

## 4.7 (5) GERRIT WILLEM CASIMIR

Vbis Although baptized as Casimir Gerhard Willem, he went through life as Gerrit Willem Casimir<sup>1</sup>. According to the baptismal register of the Reformed Church in Gennep he was born January 11, 1773 at 11 hours pm and he was baptized on January 17<sup>th</sup> after the sermon in the afternoon. Witnesses were his uncle Gerrit Willem, bailiff of Roosendaal, and Bilgen, secret council of Cleves. The baptism took place in Gennep House, a small village under the jurisdiction of Gennep at the confluence of the rivers Meuse and Niers. Previously there had been a fortress, but after many raids since 1710 it was abandoned and gradually dismantled.

Till 1777 his father, Willem Michiel Arnold, was steward of the Royal Prussian seigniorship Gennep, Heyen and Oeffelt. Then he was appointed by the Prince of Orange steward of the domains, spiritual and pastoral property of the town Grave and the Lande Cuyk. The family relocated to Grave. Two years later, WMA was fired as steward, presumably because of "unpleasantness". We do not know what that means neither we know what were his occupations after that. Presumably he got busy with his properties in the Biesselt, but not longer than 1782, because then he divorced from his wife and all properties were sold. GWC was then only 9 years. The children remained with their mother in Cleves until her death. I think that GWC did not have such a pleasant childhood. He was the youngest in a family with six sons and one daughter. Of his brothers four died of tuberculosis at a young age. His mother died of this disease too, when he was 15. The only surviving brother was soon out of the house, so he had the most contact with his sister who was two years older. It is not known where GWC was raised after the death of his mother. Most likely, he lived with his uncle Gerrit Willem in Roosendaal. The membership list of the Roosendaalse Protestants shows that he was registered in 1789 as coming from Cleves.

### The time of the Patriots

GWC's family was Orangist. In particular his uncle Gerrit Willem had good relations with the court in the Hague. He enjoyed the protection of Duke Louis Ernest of Brunswick-Lüneburg, guardian and later the principal adviser of Prince Willem V, who repeatedly had granted him favors. From 1781 public opinion turned increasingly against Willem V and the Duke of Brunswick. Influenced by the "Enlightenment" the intelligentsia sought to change the form of government. The people supported their ideas. The Patriots, as the reformers called themselves, focused their arrows primarily on the Duke of Brunswick with the result that in 1784 he left the county. Then Willem V was the target. He was forced to leave The Hague and finally settled in Nijmegen. In 1787, after the invasion of the Prussians, the tide turned. Willem V came back in The Hague and was restored in all his rights. Everywhere the Orangists retook the lead and many patriots took refuge in France. After the invasion of French troops in 1795 Willem V fled to England.

Given the stagnation in the county it was not surprising that at some point GWC decided to go into service with the VOC. Perhaps the husband to be of his sister, Jacobus Roest, mayor of Brielle, put him on that idea. Otherwise he was not the only one of the family who went to the East. His brother Frits was in 1808 as a military man in Batavia, while his sister stayed there temporarily in 1816. On April 13, 1790 he received letters of emancipation by the Council and Leen Court of Brabant and Overmaze, on the recommendation of his uncle

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<sup>81</sup> He is also called as such in *Biografisch Woordenboek der Nederlanden*

Gerrit Willem. He left on June 16, 1790, 17 years old, from Goeree employed by the VOC to Ned. Indië with the ship 'Justice' (Figure 23), sailed for the Rotterdam Chamber of the VOC.

Details are known both of the ship as well of the voyage. The ship was commissioned by the Admiralty Amsterdam and built in 1780 in Amsterdam. The length was 150 feet and the tonnage was 1150 tons. The crew consisted of 172 seamen, eight of them died during the first part of the trip (to the Cape of Good Hope). There were on board 113 soldiers, 10 artisans and 27 passengers, including 26 Chinese, of whom only 11 arrived in Batavia. The whole trip lasted 7 ½ months; In the Cape the ship stopped three weeks (from October 12 till November 2, 1790). On February 1, 1791 the ship arrived in Batavia.

