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JOHN W. TRAMMELL: THE CAREER OF A POLK COUNTY POLITICIAN

by Stephen Kerber

During the first half of the twentieth century, political life in Florida was characterized by a high degree of individualism among candidates. In his classic work, *Southern Politics in State and Nation*, V. O. Key, Jr. described Florida's political structure as "an incredibly complex melange of amorphous factions" which made it unique in the South.¹ In fact, Key titled his chapter on Florida politics "Every Man For Himself." Key attributed the state's "political atomization" to its geographical size and variety, uneven distribution of population, relative degree of urbanization, population growth by immigration from other states, and diversified economy.

An undeniable manifestation of this political individualism which Key pointed out has been the inability of Florida governors to deliver the votes of their supporters to other candidates. Not only have governors failed to influence the electorate in the choice of their successors, they have been unable to advance themselves to national office at the close of their gubernatorial terms. Similarly, Florida cabinet members have found it almost impossible to move up to the governor's mansion.

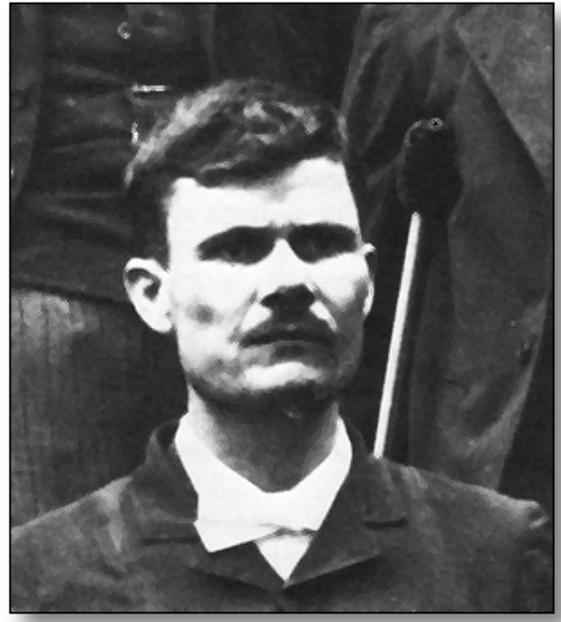
Nevertheless, prior to the publication of Key's analysis in 1949, a very few Florida officeholders did manage to circumvent this individualistic tradition by using their own successful careers to pave the political way for their children. Ruth Bryan Owen capitalized on the fame of her father, William Jennings Bryan, to become Florida's first female member of Congress in 1928. Dr. John L. Crawford of Wakulla spent twenty-one years as secretary of state (1881-1902), and was succeeded by his son, H. Clay Crawford, for an additional twenty-seven years (1902-1929). Late in the nineteenth century, Stephen Russell Mallory of Pensacola followed his illustrious father's path to the United States Senate.

An outstanding example of a child following in and surpassing the achievements of his father's political career in Florida is the case of Park M. and John W. Trammell. John Trammell, a native Alabamian, enjoyed a very distinguished career in county and state Democratic affairs around the turn of the century. His son, Park M. Trammell, went on to become the most successful candidate in the state's history, the winner of every contest he ever disputed, and the first governor to advance directly to the United States Senate. Yet, despite their accomplishments, historians have written very little about either father or son.

Early in the year 1882, John Washington Trammell and his brother Erasmus Ripley Trammell moved with their families and possessions from Alabama to the frontier state of Florida. They settled in Polk County, then a sparsely inhabited area just east of Tampa and Hillsborough County. Until 1861, Hillsborough had included this fertile and lake-studded region, but in that year the legislature divided the county and named the eastern portion for former President James Polk.²

The census in 1880 listed 3,181 persons in Polk County; of that number, 3,033 were white, 122 were colored, and twenty-six were Indians. Only three Polk County residents had been born outside the United States – two in England or Wales and one in Ireland. Polk County's homogeneous and sexually balanced population was typical of Florida and the South. The population included 1,518 females and 1,663 males.³

When the Trammells arrived in Florida, they found life to be peaceful and bountiful. Sweet potatoes provided both a staple food and a substitute for coffee, while cane supplied sugar and syrup. Clothing was made from home-grown cotton and fenced-in cattle helped fertilize the land. The wilderness swarmed with quail, wild turkey, venison, water fowl, squirrel, and fish. Cotton and oranges could be sold or traded at Tampa for goods that were not grown or produced at home. Cane grindings, sugar boilings, camp meetings, quilting bees, and political rallies furnished entertainment and relaxation for the frontier families.⁴



John Trammell, circa 1889.

