

Windemuth Family Newsletter

Join in the Fellowship and Fun at the Windemuth Reunion in Two Thousand and One!

In Niagara Ivan Wightman came up with the above slogan for the next reunion. I hope you like it as well as I do. It was voted by the 80 attendees to go to Branson, Missouri for the year 2001. So get ready for a good time. Remember there is a Wintermute's Dinner Bell Restaurant there owned by Jess Wintermute. Those who could not attend in Niagara will be able to make this one since it is in the approximate center of the United States.

The board meeting was held Wednesday morning with all members attending. Luckily it rained that day so we didn't feel so bad about not being able to sightsee. Felt

sorry for the other people though. The luncheon was well attended, with much comradeship and good food, important to the Windemuths. Following the luncheon there was a showing of a Stillwater Video, taken by Dr. John Kiser, descendent of Jephtha Wintermute. Technical difficulties made the viewing different. Jim and myself went to Stillwater following the reunion and found the town to be quite interesting. We explored the cemetery and the Newton Museum, enjoyed both.

The business meeting was conducted in the evening by outgoing president, Neal Wintermute. Election of officers

for the next two years (Look for list of officers on another page) was conducted.

The informal gathering at the BBQ pit with a talk by Gail Wintermute Jr. was enjoyed Thursday Evening, after a full day of sight seeing.



Neal Wintermute, Outgoing Pres., Leonard Wintermute, Rebecca Lewis, Susan Meier, Gene Dennis, Incoming Vice Pres., Janice Snyder, Incoming Pres.

A Little Different Query

From Rebecca Lewis, Secretary

I am a reference librarian at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and I have a question I hope you can help with. I came across your most impressive Wintermuth Family Organization web site, but I did not find there the person I was trying to identify.

A library patron came to us recently with a copy of a watercolor whose artist she was trying to identify. It was a picture of a pretty girl (what I would describe as a "Gibson girl" from the turn of the century). It was dated '08 and was signed with a rather elaborate signature that

reads (as best as I can decipher it, "M. Wittrege Wintermute". The initial is quite clear and I am reasonably sure about the surname, but the middle name is much less certain. The picture strikes me as not particularly original, but done by an artist with a fair amount of technical

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Special points of interest:

- Highlights of 1999 Reunions
- 2002 Reunion in Branson, Missouri
- The Cencus Taker, an anonymous poem
- Picture of outgoing president with new officers.

Officers and Committee Personal for 1999-2002

The officers elected for the next two years are as follows:

President:

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Communications Committee

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Thanks to Dean Wintermute and Deborah W. Kosloski for their service on the Cemetery Committee during their tenure. This is a rather difficult job because of the distance to the cemeteries of the immigrants for many persons. Thank you for your input into the restoration of our ancestors gravestones. Many of the are in need of some kind of repair.

A Little Different Query, (continued)

Skill, perhaps a commercial artist. It apparently came from the Monroe area in Southern Wisconsin, but whether the artist was local, I do not know.

My hope is that something in the above description would ring a bell, and help identify the artist.

James Hansen
Reference Librarian

Dear Mr. Hansen,

We don't have any descendant information for your artist, so that means her name and notes came from one of her husband's cousins a few times removed. Because of that, I can't be sure that we have the correct spelling of her maiden name either. I don't know if she was born in the South, but all of her husband's siblings were born and married in the South.

Rebecca Lewis, Sec.

Dear Ms. Lewis,

By George, I think you've got it !! Thanks for your prompt and helpful response about Mamie Withers Wintermote. She fits all the criteria and I believe I can reasonably read "Withers" as a middle named. I am sure our patron will be very pleased. Keep up the terrific work.

James L. Hansen

Person attending Niagara Reunion, August 1999

We thought you might be interested in who attended the reunion. Carol Ursula Martha Wintemute, her Amante Roy, Carol's sister, Wendy Suzanne Elaine Wintemute Clark, Amante Stephen, children, Andrea Suzanne Elaine, Heather Muriel Irene, and Joshua Stephen Michael, all from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Richard Leroy Wintemute and brother Glen Edward with his Amante Leona, were in attendance from Ohio and Arizona.

