

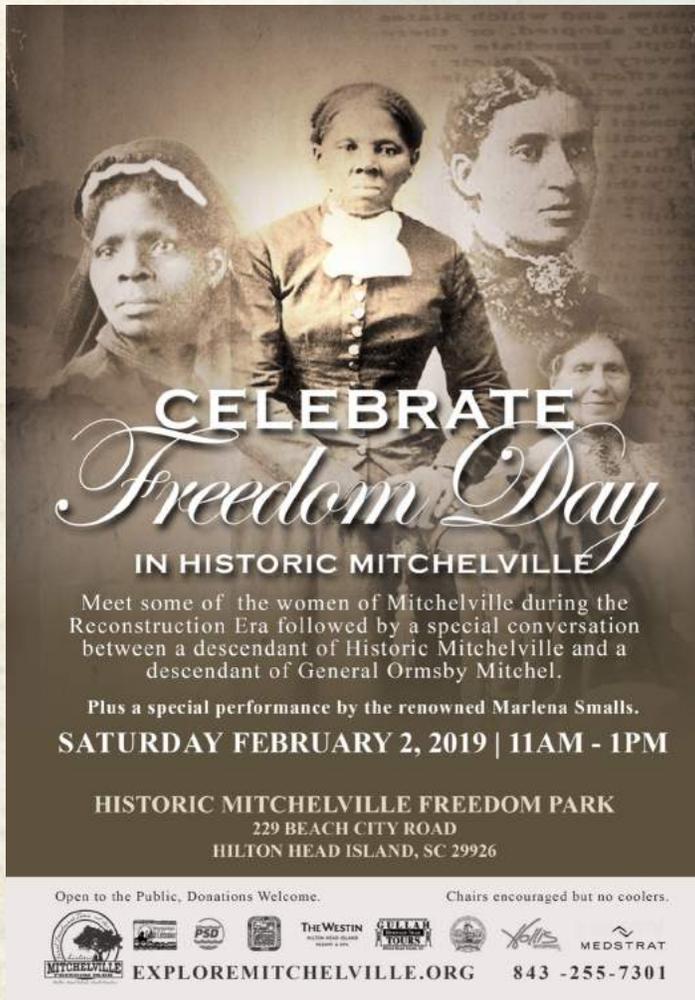
# Mitchelville Times

January 2019

Newsletter

Mitchelville Times is the official newsletter of the Mitchelville Preservation Project

## Meet the Women of Mitchelville at the Freedom Day Celebration



**CELEBRATE  
Freedom Day  
IN HISTORIC MITCHELVILLE**

Meet some of the women of Mitchelville during the Reconstruction Era followed by a special conversation between a descendant of Historic Mitchelville and a descendant of General Ormsby Mitchel.

Plus a special performance by the renowned Marlana Smalls.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2019 | 11AM - 1PM**

**HISTORIC MITCHELVILLE FREEDOM PARK  
229 BEACH CITY ROAD  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC 29926**

Open to the Public, Donations Welcome. Chairs encouraged but no coolers.

**EXPLOREMITCHELVILLE.ORG 843-255-7301**

## FINDING FREEDOM'S HOME

ARCHAEOLOGY AT MITCHELVILLE

This exhibit displays excavated findings from the first large-scale dig lead by Brockington and Associates. The dig uncovered remnants of old homes, wells and garbage pits, and recovered more than 20,000 artifacts representing the personal belongings, tools and household goods from the first self-governed, freed slaves' town in America, established on Hilton Head in 1862. The exhibition is being housed at the Westin Hilton Head Resort and Spa. It is free to the public and open daily.

### Upcoming

**February 2**  
**Freedom Day Celebration with  
HHI Gullah Celebration**  
Historic Mitchelville  
Freedom Park

**March 30**  
**Blues+BBQ**

**June 15**  
**Juneteenth Celebration**  
Historic Mitchelville  
Freedom Park

National Freedom Day was established in 1948 by President Harry Truman in remembrance of February 1, 1865 - the day President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which outlawed slavery.

