

# Windemuth Family Newsletter

Related Family Names:

Windemuth - Wintamote - Wintamute - Wintemute - Wintermote - Wintermute - Wintermuth

## Rapid City, South Dakota

### Location of the 2009 Windemuth Family Reunion

The 2009 Windemuth Family Reunion will be held in the beautiful Black Hills of Western South Dakota. The date for this biennial event is July 8-10, 2009; the location is Rapid City, South Dakota.

Our hosts for the reunion are Zetha and Bud Estes, and Herb and Sue Cook. Zetha and Herb are Windemuth descendants and reside in the area. "The Black Hills of South Dakota are one of the top vacation



Mt. Rushmore National Monument located near Rapid City, South Dakota

choices in the United States," according to Sue Cook. "Each year three million people visit Mount Rushmore and other attractions in the area."

Things to see and do while in the Black Hills area includes a visit to five National Parks and Monuments (Mt. Rushmore, Wind Cave, Devils Tower, Badlands and Jewel Cave). The Mammoth Site, an active archaeological dig, is not far away in Hot Springs. Thirty minutes Northwest of Rapid City is the town of Deadwood where you

will find the final resting spot of some of the most colorful characters of the old west; among them Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Potato Creek Johnny. East of Rapid City, near the Badlands, is Wall Drug Store where the Hustead family still promises free ice water. Once listed as one of the "corniest places" in the country

by *USA Today*, it nonetheless attracts thousands of visitors each year.

The Black Hills is a family friendly area that offers lots of free things kids will enjoy. Bring your children and grandchildren so they can play at Dinosaur Park with life-size replicas of dinosaurs. Storybook Island Children's Park, a family favorite, provides 140 scenes from fairy tales complete with animals, castles, trains and cottages.

Young and old alike will enjoy Bear Country U.S.A. which gives you a close-up look at some of the largest animals in North America. The 200-acre drive-through park features black, brown and grizzly bear, elk, big horn sheep, bison and other critters roaming free.

Planned activities for the reunion include an opening reception on July 8<sup>th</sup>, a family meeting and group photo shoot on July 9<sup>th</sup>, and a bus tour followed by the closing dinner on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Plenty of unscheduled time will permit opportunities to "catch-up" on news from distant family members, meet new "cousins", and explore the

(Continued on page 6)

#### Inside this issue:

An American Artist-Marjorie Wintermute	2
Brenda Dreifke-Making a Difference	3
Visit Germany in 2010	3
In Search of the Meaning of Windemuth	4
Rapid City, SD-2009 Reunion	5
Letters from our Readers	6
Family News	8
Officers and Chairmen	9

## Marjorie Wintermute - An American Artist

By John Wm. Schiffeler

*From time to time we include articles about Windemuths who have distinguished themselves. John Schiffeler, the son of Marjorie Wintermute, provided us with this background on his mother. They are descendants of Georg Phillip Windemoed. John currently lives in France and can be reached at*

[schiffeler@wanadoo.fr](mailto:schiffeler@wanadoo.fr)

On January 20, 1904, Marjorie Wintermute Schiffeler (née Marjorie Culver Wintermute), the youngest of two daughters, was born in San Francisco, California, to Dr. & Mrs. George Preston Wintermute. After attending Miss Ransom and Miss Bridges' School for Girls in Piedmont, California, she studied with noted teachers in Paris, Fontainebleau, and Vienna.

At the age of five, Marjorie developed a precocious knack of picking out the works of leading masters from their brushstroke and style. At thirteen she entered the California School of Fine Arts, and at the end of her first year won a New York Art Student's League Scholarship (1918) winning it twice again in 1919 and 1920. For several years she worked alone in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and elsewhere, hiring her models and painting independently of teachers. Later, Marjorie



*"Swing Low Sweet Chariot"  
Oil Painting by Marjorie Wintermute*



*Marjorie Culver Wintermute  
An American Artist*

went to New York and studied under Cecelia Beaux [1855-1942], who wrote, "The very great emotion of your work will be appreciated. Your style is not imitative of any school but is original and entirely American."

In her twenties she won acclaim with her painting, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," which was requested by the State of Virginia to be permanently hung at the State Capitol in Richmond. This painting was subsequently hung in the Spreckels Museum in San Francisco, where it remained for five years.

A second oil painting, "A Bit of Old China," was also honored by being hung in the same museum for two years.

