

# Josephine GARCIA



Josephine GARCIA was born on July 20, 1940, in Key West, Florida, to [Jose Evelio Garcia BELLO](#) (1917-2009) and [Clara Belle LARIZ](#) (1917-1965).

## SIBLINGS

- [Jane Ann](#) was born April 26, 1938 in Key West.
- Delores Matilda was born on November 28, 1942, in Key West.
- [Rosa Maria \(Rosemary\) 'Meme'](#) was born on December 11, 1947, in Key West.



Josephine Garcia in Key West.



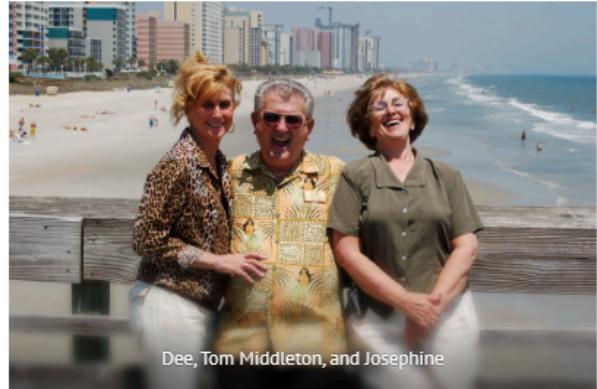
Clara, Dee, Jo, Jane, baby Rosemary



Jane, Joe, Dee, Jo, Clara



Dee, Jane, and Jo in Key West



In 1945, Josephine lived with her mother and grandparents, Manuel and Clara Dena Lariz at 913 Watson St. in Key West, Florida.

Lariz Manuel	913 Watson	"	67	63	"	5"	Blind
" Clara 18	" "	"	28	"	"	6 grade	Nancy
Garcia Joseph	" "	"	28	"	"	2 "	4.70
" Clara 13	" "	"	7	"	"	"	"
" Jane	" "	"	4	"	"	"	"
" Josephine	" "	"	2	"	"	"	"
" Clara	" "	"	47	"	"	7 grade	Gardner
" Clara	911	"	48	"	"	9 1/2	4.70

1945 U. S. Census



913 Watson St built 1920's

In 1950, Josephine and her sisters lived with their aunt and uncle, Andrew and Mable Lariz at 1207 Catherine St in Key West, Florida.

Lariz, Andrew W	daughter	W	1	0	100	California	W	W	48	Labour	City dweller
—, Mabel	wife	W	97	30	Ma	Florida	W	W	W	W	W

—, Alice Adela	daughter	W	97	10	Ma	Florida	W	W	48	general helper	Laundry
—, Anna, Ada	mother	W	97	38	Wd	Florida	W	W	W	W	W
—, Garcia, Ada	mother	W	97	11	Ma	Florida	W	W	W	W	W
—, Garcia, Janelle	daughter	W	97	9	Ma	Florida	W	W	W	W	W
—, Josephine	daughter	W	97	9	Ma	Florida	W	W	W	W	W
—, Melvyn	daughter	W	97	7	Ma	Florida	W	W	W	W	W
—, Rosemary	daughter	W	97	2	Ma	Florida	W	W	W	W	W

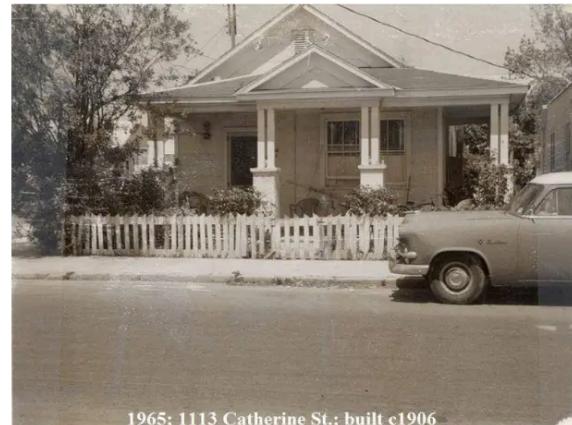
1950 U.S. Census

## MARRIAGE

Josephine met [Ernest Eugene HAMILTON](#) while babysitting his little brothers ([Junius](#) and [Tommy](#) Posey) at the home of [Florinda Posey](#) (1113 Catherine St.). Josephine married him in November 1955 when she was 15 years old. They had a formal ceremony in Japan, where Ernie was stationed, in 1956. They were divorced in December 1967 in Palm Beach, Florida, after 12 years of marriage.



