

# LET FREEDOM RING!



## HISTORIC MITCHELVILLE FREEDOM PARK CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH!

Before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863 and at the height of the Civil War, a group of escaped slaves set about creating their own town on the grounds of the former Drayton Plantation on Hilton Head Island. Here, Union General Ormsby Mitchel created an actual town – instead of one of the more prevalent camps – with orderly streets, simple but accommodating wooden homes, a church, and most importantly, gave its inhabitants the freedom to govern themselves.

The newly minted citizens went about their business with elections, enacting various laws, collecting taxes, making a living, and naming their town “Mitchelville,” in honor of the forward-thinking General Mitchel. In fact, Harriet Tubman was sent to Hilton Head to see this bustling town, so she could share their success story with future freedmen towns.

Thanks to the Mitchelville Preservation Project, visitors today can relive experiences that are significant to Mitchelville and our nation’s very first freedmen.

Held at Mitchelville – and throughout the south – the Juneteenth festival celebrates the perseverance of enslaved people who struggled to gain independence. The annual festival is commemorated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June by African Americans, to signify the final emancipation from slavery in Texas on that day in 1865.

Presented by Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, the 2018 Juneteenth celebration includes a movie and dinner on Friday, June 15 and an afternoon of food, music, storytelling, historic reenactments and more on Saturday, June 16.

On Friday, the West African Style Drum Circle and a community fish fry will kick off the festivities prior to the showing of *The Language You Cry In*, a riveting film that connects meaningful links between African Americans and their ancestral past.

Saturday’s festivities will highlight the art, food, music and customs of the people of Mitchelville, with an expansive celebration this year revealing new interactive experiences significant to Mitchelville in the Reconstruction Era.

Tickets for the Juneteenth Celebration are \$10 for general admission, free for children 10 and under. For more information about the Juneteenth Celebration or Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park call (843) 255-7300 or go to [exploremitchelville.org](http://exploremitchelville.org).

