



Get ready to celebrate Women's Equality Day with the Frances Willard House Museum! Read on for special tour dates, a recap of our summer travel stories, and a "postcard" from the Archives.

During the coming weeks, you can...

- 1) Join us for **Women's Equality Day Tours** of the Museum
- 2) Explore our **Women's Equality Day** online resources, including a suffrage [overview](#), [timeline](#), and [digital exhibit](#)
- 3) Take a whirlwind tour of **summer travel stories** on our [blog](#)
- 4) Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into our **Archivist's research process**
- 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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### Women's Equality Day



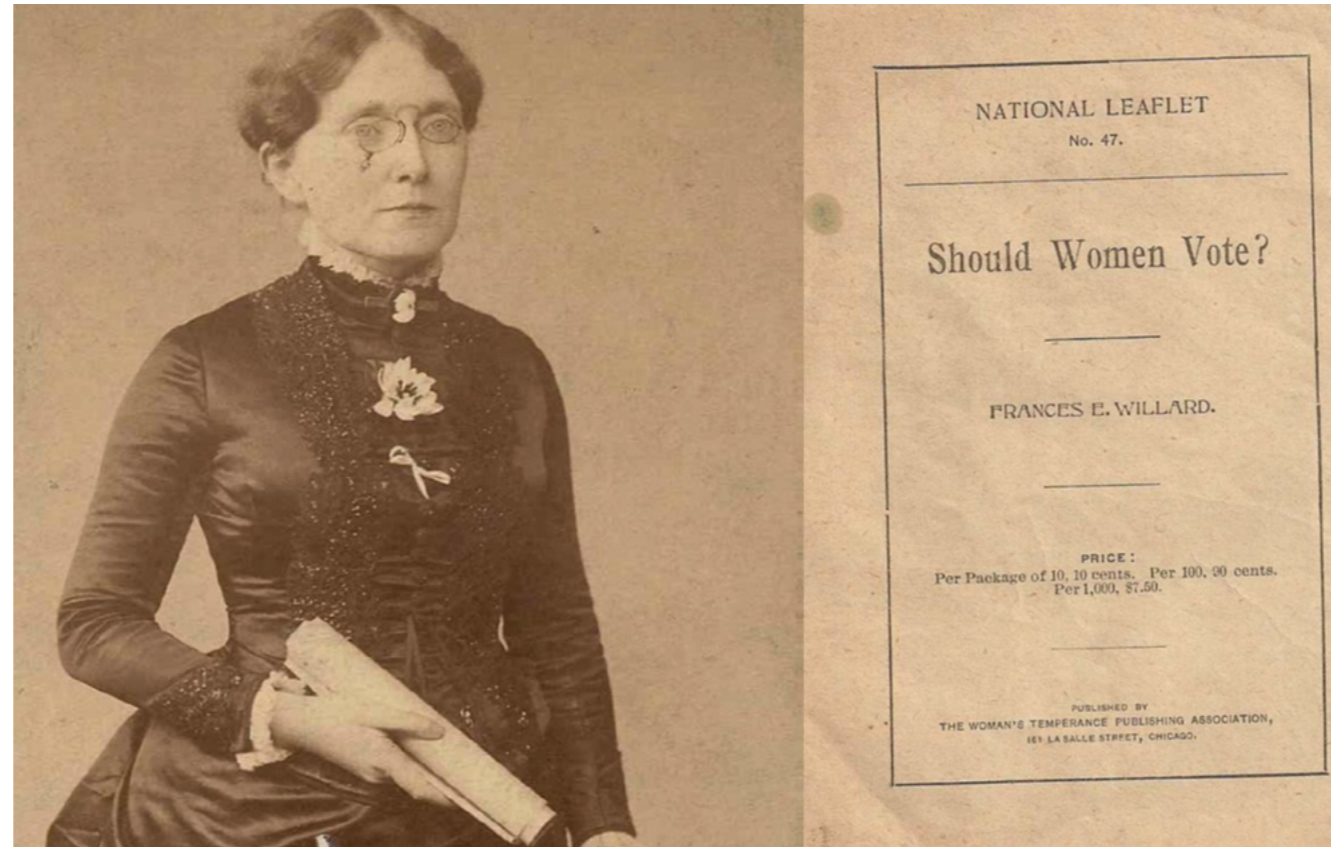
Suffrage Tours!

In honor of Women's Equality Day on August 26th, the Frances Willard House Museum will be holding special tours to explore connections between the temperance and women's suffrage movements. **Women's Equality Day tours** will be held at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm on the following dates:

- Sunday, August 20
- Thursday, August 24
- Sunday, August 27

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 in person? We have many related resources on our website, including an [overview](#) and [timeline](#) of the WCTU's involvement in the women's suffrage movement, as well as a [digital exhibit](#) that traces the development of Frances Willard's stance on the issue.



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### Summer Travel Stories



WCTU organizer Jessie Ackerman in Burma. Ackerman traveled around the world eight times, covering over 380,000 miles and visiting every country except Greenland.

This summer, the Frances Willard House Museum and WCTU Archives highlighted **stories of women's mobility and travel** on tours and social media. 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. Many artifacts, documents, and photographs in our collection provide insight into the ways in which women crossed borders, transcended boundaries, and formed wide-ranging coalitions.

Our latest [blog post](#) will take you on a whirlwind tour of museum objects that followed Willard on her extensive travels, photographs and stories of lesser-known globetrotting WCTU women, and WCTU-related sites you can visit today. Happy travels, and see you next summer for more adventures!

### My Summer Vacation: Archives and Rabbit Holes

By the Archivist



No, the rabbit holes are not the ones that drive the Head Gardener of our historic gardens to distraction – these are the mazes that archivists and museum staff find ourselves lost in when we decide to check on "just one little fact" in our collections. I was preparing a post about Frances Willard's first public speech endorsing woman suffrage – famously described in her [autobiography](#) as taking place at a Temperance Camp Meeting at Old Orchard Beach near Biddeford, Maine, in August of 1876 – when I fell into the trap: I needed "just one little fact" about Old Orchard Beach to provide context. Oops. Three hours later, I was still reading newspaper accounts from the [local Biddeford newspapers](#) from the 1870s describing the Camp Meetings (which could attract 10,000 attendees) and paging through the photographs of a [1900 souvenir book about Old Orchard Beach](#), while also rereading Willard's accounts of her visits (the first was in September 1874 – very early in her temperance career) in her autobiography and in secondary sources, such as Dr. Christopher Evans's new biography, [Do Everything](#).

I kept insisting that this was important research and tied in closely to our Summer Travel theme, but I finally stopped myself before the whole day disappeared. Yes, I was overwhelmed by TMC (Too Much Context!), but grateful that so much information is freely available online (historic newspapers! digitized books!) to augment our own archival resources. Although now I can't remember exactly what I wanted to find out in the first place, I emerged with a vivid picture of Willard's world, her growing involvement in the new Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and her increasing presence as a public speaker. I also felt, somehow, that I had been on a time-travel vacation.

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