

# Windemuth Family Newsletter

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

## Bird-in-Hand —

### Location of the 2011 Windemuth Family Reunion



At the 2011 reunion in Lancaster, PA, you will enjoy seeing Amish Families living a lifestyle much as it was in the 17th century.

**Bird-In-Hand**, a small village seven miles east of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is the site of our 2011 Windemuth North American Family Reunion. You are invited to join us there August 2-4, 2011 for a fun-filled three-day event.

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Lancaster County is home to the oldest Amish settlement in the U.S.A. The Amish arrived in Pennsylvania about the same time as our Windemuth ancestors and have preserved their lifestyle much as it was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This will give us the opportunity to see firsthand how our ancestors lived when they arrived in North America.

Neal Wintermute, host of the event, says "Lancaster is a popular destination where visitors can unwind and enjoy a slower pace. One can relax to the clip-clop of horses' hooves echoing down quiet country roads.

Families will enjoy beautiful scenery dotted by one-room schoolhouses, covered bridges, mule teams working the fields and homemade clothes and quilts gently blowing in the breeze."

We will be staying at the Bird-in-Hand Family Inn owned by the Smucker's family. This modern facility has playgrounds and pools for the kids and is adjacent to the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant and Smorgasbord. According to Neal, "Marvelous home cooked food, served family style or as a smorgasbord, is a tradition with the Amish. This will be a reunion to remember."

Planned activities during the reunion will give you the opportunity to catch up on news from distant cousins and meet previously unknown family members. A welcome dinner will start the event on Tuesday; Wednesday we will hold a family meeting and take a group photo; Thursday, we will enjoy an optional coach tour with stops at Hershey's Chocolate World and the Amish community. Thursday evening will be our closing banquet. Page 6 and 7 has more details and the registration form.

During your free time, there is plenty to see and do. Enjoy a buggy ride or a trip on the historic steam powered Strasburg Railroad. The kids will enjoy a trip to Dutch Wonderland Family Amusement Park or the Lancaster Science Factory. For history buffs, Gettysburg is

*(Continued on page 3)*



Amish farmers work their land using mules.

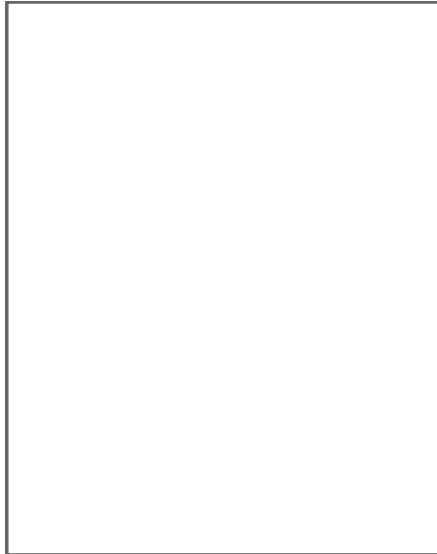
## Georg Philip Windemuth - The Loyalist

*Of the four original Windemuth emigrants that arrived in Pennsylvania during the 1730's, only Georg Philip Windemuth moved to Canada. Today, most Canadian Windemuth's (including related spellings) are direct descendants of him. This article examines his life in North America and the reasons for his relocation to the Niagara peninsula of Upper Canada (today known as Ontario).*

Georg Philip Windemuth, known as "Philip", was born on May 21, 1705 in Pfungstadt, Hesse, Germany. At age 27, he journeyed to North America on the sailing ship *Samuel* departing from Rotterdam. The ship, as did every ship sailing from Europe to the British Colonies, made a mandatory stop in England. While in port, each immigrant was required to take an oath of allegiance to the British crown. The ship then continued its six week voyage arriving in Philadelphia on August 11, 1732.

During his time in Philadelphia, Philip married Maria (Mary) Juliana Huber (Hoover) and the couple had their first child Leonard in 1736. That same year, Philip's father Johann Christoph and younger brother Johann Georg arrived from Germany on the ship *Harley*. The following year, Philip's sister Anna Elizabeth and her husband Johannes Schnauber, arrived completing the family's emigration to the new world.

