

January 2006

Windemuth Family Newsletter



79 Attend the 2005 Windemuth Family Reunion

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Descendents from across the United States and Canada attended the 2005 Windemuth International Family Reunion. The biennial event was held in Frankenmuth, Michigan on August 10-12, 2005.

Frankenmuth proved to be an ideal site for the reunion. Its German heritage, dating to 1845 could be seen everywhere. Horse drawn carriages took visitors through an authentic covered bridge, past the glockenspiel, and down the main street of a German village.

On Wednesday evening, reunion participants gathered during the registration and opening reception. Attending were family members and guests from: California, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Traveling the greatest distance were Peter and Margaret Jackson from England. They were guests of Don and Mary Kent of New York.

Thursday morning started with a group photo shoot and was followed by a tour of the GM Truck Assembly Plant in nearby Flint, MI. Family members watched as sheet metal, an engine, tires, an instrument panel and hundreds of more parts came together to make a completed pickup truck. After the tour, the officers held a business meeting while others used the free time for sightseeing and enjoying conversation with new "cousins" and other family members.

Thursday evening, the family meeting was held at the Bavarian Inn Lodge. The officers and chairmen presented reports and answered questions. Secretary Carole Birnie presented the minutes from the 2003 reunion. Leonard Wintermote, treasurer, reported the organization was financially sound and recommended dues remain the same. Neal Wintermute, Cemetery Committee Chairman, reported the Board of Directors approved spending up to \$1,000

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Hurricane Katrina Aid: Windemuth Family Members Help

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina crashed into the Gulf Coast causing enormous damage and the forth highest death toll in US history. Here are the first hand stories of two Windemuth family members that answered the call to help in this time of need.



James W. Wintermute of Fort Atkinson, WI was the editor of the *Windemuth Heritage 1996* book. As a member of the Wisconsin National Guard, Jim arrived shortly after the hurricane ended. Here is his story .

Jim can be reached by e-mail:
jlkr4977@charter.net

My National Guard Unit contacted me on August 31, 2005 and asked if I would volunteer to go to New Orleans on a humanitarian mission. We would be leaving in 48 hours and be for gone two weeks. I volunteered.

At 7:30 am the next morning, 210 National Guard members loaded tents, hundreds of cases of bottled water and MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) into our trucks. Our convoy would consist of 89 vehicles, including four fuel tankers each holding 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel, 3 wreckers, assorted HMMWV's

(High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles), 2 ½ ton trucks, 5 ton trucks and ambulances.

On Friday, September 2nd, we packed our personal gear. We had not planned on taking any weapons until reports came in that shots were being fired at authorities. The decision was made to take our M16 rifles, 3,500 rounds of ammunition and body armor.

Our convoy left at 8:00 am on Saturday morning. The three day trip had overnight stops at armories in southern Illinois and Mississippi. On Monday evening we arrived in Louisiana near New Orleans. During the trip down, we purchased meals, drinks and fuel. This was in anticipation that our supplies should be preserved until we arrived in New Orleans.

We set up our encampment at Zepher Field on the northwest side of New Orleans. This would be our home for the next two weeks. From here, we would transport and distribute food, water and ice to the residents and rescue workers at prearranged locations throughout the city.

Off duty time was spent swapping stories with other Guard units from 42 states. We got to know some members of a California "Search and Rescue" unit. They had the responsibility of locating and transporting bodies. This was not a job that would appeal to me, but had to be done.

Two TV news reporters from Madison went with us. One of our responsibilities was to transport them daily into a New Orleans TV station where they could file their stories by satellite. Late one evening, while taking the reporters into the city, the usual route was barricaded and required a detour. With no street lights and heavy flooding, driving at night was a bit scary. On one deserted street, the headlights picked up

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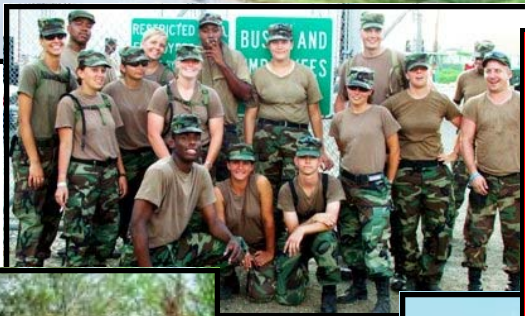
Robert Wintermute lives in Pittsburg, CA. Bob and his wife Judy chaired the 2003 Family Reunion in Walnut Creek. His involvement in helping the victims of Katrina occurred 3 months after the disaster happened.

