

January 2005

## Windemuth Family Newsletter



**Bavarian Inn Lodge at Frankenmuth, Michigan**  
**Headquarter hotel for the 2005 International Reunion**

## **Windemuth Family Reunion—August 10-12, 2005**

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It's time to firm up your plans to attend the 2005 Windemuth International Family Reunion. The date for this biennial event is August 10-12, 2005; the location is Frankenmuth, Michigan.

"Frankenmuth was settled by German immigrants in 1845 and proudly maintains its heritage," according to Gene and Jan Dennis, hosts for the event. Frankenmuth is one of the states' top tourist destinations with more than 3-million visitors each year. "We will be staying at the Bavarian Inn Lodge nestled on the banks of the Cass River." The hotel features five indoor pools and three whirlpools, 18-hole indoor miniature golf, Children's Village as well as restaurants and tennis courts. Your stay at the Lodge is like stepping into an Old German Fairy Tale in Michigan's "Little Bavaria."

Family activities planned during the reunion

include; opening reception on August 10<sup>th</sup>, a group photo shoot, board meeting and family organization meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> and a closing "Gunzenhausen" banquet on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Between our planned activities is plenty of unscheduled time for meeting new "cousins," catching up with distant family members and exploring the area.

Crossing the wooden bridge and walking through town treats visitors to authentic sights, sounds and tastes of German culture. In addition to exceptional shopping, and food, those interested in golf can tackle The Fortress, an 18-hole championship golf course ranked among the best in the USA. Within easy driving distance, our guests can enjoy the Great Lakes (including fishing and water sports), museums, planetarium and the Sourcing Eagle

(continued on page 2)

## Scraps of History—Wartime Messages

Carole Wintemute Bernie, descendent of George Phillip Windemuth, provided this article about her parents during WWII. The article, circa 1948, was originally published in the *Hamilton Spectator*, an Ontario newspaper. Carole has been secretary of the Windemuth Family Organization since 2001 and lives with her husband Roy in Hamilton. Carole may be contacted at [rbirnie@mountaincable.net](mailto:rbirnie@mountaincable.net).

### Mailed Wife 1800 Letters from Europe

Here is a tale of a really devoted husband!

When Supervisory Letter Carrier Dave Wintemute was overseas with the R.C.A.F. he sent his wife in Hamilton 1,800 letters as well as telegrams, flowers and souvenirs. That works out to about a letter and a half every day he was away, whether in England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

Being a Post Office man, he decided

to keep a record of everything he mailed and found that the Post Office had chalked up a perfect score. There was only one item about which Mrs. Wintemute was disappointed and that was a piece of souvenir pottery, which arrived broken.

Mrs. Wintemute kept all the letters tied in neat bundles with ribbons. No doubt some years from now the youngsters will enjoy getting up to the attic to read some of these wartime messages.



(Photo, Harold G. Rose, Hamilton)

Here's proof that one wife didn't use letters to keep the home fires burning when her husband was overseas. Mrs. Wintemute, Gail and the 1800 letters.

Dave saw his daughter Gail for the first time when he returned in 1945 and what a thrill that must have been. Now there are three girls and a boy in this happy family.

## 2005 Windemuth Family Reunion

(continued from page 1)

Casino. For those interested in genealogy, the State of Michigan Library in Lansing has an excellent collection of books and census records for Ontario and the Midwest.

Getting to Frankenmuth is easy. It is located 15 miles north of Flint, just east of I-75. The modern airport at Flint has excellent service provided by Northwest, Air Tran, ATA, Continental and Delta. Alternative airports are Detroit located 100 miles south and Midland-Bay City-Saginaw Airport located 25 miles north.

Registration details are on pages 6-9. Please make your plans now and book early.

### 2007 Reunion

Though the 2005 reunion is a few months away, it's time to begin thinking about a location for our 2007 gathering.

Talk with family members in your area and consider hosting the event. By moving the reunion around North America, we offer more family members the opportunity of attending.

The past 5 reunions were held in Stillwater, NJ; Colorado; Niagara Falls, Ontario; Branson, MO and Walnut Creek, CA.

Contact President Gene Dennis for more information.

