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The Farrell and Ann Gay Museum of Springfield History  
The Elijah Iles House  
7<sup>th</sup> and Cook Street  
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear Museum Attendees:

It is my pleasure to advise that I have personally studied, evaluated and authenticated the entire Illinois wristwatch collection of Mr. Farrell Gay. Many of these pieces are on display in the museum currently and others will be displayed from time to time.

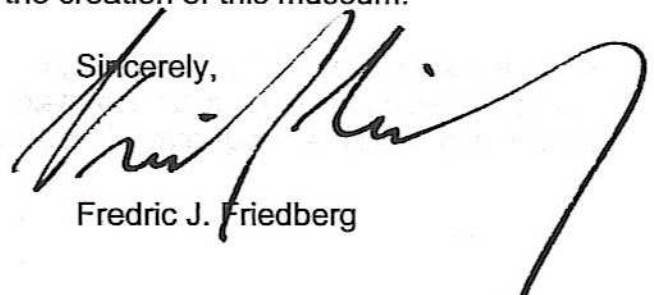
Based upon this examination, I can unequivocally state that the Farrell Gay Illinois Wristwatch Collection is the finest and most complete collection of Illinois wrist watches I have ever seen. Moreover, I know of no collection of lady's Illinois wristwatches that is as diverse and complete as Mr. Gay's.

The overall completeness, variety of models, quality as to condition and mechanical operation is of the highest level. The time and effort devoted to this passionate pursuit of Illinois wristwatches is readily evident in viewing these watches. I marvel at the dedication and friendly manner Farrell used to gather these very rare and difficult to find items, over several decades of diligent searching.

In fact, I used many of the watches from the Farrell Gay Wristwatch Collection to photograph for my book "The Illinois Watch: The Life and Times of A Great American Watch Company." This book also contains photographs of many items of original memorabilia and ephemera that Farrell generously loaned to me or photographed for my use.

The State of Illinois, City of Springfield, horological scholars and all watch collectors are deeply indebted to Farrell and Ann Gay for preserving this valuable piece of American industrial history and sharing it with the public by the creation of this museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fredric J. Friedberg", written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

Fredric J. Friedberg