

Okeechobee, Fort Basinger and the Kissimmee River on the east; two miles beyond Bowling Green to the north; Pine Level and Castalia on the west; Grove City and Placida to the southwest; and the Caloosahatchee River & Gilchrist to the south.

The County Commissioners Record Book #1 shows that the minutes of the August 1887 meeting of the County Commissioners listed the following voting precincts for the county:

Fort Green	Fish-Eating Creek	Fort Ogden
Hartsuff	Fort Basinger	Arcadia
Coker	Grove City	Locklar
Pine Level	Trabue	Popash
Charlotte Harbor		

In the months that followed the creation of De Soto County, people began wondering if perhaps the new county should have a new county seat. There were quite a few booming little towns which would love to receive the honor. On July 7, 1888, J. W. Whidden, L. Parker, J. N. Parker and W. E. Daniels gave bond to the County Commissioners for the completion of a Courthouse at Arcadia, according to plans to cost not less than \$3,000.00 provided Arcadia be elected as the permanent county seat. Chris Pierce offered 80 acres of land provided Brownville be elected. Albert W. Gilchrist offered \$1,000.00 provided that Nocatee be elected. Zolfo also extended an offer.

In the election held in August 1888, no place in the county received a majority of votes. The balloting showed:

Arcadia, 295 votes	Fort Bassinger, 1 vote
Fort Ogden, 186 votes	Bowling Green, 1 vote
Nocatee, 110 votes	Punta Gorda, 2 votes
Pine Level, 59 votes	Zolfo, 1 vote

Several more elections were held before one community finally received a majority of votes. In the October 1888 election, Arcadia received 448 votes out of a total 875 votes cast, thus becoming the new county seat. The number of votes the other towns received were not recorded in the Commissioner's records.

In November 1888, the Commissioners ordered that the Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Judge and Supervisor of Registration, remove the records and furniture of their respective offices from the old courthouse at Pine Level to a temporary building to be used as the courthouse in Arcadia until a new building could be built. Mr. C. C. Pearce who bid \$22.00 was given the contract to transport the courthouse records & contents. He undertook this move by ox cart, but being unable to cross Peace River with his team, sublethis contract to Little Bryan who conveyed the materials to Arcadia.

The County Commissioners appropriated \$3,000.00 to go along with the \$3,000.00 donated previously. The contract was awarded to Peyton R. Read. "This agreement made and entered into this 12th day of Dec. A.D. 1888 by and between Peyton R. Read Contractor, party of the first part and Marion G. Carlton, B. F. Richards, Peter Brown, S. T. Langford, T. O. Parker, W. E. Daniels, J. A. Parker, L. H. Parker and J. W. Whidden composing a building committee, party of the second part, all of the County of De Soto and State of Florida."

The finished courthouse is shown in the picture at the first of this article. It was located in the same area as the present day courthouse. The photograph was contributed by Mrs. Grace P. McClenithan, R. #2, Box 318M, Sarasota, Florida 33577. The specifications of the first courthouse in Arcadia were as follows: To be a brick pillows foundation 18" wide 48' long at base and tapering to