

DID YOU KNOW?

That the Lowcountry has been a driving force in black history? In honor of black history month, we present a look at some crucial moments in black history that took place right here in the Lowcountry. Mitchellville, organized in 1862 on Hilton Head, was the first 'freedman' village in the United States. That same year saw the formation of the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, one of the first schools for native sea islanders. During the 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. chose Penn Center as a training center for retreat and strategic planning. We urge our readers to take this month to learn more about black history.



At left, the original Penn School building as it appeared circa 1899. The school was founded by Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray, two women who had been sent by The Freedmen's Association. The Penn Center today stands to preserve the history and culture of the sea islands and rests on the very same spot. Photo courtesy the Beaufort County Historical Society from the book, "Historic Beaufort County: an Illustrated History" by Michael C. Taylor.

This undated photo at right from the Coastal Discovery Museum shows how Hilton Head looked around the time of the formation of Mitchelville. With the Union victory in the Battle of Port Royal, freed slaves began flocking to Fort Mitchel. When make-shift barracks proved to be insufficient to house them all, Mitchelville was established. The new town had its own police, tax assessors and educators. In fact, the first law mandating that children attend school was enacted in Mitchelville.



At left is Gantt Cottage on the campus of the Penn Center on St. Helena Island. During his stays here, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called this unassuming cottage home. Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference used the Penn Center as a retreat, as it was the only place in the state at the time where bi-racial groups could meet without fear of harassment. It is believed that the historic march on Washington, D.C. in 1963 was partially planned at the Penn Center.

Coming Attractions in MARCH

SPECIAL SECTIONS –

- **A Place for Everything...** Area home experts help you get a jump start on your spring cleaning with answers to your burning questions on getting your home organized.
- **Spring Fashion** Monthly's fashionable look at this year's hottest styles returns to help you plan your spring wardrobe.
- **Burning Rubber** Cruise through 2006 in some of the latest, most styling cars with some serious high-tech hardware. Buckle up!
- **SpringFest Returns** Dig out the board shorts and t-shirts, spring has sprung! The Hilton Head Hospitality Association welcomes warmer weather with their annual series of incredible events, such as WineFest.

IN EVERY ISSUE –

- **Social Spotlight** The area abounds with activity; we're there!
- **Around Town** All the local happenings to keep you busy all month.
- **Weddings** Which locals tied the knot this month? Find out. *And much more! Don't miss your next issue of Monthly.*

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- **Monthly E-News** Behind the scenes at the area's most exciting magazine for exclusive extras and fascinating tidbits.
- **Back Issues** Raid our archives for a trip down memory lane.
- **Readers' Poll** We want to know what you think!