History of Race Relations in Tallahassee

Joint Project between
FSU History Department & FSU Libraries
Working Group

• **Purpose:** To construct a resource that contains rich primary and secondary source materials so that students can learn about the history of race relations in the capital city and Florida more generally when those two histories are intertwined.

• **Proposed Deliverable:** An Omeka project containing materials collected and interpretation of materials.
Types of Questions

• Was there a relationship between slavery and FSU?
• How was segregation established and what did it look like in Tallahassee in the twentieth century? (in schools, public spaces, medical facilities, stores, residential living patterns, etc.)
• What has FAMU meant to black Tallahasseans since its founding?
• How does FAMU connect to the national history of the civil rights movement?
• What was life like for the first generation of African American students to attend FSU?
• How did life for African American students change over time? How was it different for women?
• Where on FSU's current campus are sites of significance related to BIOPIC history?
Example of Using Primary Sources to Answer Historical Questions

- Was there a relationship between slavery and FSU?
  - Answer: Yes. Enslaved African Americans made and laid the first public school bricks in Tallahassee that became the Seminary West of the Suwanee
- How do we know this?
  - Combination of newspaper records, U.S. Census records, and probate records related to the business dealings of Richard A. Shine.
The contract, however, was finally awarded to Capt. Shine for the Brick Work and Plastering at $8335.

Source: Floridian and Journal April 1, 1854
Who was “Capt. Shine”?

Richard Alexander Shine was born on June 23, 1810, in Sampson County, North Carolina, and died on December 29, 1862, in Tallahassee. Shine was a Brick Mason. He was part of a more general migration of North Carolinians to Tallahassee to establish cotton plantations and secure new territory opportunities. This included the Croom family for whom he supervised constructing the main structures of their Goodwood plantation. Shine was responsible for the construction of several brick homes in Tallahassee, including extant structures at 410 N. Calhoun St (known as the Bloxham house), 329 North Meridian Road (known as the Brokaw-McDougall house), and 323 E. Park Ave (known as the Flagg-Chittenden home.) Shine was also responsible for supervising the construction of Florida’s capitol building in 1840, for which he was contracted to be paid $23,500, which is over $700,000 in relative value to today. Lastly, Shine made a significant amount of money supervising downtown Tallahassee's rebuilding after a massive fire in 1843 reduced most of it to rubble.

- “Col Richard Alexander Shine Sr.” accessed via Find a Grave database via Ancestry.com. He was also known as Captain Shine because he served as a captain in the militia and as the Quartermaster General of the Florida militia.
Example of Evidence from the Past:
U.S. Census Slave Schedules 1850 & 1860 for Shine
“many of the negros belonging to said Estate are skilled in the business of Bricklaying that it would be more profitable to the Estate to continue them in the same employment than to hire them out”

Deduction Based on Evidence from the Past.
Shine’s enslaved labor built the city’s school later Seminary West of the Suwannee River pictures circa 1870

Source: State Archives of Florida, https://floridamemory.com, RC04562; RC09230; and RC01133
It is possible that these men made and laid the bricks.

{Curtis (43), Milly (28), Gus (7), and Nelly (5)}
{Bob Hooper (40), Harriet (60), Bob (17), Charles (13), Susan (10)}
{Maria (32), Sam (6), Harriet child (3)}
{Jim Daniels (60), Lucy Ann (55), Godfrey (18), Jim (16)}
Old Jim (100)
{Old Dick (65), Philis (55), Dick (28), Alex (23)}
Frost (50)
Nelson (36)
Bob Fantevoy (30)
Louis (26)
Louis Fisher (deceased)
Bob Fisher (33)
George Dickenson (60)
Benjamin Mysick (57)
Booker (45)
Floyd (40)
John Rice (55)
Wesley (65)
Purchase (50)
Omeka

• Publishing Platform created by Archivists, Historians, and Computer Scientists.
• Created and maintained by Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University
• Mechanism for us to be able to
  1) Keep track of primary source material
  2) Create interpretations about the material
Example of Omeka Primary Source
(object image and metadata information)

Title
Charles Koslow’s passport

Subject
Immigrant experience

Description
Koslow’s passport from 1922. Upon arriving at Ellis Island his name was changed to Charles Koslow. This was done so that his last name matched the surname of his relations who already lived in the U.S.

