

1235 Golfside Drive
Winter Park, FL 32792
September 10, 2007

Greetings,

I am searching for any living descendants of my grandfather, **Gerhardt Koper**. He was born March 15, 1868 in Den Helder (Niewediep). Both he and his father were sailors. In fact, Gerhardt's father was captain aboard the steamship Maatshapy Nederland. Gerard's father and older brother were killed aboard the Hildagonda. At that time, Gerhardt, his mother, and younger brother, **Anton**, moved to Amsterdam. I estimate that was about 1881. They lived on the Haarlemmer Straat, Amsterdam. His mother set up a dressmaking business.


Gerhardt entered the Navy at age 16 and went to Lyden on River Rhyne. He transferred to Rotterdam. At some time he also joined a civilian ship, The Polux.

When Gerhardt's mother died, Anton went to live with an **Uncle and Aunt Fiorani**. There also was an **Uncle (a Navy officer) and Aunt Kamsma (or Kasma)**. There also was an **Aunt and Uncle Verboon** (also in the Navy).

My grandfather, Gerhardt, eventually emigrated to the United States in 1902, married, and lived in the area of Cincinnati, Ohio. One of his two daughters, Viola, was my mother. Before he died, my grandfather wrote of his exciting adventures sailing around the world, first under sail, then steamship. I am trying to assemble this information and write a book. More knowledge of Holland during those times would be helpful.

My sister, Jan, and I are traveling to Holland in April 2008. We are interested in finding out if we have any living relations in the Netherlands. If you have any information to assist us in this effort, would you please respond, either by mail to the above address or by e mail at hathawj@embarqmail.com? I would appreciate any information you can provide.

Sincerely,



Judy Hathaway

Granddaughter of Gerhardt Koper