

# History of Race Relations in Tallahassee

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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

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- 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.





# 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.
- North Carolinians migrated to Leon County because the pedology looked promising for growing cotton. Edward E. Baptist, “The Migration of Planters to Antebellum Florida: Kinship and Power,” *Journal of Southern History* 62 (August, 1996): 527-554.
- William Warren Rogers and Erica R. Clark, *The Croom Family and Goodwood Plantation* (Athens, GA; University of Georgia, 2010) 114-116. For more on the linkages between North Carolina and Tallahassee, see Edward E. Baptist, “The Migration of Planters to Antebellum Florida: Kinship and Power,” *Journal of Southern History* 62 (August, 1996): 527-554.
- He was still owed \$6,292 in 1842, and the issue was raised in the 27<sup>th</sup> Congress. See Rep. No. 62 Public Buildings-Tallahassee, 27<sup>th</sup> Congress, 3d Session, January 19, 1842, accessed via Google Books, United States Congressional Set Volume 426.





To The Hon Judge Probate  
for Leon County.

The undersigned Admin-  
istration of the Estate of R. A. Shine Decd respect-  
fully represents that at the decease of his  
intestate he was engaged in the business  
of making & laying Brick and farming  
and that he left on hand a considerable  
quantity of materials for the Brick laying  
business such as Lime Brick &c. & that  
it would be to the interest of the Estate  
to continue the said business rather than  
sell said material & Brick for cash.

the undersigned that many of the negroes  
belonging to said Estate are skilled in  
the business of Brick laying & that it would  
be more profitable to the Estate to continue  
them in the same employment than to  
hire them out. And the undersigned further  
shows that it would also be more to the

interest of the Estate to keep up the Farm  
than to rent the Land & hire out the negroes  
engaged therein, as to hire them out and  
thus break up the farm would require the  
arrangement & convenience that have been  
provided at some expense for that purpose  
& besides the proceeds of the farm are  
necessary to maintain the mechanics whose  
support would also require an outlay of  
money. Therefore your petitioner prays that  
he may be allowed to continue the business  
of the Estate as it was prosecuted by his  
intestate & be not required to sell any thing

"many of the negroes 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"

Source: Letter to the Hon Judge Probate for Leon County  
from R.A. Shine, n.d., images 32-33, in Richard A Shine in  
Probate Records, 1827-1887, Index to Estates, 1831-1974;  
Probate Place: Leon, Florida accessed through  
Ancestry.com. Florida, Wills and Probate Records, 1810-  
1974.



*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)

Source: "List of Slaves" image 661, in Richard A Shine in Probate Records, 1827-1887, Index to Estates, 1831-1974; Probate Place: Leon, Florida accessed through Ancestry.com. Florida, Wills and Probate Records, 1810-1974.

List of Slaves		Ag'es	Value
✓	Curtis	43	\$2,000 00
✓	Milly	28	600
	Gus	7	400
	Nelly	5	350
✓	Bob Hooper	40	1300
	Harriet	60	800
✓	Bob	17	800
	Charles	13	900
	Susan	10	Idiot
	Maria & Sam	32 <sup>1000</sup> Sam 6 years <sup>400</sup>	1400
	Harriet child	3	250
✓	Jim Daniels	60	800
	Lucy Ann	55	600
	Godfrey	18	1300
	Jim	16	1200
	Old Jim	100	No Value
✓	Old Dick	65	350
	Philis	55	400
	Dick	28	1800
	Alex	23	1500
✓	Frost	50	1100
✓	Nelson	36	1200
	Bob Fanteoy	30	1300
✓	Louis	26	1100
	Louis Fisher	33	1500
	Bob Fisher	60	1250
✓	George Dickerson	57	600
	Benjamin Myrick	45	2000
✓	Booker	40	1000
✓	Floyd	55	100
✓	John Rice	65	in Tennessee
✓	Wesley	50	400
✓	Purchase		
			\$27,001 00

Dead

In Tennessee




# 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)

**CHARLES KOSLOW'S PASSPORT**



**Citation**

Polish Government, "Charles Koslow's passport," *ProfKoslowTest*, accessed September 30, 2020, <https://professorkoslow.omeka.net/items/show/1>.

**Title**

Charles Koslow's passport

**Subject**

immigrant experience

**Description**

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

**Creator**

Polish Government

**Publisher**

Poland



# Example of Omeka Interpretation (Primary Source with interpretive text)

ProfKoslowTest



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[Browse Exhibits](#)

[Bibliography](#)

## 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 Tzpiroah 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 [libertyellislandfoundation.org](http://libertyellislandfoundation.org) have not yielded any definitive proof.

source: Original in posession of Arnold Koslow

### Charles Koslow: Always Looking Forward

[Migrating to America](#)

[What's in a Name?](#)

[Instituting Quotas](#)

[Making a Living](#)

[Optimism](#)

[testing hyperlink](#)

# Student & Community Engagement



CURRENTLY RECRUITING UROP  
PARTICIPANTS



FUTURE PLANS TO ASK  
INTERESTED GRADUATE STUDENTS



FUTURE PLANS TO ASK  
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS FOR  
COMMENT



FLORIDA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# *Namings in Retrospect*