Josephine and Ernest Hamilton



1965; 1113 Catherine St.; built c1906

1113 Catherine St Key West



Josephine and Ernest Hamilton in Japan



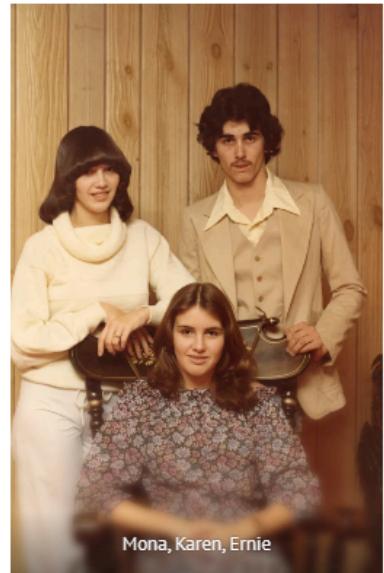
Josephine and Ernest Hamilton



Josephine and Ernest Hamilton in Key West

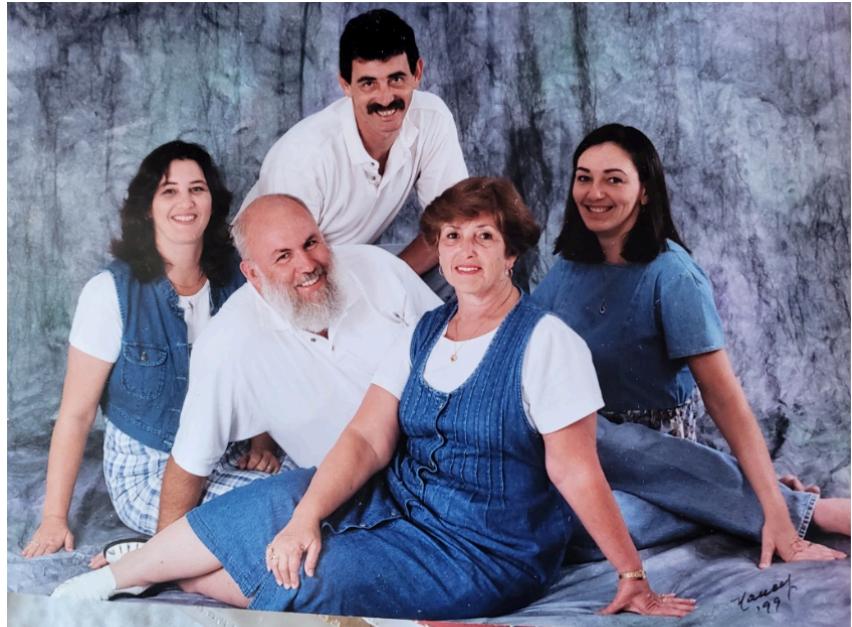
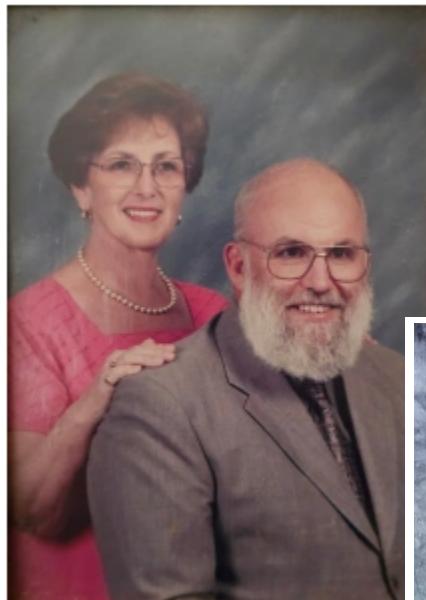
## CHILDREN

- Ernest Eugene was born on November 1, 1958.
- Mona Marie was born on October 15, 1959.
- Karen Yvonne was born on June 20, 1962, in Gainesville, Florida.