In 1938, Marjorie met Carl Schiffeler, a professor of music and an accomplished operatic performer in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Berlin. He came from a background of German nobility, his father having been Baron Karl von Steinschiffeler II. After a one-year courtship, Marjorie and Carl were married and a son John William was born on September 21, 1940. They lived in San Francisco until their marriage tragically ended in 1943, when Carl died unexpectedly.

In May 1961, The American Red Cross awarded Marjorie W. Schiffeler a Certificate:

*(Continued on page 6)*



*"Portrait of a Girl and her Dog"  
Pastel by Marjorie Wintermute*

## Brenda Dreifke: Making a Difference

By Lisa Pugh

*Brenda Dreifke, descendant of Calvin Isaac Wintermute, lives near Milwaukee, Wisconsin with her husband Larry, daughter Tracy and stepdaughter Sarah. Her work at Midwest Airlines is more of a passion than a job. The following excerpts are from brava Magazine March 2008 issue. The entire article is available on the internet at:*

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

Click on Archived Issues (March 2008)

Brenda Dreifke, 48, spends most of her workday at Milwaukee's Midwest Airlines behind her desk on the phone and checking e-mails - a job that doesn't exactly appear heroic. But just a few weeks ago, Dreifke left her office to take a newspaper and a sandwich to a man she'd never met - a man without a home or a dime to his name. As she sat chatting face-to-face with "Chris" at Milwaukee's airport, no one would ever guess that their meeting likely altered



*Brenda Dreifke with a client. Brenda works for Midwest Airlines Miracle Miles Program.*

his life.

In fact, Dreifke's mostly anonymous work with many individuals has this same life-altering effect. As coordinator of the Midwest Airlines Miracle Miles Program - which provides free miles to registered non-profit organizations through donations by Midwest

Airlines and Midwest Miles members - she helped nearly 400 people in the last year, including Chris, fly to locations for specialty medical treatment or services they desperately needed. According to Dreifke, 99 percent of the people she helps will only know her as a voice on the phone.

Despite this, she says, "I almost become part of their family because I'm making these important decisions with them to get to their destination. I have nothing to do with their treatment or their life after treatment. Sometimes they don't have a home to go to, but I will do what I can for them so it's one less thing on their to-do list."

Dreifke often supports families who have spent their life savings seeking medical treatment to cure a loved one. "I'm very often their last resort call. Within 10 minutes I can have a flight number and a confirmed seat to get the medical treatment they need."

## Visit Germany in 2010 for a Windemuth Family Reunion

Susan Gale Wintermute has agreed to host a Windemuth Family Reunion in or near Pfungstadt located in the state of Hessen, Germany. Pfungstadt is the ancestral town where the Windemuth's lived before emigrating to North America in the 1730's.

Susan was born in New Jersey and now resides in Germany where she teaches at a local university. Her multi-lingual ability and knowledge of the country make this an outstanding opportunity for family members wanting to visit their ancestral homeland.

Reunion details remain to be worked out, but the probable date will be late summer 2010. It will last several days and then allow time for independent travel on your own.

Review the January 2008 newsletter for additional details. It can be found at: [www.windemuth.org](http://www.windemuth.org)

So far, 10 families (approximately 20 people) have indicated their desire to attend. Susan would like to hear from you if you are interested and/or would like to receive more information as it becomes available.

***If you are interested in attending the 2010 German Windemuth Reunion, please contact:***

***Susan G. Wintermute  
Heiligengeiststr. 40  
D-21335 Lueneburg  
Germany***

***E-mail: [swintermuth@aol.com](mailto:swintermuth@aol.com)***

## In Search of: The Origin and Meaning of Windemuth

By Mike Wintermute

Michael A. Wintermute, age 76, is an 8th generation descendant of J.G. Windemuth. Prior to retirement, Mike held executive positions in the electronic and communications industry. Extensive international travel over the past 35 years has afforded him the opportunity to visit and explore Phungstadt and Allendorf, the German towns our ancestors came from. Mike and his wife Shirley reside in Indiana. Mike can be reached at:

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

When I was young, my father often spoke of family history. He said the name Windemuth translated to "courage in hard times" or "windy courage". As I grew older, I questioned these translations and began my own search for our name's origin and meaning.

