



The Clerk's Black History Series

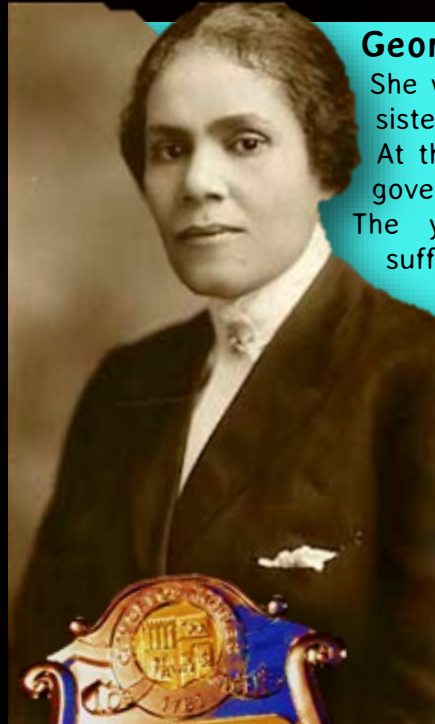
Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



Georgia Ann Hill Robinson

(May 12, 1879 – September 21, 1961)

"The First African-American Policewoman in the LAPD and United States"



Georgia Ann Hill Robinson was born in Opelousas, Louisiana, on May 12, 1879. She was raised at first by her mother, and then after her mother's death, by an older sister. When the sister could no longer support Georgia, she was sent to a convent. At the age of 18, she left the convent and moved to Kansas where she worked as a governess. While in Kansas, she met and married Morgan Robinson.

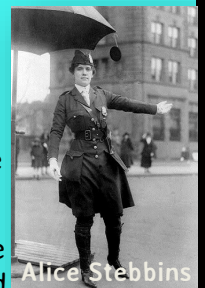
The young couple moved to Colorado where Georgia became active in the suffragist movement, often bringing underprivileged women and children home with her for dinner. She had her daughter Marian, while living in Colorado.

Georgia and her husband would move again, this time to Los Angeles, where Georgia would help change the course of history.

In 1910, Alice Stebbins, the first sworn female Los Angeles Police Officer, was hired. Six years later, at a time when the Los Angeles Police Department faced a shortage of police officers, Georgia Ann Hill Robinson became a volunteer for the LAPD. The Department had lost 15 percent of its sworn personnel to the armed forces and World War I. Shortly after, during the influenza epidemic of 1918, almost 500,000 Americans were fatally stricken. Among them were many LAPD officers. The LAPD continued to enlist women to help with the shortage of recruits.

On June 10, 1919, Georgia Ann Hill Robinson became the city's first black policewoman when she was formally hired as a jailer, making her the first African-American Policewoman in the LAPD and the first, in the United States.

Later in her career, Georgia became involved in juvenile and homicide investigations. As an investigator, Georgia witnessed first hand, the need for a women's shelter in the Los Angeles area. She later helped establish the Sojourner Truth Home for destitute women and girls.



Alice Stebbins

Georgia's time with the LAPD would come to an abrupt end in 1928, when she intervened in an altercation between two drunken women in the jail. One of the women smashed Georgia's head repeatedly against the bars of the cell while the second woman shoved keys into her left eye, causing a devastating head injury and making her permanently blind in her left eye. Although she returned to work, she lost sight in her right eye a few months later. She retired with a disability at the age of 49. In 1954, when she was interviewed by Ebony magazine about her injuries and her police career, Robinson said, "I have no regrets. I didn't need my eyes any longer. I had seen all there was to see."

Far from retreating into a quiet retirement, Robinson continued to serve her community. She worked with community leaders, including Dr. Claude Hudson, longtime president of the Los Angeles branch of the NAACP, in the effort to desegregate Los Angeles schools and beaches. She also continued to work with women in the Sojourner Truth Home, she helped establish earlier.

Georgia Ann Hill Robinson died on September 21, 1961, in Los Angeles, California. She was 82 years old.