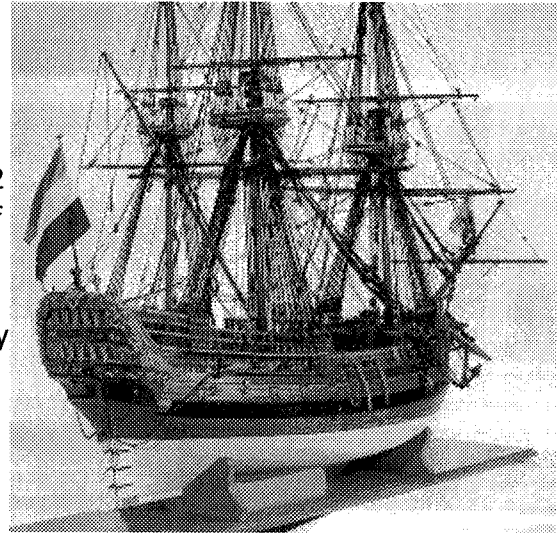


Fig 23

It is unclear in what capacity GWC sailed. Most sources say as "onderkoopman" (junior merchant), which capacity is also mentioned on the pay bill of the ship (with a salary of f 40,- per month).

In Batavia he got probably an appointment as temporary administrator of the Grain Warehouse of the VOC. In any event, it has been recorded that he had that job on August 12, 1791. In February 1793 he married Anna Apollonia Jens, a widow six years older than he was and who had already six children. In return, she was probably not without means and she had a spacious house. Anna enjoyed a very bad reputation by its manner of dealing with her servants slaves. The marriage was not successful. Already in 1797 they separated from bed and board.

Around that time he met (according to a family statement "on the dance floor") Reiniera Jacoba Bangeman, who was then 21 years. She was legally separated in 1795 from Albert Hartman with whom she was married in 1793 (when she was 17). GWC and Reiniera had to wait twelve years on the official approval for the dissolution of their first marriages. They married in 1809 but in the meantime they lived together for many years. They had 13 children, whose first three were born before the marriage. Eight died young. The five sons, who remained were the ancestors of the five Indonesian branches.

In 1795 the French period began. Netherlands became first the French dependent Batavian Republic, then the Kingdom of Holland under Napoleon's brother Louis Napoleon and finally a department of France. In 1795 the VOC was nationalized by the government of the Batavian republic. The VOC staff was employed by the Dutch and later by the French government. In 1799 the company formally ceased to exist. The VOC in Batavia was in those years in isolation. The direct link between the Netherlands and Batavia was blocked owing to a war of France with England. The communications went very difficult. The local VOC directors got out of money resulting in a significant reduction of VOC employees.

The slump lasted until King Louis Napoleon - the Batavian Republic had now changed into the Kingdom of Holland -sent Herman Willem Daendels (Figure 23) in 1807 as governor-general to Indonesia.

Little is known about GWC's professional and social life until 1800. Sources indicate that in 1794 he was a member of the Lodge "La Vertueuse" at Batavia. According to F. de Haan<sup>2</sup> in August 1795 he got a fine of 1000 Rds for negligence in his administration. In December of that year he was appointed ensign and adjutant of the Corps pennisten<sup>3</sup>. A message of June 2, 1797 stated that he was temporary second administrator of the Iron warehouse in Batavia. Together with the 1st Administrator Van Son he should have been suspected of abuse of trust with the result that a deficit of 39156 pounds of nails with a value of 5000 Rds had to be settled. Having complained on September 5, 1797 about his "narrow circumstances" the government acknowledged that his "circumstances indeed deserved some consideration". Fourteen days later he was told that he would be remembered in mind if any employ came open. On December 19 he got a job at Buitenzorg for 40 Rds per month; according to a preserved document he lived there in the Commissioner and he got also the financial records of the Coffee Depot.

From 1800 it went better with his career. In February of that year he was appointed administrator in the Iron Warehouse in Batavia. A good year later he became an administrator in the Provision Warehouse. On May 20, 1805 he was provisionally granted the rank of merchant. The three grades VOC junior merchant, merchant and senior merchant were not only given to traders but also to the administrative staff and to military men. GWC was already in 1798 under Lieutenant, in 1800 he was appointed to lieutenant, then to captain and in 1806 to Major.



