

Son of Fairfield County Slave Achieves National Distinction

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KELLY MILLER, WHO DIED IN WASHINGTON DECEMBER 29, RECEIVED HIS EARLY EDUCATION IN WINNSBORO. HE WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR ADVANCEMENT OF HIS RACE

(Editor's note: Last week The News and Herald published a brief account of the death of Dr. Kelly Miller, asking its subscribers to supply additional information, if possible. Facts for the following story were obtained from a number of sources, among these being Mrs. F. M. Gadsden, Robert Miller, brother of the deceased, and H. E. Ketchin; two newspapers, The Washington Evening Star, which carried a picture, news article and editorial on Kelly Miller, and the Washington Afro-American (Negro journal), which puts him in its all-time Hall of Fame, with Booker T. Washington & others, also supplied valuable information).

Kelly Miller, author, lecturer, mathematician, former Dean of the college of arts and sciences and retired professor of sociology at Howard university, was born in 1863 five miles west of Winnsboro on Mill Creek, on the plantation owned by Mrs. Nancy K. Rabb. He was the son of Kelly Miller, a freed slave, and Elizabeth Miller, once a slave owned by the Chappell family of Jenkinsville. There were thirteen in his family and only two remain now, Robert Miller, a former teacher, and John Miller, both of Winnsboro. (Robert attended the final rites last week at the Howard chapel, Washington, D. C.).

Coming of school age only a short time after the Civil war, Kelly first attended the New Hope school for Negroes which evidently had just been organized. It is said that teachers for this school came from Biddle university, Charlotte, N. C. This school is now known as the Johnson C. Smith university, and it is interesting to note that another native of Fairfield, H. L. McCrory, is its president.

It was early noticed that Kelly was a precocious child. He raced through the simple courses at New Hope and subsequently went to the Joe Thomson school, another newly organized institute for Negroes, but here, too, he soon knew as much as did his teachers.

In the early 1870s there arrived in Winnsboro a Mr. Willard Richardson from the New England states (Massachusetts or Connecticut). He came as a sort of missionary-teacher for the Negroes and organized a school for them in a long hall-like residence which stood opposite what is now the oil mill. (The building was destroyed only a few years ago). Here it was that Kelly continued his meagre education. Mr. Richardson, a highly educated man himself, who taught his charges the capitals of the states by putting them to music, noticed Kelly's brightness, particularly his proclivity for mathematics. (By way of paren-

thesis, it is interesting to note that Mr. Richardson, during his vacation, generously taught many of the white boys of the community without charge. Despite the fact that he taught the newly freed Negroes, he was quite a favorite, it is said. Miss Julia Fripp, a lady who came here from Charleston, taught either in Mr. Richardson's school or in another for Negroes. After a number of years, Mr. Richardson was replaced by a Negro instructor and the school soon went on the rocks. Mr. Elliott Ketchin says that as Mr. Richardson was boarding the train to go North again, he was asked what success he had had in his work here. "Not much," he said in effect. "If I had gone to any other land as a missionary, I believe I would have been far more famous").

Be that as it may, Kelly Miller, after leaving the Richardson school, managed to go to Washington where he entered Howard preparatory school, then the university itself, from which he was graduated with an A. B. degree in 1886. He then worked in the government pension office in Washington for a number of years, attended Johns Hopkins graduate school for two years, coming back to Howard to receive his Master's degree in 1901. While studying for his Masters he began teaching at Howard and he helped revamp the school's curriculum. He also taught one year in Washington's newly organized public school.

He accepted the professorship of science and sociology at Howard and after a number of years was made Dean of the college. It is said he could have been president if he so desired. He watched and helped Howard grow from a small college, with a few small buildings, into a large university, and he was largely responsible for its Freedman's hospital.

Dr. Miller was the author of many books and pamphlets, the best known of which were "Race Adjustments," published in 1908, and "Out of the House of Bondage, 1914. He addressed open letters to both President Woodrow Wilson and President Warren G. Harding. He was considered Howard's most distinguished alumnus.

Dr. Miller retired in 1932 but he continued his work. He wrote a column for 100 weekly newspapers for which service he made no charge.

Besides his widow, he is survived by two sons, one a dentist in New York City, the other a newspaperman of Washington, D. C.; two daughters, both teachers; two brothers, both of Winnsboro, S. C.

Shiloh Was Home Church of Kelly Miller, Educator

The Shiloh First United Presbyterian Church was founded in 1880 by Joe Thompson. Mr. Thompson deeded three acres of land for the church site.

This church was relocated in 1945 under the auspices of Dr. Charles W. Talley's pastorate, who is now the Executive of the South Carolina-Georgia Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Seven Presbyterian ministers have gone out from this church and two medical doctors.

This is also the home church of the noted Kelly Miller.

Church school superintendents to serve long periods of time are: Benjamin Glenn, Joe Thompson, Joe Russell, James Glenn and the present superintendent, Ernest W. Glenn, Sr.

Ministers to serve long periods of time are: Revs. J. A. Tillman (14 years), G. M. Ulmer (14 years), R. G. Toatley (11 years) and the present minister, Rev. James H. Hudson (13 years).

The membership of the church is 103.

Present Officers: Elders: Lilla R. Gaston (granddaughter of the founder), J. G. Gaston, Eunice J. Glenn, Lucy Davis, Belle Davis, James F. Davis, Ernest W. Glenn, Sr., Edward Glenn, Richard Brown and B. L. Glenn.

Deacons: John R. Gaston, Ralph Clayborne, Lonnie Murphy, Ella Davis, Essie R. Talley, J. G. Gaston and Albert Toatley.

Trustees: Lonnie Murphy, John R. Gaston, Casper L. Glenn, James F. Davis, Richard Brown, Mrs. Martha M. Glenn and Cartez Davis.