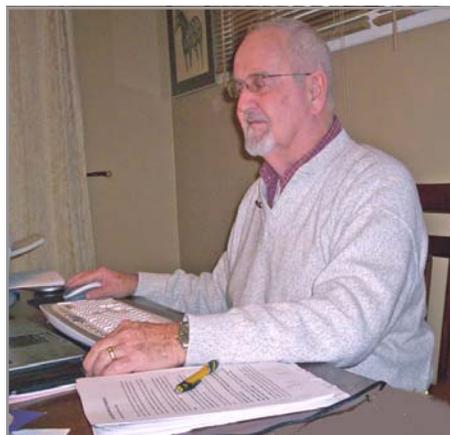
Two distinct words, *winde* and *muth* form the name and hold keys to its meaning and origin. Modern German-English dictionaries provide a variety of meanings for *winde* and for *muth*, but none that make sense for Windemuth.

The word *wende*, was the German name for various Slavic tribes that wandered into Germanic territory. Word meanings and usage change over time and today *winde* is translated to mean windlass and is the German name for the morning glory.

The historic meaning of *muth/mut*, as used in our name, was defined to mean; *fühlen*, (*feeling*), *denken*, (*thought*), *begehren*, (*desire*), and *streben*, (*aspire or strive*). The German *muth* is also the root word for

the English word *mood*. Today, *muth* means courage.

*Wende* and *Winde* are both listed in Bahlow's German Name dictionary and appear to be very much the same. As I searched for more information I found the spelling *wende*



Mike Wintermute, Noblesville, IN

was common in the northern part of Germany while farther south it was spelled *winde*. We should note that the written form of German words and family names did not become fixed until about 1600 and this could be a contributor to the two spellings *Wendemuth* and *Windemuth*.

I did an Internet search of northern Germany and found more *Wendemuths* than *Windemuths*. I also searched southern Germany and found many more *Windemuths* than *Wendemuths*. This seems to confirm the variation in spelling between north and south. We find the name *Windemuth* in Allendorf church records, in central Germany, neither north nor south.

According to Bahlow, German fam-

ily names were not typical until the Late Middle Ages, specifically during the years of the German mercenaries. The family name *Wendemuth*, therefore, would likely have originated sometime during the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century, possibly in the central or north central region of Germany. The spelling would have varied, as it has since coming to America, to also include *Windemuth*.

Family names originated earlier in emerging cities than in rural communities. This is because as towns grew, the need for lists of citizens and tax roles became necessary.

We find *Windemuths* in the Allendorf church records of the 1600's. Johannas is identified as a tradesman. This may indicate that several generations of his predecessors were also town dwelling tradesmen. The family name therefore may have been taken as early as 1250. Had they been from a rural area, the name would have been taken later, possibly around 1350.

I believe it is reasonable to conclude that our family name was probably in existence for 3 or 4 hundred years before we find it in Allendorf. Further, the original name was probably spelled *Wendemuth* and the spelling evolved to include *Windemuth*. This would have occurred prior to German names becoming fixed at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

To satisfy my curiosity I did an Internet search in towns near Allen-

(Continued on page 6)

## Invitation to the 2009 Windemuth Family Reunion

### *In the Black Hills of south Dakota*

We are excited to host the 2009 Windemuth Family Reunion. If you have never been to the Black Hills in Western South Dakota, we have a treat for you! And if you have, come on along for a refresher.

Our reunion will include a visit to Mt. Rushmore, warm days, cool evenings, blue skies and some of the most beautiful scenery around.

Activities and plans are being finalized now, so please mark your calendars for July 8-10, 2009, and come to Rapid City. It will be fun and a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships, forge new ones and become acquainted with your extended Windemuth family.

We look forward to meeting each of you.

**Zetha and Bud Estes**  
**Herb and Sue Cook**  
 2009 Reunion Hosts



**2009 Reunion Hosts**

*Left to Right: Herb Cook, Sue Cook, Zetha Estes and Bud Estes*

**Bad Lands National Park**



**Dead Wood**



**The Mammoth Site**



**Bear Country USA**



**Storybook Island**



## Sights Around Rapid City, SD

**For information on things to see and do while in Rapid City, please contact:**

**Zetha Estes**

**Phone: (605) 342-7918**

**E-mail: [Zeth@rushmore.com](mailto:Zeth@rushmore.com)**

**Herb and Sue Cook**

**Phone: (605) 342-2648**

**E-mail: [susiecsings@aol.com](mailto:susiecsings@aol.com)**

**Rapid City Tourist & Visitors Bureau**

**Phone: (800) 487-3223**

**[www.VisitRapidCity.com](http://www.VisitRapidCity.com)**

**2009 Reunion***(Continued from pg 1)*

Black Hills.