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In 1807 King Louis Napoleon appointed Herman Willem Daendels Governor-General of Dutch East Indies. After a long journey (it took him almost a year) he arrived at New Year 1808 in Batavia. On February 23 came the decision that GWC would resign his post in order to accompany GG Daendels to Semarang. He then lived in Weltevreden towards Tanahabang. Apparently Reiniera accompanied him on his trip to Semarang, because on April 21, 1808, their daughter Sophia was born there. In the meantime he was (on March 15) promoted to senior merchant. By decision of May 21 - while he was still in Semarang - he was appointed "provisional delegate to the affairs of the natives".

On July 4, 1808 he was prefect of the Jacatrasche and Preanger Bovenlanden and

<sup>2</sup> *Priangan*, part I

<sup>3</sup> Administration officers of the VOC

Commissioner of Roads and Mail in Java<sup>4</sup>. The same year he accompanied Daendels in his crackdown against the Sultan of Banten (Bantam, NW Java), because he had murdered all European officers and soldiers in his capital. By order of Daendels the city was razed to the ground. The sultan was dismissed.

GWC was richly rewarded for his part in the subjugation of Banten. Daendels gave him a golden sword, the turban and the gamelan of the monarch. According to a family note Daendels took with him the most beautiful wife of the sultan as trophy<sup>5</sup> and gave permission to GWC to choose also a woman, but GWC did not dare that because his wife would not stand any nonsense. He therefore took only the sword, the turban and the gamelan of the monarch. The gamelan was later neglected in Djamboe. The turban was kept by his son Frits and was later buried with him because the heirs could not agree to whom the turban would be allocated. The sword was usually on Dramaga, but a few times on Tjikoleang. Legend has it that sobs of the the spirit of the Sultan were heard in the room where the sword was kept because of the injustice suffered.

On June 15, 1809 GWC's report on the coffee culture appeared. Three months later, he switched his position with that of first delegate of the sugar culture. In connection with the abolition of the sugar monopoly of the government well over a year he had to abandon this position. He was then appointed 2nd delegate to the rice culture.

Meanwhile, his wealth had improved remarkably. Already May 2, 1804 he had received from his future father-in-law H.P. Bangeman the county Batu Tjeper (located between Batavia and Tangerang, on the Mookervaat), showing that the years of cohabitation with Reiniera had the blessing of the family Bangeman. In 1805 he had a garden (plantation) to the Bacherachtsgracht and in 1807 he became landlord of Kadoeang. This land was previously held by his father-in-law too. The "Forced Loan" of October 2, 1808, assessed him at 5000 Rds. On the occasion of the sale of the Tangerang countries in 1811 he became owner of Sadeng West (Djamboe later) for 16,100 Rds. The county Kampong Malayoe in Meester Cornelis would have belonged to him temporarily. In 1813 he became owner and landlord of Dramaga. Possibly he became then for one fourth owner of Djasinga<sup>6</sup>.

Daendels' administrative reorganization in Java had a lot of criticism, particularly from the native regents. In May 1811 he was recalled to the Netherlands (since 1810 incorporated in France). A few months later (on August 3) a British fleet appeared in the bay of Batavia. The defense of Java was not up to much. Within a good 5 weeks the English had Java in their power. Thomas S. Raffles was appointed lieutenant-governor. The British remained until 1816. Then the Dutch came back again.

As landlord of Sadeng West GWC asked early in November 1813 act of residence and on January 13, 1815 authorization to stay in the Dutch East Indies. During the British administration he lived a while as private citizen. In 1816 he became superintendent of the

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<sup>4</sup> The decision to build the Grote Postweg is dated may 21, 1808

<sup>5</sup> According to Ulbe Bosma and Remco Raben in *De oude Indische wereld* she followed the marshal to Buitenzorg as a lady-in-waiting.

