

July 2018

News for descendants of Johann Christopher Windemuth b. 1676

Windemuth Family Newsletter

Related Family Names:

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

*****20th Windemuth Family Reunion*****

Stillwater, New Jersey

July 9-12, 2019

***This is a great opportunity to renew friendship with
cousins and meet new ones***

It's been 37 years since the first Windemuth Family Reunion was held in Stillwater, New Jersey, and next year we will be returning to honor our family heritage and celebrate our 20th reunion.

We have picked the Chateau and Conference Center in Tannersville, Pennsylvania which will be our home base. The hotel is centrally located and offers many different activities within a short distance. The Camelback Mountain Resort is just down the road which includes two waterparks and the Mountain Adventures Park, great fun for the kids. Further information regarding the price for registration, rooms, dinner banquets and bus tour will follow in the January 2019 newsletter including the registration form.

On Thursday, July 11, we will travel to Stillwater, New Jersey, about a 45 minute drive. We will visit the cemetery, mill and local historical museum. We will also see the homes, built by Johann Georg Windemuth and his son Peter, located next to the cemetery. We end the reunion, that evening, with the banquet dinner.

Come and join us to commemorate our Windemuth Family history

Windemuth Family Newsletter is Changing

Starting in 2022 the Windemuth Family Newsletter will only be sent out via email. This change is happening because the cost has increased over the past years and the revenue from membership dues has decreased. To continue to receive the Windemuth Family Newsletter after 2022 we will need your email address. During this transition, we will continue to mail out the newsletter. The newsletter is currently available online on the Windemuth Heritage web page at :

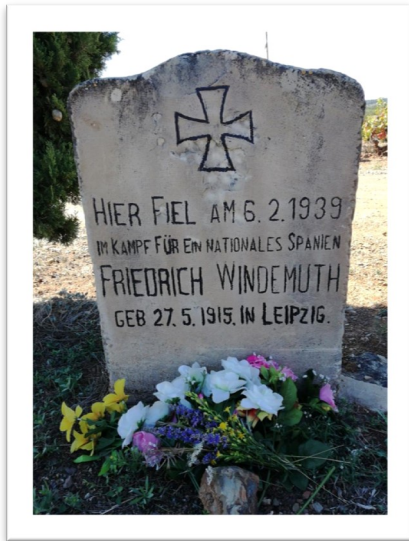
(www.Windemuth.org)

Windemuth Family History Requested

The Windemuth Newsletter is dedicated to our family's history. We would appreciate more articles or stories about the family heritage or current events. To help us continue this tradition, please forward any article, story or idea for an article to Ralph Wintermute, Editor, via email or mail.

Email Address: wintermute@windemuth.org
Mailing Address: Ralph Wintermute
26828 Neff Court
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

Friedrich Windemuth
1915-1939



Friedrick Windemuth
Memorial Stone
Garriguella, Spain

The Last Aerial Dogfight
Spanish Civil War
1939

In a field, along the highway between Vilajuiga and Garriguella, Spain is a memorial stone for Friedrich Windemuth, who died in the last aerial battle of the Spanish Civil War.

Little is known about Friedrich Windemuth, but we know he was born in Leipzig on May 27, 1915 and died on February 6, 1939. We know he was a member of J/88 Squadron of "Condor Legion", as a pilot of a Messerschmitt Bf 109 which fought in the Spanish Civil War. Why Friedrich joined the military and the Condor Legion is unknown, but higher pay, shorter military service time, better promotional opportunities were part of the myth of the Condor Legion.

At the start of the Spanish Civil War, in 1936, Germany sided with Francisco Franco, and sent the Condor Legion to battle the Republican forces. In February 1939, the Republican Air Force was in retreat and they gathered their remaining aircraft at an airfield in Vilajuiga. On the morning of February 2, 1939 a squadron of German Bf 109's were spotted coming from east. The republican aircraft attempted to escape to France but only four were able to get into the air, two escaped to France and two stayed to fight. One of Spanish pilots was Jose Falco, who climb into his Polyarov I-15 biplane and engaged the German Messerschmitt Bf 109's in an aerial dogfight.

The events that took place during the "Last Aerial Dogfight", of the Civil War are conflicting according to historians. Jose Falco was a 22 year old lieutenant and commanded a night squadron, but at the time of the attack, he mounted his Chato and took off. He explains, there was a violent firefight, it was during this time he shot down one Bf 109, which was piloted by Friedrich Windemuth. Falco then headed to France but noticed a second Bf 109 attacking a republican "Grumman aircraft". He engaged the Bf 109's from behind, shooting both down. According to German records, Friedrich was killed in the crash. A Spanish eyewitness says the other German pilot, Hans Nirminger, survived the crash but was later shot.

