



Session S602

Revising the Traditional Recipe: Documenting the Black Women of the WCTU

Moderator

Kristin Jacobsen (Assistant Archivist, Frances Willard House Museum & WCTU Archives)

Panelists

Karl Bullock, Project Researcher (2022 Summer Intern)

Janet Olson, Project Leader (Archivist, Frances Willard House Museum & WCTU Archives)

Adam Raczkowski, Project Manager and Data Registrar (2022 Summer Intern, Volunteer)

Who we are



**Frances Willard House Museum
1730 Chicago Ave, Evanston IL**

**The WCTU Archives...in the WCTU Administration
Building, behind the House Museum**

Frances Willard

HOUSE MUSEUM and ARCHIVES

at the Center for Women's History and Leadership



Where we started



<https://scalar.usc.edu/works/willard-and-wells/index>

Current Project

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
last name	first name	alternate (maiden, married, etc)	Birth/death if known	Home state	Home town	Union name/location	WCTU role(s), date, location	Other role(s), date, location	Additional info, notes	cite or link to sources	photograph
1	Lane*	Mrs. J. E.	Mrs. J. F.; possibly Mrs. Bishop Isaac Lane	Tennessee	Jackson	Tennessee #2	Treasurer Tennessee #2, 1913-17		U; Address in 1915-16 listed as Lane College	NWCTU Annual Leaflet 1913, p. 38; 1914, p. 35; 1915, p. 35; 1916, p. 40; 1917, p. 38	
2	Lanier*	Mrs. M. B.		Kentucky	Louisville	Kentucky Sojourner Truth	Treasurer Kentucky Sojourner Truth, 1947-50		U	NWCTU Annual Leaflet 1947, p. 55; 1948, p. 54; 1949, p. 53; 1950, p. 54	
3	Lantier*	Ida	Ida B. Lautier	Louisiana	New Orleans; New Iberia	Willard Union of Louisiana	Treasurer Louisiana Willard, 1901-05		U	NWCTU Annual Leaflet 1901, p. 19; 1902, p. 20; 1903, p. 19; 1904, p. 23; 1905, p. 24; National WCTU Meeting Minutes 1910, p. 5; National WCTU Meeting Minutes 1910, p. 190; "Organizers' Reports p. 190-191; "Organizing As They Climb" p. 215ff.; US (Nov 25 1897); NWCTU Annual Meeting 1897, p. 32; 98, p. 33, p. 32; 1904, p. 37; 1905, p. 39; 1906, p. 44; 1907, p. 36; 1908, p. 36; 1909, p. 19; 1910, p. 19; 1911, p. 19; 1912, p. 22; 1913, p. 23; 1914, p. 22; 1915, p. 21; 1916, p. 21; 1917, p. 24; 1918, p. 28; 1919, p. 28; 1920, p. 25; 1921, p. 28; 1924, p. 28; 1925, p. 28; "Women of Distinction" p. 301; WCTU Minutes 1912, p. 190	
4	Lawson	Rosett									
5	Lee	Mary E									
6	Lee	Sophi									
7	Leonard*	Hettie H.									
8	Lessons*	Elizabeth									
9	Lewis*	Mrs. A. W.									



Black Women of the WCTU: A Research Database
Documenting Black women's involvement in the WCTU

<https://tinyurl.com/bdew47fy>

WCTU ARCHIVES SOURCES

WCTU OF PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL REPORT, 1885: DIRECTORY OF UNIONS

Directory of Unions.

For Names and Addresses of County Presidents, see list of State Vice Presidents, page 2.

