

# Windemuth Family Newsletter

Related Family Names: Windemuth - Wintamote - Wintamute - Wintemute - Wintermote - Wintermute - Wintermuth

## Rapid City, SD - 75 Family Members Enjoy the 2009 Reunion

Windemuth descendants from across the United States and Canada attended the 2009 North American Family Reunion in Rapid City, South Dakota. This three day event, scheduled every two years, was held July 8-10, 2009.

Our co-hosts for the reunion were Rapid City residents Zetha and Bud Estes along with Herb and Sue Cook. Their two years of planning along with the setting provided by the Black Hills of South Dakota created an event family members will remember for years to come.



Group photo of Windemuth family members attending the 2009 reunion in Rapid City

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The opening reception and dinner kicked off the reunion on Wednesday evening. It was a sellout event when approximately a dozen family members who live within easy driving distance decided to join us at the last minute! This offered plenty of opportunity to meet "new cousins" and catch up with others that had not been seen in years. During the evening, Kelly Wintermute from Wisconsin made a presentation demonstrating the information available on the Win-

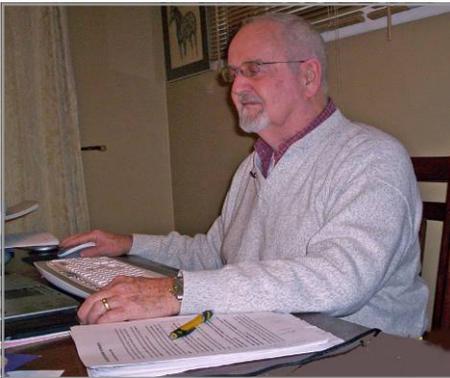
demuth web site ([www.windemuth.org](http://www.windemuth.org)). Later, host Zetha Estes provided a history and demonstration of rug hooking. It was a skill she had learned from her grandmother Bell Wintermote.

Thursday morning the family meeting was held. Reports were received from Secretary Shirley Mickey, Treasurer Leonard Wintermote, Genealogy Chair Susan Meier and Cemetery Chair Neal Wintermute. Kelly Wintermute, using a PowerPoint presentation from Susan Wintermuth who lives in Germany, generated excitement for the 2010 Windemuth German Reunion. The dates for the event are August 5-15, 2010. Following the meeting, a group photo was taken. The afternoon and evening provided an opportunity for reunion

(continued with photos on page 4)

## Life in Germany - The Lives of our Ancestral Men

By Mike Wintermute



Mike Wintermute

Michael A. Wintermute's international travels over the past 35 years has afforded him the opportunity to visit and explore Pfungstadt and Allendorf, the German towns from which our ancestors emigrated. Mike can be reached at:

[mikwinc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikwinc@sbcglobal.net)

Third of a three part series; this article looks at our paternal ancestors and their lives in Germany and colonial America during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Part 3

Our oldest known ancestor, Johannes Windemuth, lived in Allendorf on the Werra River. Though his exact date of birth is unknown, it is believed to have been about 1624. He died on December 27, 1694.

Born during the Thirty-Years War, 1618-1648, Johannes and his family survived while nearly two-thirds of the population of Germany died. Some were battle field fatalities but most perished as the result of starvation caused when foraging armies pilfered and destroyed crops and farm animals. The land-

graviate of Hesse-Kassel, where Allendorf is located, was trampled by roaming armies from Sweden, Spain and elsewhere. With the exception of two stone buildings, the town of Allendorf was completely destroyed by Croatian soldiers in 1637.

Heinz Conti-Windemuth, a German genealogist, wrote that the oldest reference to the Windemuth name was in a feudal tenure letter (probably a lease or promissory note) from the Germerode Monastery for property near Frankershausen. Heinz also mentioned that the oldest known locations where Windemuths lived were in towns on the Meissner, near Allendorf and Weidenhausen.

Men of the early Windemuth families performed a variety of jobs. A few were shepherds, some labored in the local coal, salt and mineral mines, others were teamsters that hauled freight. Heinz indicates that several were farmers and property managers for the feudal families, others were professional soldiers in the Hessen-Kassel army and two were mayors of small towns.

Johannes was reported to have been a wagon maker. Since the Bad-Sooden Allendorf area was home to a very large Teamster Guild, wagon making was probably a very profitable trade. Even so, the family faced the continuing prospect of starvation and disease

caused by the war and the extremely cold winters of that time. Two of his daughters died as toddlers.

