

# From Archives to Data: Creating a Research Database to Document the Black Women of the WCTU

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
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	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	Sojourner Truth, 1947-50		U	NWCTU Annual Leaflet 1947, p. 55; 1948, p. 54; 1949, p. 53; 1950, p. 54	
3 Lanier*	Ida									NWCTU Annual Leaflet 1902, p. 20; 1903, p. 23; 1905, p. 24	
4 Lawson	Rosett									NWCTU Annual Leaflet 1897, p. 32; 98, p. 33; p. 32; 1904, p. 37; p. 39; 1906, p. 44; p. 36; 1908, p. 36; p. 19; 1910, p. 19; 1911, 1912, p. 22; 1913, p. 23; 22; 1915, p. 21; 1916, 1917, p. 24; 1918, p. 28; 28; 1920, p. 25; 1921, 1924, p. 28; 1925, p. 28	Yes
5 Lee	Mary E									"Women of Distinction" p. 301	
6 Lee	Sophi									WCTU Minutes 1912, p. 1924, p. 28	



*SAA Research Forum, July 19, 2023*

*Presenter: Janet Olson, Archivist*

*Frances Willard House Museum & WCTU Archives*

*Evanston IL <http://www.franceswillardhouse.org>*

# 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*





# A Little Context for our Current Project



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

# Current Project: Creating a Database from Archival Sources

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
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 Organizers' Reports p. 190-191; "As They Climb" p. 215ff.; US (Nov 25 1897); NWCTU Annual 1897, p. 32; 98, p. 33; 1903, 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. 22; 1912, p. 22; 1913, p. 23; 1914, p. 22; 1915, p. 21; 1916, p. 28; 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. 246	
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.

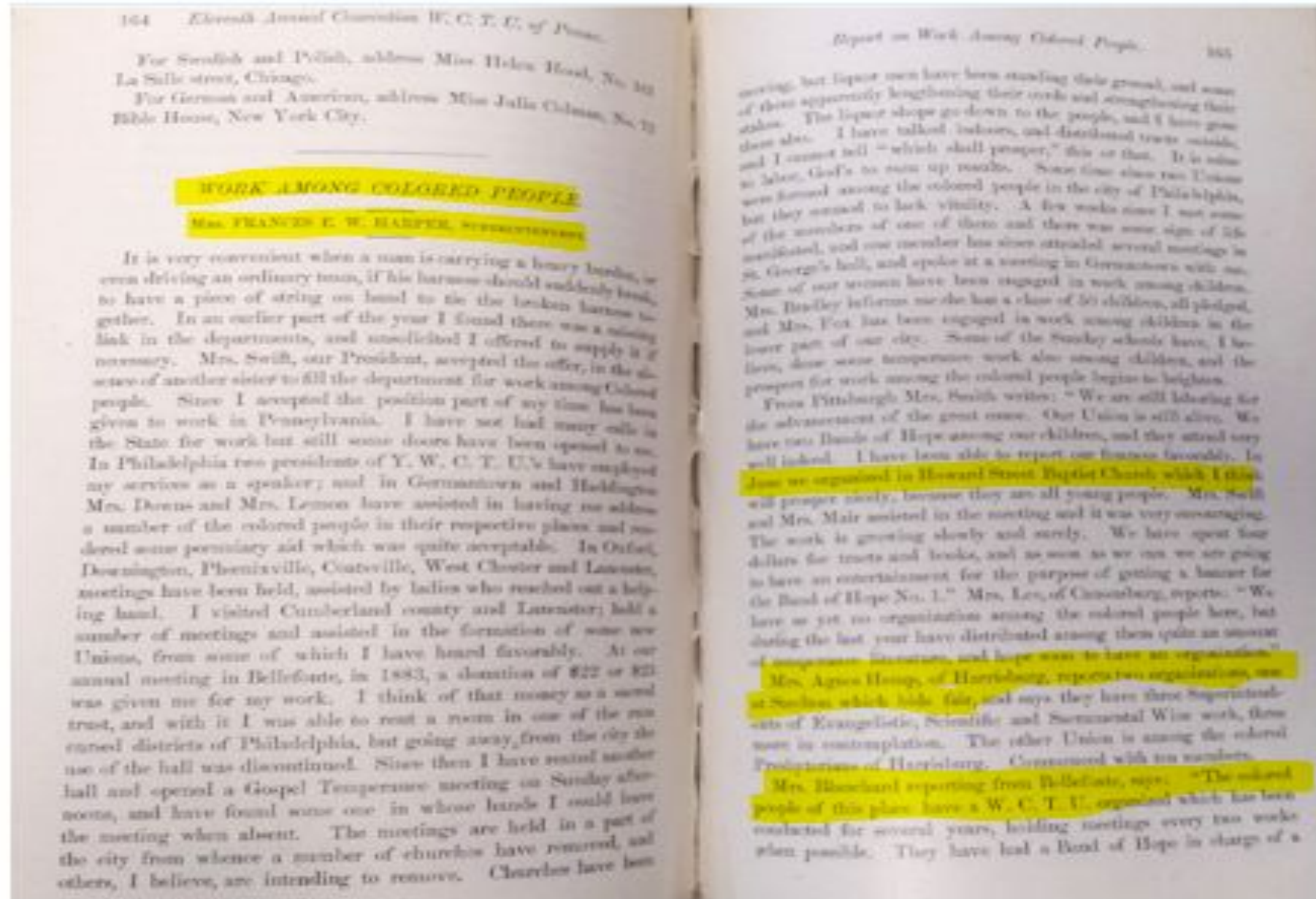
*For Names and Addresses of County Presidents, see list of State Vice Presidents, page 3.*

