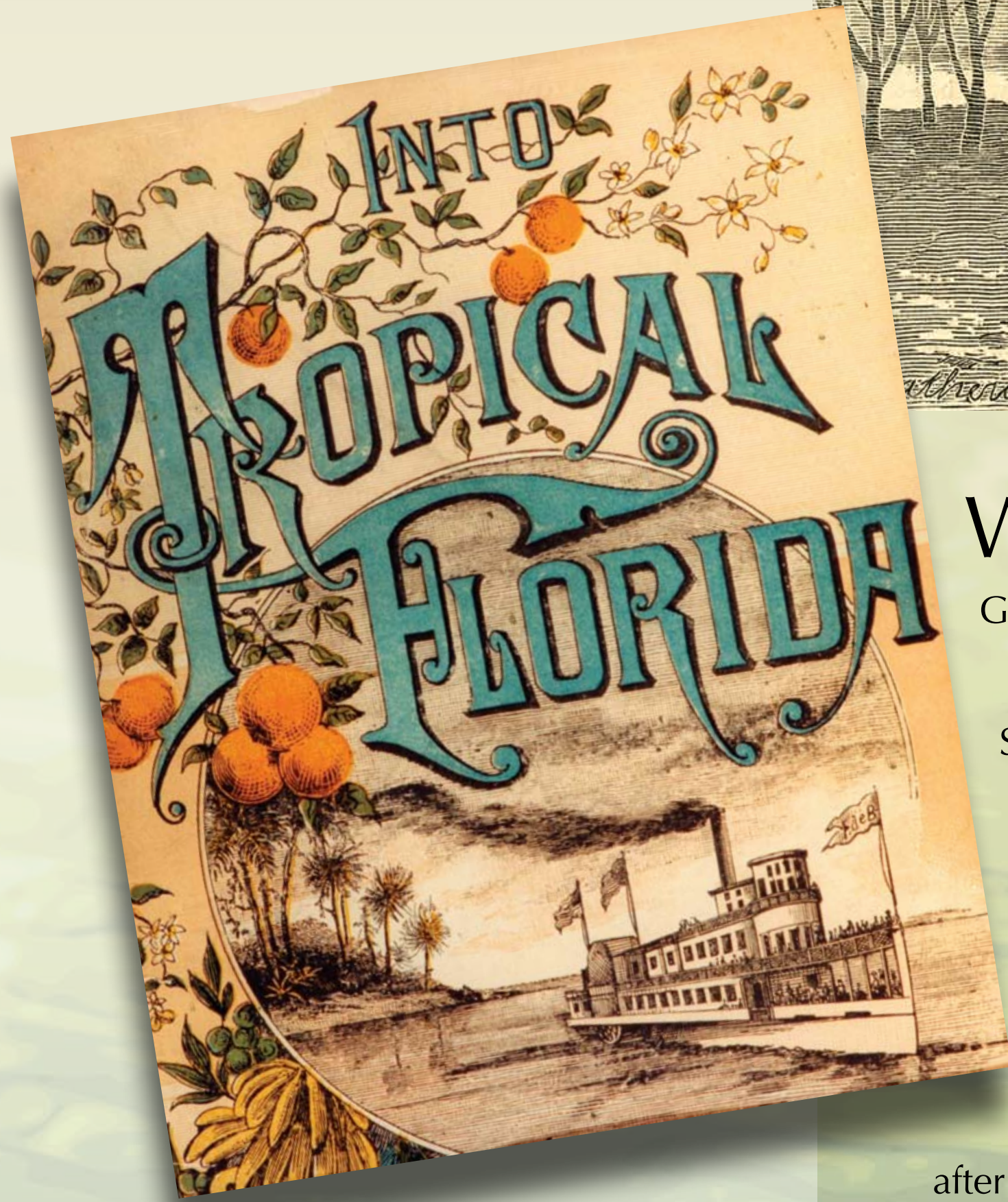
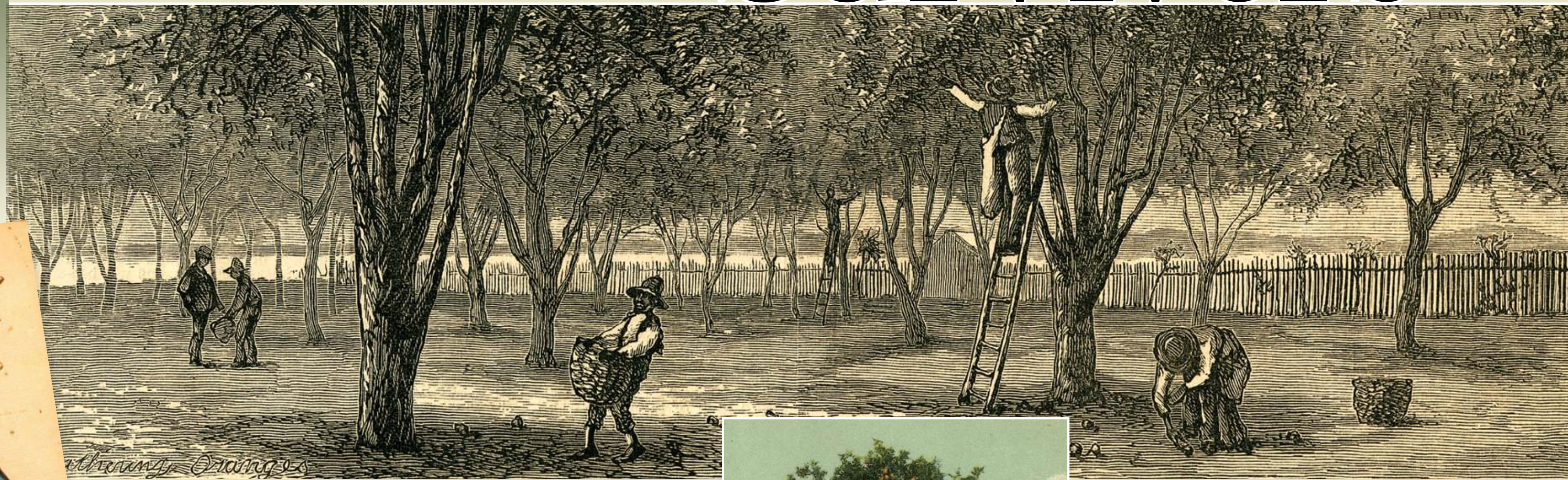