## A Visit to Stillwater

By Tom Cooper

*Tom Cooper, descendent of Johan Georg Windemuth, visited Stillwater, NJ last summer and had the opportunity to visit the "Old Stone House" built by Johan Georg Windemuth 250 years ago. Inspired by the sketch and article on the home in our July 2004 newsletter, Tom submitted the following account of his experience along with current photos of the historic house.*

Thought I'd share my recent visit to Stillwater and an eery but wonderful experience. I was in the NW New Jersey area in June with a friend to see some area baseball games, and realized how close I was to Stillwater. With a state road map, and after stopping a couple times to find the right road to Stillwater, we found the general store there on a Sunday morning. Seeing an elderly woman exit the store and head for her car, I ask her, if she had lived in the area for a long time. I told her I was looking for an old stone house – probably the oldest in the area that was originally the Windemuth homestead. She smiled and said, "Yes, I know -- that's my house. Just follow me home."

Although not far from the village, and as you probably know, Johan Georg Windemuth's house from 1755 is at the end of a long dirt lane, and not really visible from the state road in the summer, with the large trees covering the front.

We spent a most pleasant hour with the lady, who has lived in the house for about 45 years. Her husband died last year. She is very familiar with our family's history and has a copy of the 1900 J.P. Wintermute book. She showed us the architectural and structural features of the house and directed us to the cemetery nearby, where we found the headstones to be in great shape.

If I had shown up 2 minutes earlier or later, I would have missed the "window" to our past, as I had only a couple hours to spend in the area, and might not have found the house otherwise.

The other item of genealogical significance I wanted to pass on to you was that I found reference to what probably is the passenger record of the ship taken to America by John George Windemuth. Under "Names of Foreigners Who Took the Oath of Allegiance," there is the "List of Foreigners Imported in the Ship Harle, of London, Ralph Harle, Master, from Rotterdam, Qualified Sept. 1, 1736." The list includes "Joh. Georg Windemuth" and "Joh. Christoph Windemuth." This date (1736) matches the date on JGW's headstone as the date he came to America. According to the 1900 history, his father was Johan Christoph Windemuth, but I did not believe he also emigrated. With a birth date of 1676, he would have been 60 yrs. old, so it is conceivable.



The above photos by Tom Cooper in June 2004

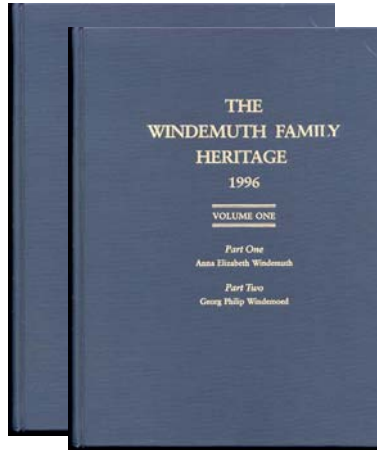


Sketch of the "Old Stone House" by Sadie Hill in 1974

## The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996 — Only \$65

Jacob Perry Wintermute originally published the Windemuth Family History in 1900. In 1996, James Woodrow Wintermute chaired a committee to update and republish this important history as The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996. Quoting from the Introduction:

“This book contains the history of the family Windemuth, from the first humble beginnings in Pfungstadt, Germany in the early sixteen hundreds, and spans nearly four centuries. It is a proud history, rich in tradition and perseverance. The family Windemuth has grown from just a small handful, to many thousands. This book contains a brief history of every Windemuth de-



scendant that we could locate, or learn about, and we located and learned about a lot of them.”

The two-volume set contains more than 700 pages and was professionally published by Gateway Press, Baltimore MD at a cost of \$110. The price of the remaining copies have been reduced to \$65US per set.

To order your personal set, mail your request with a \$65US check or money order payable to Windemuth Family Organization to:

Leonard Wintermute  
PO Box 465  
Elm Creek, NE 68836-0465

*Include your street and postal mailing address.*

## Dues and Life Memberships

The payment of dues assists The Windemuth Family Organization in covering the costs of newsletter production and postage, cemetery stone restoration and cover other organizational operating expenses.

We wish to thank those members who faithfully pay their annual dues. Without you, we could not continue. Dues are \$15US annually, though many members find it convenient to pay two or more years ahead.