Allegheny County.		
Name and Location.	President.	Corresponding Secretary.
Pittsburgh—Central,	Mrs. Wm. M. Gormley, 66 North Av., Allegheny,	Mrs. R. H. Jones, 267 Main Street.
East End,	Mrs. W. C. Moreland, Forbes Street,	Mrs. W. V. Hughes, Larimer Avenue.
Mt. Washington,	Mrs. A. F. Bryce,	Mrs. E. J. McMillen.
South Side,	Mrs. Margaret Youngson, Smithfield Street,	Mrs. D. C. Williams, 21st St. and Wright's Ay.
Colored,	Mrs. Bettie Parker,	Mrs. R. J. Smith.
Lawrenceville, Allegheny,	Mrs. L. S. Johns,	Mrs. W. H. Wrigley.
	Mrs. F. L. Swift, 263 North Avenue.	Mrs. E. D. C. Mair, North Diamond St.
Braddock,	Mrs. R. D. Bowman.	Mrs. Olive Hess.
Homestead,		Mrs. J. R. McKee.
Glenfield,	Mrs. W. J. Phillips,	Mrs. J. R. Harrison.
McKeesport,	Mrs. A. M. Bailie,	Mrs. S. T. Mitchell.
Mansfield Valley,	Mrs. Joseph Ramsay,	Miss Sarah Grubbs.
New Texas,	Miss Eleanor Grubbs,	Mrs. H. L. Kallenbaugh.
Bellevue, (Robella P. O.)	Mrs. R. B. Paden,	Mrs. Charles Hook.
Port Perry,	Mrs. G. T. Miller,	Miss Dessy McCaslin.
Port Perry, No. 2,	Mrs. Jennie Brown,	
Sewickley,	Mrs. B. C. Christy,	
Sharpsburg,	Mrs. John Lewis,	Mrs. S. E. Wahl, Etna.
Wilkinsburg,	Mrs. Wills,	
Verona,	Mrs. Rev. Stockton,	Mrs. W. W. Grier.
Fayette Township,	Mrs. E. Sauters, McDonald.	Miss M. E. A. McClean, Noblestown.
Stoop's Ferry,	Mrs. Dr. E. P. Jennings,	
Tarentum,	Mrs. Dr. Thomas Galbraith,	Mrs. Julia B. Fulton.
Bridgeville,	Miss Maggie E. Morgan,	Mrs. Thomas Lesnett.
Brinton Station,	Mrs. G. Gillelen,	Miss Maggie W. Lukens.
Beltzhoover,	Mrs. M. L. McClure,	Mrs. Lillian Pence.
* Armstrong County.		
Kittanning,	Mrs. Geo. Doverspike,	Miss Esther Sloan.
Leechburg,	Mrs. E. J. Dodds,	Miss S. L. Gosser.
Freeport,	Mrs. McMans,	Miss Annie S. Boyd.

WCTU ARCHIVES SOURCES

WCTU of Pennsylvania Annual Report, 1885: Report of the Department of Work Among Colored People (State Superintendent Frances E. W. Harper)

For Swedish and Polish, address Miss Helen Hood, No. 202
La Salle street, Chicago.

For German and American, address Miss Julia Gibson, No. 72
Bible House, New York City.

WORK AMONG COLORED PEOPLE

Mrs. FRANCES E. W. HARPER, SUPERINTENDENT

It is very convenient when a man is carrying a heavy burden, or even driving an ordinary team, if his harness should suddenly break, to have a piece of string on hand to tie the broken harness together. In an earlier part of the year I found there was a missing link in the departments, and unsolicited I offered to supply a *Y* necessary. Mrs. Swift, our President, accepted the offer, in the absence of another sister to fill the department for work among colored people. Since I accepted the position part of my time has been given to work in Pennsylvania. I have not had many calls in the State for work but still some doors have been opened to me. In Philadelphia two presidents of Y. W. C. T. U.'s have employed my services as a speaker; and in Germantown and Haddington Mrs. Deane and Mrs. Leman have assisted in having ten address a number of the colored people in their respective places and ordered some pecuniary aid which was quite acceptable. In Oxford, Downingtown, Phoenixville, Coatsville, West Chester and Lancaster, meetings have been held, assisted by ladies who reached out a helping hand. I visited Cumberland county and Lancaster; held a number of meetings and assisted in the formation of some new Unions, from some of which I have heard favorably. At our annual meeting in Bellefonte, in 1883, a donation of \$22 or \$23 was given me for my work. I think of that money as a sacred trust, and with it I was able to rent a room in one of the tenement districts of Philadelphia, but going away, from the city the use of the hall was discontinued. Since then I have rented another hall and opened a Gospel Temperance meeting on Sunday afternoons, and have found some one in whose hands I could leave the meeting when absent. The meetings are held in a part of the city from whence a number of churches have removed, and others, I believe, are intending to remove. Churches have been