Sometime before 1746, Philip and Mary moved to Stillwater, Sussex County, New Jersey, perhaps in the company of his brother Johann Georg and other family members. While in Stillwater, three sons, George, Philip and Christopher were born. They removed from Stillwater to neighbor-



*Wintermoot Fort in 1776  
Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania*

ing Walpack about 1752 when Philip acquired 114 acres. Their family continued to grow as more children were born; Johannes, Abraham, Peter, Elizabeth and Benjamin. The family moved again in 1764, this time further north, up the east side of the Delaware River to Montague Township. In 1772, Philip purchased 116 acres of land in Pennsylvania, near the Susquehanna River in the Wyoming Valley, and his entire family, with the exception of sons, Leonard and George, moved to their new home.

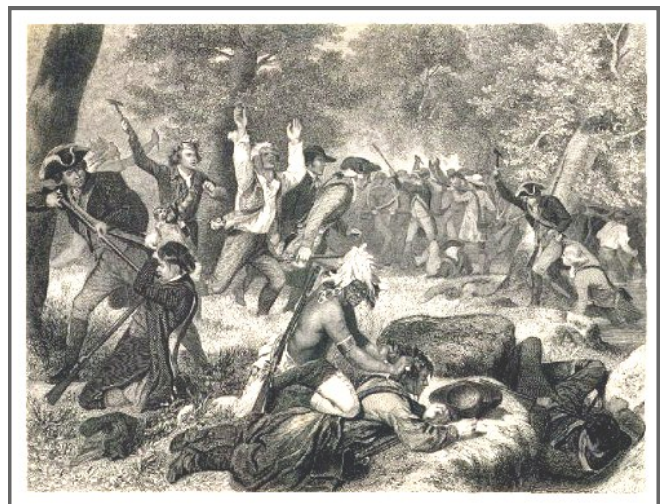
In 1776, the Continental Congress declared the 13 American Colonies independent of the British crown. In response, people along the frontier began erecting suitable forts "as a defense against the common enemy." In the Wyoming Valley,

the Wintermoots (by now, this is how the name was spelled), joined others in building a "blockaded house" which was named Wintermoot Fort. It was commonly believed by neighbors that Wintermoot Fort was for more than just protection against hostilities but also involved activities of loyalty to the British Government. Several more blockaded structures were built further up the valley by Patriots supporting the separation with Great Britain.

By 1778, Britain found itself with insufficient forces in America to conduct traditional military campaigns. This necessitated a change of strategy and they began employing Indians and Tories to carry out a war of desolation on the frontier.

In June of 1778, Major John Butler (of Butler's Rangers fame), with a force consisting of two hundred British Provincials, two hundred Tories and about 700 Indians advanced toward the Wyoming Valley with a mission of "laying waste" to the Patriots living there. On

*Continued on page 3*



*Painting depicting the Battle and Massacre of Wyoming on July 3, 1778.*

## Windemuth Family Newsletter

### January 2011

### Bird-in-Hand

(continued from page 1)

only 90 minutes away.

You may wish to take-in a show at Sight & Sound, the nation's largest Christian theatre. Their spectacular dramas immerse the audience in the action on the 300-foot-long wraparound stage. The featured show in August will be *Joseph*, a story about dreams and the power of forgiveness. If you are interested in attending, it is highly recommended that tickets be purchased early as most shows are sold out weeks in advance. For more information, visit [www.sight-sound.com](http://www.sight-sound.com) or call 800-377-1277.

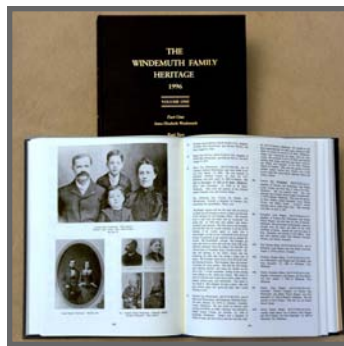
Oh, don't forget shopping. Lancaster has been called the antique capital of the United States. Quality hand-crafted items are in abundance at the unique shops. There are also more than 200 outlet stores offering discount prices on just about everything.

