



HISTORIC REST COTTAGE

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS



Since the booklet "Historic Rest Cottage" was printed, a headquarters building has been erected on the rear of the lot. Here are located the offices of the general officers, also the literature department and the editorial and circulation departments of the official papers.

On the death of Mrs. Stevens in 1914, Miss Anna A. Gordon became president. In 1922 Miss Gordon was also elected president of the World's W. C. T. U.





*Frances Willard*

Historic Rest Cottage

NATIONAL WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS



## REST COTTAGE

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EST COTTAGE, the home of Frances E. Willard, "one of the best known and best loved women in the world," is located in the classic town of Evanston, a suburb of Chicago, Illinois.

The gable-roofed cottage, vine-embowered, is on the handsome, residence avenue leading to the campus of the Northwestern University. The students, young men and young women, as they pass the cottage are told the story of Miss Willard's beautiful, heroic life. They learn that she, who was once a student and professor in the university in which they are studying, became a world-renowned leader, the President of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

"The Den," as Frances Willard called her study and library, is the heart of Rest Cottage. The room is now so still! The oak rocking-chair near her desk, in which she sat when she penned the famous Polyglot Petition asking the governments of the world to do away with the brain poisons, alcohol and opium, is vacant.

Two visitors, a mother and her daughter, enter and the atmosphere becomes radiant with life. Once a pupil of Miss Willard, and now a mother and ardent white ribboner, the older lady has traveled far that she may bring her daughter in touch with an environment which will impress her young life with exalted ideals of service.

Several bookcases filled with choice, annotated books, pictures, mottoes and testimonials from friends and officials in this country and abroad are pointed out and their educational and historic value noted.

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The sense of loneliness passes. Enriching memories throng upon the white ribboner, who, with intense enthusiasm, tells incidents of the great organized work against the liquor traffic, led by Miss Willard and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. "Here in this room," she says, "the World's W. C. T. U. was really founded. Here were made many of the plans for educational work and for campaigns that have been the chief factors in making in this country much sentiment against the saloon and in securing prohibition in so many Southern states."

The hand-bag on the now unused desk, and the satchel, "Old Faithful," placed under it, are eloquent reminders to the visitors of Miss Willard's unwearying, persistent journeyings over land and sea as, accompanied by Miss Gordon, she burned out her life in altruistic service, and "made the world wider for women and more homelike for humanity." With characteristic humor Miss Willard thus described "Old Faithful:" "It is without form, but nothing on the earth beneath is less void than my beloved traveling bag. It has 'leanings' in its old

age, but e'en its errors lean to virtue's side. Nature doesn't abhor a vacuum half so teetotally as does that same heavy, lopping, nondescript nugget of a bag. \* \* \*

It has been evilly and despitefully entreated, used as a footstool, a writingdesk, a pillow; it has patiently disgorged



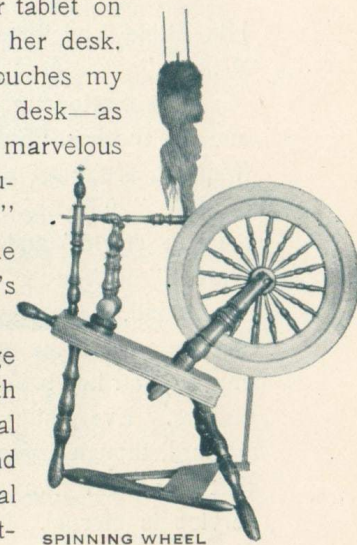
MISS WILLARD'S DEN

thousands of letters, postals and documents; but it survives, and I deem it the fittest of all survivals to me personally known."

The many souvenirs that were cherished by Miss Willard speak of the love of white ribboners the world over. On the couch is an elegant silk quilt given by the white ribbon women of Mt. Vernon, New York, and many friends who contributed bits of beautiful embroidery. A beer mug decorated with white ribbon is a trophy of the Hillsboro (Ohio) Crusade, December, 1873. In Miss Willard's handwriting it is inscribed as a gift from Mrs. Judge Thompson. The books of greeting from many state unions are piled high on the desk. They recount the joyful celebration of Miss Willard's fiftieth birthday. The book from one state is read by the visitors, from cover to cover.

