was extensively advertised at the time. Likewise in 1881, the Jacksonville & Fernandina Railroad was built to connect Jacksonville with the deep-sea port of Fernandina as a bid for some of this river trade. The Mallory Steamship line had been operating a vessel to Jacksonville for two years; this service was discontinued with the opening of the Fernandina Railroad.

This was the beginning of the competitive railroad construction that afterward made Jacksonville one of the most famous railroad terminals in the United States.

Along with the coming of the railroads the preliminary work for deeper water was started at St. Johns bar when the jetty work began. Thus both rail and water transportation to Jacksonville grew side by side under the same impelling circumstances—trade and tourist travel.

Mill Riot of 1880

On June 23, 1880, a labor disturbance broke out at Alsop & Clark's mill on East Bay Street near Hogans Creek, among the negro hands who demanded shorter hours of work. That night five extra policemen were sworn in and sent to the mill to protect the property from firebugs, and on the 25th two more were added. On the 26th Joe Nelson, a negro policeman, was killed by Ben Byrd, one of the negro strikers, and the situation assumed a serious aspect. Following the shooting of Nelson, W. C. Cooper, captain of the city police, and John Keefe, a patrolman, went on duty at the mill. They remained all night. Early the next morning a mob began to mass at the bridge farther up Bay Street. Keefe saw Captain Cooper advancing alone toward the mob and at once determined to share the danger with him. Upon the approach of the two officers the mob fell back from the bridge and took shelter in the weeds and behind slab piles. The moment the officers reached the bridge the negroes opened fire upon them with pistols, rifles and shotguns. One of the mob had a Spencer rifle, but the man had his sights too high and the bullets went over the officers' heads. Keefe saw a negro drop to one knee and let drive both barrels of a shotgun at him. Half a dozen buckshot struck his shirt aslant, made black dints in it and glanced off; however two buckshot penetrated the flesh and came out two or three inches beyond. The charge of buckshot spun Keefe around and burnt him