meeting, but liquor men have been encroaching their ground, and some of them apparently lengthening their cords and strengthening their stakes. The liquor shops go down to the people, and I have gone there also. I have talked, lectured, and distributed tracts outside, and I cannot tell "which shall prosper," this or that. It is mine to leave God's to work up results. Some time since two Unions were formed among the colored people in the city of Philadelphia, but they seemed to lack vitality. A few weeks since I met some of the members of one of them and there was some sign of life manifested, and one member has since attended several meetings in St. George's hall, and spoke at a meeting in Germantown with me. Some of our women have been engaged in work among children. Mrs. Dudley informs me she has a class of 20 children, all phlegm, and Mrs. Fox has been engaged in work among children in the lower part of our city. Some of the Swedish schools here, I believe, show some temperance work also among children, and the prospect for work among the colored people begins to brighten. From Pittsburgh Mrs. Smith writes: "We are still laboring for the advancement of the great cause. Our Union is still alive. We have two Bands of Hope among our children, and they attend very well indeed. I have been able to report our business favorably. In June we organized in Howard Street Baptist Church, which I think will prosper nicely, because they are all young people. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Mair assisted in the meeting and it was very encouraging. The work is growing slowly and surely. We have spent four dollars for tracts and books, and as soon as we can we are going to have an entertainment for the purpose of getting a banner for the Band of Hope No. 1." Mrs. Lee, of Conowingo, reports: "We have as yet no organization among the colored people here, but during the last year have distributed among them quite an amount of temperance literature, and hope soon to have an organization." Mrs. Agnes Hoop, of Harrisburg, reports two organizations, one at Sebelia which holds fair, and says they have three departments of Evangelistic, Scientific and Sacramental Work, three more in contemplation. The other Union is among the colored Protestants of Harrisburg. Commenced with ten members. Mrs. Blanchard reporting from Bellefonte, says: "The colored people of this place have a W. C. T. U. organized which has been conducted for several years, holding meetings every two weeks when possible. They have had a Band of Hope in charge of a

WCTU ARCHIVES SOURCES

Blurb from *Union Signal* newspaper,
July 6, 1916

The first W. C. T. U. for work among the negroes of Syracuse, N. Y., was organized recently at the Bethany Baptist church and will be known as the Lucy Thurman union. This union, which has fifteen charter members, was organized under the auspices of Syracuse Union No. 2, following several years of work by Mrs. C. J. Clark, superintendent for Onondaga county of Work Among Colored People.

