

MY GARVINS OF WESTMORELAND  
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

by

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Great great great grandfather, Marvin Garvin was probably born about 1755. The Pennsylvania Archives, Third Series, Vol. XXII, page 316 lists him as having served in James Leech's Company of Rangers on the Frontier for Westmoreland County between 1778 and 1783. He received a warrant, granted 28 February 1785 for 214 3/4 acres of land, a tract called Newton, in Huntington township. This land bordered that of John Christy.

The 1790 census of North Huntington township, Westmoreland County shows Merven Gerven [sic] with two males under 16, one male over 16 and three females. There was also a John Gerven [sic] showing only a male over 16.

The records of Westmoreland County contain the will of John Garvin, dated 5 January 1792, in which he left his estate to Captain John Christy. Also mentioned are John Probst, Hugh Means, Andrew Christy, son of John, Andrew Christy Senior, and William Beard. Witnesses were Nathaniel George and Samuel McCurdy. There was also an Archibald Garvin listed in the Court records in 1791 where letters of administration were given to John Christy, Marvin Garvin and Samuel Osburn as Sureties. I feel it is quite likely that Marvin, John and Archibald were brothers.

Marvin Garvin's will was recorded in Westmoreland County, 15 May, 1794, dated 7 May. It lists wife Jean, a second wife, with children: Jenny, Agnes, Archibald, Joseph, Samuel and a possible unborn child. A search of the Orphan's Court records shows guardianship for only the five named children. The executors of the will were Samuel Marvin (?) and James Caldwell.

The Orphan's Court minutes for 9 June 1794 lists John Probst as guardian for Samuel; John Christy for Jennie and Joseph; Samuel Osburn for Archibald; and John McConnell for Agnes. These were the minor children of Marvin Garvin, deceased, all under 14 years of age.

In 1804 Joseph Garvin petitioned the Court that he had reached 14 years of age and asked the Court to appoint James Irwin to be his guardian until he reached 21. There appears to have been a problem with the affairs of Joseph, as in 1811 the Court awarded an attachment against John Christy regarding the guardianship accounts. In 1806 Samuel had reached 14 and asked for James B. McGrew as a guardian.

Westmoreland County Deed Book 7, page 725-6 shows that Archibald Garvin and Jane Shields, formerly Jane Garvin, now wife of David Shields, were selling their share of Marvin's estate to James Johnston. They were both now of age. The deed is dated 23 November 1805.

In December 1806 James Johnston and Agnes, his wife, were selling this same part of the Marvin Garvin land to Samuel Johnston. It is possible that this Agnes Johnston was Agnes Garvin, daughter of Marvin.

In Deed Book 10, page 706-7 it is recorded that Marvin's son Samuel had, at the advice of his guardian, James McGrew, taken as his

share of the estate 14 acres, plus one acre, bought from Samuel Johnston. The 29th of April, 1814 Samuel and his wife Sarah sold this land to Michael Tennie. According to information received from Ray Garvin of Altoona, Pennsylvania in 1977, Samuel married Sarah "Sallie" Heck (Keck), daughter of Phillip, 24 March, 1811.

The records of James Power, Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County show the marriage of David Shields and Jenny Garvan, 12 January 1802 and of James Garvin and Jane Dinsmore, 5 July, 1803. I do not know if this James is part of my family or not.

I have been unable to learn more about Agnes, Archibald or Jenny "Jane" Garvin.

Using the various sources as guides, I have estimated the births of the children of Marvin Garvin as follows: Archibald, ca 1782; Jenny, ca 1784; Agnes, ca 1786; Joseph, ca 1790; and Samuel, ca 1792.

According to family stories passed down through both Ray Garvin's and my family, the Garvins were Scottish. But in the 1870s there were so many Irish Garvins coming into this country that my great grandfather changed the spelling from Garvin to Garvan so as not to be thought of as Irish.

