

places far up the river to the fastest and most modern passenger boats to be found anywhere. Most of them were sidewheelers. Above Orange Park on both sides of the river were regular landings every few miles for the freight boats bringing oranges from the different groves. A novelty in the fleet was a floating packing house that stopped at the different landings and packed the oranges on board. The part these river boats played in the development of Jacksonville entitles them to a place in the history of this city.

1886

January 11-12: Severe freeze. The temperature on the 11th fell to 19 and on the 12th to 15 degrees. There was a general destruction of growing crops and young orange trees, while the old trees set out after the war were killed to the ground. Much damage was done to the water system as a result of broken pipes.

January 27-30: Emma Abbott, English Opera Company in grand opera, at the Park theatre, playing "La Traviata", the "Mikado", "Mignon", "Il Trovatore". The Company played to packed houses.

During this winter a number of players of world-wide fame gave performances here and were greeted with capacity houses.

February 16-20: State Fair and State Park associations gave joint exhibitions. Some of the best known horses in the country were sent here from the North.

March 20-21: Moody and Sankey, the noted evangelists, preached to immense congregations.

April 6: Printers in the newspaper offices in Jacksonville walked out on strike for higher wages. Outside printers were brought in and the papers were published without much inconvenience. The strike lasted two months, but there was no violence. The striking printers made an unsuccessful effort to institute a boycott of the newspapers by the merchants.

May 13: Organization of the first regular baseball club in Jacksonville, with A. W. Barrs, President; Lawrence Haynes,