Bob can be reached by e-mail:
mutes@sbcglobal.net

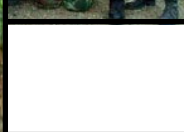
I went to Waveland, Mississippi on December 1 of this year and returned on December 8. Dr. Jack Hayford's "Church on the Way" in Van Nuys, California recruited me for this trip.

I would never have dreamed of the desolation and destruction that I faced on my arrival. A bomb could not have done any worse. The entire Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama coast line as far as 6 miles inland is gone. The few trees that were left had people's belongings hanging from the branches. The roadsides were stacked with the belongings from their homes ready to be hauled away and dumped.

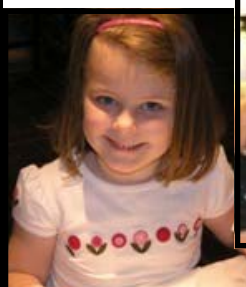
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Photos taken by members of the Wisconsin National Guard during their "Taskforce Wisconsin" relief effort in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Story on page 2.



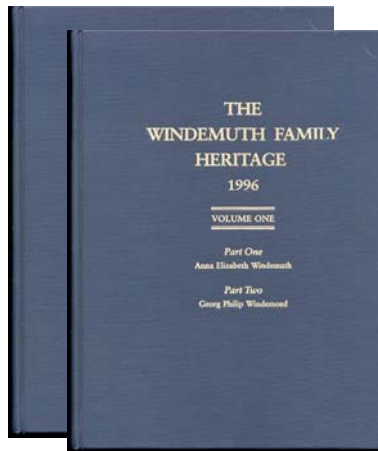
Fun in Frankenmuth — The 2005 Reunion



The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996 — Only \$65 + Shipping

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 descendant 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 \$65 plus \$12.50 US for shipping.

To order your personal set, mail your request with a \$77.50 US 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, and an e-mail address if you have one..

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 \$15 US annually, though many members find it convenient to pay two or more years ahead.

Have you paid your dues?

Annual dues (\$15 US) or Life Membership contributions (\$300 US) 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 \$300 US)

Life Members:

Carole Wintermute Birnie
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 (Sue) Anne Wilkie
Richard Neil Wintamute
Norman Stewart Wintemute
Leonard Noal Wintermute
Jesse Lee Wintermute
Neal Duane Wintermute
William A. Wintermute
William R. Wintermute II
Dianne Wintermute Yarmoloy

Let's get to know each other...

Here is the latest addition to our regular column aimed at helping us get acquainted with our "cousins." We hope you enjoy learning about them. Please send Pat Lundburg stories, information and photos for use in future newsletters.

Patricia Ann Tait

Many Windemuth descendents have been recognized as accomplished musicians. Today, we will get to know one of them, Patricia Ann Tait.

Pat's parents were George Rollins Snover, Jr. and Margaret Patricia Branson. That makes her a descendant of our emigrator Anna Elizabeth Windemuth.

A graduate from the University of Michigan School of Music, Pat teaches music to pre-school

through eighth grade children at a Montessori Center. Additionally, she has been a performing musician in various capacities most of her adult life. Besides singing, she plays Celtic harp, hammered dulcimer, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, guitar, recorder, autoharp, piano, ukulele, and glockenspiel.

Pat performs with the Erickson Flute & Ensemble, as a soloist and with her own trio of musicians known as Felicity Strings. The group features the hammered dulcimer and Celtic harp with accompaniment by string bass, recorders, and glockenspiel.

Patricia has several recordings to her credit including "Sleigh Ride Through the Holidays with Felicity String", "My Wild Irish Rose", and "Together Again for the First Time". She and her dulcimer trio are featured on the recording "Paint Creek Sampler".

have two children, Elizabeth and George. You guessed it again, son George is in the entertainment business. Known as the "pseudo-psychic" magician, George bills himself as a psychological illusionist, someone who "creates magic of the mind," combining optical illusion, magic and psychological techniques to create his illusions. Visit his web site at www.magic-by-george.com.



Pat's son George performing a magic trick.

*Pat Tait can be contacted at:
E-mail: PatTait48@aol.com*



The Felicity Strings Trio. Pat Tait is on the right

Her husband is Donald James Tait. You guessed it, a musician, clown, Santa Claus, and entertainer. The couple

Submit stories and photos on family members to:

**Pat Lundburg
PO Box 112
Fergus Falls, MN56538
E-mail: kplund@prtcl.com**

Salt Lake City will host 2007 Reunion

Chris Johnson and her brother Gary Schlenker are the chairpersons of the 2007 Windemuth International Family Reunion. They reside in the greater Salt Lake City area. Gary and his family live in Pleasant Grove which is 25 miles south of Salt Lake City and Chris's home is in Payson, 55 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Utah is a beautiful place to visit in the summer. Time spent sight seeing is a must. The Great Salt Lake, the Mormon Tabernacle, Scenic drives, and mountain destinations.

