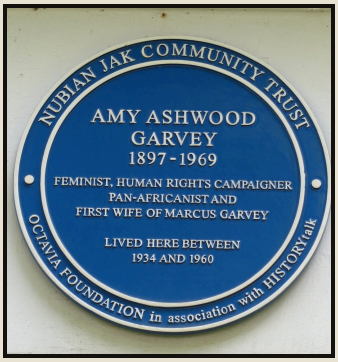
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Main event · Harlem · Kingston · London

# TWO AMYS - TWO BLUEPRINTS

TWO ARCHITECTS OF THE MOVEMENT · SCORED ON IDEAS, ORGANIZING AND THE WRITTEN RECORD




## AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY

RED CORNER · THE FOUNDER

No public-domain portrait found. Her London blue plaque: “Feminist, human rights campaigner, Pan-Africanist and first wife of Marcus Garvey. Lived here between 1934 and 1960.” Photo: Megalit, CC BY-SA 4.0.

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## AMY JACQUES GARVEY

GREEN CORNER · THE EDITOR

Portrait published in the Negro World, 17 March 1923. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

| ASHWOOD | THE TAPE | JACQUES |
|---|---|---|
| 1897, Port Antonio, Jamaica | BORN | 1895 or 1896, Kingston, Jamaica |
| Met Garvey in Jamaica in 1914, as a teenager | MET GARVEY | Came to the U.S. in 1917; joined the UNIA in 1918 and became his private secretary |
| Present at the start: a founder of the UNIA in Kingston, 1914, or “at least its second member.” Executive secretary | ROLE IN THE UNIA | Associate editor of the Negro World, 1924–27; ran the movement’s public voice while Garvey was in prison |
| 25 December 1919, Liberty Hall, New York. Separated 1920; Garvey divorced her in 1922, which she contested | MARRIED GARVEY | July 1922, Baltimore. She had been the maid of honour at the 1919 wedding |
| Organizing: a London life of clubs, unions and committees for African and Caribbean people | SIGNATURE MOVE | The page: “Our Women and What They Think,” her women’s page in the Negro World |
| Helped found the Nigerian Progress Union in London; opened the Florence Mills Social Club, 1934 | BUILT | Edited *Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey*, two volumes, 1923 and 1925 |
| Chaired the opening session of the Fifth Pan-African Congress, Manchester, October 1945 | BIGGEST STAGE | Wrote to Du Bois in 1944 about an “African Freedom Charter,” the talks that led to Manchester |
| Liberia and Ghana in the late 1940s; Caribbean tour, 1953; Notting Hill organizing after 1958 | LATER YEARS | Kept the record: *Garvey and Garveyism* (1963); Musgrave Medal, 1971 |
| 3 May 1969, Kingston, Jamaica | DIED | 25 July 1973, Kingston, Jamaica |

SOURCES: WIKIPEDIA, “AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY” AND “AMY JACQUES GARVEY”; ENCYCLOPEDIA.COM ENTRIES ON BOTH; PBS AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, “AMY JACQUES GARVEY” (COURTESY OF THE MARCUS GARVEY AND UNIA PAPERS PROJECT); PAN-AFRICAN CONGRESS (WIKIPEDIA) FOR 1944–45. TONY MARTIN’S BIOGRAPHY OF AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY IS THE FULLER SOURCE. BLACK STAR ARCHIVE × RADICAL IMAGINATION.

NOT A CATFIGHT · TWO BLUEPRINTS FOR ONE MOVEMENT

# SCORE THE ROUNDS ON IDEAS, NOT ON THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

History often files both women under "wife." Read each round, then decide what each one built. There is no loser on this card.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ROUND 1**<br>1914 · KINGSTON | **Ashwood** is in the room when the UNIA starts. One account calls her a co-founder; another, "at least its second member." She is its executive secretary. | **Jacques** is still in Jamaica, working four years as a clerk at a law office. |
| **ROUND 2**<br>1918–1920 · HARLEM | **Ashwood** works for the movement in New York, including as secretary for the Black Star Line in 1919. | **Jacques** joins the UNIA in 1918 and becomes Garvey's private secretary. |
| **ROUND 3**<br>1923–1927 · THE PAGE | **Ashwood** is building her own life and work, soon to center on London. | **Jacques** edits *Philosophy and Opinions* (1923, 1925) and, as associate editor of the Negro World (1924–27), runs a women's page while Garvey is imprisoned (1925–27). |
| **ROUND 4**<br>1924–1945 · LONDON | **Ashwood** helps found the Nigerian Progress Union, opens the Florence Mills Social Club (1934), works against the Italian invasion of Ethiopia, and chairs the opening session in Manchester, 1945. | **Jacques** raises two sons in Jamaica and writes to Du Bois in 1944 about an African Freedom Charter. |
| **ROUND 5**<br>1946–1973 · THE RECORD | **Ashwood** travels in Liberia and Ghana, tours the Caribbean, and organizes in Notting Hill after 1958. | **Jacques** writes *Garvey and Garveyism* (1963), the account most of us still read. |

> *"The doll-baby type of woman is a thing of the past, and the wide-awake woman is forging ahead prepared for all emergencies, and ready to answer any call, even if it be to face the cannons on the battlefield."*
>
> AMY JACQUES GARVEY, "WOMEN AS LEADERS," OCTOBER 1925, AS QUOTED BY KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

**IN HER CORNER TOO**

Henrietta Vinton Davis: actor, organizer and Black Star Line director, who signed the 1920 Declaration of Rights. This week's reading is about her (Duncan, *New York History*, 2014).

### Where the sources disagree

- Ashwood's birthday: 10 or 18 January 1897.
- Founder, or "at least its second member"?
- Where Ashwood died: Kingston (her biographer, per Wikipedia) or London (Encyclopedia.com).
- Manchester 1945: chaired the opening session, or helped organize it?
- Jacques's birth year: 1895 or 1896.

**Why does history so often remember them only as wives?**

**Ashwood built in public; Jacques built the record. Which lasts longer?**

**Dr. Humphrey read Jacques: "Strengthen your shaking knees." Who was she talking to?**

QUOTE: KING'S COLLEGE LONDON, "BLACK HISTORY MONTH: AMY JACQUES GARVEY" (2023), CITING "WOMEN AS LEADERS," OCTOBER 1925. IMPRISONMENT AND EDITORSHIP DATES: PBS AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. ALL OTHER FACTS AS ON SIDE ONE. BLACK STAR ARCHIVE × RADICAL IMAGINATION.