Photograph courtesy of the Florida Photographic Archives, Strozier Library, Florida State University, Tallahassee.

John and Ripley Trammell followed an established family custom when they migrated to Florida. For generations, their ancestors had been heading into new territories and leaving familiar surroundings behind. Their greatgrandfather, for example, had forsaken South Carolina for Georgia at the termination of the Revolutionary War. Thomas Trammell had fought in the Revolution as a private, between 1780 and 1783, in the "South Carolina Mounted Rifled Rangers." He evidently served under two well known officers – Captain Joseph Hughes and Colonel Thomas Brandon. Thomas Trammell likely saw action at Musgrove's Mill, King's Mountain, Hammond's Store, Cowpens, Hanging Rock, and Rocky Mount. Long after his death, his widow received a small pension in recognition of his services.

Thomas had married Mary Turner of Union District, South Carolina, on December 21, 1775. After the war, she moved with him to Hancock County, Georgia, and subsequently moved again to Jackson (later Clark) and to Upson counties. John Trammell, the second child and first son of Thomas and Mary (born on April 3, 1780) wed Mary "Polly" Dickinson on July 30, 1807. The couple spent most of their lives in Chambers County, Alabama, where they raised a family of nine children. Their seventh child, Monroe, grew up to be a medical doctor in Chambers County. Monroe fathered five children by his wife, Sarah-Erasmus Ripley, Ella, Celeste, Luther, and the youngest, John Washington, who was born in 1853.

John did not choose to pursue his father's career, but instead became a farmer. On February 26, 1874, he married Ida Estelle Park in Opelika, Lee County, Alabama. Two years later, on April 9,

1876, their first child was born. They named the boy Park, after his mother's family, and Monroe, for his paternal grandfather. Subsequently, nine more children followed. In later years, after Ida's death, John married Ruby Wilson from Tallahassee. Together they had another child, a son named Wilsom.⁵

Although it is unclear when the Trammell families left Alabama, they were in Florida by the fall of 1882. As of September 7 of that year, John Trammell had settled near Medulla in Polk County. Citing that date, William McLeod listed Trammell as one of his witnesses when he filed the final proof of his land claim.⁶ That same month, Trammell and D. M. Pipkin advertised in the local newspaper in an attempt to sell 2,500 sweet orange trees. They noted their location as "two miles east of Medulla, and eight miles north of Bartow."⁷

The Trammells had settled in Polk County at a propitious moment. They came, most likely, in search of land to farm or to raise citrus. Other settlers arrived at the same time, possessed of capital and eager to speculate in land, believing that the coming of railroads practically would insure a profit. In 1881, Abraham G. Munn, a manufacturer from Louisville, Kentucky, purchased several thousand acres of land in southern Florida from the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund. His son, Morris G. Munn, journeyed from DeLand to Polk County in order to locate his purchase, and Morris selected an eighty-acre tract as a townsite. Another son, Samuel, eventually surveyed and platted the townsite of what became Lakeland.⁸

However, when the Trammells arrived in 1882, the town of Lakeland did not yet exist. The building of a railroad provided the stimulus to create the new city. In addition, the coming of the railroad brought a young man to the county who would one day challenge Trammell's son for public office. In about June 1883, a railroad construction camp was located on the edge of Lake Wire. Herbert Jackson Drane, the young man in charge of the camp, had secured a commission to construct the section of the South Florida Railroad passing through the area. His construction crew most likely consisted solely of blacks, thus making Drane the first white man to live within the original territorial limits of what became Lakeland.⁹

The existence of the railroad camp and the promise of the road itself attracted people from throughout the vicinity. Medulla, which had been the metropolis of the section with two stores and a post office, proved the first to suffer. Postmaster L. M. Ballard, owner of one of the stores, packed up his family, his business, and his post office, and moved to Lake Wire. A man named Bonacker built another store, and others followed. Events moved rapidly, and soon a new town had come into existence. An open meeting took place on Saturday, December 15, 1883, to choose a name for the community. Three men – E. R. Trammell, the Reverend P. R. McCrary, and Dr. J. L. Derieux – agreed on a suggestion, and when their neighbors approved, the name Lakeland was adopted.¹⁰

