From Grave to Cradle: The Many Lives of Frances

Janet Olson/ Frances Willard Memorial Library & Archives

Introduction

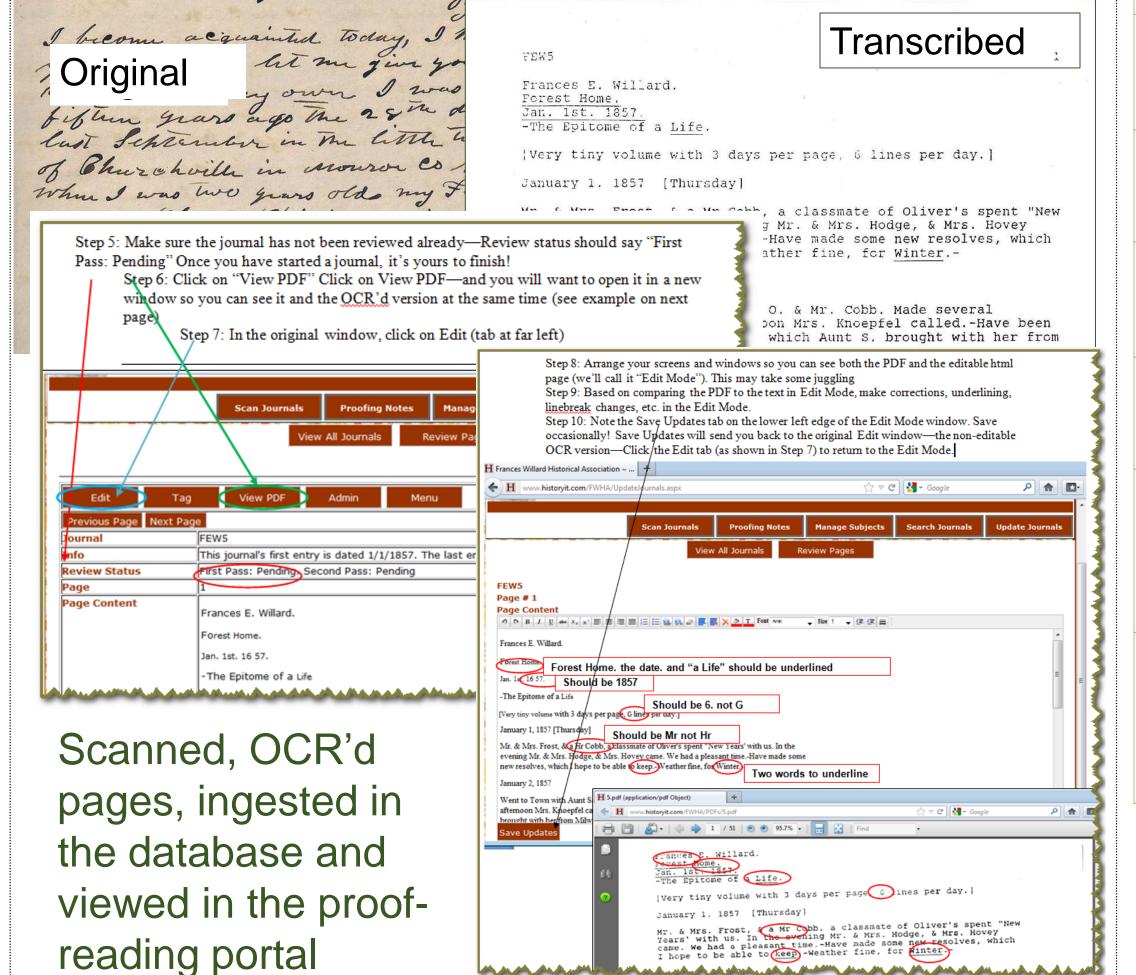
Francy & Willard

In July 2012, the Frances Willard Historical Association/ Willard Library & Archives (Evanston, IL) received a grant from the Illinois SHRAB to digitize and make available on line the transcribed journals of Frances Willard... bringing new life to a document that had been essentially inaccessible—indeed, presumed lost—since soon after Willard's death.

Why *This* Project?

- Feasible for Willard Archives (no staff, no funds)
- Builds on previous lives, existing resources
- Sustainable
- High research value

Bringing the Journals to Life Jan 1. 1955 - My char Journal



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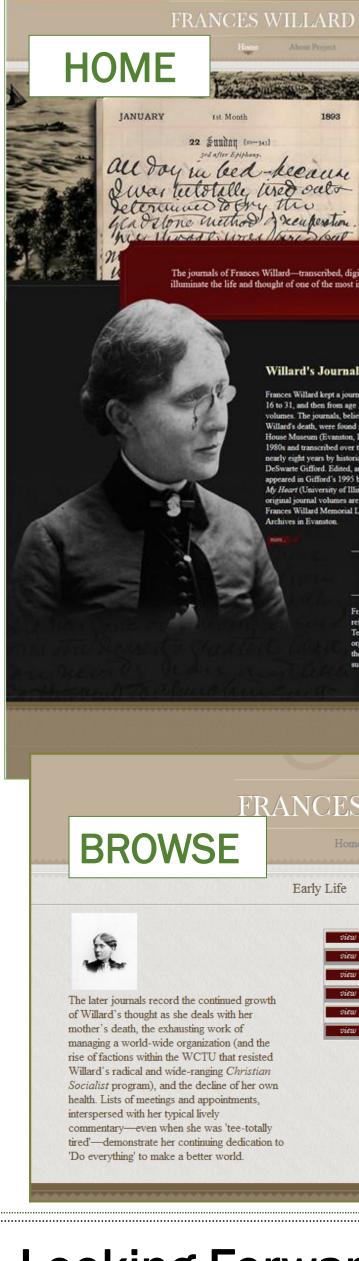
Frances E. Willard (1839-1898) earned an international reputation as a social reformer, most notably for her leadership of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), the largest and most powerful woman's organization of its time. As president (1879-1898), Willard built the WCTU into a force for

reforms that included woman suffrage, social justice, and world peace. Her speeches and writings inspired and empowered women everywhere.

The Lives of the Journals

Date	Status	Access
1855- 1896	Willard fills 50+ journals	Personal; 1889 autobiography
1898- c1931	At WCTU HQ in Evanston	Occasional
1931- 1982	Believed lost or destroyed	None
1982	Rediscovered; Filmed by NHPRC	1 site (per WorldCat)
1982- 1990	Transcribed by Carolyn Gifford	Minimal
1995	<i>Writing Out My</i> <i>Heart</i> published	Excerpts only
1995-	Awareness of	On site
2012	originals &	researchers
	transcriptions	only
2013	Transcription digitized/online	Global

Kristen Gwinn Opening a



Looking Forward

The Willard Journals Project:

- Enhanced subject searching
- Linking to original journals
- Additional collateral material *

Many thanks to: National Historical Records & Publications Commission; Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board; Frances Willard Historical Association; Carolyn DeSwarte Gifford; Proofreaders Rachel Bohlmann, Jeff Buchbinder, Kara Johnson, & Jacky Roman; friends, spouses, and other supporters; and Camp Edit.

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Frances Willard Historical Association:

- A growing body of accessible primary sources relating to Frances Willard/WCTU history
- Credibility for future grants to preserve and provide access to these resources