



Put Frances Back in Circulation!

In 2022, the U.S. Mint will begin producing a series of quarters featuring prominent American women. Famed writer Maya Angelou and trailblazing astronaut Dr. Sally Ride will be the first distinguished American women celebrated on the 2022 quarters.



Frances Willard, known worldwide for her social and political reform campaigns, would be a priceless addition to the series. In a new [blog post](#), our archivist Janet Olson argues why Willard should be included and explains how you can help nominate her. Let's put Willard "back in circulation" (to coin a phrase) and remind everyone of her empowering work!



We Want to Hear From You!

We are so grateful to the over 700 attendees who tuned into our virtual programs during the past year, as well as to the many others who read our newsletters and blog posts, watched our YouTube videos, and perused our online exhibits.

Now it's time to tell us what you think! Please fill this two-minute [program survey](#) by May 25 to let us know what worked (and what didn't). We look forward to getting to know who we've connected with. Your input will help us learn from this past year and plan for our next season of public programming.



What to Watch: New Ida B. Wells Special



On May 21, a new Ida B. Wells *Chicago Stories* special premiered on WTTW. The program details Wells's life and work as an investigative journalist, civil rights leader, and suffragist. It paints a deeply humanizing portrait of a woman who was uncompromising in her quest for justice. If you missed the live broadcast, you can stream it online and explore the companion website [here](#).

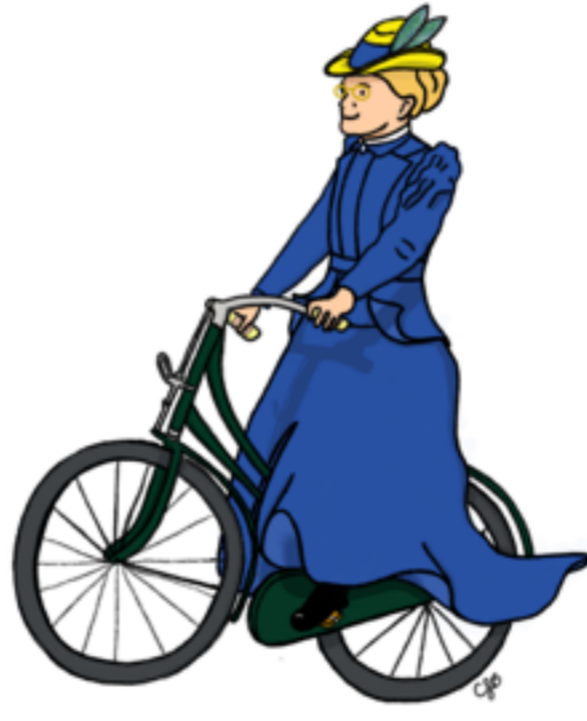
Wells was a key part of Chicago-area women's history and it is exciting to see her story highlighted in this way. To learn more about Wells and her exchange with Frances Willard, explore our award-winning digital exhibit [Truth-Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells](#).

DIY Bicycle Tour

May is Bicycle Month at the Willard House! Frances Willard believed bicycling was a liberating activity for girls and women. She even wrote a book about her experience: *How I Learned to Ride a Bicycle*. At this time of year, Gladys, Willard's beloved bicycle, usually enjoys center stage at the Museum.



While Gladys cannot welcome visitors just yet, we invite you to pick up our DIY bicycle tour map. Explore several Evanston women's history sites as you pedal around town. Maps are **free** and available for pick-up anytime outside the front door of the Museum.

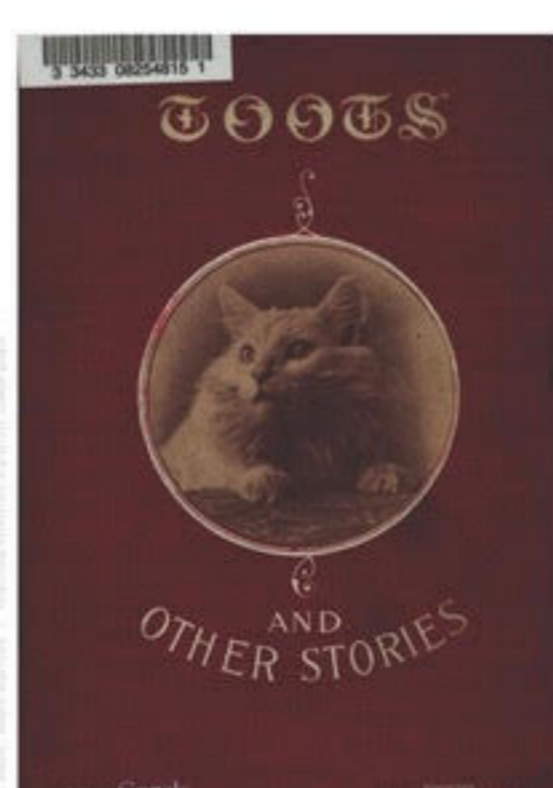


Meet Toots!

Did you know that Frances Willard was a cat person? In honor of National Pet Month, meet Toots, the fluffiest resident of Rest Cottage. Toots Willard slept on a gold embroidered silk cushion, sat at the dining table for meals (and wore a bib), and even had his own handkerchief. This luxury-loving Angora was one of the most famous cats in the world during the 1890s and 1900s. His exploits were frequently reported in [Chicago newspapers](#).



You can read more about Toots in *Toots and Other Stories* (available for free online [here](#)), a collection of children's stories written in 1906 by Anna Gordon. Gordon was Frances Willard's personal secretary and served as president of the WCTU from 1914 to 1922.



Update – Stay Tuned for Reopening!

Plans for reopening the museum to visitors are in the works, and we hope to open for prescheduled tours soon. 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.

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