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About Olmeijer: the main Olmeijer family tree branches and other Olmeijer facts

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About Olmeijer: The main Olmeijer family tree branches and other Olmeijer facts

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Amsterdam

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MEETING Charles Olmeijer in 1887 in Tanjung Redeb (Berau Regency, Kalimantan) was crucial for Joseph Conrad's career as a writer. *Almayer's Folly* (1895), in which the main character, Kaspar Almayer, was based on Charles Olmeijer, would become Conrad's debut as a novelist.¹ And Almayer would be an important personage in *An Outcast of the Islands* (1896), Conrad's second novel, as well.

In *A Personal Record* Conrad writes about meeting Olmeijer in Tanjung Redeb:

I had seen him for the first time, some four years before from the bridge of a steamer moored to a rickety little wharf forty miles up, more or less, a Bornean river. ... He stepped up on the jetty. He was clad simply in flapping pyjamas of cretonne pattern (enormous flowers with yellow petals on a disagreeable blue ground) and a thin cotton singlet with short sleeves. His arms, bare to the elbow, were crossed on his chest. His black hair looked as if it had not been cut for a very long time and a curly wisp of it strayed across his forehead. I had heard of him at Singapore; I had heard of him on board; I had heard of him early in the morning and late at night; I had heard of him at tiffin and at dinner ... That morning seeing the figure in pyjamas moving in the mist I said to myself, "That's the man." (*A Personal Record*, 73–75)

Nevertheless, Olmeijer is not the fictional Almayer. John Dozier Gordan accurately conveys the nature of the transformation from life to fiction when he writes that *Almayer's Folly* "was not a record of the life of William

¹ Jocelyn Baines writes about this specific remark of Conrad: "This was paying Almayer too big a compliment because when someone is ready to write there will always be an Almayer to hand" (Baines 1971: 116).

[sic] Charles Olmeijer, but an expansion of the impression made upon the novelist by the man's personality" (Gordan 1940: 39).²

For instance, Olmeijer and his wife had eleven children, whereas Almayer has just a single daughter. Olmeijer died in 1900 in Surabaya after an operation for cancer, whereas the disillusioned Almayer dies five years earlier, alone in his Folly.³ Maybe the most drastic change is that, in reality, Olmeijer was a Eurasian. His father was Carel Olmeijer and his mother Amiena.⁴ Most likely she was a Javanese woman. The two of them weren't married, which suggests she was his *nyai* (an Asian concubine).

For his novel Conrad changed the Eurasian Olmeijer into the white European Almayer. Should this rather radical racial transformation be considered as a case of reversed whitewashing?⁵ Was it done because, in the British empire, so called "half-castes," people with mixed Asian and European DNA, almost automatically were regarded as outcasts: a view that was predominant in British imperial discourse from 1820, whereas that vision would not take hold in Dutch colonial ideology until 1900?⁶ Gordan suggests that making Almayer a native of Buitenzorg (Bogor) and of pure Dutch parentage, increased the humiliation of his marriage and that of his daughter with indigenous people from the archipelago.⁷ Such an analysis fits into the English imperialist frame of the time rather than into the Dutch colonial discourse before 1900, in which the colour line was not so sharply drawn and there was still a shade bar.⁸

Many others have also commented on the relation between Kaspar Almayer and Charles Olmeijer, although facts about Olmeijer are few.

² Cf Jasanoff 2017: 129–30. John Stape remarkably writes "but whether Conrad knew much of his [Olmeijer's] history is doubtful and also unimportant" (Stape 2007: 51).

³ Cf Meyers 1991: 124.

⁴ Carel Olmeijer married three times before, but there are no traces of children from these three marriages.

⁵ Andrew Francis doesn't pay much attention to this remarkable racial transformation in his "'You always leave us – for your own ends.' Marriage and Concubinage in Conrad's Asian Fiction" (2010). Neither does Robert Hampson in *Cross-Cultural Encounters in Joseph Conrad's Malay Fiction* (2000).

⁶ Liesbeth Rosen Jacobson (2018: 37–40 and 44–46).

⁷ Gordan (1940: 39). For more alterations, see 37–44. Baines notices this Eurasian-white European transformation, but doesn't give an explanation for it (Baines 1971: 191–92).

⁸ See note 6.