From Archives to Data

Excerpt showing selected fields from Illinois spreadsheet

	last_name	first_name	alternate_name	town	source	wctu_role	union_name
17	Dean	Eva T.	E.T./E.J./Eva T.	Champaign	Illinois Annual Report 1920 p. 4/	Ill State Superintendent Work Ar	Ida Gill/Ida Gill (colored)
18	Dean	Bessie		Danville	Illinois Annual Report 1930 p. 130	Treasurer	Danville (Colored)
19	Dere	Ada		Kankakee	Illinois Annual Report 1927 p. 1	Corresponding Secretary	Kankakee (Colored Union)
20	Derritt	Mollie		Chicago	Illinois Annual Report 1924 p. 8	Corresponding Secretary	Banner
21	Elredge	Eliza		Chicago	Illinois Annual Report 1923 p. 100	Treasurer/Corresponding Sec	Progressive
22	Gibson	Julia		Peoria	Illinois Annual Report 1915 p. 150	President	Elizabeth E. Peterson (Colore
23	Gray	Estella		Springfield	Illinois Annual Report 1912 p. 216	Treasurer 1912-1913	Springfield Colored/Springfie
24	Greene	Mae C.		Galesburg	Illinois Annual Report 1921 p. 104	Corresponding Secretary	Galesburg No. 2
25	Hall	Beile/Isabel	Isabella	Elgin/Aurora	Illinois Annual Report 1898 p. 228	Elgin President 1898 1899/Aur	Elgin (Lucy Thurman)/Aurora
26	Hudson	Mrs. James	Emma	Aurora	Illinois Annual Report 1922 p. 102	Treasurer	Aurora Frances Willard
27	Huey	Fannie		Kankakee	Illinois Annual Report 1927 p. 1	Treasurer	Kankakee (Colored Union)
28	Hughes	Maggie		Brookport	Illinois Annual Report 1910 p. 206	President	Brookport (Colored)
29	Jones	Fannie		E. St. Louis	Illinois Annual Report 1922 p. 120	Corresponding Secretary	E. St. Louis No. 2/E. St. Louis
30	Leek	Laura		Centralia	Illinois Annual Report 1913 p. 150	Corresponding Secretary	Centralia (Colored)
31	Lucas	Emma		Aurora	Illinois Annual Report 1913 p. 140	Treasurer	Aurora Frances Willard
32	Lucket	Ida		Aurora	Illinois Annual Report 1913 p. 140	Corresponding Secretary	Aurora Frances Willard

	Column Names
1	Last Name
	Source
2	First Name
	Source
3	Alternate Name
	Source
4	Date of Birth
	Source
5	Date of Death
	Source
6	State
7	State Abbr.
8	Town
	Source
9	WCTU Role
	Source
10	Union Name
	Source
11	Union Location
	Source
12	Union Date
	Source
13	Race Confirmation
	Source
14	Notes
15	Researcher Name

Confirming the Data

race_confirmation	race_confirmation_source
African American	Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census
African American	Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census
African American	Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census
African American	Illinois Annual Report 1917 p. 48 / US Census 192
African American	Illinois Annual Report 1917 p. 48 / Ancestry.com.
African American	Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census
African American	Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census
e Cou African American	Ancestry.com. 1940 United States Federal Census
African American	Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census
Likely Not African American	
Likely Not African American	
Likely Not African American	
Likely Not African American	Illinois Annual Report 1897 p. 258
Likely Not African American	Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census
Likely Not African American	
ounti Likely Not African American	

**Example from
Illinois spreadsheet**

**Census Records, Ancestry.com,
and**

**Historical African American
Newspapers from
Chronicling America
database (Illinois titles)**

Illinois	Appeal
Illinois	broad ax
Illinois	Chicago Illinois idea
Illinois	Chicago reflector
Illinois	Chicago whip
Illinois	Chicago world
Illinois	forum
Illinois	Illinois times
Illinois	Metropolis weekly gazette
Illinois	Metropolitan news
Illinois	Robbins eagle
Illinois	Sunday Chicago bee
Illinois	Western appeal

Stories



OFFICERS, COLORED WILSON'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.



MRS. E. M. JARVIS, A. M.
Gen. Secretary, Thruway W. C. T. U., Texas

MISS CORA L. EUGENE,
Secy. Organized, Thruway W. C. T. U., Texas

MRS. ELLEN F. PETERSON,
President, Thruway W. C. T. U., Texas

MRS. FRANCIS JOSEPH GAUDIN,
President, W. C. T. U., Louisiana

MRS. M. B. PARKER,
Gen. President, Thruway W. C. T. U., Texas

STENOGRAPHIC OFFICER. ACCURATE AND EXACT



MRS. EVA T. DEAN



MRS. WILLIAMSON

THE UNION SIGNAL



LIEUTENANT VIOLET HILL WHYTE

Collaborative Effort and Into the Future



QUESTIONS????????????????????????????????????