The German version of the event differs, they doubt that an outdated republican Chato biplane, would be able to bring down the more modern Messerschmitt 109's in a dogfight.

In 1963, Jose Falco returned to the air battle location, in Spain, where he found the memorial stone in honor of Friedrich Windemuth, which unfortunately had been damaged with black lines. Jose Falco and Friedrich Windemuth were around the same age at the time and Jose commented "We met face to face, he died but that could have been me". Falco returned to the site many times, where he would clean around the stone and place flowers. At one point, area residents wanted the stone removed, but Falco was able to prevent it. He said "This is not a fascist monument, but the stone of a soldier who died in the war". Jose Falco continued to lay flowers, until his death in 2009 at the age of 97.



Jose Falco beside the
Memorial Stone of
Friedrich Windemuth

History of the Windemuth Family Reunions

The idea of holding a family reunion originated with Walter Johns Wintermute (1907-2003) in the 1930's. Typical of the time, Walter and his parents moved frequently to find work. As the family traveled from place to place, Walter began keeping a list of names and addresses of people named "Wintermute" he found along the way. Over the years, the list grew in size and so did Walter's dream of inviting everyone on his list to a family reunion.

During the Spring of 1981, Walter, Stella Garbus, Fred Wintermute and his wife, three brothers: Frank, Bob, and Ernie, decided to clean up the older part of the Stillwater, New Jersey Cemetery. That neglected section of the cemetery contained the graves of the original Windemuth emigrants and was badly overgrown with brush and tall grass. During the cleanup, Walter shared his dream of holding a family reunion with the others.

After finishing the cleanup, the group agreed to help Walter fulfill his dream of holding a large Wintermute family reunion. Other family members were enlisted to help with the project. William Wintermute was headed west for a new job that involved frequent travel, while waiting for connecting flights in airports, William would search phone books for "Wintermute" names and addresses. Harold Wintermute supplied more names from Pennsylvania. As these newly identified family members were contacted, many sent in additional names. Stella Garbus single-handedly managed the correspondence, sent out the invitations, and acted as treasurer for the reunion. According to Walter, without Stella's faithful dedication, the reunion would not have been successful.

The first reunion was held on Labor Day in September 1981. The location was the beautiful rolling hills of Sussex County, Stillwater, New Jersey. Walter secured permission from the current owners of the original John Georg Wintermute's homestead to hold the reunion on their property. A large tent was rented and a catered meal provided was to accommodate more than 200 people who traveled from across the United States and Canada to attend. Many people met cousins and other family members for the first time. It was a big day in the historic village of Stillwater and the local papers in Sussex and Warren Counties gave the reunion a nice write-up.

Those in attendance enjoyed the event so much they were decided to hold another reunion in two years, again in Stillwater. Walter was elected President and Stella Garbus Treasurer. After discussing the possibility of updating the "Wintermute Family History" book published in 1900, Fred Hazen Wintermute volunteered to chair the Genealogy Committee with the assistance of Harold Wintermute. Their assignment was to gather information about Wintermute descendants for inclusion in an updated publication.

Before the second Wintermute Family Reunion, Walter asked Neal Duane Wintermute to take over as president. Walter was reaching the age where he felt that a younger person would be better equipped to handle the details of planning the reunion.

The second reunion took place on Labor Day 1983 in Stillwater, N.J. at the John Georg Wintermute estate. At this reunion, Milton Wintermute was elected as Vice President and Walter Wintermute as Treasurer.

The 1985, 1987 and 1989 reunions were held in Stillwater, but in 1991, the reunion committee decided to hold the reunion in Cleveland, Ohio, hosted by Milton Wintermute. In 1993 we returned to Stillwater N.J., and the 1995 reunion was held in Chicago. By now the reunion committee felt there was benefit in moving the reunion around North America, allowing more Wintermute descendants the opportunity of attending a reunion without having to travel to the east coast.

Continued on Page 4



First Wintermute Family Reunion
Stillwater, New Jersey

Continued from Page 3

It was during these developmental years that the vision of an international family organization began to take shape. About 1991, James Woodrow Wintermute succeeded Fred Wintermute as chairman of the Genealogy Committee. He was tasked with the responsibility of publishing an updated Wintermute Family History book. From the committee's research, it became apparent that there were several variations in the spelling of the surnames of Johan Christoph Windemuth descendants.