Arthur Fickel, chairman of the Indische Genealogische Vereniging (Dutch East Indies Genealogical Association), has traced the Olmeijer family in Dutch archives and has produced a family tree. The branch of the Olmeijer family that relates to Borneo (and to the fictional trader Almayer) are the descendants of Mathijs Olmeijer.

The Olmeijer Family Tree

I. Casper Olmeijer, enlisted 31.8.1768 in the service of the Dutch East India Company (*Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie/VOC*) as a soldier.⁹ He came from Osnabrück, Germany, to the Netherlands.¹⁰ He sailed for the "Kamer Enkhuizen" to the Cape of Good Hope in the vessel *'t Loo*. At the Cape of Good Hope he changed vessels and continued for the "Kamer Amsterdam" in the vessel *Jonkvrouwe Kornelia Jakoba* to Batavia. He left the VOC on 30.5.1769.¹¹

Children (most probably):

II-1. Antonij,¹² born about 1771–1773, died Surabaya.¹³ 12.6.1859.¹⁴

Married at unknown date Maria Elisabeth de Boer or de Booij.¹⁵

His children:¹⁶

⁹ He was of German descent and is recorded as a seafarer on a VOC ship with the birthplace "Osnabrug," which is presumably Osnabrück in Germany. Source reference: *Nummer toegang*: 1.04.02, *inventarisnummer*: 6510, *folionummer*: 283, <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl/onderzoeken/archief/1.04.02/invnr/6510>.

¹⁰ National Archives of the Netherlands. Records of the Dutch East India Company (*Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie/VOC*). Listing of military men onboard. Access number: 1.04.02, inventory number: 6510, folio number: 283.

¹¹ National Archive of the Netherlands. VOC Archive. Access number: 1.04.02, inventory number: 14800, folio: 300. It looks as if he just left. There is a second record which states that he was absent and therefore listed as missing.

¹² In the Netherlands, there is a record of a marriage in the city of Delft in 1761 of an Antonij Olmeijer. But there is no evidence of a connection with Casper Olmeijer or Anthonij Olmeijer in the Dutch East Indies. However, it does not seem just a coincidence that there is an Anthonij Olmeijer born in the same time frame. In those days, the name given to a child was almost always with reference to a parent or even an uncle.

¹³ The city on the island of Java in the Dutch East Indies was spelled "Soerabaja". We are using the modern spelling: "Surabaya".

¹⁴ R4 1860/85. R4 is short for *Regerings-Almanak voor Nederlandsch-Indië*.

¹⁵ The Civil Registration of birth, marriage and deaths started only in 1815, and a lot of data was missing in the first years of the Civil Registration.

III-1. Johan Carel, born Grisee 17.11.1793, baptised Grisee (Protestant Church) 11.5.1794.¹⁷

III-2. Fredericus Wilhelmus, born Grisee 19.3.1799, baptised Grisee (Protestant church) 7.4.1799.¹⁸

III-3. Frederik, baptised Grisee (Protestant church) 5.10.1800,¹⁹ died Surabaya 23.8.1848.²⁰ Worked at the military hospital at Simpang as an orderly, taking care of the sick.

Children with Miena (born about 1817):²¹

IV-1. Johannes Petrus, born Surabaya 2.8.1829, died (31 years old) 24.7.1860,²² KNIL Military 1853-1855.²³

IV-2. Maria, born Surabaya 12.4.1836,²⁴ died (54 years old) 11.5.1890, married Surabaya 31.3.1875 to Jean Aubrie,²⁵ born Salatiga 17.1.1830, KNIL Military 1841-1871,²⁶ in 1875 porter at the “*artillerieconstructiewinkel*”, son of Jean Aubrie and Louisa.

IV-3. Frederika, born Surabaya 1837,²⁷ died Surabaya 14.10.1886,²⁸ married Batavia 5.12.1863 to Jan Batiest Rath,²⁹ ³⁰

born Batavia 8.8.1835,³¹ died Bandjermasin, Borneo 3.7.1868. KNIL Military 1849-1868, son of Friederich and Saria.³²

IV-4 Nikolaas, born Simpang military hospital (Surabaya) 17.6.1839,³³ died 1841.

IV-5. Johannes Frederik, born Surabaya 10.7.1841,³⁴ died Batavia 19.5.1872.³⁵ KNIL Military 1857-1869,³⁶ married Surabaya 1826 to Wilhelmina Rashorn,³⁷ daughter of Willem Rashorn, retired surgeon in the East Indies Army,³⁸ and Frederika Patjer.

