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Women's Equality Day Tours at the Willard House!



For Women's Equality Day 2022, which honors the ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920, the Frances Willard House Museum has special suffrage themed tours on **Thursday, August 25th** and **Sunday, August 28th** at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm.

Highlights from the Museum collection that tell the suffrage story will be featured, as well as *Rightfully Hers*, a pop-up exhibit from the National Archives that ties the national suffrage story to today. **What better way to commemorate the struggle for women's rights than visiting the home and workplace of one of the most prominent suffragists of the nineteenth century!**



Tours are available by reservation only. 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.

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Tracking Willard's Suffrage Story

In honor of Women's Equality Day, throughout the month of August our Museum staff have been tracking Frances Willard's gradual entry into the suffrage movement on our **social media accounts** ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)). Follow us to catch the final parts of the narrative!

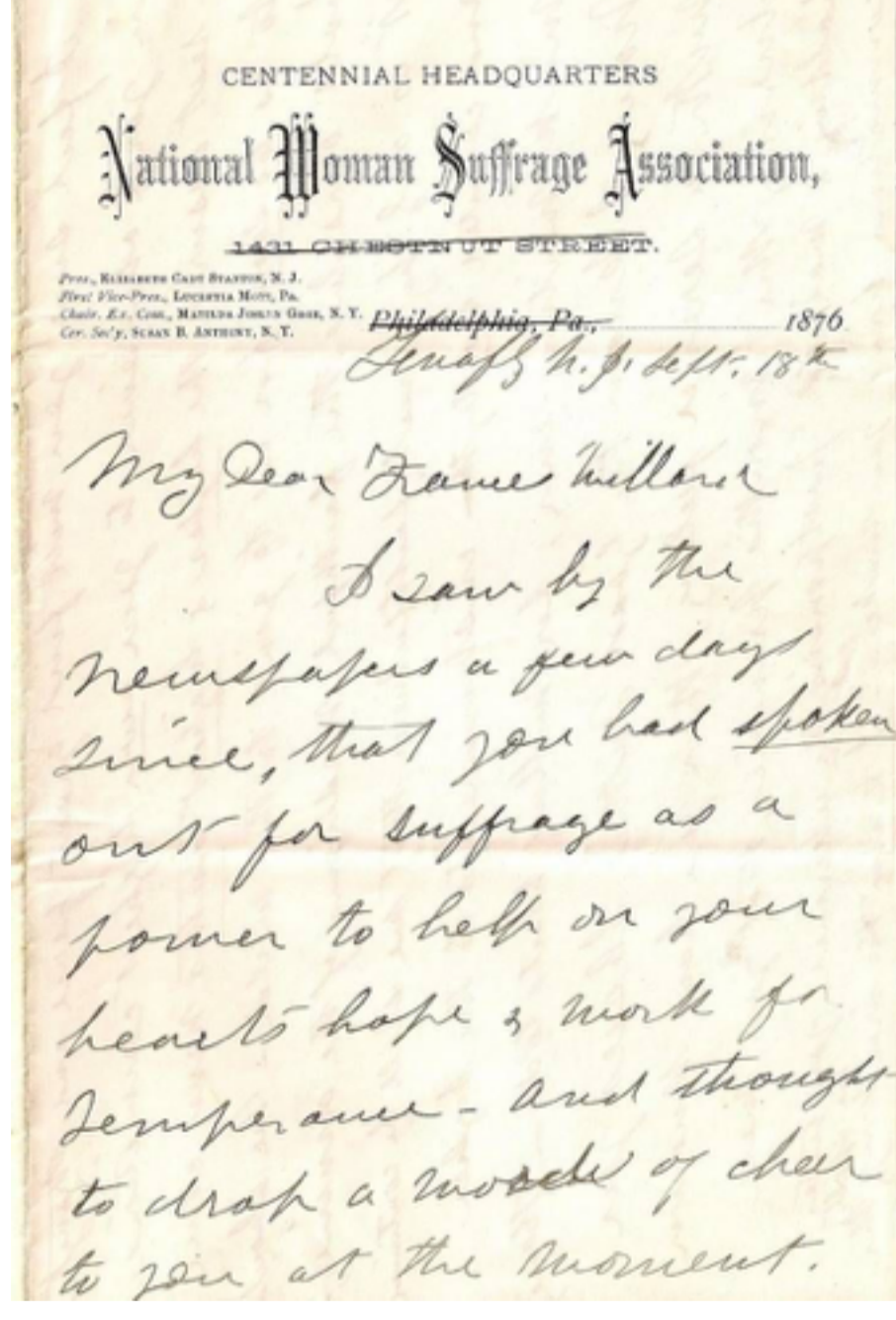
We began with an early journal entry that reveals Willard's awakening to the suffrage cause. At the age of 17, Willard recorded watching her brother Oliver, her father, and the hired men at their farm head off to vote in the Presidential election of 1856. She said to her younger sister Mary: "Wouldn't you like to vote as well as Oliver? Don't you and I love our country just as well as he, and doesn't the country need our ballots?" Mary responded in agreement but cautioned Frances not to say this to anyone as they might be called "strong-minded." For Willard, the understanding that her voice and her vote were thought unnecessary brought tears to her eyes and stirred her spirit into a "mighty unrest."



We next visited March 1868, when Willard heard Theodore Tilton speak in Evanston on "The American Woman." After hearing Tilton's argument in support of women's suffrage, Willard wrote in her journal: "I believe in the Woman Question more and more. I'm going to give my little help to it in all possible ways..."



Finally, we highlighted August 1876, when Willard gave her first suffrage speech at a Temperance Camp Meeting at Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Her speech was themed around her idea of a "Home Protection" ballot for women. She delivered the same address twice more that year – first at the Woman's Congress in Philadelphia, and then at the WCTU National Convention in Newark – despite the fact that the President of the WCTU at the time, Annie Wittenmyer, did not support linking temperance to suffrage. When Susan B. Anthony read newspaper coverage of Willard's speech, she sent Willard a warm letter of congratulations commending her for having "spoken out for suffrage as a power to help on your hearts' hope and work for Temperance."



Suffrage Round-Up: Digital Content for Women's Equality Day

In addition to taking an onsite Women's Equality Day tour, you can also explore our connection to the suffrage story through our ever-growing collection of **digital suffrage resources**:

- **Suffrage Sundays:** For the 2020 suffrage centennial, former Museum Operations Manager Cate LiaBraaten created a video series that explores the connections between the temperance and woman's suffrage movements and shares key artifacts from our collections.
- **Suffragist Playbook:** In January 2021, Museum Director Lori Osborne was joined by Lucinda Robb and Rebecca Boggs Roberts for a virtual conversation about their book, *The Suffragist Playbook: Your Guide to Changing the World*, which considers the strategies of the suffrage movement, the role of Frances Willard and the WCTU in developing suffrage tactics, and the lessons we can apply today.
- **"Womanly Liberty" or "Home Protection": Frances Willard and Woman Suffrage:** This digital exhibit, created by former intern Margaret Reilly and based on a physical exhibit curated by Janet Olson and Mary McWilliams, uses materials from our Archives to illustrate the development of Willard's thought on women's political duties and rights, as well as how the WCTU joined the fight for the vote.
- **Women's Suffrage:** This web essay, created by former intern Marie Pellessier, involves an overview and timeline of Frances Willard and the WCTU's involvement in the suffrage movement.



Frances Willard and her suffrage leaflet, "Should Women Vote?"

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