<sup>6</sup> In *de Javasche Courant* Djasinga was offered for sale by the joint proprietor Jonathan Rigg. He was member of the House James Wilson and had bought on march 17, 1830 1/8 part and acquired by heritance 5/8 part. After the death of Jonathan on February 1, 1871 his daughter Emma became owner. It is not known who was the other joint proprietor but it could have been GWC.

coffee culture throughout Java and resident of the Preanger Regencies as successor to the British Macquoid. His report<sup>7</sup> on the management of the Preanger regencies and Krawang during the British rule is dated Wanijassa, October 25, 1816. Apparently he lived then there, because one year later his son Gerrit Jacob Theodoor was born there. In the report GWC showed his social face by remarking: "It is a hardship that the natives of the regencies are entirely paid in copper money and the free cultivateurs entirely in silver although the coffee produced by the natives is less subsidized. "

In 1816, he took also successfully action in the Cheribon Krawang riots. He reported this in a letter of December 21, 1816 to G. G. Godert baron van der Capellen.

By decision of February 4, 1820 GWC was replaced as resident by Robert baron van der Capellen, the brother of the GG and appointed a member of the Orphans and Probate Court in Batavia. According to F. de Haan the appointment was "an extraordinary setback, which suggests that his conciliatory stance against the landlords, especially those of Sukabumi, displeased with the government." In September 1820 he resigned from the governments service.

## THE FIRST MARRIAGE OF GWC

His marriage to Anna Apollonia JENS<sup>8</sup> took place on February 17, 1793 (notice of marriage on January 31). It was blessed by Ref A. Zomerdijk in the Buitenkerk in Batavia.

Anna, \* in Batavia (baptized December 7, 1766), was a daughter of Arnold Jens, vice president of Aldermen at Batavia, and Anna Apollonia DE GEUS. The bride was six years older than GWC and widow of the businessman and 1st administrator of the warehouses beside the Watergate, Gose Theodore VERMEER, died June 29, 1791 and son of Ref Th. Vermeer, pastor at Batavia. According to F. de Haan she would have had six children from her first marriage, concluded on November 24, 1782. GWC and Anna separated from bed and board in 1797. In 1809 Anna was in a request for dissolution of her marriage, which was authorized by Resolution of the Council of India dated. January 3, 1809. In that same year she was made a ward of court for slave maltreatment (after already fined for it before). On August 9, 1810 she was sentenced 25 years house of correction for woman. Two years later she was released on condition that she was not allowed to marry again. She died on September 22, 1815 in Semarang.

They had two young deceased children:

1. Willem Arnold, \* Batavia November 20, 1793, bapt.in the Buitenkerk there on November 24. He died in October 1795 and was buried in the Holland Cemetery in the vault of the widow Van Vessem on October 23, 1795.
2. Johanna Hendrika, bapt. In the Buitenkerk on July 12, 1795, buried. March 15, 1796 in Batavia in the same vault as her brother. Witnesses were Jan Vallet and his wife Hendrika Arnolda Jens.

It is worth mentioning that after the death of her husband Anna's mother married Andries van VESSEM, old infantry captain and vice-president of the orphanage, son of Adrian and Mary BAESSEN and widower of Elizabeth Hellendaal. From his first marriage, Andries had a son Hendrik, who had studied law and had an adopted daughter. In his will that Hendrik van

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<sup>7</sup> See Van Deventer *Het Ned. Gezag*, p. 116 f

<sup>8</sup> See *Vrouwen uit den Compagnie's tijd* from V.I. van de Wal (1923)

Vessem appointed GWC as guardian for his daughter Wilhelmina Hendrika, \* Tjandjoer 1797, † Batavia October 24, 1880. Given the relationship she called herself Van Vessem van Motman.

She married:

1. Bernardus Frederik Wilhelmus FISCHER, \* Utrecht, † Tegal September 24, 1838, arrived in 1811 in Batavia, Administrator of Sadeng Djamboe and in 1821 one of the testamentary executors of GWC.
2. Carl HOLLE, med.dr. and chir.2e class; his son Willem Lodewijk later married Aldonse Louise Quentin van Motman (branch D 5.12.4), while Carl's son Charles Frederik married Charlotte Jacoba van Slooten, a granddaughter of Willem Reinier (branch A 5.1).

