

Cattlemen ran their herds on the open range from the St. Johns River on the east, to the Kissimmee River on the west. Among the prominent cattle owners during the 1870's and 1880's were: Moses Barber, Streaty Parker, his sons Readding Parker and Louis Parker, Bill Shiver, Aaron Jernigan, Captain John M. Pearce, Raiford Durrance, William Underhill, Jeremiah Walker, Ab Wright, Rabun Raulerson, Henry L. Parker, Henry Holmes and William Alderman.

During the Reconstruction era, after the Civil War, heavy taxes were often imposed on the cattlemen. In 1870, after the levying of one of these taxes, Moses Barber refused to pay. Judge John Mizell sent his brother Sheriff David Mizell to enforce the order. As the sheriff rode across a ford at Bull Creek, near Lake View, he was shot off his horse and killed. Judge Mizell formed a posse and went after the Barbers. Moses got away, so the posse started chasing his two sons. They killed Isaac Barber at his home in March 1870 and then pursued Mose, Jr., whom they apprehended at Lake Conway, near Orlando. A heavy plowshare was tied around his neck and he was then thrown overboard from a boat. He managed to swim ashore, but the posse opened fire and killed him. These killings are known as the Barber-Mizell feud, which caused quite a lot of bitterness during the pioneer days.

In 1872, Henry L. Parker was appointed County Judge of Brevard County. Henry was a brother of Streaty Parker and had moved to the Kissimmee River valley about 1870. First settling at Bluff Hammock, he moved to Lake View where he lived until about 1883. After the county seat was moved from Lake View to Titusville in 1880, the Lake View settlement began to decline in size. Some people moved to the nearby community of Whittier.

Located near Lake View, between Lake Jackson and Lake Marian, was the Parker Place, home of pioneer cattleman, Readding Parker. He and his brother, Louis, were originally from Bartow. In the early 1870's they began to run cattle in Brevard County, and also supervised their father Streaty Parker's large herds in the same area. Readding Parker rounded up his cattle periodically and drove them to the west coast where they were shipped to Cuba. When Parker returned from Cuba he brought back gold doubloons and legend says he buried some of the gold on his land near the Parker Place.

When Henry L. Parker moved away from Lake View, he settled about 30 miles south near the site of old Fort Drum. The fort had been built and garrisoned by soldiers in 1849. It was deactivated May 28, 1850 but when the Third Seminole War started in 1856, troops were again stationed at Fort Drum, remaining there until about 1861. Henry Parker operated a store and trading post and provided the neighboring cattlemen with much needed store goods. He also traded with the Indians, members of the Cow Creek Seminole tribe. Among the early settlers of Fort Drum were Streaty Hair, Sr., Rev. Joel Swain, John Parker from Georgia, Tip Padgett, Bill Beecher and Henry Holmes.

The old cemetery at Fort Drum is the oldest in Okeechobee Co. The earliest graves date from the mid-1800's.

About 20 miles west of Fort Drum was another early settlement of Okeechobee County, Basinger. The original Fort Basinger was located across the Kissimmee River in Highlands County. Established in 1837 during the Second Seminole War by Col. Zachary Taylor, it was also used again during the last Seminole War in 1856. About 1870, Rabun Raulerson of Polk County brought in his cattle to the Basinger area. He later returned to Bartow, but a number of his children remained in the Kissimmee River valley. Among them were William, David, Noel and Peter.