John Trammell was an ambitious man who made friends quickly and took advantage of any opportunity to improve his situation. When a vandal set fire to the Bartow jail on March 11, 1883, and the building burned to the ground, he secured the contract for a new jail. It took him little more than the last week in March to rebuild the facility.¹¹ It soon became evident, however, that Trammell's real future lay neither in the construction business, nor in agriculture, but rather in politics. When the citizens of Lakeland assembled on New Year's Day, 1885, to incorporate

their town, twenty-two residents approved articles of incorporation drawn up by Judge Eppes Tucker. An election for municipal officials was then held, and John Trammell triumphed as mayor. After a short time, however, for reasons now unknown, he resigned the office of mayor and J. D. Torrence replaced him.¹²

Trammell found politics very much to his liking, for in 1886 and 1887 he sought and won election as treasurer of Polk County.¹³ During these years he moved his family to Lakeland, probably for business and political convenience. Trammell evidenced a lively interest in the immigration movement advocated by many Florida newspapermen and civic boosters during this period, and he served for some time as county executive committeeman for the state immigration association. However, a yellow fever scare prevented a key organizational meeting set for the courthouse in Bartow on October 13, 1887, and took much steam out of the movement in Polk County.¹⁴

By 1888, the Trammell family had become an established and respected segment of the community. In its March 7, 1888 issue, the *Bartow Advance Courier* referred to John Trammell as “our popular” thirty-four-year-old county treasurer. It described him as an 1882 immigrant from Alabama who had given up cotton cultivation in his native state to become a fruit and vegetable grower in Florida. His holdings included at least twenty acres planted in young fruit trees. Trammell admitted that he had come to Florida “because of its congenial climate, and to benefit myself financially, and my expectations have been fully realized, so far.” He had found cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, bananas, onions, and cassava to be profitable crops. He advised the middle and laboring classes to move to Polk County because:

. . . in my judgment these classes can do well here without an exception. We have many among us now whose capital is principally their time and labor, and they are not only making a support, but are rapidly accumulating wealth. I have personal knowledge of a number of these classes, who have about their homes every evidence of success. I never hear this class of people speak of hard times. They rely upon their products – and generally have plenty. They have young orange and other fruit groves coming on that in time will make them rich.

By June 1888, Trammell had decided not to seek another term as Polk County treasurer.¹⁵ Also, in July, he brought his increasing political influence to bear against the movement to divide Polk County and to make Lakeland the county seat of the northern half. In response to a published proposition composed by several prominent Bartow residents asking equally prominent Lakelanders to disown county division in the interest of Democratic unity, Trammell joined other citizens of northern Polk in an affirmative and conciliatory message.¹⁶

In 1888, Trammell decided to seek a seat in the Florida legislature. Capitalizing on the contacts and friendships he had made as county treasurer, he won election to the House of Representatives. During the 1889 legislative session, Trammell held the post of chairman of the Roads and Highways Committee. Two other young, ambitious men – Frank Clark of Polk County and Peter O. Knight of Lee County – served with Trammell in 1889.¹⁷ Knight would become the most influential conservative businessman and lobbyist in Florida, while Clark

subsequently served as a Florida congressman from 1905 until 1925 and may have been the most outspoken Negrophobe in Florida politics during his day.

Trammell won reelection to the house in 1890, and by 1892, he had emerged as a man to be reckoned with in party politics.¹⁸ He was chairman of the Polk County Democratic convention which met in Bartow on April 16, 1892. The convention proved to be a stormy one because a group opposed to Henry L. Mitchell's candidacy for governor – the delegates from District 3 (Bartow) – contested the seating of the regular, pro-Mitchell slate. The anti-Mitchell faction, led by Frank Clark, lost its fight, however. The convention named thirteen Mitchell men, including Trammell, to the state convention.¹⁹

A Trammell family legend suggests that Mitchell had made an agreement to appoint Trammell to high office provided he agreed not to run for governor himself. The situation in Polk County suggests that such a possibility was feasible regardless of whether the two men ever actually struck such a bargain. It seems at least as likely, however, that Trammell would never have risked a split in the Democratic vote in Florida in the face of Populist party intrusions in 1892. Thus, Trammell may well have found honor and ambition perfectly compatible under these circumstances. He most likely supported Mitchell because he stood to benefit personally, and he did not share the liberal position strongly enough to warrant disrupting the party.

