

1876

February 4: Lloyd Brown (colored) was legally hanged for wife murder. He was captured at Baldwin after the murder and brought to Jacksonville. The day he was brought in the streets were lined with excited negroes, who united in shouting threats against the prisoner, and some went so far as to try to drag him from the hack that was taking him to the jail. It was an exciting demonstration and the officers had a difficult time in landing Brown safely behind the bars.

February 22: First State fair ever held in Florida opened in Jacksonville. The fairgrounds were two miles northeast of the city. Ferry boats carried the crowds to and from the exhibition. It was a success from every standpoint and did much toward advertising Florida products.

April 1: A negro barber by the name of DeLyon attempted to cut Officer Nolan with a razor, and the officer shot him in self-defense. The negroes about town became excited over the affair and began to congregate in large numbers on Bay Street near Ocean. Several serious rows occurred during the day, in one of which a white man was severely beaten. The police finally arrested about a dozen of the ringleaders, together with many others and both the city and the county jails were filled with prisoners. That night was one of much concern, as the negroes threatened to burn the town. Members of the fire companies and scores of determined citizens stationed themselves in different buildings prepared to meet an emergency, but the night passed without serious consequences and no further demonstrations of a threatening character were made.

April 4: John Dunn, a white boy 17 years old, was arrested as the firebug that had been active in the city for some time, setting fire to residences, outhouses, etc. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 12 years at hard labor in the State penitentiary.

May 27: A plot to defraud the city by means of reissue of canceled coupon bonds was revealed. A Dr. Koch obtained