IV-6. Johannes Joseph, born Surabaya 23.7.1845,³⁹ died Surabaya 10.9.1878.⁴⁰ KNIL Military 1866-1872.⁴¹

IV-7. Wilhelmus, born Surabaya 1847.⁴²

III-4. Maria, born 30.7.1829, died 14.8.1829.⁴³

III-5. (speculative) Carel Simon, born 1823 (RA) or 1821 based on birth and Catholic baptism of his twin daughters in 1842, his wife's name Josepha Paulina Megalsie, born about 1805, died Surabaya 20.4.1842. The twin daughters died when very young.

¹⁶ Protestant Baptismal register. “*Uit het doopregister van de protestantse kerk te Soerabaja*” (From the register of baptisms of the Protestant church in Surabaya) 1766–1820. Christiaans (2010: 176, 182, 185).

¹⁷ *Uit het doopregister van de protestantse kerk te Soerabaja, 1766-1820. P.A. Christiaans. De Indische Navorscher* 23 (2010).

¹⁸ *Uit het doopregister van de protestantse kerk te Soerabaja, 1766-1820. P.A. Christiaans. De Indische Navorscher* 23 (2010).

¹⁹ *Uit het doopregister van de protestantse kerk te Soerabaja, 1766–1820. P.A. Christiaans. De Indische Navorscher* 23 (2010).

²⁰ RA 1849/412.

²¹ According to the birth register of Surabaya, when her son Nikolaas was registered.

²² RA 1861/89.

²³ National Archive “*Oost-Indisch Boek*,” *Onderofficieren en minderen*, 1832–1949, archive: 2.10.50, inventory number: 350, folio: 32476.

²⁴ *Bronnenpublicaties Indische Genealogische Vereniging* 12 (1999), Peneleh Cemetery grave E 6393: “*Hier rust / Maria Aubrie / geb. Olmeyer / geb. 12 April 1836 / overl. 11 Mei 1890/R.I.P.*”

²⁵ RA 1876/202. RA 1831/183.

²⁶ National Archive at Den Haag, “*Oost-Indisch Boek*,” *Onderofficieren en minderen*, 1832–1949, archive: 2.10.50, inventory number: 347, folio: 35273.

²⁷ Baptismal register, Catholic Church Surabaya. Krancher.com. Record number DR1811–1847/591, Father: Frederik, Mother: Nama.

²⁸ RA 1888/342.

²⁹ *Bronnenpublicaties Indische Genealogische Vereniging* 25 (2016), *Burgerlijke Stand van Soerabaja deel IV*, L. Melcher and L.M. Janssen. Mentioned as parents of Jan Albertus Theodorus Rath with Louise Antonet Olmeijer.

³⁰ RA 1865/3.

³¹ RA 1846/91.

³² Nationaal Archive in Den Haag. KNIL studbooks. Archive: 2.10.50, inventory number: 348, file:/ 2.10.50_348_0214.

³³ Birth register, Surabaya, LDS, Film: 1357828, Folio: 63.

³⁴ National Archives in Den Haag, Studbook “*Oost-Indisch Boek*,” *Onderofficieren en minderen*, 1832–1949, archive: 2.10.50, inventory number: 351, folio: 38110.

³⁵ RA 1873/260.

³⁶ National Archives in Den Haag, Studbook “*Oost-Indisch Boek*,” *Onderofficieren en minderen*, 1832–1949, archive: 2.10.50, inventory number: 352, folio: 44547.

³⁷ RA 1827/158.

³⁸ *Bronnenpublicatie Indische Genealogische Vereniging* 31 (2021) D.D. van der Jagt: 89.

³⁹ National Archive in Den Haag, Studbook “*Oost-Indisch Boek*,” *Onderofficieren en minderen*, 1832–1949, archive: 2.10.50, inventory number: 356, folio: 55450.

⁴⁰ RA 1879/314.

⁴¹ National Archives in Den Haag, Studbook “*Oost-Indisch Boek*,” *Onderofficieren en minderen*, 1832–1949, archive: 2.10.50, inventory number: 356, folio: 55450.

⁴² Baptismal register, Catholic Church Surabaya. Krancher.com 1847. Record number DR1811–1847/818.

⁴³ RA 1830/183. RA 1830/230 Daughter of Anthonij Olmeijer.