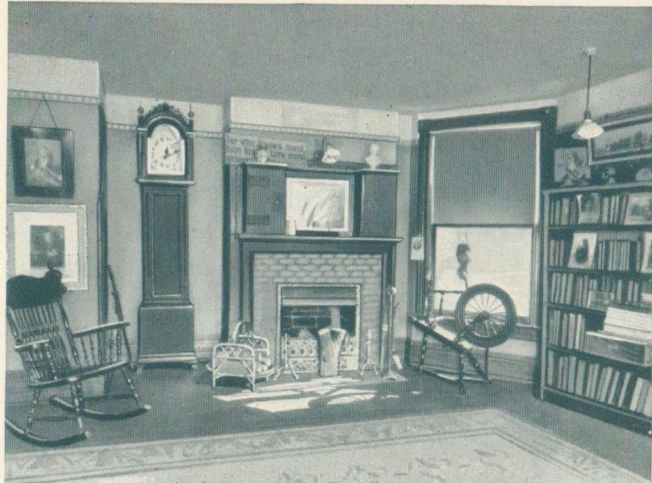
All over the house are reminders of Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Willard's great and gracious friend, but a copy of the famous painting "Diana or Christ," over the desk, is the gift that attracts most attention. A picture of Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens, who succeeded Miss Willard as President of the National W. C. T. U., is on the bookcase, within reach of Miss Willard's hand as, with her tablet on her lap, she sat and wrote in the rocker beside her desk. "Nothing in this room," says Mrs. Stevens, "touches my heart more deeply than the ink spots upon her desk—as bright as though made yesterday—drops from that marvelous pen which recorded the thoughts of this great educator, philosopher, philanthropist, reformer, friend."

Near the handsome mantel and hearth is the spinning wheel that belonged to Frances Willard's great grandmother and a picture of "The Reverend Mr. Samuel Willard," president of Harvard College in 1701 and for thirty years pastor of Old South Church, Boston. His long curling locks and clerical dress are in typical, colonial style. The power and tenacity of purpose denoted in Mr. Willard's facial expression and contour of jaw are plainly the inherit-



SPINNING WHEEL





THE DEN,  
MANTEL  
AND HEARTH

ance of Frances Willard, as shown in her picture near by; but in her strong, spirituelle face, there is also compassion, and the sympathetic tenderness of the womanly woman. Just outside the

door is a shelf from an historic church in Keene, New Hampshire, where one of Miss Willard's ancestors, a Baptist minister, preached for forty years.

His Bible and hymn-book are inscribed, "The property of Levi Willard."

The mottoes most conspicuous and most beloved by Miss Willard and her mother, "Saint Courageous," whose visits to "The Den" were frequent, are "Let something good be said;" "Nothing is inexorable but love;" "Those are of freedom, life, deserving, who daily take them both by storm" and "For who knows most, him loss of time most grieves."

A tall, mahogany clock, quaintly displaying the faces of the moon and the days of the month, made by Simon Willard of Boston, Massachusetts, strikes twelve, and "the noon hour" is silently observed by the visitors. Everything speaks of life—the abundant life. Frances E. Willard, though engaged in the heavenly activities, is in the happy land that is *not* far away; and it is realized that the sweet fellowship of service is eternal. Reverently the visitors gaze upon Miss Willard's

Bible and Testament tied with the white ribbon. They are well worn. "The Angel of the Resurrection," a picture inscribed by Miss Willard's own hand, placed by Miss Gordon on the open door of "The Den," seems to speak words of comfort and give the assurance of life immortal.