This pro- and anti-Mitchell conflict in the Polk County convention mirrored conditions in the rest of the state. Ever since the contested election of George Drew as governor in 1876 had “redeemed” Florida from Republican rule, Florida's Democracy had been torn between following what historian C. Vann Woodward has called “the right fork” and “the left fork” to reunion. The right fork consisted of alignment with the East and economic conservatism – “Eastern capitalism, its banks, monetary system, railroads, and monopolies.” The left fork led to “agrarian radicalism” – easy money and opposition to special favors and subsidies for vested economic interests. Woodward has argued that in the Compromise of 1876 and afterwards, until the emergence of Populism, the South followed the right fork of eastern alignment, becoming a bulwark of the conservative economic order and defining itself as an economic colony of the industrialized East in many respects.²⁰



Peter O. Knight, 1865-1946.

Photograph courtesy of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Within this context, post-Civil War Florida's Democratic party can be viewed as consisting of two groups of men divided upon the question of whether or not it would prove most beneficial to the people of Florida to encourage virtually without reservation the investment of capital and the establishment of new businesses. Conservatives such as Governors Drew, William D. Bloxham, Edward A. Perry, and Francis P. Fleming leaned toward the view that economic growth based on outside investment constituted the best way for Florida to develop. Prosperity would come to the masses of the state through the financial success of railroads, corporations, and land development schemes.

The Independents of 1884, the Florida Farmer's Alliance and Populist party men of the late 1880s and the 1890s, and the liberals and progressives of turn-of-the-century and early twentieth century Florida all opposed the conservative vision to some extent. They believed it to be a mistake, and often a crime, to sell huge tracts of land to syndicates rather than small properties to individuals. They deplored the sale of Florida's natural resources for a comparative pittance and the subsidy of the rich, powerful, and greedy at the expense of the poor, ignorant, and landless.

Perhaps the most flagrant and characteristic of the abuses denounced by these men took place on May 30, 1881, when Governor Bloxham announced the sale of four million acres of land at the price of twenty-five cents per acre. Hamilton Disston of Philadelphia, who had been negotiating with respect to drainage plans in the central and southern portions of the peninsula, was the purchaser of this vast area. Although Bloxham and his defenders justified the transaction as being vitally necessary to pay off the steadily accumulating debts owed by the Internal Improvement Fund and to clear the title to the remaining state lands, it appeared that such sales discriminated against the average Florida citizen. The Polk County convention fight can only be understood in light of this ongoing Democratic debate.

The most spontaneous outburst of opposition to taking the right fork to reunion arose in Florida with the birth of the Farmer's Alliance in the state. The Alliance was begun in Florida in 1887 by two organizers from Texas. It began as a strictly economic organization, but rapidly developed a political side to protect itself. By 1890, the Alliance movement had won numerical control of the state Democratic convention and of the Florida legislature. In addition, the national convention of the Alliance met in Ocala in December 1890, and issued its famous "Ocala Demands" or platform.

One highlight of the continuing struggle between Florida's liberals and conservatives took place during the election of a United States senator in the 1891 legislative session. The eventual victory of Wilkinson Call, an enemy of the railroads, over William D. Chipley of Pensacola, a railroad executive, in a long and bitter struggle, would seem to have been cause for Alliance men and Populists to rejoice. However, the joy of the liberals proved short-lived. Rather than permit Governor Fleming, a conservative, to appoint a pro-railroad man to the state railroad commission, and unable to make membership on the commission elective, the liberals killed Florida's first railroad commission. Frank Clark, Call's floor leader in the election fight, introduced the bill to destroy the commission. Trammell refused to vote for Call and did not vote to abolish the commission.²¹ Two years later, Clark emerged as the leader in the anti-Mitchell movement in Polk County.

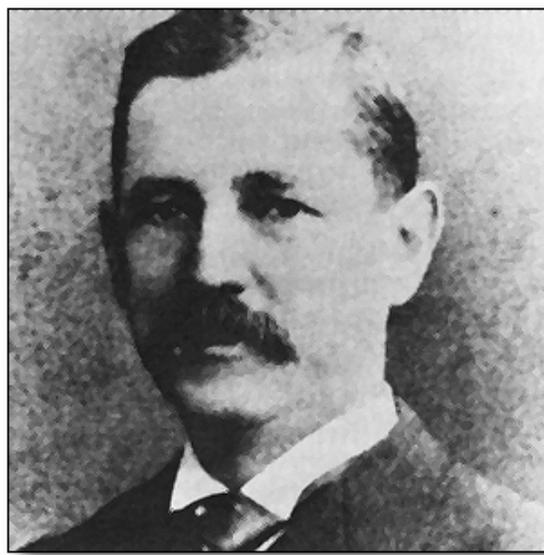
Early in June 1892, at Tampa, the anti-Mitchell men from Polk and other counties carried their protests to the state convention, but without success. On June 2, the convention adopted a majority report by 290 votes to 105½ which seated “all the Mitchell delegations from the counties presenting contests.” On the following day, now as an official delegate, Trammell placed in nomination for the office of secretary of state Wakulla’s Dr. John L. Crawford. The correspondent of the Jacksonville *Florida Times-Union* referred to Trammell’s oratorical effort as being second only to Robert W. Davis’s address in honor of Governor Bloxham.²²



Conservative Governor William D. Bloxham.