For More Information about the Project:

Contact: Janet Olson, Archivist/Project Leader: archives@franceswillardhouse.org

Web Site: <https://franceswillardhouse.org/research/black-women-of-the-wctu-research-database-project/>

You Tube: Progress report (2/26/2023): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16tZIBv-y2M&t=52s>



Frances Willard

HOUSE MUSEUM and ARCHIVES

at the Center for Women's History and Leadership

1730 Chicago Avenue
Evanston IL 60201

www.franceswillardhouse.org

- Archives (by appointment): archives@franceswillardhouse.org
- General: info@franceswillardhouse.org (847-328-7500)
- Museum Tours (reservations required; see website for open dates): tours@franceswillardhouse.org

Twitter—Facebook—Instagram—YouTube



Session S602 April 15, 2023 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Revising the Traditional Recipe: *Documenting the Black Women of the WCTU*



WCTU leaders (left to right): Amanda Berry Smith, Lucy Thurman, Frances E.W. Harper, Sarah Early, Rosetta Lawson

In the description for this session, we asked you to imagine how different food would taste if ingredients were missing from their recipes. In the case of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), founded in 1874, the ingredients that have been hidden for far too long are the African American women who were active in the WCTU. Staff in the WCTU Archives knew that previous histories had omitted the contributions of the organization's non-white members, and therefore were missing the full flavor of this significant women's movement. The recipe analogy is particularly appropriate because we are bringing these women to light by creating a resource tool, an ingredient, rather than dishing up a narrative history. We hope the result will be heaping servings of information to feed researchers hungering for the fuller, richer story.

Moderator:

Kristin Jacobsen, Assistant Archivist, Frances Willard House Museum & WCTU Archives

Panelists:

Karl Bullock, Project Researcher (2022 Summer Intern)

Janet Olson, Project Leader (Archivist, Frances Willard House Museum & WCTU Archives)

Adam Raczkowski, Project Manager and Data Registrar (2022 Summer Intern, Volunteer)

More Information about the Project

- Contact: Janet Olson, Archivist/Project Leader: archives@franceswillardhouse.org
- Web Site: <https://franceswillardhouse.org/research/black-women-of-the-wctu-research-database-project/>
- Blog Post: <https://franceswillardhouse.org/letting-the-records-speak-an-interns-experience-in-the-wctu-archives/>
- You Tube: Progress report (2/26/2023): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16tZIBv-y2M&t=52s>

Selected Sources

WCTU Archives sources (print), including:

- WCTU national and state annual reports/meeting minutes
- WCTU annual handbooks (National level, with names of state-level dept heads)
- WCTU state histories
- *The Union Signal* (National WCTU newspaper of record)
- WCTU ephemera (convention programs, directories)
- Biographical and subject files
- Photographs

Online, digitized, and other outside sources, including

- Digitized Black historic newspapers (through Newsbank, Proquest, Chronicling America)
- U.S. Census, birth/marriage/death records (through Ancestry.com)
- *Black Women Suffragists* (Alexander Street)
<https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/VOTESforWOMEN/bwsintro> (open access)
- Print/online current encyclopedias of state-level Black biography (compiled by several states)
- *Notable American Women 1607-1950, A Biographical Dictionary* (1971), Edward James, ed.
- *African American Women In the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920*. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, 1998.

Digitized historic biographical encyclopedias, including:

- *Lifting as They Climb*, Elizabeth Lindsay Davis (1933)
- *Women of Distinction....*, Dr. Lawson A. Scruggs (1892, reprint 2020; Internet Archive)
- *Noted Negro Women....*, M.A. Majors, M.D., 1893

Selected Comparable Projects

- *Colored Conventions Project* AND *Black Women's Organizing Archive* (crowdsourcing, transcription), Center for Black Digital Research, #DigBlk, Penn State University
- *Mary Eliza Project* [1920 WOMEN'S VOTER REGISTER] (crowdsourcing, indexing, open datasets), Simmons University & Boston City Archives
- *Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative* (open data portal, transcription, indexing, crowdsourcing), Library of Virginia

Thanks for your
interest. We
would love to
hear from you!



Frances Willard

HOUSE MUSEUM and ARCHIVES

at the Center for Women's History and Leadership

1730 Chicago Avenue
Evanston IL 60201

www.franceswillardhouse.org

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