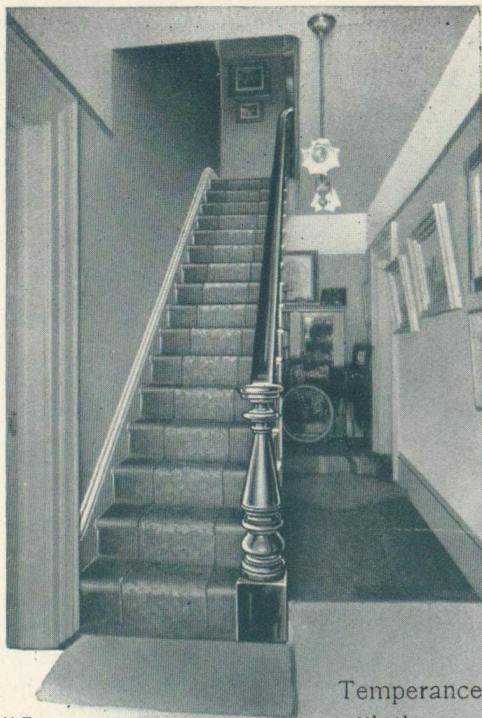
The mother turns to her daughter as the visitors leave the room, and remarks, "What better monument could there be to such a great and beloved leader than the Frances E. Willard Memorial Organizing Fund—the Fund which perpetuates and extends the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union?" The daughter replies, "We girls will help to increase this fund. You say, Mother, that Frances Willard appealed to the girls to protect the homes and make them what they should be. I wish every girl I know could visit *this* home. I want to have you put the white ribbon on me before we leave the room because as long as I live I shall work against the liquor traffic and for total abstinence and prohibition and 'follow the gleam,' as Miss Willard said she wished we would."

The visitors descend the stairway to be shown the rooms below, and a hush of spirit is upon them for it seems a precious privilege to follow in the very footsteps of Frances Willard as she went about her intimate home-life, so simple, so dearly loved, so much interrupted by the demands of the work which had first claim upon her.

To the right is the parlor, kept as it was in the old days, except that Miss Gordon has added some family treasures and a few pictures. The central one of these is an excellent portrait of Madam Willard, and above it and around it are grouped pictures of Mr. Willard, Frances, Oliver and Mary. There is a picture of the statue of Miss Willard which stands in the Capitol at Washington, D. C., the artist's model of the bas-relief in the State House at Albany, New York, and a photograph of the bust by Lorado Taft in the library of Northwestern University.

In the corner is the organ always used, in preference to the piano, at family prayers. There are books and books, many of them the gifts





THE  
STAIRWAY

of the authors. An album is filled with pictures of Miss Willard's namesakes, whom she always remembered at family prayers. In an annotated Testament on the center table are these meaningful words—words from the last prayer of Mother Willard at family worship: "May we feel that we are so linked to Thee, that no harm can come to us in this or any world." A beautiful volume is inscribed, "1893, England's Welcome to Frances E. Willard, Founder of the World's Woman's Christian

Temperance Union." The cover is dotted with the monogram, "W.C.T.U.," in gold and within are an illuminated address of

welcome and letters of greeting signed with many illustrious names.

On a shelf of the closely filled bookcases are the samplers made by Miss Willard and her sister Mary. "Miss Willard was fourteen and Mary eleven when they made these samplers, and this is the only piece of 'finished' needlework Miss Willard ever did. While sampler-making belonged to an earlier period, Madam Willard placed a high value on this variety of stitching and doubtless taught the sampler-makers many lessons concerning life's good examples." Thus writes Mrs. Stevens, in describing Miss Willard's home.

The brass andirons at the fireplace and the candle-sticks on the mantel are more than one hundred years old and are the gift of Mrs.

Stevens. A handsome rocker bears a silver plate showing it to be a gift from the New York State W. C. T. U.