Mildred Wintemute Boylan, and Amante William and Grandchildren Danielle and Brandon from Warren, New Jersey. Mildred's sister, Catherine Roxanne Wintemute Robb "Cate" with Amante Richard from Franklin, North Carolina were happy to be there.

Gene Winfield Dennis, Amante Janice Kay, our new vice president, were there from Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Donna Anne Elston Fratesi, and Amante Angelo, an active contributor to the book, were in attendance from Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Two people who have been to every reunion, Mary Elizabeth Wintemute Kent and Amante Don, were happy people to see.

Edward William Kornowski, another active contributor, along with Edith Anthony Fox, Rose Anthony Fox, Dorothy Anthony Rogozinski and Marie Calvert Anthony from Buffalo, New York were there.

Rebecca Yvone Lewis and Amante Rick Maykoski from Bakersfield, California, thanks for the fun time on Thursday, you two.

Susan Theresa Meier and Amante Richard Tillison from Elk Grove, California were pleasantly in attendance. Susan and Rebecca took many additions and corrections on Rebecca's handy laptop.

Barbara Alida Snover Millar with Amante Bruce arrived from Toledo, Ohio.

Richard Neil Wintamute and Amante Karen, from Inman, Kansas. Paula Kay Wintamute Prior from Wichita, Kansas, Warren Russell Wintamute, from Hutchinson, Kansas, (all descendents from Russell Drew) were in attendance.

Virginia L. Shay Reeser, from Greenfield, Indiana, accompanied by friend Ruth Brown from Troy, Pennsylvania made the trip. Virginia's mother Eleanor Elizabeth Miller Shay from Sayre, Pennsylvania made the group complete.

George A. Sherk accompanied by Amante Gert from Ridgeway, Ontario, Canada were there.

Gorden Menviewing Sherk from Stevensville, Ontario, Canada was there.

Sandra Helen Wintemute Wild, accompanied by Amante Floyd Mangus from Escalon, California were in attendance.

Millicent Lain Handel Wilson from Williamsville, New York was there.

Mary Grace McCully Wightman, and Amante Ivan came. Ivan gave us the slogan for 2001.

Robert L. Windemuth and Amante Roberta attended. Robert still carries the Windemuth name.

Paul Joseph Wintemute, accompanied by daughters Julianna Marie and Launa Junstine came. Paul is quite a genealogist.

They are from Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

Leonard Noal Wintemute with Amante Sandra from Elm Creek, Nebraska, Arthur Clarence Wintemute, Amante Carlene and son Jonathan Leonard from Oak Creek, Wisconsin, Carolyn Wintemute Wilkie, accompanied by friend Kerstin Wolfe, from Prairie City, Iowa, Janice Wintemute Snyder and Amante Jim, all descendents from John Joseph.

Gail Benner Wintemute, Sr with Amante Mildred, son Gail Benner Wintemute, Amante Debra, grandchildren David Benner and Sara Jane, were all there. Gail Jr. gave a nice talk.

Neal Duane Wintemute, outgoing president, was there but we missed Linda this year. Linda was recuperating from surgery.

Walter Roy Wintemute and Amante Leeora, accompanied by their son Alan Walter were able to attend. I think it was this couple that went to Ft. Erie to the cemetery with Neal.

Albert Alexander Wintemute, Amante, Margaret A., accompanied by their daughter, Mary Papals.

There was a couple from Ottawa, Quebec, who came to the business meeting and none of us wrote their names down. I apologize for this, let us know who you were and we will publish your name in the next newsletter.

Thanks everyone for making such a nice reunion. We enjoyed visiting with everyone especially the last evening at the marshmallow roast.

Windemuth Heritage, 1996

Those of us on the Board wish to extend Happy Holiday greeting to our relatives for the upcoming season. We wish to remind those of you who are searching for a Christmas present for a Grandparent, Parent, or Son and Daughter of the Windemuth Lineage there are some books available. The Treasurer Leonard Wintemute will be happy to send you or the relative you wish to receive the gift, the

set of two books, The Windemuth Heritage, 1996. The cost of the set is \$113.00. Your check is made out to The Windemuth Family Organization. I, Janice, find the set very useful in looking up a relative I can't remember the birth date or where they were born. Sometimes I find persons I did not know I was related to such as the Shield's in Derby, Kansas. I was born in Benton close by.

