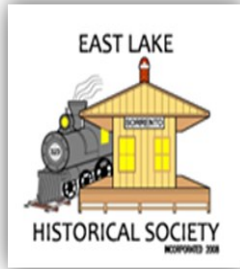
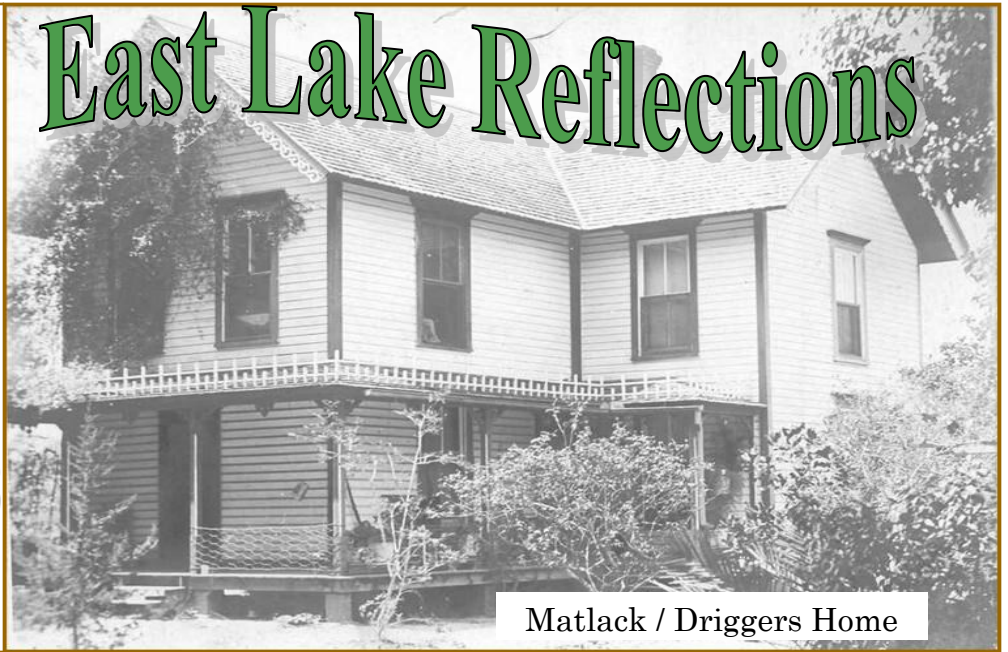


Volume 11 - Issue 2



**December 2018
Edition**

East Lake Reflections



Matlack / Driggers Home

11th Annual Christmas Banquet

The Board of Directors
of the Society would like to invite all members to attend our

***11th Annual
Christmas Banquet***
Monday, December 17th - 7:00 p.m.
Sorrento Church of God
31605 Orange Street-Sorrento

Please RSVP to Maureen at 735-1702
or maureen12@embargmail.com

We need to know the number of people
in your party and the type of
covered dish you will
bring that will serve at
least 12 people.

East Lake Historical Society

Celebrating 10 years

Scott Amey will present
and narrate a slide show that
will take you back in time
celebrating 10 years of service
to our community;
Preserving our History.

The banquet is prepared
exclusively for our Society Mem-
bers
to show our appreciation for
their dedication
and support
of the
Society.



"Looking into the past while keeping an eye on the future"

Published by

East Lake Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Pox 685 - Sorrento, FL 32776

www.eastlakehistoricalsociety.org

eastlakehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

The Story of Annie Belle Driggers-Gilliam

Annie Belle Gilliam was born May 19, 1921 and passed away on November 4, 2018 at the age of 97. She was born in South Carolina and was the youngest of eight children. Her parents Dixie and Mattie Driggers moved to Sorrento when Belle was 2 years old. Some of her family drove in a Model-T Ford and others road the train in boxcars accompanying their mule and other farm animals as they were bound for a new life in Florida. Four days later they arrived in Sorrento on Thanksgiving Day.

At the age of 6 Belle was enrolled in the Sorrento School. Whooping cough was in the family and Belle came down with red measles causing her to become legally blind for awhile, which delayed her high school graduation for 2 years.

After completing four grades in Sorrento her family moved to Apopka and in 1941 she graduated from Apopka High School. Her first job was working at the Economy Store while she also worked for her parents at their store, the Dixie Service Station.

On May 16, 1946 she married Garrett Gilliam and they had 1 daughter Beverly and 1 son Garrett. They bought Garrett's family business and ran it until his death in 1975. They were married for 29 years. Belle continued running their business until after the freeze of 1983 and 1985.

Belle volunteered and supported her community in any way she could. She was a charter member of the Apopka Historical Society, served on the Board for 50 years as President, Vice President, Librarian and Curator, doing research, maintaining scrapbooks and participating as a Docent.

One of the biggest honors in her life was when Mayor John H. Land of Apopka presented Belle with a Proclamation stating;

WHEREAS, On May 22, 2011, an Open House will be held at the Museum of the Apopkans from 1:00 p.m., to 4:00 p.m., to honor Belle on her 90th Birthday and to show our appreciation for all she has done for our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I John H. Land, Mayor of the City of Apopka, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the City of Apopka, do proclaim May 22, 2011 as

"Annie Belle Gilliam Day"

in the City of Apopka and recognize a true servant and friend of the people of the Apopka Community.