Josepha Paulina, born Surabaya 20.4.1842, died Surabaya 26.5.1841.⁴⁴ Carel Simon died Surabaya 29.2.1848.⁴⁵

II-2. Mathijs, born around 1771-1773. Married at an unknown date to Maria Elisabeth van Boy.⁴⁶

His children:

III-5. Carel, born Grisee (bapt. Catholic) 16.10.1799,⁴⁷ 48 49 died 16.11.1877, aged 78 years,⁵⁰ married 1st Surabaya 1825 Johanna Butjers⁵¹ 52; 2nd Grisee 24.3.1830 Adriana Petronella Nicolaasz,⁵³ died Surabaya 25.11.1834,⁵⁴ and 3d Surabaya 15.6.1836. Engeltina Kouthoofd.⁵⁵ 56

His children with Amiena (not married):

⁴⁴ Birth register Surabaya 1841. Film: 1357828, folio: 34 (1842).

⁴⁵ RA 1849/409.

⁴⁶ Catholic Baptismal register, Surabaya. Mathijs is mentioned as the father of Carel Olmeijer, mother Maria Elisabeth van Bey or Boy.

⁴⁷ Born 1799, Grisee Baptismal register, Surabaya. Krancher.com. Record number DR1875-1880/4515 Olmeijer, Baptismal name Carl. Father Mathijs Olmeyer. Mother Maria Elisabeth van Bey or Bay.

⁴⁸ Cf. Francis (2012). Braun's photograph shows the tombstone and the cover of the vault but not Altick's "solid table of whitewashed brick" nor any wreath. (1970: 91, no. 74). The inscription on the plaque reads: "HIER RUST | CARL OLMEYER. I GEBOREN TE GRISSEE | DEN 16 OCTOBER 1799 | EN | OVERLEDEN TE SOERABAYA | DEN 16 NOVEMBER 1877 | DIEP BETREURD | DOOR ZYNE KINDEREN".

⁴⁹ *Indisch Archief*. IGV005. Civil Registration Dutch East Indies. 1823. Carel Olmeijer Folio: 18 Scan number: 60. National Archive 2.10.01_3140_0060.

⁵⁰ Cemetery Peneleh, Surabaya. Grave no.: 821. Photo of the gravestone. Krancher.com. RA 1897/309.

⁵¹ RA 1826/164.

⁵² CBG archive Bloys van Treslong Prins: Simpang, Surabaya. Archive number: VIBDNI013523: Letter from the finance director to the registrar in Surabaya, regarding Karel Olmeyer. Statement of poverty in relation to C. Olmeijer, concerning his inability to pay for the funeral of his deceased wife, prepared by the district superintendent. Also a statement concerning the burial of the stillborn child of Karel Olmeyer's wife, prepared by the medical officer.

⁵³ RA 1831/173.

⁵⁴ RA 1835/226.

⁵⁵ RA 1837/206.

⁵⁶ Krancher.com website records the father as being Philippus Jodocus Kouthoofd, born about 1755 in Brussels, Belgium, and the mother as Francina Dolphina Florus.

IV-7. Johanna Christina, born Surabaya 26.9.1843,⁵⁷ died Poerwokerto 1.4.1915,⁵⁸ married unknown date to a ten Brink⁵⁹.

IV-8. Casper, born Surabaya 29.10.1845,⁶⁰ died Surabaya 20.5.1875, 29 years old.⁶¹

IV-9. Charles (Carolus), born Surabaya 29.7.1848 and baptised 17.12.1848,⁶² died Surabaya 2.9.1900, 52 years old,⁶³ trader at Goenoeng Taboer, Berouw, Borneo,⁶⁴ but also project developer in mining in South Borneo as from about 1887.⁶⁵ 66 67 68 Married 12.4.1873 in Makassar, Celebes, to Johanna Maria Cornelia van Lieshout,⁶⁹ born Makassar,

⁵⁷ Baptismal register, Surabaya. DR1811-1847/753. Krancher.com. RA 1845/286.

⁵⁸ RA 1916/254 and Cemetery Peneleh, Surabaya, Grave B 3303. Krancher.com "family name: Brink ten, born Olmeijer. Name: Johanna Christina".

⁵⁹ Her burial record mentions her spouse as "ten Brink". However, without marriage information it will not be possible to tell which "ten Brink" is her husband. There are too many options.

⁶⁰ Baptismal register, Surabaya. DR1875-1880/3631. Krancher.com. RA 1869/369.

