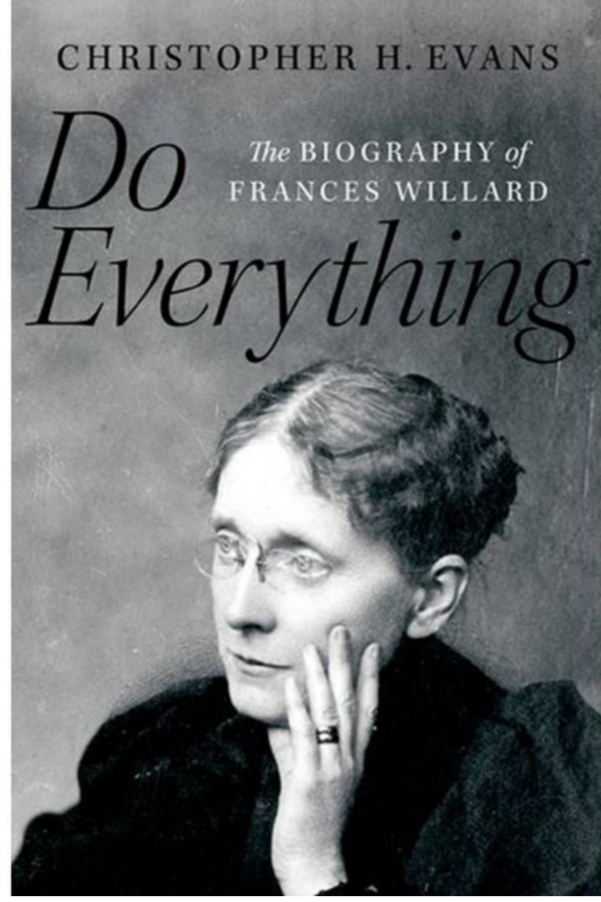


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Do Everything 2022



To mark Frances Willard's birthday (September 28, 1839) Frances Willard HOUSE MUSEUM and ARCHIVES at the Center for Women's History and Leadership is happy to announce the publication of Do Everything: The Biography of Frances Willard By Christopher Evans Oxford University Press Available in October, 2022 from your local independent bookseller, Oxford University Press, or Amazon

Each year the Frances Willard House Museum and WCTU Archives honors Frances Willard's birthday – September 28, 1839 – by exploring a theme relating to her motto, "Do Everything." Do Everything was a central idea that defined her energetic and broad leadership style and reform strategy. This year it was easy to choose our focus, as a new biography of Frances Willard – titled Do Everything – is being released this month. In this first new biography of Willard in over 35 years, Dr. Christopher Evans (Boston University) makes use of primary source materials not accessible to previous biographers, and he highlights Willard's importance to the fields of women's history, Gilded Age and Progressive Era studies, and religious history.



Dr. Evans with a newly printed copy of his book!

We are excited to bring our 2022 Do Everything celebration to you via our YouTube channel. Click here for a recorded conversation between Christopher Evans and Janet Olson, our Archivist, about Do Everything: The Biography of Frances Willard. Evans addresses what the idea of Do Everything reveals about Willard's leadership, as well as the legacies of her vision.

Our video serves as a preview for two in-person opportunities:

1) Do Everything Tours of the Willard House – focusing on Willard's early life and education, and the development of her leadership skills and tactics – will be held at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm on the following days:

