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Martin H. Freeman of Rutland: First Black College Professor

Russell W. Irvine, Ph.D. of the Department of Educational Policy Studies at Georgia State University, an authority on Afro-American History has generously shared a biography, part of a larger manuscript of Martin H. Freeman of Rutland. Freeman was America's first black college professor.

Mr. Freeman born in Rutland in 1826, and a graduate of Middlebury College, dedicated his life to educating young blacks in the newly established Republic of Liberia, instead of pursuing a more financially rewarding career in the United States as teacher and minister.

The article published in 1996, on the 170th anniversary of his birth, relates his life as a controversial black educator, social activist and scholar of the nineteenth century. It presents his life for the first time with an extensive review of his contributions.

Numerous back notes accompany this well written, interesting account.