- 6) Explore our **online content**, including our **blog**, **digital exhibits**, **YouTube channel**, and social media profiles
- 7) Share this newsletter with a friend!

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Bicycle Month Tours



Frances Willard would certainly have celebrated Bicycle Month in May, as she was an early adopter of bicycle riding and one of its strongest proponents. In addition to its health benefits, she believed that bicycling contributed to women's and girls' sense of independence and freedom. She named all of her bicycles Gladys, because they made her "glad." You can meet "Gladys III" first-hand by taking a tour of the Frances Willard House Museum.

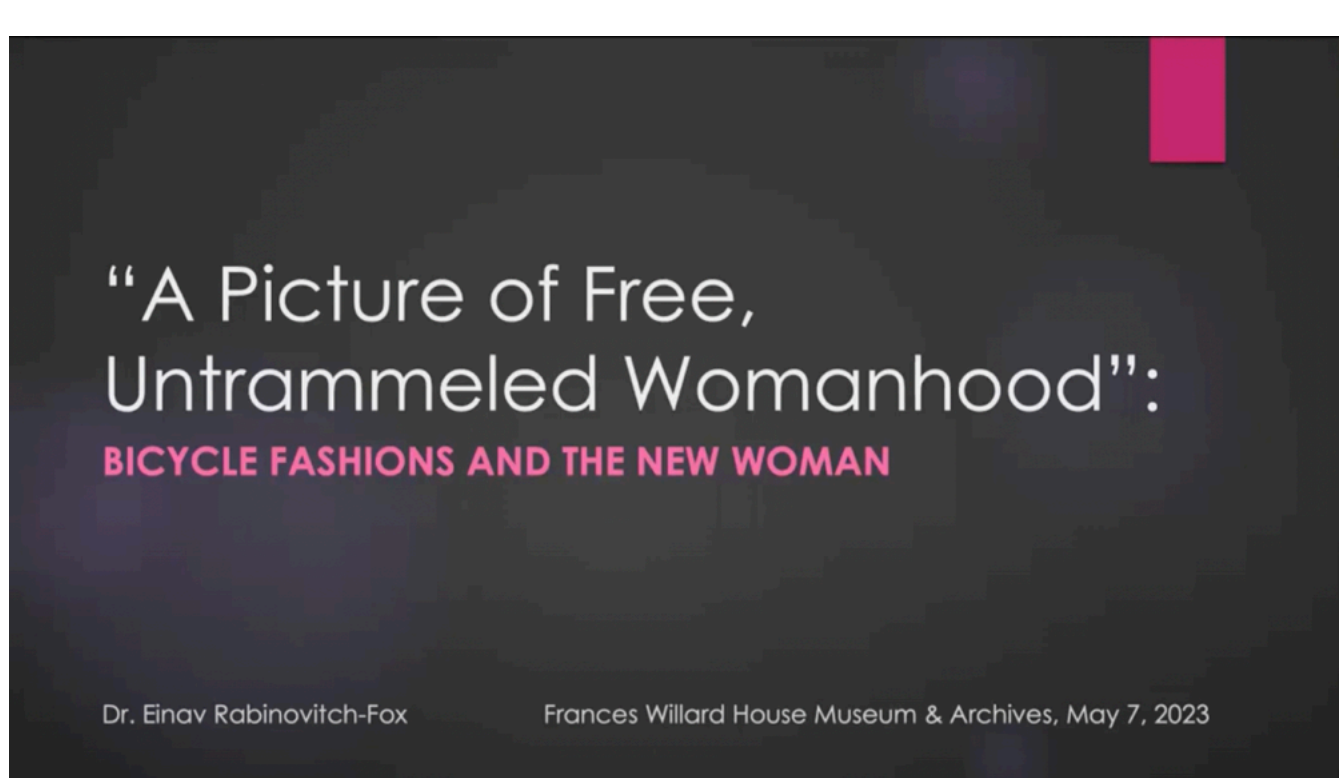
Remaining May tours will be held at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm on the following dates:

- Sundays, May 21 and 28
- Thursdays, May 18 and 25

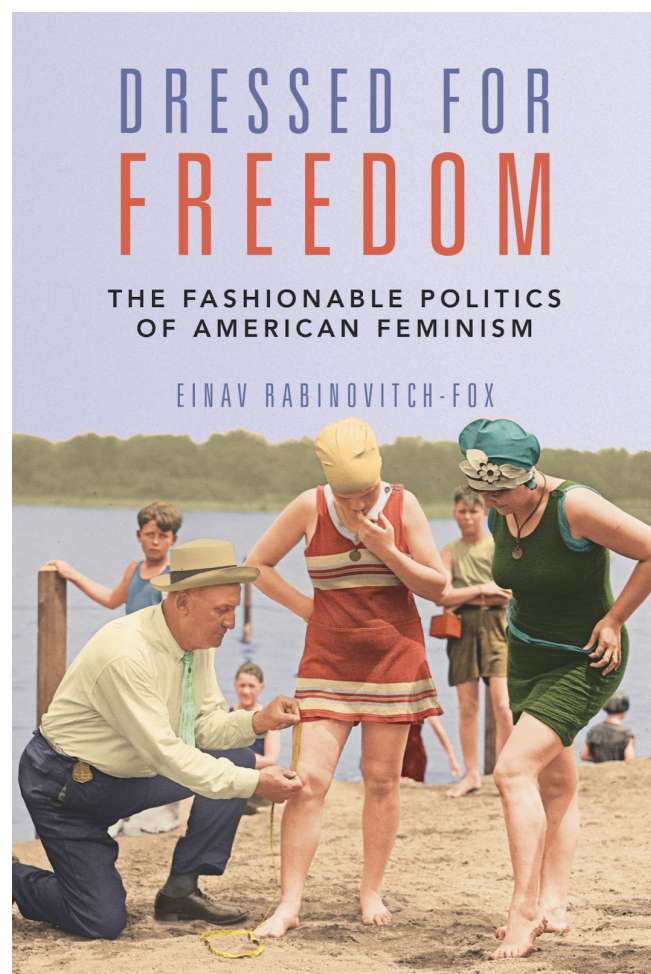
Tours are available by reservation only. Masks are required. Visitors should request a tour by emailing info@franceswillardhouse.org or calling (847) 328-7500. Tour fees are \$15 per person. Admission is free for students at all levels. Payment must be made online or over the phone once the tour day and time has been confirmed.

