



Hogan Street in the days when the Duval, Park and Windsor Hotels were near old post-office. Sightseeing cars were a novelty.



Another view of Laura Street taken in 1912, looking north. At left is St. James Building under construction.



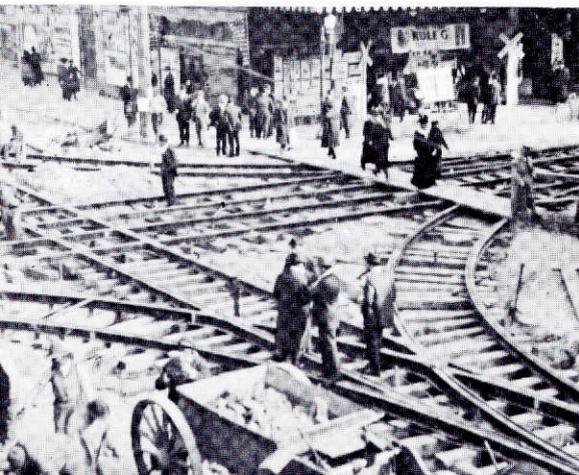
The home of Dr. Neal Mitchell located at Julia and Forsyth Streets was for many years a well-known landmark.

In the Beginning was the River . . .

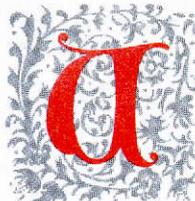
15 hardy pioneers struggling for a meager existence on this spot.

Then, in 1822, things began to take shape. It took the vision of young Isaiah Hart to recognize the wonderful geographical advantages of this narrow bend in the river. A year earlier the United States had purchased Florida from Spain. The area to the South was bound to be developed and THIS was the gateway. The climate was ideal. The St. Johns River was waiting to become a great port.

By 1915 Main Street at Forsyth was acquiring streetcar tracks and later became hub of city's transportation system.



Early History



ntil the twentieth century, the growth of this site was tantalizingly slow. Cow Ford was just what its name implies, a

low spot in the river where the Indians swam their cattle across; later a

ferry point by which travel passed between the Spanish territory on the South and the United States on the North bank of the river. And it remained as such for almost two hundred and fifty years, constantly buffeted by wars between the French and Spaniards . . . by dissension between Great Britain and Spain.

There was no permanent habitation until the year 1791 when one Robert Pritchard received a Spanish land grant of 450 acres on the South side of the river. Thirty-one years later there were but

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With the help of a few others, Hart laid out a tiny town and made a map. Duval County was established, and soon after, Cow Ford was surveyed and then renamed Jacksonville, in honor of General Andrew Jackson. It still had only fifteen citizens. Cow Ford became a name in history.