

Donate and Support

End-of-Summer and Women's Equality Day Tours



The end of summer may be near, but there's still time to schedule a tour of the Frances Willard House Museum! Remaining August tour dates are:

- Thursdays, August 11, 18, and 25
- Sundays, August 14 and 28

**The tours on August 25th and 28th will be themed around Women's Equality Day – the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment on August 26th, 1920. Join us on those dates to learn more about the fight for women's voting rights and the important role that Frances Willard and the WCTU played in the woman's suffrage movement.**

All tours take place at 1, 2 or 3pm. Admission is \$15 per person and free for students at all levels. Reservations and masks are required. Reservations for Sunday tours must be made at least 48 hours in advance. To RSVP, email [info@franceswillardhouse.org](mailto:info@franceswillardhouse.org) or call (847) 328-7500.

Looking Ahead to Women's Equality Day

As we approach Women's Equality Day, the Frances Willard House Museum and WCTU Archives are revisiting the fight for women's voting rights. There are many ways to explore our connection to the suffrage story, whether on a tour of the house or online.

Follow our **social media accounts** ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)) for upcoming posts that explore more of the suffrage story in August. We began the month with the story of the Polyglot Petition.

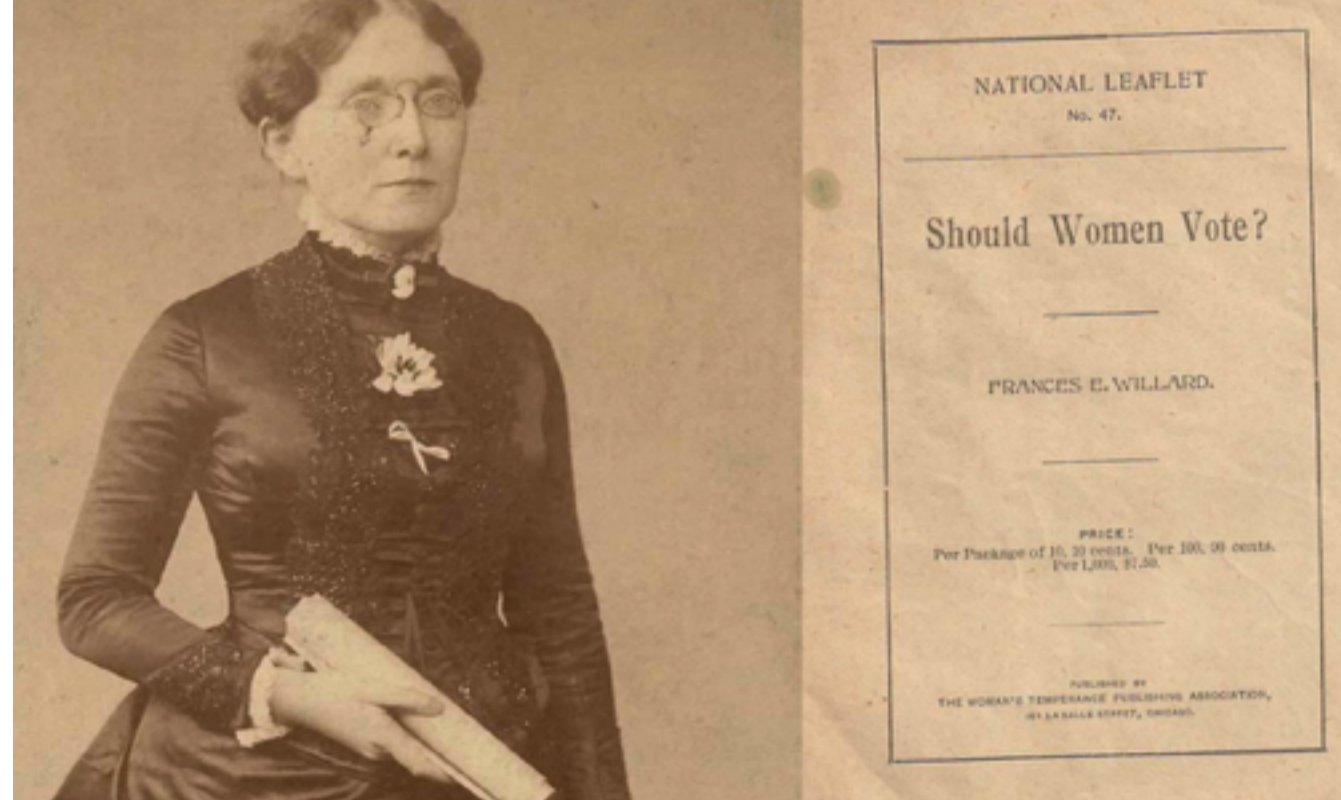
In August 1885, Mary Clement Leavitt began collecting signatures for the Polyglot Petition (which called for a global ban on the traffic in alcohol and opium) on what became her nine-year global tour. An estimated 7.5 million signatures from 50 countries were eventually collected by Clement and many others, and the rolls of signed petitions were present to heads of state throughout the world. Many of them are now part of our collection. As one of the few tools open to women who lacked the power of the ballot, the Polyglot Petition represented the voice of the disenfranchised.