#### SAMUEL GARVIN, SON OF MARVIN

The children of Samuel Garvin were: Margaret, born 11 January 1813, died ca 1863, married a man by the name of Reece; Mary, born 27 November 1814, married name possibly Donmire; Sarah, born 21 September 1821, her married name was McCray; Joseph Marvin, born 1826, died 1911, married Elizabeth Jane Kennedy; Elizabeth Jane, born 15 April 1832, she

married a McDowell; and two more children by his second wife, Jane Patterson, whom he married 26 December 1848; Malvina, born 11 April 1852, died after 1932, married A.J. Davis and a second child whose name is unknown to me.

Joseph Marvin Garvin, son of Samuel, was a carpenter, cabinet maker and painter. He and his family lived in Corsica, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. His children were: Sarah "Sadie" Jane, born ca 1854, married E.J. Leoux or Teoux of Brookville; George Samuel, born 18 February 1856, died 1 September 1936, married Alvaretta Gertrude Baumgartner; William Kennedy, born 20 February 1858; Elizabeth "Lizzie" Mary, born April 1860, married L.C. Carrier; Rose Altha "Rosie", born 1862, married R.B. McDowell; Albert Joseph, born 1864; James, born 1872; Susan, born 1865; John, born 1865; and Bertha, born 1869.

The children of George Samuel Garvin and Alvaretta were: Amy Alberta 1878-1931, married Milton W. Livingston; Elizabeth Jean (or Jane) "Bess" 1880-1960, married Lewis Clark Walkinshaw (see Annals of Southwestern Pennsylvania, pub. 1939, by Walkinshaw); Kathryn Geraldine 1881-1961, married James Andrew Kilpatrick; John Budd 1883-1943, married Daisy Barr; Harry George 1885-1958, married Isabella Irene Wilson (parents of Ray Garvin); Gertrude Alvaretta 1887-1961, married John E. Thomas.

#### JOSEPH GARVIN, SON OF MARVIN

Joseph Garvin, who later went by the name Joseph Mitchell Garvin Senior, was born about 1790. He died between 1865 and 1870, probably in Apollo, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. His wife was buried in the Presbyterian Church cemetery at Apollo, possibly he was also. He

married, ca 1814, Sarah E. (Elizabeth?) Couch, daughter of Benjamin Couch and Elizabeth Phillips Couch. In 1810 the Benjamin Couch family was listed Washington township, Westmoreland County, by 1818 the Couchs had moved to Allegheny township, Armstrong County where Benjamin ran a grist and saw mill. Sarah's grandfather, Nathaniel Couch was in Snowden, later known as Upper St. Clair township, Allegheny County as early as 1769 or 70. The children of Joseph and Sarah were: Benjamin C., Marvin, Jessie C., Nancy, Julia, Samuel, Joseph Mitchell and possibly two more daughters. The name Green was associated with this family and may have been the married name of another daughter.

Benjamin C. Garvin, born ca 1816, died after 1892, married Anna Catherine Ake, 8 February, 1842. They lived in Woodbury township, Blair County, Pennsylvania where he was a chair maker. Their children were: Virginia, born ca 1842, and lived till after 1911, married 16 January 1866, William A. McCormick; Rozabella, born ca 1844; Elizabeth, born ca 1846; Nellie, born ca 1851; and Joseph, born ca 1855, whose wife was named Alice Ma (May?). This Joseph had a son William, born in 1879 and may have been the father of Luther B. Garvin who was born in July 1885:

Marvin Garvin, son of Joseph Mitchell Sr., was born ca 1818, died between 1862 and 1870. He lived in Allegheny township, Westmoreland County and worked as a salt borer and coal miner. Marvin's wife's name was Ellen. Their children were: Sarah, born ca 1844, who was a dress maker; Esther, born ca 1846; Mary, born ca 1848; John, born ca 1852; Joseph, born ca 1854; and David, born ca 1858. I have a letter Marvin wrote in 1862 and one his father wrote in 1865.