At the 1995 Chicago reunion, family members discussed whether to change the name of the reunion from Wintermute to Windemuth. Windemuth won by a small margin. Then bylaws were adopted forming the non-profit corporation known as the Windemuth Family Organization. Ever since, we have continued this tradition, every two years.

The Windemuth Family Reunions have been a great tradition and we hope to be able to continue these reunions for years to come.

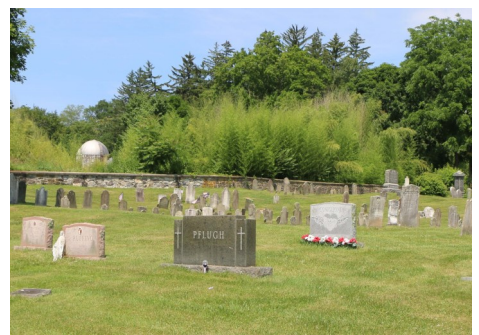
Reprinted from the Windemuth Family Heritage Webpage



Ralph and Keith Wintermute standing in the old section of the Stillwater Cemetery 1974



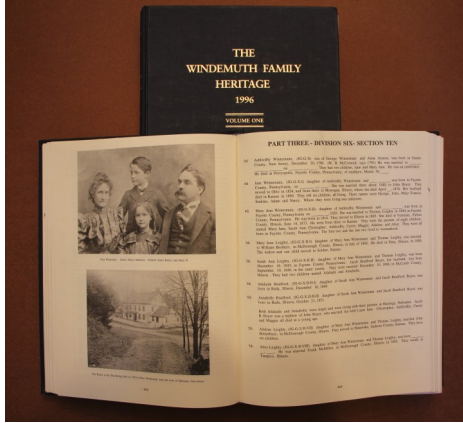
Old Section of the Stillwater Cemetery
in 2011



Stillwater Cemetery
2017

The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996

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Family News

Reunions, births, marriages, deaths and missing address

Send information and updates to:

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E-mail: rwintermute@windemuth.org

Missing Family Members:

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

Lost Members Surname	First	Middle	Address 1	City	St/Pr	Country
HENDERSON	RHONDA		PO BOX 454	SPENCER	NC	USA
WINTAMUTE	STUART		7660 GOLDSTREAM DRIVE	RICHMOND	BC	CANADA
WINTERMUTE	RAND	H	121 SACRAMENTO AVE	SAUSALITO	CA	USA
ROWETT	MARBEL		451 RIDGE RD	NEWTON	NJ	USA
SAFT	JOAN	HARRISON	3830 E LAKEWOOD PKWY E	PHOENIX	AZ	USA
WEIDELE	KATHLEEN		1421 LOVERS LAWN TRACE	CORNELIUS	NC	USA
WHELAN	PHYLLIS		7293 PARTRIDGE WAY	SALINE	MI	USA
CORNELISSEN	MARK	ANDREW	106 IVANHOE CRESCENT	POINTE CLAIRE	QUEBEC	CANADA
WINTERMUTE	BRENT	EDWIN	7376 TOLL GATE RD	R.R. #2	ONTARIO	CANADA

*** Death Announcements ***

Lessens (Elsbey), Phyllis Jean age 91, passed away peacefully at American House in Kentwood on Tuesday, June 19, 2018. Phyllis was born January 19, 1927 to Orrin and Frances (Wilson) Elsbey in Rockford, Michigan and is the 5th great granddaughter of Johann Georg Windemuth. She is preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Daniel Ivo Lessens,



in 1999. Surviving are her loving children Steven Richard (Sherry) Lessens of Ann Arbor, MI, Mary Christine (Chris) Dahl of Crookston, MN, George Daniel (Sherry Lee) Lessens of East Grand Rapids, MI, Michael Francis Lessens and fiancée Denise Fosburg of Lowell, MI, and Mark Timothy (Carolyn) Lessens. She was adored by her thirteen devoted grandchildren.