⁶¹ Cemetery: Surabaya – Peneleh, Grave number: E 3491 Vak: C. Krancher.com.

⁶² Baptismal register, Surabaya DR1848-1862/50. Krancher.com.

⁶³ Cemetery: Surabaya – Peneleh, Grave: B821. Grave cleared. Funeral 1877.11.17. Krancher.com. RA 1879/309. Died after an operation for cancer according to his daughter (Gordan 1940:38).

⁶⁴ *Bronnenpublicaties Indische Genealogische Vereniging* 25 (2016), *Burgerlijke Stand van Soerabaja deel IV*, L. Melcher and L.M. Janssen. Marriage record 1900/54, daughter Louise Antonet Olmeijer with Jan Albertus Theodorus Rath. Information about her father Charles Olmeijer, trader, living at Goenoeng Taboer (Berouw) and Johanna Maria Cornelia van Lieshout (deceased). The marriage took place at the residence of the groom due to the groom's illness. Also, their child Margareta Josephiene, born Surabaya, on 16.6.1899 was legitimized.

⁶⁵ *Soerabaijasch Handelsblad* 20.6.1891, *De Locomotief* 22.9.1894, *Java-Bode* 26.2.1891.

⁶⁶ *Makassaarsch Handelsblad* 15.4.1873. Advert of C. Olmeijer that he had suddenly had to leave. (We know he married at this time).

⁶⁷ Cf Sherry (1966: 97) and Gordan (1940: 38). In the newspaper *Makassaarsch Handelsblad* of 22.7.1878, there is mention that the family Olmeijer arrived by steam ship "Rosa" from Surabaya.

⁶⁸ Olmeijer was a trader in guttah, rattan and rubber. He made and lost a fortune in rubber (Gordan 1940: 38).

⁶⁹ RA 1874/202. *Makassaarsch Handelsblad* 14.4.1873 Marriage.

Celebes, 10.9.1855,⁷⁰ died Boeloengan, Borneo 16.12.1892,⁷¹ 35 years old, daughter of Lambertus van Lieshout (born Lithoijen Noord Brabant, the Netherlands, 27.8.1813,⁷² died 21.10.1859 Boelekombo, Celebes,⁷³ Sergeant KNIL).^{74 75} This Charles Olmeijer is the person that inspired Conrad to create the fictional Kaspar Almayer in *Almayer's Folly* and *An Outcast of the Islands*.

His children:

V-1. William Charles Karel, born Tanjung Redeb, Berouw, Borneo 12.1.1874,⁷⁶ died Samarinda 6.12.1937, married Samarinda 6.3.1917 to Si Ina,^{77 78} born Blitar about 1874, died Eindhoven 8.1.1960,⁷⁹ daughter of Abdulrezak and Ina.⁸⁰

V-2. Carel George, born Borneo, 29.12.1874, died 4.2.1876 Borneo.⁸¹

V-3. Johanna Elisabeth, born 12.1.1876 Koetei, Borneo,⁸² died Malang 4.5.1943,⁸³ married Andrew Gray,^{84 85} born

20.2.1859 Fordyce, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, died Malang 4.3.1944,⁸⁶ son of Alexander Gray, born 23.9.1822 Elie, Five, Scotland and Agnes Carmichael.⁸⁷

V-4. Louise Antonet, born 16.9.1877 Koetei, Bandjermasin, Borneo,⁸⁸ died 5.11.1911.⁸⁹ Married Batavia 10.8.1900 to Jan Albertus Theodorus Rath,⁹⁰ born Batavia 10.2.1864,⁹¹ died Surabaya 17.1.1903,⁹² son of Jan Batiest Rath and Frederika Olmeijer.

V-5. Albert Eduard, born 2.7.1878 Koetei, Bandjermasin, Borneo, died 27.11.1878.^{93 94}

V-6. Elise Henriette, born Koetei, Bandjermasin, Borneo 17.7.1880. Married 8.5.1907 to Gerardus Veraa, born Vakenswaard, the Netherlands 05.12.1864, died Malang 3.9.1942,^{95 96} son of Theodorus Veraa and Antonetta de Natrus.⁹⁷

V-7. Alfred, born Koetei, Bandjermasin, Borneo 5.2.1882.⁹⁸ No place or date of death known.

V-8. Pauline, born Koetei, Goenong Taboer, Borneo 7.11.1883,⁹⁹ died 9.10.1964 's-Gravenhage,¹⁰⁰ married

⁷⁰ RA 1857/257.

