



# FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR IN ANTEBELLUM FLORIDA

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Photo - 01241 01

In the matter of Thomas Romer July 24 1840

A writ of Habeas Corpus having been executed by the Sheriff of Monroe County, and the body of Thomas Romer being this day brought into court in the custody of the Sheriff he returns that he was detained in custody ~~the said Romer~~ by virtue of a warrant issued by Lewis F. Broughton a Justice of the peace of Monroe County.

Monroe Case, by student F10643202 - Copywriting Made - Saved to this PC

Filed July 24, 1840  
T.A. Pinkney Clerk  
Judge T. A. Marvin  
Deputy

Page 12

In the Matter of Thomas Romer July 24 1840

A writ of Habeas Corpus having been executed by the Sheriff of Monroe County, and the body of Thomas Romer being this day brought into court in the custody of the Sheriff, he returns that he was detained in custody ~~the said Romer~~, by virtue of a warrant issued by Lewis F. Broughton a Justice of the peace of Monroe County directing the removal of the said Romer from ~~Florida~~ the Territory of Florida he being a free negro and formed within the same contrary to the Statute in such case made and provided to here for the following interpreters Mr. Uhall, George Scroggs, Wade Rigby, John P. Bolden, Stephen R. Mallory were sworn and examined, and from their testimony the Court being satisfied that the same Romer is not subject to removal and against statutes and that the return of the, and that the return of the said Sheriff is insufficient, therefore it is Ordered adjourn and decreed that the said Thomas Romer be discharged from the custody of the Sheriff of Monroe County and set at liberty.

Mr. Marvin

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# United States of America.

**TERRITORY OF FLORIDA, SOUTHERN JUDICIAL DISTRICT, ss.**

TO THE MARSHAL OF SAID DISTRICT,

GREETING:

YOU are hereby commanded to summon

*Ans G. Leray - Wade Rigby*

*J. William H. Wall.*

to be and appear at the Court House at Key West, on the *fourth* day of \_\_\_\_\_ next, to

testify, and the truth to speak, in a matter of controversy, now pending before said Court, wherein *Ser. of the*

\_\_\_\_\_ is Libellant, and *M. Ramo.* Respondent. And this you shall in no wise omit,

and make return of this precept.

WITNESS, the Honorable *James Webb*, Judge of our said Court, this *24*

day of *July* - in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and

and of the Independence of the United States the

*T. A. Linker* *X. R. D. A.* Clerk.

*for J. A. Thomas Esqy.*

Supreme Court for the Northern  
Judicial District of the Territory  
of Florida - of the November Term  
thereof in the Year 1843 -

Christianity of Florida

The Grand Jurors in and  
for the County of Monroe and State in said  
Judicial District in the Territory of Florida  
aforesaid upon their Oath present, that a  
certain colored man named Anson, otherwise called  
Anson Mumphrey

late of the City of St. Augustine in the County of  
St. Johns in the said Territory of Florida on the  
first day of September in the Year one thousand  
Eight hundred and forty three with fire and  
arms at the Island called the Biscayne in said  
County of Wade at and near the dwelling house  
of one John H. Seaman Siborer then residing on  
said Island in and upon Anna Seaman in the  
person of God and of the People of said Territory  
then and there being, feloniously did make  
an Assault and hit the said Anna in bodily  
fear and danger of her life, at the Island  
and place aforesaid, then and there feloniously  
did put, and half a Barrel of Flour of the  
value of three Dollars, and half a Barrel of  
Biscuit of the value of four Dollars, and wearing  
apparel of the value of twenty Dollars, partly  
of the goods and Chattels of said Anna; and  
partly of the goods and Chattels of said John  
H. Seaman, being then and there in the posses-  
sion and keeping of said Anna, at said  
dwelling house from the person, in the presence  
and against the will of the said Anna; at the  
Island and place aforesaid then and there  
feloniously and violently did steal, take and  
carry away, against the peace and dignity of  
the People of said Territory.

