

ATHERTON'S ICONS

Celebrating Atherton's 100th Birthday The Flood Estate



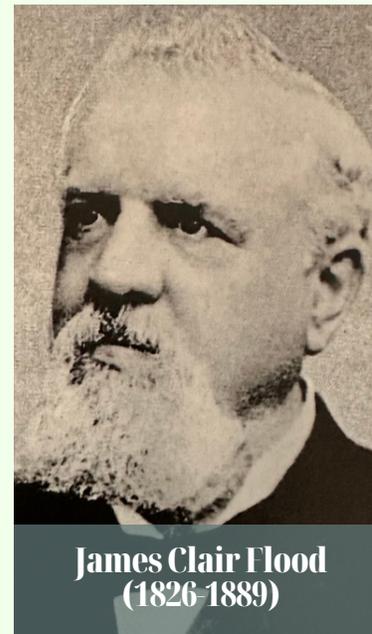
No other grand estate in Atherton was as spectacular as "Flood's Wedding Cake," as it was called by contemporary journalists of the day. Architect Augustus Laver designed the extravagant structure expressing the exuberance of wealth and prosperity of the times.

Constructed as the summer home of James Clair Flood and his wife Mary Emma Flood in just 2-years' time, it stood on 674 acres located on the east side of Middlefield Road and west of Ringwood Avenue. James and Mary simply wanted to build a summer home to escape the fog of San Francisco where their children could play. They called it Linden Towers, and became what we know today as "Lindenwood."

As described in the Atherton history book *Under the Oaks*, by Pamela Gullard and Nancy Lund, "It was an extravagant confection of turrets, gingerbread, and towers including one that was 150 feet tall and housed wooden knights in armor. There were 42 rooms each paneled in different exotic woods."

A writer in the San Francisco journal *The World* described it "...probably the most magnificent country house in America...under the charge of a landscape gardener and 120 assistants...Everything is a symphony in white and gold... Fountains splash on every side ... a terrace of ivy and flowers hems in the eastern view, while a bank of violets and a wall of roses temper the forces of the ocean breezes and perfume them."

The large ornate fountain in the photo, top left, still resides in Atherton on a private resident's property.



James Clair Flood
(1826-1889)

**Save the date! Atherton's Centennial Celebration
will be on September 24, 2023 at Town Center.**