When we go to the family reunions and receive the list of attendees, it is interesting to look at the information concerning these persons.

Thank those who have purchased these sets. Hopefully you are enjoying them. Send any corrections or additions to Rebecca, Susan or Kelsy and they will be added to the upcoming new edition.

The Crater House and The Pickle Homestead Sent by James W. Roberts, from Moody, AL



Home built in 1780 by Moritz Crater and Mary Margaret Winter mood. Presently owned and lived in by Dr. Marc and Pam Grodman on Girgenti Lane just east of the Fairmont Presbyterian Church

The last two names were probably the builders. They must have been the stone masons as the house was built of that material. One may have been the carpenter."

Note- This house is still standing and is beautifully preserved by it present owner.

Moritz Crater was born 24 February 1742 and died 18 February 1806. Mary Margaret Wintermute Crater was born 9 July 1746 and died 19 February 1800. One of their 10 children was Moritz, Jr. born 30 October 1782. He married Catherine Cripps and they had 7 children, one being Sarah Crater, born 12 February 1807. Sarah married Peter B. Sutton, born 15 October 1802 and they had six children. They lived in the house that was to become the Pickle Homestead, where my father Raymond Roberts was born. Peter died 3 July 1840 and one son David, died in the same month, possibly from the same ailment.

The widow, Sarah, then married her husband's farm hand, Alfred Pickle on 18 July 1842. Alfred was 13 years younger than Sarah. Their only child, Sarah Pickle was born 1 November 1842. Alfred Pickle is Fairmount's Centenarian, living to the age of 100 years, 5 months and 13 days. Descendents from this family are included under the Descendants of Johan Nicolaus Pickel. Most of the earlier Craters, about 15 in number, are buried in the Churchyard of the Fairmount First Presbyterian Church.

The picture in the center was obtained from Bertha Ebersol and identified as Alfred Pickle and his wife Sarah. The other two pictures were found in three very old antique photo albums in my father's attic and are assumed to be young Alfred and Sarah. Dates are not known, estimated between 1840 & 1865.

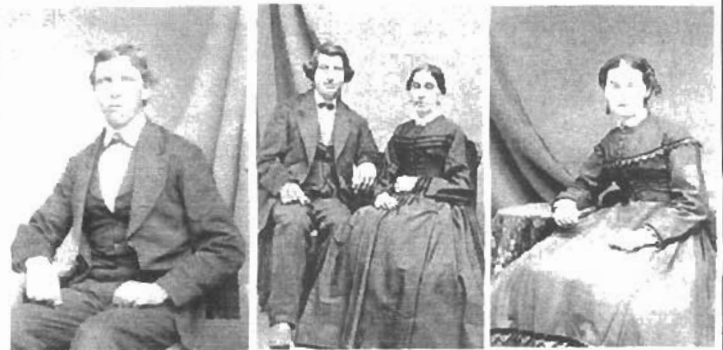
In the book, "Historic Notes on Fairmount, New Jersey", page 34, it describes "The Crater House". "This is the house of Moritz Crater. It is located in the lane east of the Presbyterian Church. It may not be the oldest house but it is the best preserved and is the best monument we have of early architecture. The struggle of the Revolutionary War was still on when this splendid piece of masonry was erected, in fact during the fall and winter of the very year (1780) Washington's army was encamped not twenty miles away on the frozen hills above Morristown.

The builder, Moritz Creter (or more recently spelled Crater), had his name inscribed in a tablet of imperishable marble or granite which is placed high up in the west gable of the house. On it appears the following inscription:

Sept. 1780	
Mortiz Creter	Wm Corin
Margaret Creter	S. Adams



About 1920: Left to Right, Alfred Pickle, daughter Sarah, grandson Henry Thurston. Built in the late 1700's about a 1/4 mile east of Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Lived in by Peter B. Sutton and wife Sarah Crater. After Peter's death, Sarah married her farm hand, Alfred Pickle and they had six children. Sarah. Sarah married James G. Thurston and they had 11 children in this house. My Father Raymond Roberts was also born in this house.