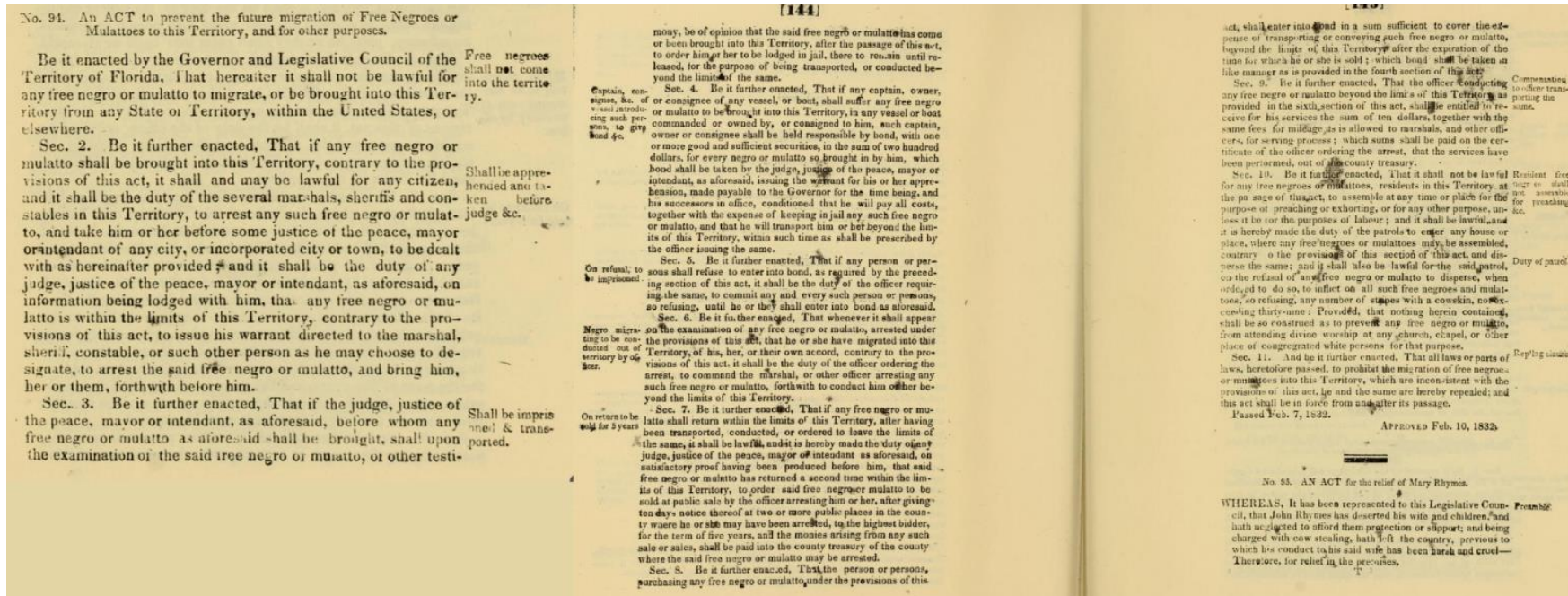
And the Jurors aforesaid,  
upon their Oath aforesaid, further present,  
that the said Anson afterwards  
to wit, on the day and Year aforesaid, at the  
Island and place aforesaid, in said County  
of Wade in and upon one John Seaman also  
feloniously did make another Assault, and  
hit the said John Seaman in bodily fear

and him the said John Seaman in bodily  
fear and danger of his life, at the Island and  
place aforesaid in said County, then and  
there feloniously did put, and another half  
Barrel of Flour of the value of three Dollars,  
and another half Barrel of Biscuit of the  
value of four Dollars, and ~~and~~ wearing  
apparel of the value of twenty Dollars, partly  
of the goods and Chattels of said John Seaman  
and partly of the goods and Chattels of said  
John H. Seaman, being then and there in the  
possession and keeping of said John Seaman  
from the person, in the presence, and against  
the will of the said John Seaman, at the Island  
and place aforesaid in said County of Wade  
then and there feloniously and violently did  
steal, take and carry away, against the  
peace and dignity of the People of said  
Territory.

And the Jurors aforesaid upon their  
Oath aforesaid further present that the said  
Joseph afterwards to wit on the day  
and Year aforesaid, at the Island and place  
aforesaid, in said County of Wade, in and upon  
one John H. Seaman also feloniously did make  
an <sup>other</sup> Assault, and hit the said John H. Seaman  
in bodily fear and danger of his life, at the  
Island and place aforesaid, in said County,  
feloniously did put, and another half Barrel  
of Flour of the value of three Dollars, and another  
half Barrel of Biscuit of the value of four Dollars,  
and also wearing apparel of the value of twenty  
Dollars, and also a rifle of the value of  
fifteen Dollars, of the goods and Chattels of  
said John H. Seaman, at the Island and  
place aforesaid, in said County of Wade, then  
and there feloniously and violently did steal,  
take and carry away, against the peace  
and dignity of the People of said Territory. -

