

## Welcome to WILLARD HOUSE Home of Frances E. Willard

### WHAT IS THE WCTU?

The National WCTU is currently the oldest voluntary woman's organization in continuous existence in the world. It was founded in Cleveland, Ohio, November 18, 19, 20, 1874; incorporated March 1, 1883, in Washington DC, and re-incorporated in Illinois in 1907.

The WCTU is a founding member (1888) of the National Council of Women (Frances Willard, president of WCTU, was its first president) and the International Council of Women (1893). WCTU is a charter member (1945) of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and works actively in the areas of Aging, Drugs, the Decade for Women, Human Rights, Education, Development and Youth.

### WHAT HAVE THEY DONE?

#### **Proposed, Supported, and Helped Establish:**

.Woman's right to vote, 8 hour day, equal pay for equal work, Labor's right to organize, extension of merit system and Civil Service Laws.

.Protective legislation for women and children, stiffer penalties for sexual crimes against girls and women, protection of women and children in industry, Child Labor laws, raising age of consent from as low as 5 years, Uniform Marriage and Divorce laws.

.Higher education for women, jury service for women, Traveler's Aid Society, dress reform, bicycling for women, Physical Education in public schools, School Savings programs.

.Jail and prison reform, work in jails, first police matrons.

.Pure Food and Drug Act.

.Letter writing services for sick and blind, Legal Aid, Citizenship classes.

.Training women to run an organization, think on their feet, and speak in public, development of leaders.

.Passive demonstrations/Resistance.

.International Relations, World Peace, World Relief.

.Arbitration of International disputes.

.Arms Reduction (at 1921 conference, WCTU presented petitions with 199,541 signatures, and signatures of national organizations' presidents representing 2,500,000 more.)

#### **Opposed and Worked Against:**

.Drug traffic, use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and other drugs.

FRANCES WILLARD was a world leader, an influential reformer, one acclaimed at her death as "the most famous woman in America." She was born September 28, 1839 in Churchville, New York. She died February 17, 1898 in New York City.

NWCTU is raising funds to restore her home. Cost: close to one million dollars.

FRANCES E. WILLARD HOME and MUSEUM - "Rest Cottage"

The Willard house was built by Josiah Willard (Frances Willard's father) in 1865. It was made a National Historical landmark in 1965. The house originally had nine rooms, however other rooms were added for Oliver Willard's widow and four children resulting in seventeen rooms. (Oliver was a brother of Frances Willard.)

Following Miss Willard's death in 1898 the section now known as the museum was used as offices for the National WCTU until the first section of the Administration building was erected in 1910.

FRONT ENTRANCE

Hatrack and umbrella stand (note initials)  
Antique Mirror

ANNA GORDON ROOM

(known as "sitting room")

Miss Gordon's high chair and doll  
Bookcase given Miss Gordon by LTL  
Miss Willard's Wooten desk (a gift in 1884)  
Bust of John Wesley (Wedgewood)  
Miss Willard's School Bell

HALL

Note double main entrance doors with colored glass sunlight.  
Miss Willard's bicycle "Gladys" given to her by English friends when she was 53 years old.  
Cabinet of Willard China and Samplers  
Pictures of Miss Willard, including the Statue standing in Capitol in Washington.

PARLOR

Family pictures  
Family Bible with temperance pledge.  
Organ bought by Miss Willard with money from her first teaching job.  
Swiss music Box  
Rare volumes-bookcase-Family library  
Candle holders, vases, etc.

DINING ROOM

Extension Table and chairs  
Sideboard with butterfly individual tea service  
English Travel Lunch Basket  
Banjo clock made by a Willard  
China Closet with leaded sunburst plate glass doors. Contains Willard China and glass.  
Replica of Wesley (calico pattern) tea set (Wedgewood)  
Bird of the Month, --pictures.

MISS WILLARD'S DEN

Miss Willard's Desk and Bible  
"Old Faithful" Miss Willard's travelling case.

Grandfather clock made by Simon Willard  
Chair used by Miss Willard when writing her "Glimpses of 50 years".

Spinning Wheel and Fire place with motto "Let Something Good Be Said."

Friendship Quilts, one with 1976 prophecy Pictures of Famous friends.

MISS WILLARD'S BEDROOM

Bed with hand-carved decorations  
Wash stand with bowl (Beatrice pattern)  
Dresser with secret drawer  
Desk and chair used by Miss Willard when Dean at Northwestern University.

MUSEUM

Front Room Show case with mementoes from around the world.  
Oriental bell made from 1000 tobacco pipes  
Multiples-Pictures of memorials in many places for Miss Willard  
Portable Organ used by Miss Willard  
Show Case with Miss Willard's dress and white rose signifying "Suffragette"  
Bust of Miss Willard (Ann Whitney, 1892)  
Middle Room Gavel Cabinet with display of gavels from around the world  
Memento Cabinet-WCTU celebrations and collected during prohibition era  
Pins, trophies, etc.  
Mother Thompson's Desk  
Third Room Polyglot petition  
Gold cabinet with baby clothes worn by Willard girls, Dolls, tea set, toys.  
Family pew from the Methodist church  
Doll Trunk

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Thousands of people visit Rest Cottage. The Hostess strives to keep all items authentic to the period. Most furnishings of the Willards are originals and kept in good repair. Items are carefully catalogued for reference and authenticity.

Its upkeep is maintained by the gifts of friends and the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.