Another honor she received the same day was from the Office of the Orange County Mayor

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the citizens of Orange County and the Orange County Mayor to honor Annie Belle Driggers-Gilliam on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Teresa Jacobs, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Orange County Mayor, do here by proclaim Sunday, May 22, 2011 as

Annie Belle Driggers-Gilliam Appreciation Day

In Orange County, Florida, in celebration of the life of Annie Belle Driggers-Gilliam and in recognition of her 90th birthday.

DONE AND ORDERED this 20th day of May, 2011.

Signed by Teresa Jacobs, Orange County Mayor
Attest by Frederick C. Brummer, Orange County Commissioner, District 2.

Maggie Fisher, Conservator

L to R: Belle Driggers-Gilliam and Cathy Driggers-Perry

Cathy is the daughter of Furmon and Mollie Driggers, Owners of Grocery Store, where the museum was.

Belle and Furmon were first cousins.
Belle and Cathy were second cousins.



Christmas in Sorrento in 1886 by Shirley Meade

As related by Miss Hattie Allen, who came to Sorrento when she was three years old.

In 1886 prosperity was at its height, with a train bringing in passengers and supplies. There was a packing house, a drugstore and even a newspaper, the Highland Press with Phillip Isaacs as editor. Sorrento was a busy little village. Thanksgiving meant a community dinner at the Town Hall and Christmas was celebrated at the church with a great Christmas tree, a program of music and recitations and presents for everybody. Santa Claus never failed to appear and he never overlooked anybody when he distributed the gifts.

The hour was late when the festivities were over and the calls of "Merry Christmas" were heard as in wagons, buckboards or walking, the happy friendly people returned to their homes in the village or in their groves among the pine woods.

I can still see in memory the twinkling lanterns moving off in all directions and hear the children saying, "There go the Allens", or "That must be the Registers" and "The Emersons are just starting up the hill."

It must have been an exciting time back in 1886! However, we are living in a completely different era and it seems with all the changes that are happening in our area that our history is being erased. We can't let this happen! Take pictures, write about your life here and memories of yesteryear. Whatever we do, let's keep our history alive!

**East Lake Historical Society
wishes you a
"Very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!"**

**Save This Date - March 16, 2019
6th Annual Heritage Festival - Coming Soon!
Many new activities and events for your entertainment**

**Thank to The Friends of the Library for hosting such a
wonderful Fall Festival and allowing us to set up our Food
Court and Yard Sale.**

**Also, we thank the East Lake County Chamber of Commerce for
allowing us to participate in their Pumpkin Patch.**

President's Message

Sitting in the Pumpkin Patch was a great experience this year. We had a new location at the East Lake Chamber of Commerce on State Road 46, and did we ever sell pumpkins! Twenty members of our Society volunteered a total of 148 hours during the month of October. The Chamber reported the highest sales ever, and our Society received a check for \$864.90 as our share of the profits.

Thank you to all the members who donated their time, and those who bought pumpkins. As the holiday season approaches, the Board of Directors sends its best wishes to you and your family and friends.

Maureen Miller, President

**2018-2019
Board of
Directors**

President

Maureen Miller
352-735-1702

Vice President

Scott Amey
352-308-6960

Secretary

Kathy Baldeck
352-357-1715

Treasurer

Jacci Schwartz
352-483-3099

Historian

Shirley Meade
352-383-2441

Conservator

Maggie Fisher
352-383-3403

Directors

Scott Amey
Caroline Austin
Shirley Grantham
Jose Lopez
Jason Petrashek

~~~~~  
Newsletter Editor  
Maggie Fisher

501(c)3  
Not For Profit

# New & Renewed Memberships

**New Lifetime**

**Individual Member**

James Granger

**New Family Member**

Jason Petrashek and  
Alexandra Haas

**New Individual  
Members**

Charles Grinnell



**Renewed**

**Family Members**

Richard & Sue Baysinger  
Martin & Janet Lieggi  
Jim & Norma Rutledge  
Jim & Barbara Tenney  
Frank & Shirley Meade  
Larry & Julie Daniel  
Darrell & Betty Schroeder  
Jack & Kathy McDonald  
Terry & Pat Scott  
Luther & Macie Bennett  
John Driggers &  
Debby Barrett  
Billy & Lisa DuRant  
Johnny & Norma Jones

**Individual Members**

Caroline Austin  
Tim Bailey  
Jose Lopez  
Frank Lovejoy

**Renewed**

**Business Member**

Treadwell's Nursery

**Membership for  
2018-2019 are due. If  
you haven't sent your  
dues in yet,  
it's not too late.**

*"Your membership dollars along with other donations and fundraising projects makes it possible for us to save toward having a Museum to house and preserve artifacts and memorabilia to educate our community and surrounding area." It also helps to support the activities of the Society; such as, I Made a Difference Award, Preservation projects, Historical Home Awards, research and etc.*

REGISTRATION #CH29410

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE (800) 435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. [www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com)

**Mail Application to:**

East Lake Historical  
Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 685  
Sorrento, FL  
32776

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East Lake  
Historical Society



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East Lake Historical  
Society, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP: (Please check one)

|                        |          |       |                            |          |       |
|------------------------|----------|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------|
| <b>Business</b>        | \$50.00  | _____ | <b>Individual</b>          | \$20.00  | _____ |
| <b>Patron</b>          | \$75.00  | _____ | <b>Student</b>             | \$5.00   | _____ |
| <b>Family</b>          | \$25.00  | _____ | <b>Individual Lifetime</b> | \$150.00 | _____ |
| <b>Family Lifetime</b> | \$250.00 | _____ |                            |          |       |

**Name (s) or Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

Ad-  
dress \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

List Committee(s) you would like to join \_\_\_\_\_