

August 22, 1938

Mildred

You may have heard through good Royall that the question of the Edith inheritance of my grandmother's estate has been decided by the Surrogate in New York in my favor. It is a relief to have the matter settled. As you know, perhaps, Elisina felt this part of the estate should go to her and had asked and received three different legal opinions as to whether she might claim the whole of my grandmother's trust and each legal advisor urged her to accept the compromise offered her on my behalf last autumn of a half and half division. The last report to me was that the half and half division had been verbally agreed to, but the papers had not been signed. I propose to hold to the agreement, which Mr. Delafield feels is "over generous," but I prefer it should be so. Mr. Delafield feels as I do that this arrangement can leave no feeling of acrimony on Elisina's part.

You will also, I know, be relieved to hear that Edith's old butler has not been using funds of Edith's which affect the estate. The question as to this was asked of the executors and estate counsel and both replied they knew of nothing of the sort. It was quite unbelievable to me that a devoted and faithful servant should have involved the estate in any unauthorized debts. Edith trusted White for fifty years and he was in a sense her steward or bailiff at the place at Ste. Claire. I know that Edith discussed various details of the place with him after the time when she was so very ill and she signed her will. She was better again and she spoke to me of certain things he was to attend to and which I would see last winter on my promised visit.

Perhaps you had heard that Mr. Arthur Sachs has resold the Pavillon and that the furniture he does not wish to keep is to be sold at the Hotel Drouot. Already the domestic things have been sold - china, glass, kitchen things, and so on - and I am glad the good Madame Fridorich, Edith's secretary, bought me some of the personal things associated with her at her library writing table, paper case, etc.

It seems hard to realize that in a year there has been so complete an obliteration of the lovely Pavillon. The gardener writes that Mr. Sachs was not interested in the gardens and that they were being ill treated and neglected.

Elisina wrote me a thoughtful letter note in her own small neat hand, just about the time of Edith's death. I was glad she had so far recovered as to be able to do it, and at once answered her at Antigny.

I hope you and Robert are getting a real change and rest at the

ranch and that you wont come back too soon! Davis has sent me the plan of the two new wings, but no photograph of the maquette or elevations have yet come. It isn't possible to "see" anything but the foundations and what they imply.

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss  
c/o Dewey Riddle  
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via Cody, Wyoming.