

# Touring Edgecombe – Seeing What You’ve Been Missing

## Princeville, NC



Princeville is the oldest town incorporated by African-Americans in the United States. Settled just after the Civil War in 1865, it was originally called Freedom Hill by the freed slaves who created a new life there. The site of the settlement, which is on the banks of the Tar River, was chosen because it had been the site of a Union Army out-post camp.

Turner Prince, born a slave in 1843, was instrumental in the early settlement and would eventually have the town named after him when it was incorporated in 1885.

In 1999, the Town of Princeville became well known, but for reasons other than its history. Hurricane Floyd caused the waters of the Tar River to pour over its banks and break the levee that protects the town. More than 25 feet of water submerged the town for over 10 days. Essentially every structure in town was destroyed or severely damaged, and the 2,100 residents displaced. But the resilient citizens of the town, most of whom are descendents of the original settlers, chose to pass-up the federal buyout, and to rebuild their community.

You can visit the Town Hall or museum to learn more and to see what you’ve been missing in Princeville.



For more information on great places to visit and upcoming events in Edgecombe County, visit [www.edgecombecountync.gov](http://www.edgecombecountync.gov)