

In the period 1868-70, a great deal of building was done. The St. James Hotel was built. New railroad depot and wharves were erected, together with a number of dwellings of the better class. Besides these, many cheaper houses were built in LaVilla and Brooklyn. The river was beginning to look like old times with vessels at the lumber docks and steamboats coming and going. On the whole the fall of 1870 found Jacksonville going ahead in a business way.<sup>e</sup>

#### Fire of December 19, 1870

About 7 p. m. December 19, 1870, fire broke out in a wooden building on the wharf back of Fairbanks's store on the south side of Bay Street between Pine (Main) and Laura. The lower portion of the building was occupied by M. W. Drew as a grain and hay warehouse and the upper part by R. W. Davis who conducted a mattress factory. The fire started in the mattress factory and the building was soon a burning mass. The flames spread rapidly to the nearby buildings and with the exception of the Hazeltine building at the southeast corner of Bay and Laura Streets and the eastern half of a building at the southwest corner of Bay and Pine, everything from the south side of Bay Street to the river between Pine and Laura was destroyed. In the meantime the fire jumped across Bay Street and reduced to ashes everything in the block bounded by Bay, Laura, Forsyth and Pine (Main), except the new Freedmen's bank building at the southwest corner of Pine and Forsyth and one or two small houses at the other end of the block. Among those burned out were the "Florida Union" newspaper plant, C. Drew's book store and printing plant, S. B. Hubbard's and R. T. Masters's hardware stores.<sup>f</sup> Jacksonville's Volunteer Fire Department, comprising several companies, had just been organized; this fire furnished a real test and it got away from them.

#### The Fagan-Carlin Murder

One Saturday night in the winter of 1871-2, Mr. and Mrs. Fagan left their home three miles northeast of the city to come into town for groceries, leaving their two little girls with Mrs. Fagan's sister, Miss Rosa Carlin. Two young men, William C. and Henry Scott, boarded with the Fagan family.