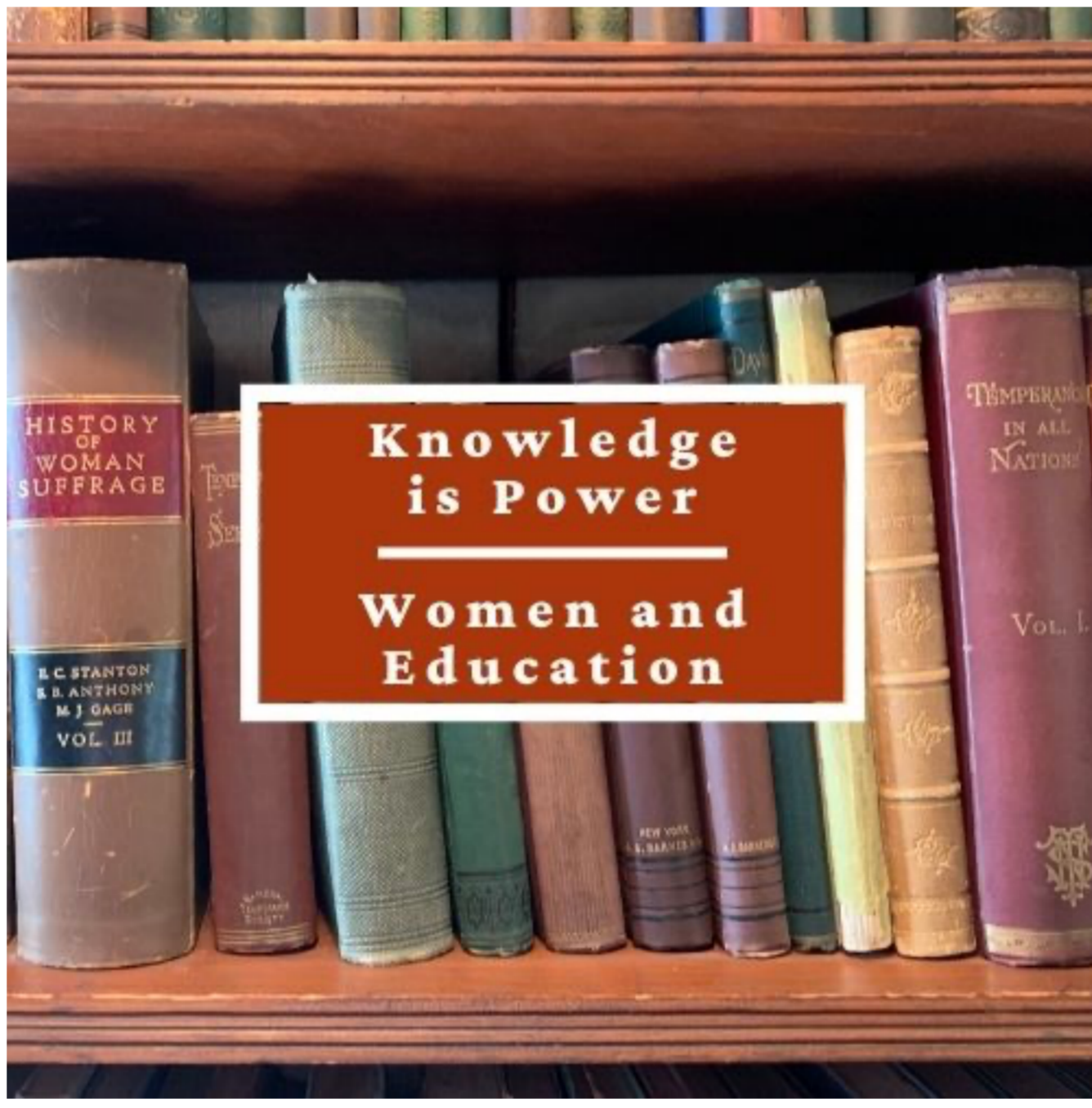
- Sundays, October 9 and 16
Thursdays, October 13 and 20

Tours are available by reservation only. Masks are required. 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.

2) Join us on Thursday, October 20th at 6pm at Bookends & Beginnings for an in-person conversation and book-signing event with Christopher Evans. The talk will be moderated by Janet Olson and will focus especially on the ways in which Evanston's community of women shaped Willard, as well as the new perspectives Evans has brought to her complex life, work, and legacy. Click here for more information and a link to register.

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Knowledge is Power: Women and Education



We are excited to announce our new program and content theme, Knowledge is Power: Women and Education. In recognition of Frances Willard's role as President of the Evanston College for Ladies (1871-1873) and Dean of Women at Northwestern University (1873-1874), we are uncovering the history – and the prehistory – of women's higher education in Evanston.