This year we will take a journey through historic Mitchelville. On this tour you will learn more about what the people of Mitchelville were busy creating in 1862 before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed and how that those citizens would create guidepost for generations to follow.

Preserving, promoting and honoring Historic Mitchelville, the first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people in the United States

843-255-7301 • [exploremitchelville.org](http://exploremitchelville.org)



## African American Women of the Civil War



**Susie King Taylor** was 14 years old when she fled to St. Simons Island, Georgia, after an attack on Fort Pulaski. When Captain Charles Trowbridge and the Volunteers left St. Simon's Island, Taylor was allowed to accompany them. Initially taken as a laundress, her duties expanded to include clerical work and nursing. Taylor's experiences as a black employee of the Union Army are recounted in her diary, published as *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33rd United States Colored Troops Late 1st S.C. Volunteers*.

**Charlotte Forten** arrived at St. Helena Island in October 1862. As a black woman, she hoped to find kinship with the freedmen, but her own education set her apart. In 1864, she published "Life on the Sea Islands" in *The Atlantic Monthly*, which brought the work of the Port Royal Experiment to the attention of Northern readers. After the Civil War, she worked with the Freedmen's Relief Association in Boston to help former slaves find jobs and homes. In the late 1860s and 1870s, she worked for the U.S.

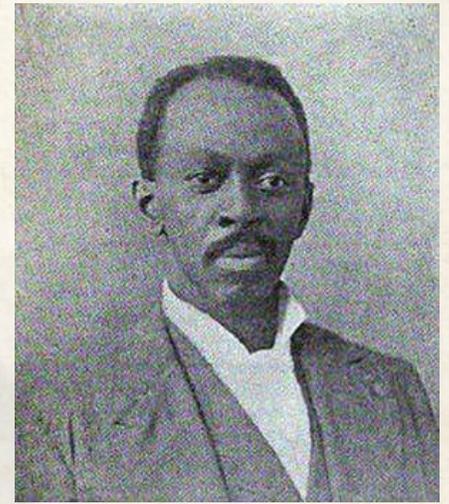


Born free in Baltimore, Maryland, **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's** family sold their home and fled to Canada when the racial climate in Maryland became increasingly hostile. This remarkable self-educated woman was referred to as the Brown Muse, and described as "a petite, dignified woman whose sharp black eyes and attractive face reveal her sensitive nature." After emancipation, she wrote and lectured to ensure the equal rights of the newly-freed slaves and continued her work to gain greater acceptance for all women as equals to men.

An African American publisher, journalist and suffragist, **Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin** was also editor of *Women's Era*, the first newspaper published by and for black women. During the Civil War, Ruffin helped recruit African American soldiers for the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiments in the Union Army and worked for the United States Sanitary Commission. Some of Ruffin's greatest contributions came after the war, when her philanthropic work brought her in contact with many eminent white and black leaders, and her close friends included Susan B. Anthony, William Lloyd Garrison, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Booker T. Washington.



## Richard Robert Wright, Sr.



### Creator of National Freedom Day

Richard Robert Wright Sr., college founder and banker, was born into slavery on May 16, 1855, near Dalton, Georgia. After the Civil War ended Wright's mother moved with her son to Atlanta, Georgia where he attended the Storrs School, an institution founded by the American Missionary Association (AMA) to educate the children of the freed-people. Storrs was the forerunner of Atlanta University. When retired Union General Oliver Otis Howard visited the school in 1868 and asked the students what message he should take to the North, Wright replied with the words, "Sir, tell them we are rising."

Wright, in his eighties, also led the effort to create National Freedom Day, to commemorate President Abraham Lincoln signing the 13th Amendment on February 1, 1865. As he argued, it was this measure rather than the Emancipation Proclamation which freed all American slaves.