

## PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

### GEORGIA ANN ROBINSON

*police officer, community worker, suffragist*

*"I have no regrets. I didn't need my eyes any longer. I had seen all there was to see."*



#### Background Information

Born: May 12, 1879; Died: September 21, 1961

In 1879, Robinson was born Georgia Ann Hill in Opelousas, Louisiana. Although she never knowing her parents, she was raised by her older sister. Robinson eventually lived in a Roman Catholic convent. At age 18, she moved to Kansas to work as a governess. It was there that she met her future husband, Morgan Robinson. The two married and moved to Leadville, Colorado, before relocating to Los Angeles, raising their daughter Marian. Los Angeles is also where Robinson found her passion for community work, and ultimately decided to join the LAPD.<sup>1</sup>

COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE HISTORICAL

#### Robinson's Resistance

Upon moving to Los Angeles, Robinson became heavily involved in various community organizations, such as the NAACP.<sup>2</sup> An LAPD recruiter noticed her passion and convinced her to join the force in 1916. She agreed and became a volunteer at the age of thirty-seven. Three years later, she became the first female black police officer in the city. There is also evidence to suggest that she may have been the first female black police officer in the country.<sup>1</sup>

Robinson's resistance began with her career choice. She defied norms and was a trailblazer for black women in this field. She continued her resistance while in the force. After becoming involved in investigating juvenile and homicide cases, Robinson discovered a need for women's shelters in Los Angeles. She acted to remediate this issue by helping establish the Sojourner Truth Home for destitute women and girls.<sup>1</sup>

She also pushed back against racial inequality directly. Rather than arresting young black women, she considered it her duty to refer them to social agencies. This was one of the LAPD's first attempts to provide services to the black community and to "dispel the idea that African Americans were naturally predisposed to crime."<sup>3</sup>

#### Achievements

Robinson's commitment to building community trust in law and advocating for social services as an alternative to jail time serves as a historical example of police reform and community policing. After leaving the LAPD, Robinson continued community service projects.