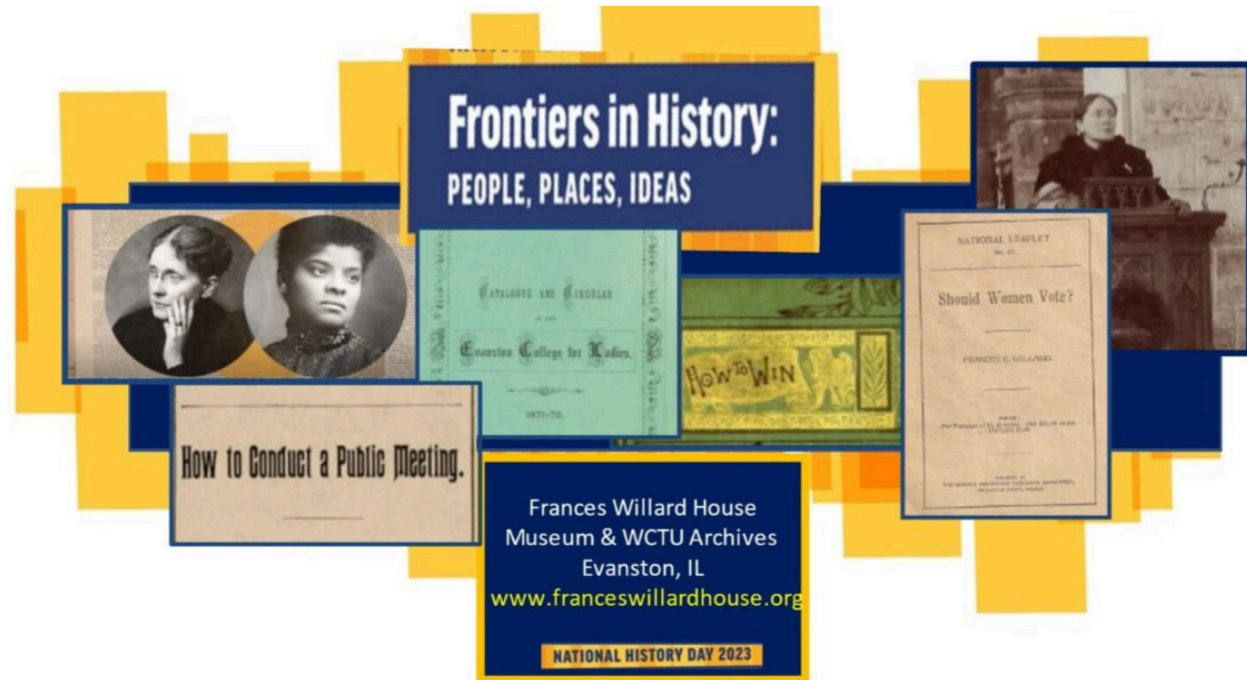
Museum Director Lori Osborne sets the stage in a new blogpost situating Evanston's educational experiments in historical context and detailing the establishment of the North-Western Female College (NWFC). The NWFC offered a curriculum parallel to the (at the time) all-male Northwestern University and, in 1859, became Frances Willard's alma mater. The college remained in operation for sixteen years and solidified Evanston's reputation as "a paradise for women."

You can explore Willard's side of the story in a recent blogpost by Fiona Maxwell (Willard House Director of Museum Operations and Communications, University of Chicago History PhD candidate) tracing how, as a young girl, Willard connected writing and speaking to social reform.

Although we will be investigating and sharing our site's connection to women's education in special detail this year, it has always been a key theme in our storytelling. Check out our existing digital resources below, and stay tuned for new content and upcoming programs!

- Frances Willard Digital Journals: This website provides access to searchable transcriptions of Frances Willard's journals, which contain entries pertaining to her educational experiences starting at the age of 16.
Frances Willard Biographical Timeline: This timeline uses images and documents to illustrate stages in Willard's life, including her time as a student, schoolteacher, and higher education leader.
Frances Willard and Women's Oratory: Focusing on Willard's contributions to oratory, this blogpost explores the ways in which she served as a role model for Northwestern students and other women who aspired to make their voices heard in public.
Mary Thompson Hill Willard: This blogpost highlights the ways in which Mary Willard, Frances Willard's mother, drew on her years of experience working as a schoolteacher to mentor and inspire her daughter.

National History Day



National History Day excitement begins! We are ready to welcome students looking for topics and primary sources on the theme "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas." Visit the History Day page on our website for more information and for suggestions based on our collection.

With the goal to "agitate, educate, organize," WCTU members pushed social boundaries, crossed new frontiers in the U.S. and the world, and paved the way for women to vote, assume leadership, and enact positive change. The extensive primary sources housed in the WCTU Archives bring hidden voices and untold stories to light.

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