Photograph from *Makers of America*, Florida Edition.

Early in May 1893, a Tampa newspaper reported that Trammell was under consideration for nomination as collector of the port of Tampa. It quoted the *Orlando Sentinel* as saying: “He is strongly indorsed [sic] and would make a collector of whom the whole state could feel proud.”²³ Although he did not receive the nomination, Trammell obviously had become an important Florida Democrat, one of the most prominent in south Florida. The proof of this statement may be found in an appointment that Trammell did receive barely a month later. Henry Mitchell, having attained the governorship, knew that Trammell had been instrumental in securing Polk County support for his cause. Whether rewarding a loyal worker or completing a bargain, Mitchell appointed Trammell in June 1893 to one of the best known patronage jobs in the state – the position of superintendent of the Florida Asylum for Indigent Lunatics at Chattahoochee.



Hamilton Disston.

Photograph from *Florida’s Promoters, The Men Who Made It Big*.

The *Bartow Courier-Informant* hailed the appointment as “A HAPPY SURPRISE,” which would please Trammell’s “host of friends.” The appointment came as an “entire surprise” to Trammell, the paper claimed, “as he had not applied for the position.” His salary, the journal incorrectly estimated, would be “at least \$3,000 a year” – under an 1885 law, the superintendent could receive no more than \$2,000 per year.²⁴ The paper went on to predict that Trammell “will make an official of whom Florida will be proud.” A correspondent wrote that: “Hon. J. W.

Trammell has been appointed superintendent of the insane asylum at Chattahoochee. A wise and good selection granted by a man of brains to a competent and zealous worker and a democrat from birth."²⁵ The *Tampa Morning Tribune* reported, "This is a good selection and Mr. Trammell will prove his efficiency and ability worthy of the selection and position."²⁶ The *Tallahassee Floridian* averred that the general consensus held "the choice . . . a wise one. Mr. Trammell is a very level-headed man and with his known ability we have every reason to expect a wise administration. He will be entirely free from the burden of the local differences about Chattahoochee, and his great administrative ability will have full scope in dealing with one of our most important institutions."²⁷



Henry L. Mitchell, 1831-1903.

Photograph courtesy of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.

The decision to leave Polk County must have been a difficult one for Trammell. Only a need to improve the lot of his growing family and also a desire to help the unfortunates at Chattahoochee could have swayed him. The appointment of his father to one of the most prestigious political jobs in the state also had significant long-term repercussions for Park Trammell, a seventeen-year-old in the summer of 1893. On June 26, 1893, Park and his father left for Chattahoochee, while the rest of the family temporarily remained behind. Finally, in October, Mrs. Trammell and the other children also moved to Gadsden County.²⁸

If the newspapers had greeted Trammell's appointment as superintendent with satisfaction, at least one found him even quicker to grasp the complexities of his new situation than it had imagined. Early in the fall, the *Tampa Morning Tribune* published a strong endorsement of the man:

. . . friends and admirers . . . will be pleased to learn that the gentleman is giving universal satisfaction as superintendent . . . There is not a more conscientious gentleman or a more zealous christian [sic] in the state, with a heart as kind and tender as a woman, he is certainly the right man in the right place and the TRIBUNE hopes that he is as well pleased with his new avocation as the patrons of that institution and the people of this state are pleased with him.²⁹

Although Trammell possessed no specialized training or skill which might have prepared him to deal with the problems of the mentally ill, he did possess an equally important quality – compassion. He revealed this quality when he took the time to write personally to a former Polk County neighbor regarding the condition of the man's son, then a patient in the hospital:



View of the convalescent white female yard at Chattahoochee Hospital, circa 1905.