A brother of Andries, Henricus van Vessem<sup>9</sup> (1751-1831), finally Major General of cavalry and widower of Maria GROEN, married St. Oedenrode August 3, 1807 Johanna Andriesette Dorothea Jacoba BANGEMAN HUYGENS, \* Boxtel December 20, 1778, † Leuven February 11 1822. She was a cousin of GWC's second wife.

## THE SECOND MARRIAGE OF GWC

The marriage of Gerrit Willem Casimir (Figure 24) and Jacoba Reiniera Bangeman (Figure 25) was solemnized on February 5, 1809 in the Buitenkerk in Batavia. One day before notice of the marriage had taken place at the home of GWC's brother-in-law Petrus Wilhelmus Helvetius van Riemsdijk on Molenvliet (map of Batavia).



fig 24



fig 25

Reiniera was born in Batavia on November 6, 1778 and died in Dramaga on February 9, 1860. Like her husband she was buried in the family cemetery Djamboe. She was a daughter of Hendrik Pieter, merchant and large landowner between Batavia and Tangerang, and Johanna Maria COORTSEN.

That the marriage took place at the home of P.W.H. van Riemsdijk is not surprising, because he himself was married to Sophia Cornelia Bangeman, a younger sister of Reiniera.

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<sup>9</sup> Two sons and one daughter were born by the marriage of Van Vessem-Bangeman Huygens. The youngest son was raised in the Dutch peerage on march 18, 1886.



Fig 26

There were more links between the families Van Motman and Van Riemsdijk. They had a common ancestor: Dr Josephus Johannes Helvetius. His eldest daughter Johanna Wilhelmina married Laurens Michiel Nemegheer and their daughter Wilhelmina Johanna Josepha married Pieter Jan Bangeman (Figure 26), the grandfather of Sophia and Reiniera, while Josephus' son Willem Vincent had a daughter who married Jeremias van Riemsdijk, Governor-General from 1775-1777, grandfather of Peter Wilhelmus Helvetius. Josephus himself was one of the children of Dr Johann Friederich Swiesser born in 1630, who had changed his name in Helvetius to escape persecution by the church. He seems among others to have been personal physician to stadtholder Willem III, King of England.

Jeremias van Riemsdijk acquired great popularity when he - as captain of the company Pennisten - was called "Captain Jas". In that time he had sold a plot of ground behind the Buitenkerk in Batavia to be served as a cemetery. If anyone was buried there people said: there again somebody goes to the land of captain Jas. He married five times and out of the fourth marriage Willem Vincent Helvetius was born, the famous landlord of Tjampea c.a.

The family Bangeman<sup>10</sup>, originating from Germany, was a wealthy family, who already stayed a few generations in India. Reiniera's grandfather Pieter Jan Bangeman came there in 1721 and her father was born in Batavia. Her father had a brother William Vincent, whose children<sup>11</sup> married in Europe and called themselves Bangeman Huygens. Both branches died out in the male line. The mother of Reiniera was also born in Batavia and descendant of families who lived during generations in India. The oldest known ancestor was Albert Wybrandus Dubbeldecop, accountant employed by the VOC (born August 17, 1662 in Batavia).

Reiniera had been married earlier (June 30, 1793) to Mr. Albertus Cornelis HARTMAN, of whom she was separated from bed and board February 18, 1795 ("their tempers did not match"). The dissolution of the marriage (by decision of the Council of India) took place on January 27, 1809. Their son Albert born on April 3, 1794 in Batavia, died young. Albertus Cornelis Hartman, \*Batavia on July 29, 1765, bapt. August 4, was a son of Casparus and Eleonora Deliana DOMBURG. He was a member of the Orphan Chamber and the

<sup>10</sup> WWWvR published detailed about this family in NL 1905

<sup>11</sup> One of these children, jhr C.D.E.J. was envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to different courts and was raised to the Dutch peerage in 1830 on account of his contribution in finding back jewels who were stolen in the night of September 25, 1829 out of the house of (later on) king Willem II.

Supreme Council of Justice of the Dutch East Indies. He died at Batavia on November 21, 1812.