Polyglot Petition Rolls

Explore our ever-growing collection of **digital suffrage resources**, including:

- **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, provides 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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Exploring Women's History

This summer the Frances Willard House Museum and WCTU Archives has been reflecting on how our collections document an expansive network of women's advocacy. We've highlighted many examples of globetrotting social reformers, as well as women's history discoveries made by modern-day travelers.

Museum Director Lori Osborne recently shared a site she visited that possessed a surprising connection to our story: the Wyoming Territorial Prison in Laramie, which was constructed in 1872 and remained a working prison until 1890. Mary Preston Slosson, an active member of the Laramie WCTU, was the prison's Chaplain for many years. She brought the WCTU's Flower Mission to the prison, a program where local women regularly delivered flowers and visited with prisoners, communicating concern to those living in the prison's rather inhospitable conditions.

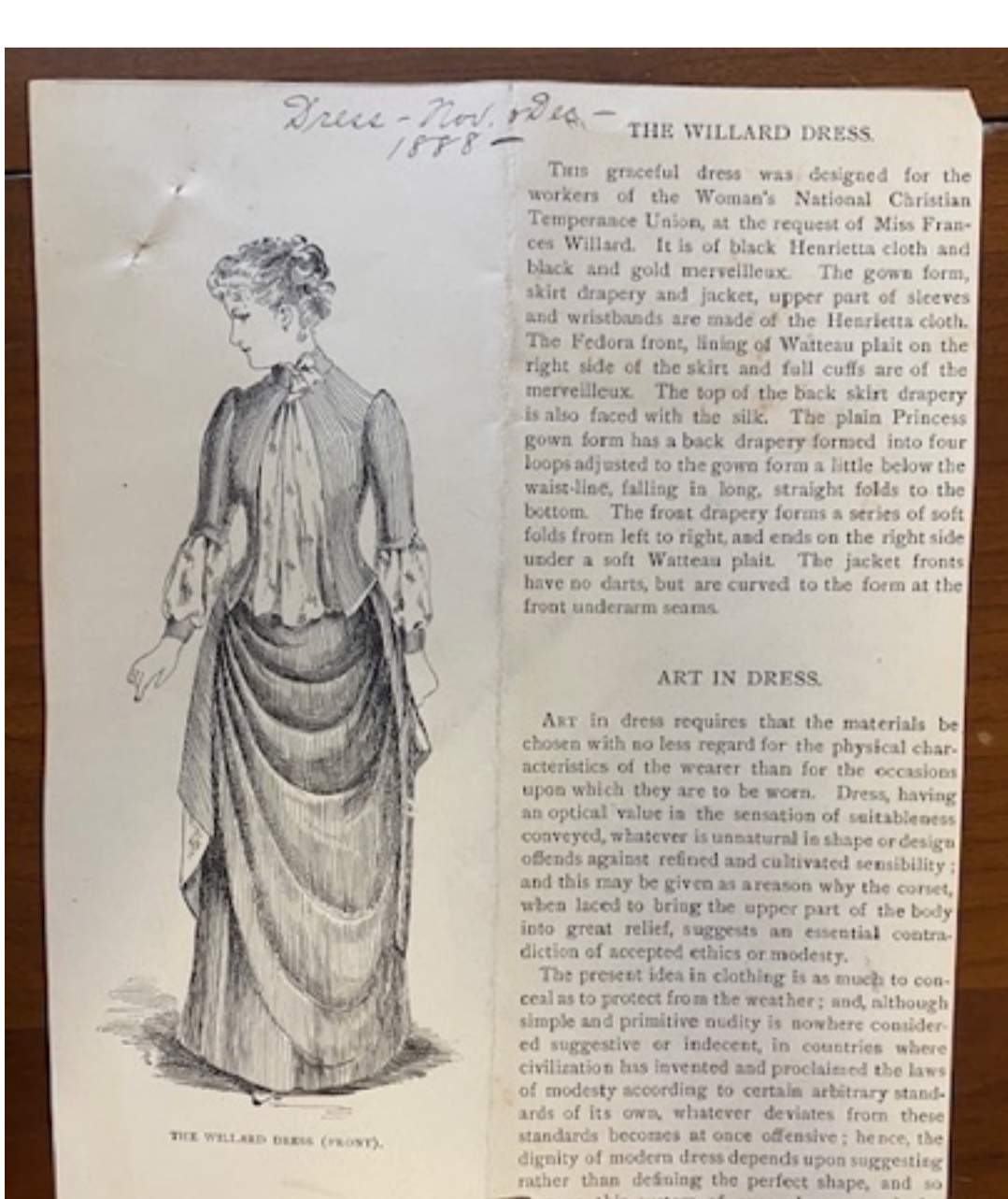


As you finish up your summer travels, stay on the lookout for unexpected women's history stories. Women's history really is everywhere!



Collection Highlight: Dress Reform

Imagine enduring the summer heat wrapped in long dresses, corsets, and bustles (and without air conditioning!). Frances Willard was a staunch dress reform advocate. She wrote petitions to fashion publications urging a design of clothing that wouldn't cause "irreparable injury to important vital organs" and commissioned the Willard Dress, which enabled a more active lifestyle.



This 1888 profile of the the Willard Dress (from our Archives) described the design as a step in the right direction and predicted that "obviously desirable changes in woman's garb" would "undoubtedly be brought about in the near future." The daring and creativity of dress reformers like Willard helped women move, breathe, and speak easier – an essential prerequisite for women to make their voices heard.

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