

Kelly Miller

Honored with Marker

As part of February's observance as Black History Month, the Fairfield County Historical Society will dedicate its newest historical marker to the memory of Kelly Miller on Sunday, February 2, at 3 p.m.

Miller, regarded as the greatest black educator ever to come out of Fairfield County, was the son of a slave, who rose to become a noted author, lecturer, mathematician and college dean. Kelly Miller Elementary School is named in his honor.

The unveiling of the marker and the dedication service will be held on South Congress Street in front of Winn Auto Parts. Remarks will be made by Dr. Marshall Grigsby, president of Benedict College, and music will be provided by the Winstonsboro High School Chorus, directed by Mrs. Janice Jordan.

Kelly Miller was born in 1863, the son of freed slaves, on the plantation of Mrs. Nancy K. Rabb, approximately five miles west of Winstonsboro on Mill Creek. One of thirteen children, Miller first attended New

Hope school, and then came under the tutelage of Willard Richardson, a New Englander who organized the Fairfield Institute on the site of what is now Russell-McCutchen Funeral Home. The marker will also highlight the history of this school, which burned in the early 1930s.

Young Miller went on to school in Charlotte, then to Washington, D.C., where he enrolled at Howard Preparatory School and later was graduated with honors from Howard University in 1886. He attended graduate school at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and later became dean at Howard, where he taught for many years. The friend of two presidents - Wilson and Harding - Dr. Miller died in 1939, and is buried in Washington.

The two-sided marker, approved by the South Carolina State Archives, is inscribed "Kelly Miller (1863-1939)" on one side, and "Fairfield Institute" on the other side. The public is invited to participate in the dedication ceremony.

1/18/86