

1876

access to a safe containing the coupons and secretly took \$1,600 of the canceled paper. He erased the cancellation marks so completely that it was only by accident and through the aid of a magnifying glass that the fraud was detected. These coupons he sold to different parties in the city. When the plot was discovered Koch fled, but was afterward captured in Gainesville.

July 4: With the firing of 37 cannon-rounds at sunrise, representing the number of States then in the Union, the city began a day of hilarity and patriotism characterized by street parades, patriotic speeches, and sports, followed at night by dancing, fantastic parades and general jubilees. Thus Jacksonville celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Writing in 1876, the editor of the Jacksonville Tri-weekly Sun and Press published the following editorial in his paper:

"The past three years have not been very prosperous to business men or the country at large. They have been distinguished by panics in the money market and depressions in all kinds of business; by failures, and by want of confidence in moneyed institutions. But this city shows a steady growth in spite of the hard times north. To supply the demand for additional accommodations on the river, two new steamboats were put on for the winter. The Pastime, a nice river steamer, came here from the North and ran regularly to Tocol to connect with the St. Johns railway to St. Augustine. The David Clark was built two years ago and is now of Brock's line. The manufacture of lumber during the hard times has been less than formerly; besides one mill was burned last summer—that of Eppinger, Russell & Co. Still the local trade has been sufficient to keep most of the mills running during the dull sale of lumber north. Many places on Bay Street where unsightly old rattle-traps stood have yielded to the progress of events and brick buildings have been erected on the ground where they were so much of a nuisance."

Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1877

Rumors of a suspicious fever in Fernandina reached Jacksonville in August, 1877, whereupon the authorities sent a representative there to ascertain the facts. He was told