Geo. W. Manard  
Prosecuting Attorney

# Territorial Legislature prohibits free blacks from residing in Florida



Florida 10th Session 1832 Act







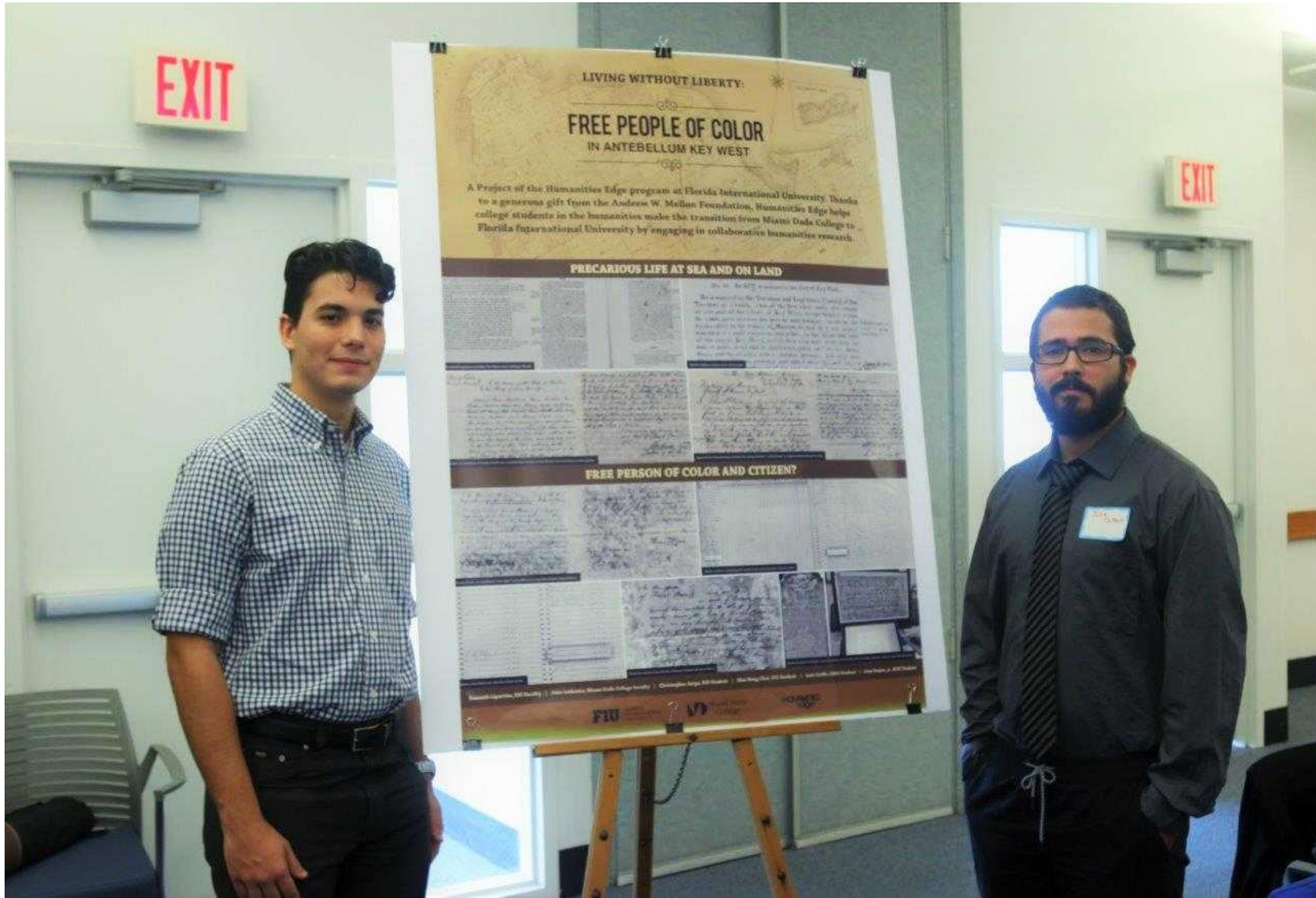


Romer remained in Florida, a rare free person of color who was not forcibly removed, and died at age 108 in Key West.



In Memory of  
Thomas Romer  
Born in Nassau  
N.P 1783  
Died at Key West  
Fla Sep 8 1891  
Aged 108 Years  
A Privateersman in the  
War of 1812  
A Good Citizen for 65  
Years





# THE HUMANITIES edge

FIU

FLORIDA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY



Miami Dade  
College

THE  
ANDREW W.

MELLON

FOUNDATION



MILE MARKERS

# Project Contacts

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Christopher Jorge



Mun Bong