position to nurse the poor night and day, or to shroud the
death. Sorrow and sickness obliterated the social boundary-
line and affliction became public property.

Public out-of-door functions, barbecues, patriotic celebra-
tions, and the like were of frequent occurrence. Every town
improvement, or the inauguration of anything that had as
its object the public weal, met with immediate popular favor,
and the occasion was usually made one of public celebration,
with speech-making and a grand, good time for all. Such a
thing as a circus coming to town was sufficient to cause un-
bounded enthusiasm, and the songs and jokes could be heard
on the streets long after its departure.

In general, the people were kind-hearted, generous, and
hospitable. They were happy and contented, with a pro-
found fondness for recreation and pleasure; yet they were
sympathetic and patient under affliction, and at all times
were united in the interest of the town's improvement. The
community was prosperous, and the citizens possessed a
business judgment that enabled them to overcome seem-
ingly insurmountable obstacles, and to provide bountifully
for the present, and accumulate for the future.

Bibliography, Chapter XII

First-hand story of old residents of Jacksonville in what they called the "happy
days before the war".