September 10: Jacksonville Gun Club organized. T. H. Livingston, president; John E. Hartridge and John L. Marvin, vice-presidents; W. L. Gibson, secretary; Bion Barnett, treasurer.

December 27: Steamer "City of Nassau" bound for Florida reported off Delaware Breakwater; she was never heard of again. A number of people were aboard bound for Jacksonville.

Fire of December 16, 1885

A $200,000 fire occurred on the south side of Bay Street between Laura and Pine (Main). The fire started in the four-story warehouse back of S. B. Hubbard's hardware store and destroyed that structure, together with the three-story warehouse back of the McConihe building. The flames spread to the stores on the south side of Bay Street and destroyed the Hubbard hardware store, the McConihe building, the Abell block, brick warehouse of C. B. Benedict, and the freight wharf and warehouse of the DeBary-Baya steamboat line. One or two other buildings were badly damaged. A colored fireman was killed by a falling wall. This fire showed plainly the necessity of a regularly organized paid fire department and it was authorized by the city council several months afterward.

Jacksonville Crowded with Tourists

The arrivals at the principal hotels and large boarding houses, during the season of 1884-85, numbered 60,000. It was with the greatest difficulty that the tourist trade could be accommodated and many were actually forced to go to other towns on that account. At the close of the season work was started on additions to a number of hotels and boarding houses. The Everett spent $100,000 in an addition, now the Aragon; the Windsor, $75,000; and the Duval, $25,000. Other hotels and boarding houses spent considerable money in enlargements and improvements, so that the winter season of 1885-86 found Jacksonville well prepared to accommodate all those who wished to come. That winter was the banner one.

The St. Johns now was teeming with steamboats of every description from the small, odd-looking craft running to the