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

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

## *Heritage & University Archives*

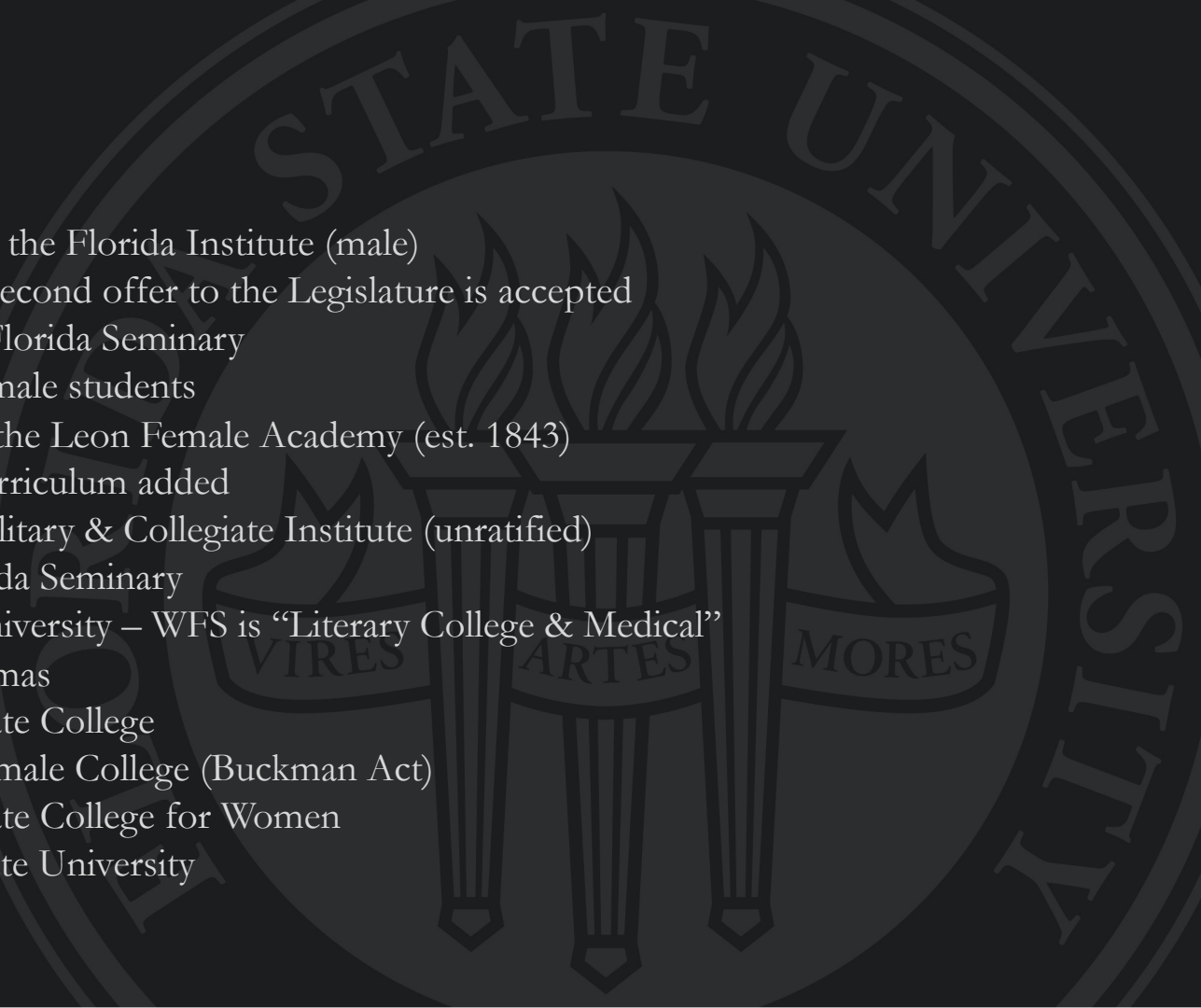
- Official repository for university records and related historical resources
- Acquires, preserves, and provides access to archives and collections
- Coordinates with Records Management Liaison Officer
- Assists the FSU community and other patrons with research on university history
- Provides support 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



## *Timeline*



1854	City creates the Florida Institute (male)
1856	The City's second offer to the Legislature is accepted
1857 – 1901	The West Florida Seminary
1857	Accepted male students
1858	Absorbed the Leon Female Academy (est. 1843)
1861	Military curriculum added
1863 – 1865	Florida Military & Collegiate Institute (unratified)
1865 – 1901	West Florida Seminary
1883 – 1885	Florida University – WFS is “Literary College & Medical”
1884	First diplomas
1901 – 1905	Florida State College
1905 – 1909	Florida Female College (Buckman Act)
1905 – 1947	Florida State College for Women
1947 – present	Florida State University



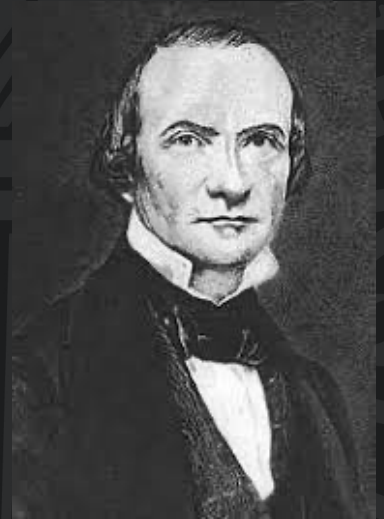
## *Buildings & Research*

- 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 Blich, 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