In the hall are pictures of Forest Home, the farmhouse near Janesville, Wisconsin, where Miss Willard's childhood was "invested, not spent," as she declared. Here, too, is the family pledge. A cabinet at the end of the hall holds some of the stones from historic places, sent by persons of world-wide fame, at the time of the celebration of Miss Willard's fiftieth birthday. Many of these stones were placed in the cairn in the garden, but some of the choicest, together with a book containing the names of all who contributed to the cairn, are kept in this cabinet.

Here also are Miss Willard's wheel, "Gladys," and the music-box given her by Countess Somers, Lady Henry Somerset's mother. When this music-box was to be made, Miss Willard was asked what music she would most enjoy and she instantly replied, "the hymns that mother loved best." So the visitor hears, "How firm a foundation;" "Nearer, my God, to Thee;" "While the days are going by;" "There is a land of pure delight;" "Home, sweet home" and "In heavenly love abiding."

Opposite the parlor is Miss Gordon's office. Here is the handsome desk presented by the white ribboners of the nation. For some time Miss Willard used this desk in her "Den," but later she preferred that Miss Gordon should utilize it for the filing of letters and documents, for which its scores of compartments make it remarkably convenient.



A SOUVENIR OF MISS GORDON'S  
CHILDHOOD

Most interesting are a set of tiny pewter dishes and a toy village—Miss Willard's childhood toys. Near by are a cup and saucer that once were John Wesley's. One does not think of Susanna Wesley as having had time for personal adornment, but here are a pair of earrings and bits of lace and ribbon that were hers. These Wesley souvenirs



were given to Miss Willard by a descendent of the Wesley family, on the occasion of her address in John Wesley's church in London.

In the dining room is the table from which Miss Willard ate her "daily bread," and

the place at which she sat is often marked with a vase of flowers. On the sideboard are the individual tea-set of daintiest china, given to Madam Willard on her eightieth birthday by Mr. and Mrs. John B. Gough; and the "Tee Total" plate, made in the days of the Washingtonian temperance movement; the silver goblet given Miss Willard by her pupils in the Grove School, Evanston; the "Old Oaken Bucket" water pitcher often used on the Willard table and several pieces of rare old blue china from Maine, presented by Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens. In the pretty wall cupboard are preserved many pieces of handsome china, gifts to Miss Willard on her fiftieth birthday.

The set of nature pictures—Japanese scenery—one for each month of the year, was the gift of Mrs. Hannah Whitall Smith. The case-ment windows open upon a picture quite as beautiful. Winter or summer, this lawn is the playground of birds and squirrels, for whom pro-



THE PARLOR

vision of nuts and crumbs is never failing. A Baltimore oriole flashes in and out in cherry-blossom time; from vines and trees comes occasionally the voice of one or another bird friend; robins are legion; and the sparrow is ever present. There is the "dove-cot"—now usurped by the squirrels—and below it is the cairn of precious stones sent from far and near at the time of Miss Willard's fiftieth birthday celebration.

Miss Gordon deems it a sacred privilege to preserve the rooms of the original Rest Cottage, now her home, with their furnishings, just as they were used by Miss Willard and her mother. She spares no expense to keep this home in perfect repair, often saying she feels that the personal property, although willed to her, is only in her care as a sacred trust, and it is a joy to her to thus share this precious home with every person in the world over whose heart gleams the white ribbon badge of W. C. T. U. membership.

The name Rest Cottage

now applies not only to the original cottage, but to a second residence close beside it, built by Frances E. Willard's sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary B. Willard, and after some years purchased by Miss Willard, who then rented it to white ribboners and friends. This newer house, now the property