Under the feudal system, residents of the landgraviate had to pay substantial taxes. During the Thirty-Years War, the population of the area dropped by more than half, but the taxes for the area remained the same. This meant that the taxes every individual had to pay more than doubled. Wagon makers with good incomes would have certainly carried a heavy tax burden. The landgrave took the tax money, provided few services and virtually nothing in the way of defense against the invading armies.

Johannes' wife Beata died in September of 1693 at the age of 58. Johannes married a second wife, Elisabeth

Wager, in May of 1694, just a few months before his death in December of that year. Johan Christoph, the youngest child, is the

only known survivor of that family.

Johan Christoph married Maria Margarethe Kleppinger in Pfungstadt during January of 1702. We have no record of how or when he came to Pfungstadt which is more than 100 miles from Allendorf, a very long journey at that time. Perhaps he came with help from his extended family, his God parents, or perhaps he ventured there on his own.

Pfungstadt is near Darmstadt where

**"...during the Thirty-Years War, 1618-1648, Johannes and his family survived while nearly 2/3 of the population of Germany died."**

(continued on page 6)

## Windemuth Family Reunion Tour in Germany

August 5-15, 2010

Guten Tag!

Would you like to visit the old country and the home of our ancestors? I live here now and am delighted to host a special 2010 family reunion in Hessen, one of the states of Germany.

The 10 day reunion, a tour by private coach, starts in Pfungstadt, the birthplace of Johan Georg Windemuth. From there we will travel to Worms and then on to Bingen where we have booked a cruise on the Rhine to enjoy the beauty of medieval castles towering above the banks.

Then we will travel through wine country to Bad Sooden-Allendorf where Johann and Beata Windemuth lived. This is a beautiful area and we will spend 4 days there with day-trips into the countryside. A number of Windemuth descendants still live in the area, so we have invited them to join us in Allendorf for a reception and banquet.

Our reunion tour has purposely avoided the big cities so you can enjoy the quaint countryside and small towns. You will see lots of castles, cathedrals and medieval villages much as they were when our ancestors were alive.

I look forward to meeting you here in Germany on August 5-15, 2010. This is a reunion you won't want to miss!

Sincerely,  
Susan-Gale Wintermuth  
2010 Reunion Host



### Tour Highlights

- A ten-day luxury coach tour of central Germany.
- We will be visiting and staying in the smaller towns little changed over the centuries.
- A one-day river tour on the Rhine where medieval castles tower above the shoreline.

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Space is limited  
Book early!

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For complete itinerary, cost and registration information visit our web site:

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

or contact

Gene Dennis, President  
Windemuth Family Org.  
(810) 694-7735  
[gdennis@windemuth.org](mailto:gdennis@windemuth.org)

**Reservation  
Deadline  
January 4, 2010**



*Herb and Sue Cook*



*Reunion Hosts  
Zetha and Bud Estes*



*Betty Wintermote and Family  
Nebraska*



*Lucille Gasper  
Texas*



*Shirley and Don Mickey  
California*



*Erica and Summer Dennis-Michigan  
Adysen Wintermote-Iowa  
Ethan and Garrett Dennis-Michigan*

**Reunion** (continued from page 1)

participants to do some sight seeing and shopping on their own.

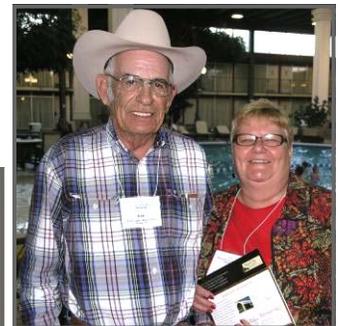
A tour of Mount Rushmore and vicinity was featured on Friday. Our chartered luxury coach journeyed along the scenic Iron Mountain Road and through Custer State Park making stops at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the Crazy Horse Memorial. Friday evening during the closing banquet, host Zetha Estes made sure this would be a reunion we would remember by handing out 38 beautiful porcelain pieces she had hand painted to commemorate the reunion!