The date is being finalized but plan on the reunion being held in mid-August 2007.

Chris can be contacted at:
e-mail: Jameskentj@aol.com

Gary can be contacted at:
e-mail: gSPORT4@msn.com

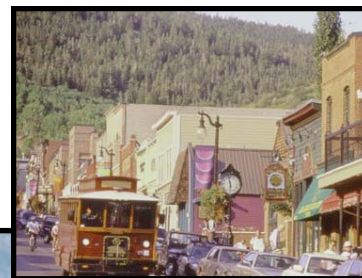
Poem written by Ivan Wightman:

*In the year two thousand and seven and
all is well*

*To visit the Windemuth Reunion would
be swell*

Salt Lake City is the place to go

*To visit friends old or new we've got to
know.*



Visit Utah's Travel Site:
www.go-utah.com

Readers talk back

Richard Wintermute of Kansas writes:

We will always be grateful to Walter Wintermute who formed our first family organization and assembled the first reunion.

Neil D. Wintermute, Sr., who carried the organization forward for so long.

J. P. Wintermute who in 1900 gathered and published *The Wintermute Family History*.

James Woodrow Wintermute who re-typed all the records from J. O. Wintermute's previous family history and collected all the new material required to write and publish our *Windemuth Family Heritage* in 1996.

And, of course, all those loyal cousins who served in the past and those who

continue to serve as officers, board members and on committees!

It was my privilege to serve on the Board, on the Family Genealogy Committee and as Treasurer following the first reunion I attended in Stillwater, New Jersey in 1993.

Former family secretary Richard L. "Dick" Wintermute of Columbus, Ohio; Heritage editor James W. "Jim" Wintermute of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin and his brother Dean H. Wintermute and I met several times in Chicago to prepare the Heritage for publication. That 1996 *Windemuth Family Heritage* was published by Gateway Press, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland.

We wrote the first By-Laws for the Organization; received the Organization's income tax exemption from the I.R.S.

(EIN number 48-1188866, dues are not exempt); and filed tax returns for the first time.

Remember that Organization membership dues and contributions are terribly important to the success of what is done, especially collecting new material for a future family history, planning and holding reunions, and for newsletters. Dues and gifts can be mailed to Leonard N. Wintermute, P O Box 465, Elm Creek, Nebraska 68836.

Please continue providing new family genealogy information to Genealogy Chairperson Susan T. Meier, 4974 Willow Vale Way, Elk Grove, California 95758, e-mail: susanm1215@aol.com.

*Richard Wintermute can be contacted at:
E-mail: kuaaret@aol.com*

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: genedennis@comcast.net

Surname	First	Middle	Address	City	St/Pr
Axon	Kathryn	Royer	RT 2, Box 462	Gravois	MO
Banta	Patricia	Marie	13Folkstone Ct	North Brunswick	NJ
Beetow	Charles	W.	1515 Miller Road	Lake Geneva	WI
Boswell	Robert & Eva		R. R. 1, Box 156	Hamburg	NJ
Brooks	Helen	H.	201 South Lee St.	Alexandria	VA
Brown	Helen	Wintermote	7008 W. O'Connell Dr. Unit #101	Chicago Ridge	IL
Carter	Robert	A. (Jr.)	30G1, RD# 2 Gray Rd.	Mayfield	NY
Cash	Robert	Christian	R.D. #1, Box 58D	Howe's Cave	NY
Davis	Charles	Guy	5806 Keith Rd.	Jupiter	FL
DiPietro	Catherine		P.O. Box 363	Franklin	NJ
Harrison	Gladys		Desert Cove Nursing Center	Chandler	AZ
Henry	Alan	R "Skip"	1610 W 7TH ST	Hastings	NE
Johnson	Crystal	L	962 S 1000 W	Payson	UT
Loganbill	Olive	Viola W.	1402 West Pinecrest Dr.	Marshall	TX
Martensen	Thelma		216 South Chambers	Coleridge	NE
Moon	Michael	Charles	5734-- 35th Street	Red Deer	Alberta
Morse	Evelyn	Bertha W	P. O. Box 176	Clarks Summit	PA
Prior	Paula	Wintamute	1620 Green Acres	Wichita	KS
Riccardi	Roberta	H. W.	521 Gray Road	Mayfield	NY
Setzer	John		7022 SE Harold Street	Portland	OR
Short	Heather	Leigh	3027 Regent Street	Berkeley	CA
Walker	James	Frederick	2222 Pacheco St., Apt 502	Concord	CA
Wintermute	Robert	A.	71544 Cactus Dr	Twentynine Palms	CA
Wintermute	Rex		Rural Route 9	Bloomfield	IA
Wintermute	Gerald		625 Plaza Del Ray NE	Salem	OR
Wintermute	Helen	F.	98 South 30th Street	Newark	OH
Wintermute	James	P.	631 N. 193rd Ave.	Buckeye	AZ
Wintermute	Jean	C.	9625 SE Highway 42	Summerfield	FL
Wintermute	Lloyd		9625 SE Cmty Hwy #42	Summerfield	FL
Wintermute	Mrs. George		7671 Dayton Liberty Rd.	Dayton	OH
Wintermute	Pell	Brooks	Fox Hill Road P.O. Box 323	Branchville	NJ
Wintermute	Roy	Jackson	4851 Lakeshore Road	Fort Gratiot	MI
Wintermute	William	T.	P. O. Box 323	Branchville	NJ

