

Page 7 (Book page 59) mentions the Bass house at Cross Prairie in 1873. Needham died in 1870.

... from all sides. They could not detect from where the bullets and arrows came. The fight continued practically a half day, and when the Indians believed they had killed every man, they returned to their camp.

Reinforcements of soldiers landed at Tampa, and the Indians moved their families to their hideaways for safety from the oncoming whites.

. . .

Mr. Summerlin told us that if a person knew the route of the trail, it was possible to travel from Brooksville to Lake Okeechobee and never have to cross over knee-deep water.

He used to make the trip from Bartow to Sanford (Mellonville). There were no houses at all between Bartow and Shingle Creek and only one house several miles this side of Sanford. Just imagine what long tiresome trips these must have been — nothing but the wild woods and the sky overhead, far different from our rush and hurry of the present.

In 1873 the only houses on the Fort Gatlin — Fort Bassenger Trail were the Bass house at Cross Prairie and Capt. Abner Johnson's house on Lake View, now known as Lake Marion.

As the population increased small settlements sprang up along the old trails, making it necessary to operate small stores for the convenience of the pioneers. Supplies were hauled by ox team from Fort Brooke (Tampa) to Bartow, Fort Meade, Fort Kissimmee, and Fort Drum. This route can be easily traced on the map. Supplies were shipped by boat from Fort Brooke to Fort Myers as it was a much shorter route than by road.

(Book page 65) Photo of Oscar Rull Bass (1867-1924). Oscar was the son of Crawford Bass and half brother to William Robert Bass. William R. Bass was born in 1864, 3 years before Oscar. William's mother, Cornelia Johns, died during childbirth. Crawford then married Priscilla Ivey in 1866. Oscar was the oldest child born in this marriage.



y: Osceola

Oscar Rull Bass, 1867-1924, the son of "Croft" Bass and Priscilla Ivey. (Courtesy: Osceola County Historical Society)

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