Photograph courtesy of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Your son is improving right fast. He is very much better than when I wrote you last, both physically and mentally. He sleeps and eats well, is gaining weight, looks a good deal better and is cheerful and contented. I trust you will disabuse your mind of all fear that your son is not receiving as tender care as if at your house.³⁰

The entire Trammell family involved itself in the affairs of the hospital, and the patients probably benefited from being exposed to the kindness and cheerfulness of the superintendent's children. For example, on Friday evening, December 3, 1897, Wilma Trammell, Ruby Wilson (later to marry widower John Trammell), Worth Trammell, and G. P. Bevis starred in a presentation of an operetta, "Penelope, or The Milkman's Bride." Mrs. L. D. Blocker, a pianist, provided musical accompaniment for the actors, as did Worth and the institution's brass band. A newspaper report described the patients as being "delighted with the pleasures of the evening."³¹ The young men in the Trammell family did more, however, than organize bands and take part in plays while they lived at the Chattahoochee hospital. Young John D. Trammell, worked as an attendant when, in March 1894, he journeyed to Tampa to accompany Osten Swan, a Swede who had been adjudged insane, to Chattahoochee.³²

Even after assuming his new post, the elder Trammell continued to find time for party politics; he served as a member of the Democratic executive committee of Florida's First Congressional District.³³ Trammell held the position of superintendent at Chattahoochee from July 1, 1893, to February 1, 1901. During that time he established a set of rules of conduct for his employees and coaxed from the legislature appropriations for a number of improvements at the facility. Among



Superintendent's Office at Chattahoochee, residence and water tower, circa 1905.

Photograph courtesy of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.

the latter were sewerage facilities; strict sanitation measures; a laundry; more land and better methods for the hospital's farm; a steam plant for heating; entertainment in the form of concerts, dances, and plays; new buildings; a herd of dairy cows and a creamery; an electric lighting plant; a steam cooking plant; and a policy of encouraging patients to engage in useful, physical activities of many kinds.³⁴

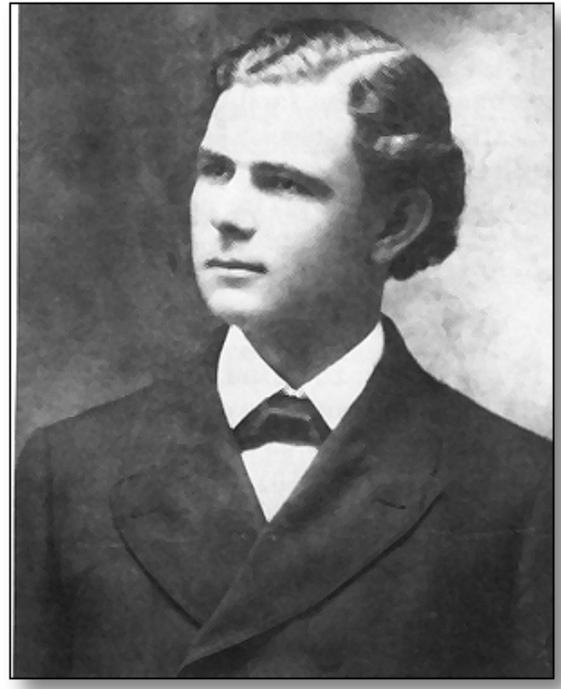
In the 1890s, the study of mental illnesses had not advanced to the extent that Trammell could have been expected to apply any professional knowledge beyond common sense to his task. Nevertheless, his biennial reports reveal that he felt sympathy and concern for the patients, and that he understood that mental illness constituted a disease rather than a curse or the working of an evil mind. If he presided over a primitive institution, it must be remembered that Florida politicians had little motivation to provide financial support for the hospital. Indeed, it seems likely that, but for Trammell's prestige and political contacts, the legislature would have given even less money for treatment of the mentally ill.

Because he saw the importance of sanitation, adequate care of physical ills, work rather than idleness, and recreation, Trammell must be considered much more than a typical political patronage appointee. He publicized in his official reports the plight of the mentally ill. He observed and pointed out the weakness and inequity of laws which permitted judges to commit people to the hospital without medical testimony. He condemned the practice of keeping epileptics or the feeble-minded confined together with people who had become mentally ill but might, with proper treatment, recover. His conviction that the hospital should be oriented toward treating patients in order to help them recover, and his continuing efforts to secure the financial support which alone could make that conviction a possibility, mark him as an exceptional man –

truly a man of good will. As the historian of the development of Florida's system of state care of the mentally ill has written:

In 1901, after eight years of faithful service to the asylum, Mr. Trammell retired. The improvements made during these years had been remarkable, and if it had not been for the delays of the Board [of Commissioners of State Institutions] in appropriating more funds and correcting the out-dated Lunacy Laws, he would have attained more of the beneficial results he worked so hard for.³⁵