*The Windemuth Family Organization offers a special thanks to our co-hosts Zetha and Bud Estes along with Herb and Sue Cook for a great family reunion!*

*The next North American reunion is scheduled for the summer of 2011 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Information will be provided in the next newsletter.*

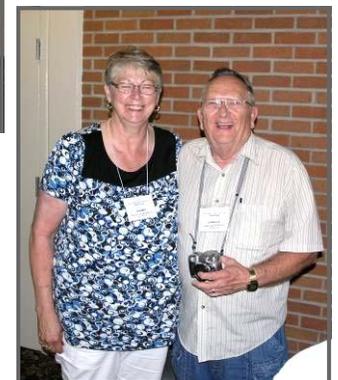
*(More reunion photos at [www.windemuth.org](http://www.windemuth.org))*

*Earl and Patricia >>>  
Wintermute  
Wyoming*



*Naomi Brown-Idaho  
Kelly Wintermute-Wisconsin  
Zetha Estes-South Dakota*

*Sandy and Leonard >>>  
Wintermute  
Nebraska*





## You May Qualify for SAR or DAR Membership

George and Peter Wintermute, sons of emigrator Johann Georg Windemuth, served in the New Jersey militia during the Revolutionary War on the Patriots' side. If you are a descendant of George or Peter, their service during the Revolutionary War qualifies you for membership in either the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) or the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Shirley Mickey, Secretary of the Windemuth Family Organization, qualified and has become a member of the DAR based on her descent from Peter Wintermute, son of Johann Georg Windemuth.



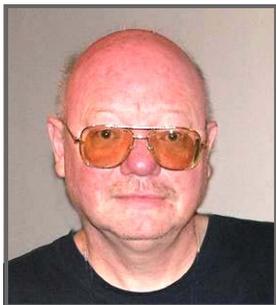
To check your qualification for membership, visit the organizations' web sites or contact our Genealogy Chair, Susan Meier.

DAR web site: [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)

SAR web site: [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

Genealogy Chair Susan Meier: [smeier@windemuth.org](mailto:smeier@windemuth.org)

## Check out Our Web Site - [www.windemuth.org](http://www.windemuth.org)



**James Woodrow Wintermute** serves as web master of our Windemuth web site. He was also chairman and editor of *The Windemuth Family Heritage* 1996 books. Jim can be reached at:

[jwintermute@windemuth.org](mailto:jwintermute@windemuth.org)

We are continually improving our web site so it can better serve the needs of our family organization. If you haven't visited it recently, please do and check out these features.

**Forum:** We have added a forum that will allow visitors to post questions, upload photos and provide answers to others on subjects of interest to Windemuth descendants. Current forum topics include genealogy, photos and reunions. You can also initiate a new topic if you wish.

To reach the forum, click the [Forum] tab on our web site's home page and follow the instructions to [Register] and join in.

**Audio and Video Clips:** Our web site has the capability of adding audio and video clips for the listening and viewing enjoyment of our membership. Perhaps you have visited a historic Windemuth landmark, cemetery or reunion and used your camcorder. Why not share it by posting it on line?

Clips should be submitted to Jim Wintermute. Please contact him for details.

**Genealogy:** Our data base of Windemuth descendants now contains 30,403 individuals. To view the records, click [Genealogy] on the home page of our web site then click [Surname Search]. Select the surname you wish to view and it will display the ancestors and descendants of your selected person. This is a work in process and we realize there may be some errors. Please report any typos or errors to our Genealogy Chair Susan Meier at [smeier@windemuth.org](mailto:smeier@windemuth.org).

**German Reunion Slide Presentation:** Recently we added a slide presentation in PowerPoint format with audio about our upcoming reunion in Germany. Susan Gale Wintermute, our cousin and host of the event, placed it on our web site to provide a flavor of what we can expect to see and do at the reunion. To view this presentation, click [PowerPoint Presentations] near the bottom of the home page.

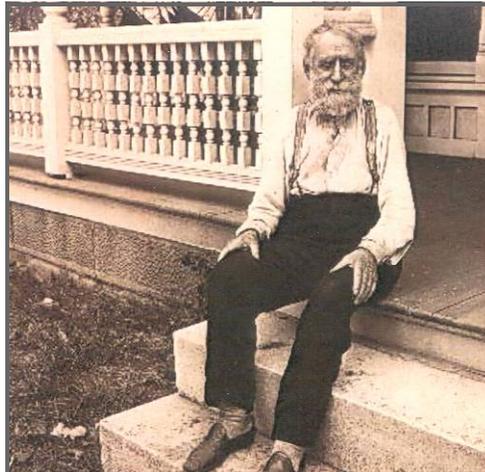
Please use and enjoy the web site and feel free to suggest changes that will make it better.