⁷¹ RA 1894/447.

⁷² *Burgerlijke stand. Noord-Brabant*. 50 Registration number: 4800, *Aktenummer*: 13 Registration date 28.08.1813.

⁷³ RA 1894/447.

⁷⁴ KNIL studbook number 42120. National Archive 2.10.50:115.

⁷⁵ Description of Charles Olmeijer from interviews with his daughter Johanna Elisabeth Olmeijer-Gray (Gordan 1940: 36–46).

⁷⁶ According to the passport application of his daughter Maud Olmeijer.

⁷⁷ Japanese prisoner camp card of his son Charles. Reference Number: access: 2.10.50.03, inventory number: 443.

⁷⁸ RA 1919/32.

⁷⁹ Brabant Historical Information Centre in Brabant (Netherlands), Civil registration deaths. Period: 1960, Eindhoven, access code: 1298, inventory number: 3582, January 8, 1960, record number 13.

⁸⁰ Her passport application form. Archive of the CBG in Den Haag.

⁸¹ Francis 2012: 130, n.10.

⁸² RA 1877/334.

⁸³ Film 1721286/81.

⁸⁴ Francis 2012: 128.

⁸⁵ Archive Bloys van Treslong Prins. CBG. Record FAPA037544. Samarinda; Bandjermasin. Personal information on Andrew Gray, his spouse Johanna Elizabeth Olmeijer and their children Josephine, Annie, Agnes Johanna and

Alexander Charles Gray and on Willem Frederik Greefkes and his children Wilhelmina Frederika and Willem Maurits Greefkes.

⁸⁶ Index Project (Batch) Number C11153-1, Scotland-ODM, GS film number: 6035516.

⁸⁷ Scotland ODM Archive Batch Number C11427-5, GS film number: 1040111.

⁸⁸ RA 1879/273 Koetei. South-East Borneo, Banjarmasin.

⁸⁹ RA 1912/113.

⁹⁰ *Bronnenpublicaties Indische Genealogische Vereniging* 25 (2016), *Burgerlijke Stand van Soerabaja deel IV*, L. Melcher and L.M. Janssen. Marriage record 1900/54 for daughter Louise Antonet Olmeijer to Jan Albertus Theodorus Rath.

⁹¹ RA 1865/25.

⁹² RA 1904/121.

⁹³ RA 1880/336.

⁹⁴ Francis 2012: 130, n.10.

⁹⁵ RA 1882/287.

⁹⁶ On her application for a Dutch passport, she writes her date of birth as 19.4.1880 Goenong Thabor, father Charles Olmeijer, mother Johanna van Lieshout.

⁹⁷ Birth Register Valkenswaard. Part: 8153, Period: 1864.

⁹⁸ RA 1883/301.

⁹⁹ Passport Application for Pauline Olmeijer. CBG.

¹⁰⁰ *Haags Gemeentearchief* 0335-01, Registration number 1847, *Aktenummer*: L208, *Registratiedatum*: 12.10.1964.

Surabaya 28.11.1906 to Herman Siefken,¹⁰¹ born Probolinggo 13.3.1879,¹⁰² died Probolinggo 7 Dec. 1935,¹⁰³ son of Roelof Siefken en Kamsina, son of Roelof Siefken, born 21.8.1846 Gorsefen, Germany, and Kani.

V-9. Maria, born Koetei, Bandjermasin, Borneo 3.8.1885,¹⁰⁴ ¹⁰⁵ married Surabaya 11.9.1920 to Ferdinand Louis Eduard van Doren, born Surakarta 15.8.1888, son of Fernandus Leopold Jozef van Doren, born Antwerp 3.6.1841.

V-10. Lambertus, born Berouw 4.7.1888, died Dordrecht, the Netherlands, 13.4.1968,¹⁰⁶ married Surabaya 3 Oct. 1917,¹⁰⁷ to Clara Antoinet von Franquemont, born Surabaya 9.1.1894,¹⁰⁸ died Dordrecht 18.11.1982,¹⁰⁹ daughter of Martinus Eduard von Franquemont, born Surabaya 22.3.1860,¹¹⁰ and Hermina Wilhelmina Altheer.

