



*Frances Willard*  
HOUSE MUSEUM and ARCHIVES

*At the Center for Women's History and Leadership*

**Summer is in full swing at the Frances Willard House Museum! Read on for an update from the Archives, upcoming tour dates, and new digital content.**

During the coming weeks, you can...

- 1) Meet the summer Archives team and read about their current projects
- 2) Experience the history of women's mobility and travel on a **Summer Tour** of the Museum
- 3) Read our new **Collection Close-Up** on [Frances Willard's Traveling Tea Set](#)
- 4) Explore our new Story Map about [Anna Gordon and the International Reach of the WCTU](#)
- 5) Connect with our [blog](#), [digital exhibits](#), [YouTube channel](#), and social media profiles on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) – and share this newsletter with a friend!

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#### Archives Summer Update



Quiet archives? Not here – until everyone goes home for the day.

Summers are busy in the WCTU Archives! This year we're full to overflowing (in a good way) with a wonderful summer team: three PhD students and two undergraduate interns, in addition to our regular volunteers.

Our graduate students come to us through the generosity of Northwestern University fellowships: the Chicago Humanities Initiative and the Chabreja Center for Historical Studies. Mikala Stokes and Christopher Montague are both at the dissertation stage, in American History and African American History, respectively, and Kenneth Salter will be starting his second year in the PhD program in American History. All three bring extensive experience and research skills to the Archives.

Our undergraduates include Olivia Ferraro, History major and English Literature minor at Cornell College in Iowa, and Bryn Morris, History and Theatre Arts major at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Both are interested in public history and are spending their summer vacations learning about what makes museums and archives tick.

Much of our summer activity involves the [Black Women of the WCTU](#) research database project. Olivia and Bryn are also gaining experience with day-to-day archival work and researching the lives of the WCTU founders in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the WCTU in 2024. Much work is getting done, to the accompaniment of lively conversation, lots of energy, and occasional cake. Meanwhile, a steady flow of on-site researchers and off-site inquiries keeps us all on our toes.

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Pack your bags! This summer, tours of the Frances Willard House Museum are highlighting **stories of women's mobility and travel**. The Willard House, which Frances Willard nicknamed "Rest Cottage," offered temporary rest and relaxation for a woman whose organizing and lecturing career required touring the country and the globe. From carrying cases and travel diaries to portable tea sets and international petitions, many items on display at the Willard House provide insight into the ways in which women crossed borders, transcended boundaries, and formed wide-ranging coalitions.

Whether you're visiting from afar or live down the street in Evanston, we'd love to see you! **Our final July tours will be held at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm on Thursday, July 27.** August tours will be held on the following dates:

- Thursdays, August 3, 10, and 24
- Sundays, August 6, 20, and 27

**In honor of Women's Equality Day on August 26th, our August 24 and 27 tours will focus especially on the connections between the temperance and woman's suffrage movements.**

Tours are available by reservation only. Masks are optional. Visitors should request a tour by emailing [info@franceswillardhouse.org](mailto: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. We ask that reservations for Sunday tours be made by the preceding Friday at 5pm.

Can't visit us in person? Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) as we profile travel artifacts all summer long!

#### New Digital Resources

In keeping with our summer travel theme, our newly released digital resources provide insight into women's mobility and international organizing.

Our latest [Collection-Close Up](#) explores the history and context of Frances Willard's traveling tea set. This authentic Drew & Sons piece accompanied Willard on her extensive work-related travels, and it is currently on display in the dining room of the Frances Willard House Museum. Visit our [blog](#) to read more about how by conversing over tea, women learned to deliberate political issues, organize reform networks, and claim ownership over public space. The research and initial writing was conducted by Ali Schultz, Hana Ross, and Natalie Bierdz, undergraduate students in Professor Amy Tyson's Spring 2023 Material Culture of U.S. Women's History course at DePaul University.



Our new digital exhibit, a Story Map entitled [Anna Gordon and the International Reach of the WCTU](#), uses WCTU President Anna Gordon's 1921 trip through South America to explore the cross-cultural interactions initiated by the National and World's WCTU. By spreading awareness of the danger of alcohol and advocating for the rights of women and children, WCTU leaders hoped to create a more peaceful world. Yet, reaching across national divides revealed some weaknesses behind their argument for temperance, including economics and colonialism. The Story Map was written by graduate students in Professor Elizabeth Fraterrigo's Spring 2021 Museums course at Loyola University Chicago.



Anna Gordon at far left with temperance leaders in Peru, 1921

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