Young Alfred Alfred Pickle & Sarah Crater Young Sarah

Trip to Windemuth Connections in Germany

By Robert L. Windemuth

Just to the southeast of the city of Kassel lies a hilly upland known as the Meissner, which can be easily located on any reasonably good map of Germany. The area is rural and fields of crops interspersed with woods surround the villages. Within that region are found many small farming communities, among which are Wolferode, Alberode and Abterode. According to the research done by Heinz Conti-Windemuth, the Windemuths originated in that area. Alberode and Wolferode are true villages with populations of 159 and 191 respectively according to the 1998 census. Abterode had a population of 965. The villages are only about three or four miles apart—not a long distance for my third great-grandfather to travel to find a new wife after the death of his first. A few years after their marriage Johann Nicholas Windemuth, of Wolferode, and Anna Margaret Koehler, of Alberode, emigrated to the United States—and in 1997 my wife and I returned to those villages for a second visit.

Our first visit had been in 1986 and my impression was that these were the neat, pretty little villages from which you would like to imagine your ancestors emigrated. The houses are clustered together, built similarly and their mostly stucco exteriors give them a uniform, eye-pleasing appearance. My feelings were not changed with this visit; however, there had been changes in the villages. The roadwork that had been going on in Wolferode had long been completed and it looked as if there had been some new housing constructed. To my disappointment, the Gasthaus in Abterode, which had been run by a family with Windemuth connections (the wife of the owner had been a Windemuth before marriage, but



Unfortunately her name escaped me though I think it was Helga) was now closed. I met her by accident when we were previously there after an old woman that hitched a ride from Wolferode with us asked about why we were there and I told her I was on an ancestor search. When I dropped her off at a bus stop in Abterode she pointed to the Gasthaus and said that there were Windemuths who owned it and also said that the mayor of the town was a Windemuth. I decided to visit the Gasthaus and after I introduced myself to Helga? And we talked for a while she called her uncle, Willie Windemuth, on the telephone to come and talk to us. She said Uncle Willie knew far more about the family than she. Uncle Willie appeared to be in his 70s and was very interested in the family history, though there was no direct connection we could establish. We drank coffee and talked for about an hour while a fierce rainstorm swept across the area. He said that in his opinion all Windemuths were related because the name was very uncommon in Germany. There were no graves to be found because it is the custom to “bury over” after a number of years. During our conversation he mentioned that the church records for Wolferode were held in Franershausen, just a few miles from us, so after we said our good-byes we went to Franershausen where we received a very welcoming reception at the Lutheran parish

house. We were fortunate to find the family’s babysitter spoke English—she was the only person we encountered who did—and was very helpful. The pastor took a book from a vault and showed me the birth record for Johann Nicholas Windemuth. That was the high point of my visit.

After my return from my first visit I attempted to restore contact with the pastor of the church in Germerode, who has earlier confirmed the information on my third great-grandmother’s family (Germerode maintains the church records for Alberode) and establish contact with the pastor of the church in Abterode without success in either case. I was able to obtain information I had missed during our first visit from the church at Franershausen. Our most recent visit was only a “photo stop” to recapture some pictures that had been lost because my camera had malfunctioned during our first visit.



Thanks Robert for the interesting letter, I hope everyone enjoys it like I did.
Janice

The Price of Loyalty

from Old Sussex Almanack

In June 1999 I published Part one of The Price of Loyalty, from the Old Sussex Almanack, Newsletter of the Sussex County Historical Society. This article is the second part.