V-11. Wilhelmina, born Boeloengan, Borneo. 4.12.1892,¹¹¹ died before 1922, married 1st Bondowoso 14.2.1912 to Coenraad Louis Arnold Almerood, born. Amsterdam 1.4.1885, died Bondowoso 10.7.1912,¹¹² son of Theodoor Pieter Almerood and Diedrika Johanna Josephina Stumpf; married 2nd Malang 4.3.1916 to Anthonij Hendrik Spaan¹¹³, born Poerworedjo Bagelen, 29.12.1870,¹¹⁴ Resident of Timor 1918-1921, died Soekaboemi 3.1.1922,

¹⁰¹ RA 1908/14.

¹⁰² RA 1882/267 Legit.

¹⁰³ Death certificate for Pauline Olmeijer and Passport Application for Pauline Olmeijer. CBG.

¹⁰⁴ RA 1867/306.

¹⁰⁵ On her passport application form, her date of birth is given as 16.6.1885 at Berau, Borneo.

¹⁰⁶ Citing Billion Graves. Burial at Essenhof, Dordrecht.

¹⁰⁷ RA 1919, 36.

¹⁰⁸ Passport Application for Clara Antoinet von Franquemont. CBG.

¹⁰⁹ Citing BillionGraves.com.

¹¹⁰ RA 1861, 41.

¹¹¹ Johanna Cornelia died aged 35 in Berouw in December 1892, a few days after the birth of her eleventh child, Wilhelmina. Francis (2012: 120).

¹¹² RA 1913/98.

¹¹³ RA 1917/138.

¹¹⁴ RA 1872/236.

son of Anthonij Hendrik Spaan and Adrienne Caroline Muller.

IV-10. Frans, born Surabaya 1853,¹¹⁵ died 1914, buried Surabaya 18.5.1914, 61 years old,¹¹⁶ "Legitimate son of Carel and Amiena," married Surabaya 27.2.1879 to Frederika Coenraad,¹¹⁷ born Surabaya 13.10.1857,¹¹⁸ died Surabaya 25.2.1941,¹¹⁹ daughter of Johannes Bartholomeus Coenraad and Paisa (when she was baptised her name became Maria Lasse).

Child:

V-12 Lodewijk Willem (Wilhelm), Married Surabaya 19.06.1901 to Mathilde Moors, died Surabaya 10.02.1936.

IV-11. Dirk, born Surabaya 1855,¹²⁰ died Surabaya 20.1.1856.¹²¹

III-6. Matthijs, born Surabaya 1804, died Surabaya 27.6.1852.¹²²

Child:

IV-12. Johanna Carolina,¹²³ born Surabaya, 24.4.1840,¹²⁴ married Singapore 26.11.1864.¹²⁵ Captain William Lingard.

¹¹⁵ Based on his age when he died. No record in the RA. His son Lodewijk Willem married 19.06.1901 to Mathilde Josephina Amalia Melanie Moors. They are all in the same family grave at Peneleh B 821.

¹¹⁶ Family grave, Peneleh cemetery, Surabaya. Grave number: B 821 Cornelis Olmeijer, buried. 7 Feb. 1879, Charles Olmeijer, buried 2 Sept. 1900, Frans Olmeijer, buried. 18 May 1914, Mathilde Amelia Melanie Olmeijer born Moors, buried 2 July 1914, Lodewijk Wilhelm Olmeijer, buried 10 Feb. 1936, widow Frederika Olmeijer born Coenraad, buried 25 Feb. 1941. The people in the grave are misidentified by Gordan (Gordan 1940: 37).

¹¹⁷ *Bronnenpublicaties Indische Genealogische Vereniging* 22 (2013), *Burgerlijke Stand van Soerabaja deel II*, L. Melcher and L.M. Janssen. Hoofdregister 1878, Akte 12. Marriage Frans Olmeijer and Hendrike Coenraad. RA 1880/215.

¹¹⁸ Baptismal register, Catholic Church Surabaya. Record number: DR1885-1890/7856. Krancher.com

¹¹⁹ Peneleh cemetery, Surabaya. Grave number: B 821 Place: E. Funeral 1941.02.25

¹²⁰ Baptismal register, Surabaya DR1848-1862/742. Krancher.com.

¹²¹ RA 1876/325. Peneleh cemetery, Surabaya. Grave number: 835. Grave cleared. Funeral: 1856.01.20, age: 9 months, born Surabaya, son of Carel Olmeijer and Amiena.

¹²² Matthijs is likely the son of Mathijs. Peneleh cemetery, Surabaya. Grave number: 433. Grave cleared. Funeral 27.6.1852.

