

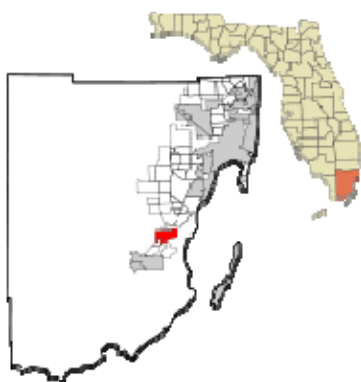
1904

Homestead founded by FEC as a settlement for railroad families.

Drake Lumber Mill founded by **Gaston Drake** at Princeton. In ten years it would become the most important business in South Dade County.

Princeton, Florida (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Princeton, Florida



Located in [Miami-Dade County, Florida](#)

History

As a small town and depot along the [Florida East Coast Railroad](#) in the 1900s, the community was named by Gaston Drake after his alma mater, [Princeton University](#). Many of the town buildings were even painted the school's colors: black and orange. Drake operated a saw mill and lumber company in Princeton supplying Miami, the [Florida Keys](#) and [Cuba](#) until the local timber gave out in 1923.^[3] Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princeton,_Florida"

Brief history of Florida's Fern Industry

Historical records suggest that this industry started when **Trusten Drake, Sr.** in Yalaha, in Lake County, made the first shipments of Plumosus in 1896. John James, an English horticulturist working for Cornelia Polk Drake (Trusten's mother), also got into the Plumosus fern business in Yalaha around this same time. The Pierson family started the fern industry in nearby Pierson in Volusia County. (Pierson is now recognized as the "Fern Capital of the World") In 1904, **Peter Pierson** received 10,000 plants from his brother A. N. Pierson, a florist in Connecticut at the time. The seeds originally came from Italy.

Information obtained from material compiled by Winona Coll, Raiford Hagstrom Jr., P.R. Pierson, Larry Loadholtz and Dr. Bob Stamps of the [Apopka Research Center](#) (UF) and in part from the book "Reflections" (A history of West Volusia County compiled by M.E. Ross)

FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

Capture of Col. Trusten Polk—Cotton Arriving at Vicksburgh—Gen. Grant's Health Improving.

St. Louis, Monday, Sept. 28.

The *Democrat*, of this city, has a special dispatch from Cairo, which says that Col. TRUSTEN POLK, formerly United States Senator from Missouri, with his wife and two daughters, were captured at Bolivar Landing, Arkansas, on the 18th inst., and de-

livered over to Gen. BURROB, commanding at Helena.

Col. POLK was Gen. HOLMES' Judge-Advocate-General, and was with the rebels at New-Madrid, Corinth, Iuka and Cold Springs.

A dispatch from Vicksburgh, to the 21st inst., says that Gen. GRANT is still improving, and will be able to leave his bed in a few days.

A good deal of Government cotton is arriving in Vicksburgh.

The New York Times

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DRAKE FAMILY HISTORY:

- Trusten Polk Drake, Sr. is the great-grandfather of Robert "Bob" Polk Drake and Trusten "Holland" Drake
- Gaston Drake was the brother of Trusten Polk Drake, Sr.
- Trusten Polk (Governor of Missouri, 1857) was the grandfather of Trusten Polk Drake, Sr.
- Trusten Polk Drake, Sr.'s father James E. Drake, in 1871 as President of the Gulf Railroad Company, built the 1st railroad line going south of Jacksonville to Eustis, FL.