## Have you paid your dues?

Annual dues (\$15US) or Life Membership contributions (\$300US) should be made payable to Windemuth Family Organization and sent to:

Gene Dennis  
9095 S Saginaw #12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Special thanks go out to those who have elected to become Life Members by making a single, lifetime contribution. (Life Memberships are \$300US)*

### Life Members:

**Gene Winfield Dennis**  
**Cathy Snover Ingraham**  
**Thomas Michael Louden**  
**Marcia Jane McManus**  
**Susan Theresa Meier**  
**Shirley Wagoner Mickey**  
**Janice Wintermute Snyder**  
**Jeane Bedo Titus**  
**Carolyn Anne Wilkie**  
**Richard Neil Wintamute**  
**Norman Stewart Wintemute**  
**Leonard Noal Wintermute**  
**Jesse Lee Wintermute**  
**Neal Duane Wintermute**  
**William R. Wintermute II**  
**Dianne Wintermute Yarmoloy**

## Signs of Wintermute

Two Windemuth descendants have submitted photos of street signs containing derivations of the original family name. We are sure 100's more exist. If you know of such a sign, please send or e-mail a photo along with any information you may have about its location and the person after whom the street was named. We will include these photos in a future newsletter.

Submit Photos and information to:  
Gene Dennis  
9095 S Saginaw #12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
e-mail: [gdennis@universalsys.com](mailto:gdennis@universalsys.com)



© 2004 The Advocate



The above photo was submitted by Tom Cooper, Cleveland, Ohio. It appeared in the Newark Advocate newspaper on Dec. 23, 2004, following a winter storm. The street was named after Tom's g-g-grandfather Dr. Alfred Wintermute.

Carole Birnie submitted the photo below taken in Fort Erie, Ontario. Carole lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

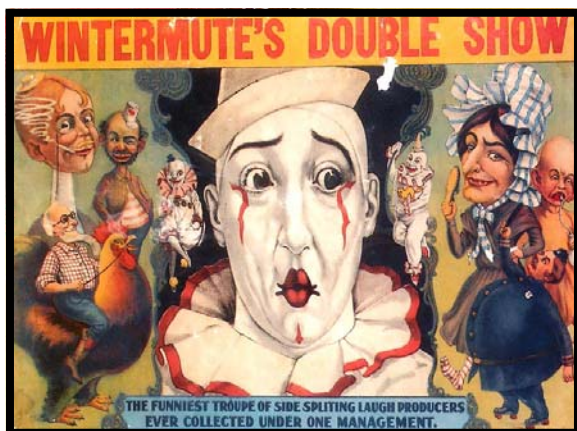


Carole Birnie, Hamilton

## Readers Talk Back

### Wintermute's Circus

The July Issue really got my attention, more so than any before.



Circus World Museum, Barboo, WI

Seeing Wintermute's Circus (July 2004, page 4) noted on the cover gave me a start. I was married to Harry Wintermute, the grandson of Thomas, who started the circus with his brothers Harry and Halsey.

Thank you for your presentation. I or

I should say we, the remaining relatives also thank you for the address of the web site. We were able to get in and get the whole history. I did get to Baraboo, WI in 1977 and Whitewater. I met Zetta Hall and her remaining siblings. It was fun.

Now I have something to pass on to my family.

Claire P. Wintermute  
Salem, OR

### Great Newsletter

As a seventh generation descendent of George Phillip Wintermute, I really enjoy receiving the Windemuth Family Newsletter and meeting so many other family members.

George Kenneth Bennett, UE  
Dundas, Ontario

### Kudos to the Cemetery Committee

My hats off to those on the Cemetery Committee. I visited the Stillwater Cemetery prior to the replacement stones. I also volunteered repairing and replacing stones and cutting grass at our cemetery in Phillipsburg. I know how hard it is to care for those old beauties.

Keep up the good work!

Jeane L. Titus  
Phillipsburg, NJ

Comments and suggestions as well as stories and photos of interest are always welcome. Please submit to:

Gene Dennis  
9095 S. Saginaw #12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
e-mail: [gdennis@universalsys.com](mailto:gdennis@universalsys.com)

## 2005 Reunion Information

### Frankenmuth, Michigan

### August 10-12, 2005

#### Reservation Deadlines:

Deadlines: Please plan your trip and register early. In order to confirm head counts to our caterers, your reservation must be received by:

Hotel Reservations July 11, 2005  
Reunion Registration: July 25, 2005

Mail the completed registration form on page 9 to: Gene Dennis, 9095 S. Saginaw #12, Grand Blanc, MI 48439. Make checks payable in US\$ to Windemuth Family Organization.

