

Earle Johnson's Work on

Oldest Houses in

Our

1939

Annals

Key West



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THEME BOOK

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SAVE THIS COVER! SEE FULL STORY OF KEY WEST
ON BACK OF *THE ANNALS OF KEY WEST*

Edle Johnson spent a part of his life travelling around the world. Many items in the home are from his collections -

Cavendish Trunk from Japan China
Pigskin Trunk from Japan
Part of Lacquer Table from Japan

Stephen W. Douglas was in the navy for 40 years, travelling around the world. He brought the bronze vases, incense burner, Cloisonné vases, Japanese Album of Views, Virgin's Lamp from Pompeii, Japanese Family Shrine.

Capt. Francis Watlington brought many items in the course of his ports he visited around the world
Fans, jewelry furniture

Much of the furniture was brought down in 1829 by schooner

Red upholstered Love seat, rocker

Marble Top Tables

Marble Top dresser - Bureau

Wardrobes - Highboy

Buffet

Mirror Bed. ^{Victorian} much later!
1829!

Wine bottle - Three leg table -

~ Oldest House ~

Well, isn't that quaint? It is so different. Look at those different size dormers. There are just a few of the eaves that float over the banisters of the Oldest House.

And the passing public is right.

The house is different from others in town that are high staired, balconied or double tiered porches, Norman type houses or mansard type roofs of the eighties or nineties.

The house has been in possession of only the Watlington family since located at its present site.

Much of the old furniture and furnishings are still in the house. The slave quarters were at the rear.

Back of The Oldest House is The Old Cook-House. A kitchen built in 1829¹⁸³² for the slaves to use in preparing food for the Watlington Family. A five foot open hearth and three foot Dutch Ovens were the only cooking facilities in those days.

~ History of Oldest House ~

In 1825 Capt. Cussons sent to New England to have six houses cut and made to order of mahogany and cedar. They were brought here on the Navy ship Shark and assembled at the foot of Whitehead Street to be used by the military. Captain Francis, and wife Emeline, Watlington came to Key West in 1829. In 1832 the house

was moved on rollers, pulled by ropes, by mules, using a windlass.

Capt. Francis Watlington was a sea captain, owning the ship "Hesta" that travelled around the world buying merchandise for Enalines family ^{owned 1/2 of Staten Island} - Queen stores in N.Y.

In 1832 there was just a path leading to the harbor with a foot bridge over the Lagoon where Caroline St. is now.

The house was put on high stone pillars because the water came up to Caroline Street and the family was afraid that storms would wash the house away.

In tying for a son, nine daughters were born to the Watlingtons. The youngest daughter, Elizabeth Lily, never married and lived in the house 82 years.

A granddaughter, Lily Roberts Todd, came to spend a few days on her honeymoon and stayed 55 years.

In 1900-10 part of the house was used as a public library.

In 1947 May L. Douglass, a granddaughter, opened the house as a museum. It was closed at her death in 1956.

As the family grew, the upstairs was expanded. A large dormer was built on the front and one on the back to make room and take advantage of the prevailing winds.

about The Oldest House -

Richard W.
Cassans

Captain Cassans built house entirely of Cedar
in year 1825 on Whitehead St. (Navy Yard Site)
Between Whitehead & Duval Sts.



1832 Captain Francis Wallington moved house to
#322 Duval Street

Pulled on rollers by mules with windlass & ropes

1839 Richard W. and Rafaela Cassans
to William H. Wall

1842 To Nicholas D. Herder of New York

To Emeline Wallington

Story:-

1825

Capt. Richard W. Cassans ordered six houses prefabricated
in New England entirely of Cedar and Mahogany to with-
stand Key West's climate and termites. They were shipped
down on U.S.S. Schooner Shark and set up on Whitehead
Beach, between Whitehead & Duval Sts, to be used by

the Commodore Porter campaign of ridding

Capt. Richard W. and Oldest House
at Count House

Rafaela Cassans 1839

to William H. Wall

To Nicholas D. Herder 1842

of New York

Private. When the campaign
es were offered for public sale.

August 26, 1815 Don Juan de Estrada, Spanish Governor of Florida transferred to Juan Pablo Salas, by Grant, Key West.
1819 Territorial Govt was established in Florida.

Feb 7, 1822 Lt. M.C. Perry Commander of U.S. Schooner
Shark

Mar. 25th, 1822 Possession formally proclaimed as Thompson Island
Harbor was Port Rogers for U.S. of Navy.

Some officers & men were left on island, dwelling in tents.
1822 Commodore Porter assembled 21 Naval Craft to rid the area of Pirates. ^{Steamboat} "See Gull".

At end of 1822, Key West was a regularly constituted Naval Depot
Commanded by Commodore Porter. and Station.

1824 Company of Marines Stationed here. Barracks were
erected, fronting harbor between Duval & Whitehead Sts.

In 1831 they were sold & removed.

1831 Major James M. Glasel arrived with 2 companies of Infantry.
Quartered at 10 acres of land (Trang Point)

1844 New Buildings were erected

1845 Fort Taylor begun

1846 " " washed away. ^{Radius in cemetery would sweep foot of Whitehead} Lighthouse on Whitehead Point vanished

1861-1865 " completed

1856 U.S. Depot, Whitehead & Front Sts. near Custom House established 1822

1845 Marine Hospital built between Custom House & Fort Taylor

1861-1873 Martello Towers and Land Batteries

1831 Population 300

1832 City of Key West incorporated (81 blds in town) value \$65,923.75

1835 Population 600

1843 Charles Howe controlled salt industry

1831 H. Wall established Cigar Factory ^{Dum (4 Feb)}

1876 Cigar Factories, 2100 employees, 62,415,000 Cigars per year.

1832 Capt Francis Worthington was among first St Pauls incorporators.
1860 2302 Whites 160 colored 451 slaves -