MISS GORDON'S OFFICE



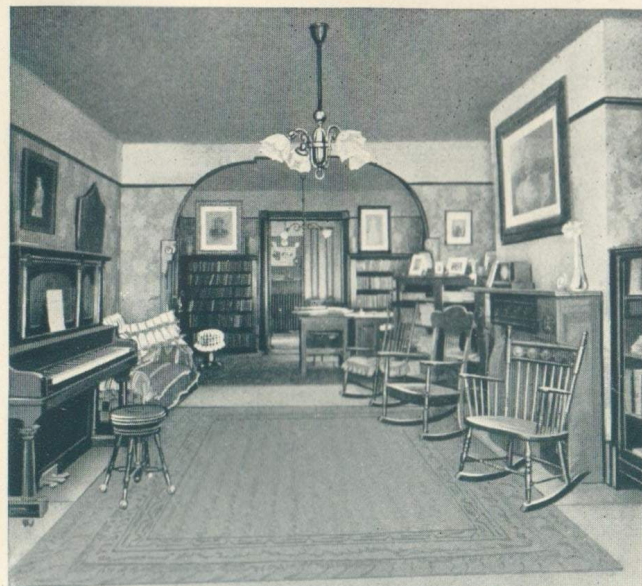
of the National W. C. T. U., has been named The Willard in memory of Frances E. Willard and her mother. Here are located the pleasant, spacious reception room and library, and the commodious administration offices of the organization.

One-half of the Rest Cottage property, consisting of the two houses and land, was bequeathed by Miss Willard to Mrs. Mary B. Willard and her daughters for their life-time use, and one-half, under the same terms, to Miss Anna A. Gordon. By the stipulations of Miss Willard's will, the National W. C. T. U. is the final legatee of both houses and the extensive lot on which they are situated. In 1903 the National W. C. T. U. purchased from Mrs. Mary B. Willard and her daughters their life interest, and thus became at once the owner of one-half the entire estate. By mutual agreement the National W. C. T. U. occupied the newer home, and Miss Gordon during her life time owns the old home, where she spent many radiant years with Frances E. Willard and her mother.

At the first approach to Rest Cottage, visitors hesitate a moment on noting the two inviting entrances at 1728 and 1730 Chicago Avenue. Over one of the porches (1730 Chicago Avenue) swings an



THE DINING ROOM



RECEPTION ROOM THE WILLARD

This room contains many interesting pictures of past and present leaders; the famous "Crusade Poster" attracts immediate attention; Exposition prize awards attest the presence at the great Expositions of W. C. T. U. exhibits of past years, and the fact that they were successfully planned. A case of souvenirs rewards examination for those who wish to carry away some visible token of their visit. A guest book containing thousands of autographs of visitors from all parts of the world claims the caller's signature.

On the first floor of the Headquarters building, back of the reception room and library, are two offices, one of which is the editorial office of *The Young Crusader*. Here visitors are shown samples of literature published and for sale by the National W. C. T. U. On the second floor are the large and convenient offices of the National corresponding secretary and the National treasurer, the pleasant office of the Headquarters secretary of the Young People's Branch and the cozy suite of

attractive sign, "National Woman's Christian Temperance Union," giving information which quickly decides the question for the Headquarters caller, who on entering is cordially welcomed in the large reception room and library of National W. C. T. U. Headquarters.



two rooms occupied by the housemother and caretaker of the entire Rest Cottage building. She is the only resident at National W. C. T. U. Headquarters, all who come to The Willard during office hours having homes in Evanston, or not far away.

The two residences are connected by inside doors, making it possible for Miss Gordon, even though personally absent on W. C. T. U. engagements, to keep Miss Willard's home open to visitors each business day. Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens, National W. C. T. U. President, spends much time at National Headquarters. Her office is a large front room in the second story of Miss Willard's home.

Walking through the Headquarters offices with a group of callers, one is frequently asked, "Is this Miss Willard's old home?" "Are we now in the rooms where she once lived?" Many are surprised at the negative reply received, but quickly note the change from the activities of National W. C. T. U. Headquarters, as they are conducted into the quiet rooms of Miss Willard's cherished home.

"Only the golden rule of Christ can bring the golden age of man,"—the sentiment original with Frances E. Willard—lingers long in the mind and influences the life of the visitor to Rest Cottage and the Headquarters of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.