Dr. Dean Edward Wintermute, age 86, of Cooper, Texas passed away on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at his home. Dean was born to Charles and Ruby (Jones) Wintermute on July 28, 1931 in Taylor County, Iowa and is the 4th Great Grandson of Johann Georg Windemuth. He graduated from Bedford High School. Dean then attended Northwest Missouri State University graduating with a BS in Chemistry and then graduated as a Doctor of Osteopathy from Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery in Kansas City, Missouri in May of 1957. He then purchased the West Delta School and renovated it into a 34 bed hospital in 1962. Wintermute Memorial Hospital served over 6000 patients in a 150 mile area with half of all patients exceeding 65 years old. He performed over

1500 major surgical procedures with only one surgical death and delivered over 450 babies. He also founded, directed and instructed a state licensed school of Vocational Nurses from 1962-1964. He practiced philanthropy by donating to over 30 charitable organizations. Survivors include his sister, Jennifer Knotts, brothers, Don (Mary) Wintermute, and Jesse (Joann) Wintermute. Children, Diane (Scotty) Stegall, Delaine (Tom) Fast, Doug (Pam) Wintermute, Dalen (Lisa) Wintermute, Delinda Leatherwood, and Dohrman (Francie) Wintermute. Grandchildren, Shawn (Amy) Stegall, Shelly (Jay) Faulkner, Corwin (Lindsey) Olson, Shey (Regan) Stegall, Cambri Olson, Sarah Wintermute, Kasey Leatherwood, Kolton Leatherwood, Preston Wintermute, Emily Wintermute, Ryan Wintermute, and Lauren Wintermute,. Dean had eight great-grandchildren.



Lois Anne Wintermute, age 81, of Bloomfield, Iowa passed away on January 2, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. She was born December 17, 1936 in Ottumwa, Iowa to Harry and Mary Sutton Parker. She married Harold Rex Wintermute, 5th Great Grandson of Georg Philip Windemuth, on October 23, 1955 at the Bloomfield Christian Church. Rex passed away on February 20, 2015. Lois Anne Wintermute, 81, of Bloomfield, Iowa passed away on January 2, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. She was born December 17, 1936 in Ottumwa, Iowa to Harry and Mary Sutton Parker. She married H. Rex Wintermute on October 23, 1955 at the Bloomfield Christian Church. Rex passed away on February 20, 2015.

Life Members

Walter Bean
 Noel J. Becar
 Susan Bennick
 Linda Bethune
 Carole Wintemute Birnie
 Audreyann Eileen Bresnahan
 Douglas Craig Brown
 Joan Chewey
 Heinz Conti-Windemuth
 Guenevere Dean¹
 Gene Winfield Dennis
 Louise Dukes
 Linda Eden
 Claire Wintermote Hardin
 Cathy Ann Ingraham
 Michael Johnson
 Brian Kline
 Rebecca Lewis
 Thomas Michael Louden
 Beth Marsau
 Marcia Jane McManus
 Suzanna Theresa Meier
 Shirley Wagoner Mickey
 Emma E. Murray
 Richard Ramage¹
 Jeffrey Ramage¹
 Debra Schneider¹
 Vera Smith¹
 Dean Gaylord Smith
Janice Wintermote Snyder²
 Joyce S. Suess
 Jeane Bedo Titus
Carolyn Anne Wilkie²
 Kim Windemuth
 Richard Neil Wintamute
 Bruce Scott Wintemute
 Martha Jane Wintemute
Norman Stewart Wintemute²
 Leonard Noal Wintermote
 Varnard Lawrence Wintermote¹
 David Michael Wintermute
Dean Hallie Wintermute²
 Dohrman Wintemute
 James Arthur Wintermute
 James W. Wintemute
 Jesse Lee Wintemute
 Neal Duane Wintemute
 Pell Brooks Wintemute
 Ralph Edward Wintemute
 Timothy Paul Wintemute
 William A. Wintemute
 William R. Wintemute II
 Susan Gale Wintermuth
 Daryl Elaine Yarmoloy

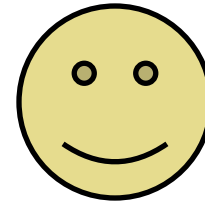
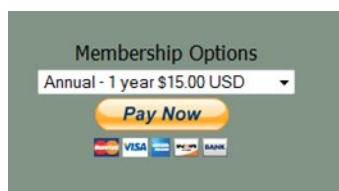
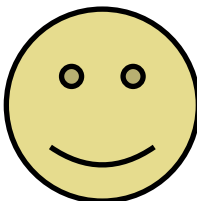
(1) Indicates New Life Member

(2) Indicates Deceased Life Member

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Please Support Your Family Organization

Windemuth Family Organization expenses are covered by voluntary contributions from family members like you. Your support pays the costs of the newsletter production, cemetery stone restoration, web site operation and other operation 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.

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Attention

****Wanted****

Articles

Old Family Pictures

Stories

Biographies

For the Newsletter

Please sent to

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26828 Neff Court

Santa Clarita, Ca. 91351

rwintermute@windemuth.org

Editor

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