Early in 1894, not long after becoming superintendent, Trammell launched his son Park's political career by persuading John T. Lesley, collector of the port of Tampa, to employ the young man as a customs inspector and clerk.³⁶ After spending four years in Tampa, and then earning a Bachelor of Laws degree in June 1899 from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, Park returned to Lakeland to open a law office. Thanks to his father's contacts, and his own congenial manner, in November 1899 he defeated incumbent Mayor J. P. Thompson in his first race for public office. He subsequently won reelection in 1900 and 1901.³⁷



Park M. Trammell, circa 1903.

Photograph courtesy of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.

After his father's retirement from Chattahoochee, Park won a seat in July 1902 as one of two Polk County members in the state House of Representatives. Two years later, he advanced to the Florida Senate for a four-year term. Park made so many friends during the 1903 legislative session that, as soon as he was chosen by the Democrats of Polk County for the Senate, he became a favorite in the contest for the presidency of that body.³⁸

Meanwhile, John Trammell's appointment as superintendent had expired. Rather than reappoint Trammell, Governor William Sherman Jennings replaced him with Dr. V. H. Gwinn on February 1, 1901.³⁹ In June 1901, a newspaper reported that Trammell (who had remarried after the death of Park's mother Ida on March 28, 1899) intended to reside with his new bride, the former Ruby Wilson, in St. Petersburg. Whether or not the couple did settle for a time in St. Petersburg, by the fall of 1902 at the latest they had moved back to Lakeland. Ruby gave birth to a son named after her own family – Wilson – in this period. John supported his young son and wife by selling real estate, but unfortunately this career did not last long.⁴⁰

The death of John Trammell on September 24, 1904, at his home in Lakeland, came as no great surprise to his family. For months he had been suffering from a cancer of the neck, which his family believed had started with the accidental cutting of a mole by his barber. He had been

under the care of numerous doctors and had even journeyed to New York to consult specialists – all to no avail.⁴¹

The press of the state mourned Trammell's passing with respectful words. The Jacksonville *Sunday Times-Union* called him "one of the most prominent men in Florida" and praised the "improvements and additions" made at Chattahoochee during his stay.⁴² The Tampa *Morning Tribune* remarked that "his many friends" in that city would sincerely regret his passing.⁴³ H. H. McCreary of the *Gainesville Daily Sun* wrote that: "It was the writer's privilege to have enjoyed the acquaintance of the deceased for the past twenty years, and we can truthfully say that we never knew a more kind-hearted gentleman."⁴⁴

John Trammell's death came too soon for him to witness Park's entrance into state-wide politics in 1908, or his rapid advancement from attorney general and governor to United States senator. Without his father's name and reputation, however, it is certainly doubtful whether Park would have become successful politically as he did. Nor would John's other sons, Worth and John D., likely have won election to the state legislature. Through his efforts on behalf of the Democratic party in south Florida, and his humane administration at Chattahoochee, John W. Trammell established a rich political legacy for his children.

¹ V. O. Key, Jr., *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949), pp. 82-105.

² Polk County's original territory was taken mostly from Hillsborough County, but also partly from Brevard County. *Laws of Florida*, 1860, pp. 192-93; *Laws of Florida*, 1861, p. 59; Revised *General Statutes of Florida*, 1920, 1, p. 309; Allen Morris, *Florida Place Names* (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1974), pp. 74, 123.

³ U. S. Census Office, *Statistics of the Population of the United States at the Tenth Census* (June 1, 1880) (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1883), pp. 54, 384, 501, 650.

⁴ M. F. Hetherington, *History of Polk County, Florida, Narrative and Biographical* (St. Augustine: The Record Company, 1928; facsimile edition, Chuluota, Florida: The Mickler House, 1971), pp. 13-14.

⁵ Jeff Trammell to Stephen Kerber, March 12, May 17, 1975; Mrs. John Moseley to Kerber, July 4, 1975; Charles S. McCleskey, comp., *Descendants of Thomas Trammell, Revolutionary Soldier* (Baton Rouge: Charles S. McCleskey, 1972), pp. 19, 20, 59, 77-79; Daughters of the American Revolution, *DAR Patriot Index* (Washington, D. C.: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1967), pp. 686, 81, 353; J. B. O. Landrum, *Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina* (Greenville, South Carolina: Shannon & Co., Printers and Binders, 1897; facsimile edition, Spartanburg, South Carolina: Reprint Company, 1962), p. 211; Kathrine Keogh White, *The King's Mountain Men, The Story of the Battle, With Sketches of the American Soldiers Who Took Part* (Dayton, Virginia: Joseph K. Ruebush Company, 1924), pp. 151-52, 190-91; Sara Sullivan Ervin, *South Carolinians in the Revolution, With Service Records and Miscellaneous Data* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1971), p. 121.