Jessie C. Garvin was born ca 1820 and died after 1880. He lived in Versailles township, Allegheny County, where he worked as a miner. His wife was Mary and their children were: Sarah E., born ca 1847; Mary E., born ca 1849; William F., born ca 1851, married Rebecca; George W., born ca 1856, married Lora M.; and Martha. George W. had a son named Joseph A., born in January 1880. William F. had children, Mary E., born ca 1875 and Ida May, born ca 1876.

Nancy Garvin, born 1823, died 22 October, 1883 in Apollo, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. She was not married and lived with her sister, Julia. Nancy and Julia were Baptists according to their obituaries.

Julia "Juliet" C. Garvin, born 25 December 1825, died 20 April 1884 at Apollo, married William Henry, a Justice of the Peace and stonemason. Their children were: Nancy E., born ca 1846, died between 1875 and 1880, her married name was probably Guthridge; Margaret J., born ca 1847; Josephine Juliet, born ca 1858; Wilson James, born ca 1862; Thomas Perry, born ca 1865; and Burtie, born ca 1867. The Henrys had a son-in-law named George Perkins who died 28 January 1883 in Pittsburg but was buried in Apollo. There was also a James and a Joseph Henry connected with this family.

Samuel Garvin, born ca 1827, married 29 October 1857 in Westmoreland County, Lucinda J. Bellas, he was a miner and they were living in Manor Dale in 1870. Their children were: Anna J., born ca 1857; Rose Altha, born ca 1860, married 26 November 1885, William Freeman Kane "Flip" McKillip of Apollo, they lived in Paulton, Washington township, Westmore-

land County; Sarah, born ca 1864; and Flora, born ca 1868.

Joseph Mitchell Garvin Jr., who in later life used the spelling Garvan, was born in Kiskiminitas township, Armstrong County, 21 August 1832, died 4 March, 1895, in Callery Junction, Butler County, married Mary Ann Eakman, daughter of John Eakman and Mary Beck Eakman, 2 July 1859 in the home of Judge Michael Cochran at Cochran Mills, Armstrong County. Joseph was an oil well driller and developer quite early in Venango County. They also lived in McKean and Beaver Counties. Their children were: my grandmother, Laura Celista "Couch" Garvan, born 23 August 1860, Apollo, died 11 June, 1923 at Brea, Orange County, California, married 26 February 1890, Olean, New York, Samuel Brambley; Adah May, born 17 April 1863, Apollo, died 17 November 1932, Hawthorne, California, married 13 April 1880, Olean New York, William Williamson; Idah Bell, twin to Adah May, died in infancy; and Milo Munhall, born 12 March 1872, Beaver County, died unmarried, 15 October 1946, Hawthorne, California.

Adah Bell Garvan Williamson had two children, George Garvan Williamson, born 4 April 1887; shot and killed in a hunting accident at Bell's Camp, Gilmore, McKean County, 20 June 1894; and Milo Mitchell Williamson, born 6 May 1898, died 17 July 1898.

My grandparents, Laura Garvan and Samuel Brambley had only one child, my father, Frederick Maurice, born 19 January 1891, Taylors-town, Washington County, Pennsylvania, died 14 September 1964, Red Bluff, California. He married <sup>ca</sup> 24 1924 at Santa Ana, California, Edna Lee Witty, daughter of George Witty and Roas Lee Borden Witty.



*During the first 10 years of Dad's life the Brambleys lived in Butler, Pennsylvania; Scio, Ohio; Shasta County and Orange County California. Samuel Brambley was born in Bedfordshire, England and came to New York State with his parents in March 1861. He followed the oil industry in Pennsylvania and later Southern California.*

I do not claim my work is perfect or complete, but having reached a point that I feel others might find it useful and or informative, I have put together these pages. One copy is to be given to the Westmoreland County Historical Society. Without their help, and especially that of Agnes Tomichek, I wouldn't have gotten this far.