Citation
Polish Government, “Charles Koslow’s passport,” ProfKoslow.net, accessed September 30, 2020, 
https://professorkoslow.omeka.net/items/show/1.
Example of Omeka Interpretation (Primary Source with interpretive text)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

This is the earliest picture I have of my grandfather. He was sixteen. His passport stated his name as “Kiwa Namiot.” How then did his last name become Koslow? There are two clues on the ship’s manifest. First, Tziporah Leah listed her brother Odala Kozlowski as her nearest relative back in Holszany. Second, the manifest listed “son Sam Koslar” as the relative to whom the family would join in America. Sam and another brother had already moved to the United States to avoid being drafted into the army. My best guess is that one of Tziporah Leah’s relatives had also moved to the United States and that my grandfather’s brothers took her maiden name to facilitate their migration. Unfortunately, searches of ship manifests on libertyellisislandfoundation.org have not yielded any definitive proof.

Charles Koslow: Always Looking Forward
- Migrating to America
- What’s in a Name?
- Instituting Quotas
- Making a Living
- Optimism

source: Original in possession of Arnold Koslow

testing hyperlink
Student & Community Engagement

CURRENTLY RECRUITING UROP PARTICIPANTS

FUTURE PLANS TO ASK INTERESTED GRADUATE STUDENTS

FUTURE PLANS TO ASK COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS FOR COMMENT
Namings in Retrospect

President’s Task Force on
Anti-Racism, Equity, & Inclusion

Sandra A. Varry, MFA, MLIS, CA
Heritage & University Archivist
Heritage & University Archives

- Official repository for university records and related historical resources
- Acquires, preserves, and provides access to archives and collections
- Coordinates with Records Management Liaison Officer
- Assists the FSU community and other patrons with research on university history
- Provides support for and conducts outreach for events and university history projects
- Provides reproductions for use to the FSU and broader community
- Manages the Heritage Museum at Dodd Hall
- Works with faculty and students at all levels to support instruction or supervise course work in the area of archives, public history, or museum studies
Archives, Histories, Mythologies

- Primary sources
- Inaccuracies in published works
- Campus mythologies
- Historical records and resources in Florida
- University records at Florida State
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>City creates the Florida Institute (male)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>The City’s second offer to the Legislature is accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857 – 1901</td>
<td>The West Florida Seminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>Accepted male students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>Absorbed the Leon Female Academy (est. 1843)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Military curriculum added</td>
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<tr>
<td>1863 – 1865</td>
<td>Florida Military &amp; Collegiate Institute (unratified)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865 – 1901</td>
<td>West Florida Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883 – 1885</td>
<td>Florida University – WFS is “Literary College &amp; Medical”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>First diplomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901 – 1905</td>
<td>Florida State College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905 – 1909</td>
<td>Florida Female College (Buckman Act)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905 – 1947</td>
<td>Florida State College for Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947 – present</td>
<td>Florida State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Buildings & Research

• Currently 209 buildings on main campus ranging from 1907

• Typically we assist in research, but for administrative requests we have a more hands on approach as our resources allow

• Review a variety of records:
  • architectural plans
  • dedication ceremony information
  • photographs
  • city and state records
  • relevant units on campus
Francis W. Eppes

- 1827-29 Establishes Eppes Plantation (L’eau Noir) with up to 86 enslaved people between there and Lake Lafayette Plantation

- Intendant 1841-45, 1856-57 and 1866. Justice of the Peace 1836, 1842 – 1844

- Presented the City’s second offer to locate the Seminary at Tallahassee to the Legislature

- Served as president of the Board of Education for WFS from 1860 to after the Civil War in 1868.
Francis Eppes Hall (Education, Psychology, Criminology)
1918

- The first building that was used specifically for classroom use, oldest academic building on campus.

- Originally housed the School of Education, was eventually turned over to the Psychology Department in the 1950s.

- Renamed Francis Eppes Hall in 1997
Francis Eppes Hall - Naming
1918

- 1995 – Requested in writing by Ruth Garrett Blitch, alumna and former staff member
- 1997 – Approved by the Campus Development and Space Committee’s Subcommittee on Naming Campus Buildings
- 2000 – Naming Ceremony
- 2002 – Statue Dedication
B.K. Roberts Hall – College of Law
1971

• Florida Supreme Justice who refused to admit an African American (Virgil Hawkins) to the University of Florida despite a Federal Judge ordering desegregation in 1957

• Helped Fuller Warren's bid to become Governor and was appointed to Florida Supreme Court by Warren

• It is noted on the Florida Supreme Court website that Roberts "created controversy because his personal friendships conflicted at times with his conduct of court business"

• Building dedicated in 1974