2005 Family Reunion

(continued from page 1)

to purchase a headstone for Leonard Wintermoot. Leonard is the son of emigrator Philip Windemuth, and is buried in the Coe Smith Cemetery.

Chris Johnson and her brother Gary Schlenker, Wintermute descendents living in Utah, offered to host the August 2007 reunion in Salt Lake City. The invitation was accepted unanimously.

To help family members get acquainted with one another, a "Windemuth Family Scavenger Hunt" was

held. The contest required answering questions in three categories: Windemuth Family History, Reunion Guests, and Frankenmuth. Dean Wintermute's granddaughters, Melissa (9) and Ashley (11), won the \$50 first prize by correctly answering 11 of the 12 questions.

Friday offered free time for sight seeing and shopping. A delicious Friday evening Gunzenhausen Banquet concluded the reunion activities. Everyone attending agreed it was a reunion to long remember!

Katrina — Jim Wintermute

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movement in the bushes. Everyone was more than a little unnerved. A few moments later, a figure slowly appeared. It was a very frightened elderly woman. She was pushing a shopping cart which probably contained everything she owned. "Are you going to shoot me?" she asked. The warrant officers said, "No, why do you ask?"

The lady replied, "Today someone with a loud speaker drove around telling everybody to leave or

they would be shot!" The woman was given some food and water. She thanked them, and disappeared into the darkness.

We were gone for 18 days. The trip back to Wisconsin was the reverse of the trip down. We were happy to have had the chance to do something useful and had fun doing it! It also gave us the chance to find out just how fast we could mobilize in case of an emergency. All things considered, I think we did pretty darn good.

Katrina — Bob Wintermute

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Our team's goal was to help people reconstruct their lives by rebuilding homes that were salvageable. Many homes and businesses were literally picked up and moved several blocks. I was told that a 30 foot high wave washed 6 miles inland destroying everything in its path.

The churches are helping with the rebuilding by donating materials and volunteering labor. We sheet rocked, taped and mudded two homes before we left. We worked 10 to 14 hour days and were sorry we couldn't have done more.

We slept in a washed out church that is under reconstruction. The floors were cement and the doors were yet to be hung. We washed our teeth using bottled water and took showers sparingly. This was luxury; most people there are living in "FEMA" trailers.

These are simply camping trailers designed for no more than a week's stay. They are living in them because they are better than tents.

I intend to go back. I can't express enough, the need for us to show God's work. One woman told me that she stood in the middle of her driveway (all that was left) and said "God, if you are there show me you! I want you to appear to me!" A couple of weeks later she was standing in the church parking lot with volunteers from all over the country bustling about and God said to her, "You wanted to see Me just look around you, there I am, I sent my army".

I could go on and on but will stop here. I hope this will lend some idea of what is happening and needed and what a week of my life was like. God's Blessings on all and be sure to thank Him for what he has given you.

Officers and Committee Chairmen for 2005-2007



President:

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9095 S. Saginaw #12
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
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e-mail: genedennis@comcast.net

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e-mail: rbirnie@mountaincable.net

Cemetery Committee Chairman:

Neal D. Wintemute, Chair
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Mehoopany, PA 18629
(570) 833-2345
e-mail: genesis@emcs.net

Vice President:

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e-mail: swilkie11@aol.com

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Elm Creek, NE 68836
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e-mail: lswintemute@kearney.net

Genealogy Committee Chairman:

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Elk Grove, CA 95758
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e-mail: Susan M1215@aol.com

A colored copy of this Newsletter can be printed from our web site:

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 2006

**Windemuth Family
Newsletter**