## A Glimpse of the Past - Hampton Wintermute 1823-1914

Hampton Wintermute lived on his farm at Conway, Iowa for approximately 46 years before moving to Bedford, IA. Family information shows that he bought his residence in Bedford from C.C. Hess in 1902. Hampton and his wife Angeline Travolia lived there for the rest of their lives. She died in 1910 and Hampton in 1914.

In Hampton's will, he left the house and all the furniture to his two daughters, Mary Jane (Minnie) and Mabel, and to his son Algie to occupy as long as they lived and were not married.

It is believed that Algie, known as



*Hampton Wintermute (J.G.-P.-VI-III) 1823-1914*

"Link", lived with Ella Wintermute on her farm southeast of Conway when she taught country school there and he may have lived in the Bedford house. Minnie and Mabel were both doctors of Osteopathy; Dr. Mabel bought a house in Lenox and had her practice there. Dr. Minnie did occupy the Bedford house and practiced her profession there. The house stands in Bedford today.

*Information was provided by Hampton's great granddaughter, Kathleen (Wintermute) Rumiano. The story was written by great granddaughter, Lucille (Ellison) Gaspar.*

### Life in Germany *(continued from page 2)*

reportedly there was a large Tailors Guild. Johan Christoph was a tailor and perhaps went to Darmstadt to serve his apprenticeship.

Johan Christoph and his family lived during the era of the "mini-ice-age". Growing seasons were short, limiting food production. The resulting poor diets often lead to starvation, disease and death. Two of their five children died as infants or toddlers within an eleven month period and his wife Maria Margarethe died at the age of 38.

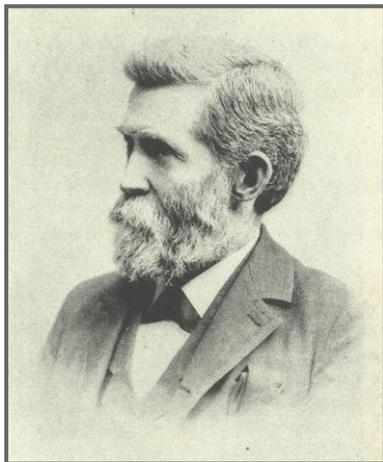
Johan Christoph married his second wife, Anna Elizabeth Wambold, within a year. He was 42 years old and she was 24. His three surviving children at the time of this marriage were Anna Elizabeth (14), Georg Philip aged (12), and Johann Georg (6).

In spite of the continuing long and cold winters the family gradually saw better times and a period of relative peace as the children grew to be adults.

Anna Elizabeth married Johannes Schnauber in 1722. Georg Philip emigrated to America in 1732 followed by Johan Christoph, his wife Anna and Johann Georg in 1736. Anna Elizabeth, and her husband Johannes Schnauber (later changed to Snover), a master miller, emigrated in 1737. Johannes Snover was likely the source of milling expertise that resulted in the construction of several mills in and around Stillwater, New Jersey.

After arriving in America, Johann Georg Windemuth married Margaret Elizabeth Bernhardt. We have little information about the Bernhardt family before they emigrated to the New Jersey area. We do know that Margaret and her father, Johan Peter Bernhardt were born in Kirzenheim, Germany located in Rhenish Bavaria, the Lower Palatinate. This area of Germany suffered greatly during the Thirty-Years War and again in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century when the armies of King Louis IV, virtually destroyed every town.

Johan Peter Bernhardt and his son-in-law Casper Sheaffer were the first of our relatives to settle in Stillwater, New Jersey. Eventually, Johan Peter's daughters with their husbands (including Johann Georg Windemuth), all joined their father in Stillwater.



**Jacob Perry Wintermute** author of the *Wintermute Family History* published in 1900.

## Genealogy Corner

By Susan Meier, Genealogy Committee Chair

A number of family members have inquired about the availability of the 1900 edition of the *Wintermute Family History* by Jacob Perry Wintermute. It has been out of print for several decades, but facsimile reprints can now be ordered from the following internet web site:

[www.ancestralbooks.com/SurnamesW](http://www.ancestralbooks.com/SurnamesW)

When you arrive at the web site, scroll down to "Wintermute". The price for the 404 page reprint is \$43.78.

It should be noted that the complete 1900 edition is included in the current *Windemuth Family Heritage* 1996 book.