Getting there is easy. Lancaster is located about 20 miles from I-76 on US Hwy 222. If you are flying, consider arriving in Philadelphia or Harrisburg, then renting a car for the hour's drive to Lancaster.

For more information, contact Neal Wintermute at: [nwintermute@windemuth.org](mailto:nwintermute@windemuth.org)

## The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996

*A great gift for birthdays and anniversaries*



- **2 volume set**
- **More than 700 pages**
- **Professionally published**
- **Information on 12,000 Windemuth descendants**

**Now only \$65**

+ \$12.50 shipping

**Place your order now:**

Send \$77.50 US, check or money order made payable to:

Windemuth Family Org.  
C/O Leonard Wintermute  
PO Box 465  
Elm Creek, NE 68836

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

**Supplies are limited.**

### Georg Philip Windemuth

(continued from page 2)

July 1<sup>st</sup>, the British party arrived and camped directly opposite Wintermoot Fort. The families in the fort invited Major Butler to use it as his headquarters. Butler dispatched a messenger to the other forts requesting their surrender. They declined.

On Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the local Patriots, after under estimating the size of Major Butler's forces, decided to attack and drive the British out of the valley. The ensuing battle ended quickly in a massacre with nearly 300 Patriots mutilated and killed by the Indians. Wintermoot Fort was burned by the British to prevent its future use in defending the valley.

After the battle, Philip, his family and other loyalists living at the fort, moved to Ontario. Philip died there in 1779, perhaps in Lincoln County. His widow, Maria Huber, settled near Fort Erie, in Birtie Township, Ontario.

Following the war, England offered Loyalists and their family members 200 acres of land in Canada if they could offer proof that they had fought on the British side during the war. Maria and her sons petitioned and received land along the Niagara River. Her petition stated, "Newark, 15 Feb 1797 - I do hereby certify that Philip Wintermute, deceased, came to Niagara in the Year 1778 with a family consisting of a wife and seven children, six of them sons who all served in Butlers's Rangers, one killed in the service; that the said Philip died in the year 1779; the widow and six children are yet living in the province." It is signed by J. Ball, J.P. & Lieut., late Rangers.

It is interesting to note that while Philip was a Loyalist, his brother's family (Johann Georg Windemuth) and his sister's family (Anna Elizabeth Schnauver) fought for or were sympathetic to the Patriots and remained in the United States. The only child of Philip that stayed in the United States was his oldest son, Leonard who remained in New Jersey.

Sources: *Windemuth Family Heritage 1996*; J. Kelsey Jones, Millerton, PA; *Historical Address by Steuben Jenkins Wilkes - Barre, PA*; *Wintermoot Fort drawing courtesy of Florida Center for Instructional Technology*; *Wyoming Massacre painting from American Heritage, Vol. Xx, No. 6, p.31 owned by the Chicago Historical Society.*

## 2010 Reunion Tour in Germany

In August, forty North American Windemuth descendants enjoyed a 10 day coach tour of Germany. The tour visited areas where our ancestors lived in the 17th century, including Pfungstadt, Allendorf, and Kerzenheim. At the end of the tour, the group invited 38 German Windemuth cousins who reside in the area to join them for an international banquet.

*A special thanks is extended to Susan Wintermuth, Mike Wintermute, Richard and Hannele Windemuth, Heinz Conti-Windemuth, Herbert and Winifred Neie, and Christian and Brigit Neie for your help in organizing the trip. Your efforts made the tour an exceptional and memorable journey.*

Below and on the next page are a few photos from the tour. A diary of the trip along with more pictures, can be found on our web site: [www.windemuth.org](http://www.windemuth.org).



