

Alcohol Problems Council of Wisconsin

"Encouraging Alcohol Free Living"

Teetotalers on our Family Tree – Part 1

Who was the woman about whom her obituaries said that "next to Queen Victoria," she was "the most influential woman of the age?"

Of the 100 statues in the US Capitol (2 for each state), hers is the only woman's statue.

She was one of the early women's college presidents;

She often traveled ten to thirty thousand miles a year;

She wrote many books, and ran the largest women's newspaper in the world;

She gave countless speeches, and promoted women's rights, suffrage, equal pay for equal work, and an eight-hour day.

She was a successful lobbyist, and an expert in forming public opinion. In her time, she was the best-known suffrage leader, better known than Susan B. Anthony.



Her name is **Frances Willard**. She was President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She believed that the overuse of alcohol was connected to many other social problems. Alcoholic men spent their money on liquor and had no legal obligation to support their wives and children. In divorce, the same alcoholics were awarded the children. The liquor trade held a disproportionate share of public offices and was involved in corruption, crime, and vote-buying. By the year 1900, one of every 116 Americans was employed in the liquor industry.

Francis Willard was right. Alcohol and addictive drugs are still connected to a multitude of social problems. Crime, unemployment, lower productivity, abuse and a multitude of physical, mental and emotional health problems are related to alcohol and other addictive drugs.

Abstinence is still a faithful option, exercised as a witness to the power of God to overcome these many interconnected problems.

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Leading Feminist of the Nineteenth Century

In the Capitol in Washington, D. C., each state is represented by a statue of its most honored citizen. Of all the fifty states only Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, is represented by a woman. Her name is Frances Willard.

At the time of her death in 1898, Frances Willard was the most famous woman in America. Flags flew at half-mast in New York, Chicago, and Washington, D. C. She died in New York, and her body was transported by rail to Chicago, pausing for services along the way like a presidential funeral train. In Chicago, 30,000 persons filed by her casket in one day. Ruth Bordin writes, "The nation mourned her with a grief, admiration, and respect it would have bestowed on a great national hero or martyred president. No woman before or since was so clearly on the day of her death this country's most honored woman."

Purpose statement: "The purpose of the Alcohol Problems Council of Wisconsin is to promote abstinence from alcohol as a granting agency and a clearinghouse to the faith community."

Contact information:
Jim Cotter, Secretary
jcotter@wisconsinumc.org
222 S. Dickason Blvd.
Columbus, WI 53925
(920) 623-3625

**If you wish to support our work,
Please send contributions to:**
Reverend David Busker
2227 Fourth St.
Monroe, WI 53566
(608)-325-4503

**For Additional Information:
Check out our website.**

alcoholproblemswi.org

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