

Letter to “Garth” found in OIRF Records

(No date on letter)

Dear Garth,

Several years have passed since I have mentioned our mutual interest in 322 Duval St.

The main reason has been that in my researching and contacting the members of the family, a shocking and unhappy situation was uncovered. Perhaps you knew that your favorite “Watlington Sister” had an illegitimate child. I never knew about it, even when counting the heirs with Aunt May, Cousin Sallie Sawyer, your mother, Aunt Lily, etc.

In Florida and California a person inherits property through their mother. That would make this daughter (Ella) a legitimate heir, making six “Watlington Sisters” who had issue to share the estate. That reduced all of our shares by 20%.

After years of negotiating with this branch of the family, in California, I now have deeds to their share.

I have been in Miami for 3 months, repairing damage done to two houses I own on 106th St, by two terrible tenants. I do not have my data with me, but I think you are the only one, besides me, owning more than a \$75 share #322 Duval St.

There is no real advantage for me to get a clear title to the property except to be able to leave it unencumbered to someone or some organization that will keep the place up as a landmark, or museum.

I had planned to work on the house this summer instead of taking my annual trip to Europe. These Miami houses have spoiled my plans but I plan to get a FHA loan to paint and repair the outside when I return. I have kept the interior in good shape and used gallons of Woodlife to kill termites in furniture and house.

I have sold other real estate in Key West so now can concentrate my whole time working on #322.

Do you have any thoughts about selling me your share? I have bought shares comparable to yours for \$500 down to \$250. Real Estate on Duval Street is at an all time low. Last yer I sold my house at #1214 Duval Street for less than I paid for it in 1948.

The harbor end of Duval Street has had a wonderful face lifting and (several words cut off the page). Key West Restoration Society and David Wol—ley, but no one is making any money, except the Conch Train and David has gone broke with his five efforts.

Grath, can you tell me what schools I went to in Key West? Did we go to the same school? One was a kindergarten type and I started the first grade somewhere in 1908.

(End of letter, no signature)