



The History behind Hearts & Valentines Day

Like many other holidays, Valentine's day has many different legends and stories on how it came to be such a widely celebrated holiday.

One legend says that Emperor Claudius at the time forbid people from marrying, but Saint Valentine continued to wed lovers in secret. When the Emperor found out about the treason, he ordered an execution upon Valentine. The day of his execution then came to be known as Valentine's day, which later became the holiday of love. *Another legend* says A saint by the name of Valentine was imprisoned and was writing letters to a girl he fell in love with. This then became the earliest known Valentine's day "greeting", by ending the letters off with "from your Valentine" which is still a widely used expression.

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>

The heart shape came through many attempts of Guido da Vigevano trying to draw ancient medical texts that most closely resembled the one by Aristotle.

<https://www.history.com/news/what-is-the-origin-of-the-heart-symbol>

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THE OLD RED SHIRT.

A miner came to my cabin door,
His clothes they were covered with dirt ;
He held out a piece he desired me to wash,
Which I found was an old red shirt.

His cheeks were thin, and furrow'd his brow,
His eyes they were sunk in his head ;
He said that he had got work to do,
And be able to earn his bread.

He said that the "old red shirt " was torn,
And asked me to give it a stitch ;
But it was threadbare, and sorely worn,
Which show'd he was far from rich.

O ! miners with good paying claims,
O ! traders v ho wish to do good,
Have pity on men who earn your wealth,
Grudge not the poor miner his food.

Far from these mountains a poor mother
mourns
The darling that hung by her skirt,
When contentment and plenty surrounded
the home
Of the miner that brought me the shirt.

REBECCA GIBBS.

Canada's First Black Canadian Poet

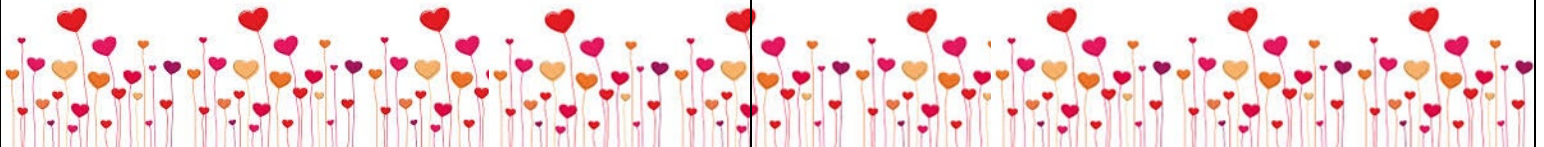
Credit photo courtesy of Canada's Early Women Writers.

Rebecca Gibbs (1808 - 1873) is the earliest known Black Canadian poet. She was the sister in-law to the highly accomplished pioneer Mifflin Wistar-Gibbs (the first Black person to hold an elected position in British Columbia). Her headstone reads, "Here Lies Rebecca Gibbs. Born in

Philadelphia, USA. About 1808. Many years resident of Barkerville. Died in Victoria B.C. 14 November 1873. Laundress, Poet, Nurse. One of many black people who came to Canada to escape discrimination before the US Civil War. Erected by the Victoria Black People's Society & the Old Cemeteries Society"

If you are interested in learning more about Black Canadian contributions to British Columbia, check out The British Columbia Black History Society's Exhibition - British Columbia's Black Pioneers: Their Industry and Character influenced the Vision of Canada featuring 20 stories, 9 videos, and 86 gallery; all are bilingual.

<https://ceww.wordpress.com/2018/09/06/the-old-red-shirt-by-rebecca-gibbs/>



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