#### Hotel Information:

Please mail or call (888-77-LODGE) your hotel reservation directly to the Bavarian Inn Lodge. Address and phone numbers are on the enclosed hotel registration form. If calling, please mention you are attending the Windemuth Family Reunion (Account #1051TB) to receive the special rates quoted for this event. There is no charge for parking. Registration form is on page 7.

#### Gunzenhausen Banquet:

Friday night is a special Gunzenhausen Banquet. You won't want to miss this closing event! It will feature German cooking with some special Frankenmuth recipes. The meal includes lodge salad with house dressing, Frankenmuth chicken, carved baked hickory smoked ham, carved round beef roast, Bavarian Inn dressing and gravy, whipped potatoes, buttered noodles, green bean almondine, baby whole carrots and followed with Frankenmuth Rum Torte.

#### Sponsorships:

We want our reunion to be inclusive and fun for all. We also realize that our prices may restrict some of our family members from attending this great reunion. We are therefore asking our family members to consider adding a voluntary contribution to their registration so that we can assist those who may not otherwise be able to attend. A special thanks is extended to those who have provided this extra support in the past and those who will offer it for the 2005 reunion.

#### More information on Frankenmuth:

Learn more about Frankenmuth by visiting these web sites:

[www.frankenmuth.org](http://www.frankenmuth.org)

[www.bavarianinn.com](http://www.bavarianinn.com)

[www.bronners.com](http://www.bronners.com)

[www.bavarianbelle.com/](http://www.bavarianbelle.com/)

[www.frankenmuth-riverplace.com](http://www.frankenmuth-riverplace.com)

<http://www.zehnders.com/new-site/golf-course/index.htm>

#### Preliminary Schedule:

##### Wed., Aug. 10th:

<b>Hotel Check In</b>	<b>3:00PM</b>
<b>Reunion Registration and Reception</b>	<b>3:00-10:00PM</b>

##### Thu., Aug. 11th:

<b>Group Photo at Hotel</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
<b>Sight Seeing and Free Time</b>	
<b>Officers Meeting</b>	<b>10:00AM-Noon</b>
<b>Family Meeting</b>	<b>7:00-9:00PM</b>

##### Fri., Aug. 12th:

<b>Sight Seeing and Free Time</b>	
<b>Gunzenhausen Banquet</b>	<b>6:00PM-9:00PM</b>

##### Sat., Aug. 13th:

**Additional sight seeing and departure**



# Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center

One Covered Bridge Lane • Frankenmuth, Michigan 48734 • (989) 652-7200 • Fax: (989) 652-6711  
Visit us on the internet at [www.bavarianinn.com](http://www.bavarianinn.com)

## RESERVATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM FOR WINDEMUTH FAMILY ARRIVING AUGUST 10-13, 2005

### Room Reservations By Mail:

Complete this form with your specific arrival and departure dates. Return this form directly to the Bavarian Inn Lodge with an advanced deposit of the first night's lodging per room plus 11% Tax to guarantee your reservation or your Reservation will be canceled due to lack of deposit. We require 48 hour notice of Cancellation for deposit refund. This reservation form and your remittance payment (check, money order or credit card) must be received by the Bavarian Inn 30 Days prior to your arrival date.

Reservation Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of approved payment. Room requests are based on availability and are taken in the order of deposit receipt. Please indicate your first and second choice and number of rooms needed. Rooms with more than 4 Guests per room are subject to an additional \$10 per person per night. Rooms not reserved by **July 11, 2005** will be released and become available on a first come, first serve basis. A 6% State Sales Tax and 5% County Hotel Tax are applicable. If traveling with pets, please contact the Bavarian Inn Lodge for boarding facilities.

### Room Reservations by Phone:

To make your Bavarian Inn Lodge Reservations by phone, please call direct 1-888-77-LODGE. Be sure to mention you are attending the Windemuth Family (Account #1051TB).

#### WINDEMUTH FAMILY

Check In Time: 3:00p.m.

#### ACCOUNT #1051TB

Check Out Time: 11:00 a.m.

