



FIRST LIGHT  
OF  
FREEDOM



Former slaves give thanks by the creek's edge  
at the sight of the island — "If you can cross the  
creek to Roanoke Island, you will find 'safe haven'."



# First Light of Freedom

This memorial is a remembrance of the 1863 Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony—a place of safe haven for escaped slaves. Local descendants of the colony helped dedicate the memorial in 2001. Their ancestors made the passage to freedom and started a new life at this colony.

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/fora](http://www.nps.gov/fora)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**