

tax lists for 1875 show Streaty Parker paying taxes on 3,012 head of cattle. On August 12, 1882, Streaty Parker registered the brand **NR** and the mark "underbit in one ear strait split in the other" in Brevard County.

The Parker family's last home was built in Bartow in 1876. Constructed of hand-hewn timbers fastened together with wooden pegs, the two-story house was located on 2nd Avenue, between Main and E. Sumner Streets, directly east of the railroad tracks. Streaty's plantation, which stretched eastward to the Peace River, was planted with bananas and oranges.

Tuscan Lodge No. 6, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was organized at Bartow in 1883 with Streaty Parker chosen as Worshipful Master for the lodge's first year.

Streaty Parker died at Bartow, October 2, 1884. Tuscan lodge issued a memorial resolution on October 6 which stated "that the quiet and gentle demeanor of Brother Parker, combined with his uniform uprightness and integrity of character in all his transactions with mankind were traits to be recommended, and proper fruits which good Masonry should ever produce."

Mr. Parker died intestate so his son Louis H. Parker was appointed Administrator. The inventory of the estate took place Nov. 29, 1884, with the total value appraised at \$64,504. There were 157 acres of land near Auburndale, valued at \$3000; 240 acres at Bartow, valued at \$25,000; 5,000 head of cattle in Polk and Brevard counties valued at \$35,000. Household furniture included, among other things, one piano, six bedsteads, eight mattresses and two feather beds. Also of interest were 100 bushels of corn, one sugar mill and two boilers.

Mary (Blount) Parker continued to live in Bartow after her husband's death and is shown in the 1900 census residing in Polk County with her daughter Julia and son-in-law, Thos. L. Marquis. On July 26, 1902, she applied for a widow's pension for Streaty's service in the Third Seminole War. The pension application was approved and she received payments of \$12 a month until her death.

By 1907 Mary Parker had moved to Hillsborough County and lived at Tampa. On Nov. 20, 1907 she applied for a Confederate widow's pension from the State and received \$120 per year on that pension until her death.

Mary (Blount) Parker died December 18, 1916. At the time of her death she was residing at Durant in Hillsborough County. Her body was returned to Bartow for burial beside her husband.

REFERENCES: Family Bible of Streaty Parker; Polk County marriage, probate, tax & deed records; Oak Hill Cemetery; Pension applications of Mary (Blount) Parker for Streaty Parker's Indian and Civil War service; PIONEER FLORIDA by D. B. McKay, Vols. II, III; Brevard County tax lists; 1850 census, Columbia County, Florida; 1860 census, Hillsborough County, Florida; 1880, 1885, 1900 census, Polk Co., Fl.

NOTE: Kyle S. VanLandingham and Virginia Watkins Creighton are currently compiling a genealogy of the pioneer Parker and Blount families of south Florida, due for publication in 1979.

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ABSTRACTS FROM THE "PUNTA GORDA HERALD"

This material was abstracted and contributed by Mr. Vernon Peeples of 523 SE North Shore Drive, Punta Gorda, Fl. 33950. The date preceding