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, . . . .	Mrs. L. S. Johns, . . . .	Mrs. W. H. Wrigley.
Allegheny, . . . .	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. W. J. Phillips, . . . .	Mrs. J. R. McKee.
Glenfield, . . . .	Mrs. A. M. Bailie, . . . .	Mrs. J. R. Harrison.
McKeesport, . . . .	Mrs. Joseph Ramsay, . . . .	Mrs. S. T. Mitchell.
Mansfield Valley, . . . .	Miss Eleanor Grubbs, . . . .	Miss Sarah Grubbs.
New Texas, . . . .	Mrs. R. B. Paden, . . . .	Mrs. H. L. Kallenbaugh.
Bellevue, (Robella P. O.)	Mrs. G. T. Miller, . . . .	Mrs. Charles Hook.
Port Perry, . . . .	Mrs. Jennie Brown, . . . .	Miss Dessy McCaslin.
Port Perry, No. 2, . . . .	Mrs. B. C. Christy, . . . .	
Sewickley, . . . .	Mrs. John Lewis, . . . .	Mrs. S. E. Wahl, Etna.
Sharpsburg, . . . .	Mrs. Wills, . . . .	
Wilkinsburg, . . . .	Mrs. Rev. Stockton, . . . .	Mrs. W. W. Grier.
Verona, . . . .	Mrs. E. Sauters, McDonald.	Miss M. E. A. McClean, Noblestown.
Fayette Township, . . . .	Mrs. Dr. E. P. Jennings, . . . .	
Stoop's Ferry, . . . .	Mrs. Dr. Thomas Galbraith, . . . .	Mrs. Julia B. Fulton.
Tarentum, . . . .	Miss Maggie E. Morgan, . . . .	Mrs. Thomas Lesnett.
Bridgeville, . . . .	Mrs. G. Gillelen, . . . .	Miss Maggie W. Lukens.
Brinton Station, . . . .	Mrs. M. L. McClure, . . . .	Mrs. Lillian Pence.
Beltzhoover, . . . .		
* <b>Armstrong County.</b>		
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)



## 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. 8, following several years of work by Mrs. C. J. Clark, superintendent for Onondaga county of Work Among Colored People.