The Windemuth DNA project continues. It is open to all males with any variation of the Windemuth surname. So far, five family members have been tested and show a strong DNA match to Johan Christoph Windemuth, our emigrator. We are particularly interested in testing males in European countries or those with uncertain genealogical connections to the Windemuth line. Contact me for more information:

**Susan Meier**  
phone: (916) 684-5368  
e-mail: [smeier@windemuth.org](mailto:smeier@windemuth.org)

### Life Members

Carole Wintermute Birnie  
Gene Winfield Dennis  
Cathy Snover Ingraham  
Thomas Michael Louden  
Marcia Jane McManus  
Susan Theresa Meier  
Shirley Wagoner Mickey  
Emma E. Murray  
Janice Wintermute Snyder  
Jeane Bedo Titus  
Carolyn (Sue) Anne Wilkie  
Richard Neil Wintamute  
Norman Stewart Wintemute  
Leonard Noal Wintermote  
David Michael Wintermute  
Jesse Lee Wintermute  
Neal Duane Wintermute  
Pell Brooks Wintermute  
\*Timothy Paul Wintermute  
William A. Wintermute  
William R. Wintermute II  
Susan Gale Wintermuth  
Dianne Wintemute Yarmoloy

\*Indicates new Life Member

## Why should I pay "Dues"?

The payment of "Dues" helps The Windemuth Family Organization cover the costs of newsletter production, cemetery stone restoration, web site operation and other operating costs. (Please check the top of the mailing label for your membership status.)

- Annual Contribution:** Please consider contributing \$15 US annually so we can keep our *Windemuth family heritage* alive for future generations. Many family members find it convenient to pay two or more years ahead.
- Life Member:** Family members may elect to become *Life Members* by making a single \$300 US contribution.

Whatever amount is right for you, please send your check made payable to:

Windemuth Family Organization  
C/O Gene Dennis  
9095 S Saginaw #12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

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

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

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

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

## Family News

*Reunions, births, marriages, deaths and missing addresses*

Send information and updates to:

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

### Missing Family Members:

The Post Office returned newsletters mailed to the following family members indicating expired or no forwarding addresses. Please contact us if you can provide updated mailing information on these individuals.

Surname	First	Middle	Address	City	St/Pr	Country
Cash	Robert	Dana	591 S Route 9 Apt 327	Cape May C H	NJ	USA
Rowett	Reed & Helen		4301 Confederate Paint Rd Apt 134	Jacksonville	FL	USA
Smiley	Ross		2350 Bridletown Circle PH10	Scarborough	Ontario	CANADA
Wagner	Lewis	Allen	3000 Lockport Olcott Rd	New Fane	NY	USA
Wintamute	Warren	Russell	606 Centre Court Apt A	South Hutchinson	KS	USA
Wintemute	Norman	Stewart	PO Box 15	Knightsen	CA	USA
Wintemute	Paul		201 Ferrie St	East Hamilton	Ontario	CANADA
Wintemute	Wayne		1415-33rd Street North	Letbridge	Alberta	CANADA
Wintermute	Donald		RR 1 28	Granville	ND	USA
Wintermute	Robert	Martin	5544 Lee Rd	Smith Station	AL	USA

### Obituaries:

**Henry Edward "Ed" Budd** died on June 14, 2007 at his home in Freon Township, NJ. Born in Newton, NJ, Ed served in the Vietnam War with the 101st Airborne and received the Purple Heart for action in Hue. Mr. Budd retired in 2007 as a customer service manager of Atlas Copco CMT USA. His hobbies were Christmas tree farming, boating and collecting antiques. Ed's death was reported by his wife Sara Budd.

**George Gatzounas** died Sept 6, 2007 in Chicopee, MA. He retired in 2000 as a Senior Bomb Techni-

cian for the Springfield Arson and Bomb Squad. George was a beloved Boston Red Sox and New York Giants fan. His death was reported by Lois Tiller.

**Joan E. Little (Drake)** died on January 20, 2008 at Stony Brook, NY. This information was reported by Lois Tiller.

**Deanna Pedigo** died May 3, 2009 of cancer. She was a daughter of Beverly Dewolf Roberts. This information was reported by Lois Tiller.

**Helen Fay Wagoner** died Nov. 14, 2009 at Lake Havasu, AZ after a hip fracture. She was 90 years old. Helen settled in Joshua Tree CA, built

a home and lived there for over 40 years on land granted under the Homestead Act. She retired as a receptionist for Union Oil and had also been a teacher with the Alhambra school system where she worked with parents and children with ADHD syndrome. Helen's death was reported by her daughter Shirley Mickey.