⁶ *Bartow Informant*, September 16, 1882.

⁷ *Ibid.*, September 30, 1882.

⁸ Hetherington, *History of Polk County*, p. 88.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 87.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 87-88.

¹¹ *Bartow Informant*, March 17, 24, 31, 1883.

¹² Hetherington, *History of Polk County*, p. 90; Hampton Dunn, *Yesterday's Lakeland* (Tampa: Bay Center Corporation, 1976), p. 20.

¹³ The *Bartow Advance Courier*, in issues covering the period March 30, 1887 through July 18, 1888, listed John Trammell as county treasurer in its directory of Polk County officials.

¹⁴ *Bartow Advance Courier*, September 21, 28, October 19, 1887.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, June 27, 1888.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, July 4, 18, 1888.

¹⁷ *Florida House Journal*, 1889, pp. 4-5, 26, 25.

¹⁸ *Jacksonville Florida Times-Union*, May 20, 29, 1888.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, April 17, 1892.

²⁰ C. Vann Woodward, *Origins of the New South, 1877-1913* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951), pp. 23-50.

²¹ With regard to the vote on Call, see *Florida House Journal*, 1891, pp. 816-17, and *Tallahassee Weekly Floridian*, May 27, 1891. Concerning the railroad commission, see *Florida House Journal* 1891, pp. 672-73.

²² *Jacksonville Florida Times-Union*, June 3, 4, 1892.

²³ *Orlando Sentinel*, quoted in *Tampa Morning Tribune*, May 2, 1893.

²⁴ *Bartow Courier-Informant*, June 14, 1893; *Laws of Florida*, 1885, p. 21; *Laws of Florida*, 1919, p. 101.

²⁵ *Bartow Courier-Informant*, June 14, 1893.

²⁶ *Tampa Morning Tribune*, quoted in *ibid.*, June 21, 1893.

²⁷ *Tallahassee Floridian*, quoted in *Bartow Courier-Informant*, June 21, 1893.

²⁸ *Bartow Courier-Informant*, June 28, July 5, September 13, October 11, 1893.

²⁹ *Tampa Morning Tribune*, September 14, 1893.

³⁰ *Bartow Courier-Informant*, December 8, 1897.

³¹ *Jacksonville Florida Times-Union*, quoted in *ibid.*

³² *Tampa Morning Tribune*, March 2, 1894.

³³ *Ibid.*, June 22, 1894.

³⁴ *Bartow Courier-Informant*, January 23, 1901; biennial reports of the superintendent of the Chattahoochee hospital for the years 1893-94, 1895-96, 1897-98, and 1899-1900, bound with the governors' messages in *Messages and Documents*, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.

³⁵ Richard B. Chardkoff, "The Development of State Responsibility for the Care of the Insane in Florida, 1830 to 1950" (M.A. thesis, Florida State University, 1964), pp. 68-69.

³⁶ John T. Lesley to Secretary of the Treasury, March 2, 1894, April 30, 1895, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Treasury, Records Group 56, Appointments Division, Records relating to the Customhouse Nominations, Florida, Tampa, Port of, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

³⁷ *Bartow Courier-Informant*, November 2, 23, 1898, November 15, 22, 1899; November 21, December 26, 1900; November 20, 1901, January 15, 1902.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, July 23, 1902; undated newspaper article, p. 3, Trammell Scrapbook, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History; *Bartow Courier-Informant*, August 10, September 28, October 12, December 7, 1904, January 25, February 8, 1905.

³⁹ *Bartow Courier-Informant*, January 23, 1901.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, June 12, 26, 1901, October 22, 1902, August 17, 1904.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, September 28, 1904; *Jacksonville Sunday Times-Union*, September 24, 1904; *Ocala Evening Star*, September 27, 1904.

⁴² *Jacksonville Sunday Times-Union*, September 24, 1904. 43. *Tampa Morning Tribune*, September 27, 1904.

⁴³ *Tampa Morning Tribune*, September 27, 1904.

⁴⁴ *Gainesville Daily Sun*, September 27, 1904.