# Gathering the Data: An Iterative\* Process

- Designing & Refining the Spreadsheets
- Creating a Manual for Data-Gatherers
  - How to look for names
  - How to enter data
  - How to confirm the data with ancestry.com etc
- Pilot Programs: <https://franceswillardhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-2022-Report.pdf>
- Creating context for data-gatherers
  - The structure of the WCTU
  - Heat maps & population stats
  - Changes over in time in US Census rules
  - Changes in admin structure, reporting formats
  - Other sources
- Meanwhile: Promote, promote, promote

\*I hate the word iterative

Background photo:  
Summer 2022 interns at work in  
the WCTU Archive



# From Archives to Data: Sheet 1 (Individuals): Data from WCTU of Kansas state reports

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	last_name	last_name_source	first_name	first_name_source	alternate_name	alternate_name_source	date_of_birth	date_of_birth_source	date_of_death
2	Anderson	"Noted Negro Women" 1893 p. 83f	Naomi	"Noted Negro Women" 1893 p. 83f			1843		
3	Boyd	NWCTU Minutes 1904 p. 207/NWCTU Minutes 1905 p. 224	Abbie C.	NWCTU Minutes 1904 p. 207/NWCTU Minutes 1905 p. 224			1844		
4	Cordry	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 7	Mrs. E. J.	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 7					
5	Dillard	Alexander Street "Mamie Dillard"	Mamie	Alexander Street "Mamie Dillard"	Mary Jane		1874		1954
6	Germmett	NWCTU Minutes 1908 p. 234/NWCTU Minutes 1911 p. 202	Mattie	NWCTU Minutes 1908 p. 234/NWCTU Minutes 1911 p. 202	Grimmett	NWCTU Minutes 1916 p. 180			
7	Grimmett	NWCTU Minutes 1916 p. 180	Mattie R.	NWCTU Minutes 1916 p. 180					
8	Hellard	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3 5	Lillie	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3 5					
9	Hill	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 8	Miss Belle	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 8					
10	Merritt	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3 16	Mrs. D.	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3 16					
11	Merritt	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 16	Gertrude	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 16					
12	Mitchell	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 4	Miss M.J.	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 4					
13	Smith	"Women of Distinction" 1893 p. 187	Lucy	"Women of Distinction" 1893 p. 187	maiden	"Women of Distinction" 1893 p. 187			
14	Tracy	NWCTU Minutes 1900 p. 201	Annie M.	NWCTU Minutes 1900 p. 201					

J	K	L	M	N	O	
1	date_of_death_source	state	state_abbr	town	location_source	wctu_role
2		Kansas	KS	Wichita	"Noted Negro Women" 1893 p. 83f	Member of WCTU in Wichita circa 1893
3		Kansas	KS		NWCTU Minutes 1904 p. 207/NWCTU Minutes 1905 p. 224	State Superintendent for Work Among Colored People 1904-05
4		Kansas	KS	Mahaska	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 7	Fifth District Superintendent for Work among Colored 1890
5		Kansas	KS	Lawrence	Alexander Street "Mamie Dillard"	Joined WCTU in 1892 and wrote encouraging other Black women to join
6		Kansas	KS		NWCTU Minutes 1908 p. 234/NWCTU Minutes 1911 p. 202	State Superintendent of Work Among Colored People 1908 1911
7		Kansas	KS		NWCTU Minutes 1916 p. 180	State Superintendent of Work Among Colored People 1916
8		Kansas	KS	Mound City	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3 5	State Superintendent for Work among Colored 1890 / Second District Superintendent for Work among Colored 1890
9		Kansas	KS	Hutchinson	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 8	Seventh District Superintendent for Work among Colored 1890
10		Kansas	KS	North Topeka	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3 16	State Superintendent for Evangelistic Work among Colored 1890 / President of North Topeka Colored 1890
11		Kansas	KS	North Topeka	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 16	Corresponding Secretary of North Topeka Colored 1890
12		Kansas	KS	Leavenworth	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 4	First District Superintendent for Work among Colored 1890
13		Kansas	KS	Wyandotte	"Women of Distinction" 1893 p. 187	Secretary of Wyandotte WCTU 1884
14		Kansas	KS	Logan	NWCTU Minutes 1900 p. 201	State Superintendent of Work Among Colored People 1900

P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	
1	wctu_role_source	union_name	union_name_source	union_location	union_location_source	union_dates	union_dates_source	race_confirmation
2	"Noted Negro Women" 1893 p. 83f							Likely Not African American
3	NWCTU Minutes 1904 p. 207/NWCTU Minutes 1905 p. 224							
4	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 7							
5	Alexander Street "Mamie Dillard"							
6	NWCTU Minutes 1908 p. 234/NWCTU Minutes 1911 p. 202							
7	NWCTU Minutes 1916 p. 180							
8	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3 5							
9	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 8							
10	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3 16							Unconfirmed
11	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 16							
12	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 4							
13	"Women of Distinction" 1893 p. 187							
14	NWCTU Minutes 1900 p. 201							

