

Frances E. Willard (1839-1898) Journal (1855-1896) Transcriptions, ca. 1986
Series 55/43
Boxes 1-3

Biography

Best known for her leadership (1879-1898) of the influential Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Willard also supported and often spearheaded a wide variety of social reforms, including woman suffrage, economic equality, and fair labor laws. Willard gained an international reputation through her speeches and publications. She was the first woman to be honored with a statue in the U.S Capitol building, and her Evanston home was one of the first house museums to document a woman's life in the United States.

Biographical information about Willard is extensive. For an excellent overview of her life, see the entry "Frances E. Willard" by Carolyn DeSwarte Gifford in *Women Building Chicago, 1790-1990, A Biographical Dictionary* (Indiana University Press, 2001). See also *Writing Out My Heart: Selections from the Journal of Frances E. Willard, 1855-1896* (University of Illinois Press, 1995), edited by Gifford.

Description of the Series

The series consists of a photocopy of approximately 2000 pages of typed transcriptions of journals kept by Frances E. Willard between 1855 and 1896 (the original hand-written journal totals over 8,000 pages). Willard kept journals continuously from the age of 16 to 31, and then from age 54 to 57. The journals are an invaluable resource for understanding the life and thought of one of the most important American women of the nineteenth century.

The journals (many of which had previously been microfilmed, but never transcribed) had been considered lost, but were rediscovered in the Willard Memorial Library and Archives in 1982. Carolyn DeSwarte Gifford began transcribing the journals, deciphering Willard's often difficult handwriting, in 1986. In 1995, Gifford published *Writing Out My Heart: Selections from the Journal of Frances E. Willard, 1855-1896*. A complete description of Gifford's process of transcribing the entire journal, as well as her decisions about the selection process for the edited book, is found in the introductory chapter entitled "Editorial Method" in *Writing Out My Heart*.

The transcriptions are organized by journal year. Each journal is contained in one folder. The journals are numbered, and the folder numbers correspond to the journal number (thus there is a folder 17A to reflect the number of the journal it holds). There are four exceptions to this numbering. Folder 50 contains a transcription of a brief volume that Willard had labeled "Notes and Memos," dating between 1875 and 1889. Folder 51 holds transcriptions of pages from the journal of Anna Gordon, Willard's secretary, relating to Willard's death; and Folder 52 holds transcriptions of pages from the journal of Willard's sister Mary, who died in 1862. Throughout, there may be some annotations and notes handwritten by the transcriber.

Especially useful to the researcher are the summaries (mostly 1-2 typewritten pages) that Gifford prepared for each journal, which are contained in Folder 53. Also included in Folder 53 are photocopies of several pages, annotated by Gifford and relating to the microfilmed diaries, from the *Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Temperance and Prohibition Papers* (edited by Randall C. Jimerson, Francis X. Blouin, Charles A. Isetts ; Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, c1977).

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Provenance: The transcriptions of Frances Willard's journals were donated to the University Archives by the transcriber, Carolyn DeSwarte Gifford (author of *Writing Out My Heart: Selections from the Journal of Frances E. Willard, 1855-1896*), on January 14, 1998, as Accession # 98-7.

Restrictions: None.

Separations: Post-it notes placed by Carolyn Gifford to mark pages she referred to while working on her edited volume of the Frances Willard journals were removed.

Processor: Janet C. Olson, Spring 2005.

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Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder/Journal #</u>	<u>Date span</u>
1	1	January - July 1855
	2	July - September 1855
	3	September - December 1855
	4	January- December 1856
	5	January- December 1857
	6	February- May 1859
	7	May 1859
	8	May- August 1859
	9	August 1859- January 1860
	10	January 1860
	11	January- April 1860
	12	April- June 1860
	13	June- October 1860
	14	September 1860
	15	October 1860- February 1861
	16	February- June 1861
	17	June- September 1861
2	17A	January- February 1862
	18	September 1861- January 1862
	19	February- October 1862
	20	December 1862- January 1863
	21	January- December 1863
	22	July 1864- January 1865 (and March speech)
	23	January- December 1866
	24	January- December 1867
	25	January- December 1868
	26	January- February 1869
	27	February- May 1869
	28	May- July 1869
	29	July- August 1869
30	August 1869	
3	31	September 1869
	32	September- November 1869
	33	November- December 1869
	34	December 1869- February 1870
	35	March 1870
	36	March- April 1870

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder/Journal #</u>	<u>Date span</u>
3	37	April 1870
	38	April 1870
	39	April 1870
	40	April 1870
	41	May 1870
	42	May 1870
	43	May-June 1870
	44	June- July 1870
	45	January- May 1881
	46	January- February 1883
	47	January- March 1888
	48	January- December 1893
	49	January- December 1896
	50 / Notes and Memos	January 1875- January 1889
	51 / Selections from Anna Gordon's journal	1898
	52 / Selections from Mary Willard's journals	1860-1862
	53/ Journal Summaries by Carolyn Gifford; Annotated pages from <i>Microfilm Guide to the Temperance Prohibition Papers</i>	ca. 1986