*Above: The tour group stands at the entrance of a half-timber (duplex) home in Breitan built by two Windemuth brothers in 1829. The home is still in use today, though not owned by a Windemuth descendant.*



*Above: Mike Wintermute, Susan Wintermuth, and Gene Dennis examine parish records at Pfungstadt dating back to 1650. Church member Hans Rothmann is holding the book.*



*Above: Heinz Conti-Windemuth (left) of Görlitz, performs a DNA cheek swab to verify if he is related to the North American Windemuths. The test confirmed him to be a "cousin".*



*Right: Martinskerche (Martins Church) in Pfungstadt where the early Windemuth records were found.*



*Above: Eighty-three North American and German Windemuths meet for a banquet in Bad Sooden-Allendorf on August 13, 2010. A wine reception and dinner buffet and was held at the Kurpark Hotel.*



*Left: After a long day of touring, the group relaxes at a Ratskellar in Darmstadt. Pictured clockwise from the lower left: Andrea Jones, Jan Dennis, Alice Baldwin, Audrey Johnson (hidden), Sandra Wild, Mike Johnson, Carole Birnie, Jim Wintermute and Leonard Wintermute.*

*Right: A typical Street in Allendorf. The buildings are known as half-timber townhouses. Each one follows closely after another with their bold shapes, splendid ornamentation and brightly colored paintwork. They were built in the 17th and 18th century.*



## 2011 Reunion Information Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania August 2-4, 2011

**Reservation Deadlines:** We encourage you to plan your trip now and register early. Please complete and mail the reunion registration form on page 7. Room availability is guaranteed only if received by:

**Hotel Reservation Deadline:      June 16, 2011**  
**Reunion Registration Deadline:    July 15, 2011**

**Hotel Reservations:** Make your room reservations by phoning guest services at our headquarter hotel.

**Bird-in-Hand Family Inn**  
2740 Old Philadelphia Pike  
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505  
**800-537-2535**

Please mention you are attending the Windemuth Family Reunion to receive these special room rates.

Single/Double Room	\$119.00/night
Triple Room	\$129.00/night
Quad Room	\$139.00/night

The local room tax is 11%. All rooms are non-smoking. Hotel check-in time is 3:00PM. Learn more about the hotel at [www.bird-in-hand.com](http://www.bird-in-hand.com).

**Camping:** For those desiring to camp, we suggest staying at nearby Country Acres Campground. Make reservations by calling 866-675-4745. Learn more at [www.countryacrescampground.com](http://www.countryacrescampground.com).

**Check-in & Welcome Dinner:** Reunion check-in begins at 4PM on Tuesday. Our reunion officially starts at 7PM, with a spaghetti dinner which is included in your registration fee.

**Coach Tour to Chocolate World & Amish Farm:** On this optional tour, our luxury charter bus will pick us up at the hotel and take us on a 7 hour narrated trip. We will visit Hershey's Chocolate World, then have lunch in an Amish home followed by a visit to an Amish farm, quilt shop and bakery shop. The cost of lunch is included. You won't want to miss this tour. Space is limited so reserve early.

**Amish Country Banquet:** Thursday night will provide a final opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of cousins we only see every two years. Our banquet will be held at the Family Inn and Restaurant where we will enjoy an Amish meal of salads, meats, vegetables and desserts served family style.

**Sponsorships:** We want our reunion to be inclusive and fun for all. We also realize that the registration and banquet cost may prevent some family members from attending. Please consider adding a voluntary contribution to your registration so that we can assist those who may otherwise be unable 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 2011 reunion.