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHOICE OF ROOMS:	NO. PEOPLE	NO. ROOMS
<input type="checkbox"/> \$115 Standard Rooms 1-4 Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$115 Balcony Rooms 1-4 Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$115 King Rooms 1-2 Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$168 Suite 1-4 Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Cribs <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Roll aways		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Smoking Preferred (Taken Based on Availability)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Free Rooms (Taken Based on Availability)		

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check or Money Order Payable to:**

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Bavarian Inn Lodge  
One Covered Bridge Lane  
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

C.C. # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

We accept American Express, Master Card, Visa and Discover. (Make a copy of this form for your records)

## Missing Family Organization Members

The Post Office returned newsletters mailed to the following family members indicating expired or no forwarding addresses. If you can provide update information, please send it to:

Gene Dennis  
9095 S Saginaw #12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
e-mail: gdennis@universalsys.com

Surname	First	Middle	Address	City	St/Pr	Zip	Country
Bass	Linda	Wintermute	1120 SW Heritage Dr.	El Reno	OK	73036	USA
Koehn	Janet	Lorea Shira	Route 1 Box 52	Montezuma	KS	67867	USA
McCormick	Rachael	Houck	7451 Cornwall Court	West Bloomfield	MI	48322	USA
Ness	Garrett	Brian	36885 N James Dr	Lake Villa	IL	60046	USA
Parker	Pattie	Carter	35 Pearl Street	Schuylerville	NY	12871	USA
Sandahl	Stephanie	H.	718 Broadway Boulevard	Steubenville	OH	43952	USA
Wintermute	William		11 Joe Collins Lane	Savannah	GA	31419	USA
Wintermute	Frederick	K.	3204 College Drive	Louisville	KY	40299	USA
Wintermute	L.			St. Thomas	Ontario	N5P 3T1	CANADA

## Genealogy Committee Report

By Susan Meier, Chairman

The Windemuth Organization's Genealogy Committee is established to collect for all living descendants and their posterity, genealogical data relating to the Windemuth Family. This includes all of the various spellings. Dissemination of the massive data collection on a widespread basis was undertaken when we published the 1996 Windemuth Family Heritage Books. (See page 4).

Contributions of new information, whether it is corrections, pictures, additions or lore are always welcome.

This information will be incorporated into our data base. At some time in the future, we anticipate assembling and distributing this new information. It may take the form of books, CD's or some other future technology, and it will serve as a compliment to the original volumes.

Also, we have made an effort to put Windemuth pictures on the internet. To view what we have so far, go to: [www.clubphoto.com](http://www.clubphoto.com) and type in mid-page (not upper left) my e-mail address: [susanm1215@aol.com](mailto:susanm1215@aol.com). Click to

go to page 3 and click on the Wintermute album.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or submissions. I can be reached at:

Susan Meier  
4974 Willow Vale Way  
Elk Grove, CA 95758-4106  
e-mail: [susanm1215@aol.com](mailto:susanm1215@aol.com)





## Officers and Committee Chairmen for 2003-2005

**President:**

Gene Winfield Dennis  
9095 S. Saginaw #12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
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e-mail: [gdennis@universalsys.com](mailto:gdennis@universalsys.com)

**Secretary:**

Carole Wintemute Birnie  
314 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hamilton, Ontario Canada L9A 4G5  
Phone: (905) 515-3226  
e-mail: [rbirnie@mountaincable.net](mailto:rbirnie@mountaincable.net)

**Cemetery Committee Chairman:**

Neal D. Wintemute, Chair  
RR2, Box 83  
Mehoopany, PA 18629  
(570) 833-2345  
e-mail: [genesis@emcs.net](mailto:genesis@emcs.net)

**Vice President:**

Carolyn (Sue) Wintemute Wilkie  
PO Box 96  
Prairie City, IA 50228  
Phone (515) 994-2338  
e-mail: [swilkie11@aol.com](mailto:swilkie11@aol.com)

**Treasurer:**

Leonard Noal Wintemute  
PO Box 465  
Elm Creek, NE 68836  
Phone: (308) 856-4425  
e-mail: [lswintermote@kearney.net](mailto:lswintermote@kearney.net)

**Genealogy Committee Chairman:**

Susan Theresa Meier, Chair  
4974 Willow Vale Way  
Elk Grove, CA 95758  
Phone: (916) 684-5368  
e-mail: [Susan M1215@aol.com](mailto:Susan M1215@aol.com)

**We're on the Web:**

**[www.windemuth.org](http://www.windemuth.org)**

Gene W. Dennis, President  
Windemuth Family Organization  
9095 S Saginaw Apt 12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Are your dues up to date?  
Check the upper left corner  
of the mailing label.**

**January 2005**

**Windemuth Family Reunion  
Information Enclosed**