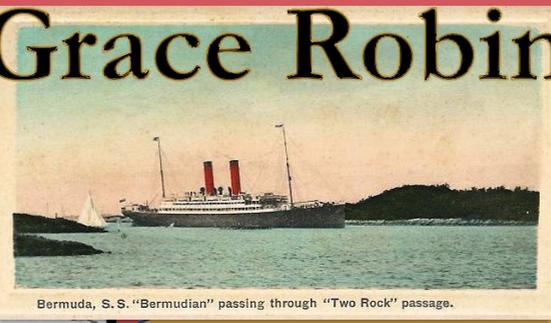


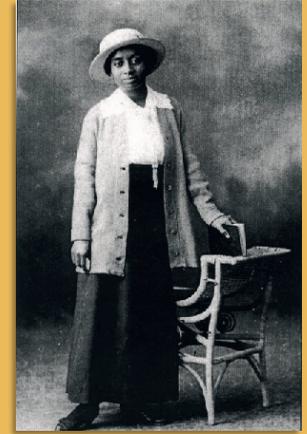


# BLACK HISTORY

# Wenona Grace Robinson 1908



Bermuda, S. S. "Bermudian" passing through "Two Rock" passage.



29 LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U. S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

Received by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, to be delivered to the U. S. Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of the vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

S. S. *Bermudian* sailing from *Hamilton, Bermuda* Aug 22, 1908. Arriving at Port of *Belleville, Ont.* Aug 27, 1908.

No.	NAME	AGE	SEX	ETHNIC ORIGIN	RELIGION	EDUCATION	PROFESSION	STATUS	REMARKS
1	Wenona Robinson	14	F	Black	Methodist	High School	None	Immigrant	From Bermuda
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47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
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49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**Travel from Bermuda to Albert College**  
 Wenona sailed from Hamilton Bermuda on the S. S. Bermudian. She arrived at the Port of New York August 25, 1905, aged 14. Her destination was "New York on route to Toronto Canada". Her two-day passage was paid by her father Samuel David Robinson. She carried over \$50 on her person.  
**1906-1908**—Wenona was a student at Albert College in Belleville, Ontario, where she graduated with a diploma in speech.

**World History 1905 - 1907**

**1905**  
**June 30** » Albert Einstein publishes the article in which he introduces special relativity.  
**July 5** » Black residents of Nashville boycott streetcars to show their disdain for racial segregation.  
**1906**  
**April 7** » Mount Vesuvius erupts and devastates Naples.  
**May 22** » The Wright brothers are granted U.S. patent for their "Airplane or Flying-Machine".  
**Sept. 18** » A typhoon with tsunami kills > 10,000 people in Hong Kong.  
**Sept 22** » Atlanta Georgia Riot  
**Nov. 9** » US President Theodore Roosevelt inspects the progress on the Panama Canal.  
**Dec 4** » Seven African American Cornell University students establish the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity – it is the first college fraternity for Black men in the U.S.  
**1907**  
**Jan. 14** » An earthquake in Kingston, Jamaica kills more than 1,000.  
**1907** – Madam C.J. Walker, a washerwoman, will become a famous entrepreneur who revolutionizes the hair care and cosmetics industry for Black women, and one of the first Black American women to become a self-made millionaire.  
**1908**  
**Jan 12** » A long-distance radio message is sent from the Eiffel Tower for the first time.  
**Oct 1** » Ford Motor Company puts the Ford Model T on the market at a price of US\$825.  
**Dec. 28** » A magnitude 7.2 earthquake rocks Messina, Sicily, Italy killing over 75,000.



**1906 Albert College Commercial Students**  
 Wenona Grace Robinson in front and her sister Annie Pauline Robinson at the end of the middle row on the right side.

**Wenona's Life Story**

Wenona Robinson was an elocutionist who took her training in public speaking on stage and into the classroom.

Wenona was the first captain of the Second Excelsior Girl Guide Company. It was Bermuda's second black Girl Guide Company, formed in response to growing demand, around 1935 — Wenona would stay involved until the early 60s.

Wenona's sister Agnes May founded the Sunshine League. This family centre endeavored to provide services that demonstrated care and concern for children. Wenona served under Agnes May as president, as a member of the League's first committee of management and its treasurer for 28 years.

Robinson was a member of the Bermuda Civic and Political Association. In 1944 women won the right to vote — this association was formed to help get women elected to Parliament.

She also ran the School of Expression, a speech school. She gave "courses of study" to children and adults in vocal expression, physical expression and mental expression.

In 1945, she became the first speech teacher at Central School (now Victor Scott), remaining on staff until her retirement in 1955.

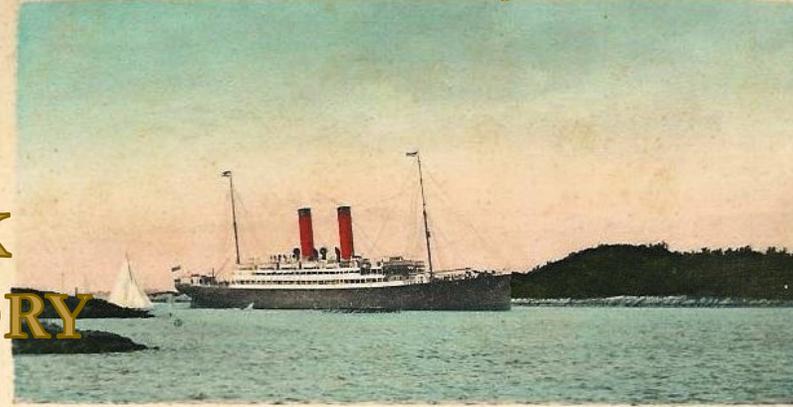
**Quote** — "This is a plea for good clear speaking—oh we do murder the English language, which is one of the most beautiful, most musical languages in the world when well spoken. Yes, pronunciation, lessons in clear reading and good speaking should be taught in every school." — **Wenona Robinson**

**Fun Facts about Albert in 1906**  
 Albert Tuition – the school year consists of 4 terms of ten weeks each – cost per course was ~ \$10 / term

Residence – was \$27.50 per term of ten weeks – rooms were neatly furnished, and each room was provided with an electric light and steam radiator.

# Wenona Grace Robinson 1908

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HISTORY



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## Travel to Albert College

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**1906-1908**—Wenona was a student at Albert College in Belleville, Ontario, where she graduated with a diploma in speech.

After two years at Albert College, Wenona returned to Bermuda and became a respected teacher, charity worker, women's rights advocate and Girl Guide leader.