Rapid City is near the geographic center of North America and easy to reach. The Rapid City Regional Airport is served by several major airlines through hubs in Denver, Salt Lake City and Minneapolis. If you are driving, use I-90 which passes through the city.

Registration and hotel information will be mailed in early January 2009. It will also be available on our web site:

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

**Marjorie Wintermute***(Continued from pg 2)*

*In Grateful Appreciation for outstanding service to the Gray Lady Program as an Artist engaged in Portrait Painting and Sketching for the benefit of patients at Fort Ord and Monterey County Hospitals.*

The number of portraits and sketches done for the Red Cross was over 800.

On March 30, 1978, Marjorie passed away in San Francisco and rests at the Mountain View Cemetery with her husband Carl in nearby Oakland, California.

**Letters from our readers****Seeking information**

I am seeking any information you may have about Elcy (Elsie) Wintermute. Elcy was married to Silas Cromwell Pierson and they lived in Stillwater New Jersey. I am researching the history of the home we live in and Elcy and Silas purchased and sold this home in 1846. (Please see the photo of our house below.)

The deed from 1850 indicates that the property had a blacksmith shop at that time. Was Silas a blacksmith?

Any information about Elsie Ann would be greatly appreciated. I am curious what relation she may have been to Johann Georg Windemuth.

Bob Grabowsky  
E-mail: [bob@grabowsky.org](mailto:bob@grabowsky.org)



*Bob Grabowsky home in Stillwater, NJ*

**Champion Gymnast –Ady Wintermote**

Adysen (Ady) Wintermote competed in the USTA National Gymnastics Meet in Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 19, 2008. Her events are Trampoline and Double Mini where she finished first in her flight in each event. Nationally she finished third in Trampoline and eighth in Double Mini. To qualify for the National meet, she had to win the Iowa State Champion in each event. In addition to the USTA title she was the Iowa AAU state champion in both events.

Ady is a member of the Extreme Team of Story City, Iowa. She is the daughter of Rusty and Jeanne Wintermote of Jewell, Iowa and our Grandaughter.

Leonard & Sandy Wintermote  
Elm Creek, NE.



*Ady Wintermote*

**Meaning of Windemuth** *(Continued from pg 4)*

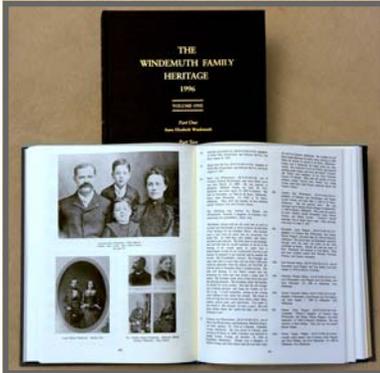
dorf and found both *Wendemuths* and *Windemuths*. Another search found several *Wendemuths* here in the USA, in addition to the *Windemuths*, *Wintermutes*, etc.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to learn the actual time or the specific region of Germany where it originated. I have identified two spellings of the name existing side by side, even today.

The original meaning of the name, provided by Dr. Bahlow, lacks the connotation of what the original translation implied. Could it have been the name given to a "flexible kind of guy who was easy to get along with" or did it mean something else? Dr. Bahlow states that derogatory names were generally dropped and did not survive the High Middle Ages. Therefore, we can conclude the name did not have a negative meaning and was acceptable to the family.

## The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996

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



- **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 Organization  
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 birthdays and special occasions!**

## Why am I receiving this newsletter?

The Windemuth newsletter is published twice a year. Our mailing list was developed as part of our research for the 1996 publication of the "Windemuth Family Heritage" book and consists of nearly 1000 names. Many newsletter recipients don't even realize they are descendants of the Windemuth family line.

The expense of postage and printing for each newsletter is more than \$800. We are happy to continue sending our newsletter to all known family members. If you desire to stop receiving it, move, or wish to add another family member, please notify us at:

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

## 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* with a b \$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: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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  
Jesse Lee Wintermute  
Neal Duane Wintermute  
William A. Wintermute  
William R. Wintermute II  
Dianne Wintermute Yarmoloy