Views

"A Picture of Free, Untrammelled Womanhood": Bicycle Fashions and the New Woman

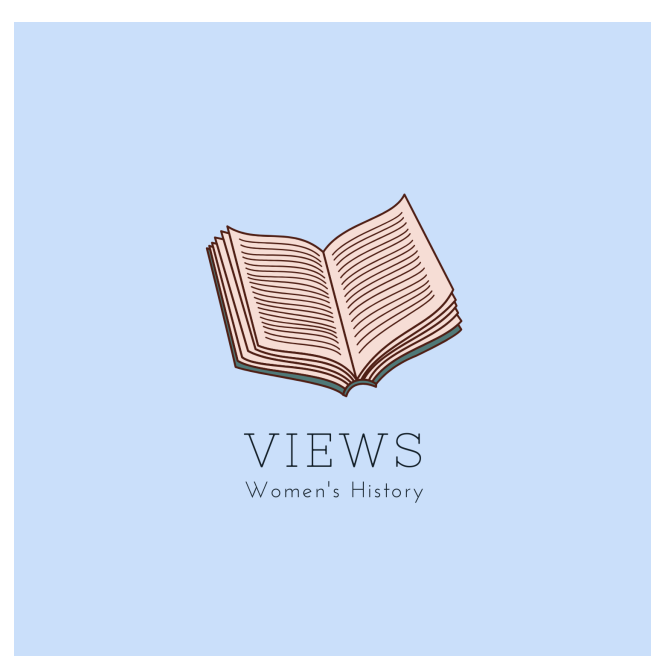


Thank you to everyone who attended our May 7 **Views: Bicycle Fashions and the New Woman** program! We enjoyed a fascinating conversation with Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox about the ways in which liberating ideas regarding bicycling attire translated into everyday wear and politics. You can watch a recording of the event [here](#).



Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox is a historian of modern American women's and gender history who teaches at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her new book, *Dressed for Freedom: The Fashionable Politics of American Feminism*, examines the ways in which women used fashion to promote feminist agendas and to challenge ideas regarding gender, race, and class.

This program is part of the **Views** series at the Willard House, which examines topics in women's history with new eyes. Our free public programs happen only with your support. We hope you will consider making a donation [here](#). Thank you!



Black Women of the WCTU Project Updates



On the Road!

On April 15, Archives staff and interns presented a session at the Midwest Archives Conference in Chicago on the progress of the ***Black Women of the WCTU*** research database project. The conference theme was "Dig Deep," a reference to Chicago's many food choices, and our session was titled "Revising the Traditional Recipe: Documenting the Black Women of the WCTU." You can view the slides and handout from the session [here](#).



Left to right: Adam Raczkowski and Karl Bullock, 2022 summer interns; Janet Olson, Archivist and project leader; Kristin Jacobsen, Assistant Archivist and session moderator.

On the Map!

James Madison University has announced a new research database, *Mapping the Black Digital and Public Humanities*, which documents exhibits, databases, and other resources for the exploration of Black history and culture across the country. And we are on the map – twice! Once for our award-winning digital exhibit *Truth-Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells*, and again for the ***Black Women of the WCTU*** database. To find information about our work, go to the [search page](#) and type "WCTU" into the search box. And make sure to investigate the many other projects, too!

"The Inspiration of a Lifetime": Mary Thompson Hill Willard



Mother's Day is an important holiday at the Frances Willard House Museum, since the Willard House was the site of a remarkable mother-daughter partnership. In this [blog post](#) about Mary Thompson Hill Willard, Frances Willard's mother, Fiona Maxwell (Director of Museum Operations and Communications) uncovers the ways in which Mary Willard's guidance and support laid the foundations for Frances Willard's approach to leadership and education, providing "the inspiration of a lifetime."

Garden Update



After seven years of re-creating the historic gardens surrounding the Frances Willard House Museum, the work is nearly complete. We used historic photographs from our Archives to add the reproduction ladder trellis, construct the wooden walkway, recreate the original urn base, and reproduce the dovecote. We also planted over 85 annuals, 1,060 bulbs, and 300 perennials (more or less!), along with a few shrubs and vines. The final bulbs and perennials have been sourced for purchase for 2023 – all plants that would have been available and used during Frances Willard's time.

We hope you will consider making a donation to fund this year's plants and the necessary maintenance items for 2023 and future years. Thank you for your support – and please come visit during the flowering season if you are nearby!

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