## MARRIAGE

Josephine married **Harold Dean Simmons** on January 28, 1978 in Greenville, South Carolina. At her death, they had been married for 43 years.



Karen, Hal, Ernie, Jo, Mona 1999 (Photograph by *Photographs by Nancy*)

## LOSSES

- Her mother-in-law, [Florinda Marie GOMES](#) died on July 26, 1964, in Palm Beach, Florida, when she was 54 years old in a car accident in which Jo was also injured.
- Her mother [Clara Belle](#) passed away on November 11, 1965, in Greenville, South Carolina, at the age of 48.
- Her sister [Rosa Maria \(Rosemary\) 'Meme'](#) died on March 4, 2004, in Greenville, South Carolina, when Josephine was 63 years old.
- Her father [Jose Evelio \(GARCIA\)](#) passed away on May 8, 2009, in Lakeland, Florida, at the age of 92.
- Her sister [Jane Ann](#) died on November 13, 2021, in Charleston, South Carolina, when Josephine was 81 years old.

Jo was a vibrant and active woman well into her 80s. She was always up for an adventure and willing to try anything. As a Key West Conch (which she would tell everyone she met!), she was comfortable in and on the water. She traveled alone to Japan to join her husband when she was only 15! In later years, she traveled to many new places, including Ireland and Canada. She was riding a four-wheeler just months before her death.



## From daughter, Karen

My mother would go anywhere with me. We talked on the phone every day up until the time she fell ill in the fall of 2021. She was there through every single one of my main life events: my marriages, my divorces, my son's births, my illnesses, my many moves. In her later years, she traveled to Key West with me, told me about growing up there, and showed me the houses she grew up in. We took a LOT of selfies!





*Karen, Jo, and Mona 2019*

## DEATH

Josephine GARCIA died on December 15, 2021, in Greenville, South Carolina, when she was 81 years old.

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### Josephine Simmons

**GREENVILLE** - Josephine Garcia Simmons passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving husband and children on December 15, 2021, in Greenville, S.C.



The daughter of Joseph Garcia Bello and Clara Belle Lariz, Jo was born and raised in Key West, Florida, a true 5th generation Conch who loved telling everyone that she met about her beloved island. Jo was an active and involved member of Mountain Creek Baptist Church for 39 years and was always the first one there to support and love on anyone who needed it.

Josephine (Josie) is survived by her husband, Harold Dean Simmons; her children, Ernest Eugene Hamilton Jr. (Janie), Mona Marie Hamilton McMahon (Steve), and Karen Yvonne Hamilton; 9 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren, her sister, Delores (Dee) Garcia Middleton, and more 'foster' children that can be counted.

In addition to her parents, Jo was predeceased by two sisters Jane Rowland and Rosa Maria Banks.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Chosen Children Ministries. <https://ccm.life/> . P.O. Box 126, Inman, SC 29349, 864-599-0067

Please visit [RobinsonFuneralHomes.com](http://RobinsonFuneralHomes.com) or Robinson Funeral Home & Crematory-Downtown, Easley.



**Interviews with Jane and Josephine, June 10 2019**

[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL\\_WbILcEFIMbaNdZdIMT2oDGhaSK4f6tv&si=VPaYzqjdBGxC7yzT](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_WbILcEFIMbaNdZdIMT2oDGhaSK4f6tv&si=VPaYzqjdBGxC7yzT)