On May 25, 1821 Reiniera published the death of her husband on the land Dramaga as follows in the newspaper:

"Today the bitterest blow of my life hit me, thus it pleased Providence to take to Him my tenderly loved husband GWC van Motman at the age of over 49<sup>12</sup> years, after a lingering disease of over 3 months: all those who could appreciate the man's character will regret this loss as I and my five boys do. "

She was as longest liver the universal heir of her husband under their will, which was passed on November 29, 1820 for notary K. Heynis to Batavia (sub No. 5418). His executors were his brother-in-law P.W.H van Riemdsdijk and B.F.W. Fischer<sup>13</sup>.

Djamboe was the largest source of income for Reiniera, when she was widowed at age 42 and had to take care of the children. The eldest son Willem was 19 years, his brother Frits almost 12 years, while the oldest of the three other sons was not yet five years. When Reiniera died in 1860<sup>14</sup> her eldest son had deceased long before and she had 25 grandchildren. In her will of June 13, 1840, she had arranged that her house at the Koningsplein and the land Djamboe would be in the hands of her five sons, each for 1 / 5; after the division in 1860 the surviving sons got each a quarter. The heirs of her deceased son got money.

GWC and Reiniera had probably<sup>15</sup> 13 children. The three first children were born before the marriage of their parents and considering the naming descended from them. The first child (Willem Reinier) had the second, respectively. the first name of the parents, the second child wore the first respectively the. second name of the parents-in-law while the name of the third child was that of the sister of Reiniera. The first two children have been adopted before the wedding. The third child was legitimized by the marriage. Eight children, that is to say all girls and three boys deceased very young, including two twins, all in the period 1811 to 1815. On March 21, 1812 two children deceased even on one day. Only five sons grew to manhood and they were the ancestors of the five branches A through E. The 13 children are:

5.1. Willem Reinier, follows VI.

branch A

5.2. Maria Henrietta, \* Batavia 22-07-1806, adopted 02-0-1808, baptized 13-03-1808, † Batavia 05-12-1811 and buried in the cemetery Tanahabang at Weltevreden.

5.3. Sophia Wilhelmina, \* Semarang 21-04-1808, legitimized by marriage of parents and baptized. Kampong Melayoe to 15-05-1810, † 21-03-1812, buried in the family cemetery on Djamboe.

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<sup>12</sup> This has to be 48 while his birthday is January 11, 1773,

<sup>13</sup> The first husband of Wilhelmina H. van Vessem of whom GWC had the guardianship.

<sup>14</sup> She was then 84 and not 93 that would be mentioned by mistake on her gravestone as shown in *Genealogische en Heraldische Gedenkwaardigheden*.

<sup>15</sup> It is remarkable that mr P.C. Bloys van Treslong does mention the child under nr 5.10 in an article about the family in *Ons Nageslacht* 6e V nr 1 (1933) but not in *De Indische Navorscher* 5<sup>th</sup> V nr 11 (1939) which article was more detailed. One does not invent the child under 5.10. consequently the number of children must have been 13.



5.4. Frederik Hendrik Constant, follows Vlbis. branch B

5.5. Gerrit Willem Casimir, Batavia \* 24-04-1810, bapt. in Kampong Melayoe 15-05-1810, † 18-11-1812, buried on Djamboe.

5.6. Theodorus Petrus, \* Djamboe 21-05-1811, † 21-03-1812, buried on Djamboe.

5.7. Nonnetje, \* Djamboe 21-05-1811, † 22-05-1814, buried on Djamboe.

5.8. Sophia Cornelia, \* Djamboe 26-06-1813, bapt. there 22-06-1814 by ds J.C. Supper, † 28-10-1814, buried on Djamboe.

5.9. Petrus Wilhelmus, \* Djamboe 10-06-1814, bapt. there 22-06-1814, † Paal Merah (Batavia) 18-10-1815, buried on Tanahabang.

5.10. Theodorus Frederik, \* Djamboe 10-06-1814, bapt. there 22-06-1814, † Djamboe 30-08-1815, buried on Djamboe.

5.11. Gerrit Jacob Theodoor follows VIter branch C

5.12. Jan Casimir Theodore follows VIquater branch D

5.13. Pieter Cornelis follows VIquiquies branch E