

# East Lake Reflections



**December 2022**

*New  
Time*

# Christmas Banquet & Program

*New  
Place*

East Lake Historical Society  
will hold its  
Annual Christmas Banquet on  
Monday night, December 12, 2022  
at  
Insight Christian Center  
31241 Church Street  
Sorrento

**Program starts at 6:00 pm**

The church doors will be open at  
5:00 pm. Come early so you can pick  
your seat, look around and  
enjoy the ambiance

**Doors will be open at 5:00 PM**

Join us for a fun evening  
of door prizes, games, good food,  
and lots of entertainment.  
Music by "The Usual Suspects"

Please RSVP to  
[Maggiesociety08@gmail.com](mailto:Maggiesociety08@gmail.com)

Would you like to sign up for our  
Pie Tasting Contest?  
We need at least 8 people to bake  
one pie each. If interested email  
Maggie at the email address above.  
You will get a call back with the  
rules of the game.

[eastlakehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:eastlakehistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

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[www.eastlakehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eastlakehistoricalsociety.org)



# East Lake Historical Society



## Message From The President: by Scott Amey

Thank you for electing me as your new president this year. I am very excited for what the future holds for our Society. We are planning on having several field trips this year visiting local historical spots of interest, including other Historical Society Museums.

We will keep you informed thru our East Lake Historical Society **News Flashes**; by email, newsletter, Facebook page and website of the upcoming places, dates and times so we can go together as a Society.

I would like to thank the East Lake County Chamber of Commerce for allowing us to participate in the Pumpkin Patch and especially all those individuals that worked a shift(s) this year. I personally enjoyed the shifts I worked and it was fun being able to talk to new people while representing the Historical Society.

Looking forward to our Christmas Banquet this December and hope to see you there.

## The Platt Family: by Scott Amey, President

Allan Platt and his family moved to Florida from South Carolina in 1954. They had five children. This was in the time of segregation in the South where there were clearly unfair and unequal schooling for African American children.

In the state of Florida at the time one had to go to a "colored school" if they were 1/5<sup>th</sup> African American heritage, according to Florida segregation laws. The Platt family moved to Apopka from South Carolina where they attended white schools. They were of Irish and Cherokee descent. The Platt children were not allowed to attend white schools in Apopka so they moved near Sorrento hoping to be accepted in Mt. Dora School. Sheriff Willis McCall heard that the Platt family were part African American and barred them from attending school in Lake County. The Platt family had no documented proof of their heritage. Later Mount Dora Christian Home and Bible school (Mount Dora Christian Academy) accepted them as students.

At that time the Platt family had to take their case to court. They were terrorized in Sorrento; someone fired a shotgun at their back door, someone else on another occasion threw a gasoline bomb on their front door and residents got evicted from their house because they allowed the Platt children in their rented home to play with their kids. It was determined that their civil rights were violated.

But this story is one of many during the time of segregation. If you have a story you would like to share with us at East Lake Historical Society, we would like to hear from you. Email us at [eastlakehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:eastlakehistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

## Christmas Card Exchange: Maureen Miller, Immediate Past President

Each Society member will receive a Christmas Card from the Society. Each Card will have names and addresses of 4 members for you to send cards to. If everyone sends 4 cards, each member will receive 4 cards. If you can not participate please let me know. We hope to brighten the holiday season for everyone. [maureen12@embarqmail.com](mailto:maureen12@embarqmail.com), or 352-735-1702

## The Ham House: by Shirley Meade, Historian

The Ham House located at 31428 Summit Street in Sorrento has sheltered many families since its humble beginning as a tenement in the 1880s. The earliest dates we find, beginning in 1884, describes the property as being in Orange County. At that time there was no Lake County. Lake County was created in 1887 from portions of Sumter and Orange Counties. It was named for the many Lakes contained within its borders.

In 1889 Francis Ham purchased the property and it then became known as “The Ham House” on a March 1, 1920 deed.

On June 7, 1924 Mitchell and Bertie Futral applied for a tax deed for unpaid taxes for the year 1923 as property of Rachel M. Cohen. In 1944 Bertie, who by this time was a widow, sold the home to Robert Z. Johnson of Sanford and his wife Sarah C. Johnson.

On February 12, 1986, the Bradfords purchased the home from Deborah Moore.

In the late 1980s Mrs. Bradford spoke with Mrs. Bertie (Futral) Sauls of Sorrento and was informed that her parents had purchased this house in the early 1930s and added the kitchen and bath. She said the house was worker’s quarters for the **Big** house on Hwy 46, which was destroyed during a tornado. The women would sleep upstairs and pull the stairs up for privacy. The men would sleep downstairs. This house was for sleeping only. **No bathrooms or kitchen!**

The Bradfords have owned this house since 1986 as a rental. They are now ready to let it go. They have done a remarkable job restoring and yet keeping it as original as possible.

During the restoration they have found a few artifacts in and around the house such as square nails, which are no longer used, talcum powder tin dated 1917, an old lock, a bottle of shoe polish and a piece of wallpaper, etc. Cardboard boxes were used for insulation in many of the walls. The original oak floors are still intact.

There are two main oak thresholds side by side, dividing the house into two separate entrances, which would have been common for a tenement house. The house siding is cypress wood.

On September 14, 2022, The Bradfords, as owners of “The Ham House” were presented the “Historical Home Award” plaque from the East Lake Historical Society to be placed at the entrance of the home. It will remain there indefinitely as part of the house and will be placed on the market in the next few weeks.





2022-2023

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**History in the Making** by Maggie Fisher, Curator

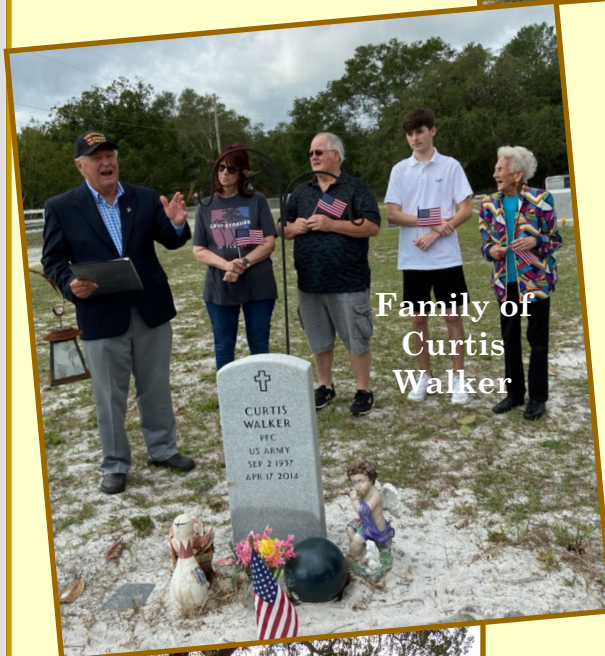
The Sorrento Cemetery Association held Veterans Day Service at the Sorrento Cemetery on Nov. 11th.



**Mike Treadwell**



**Girl & Boy Scouts**



**Family of Curtis Walker**



**Don Campbell**

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