**Audra Renay Wiese** passed away on July 28, 2009 in Owasso, OK at the age of 38 years. Audra was born in Rantoul, IL and raised in a variety of places because her father was in the military. She started a home-based business focused on custom cheerleading

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## Family News

(continued from page 8)

outfits. This ultimately grew to an internet business focused on uniforms, clothing and accessories for a wide variety of sports and activities with customers in many countries. Audra is survived by her husband and three children. This information provided by Lucille Gaspar.

**Ronald J. Wintermote** of Emmett, ID died on Oct. 27, 2009. He was born in Douglas, WY in 1930 and served in the Korean War with the US Army. Ron worked in the oil fields, fluorspar mine, timber and lumber mill. After moving to Emmett, he worked as a rancher at the Van Dussen Ranch. Ron enjoyed rock hounding and leather crafts.

**Errol Irving Wintemute** (91) passed away on April 11, 2008 in

Delta, BC. Errol founded Delta Cedar Products, a lumber company, in 1965. He became a prominent philanthropist and civic booster in Delta with significant contributions to the local hospital and the Boys and Girls Club. Errol was honored with the Queen's Jubilee Metal in honor of his community work. One of his childhood playmates was his cousin Raymond Burr, who grew up to become a famous actor best known for his role as defense lawyer Perry Mason and the detective Robert T. "Ironside". This information was provided by Julia Sexsmith and Susan Meier.

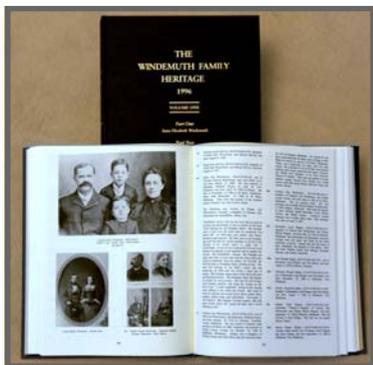
**Bertha Wintermute** died on July 12, 2008 in Tunkhannock, PA. She was a member of the Mehoopany Baptist Church, an avid gardener and loved cooking for her family and friends. Her needle works and quilting were admired by many.

**Everett G. Wintermute** died Sept. 14, 2009 in El Reno, OK after a battle with cancer. He attended the California School of Banking at Berkley University before serving four years with the US Army during WWII. He served in the Philippines and New Guinea for 14 months for which he received two Bronze Stars. Everett was affiliated with banking for 36 years before retiring in 1984 as vice president of American Heritage Bank. He was active in many community and civic affairs. This information was provided by Lucille Gaspar.

**John Garey Wintermute** of Gillett, PA passed away on Sept 30, 2006 at his home. He retired from the Ingersoll Rand Company in Athens, PA after 30+ years of service as a machinist. John served in the US Army from 1948-1952.

### The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996

*"Every Windemuth descendent should own a copy."*



- 2 volume set
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C/O Leonard Wintermote  
PO Box 465  
Elm Creek, NE 68836-0465

Include your street and postal mailing address, and an e-mail address if you have one.

**Great gift for Christmas and special occasions!**

### Do We Have Your e-mail Address?

Twice a year, we send our Windemuth "e-Newsletter" to members who have provided us with their e-mail address. It provides news and updates between printed editions of the Windemuth Family Newsletter.

Currently, we have e-mail addresses for about 1/5th of our membership and are asking you to help us expand the list to include you. Your address will only be used for Windemuth Organization news and not sold or conveyed to any 3rd party. Send your e-mail address to Gene Dennis:

**gdennis@windemuth.org**

Be sure to include your name and postal mailing address. (You would be surprised how many Wintermutes have the same first and last name.)

For Information on the

**2010  
Family Reunion  
Tour  
in Germany**

See Page 3

**Officers and Committee Chairmen  
2007-2011**



**President:**

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**Secretary:**

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**Genealogy Committee Chairman:**

Susan Theresa Meier, Chair  
4974 Willow Vale Way  
Elk Grove, CA 95758  
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e-mail: smeier@windemuth.org

**This Newsletter can be printed in color from our web site:**

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

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

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label for membership status.*

**Windemuth  
Family Newsletter**

*The Newsletter for descendants of  
Johan Christoph Windemuth*



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