### Reunion Schedule:

***Tue., Aug. 2nd:***

<i>Officers Meeting</i>	<i>12:00-3:00PM</i>
<i>Hotel Check-in</i>	<i>3:00PM</i>
<i>Reunion Check-in</i>	<i>4:00-7:00PM</i>
<i>Welcome Dinner</i>	<i>7:00PM</i>

***Wed., Aug. 3rd:***

<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>On your own</i>
<i>Family Meeting</i>	<i>9:00-11:00AM</i>
<i>Group Photo</i>	<i>11:00AM</i>
<i>(Sight Seeing and Free Time)</i>	

***Thu., Aug. 4th:***

<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>On your own</i>
<i>Coach Tour (optional)</i>	<i>8:45AM-4:15PM</i>
<i>Family Banquet</i>	<i>5:30-8:30PM</i>

***Fri., Aug. 5th:***

*(Additional sight seeing and departure)*

## Registration Form -- 2011 Windemuth Family Reunion

Complete one registration form for each family or single adult attending the reunion. (A family consists of parents and their children who are less than 18 years of age.) Mail this completed form with full payment to:

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

Make checks payable in US dollars to: Windemuth Family Organization. Registration **deadline is July 15, 2011**.

Questions: Contact Gene Dennis; phone (810) 694-7735; e-mail: [gdennis@windemuth.org](mailto:gdennis@windemuth.org)

### List each family member attending:

Be sure to include first and middle names. Also include the maiden name (in parenthesis) of each married female :

**Adult #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child #1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child #3:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(under 18) (under 18)

**Child #2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child #4:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(under 18) (under 18)

### Address:

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State / Province:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment:

		Number		Amount
<b>Registration:*</b>	Adult (age 18 and over)		X \$23.00 each	\$
	Children (age 17 and under)		No Charge	\$ 0.00
<b>Coach Tour:</b>	Each		X \$60.00 each	\$
<b>Amish Country Banquet:*</b>	Adults (age 13 and above)		X \$21.00 each	\$
	Youth (age 4-12)		X \$15.00 each	\$
	Under 4		No Charge	\$ 0.00
<b>Group Photo (8" X 10")</b>	Each		X \$18.00 each	\$
<b>Sponsorship:*</b>			Voluntary Contribution:	\$
<b>Total Payment</b>				<b>\$</b>

**\*Note:** We want our reunion to be inclusive and fun for all. If you find the cost prevents you from attending, please attach a note to this registration and we will find a sponsor to cover your registration and banquet cost.

## 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
Lessens	Michael	F.	1543 Carol Lynne Dr.	Lowell	MI
Pendleton	Frances	W.	59 Emerald Circle	Vallejo	CA
Raupe	Richard		Route 1	Orlando	OK
Shira	Virginia	Wintamute	1308 Bristol Ave	Dodge City	KS
Wintamute	Mary	Madolene	1624 Carey Blvd	Hutchinson	KS
Wintemute	Peter	J.	Po Box 1218	Stonewall	Manitoba
Wintermute	Kelly		2272 N Hollow Circle Drive	Elko	NV
Wintermute	Albert	Earl	10247 S Frontage Rd Apt 271	Yuma	AZ
Wintermute	Doris	Elavene	29 Huniston Street	Candor	NY
Wintermute	Marcia		15201 Pacific Ave Apt 102	White Rock	British Columbia
Wintermute	Robert	Dana	3 Van Auken Road	Newton	NJ
Wintermute III	Robert		349 Blackleaf	Pittsburg	CA

### Information Request:

**Cynthia Skinner** writes: Seeking information for Catherine Wintemute, Humberstone Tsp., Welland County, Ontario. She was the wife of Mahlon Strawn in the early 1800's, mentioned in the 1900 Windemuth book but not in the 1996 Heritage book. My search in the New Jersey and Ontario archives has been a dead end. Internet sites have merged her identity with that of her cousin, also a Catherine Wintermute, the

wife of Hiram Strawn and who's parentage is well documented in her father's will. Contact me at: PO Box 231, Jacksonville, AR 72078; phone 501-295-8168.

was reported by his wife Ramona Meech.

**Beatrice Cox** died October 27, 2010, in Tuscola County, Michigan. She was born October 20, 1927 in Flint, Michigan, and married Otis R. Cox who preceded her in death. She had been employed as a deputy sheriff working in the jail lobby and as a matron until her retirement. Beatrice's death was reported by her nephew, Jeff Ramage.