X	Y	Z	AA	AB	
1	race_confirmation_notes	race_confirmation_source	notes	notes_source	researcher_name
2				"Noted Negro Women" 1893 p. 83f	Amelia Perkins
3	Likely White based on Abbie C. Boyd from Falls Kansas in the 1900 US Census.	Age and Race found in 1900 US Census.		NWCTU Minutes 1904 p. 207/NWCTU Minutes 1905 p. 224	Amelia Perkins
4					Kristin Jacobsen
5				Alexander Street "Mamie Dillard"	Amelia Perkins
6				NWCTU Minutes 1908 p. 234/NWCTU Minutes 1911 p. 202	Amelia Perkins
7				NWCTU Minutes 1916 p. 180	Amelia Perkins
8					Kristin Jacobsen
9					Kristin Jacobsen
10	Unable able to find in 1895 state census	Ancestry.com search	843 Quincy Street North Topeka	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 3	Kristin Jacobsen
11					Kristin Jacobsen
12			416 Ottawa Street Leavenworth	Kansas Annual Report 1890 p. 4	Kristin Jacobsen
13				"Women of Distinction" 1893 p. 187	Kristin Jacobsen
					Amelia Perkins

Fields (27)
Last Name
Source
First Name
Source
Alternate Name
Source
Date of Birth
Source
Date of Death
Source
State
State Abbr.
Town
Source
WCTU Role
Source
Union Name
Source
Union Location
Source
Union Date
Source
Race Confirmation
Source
Notes
Researcher Name

## From Archives to Data:

### An excerpt from the Illinois Spreadsheet, Sheet 1, including Union names/towns

	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 Secr	Progressive
22	Gibson	Julia		Peoria	Illinois Annual Report 1915 p. 150	President	Elizabeth E. Peterson (Color
23	Gray	Estella		Springfield	Illinois Annual Report 1912 p. 216	Treasurer 1912-1913	Springfield Colored/Springfi
24	Greene	Mae C.		Galesburg	Illinois Annual Report 1921 p. 104	Corresponding Secretary	Galesburg No. 2
25	Hall	Belle/Isabel	Isabella	Elgin/Aurora	Illinois Annual Report 1898 p. 228	Elgin President 1898 1899/Aur	Elgin (Lucy Thurman)/Auror

### Confirming the Data using Ancestry.com (Census, etc.) and other sources:

#### Another excerpt from the Illinois Spreadsheet, Sheet 1

	last_name	last_name_source	first_name
2	Adams	Illinois Annual Report 1910 p. 170	Katherine
3	Albritton	Illinois Annual Report 1910 p. 184	Mary
4	Anderson	Illinois Annual Report 1927 p.112	Genevia
5	Apger/Apgar	Illinois Annual Report 1925 p.	Ella
6	Arant/Avant	Illinois Annual Report 1926 p.	Naomi/Naome
7	Ashworth	Illinois Annual Report 1944 p. 89	Minnie
8	Austin	Illinois Annual Report 1922 p. 118	E.
9	Bailey	Illinois Annual Report 1941 p. 101	Mrs. I.J.
10	Barlow	Illinois Annual Report 1921 p. 92	J.
11	Barnett	Illinois Annual Report 1920 p.	Arizona
12	B...	Illinois Annual Report 1931 p.	Fl...