GREEN SPRINGS PARK

Survivors

Working in a St. Johns River grove.
 Drawing by E.A. Abbey in *Harper's Weekly*, February 20, 1875.



Steamboats and citrus in the 1880s. At the height of Florida river travel, the deBarys owned a steam line that carried tourists and shipped oranges grown along the St. Johns.

From a DeBary-Baya Merchants' Line guidebook, 1884, courtesy of FSU special collections.

Why do we see orange trees scattered throughout Green Springs Park? It's a long story.

Since the 1840s, citrus trees have always grown in these lakeside lands. A *New York Times* correspondent found bearing trees at Old Enterprise in 1853 and learned that they had been producing for years. Somewhat later, just after the Civil War, another traveler reported seeing "lovely orange groves" near the spring. In the 1880s, wealthy snowbird and landowner Frederick deBary built drainage ditches (including the one crossed by this bridge) for his orange-growing venture. Well into



Gathering Oranges in Florida
 A novelty citrus photo, early twentieth century.
 Postcard courtesy of Tom Baskett, Jr.

the twentieth century, people still planted citrus trees here. Dating the park's surviving orange trees is difficult because Florida had killer freezes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. (Two infamous events, in 1894 and 1895, wiped out many area groves.) Easier to say

is how these lands contributed to Florida's best-known product—a crop that caught the imagination of tourists, investors, and settlers. Green Springs played a part in "orange fever."