

the place. It commands an elevated, picturesque, and extensive view of the St. Johns river at its majestic bend from the south. It is admirably situated for commerce; the water is of sufficient depth for vessels of upwards of a hundred tons burden, to moor close to the shore.

The regular term of the Superior court, directed by the Legislative council to be held twice a year, lately drew together at this place a pretty numerous assemblage of strangers. Every house was crammed as closely as possible. The judge of the court, with several members of the bar at St. Augustine, having been detained by the badness of the famous King's road from that city to the Cow-ford, on their arrival at Jacksonville were unable to obtain any kind of lodging there—even on the floor. They were therefore compelled to take up their quarters at Mr. Hendricks's on the other side of the river, a respectable planter, who does not professedly keep a public house, though often influenced by hospitality and kindness to accommodate travelers. He is licensed to keep the ferry on that side of the river, and promptly afforded the Judge and the gentlemen who had business in court every facility in crossing the river.

This is one of a number of descriptive articles on Jacksonville published in the St. Augustine paper prior to 1828. All stress the beautiful situation of the village, but complain about the accommodations at court terms. "Junior Barrister" in the Herald of March 26, 1826, remarked that it was customary for the grand jury to lodge in the open air and suggests "with the intention of keeping their heads cool, in order to deliberate with more caution and prudence."

First Sawmill

In 1828 or 1829, Charles F. Sibbald built the first steam sawmill in East Florida at Panama on Trout Creek. He also operated a brick kiln. Judge F. Bethune, in his diary 1829-33 (still preserved), frequently refers to the steam sawmill and brick kiln at Panama, in connection with building operations at his "New Ross" plantation on the river four miles above Jacksonville. During the summer of 1829, Judge Bethune built a small sugar mill. The lumber and brick were brought up from Panama in the brig "Venus"; he sent to St. Augustine for a carpenter, and the mill was ready for operation by January 1, 1830. He began grinding cane, but soon afterward his cane mill broke down and he had to send again to St. Augustine for the carpenter. In three weeks it was repaired and he began to grind again. This was probably