**Green:** Sources confirm that the individual was Black.

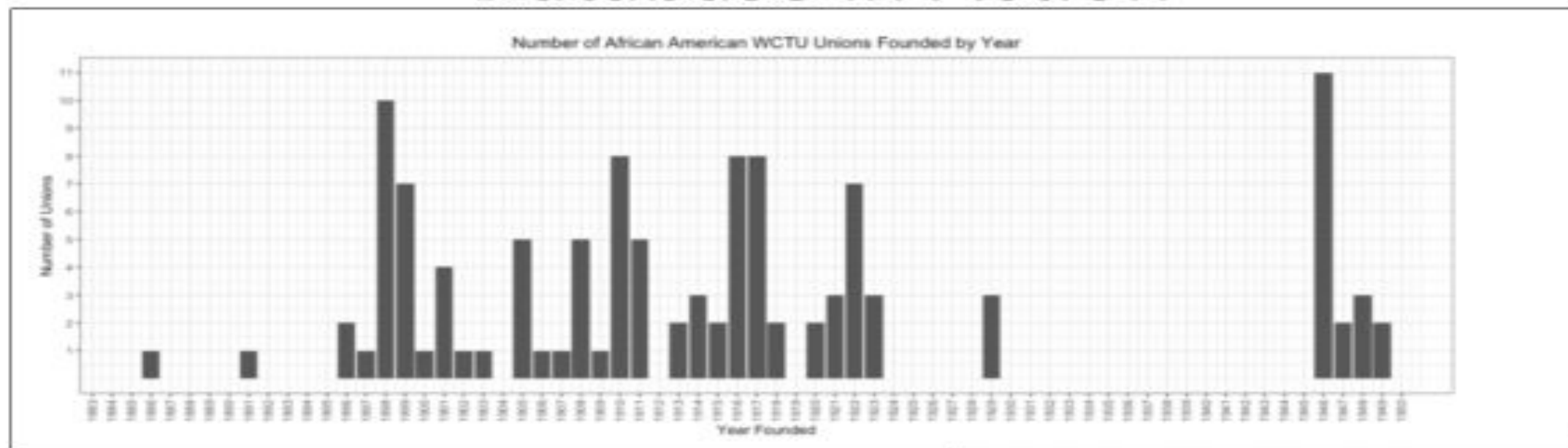
**Blue:** Sources indicate that it is likely that the individual was Black.

**Pink:** Sources are inconclusive on whether the individual was Black.

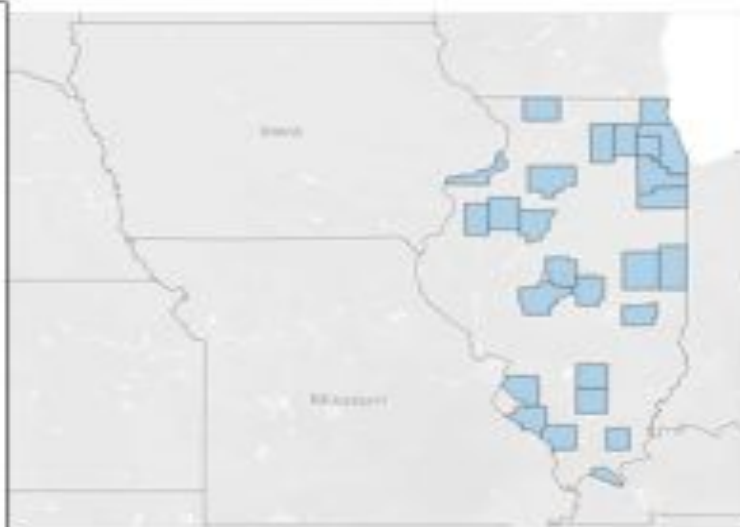
**Yellow:** Source confirm that the individual was White.



# Database in Action



Illinois Counties with Black Unions, 1898-1950



Visualizations by Adam Raczowski

## NEXT STEPS

Keep working our way through state records on site with the help of interns and volunteers

Determine and set up best data management/delivery system for partial/ongoing access

Develop ways to crowdsource despite undigitized records

Develop contacts & ways to make use of records that exist in other repositories

- Create an advisory committee, establish partnerships & collaborations
- Continue to publicize, promote, engage
- Go for a big grant

## CHALLENGES

**Lack of staff, time, and funds**

**Limited technical knowledge**

**Almost none of our records are digitized, & must be consulted on site**

**Our records are incomplete (although we know where to find missing material)**



**For Much More Information about the “Black Women of the WCTU” Project:**

**Contact:** Janet Olson, Archivist/Project Leader: [archives@franceswillardhouse.org](mailto: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>

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](http://www.franceswillardhouse.org)

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

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