

U.S.S. Marblehead (CL-12)



Garvin's parents, sisters Laura and Gladys, and his brother Oscar.
Photo courtesy of Ancestry.com member *Ansulli2003*

Marblehead Biography Garvin Clenton Aaron

Garvin Clenton Aaron was born to Robert Berry Aaron, a farmer, and Valline Elizabeth Rateliff, a homemaker, on 13 JUN 1922 in Lewisville, Lafayette County, AK, about 140 miles southwest of Little Rock. The 4th born of seven children, his siblings were: Laura Elizebeth 1913 – 2005; Gladys Juanita 1917 – 1998; Oscar Johnie 1919 – 1983; Thomas Wade 1924 – 2006; Willie Marie 1930 – ?; and Jim McKenzie 1937 – 2006.

Garvin enlisted in the Navy on 17 JUL 1940 at Little Rock, AR, one of 34 recruits processed that day. He was issued service #3468256.

Garvin was first received aboard the *Marblehead CL-12* from veteran transport ship *USS Henderson (AP-1)* on 14 SEP 1941, probably in the Manila. Garvin would spend 1 ½ years aboard *Marby* but since the ship had stopped frequenting China, Japan and French Indochina by that time, Garvin would not experience most of the exotic Far Eastern ports that had made pre-WWII life on the *Marby* so interesting. See [Marby's biography](#) for some of those descriptions and for the story of *Marby's* escape to New York following her bombing off Java.



Marby overhaul at Brooklyn Navy Yard, NY in the summer of '42.

Other than the trauma of seeing friends aboard the ship die or suffer badly from burns, Garvin seems to have come through the action off Java unharmed. While *Marby* was being overhauled in Brooklyn following its escape, many of her crew took well-deserved leaves. Garvin certainly did and on 3 JUN 1942, he married Inez E. Harrison (1924–2002) in Miller County, AR. It is unclear how they met. Perhaps she was a school sweetheart or neighbor. In any case, the marriage would not last.

On 1 JUL 1942 in Brooklyn, Garvin was promoted to F1c, and he remained aboard *Marby* when, on 15 OCT 1942, her five-and-a-half-month overhaul complete, she sailed out of New York to rejoin the war effort.

On 6 APR 1943, as an F1c, Garvin transferred to the [USS Pollux AKS-4](#), a Castor-class general stores ship, for further transfer to Base Command at Recife, Brazil. Little is known of his service record after this point except that he was discharged on 10 MAR 1947.

By the time of his discharge, Garvin had remarried to Georgia Mae Fowler on 10 APR 1946 at Vicksburg, Warren County, MS. Georgia Mae was from Garland City, Miller County, AR, the daughter of farmer George Washington Fowler, and homemaker, Lula Beal. It is unclear how the couple met, but their hometowns are only eight miles apart.

Garvin and Georgia Mae would have three girls, Gwynn Annette, Gloria, and Gerry, and two boys, Gary and George. Sadly, at the end of SEP 1954, Gwynn Annette, then three, drowned about two blocks from the family home in a pit filled with water while Garvin was in Beaumont, TX looking for work. Despite this tragedy, this marriage would last until Georgia's death.



Young Garvin, with his mom and sister Gladys, showing a serious interest in the Navy
Photo courtesy of Ancestry.com member *Ansulli2003*

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Garvin, relaxing after WWII
Photo courtesy of Ancestry.com
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Garvin remarried on 9 APR 1977 in Dallas, TX to a Winnie B Jones, eight years his senior. They divorced five years later. Garvin ‘tied the knot’ a final time on 3 Nov 83 when he wed Dora M Gilmore in Hunt County, TX.

Georgia Mae died on 17 JUN 1976 and Garvin died on 5 OCT 2000, both in Dallas, TX. They are buried side by side there in Restland Memorial Park.



Garvin and Georgia Mae
Photo courtesy of, Ancestry.com
member *Ansulli2003*



Garvin (l) and brother Oscar
Photo courtesy of Ancestry.com member

Garvin Clenton Aaron is listed on page 234
of the book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey.](#)

Don’t forget to check out [Marby’s biography](#)

Biography by Steve Wade, son of Frank V. Wade, BM2c, USS Marblehead 1939-1945, with contributions from Ancestry.com, Wikipedia.com, Newspapers.com, and other Internet records.

Corrections, additions and photos are welcomed by email to spwade@gmail.com.