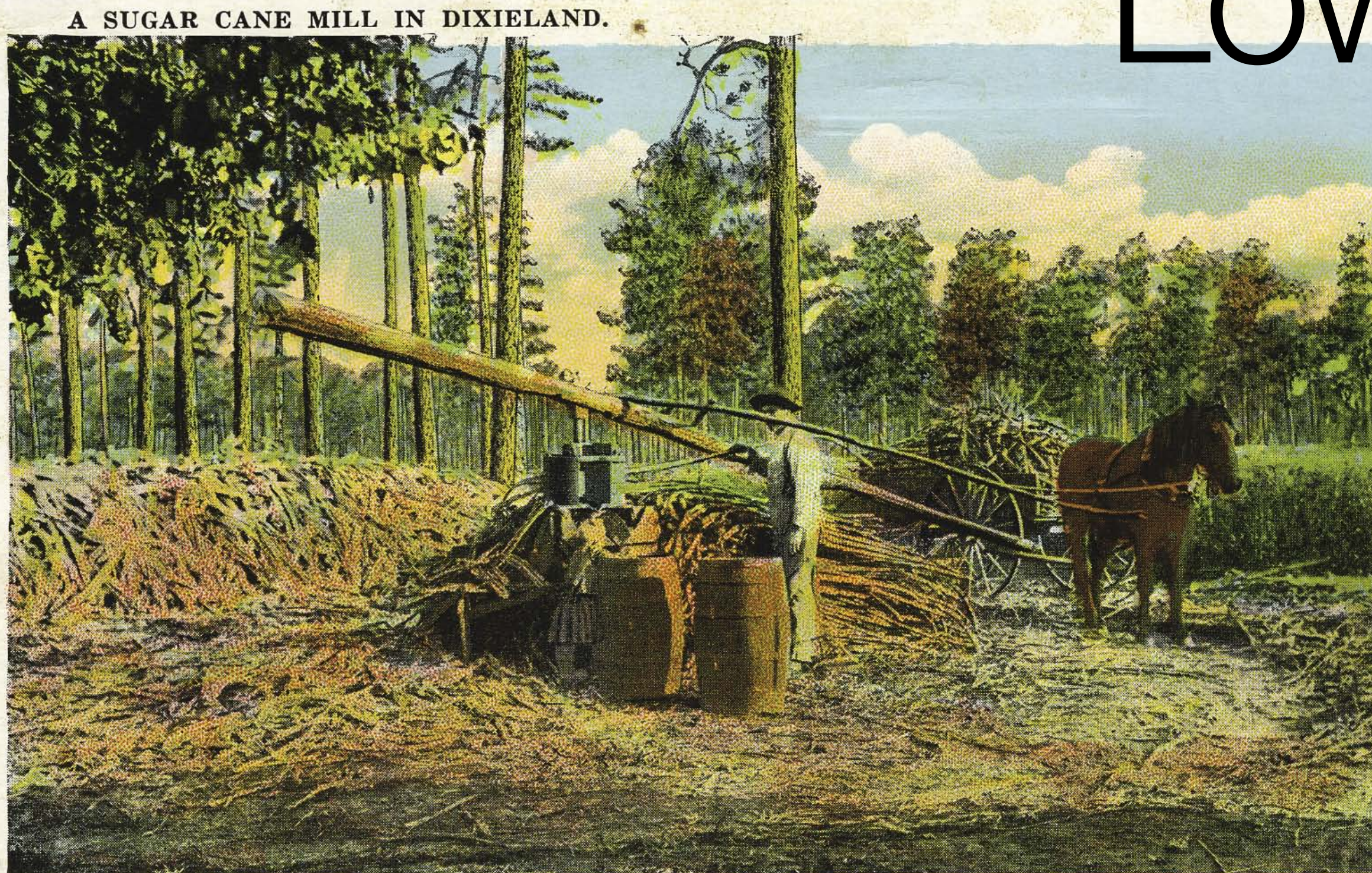


Low-Tech Mill



Though small cane mills—like those beyond the walk—were not actually part of the Cruger-dePeyster plantation, they help us see differences between ordinary agriculture and large-scale sugar making. Settlers used these animal-powered crushers to extract cane juice for sorghum syrup—mostly for local consumption. By contrast, Cruger-dePeyster had big steam-driven rollers for crushing cane. Long after the sugar factory's costly (and temperamental) machinery had stopped working, simple mills kept grinding away throughout the American South.

A horse-powered cane mill.
Early twentieth-century postcard,
courtesy of Tom Baskett, Jr.

*Cruger-dePeyster's steam-driven
roller mill (moved to the Dunlawton
sugar factory, Port Orange).*

Florida Commerce Department
photo, 1947, courtesy of the
Florida Photographic Collection,
State Archives.