According to Gordan, the couple remained childless;¹²⁶ ¹²⁷ however, there are records of the birth of

V-13. Carolina Lingard, Makassar 1863.

V-14. Julia Lingard, Makassar, 1866. (Legitimized 1869).¹²⁸

III-7. Pieter. Born Surabaya 1821,¹²⁹ died 17.8.1831.¹³⁰

A Nameless Grave

For researchers who aren't able to read Dutch, it is obviously difficult to consult Dutch sources on Olmeijer.¹³¹ This explains why so many excellent scholars make tiny mistakes in their research on Olmeijer. Charles Olmeijer (baptised Carolus) was the son of Carel Olmeijer and Amiena, who weren't married. In the Netherlands it is customary to give a child a baptismal name – Carolus – and a name that is derived from

¹²³ Johanna Carolina Olmeijer, born Surabaya, 24.4.1840, married Singapore 26.11.1864 to Captain William Lingard. She is the daughter of Matthijs Olmeijer (Surabaya 1804-1852). The first evidence for this is found in Norman Sherry's *Conrad's Eastern World* (1966): "Johanna Carolina's father was Mathys Olmeyer, a clerk" (94). However, Sherry is not a primary source. If she were the daughter of Carel (1799-1877), she would have been the sister of Charles (born 1848) and would have been baptised Catholic like the children of Charles. However, she is not found in the Catholic baptismal register of Surabaya. (The baptismal register is available at Krancher.com). This suggests that Carel was not her father, as does her marriage certificate. We have found the transcription of the marriage certificate in the records of India-EASy, marriages 1792-1948, batch: M75020-3, film: 499021: Marriage 26 Nov. 1864 at Singapore, Bengal, India, Johanna Caroline Olmeyer, father Matthy Olmeyer, spouse William Lingard, father William Lingard. So here it is clearly mentioned that her father was Matty (with the final 's' missing).

¹²⁴ RA 1841/265. Not recorded in the baptismal register.

¹²⁵ Transcription of the marriage certificate is found at India-EASy, Marriages 1792-1948: batch: M75020-3, film: 499021.

¹²⁶ See Francis: "Her father, a clerk, was Mathys Olmeyer (*ibid*), and she cannot have been (Willem) Carel Olmeijer's sister, his father being Carel Olmeyer" (Francis 2012: 132).

¹²⁷ See Gordan: "The actual Captain Lingard, according to Mrs. Gray and Mr. Pangemanan, married a sister of Olmeijer's, but the couple was childless" (Gordan 1940: 45). (This sister was Johanna Carolina.)

¹²⁸ RA 1869/69.

¹²⁹ RA 1822. The child of Anthonie Olmeijer. Mother Sabiera.

¹³⁰ RA 1832/55.

¹³¹ For what research in Dutch sources can yield, see à Campo 2000. Strangely enough à Campo writes 'Ohlmeijer' instead of 'Olmeijer'.

that by which one is called, a name for everyday use – Charles, an English name that is quite common in Dutch. There is no Willem or William Charles Olmeijer, only a Charles Olmeijer, except for his son William Charles Karel, born 1874. It is rather odd that Charles Olmeijer is called "William Charles" as there is no "William" found in any birth, baptism, marriage, or death records relating to Charles Olmeijer.¹³² In *Conrad's Eastern World*, Sherry names him correctly as Charles Olmeijer.¹³³ In his *Literary Lives* monograph, *Conrad*, however, he shows a picture of a grave in Surabaya (46), which he mistakenly attributes to Charles Olmeijer. (In fact, it is the grave of Charles's father Carel.) Thanks to Ron and Hitty Krancher, who photographed all of the Dutch graves in Peneleh Cemetery in Surabaya, we now have pictures of the nameless grave B 821 Section E in which Charles Olmeijer rests.¹³⁴



Fig. 1 Charles Olmeijer's Grave. Collection Krancher.

¹³² Gordan 1940: 36,37,39, and Francis 2012: 128, n3, 132.

¹³³ Sherry 1966: 9, 30.

¹³⁴ In fact, twenty-nine Olmeijers are buried in Peneleh Cemetery. Search via [www. https://www.krancher.com/begraafplaats-peneleh-soerabaja/naam_register-penelec](https://www.krancher.com/begraafplaats-peneleh-soerabaja/naam_register-penelec).



Fig. 2 Charles Olmeijer's Grave. Collection Krancher.

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