
RAYS OF DELRAY THE OCEAN CITY

Delray Beach, Florida • Wednesday Morning • April 12, 1922

OCEAN FRONT PROPOSITION

What Abstracts of Title Show and What Gleason Says.

Last Thursday W. H. H. Gleason of Eau Gallie was in town. In a conversation with him as to the ownership of the property at the beach, he stated that all the land east of the east line of lots as platted and sold, and high tide, and inside of the north and the south lines of section 16 belongs to the public as dedicated as per the plat.

From abstracts the editor here-of has been allowed to look over, the following information has been gained: Section 13 was granted to the state of Florida as "school land." Since that time the record is as follows as the ownership.

1. The Board of Education of the State of Florida in consideration of \$1.25 an acre, on November 8, 1871, deeded to Wm. H. Hunt and Sarah G. Gleason, land which included all that bordering on the ocean in section 16.
2. On October 9, 1895, Sarah G. Gleason and her husband, W. H. Gleason, sold to Wm. S. Linton their undivided half interest in the same land, except a tract in lot 3 described as follows: Commencing at high-tide on the Atlantic ocean, thence south along the coast 100 feet, thence west 100 feet at right angle, thence north 100 feet at right angle, thence east to place of beginning, said land having been leased to the United States of America, September 1 1874. Notice that this was leased- not sold.
3. On November 15, 1895, W. S. Linton and his wife Ida M. Linton, mortgaged the property mentioned in number 2, to Sarah G. Gleason.
4. On July 29, 1896, a plat of the town of Linton was put on record, which plat shows a row of 2.5 acre lots along the ocean beach the entire width of section 16. Said lots facing on a strip of land of varying width along the beach designated as Ocean Road. W. H. H. Gleason thinks that the present ocean boulevard is west of the strip dedicated as Ocean Road, and thus across the east end, more or less, of the lots as platted and sold.
5. November 7, 1898, Master's deed to Sarah G. Gleason as result of foreclosure of mortgage against Linton mentioned in 3.
6. September 27, 1899, quitclaim deed to Sarah G. Gleason from Ella M. Potter and husband , George Potter and Belle G. Reese and her husband, T. T. Reese, heirs of George W. Hunt, deceased, for undivided one-half interest as shown in 1. This gives Sarah G. Gleason complete ownership.

7. The plat mentioned in 4 was put on file by Linton who had only an undivided one-half interest title, and that subject to a mortgage. Hence any dedication he made of property for public use, in the absence of some act of others interested to signify approval, was not binding. So on October 27, 1899, Sarah G. Gleason files a second plat of the town of Linton in so far as her full and free ownership extended. Thus the dedication of all lands for street or other public use became absolute.

So it is, that a strip of land 150 to 200 feet wide along the ocean beach across section 16, which is one mile, belongs to the public and is under the control of the county commissioners. Subject, however, to the lot 100 feet square leased to the government as mentioned in 2. But as Sarah Gleason dedicated this land to public use, it automatically passes to the public at the expiration of the lease. Therefore, what were the terms of the lease becomes of public interest. Perhaps it has already expired.

So it is that the public owes to the once Sarah G. Gleason every pleasure it many enjoy along one mile of ocean beach at Delray. Let us take steps to improve it. Let's convert it into a park and call it "Gleason Park."

When the Ocean Boulevard is completed there will be thousands riding along it who will not see the city of Delray. But we have an opportunity to have such a park at the beach, one mile long, that every traveler on the Boulevard will stop to admire its beauty and inspect the city that is so progressive.

CAN YOU DREAM?

Benjamin can see along that mile of beach, shady tropical trees and flowering plants, and from the center of it a parkway (Atlantic Avenue) leading to the business center of the city. A picture that for beauty only God can make with the assistance of man. And at night the splendor of day somewhat changed by the sparkle of electric lights.

Dare we dream of the great beauty possible for us here? Are we of the incorporated section and the beach section to stand at sword points and ignore the beckoning call of the spirit of Sarah Gleason to "come, finish the beautifying of your surroundings, as I wished you would in my materialistic life among you. My time in material life was too short to complete the work. You who are of this sphere should be preparing to leave behind you some lasting deed of good that future children of God may enjoy.

Note: This excerpt is written verbatim from an early newspaper of Delray Beach named the **Rays of Delray from The Ocean City** dated Wednesday, April 22, 1922. The article was found at the Delray Beach Public Library in 1987 by an Ocean Lifeguard researching historical information about the municipal beach.....