## 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
Bergmann	Melinda	Anne W.	699 140th Ave. E.	Madeira Beach	FL
Blatter	William	C.	11 Ridgefield Way	Watervliet	NY
Hanlin	Janet	Fisk	15647 Murray Road	Union City	PA
LaValley	Nellie	Ann	106 Crestview Dr	Lapeer	MI
Miller	Stanley	C.	PO Box 514	Hatfield	PA
Preston	Terry	Wintermute	2918 Hamilton Blvd Ste 103	Sioux City	IA
Wintermute	Glenn	Edward	6 Cedarspring	Irving	CA
Wright	Joan	Wintermute	5049 East Antelope Rd	Douglas	WY

### Reunion Announcement:

#### Jacob (1815-1854) and Sarah Wintermute (1816-1889) Kreager Reunion

The 72nd reunion will be held August 3, 2008 at the Comfort Inn in Zanesville, Ohio from 12 to 3:00pm. For more details contact Garth Kreager at

[gkreager@mchs.com](mailto:gkreager@mchs.com).

### Death Announcements:

**Grace (Sivyer) Noad** - wife of the late Nelson Noad, died in Ingersol, Ontario, on April 4, 2008. Grace, born October 11, 1919, was an avid genealogist and a wonderful lady. Her Obituary was provided by Linda DeKrauw.

**Howard Leo Wintamute** - 93, died October 7, 2006, in Dodge City, Kansas. Surviving are his brother Warren, sister Irene Roney and uncle Richard Neil Wintamute. His death was reported by Maxine Wintamute and Annie Irene Roney.

**Dr. Robert Walton Wintermute** - born April 12, 1927, died on March 21, 2007 in British Columbia, Canada. Robert, a retired Physician (Ob/Gyn), enjoyed golf, curling and skiing. His death was reported by Hendrika Ruis-Wintermute.

**John Phillip "Phil" Wintermute** - passed away June 9, 2008 in Millersport, Ohio. Born August 1, 1951, in Newark, Ohio, Phil was a Union Brick Layer. His parents were John A. and Virginia (Swartz) Wintermute. His death was reported by Richard Wintermute.

**Edward Tunis Wintermute, Jr.** - 76, of Westerville, Ohio, died at his home on March 21, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Betty L. (Harris) of 54 years, and two daughters, Dianna and Debra. His death was reported by Richard Wintermute.

**Norman Stewart Wintermute** - born on October 31, 1922, he passed away on January 18, 2008. Norman served as a Lieutenant in field artillery during WWII, seeing action in Europe. He was a graduate of Stanford University and retired from the Bank of America as a VP of risk management. His death was reported by Joyce Sues.

**Evelyn Wolf** - January 2008 newsletter returned marked "deceased". No further information is available.

## Treasurer's 2007 Report

By Leonard Wintermote, Treasurer

**Sources of income:** were dues, life memberships, Heritage book sales, Cemetery Fund contributions and registration fees for the 2007 reunion. \$6,893.72

**Expenses:** included newsletter, web site, reunion cost and postage. \$6,228.42

Net 2007 Surplus \$ 665.30

During the 2007 reunion, the membership voted to keep the dues at the current level of \$15 per year. This will allow us positive cash flow in 2008. I want to thank all family members who faithfully pay their dues. A special thanks goes out to those who have become Life Members. Without your support, our Windemuth Family Organization could not exist.

## Officers and Committee Chairmen for 2007-2011



During the 2007 Family Reunion in Salt Lake City, officers were elected to serve a four-year term. Committee chairmen were then appointed by the president to oversee key functions of our organization. This leadership of the Windemuth Family Organization is listed below. Please feel free to communicate your ideas and concerns with them at any time.

### **President:**

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

### **Secretary:**

Shirley W. Mickey  
8333 Fleur Road  
Joshug Tree, CA 92252  
Phone (760) 366-9650  
e-mail: [sillysamme@verizon.net](mailto:sillysamme@verizon.net)

### **Cemetery Committee Chairman:**

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

### **Vice President:**

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

### **Treasurer:**

Leonard Noal Wintermote  
PO Box 465  
Elm Creek, NE 68836  
Phone: (308) 856-4425  
e-mail: [Lswintermote@q.com](mailto:Lswintermote@q.com)

### **Genealogy Committee Chairman:**

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

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

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

**A Newsletter for descendants of  
Johann Christoph Windemuth**

*born 1676*

Over the centuries, different spellings of the name have evolved. Some of these include:

***Windemuth - Wintamote - Wintamute - Wintemute - Wintermote - Wintermute - Wintermuth***

*You are on the mailing list because you are a descendant.*

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 member-  
ship status.**

**Windemuth  
Family Newsletter  
July 2008**



**First Class Mail**