### Death Announcements:

**Harold Matthew Meech** passed away January 17, 2010, at Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. Mr. Meech was born on July 23, 1924. His death was the result of liver cancer. This information



## Family News *Continued*

**Mike Wintermute** from Noblesville, IN informs us that two of his nephews recently completed their doctorate studies and now hold PhDs. Both are 9th generation descendants of Johann Georg Windemuth through his son Peter.

**Edwin Hampton Wintermute V, (Jake)** - is the son of James and Marcia Wintermute. Jake says, "I studied biology and computer science at New York University and have completed my PhD studies in Systems Biology at Harvard Medical School. I studied cooperative behavior in bacteria which can work together to produce nutrients. I am also interested in biofuels and genetically engineering algae and plants to produce hydrogen from sunlight."



Edwin Hampton Wintermute V

**Sam Bailey Wintermute** - is the son of Robert Shakelton and Judy Wintermute. Sam informs us that he studied computer science and artificial intelligence and received his PhD from the University of Michigan. Now he is settling into a new life in Pittsburgh to do research in the field of artificial intelligence and cognitive psychology at Carnegie Mellon University.



Sam Bailey Wintermute

### Life Members

Carole Wintermute Birnie  
Gene Winfield Dennis  
Cathy Snover Ingraham  
Thomas Michael Loudon  
Marcia Jane McManus  
Susan Theresa Meier  
Shirley Wagoner Mickey  
Emma E. Murray  
Janice Wintermute Snyder<sup>1</sup>  
Jeane Bedo Titus  
Carolyn (Sue) Anne Wilkie  
Richard Neil Wintamute  
Norman Stewart Wintemute<sup>1</sup>  
Leonard Noal Wintermute  
David Michael Wintermute  
Dean Hallie 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

@ )

## Become a Contributing Member!

Windemuth Family Organization expenses are covered by *voluntary* contributions from family members like you. Your support pays the costs of newsletter production, cemetery stone restoration, web site operation and other operating costs. (The top of your mailing label indicates your current 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 a *Life Member* 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Will you host the 2013 Reunion?

*Though the 2011 reunion is months away, it's time to start thinking about a location for our 2013 gathering.*

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

*For additional information, check out our web site or contact Gene Dennis (contact information on the right)*

## Officers and Committee Chairmen 2007-2011



### **President:**

Gene Winfield Dennis  
9095 S. Saginaw Rd. #12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
Phone: (810) 694-7735  
e-mail: gdennis@windemuth.org

### **Treasurer:**

Leonard Noal Wintermute  
PO Box 465  
Elm Creek, NE 68836  
Phone: (308) 856-4425  
e-mail: lwintermute@windemuth.org

### **Vice President:**

Carole Wintermute Birnie  
314 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hamilton, Ontario Canada L9A 4G5  
Phone: (905) 515-3226  
e-mail: cbirnie@windemuth.org

### **Cemetery Committee Chairman:**

Neal D. Wintermute, Chair  
625 Jaynes Bend Rd.  
Mehoopany, PA 18629  
(570) 833-2345  
e-mail: nwintermute@windemuth.org

### **Secretary:**

Shirley W. Mickey  
8333 Fleur Rd.  
Joshug Tree, CA 92252  
Phone: (760) 366-9650  
e-mail: smickey@windemuth.org

### **Genealogy Committee Chairman:**

Susan Theresa Meier, Chair  
4974 Willow Vale Way  
Elk Grove, CA 95758  
Phone: (916) 684-5368  
e-mail: smeier@windemuth.org

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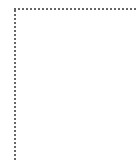
Gene W. Dennis, President  
Windemuth Family Organization  
9095 S Saginaw Apt 12  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Please check the top of the mailing label for membership status.*

## Windemuth Family Newsletter

*The Newsletter for descendants of  
Johann Christoph Windemuth*



**First Class Mail**