On May 31, 1775, the Provincial Congress approved an "association" to be administered to all citizens of New Jersey through their local committees. The association was, in effect, a loyalty oath to the new rebel government and part of a series of acts designed to break the allegiance to the royal establishment. Those who refused to sign the association were suspected of remaining loyal to the king and often closely watched by members of the local committee. By January 13, 1776, congress approved a law to disarm loyalists and imprison those "unfriendly to the patriot cause." As civil unrest in New Jersey turned to war the mild measures against the loyalist became increasingly harsh. The state soon decided to confiscate the abandoned property of those residents who had fled to the British lines, and began taking inventories of these estates on August 2, 1776. But loyalist had more to fear from these new laws than losing their property. An act passed by the legislature on June 4, 1777, declared that any New Jersey resident determined to have been with the enemy would receive capital punishment. On October 4, 1777, another act established the crime of high treason for those residents who remained loyal to the king or were captured making war against the popular government.

Many citizens of this county, like those elsewhere in the state, soon ran afoul of the law. On May 24, 1777, a court was commissioned for Sussex County to try those prisoners then in jail for treason and other crimes. This court system was established by a royal ordinance in 1724. Presiding over the trials was newly appointed Supreme Court Justice John Symmes, a Walpack lawyer who had resigned as colonel of the county militia the day before to accept

the position

The commission also made justices of John Barber, Mark Thompson, Isacc Van Camper, Anthony Broderick, Archibald Stewart, Thomas Anderson, Samuel Kennedy, Jacob McCollum, Isaac Martin, Jephtha Byron and Timothy Symmes. The latter were described by Robert Morris, a supreme court justice from Bergen County who assisted at these trials, as "not appointed for their legal erudition" but rather "reputable farmers, doctors, or shopkeepers."

Writing to governor William Livingston from Newton on June 14, 1777, Morris described the close of the court after three weeks of difficult work. "Had it not been for the negligence or villancy of a rascally gaoler, in suffering John Eddy, the only person indicted for high treason to escape yesterday morning," he noted, "I flatter myself we should have acquitted ourselves with tolerable success, and I hope have given satisfaction to the good people." The same day John Symmes also wrote to the governor that five escapees were recaptured and asked to reopen the county court. "A little more of the court are as necessary at this time as the rays of the sun are to vegetation," he reasoned. John Eddy, the man who was convicted of enlisting men for the British Army, was never caught, nor was he the last to escape from the Sussex County jail.

"Prisoners we find do and will escape when they please," Symmes noted in his letter to the governor of June 29, 1777, describing yet another jailbreak. In this incident jailer Daniel Perine was rushed by seven prisoners as he brought them a keg of water into the south jail. They quickly disarmed two nearby sentries, locked Perine in the cell and took his keys. Then they unlocked the north jail allowing other prisoners to escape and threatened other jailers with their captured weapons. Joseph Alwood, Archibald Alwood, Silas Alwood, Philip Gage, James Morris, George Seagrave, and Jacob Goodwin escaped. Goodwin

a resident of Oxford township, had been in jail since april 17, when he was found guilty of high treason. About fifteen other prisoners, including Francis Magee, Timothy Skinner, Nathaniel Pettit and Ebenezer Ellis, not only refused to escape, but pulled shut the prison door when offered their freedom. In his letter, Symmes requested that the governor "pardon all those condemned to imprisonment who had so favorable an opportunity to escape." These prisoners were, he explained, "quite broken down and sick of the tory business," which he concluded, was "manifest by their refusing to leave the prison."

Governor Livingston responded to Symmes' letter by coming to Sussex County with his Council of Safety on July 7, 1777. The council was a special, but temporary, political body with far reaching powers to suppress loyalism throughout the state. Livingston presided over the council here until July 12, examining and imprisoning numerous residents. On July 11, 1777, Livingston wrote to General Washington from Newton stating, "the Council of Safety has pretty well suppressed the spirit of disaffection in this county."

The most notorious release from Sussex County jail took place on the night of June 21, 1780. This operation was carried off by the infamous James Moody, a prosperous farmer who left the county about three years earlier to join the British Army. He had been dispatched to the area by the British with a small band of partizans to kidnap governor Livingston. After one of his group was captured and gave away their plans, Moody eventually turned his attention to the Sussex jail where a number of loyalist were being held along with Robert-Maxwell, a British soldier sentenced to death for robbery. Moody and six men approached the jail and called to the jailer in a second floor window. One of his party, who Moody noted, "was well Known by the inhabitants of that place," (continued next page)

The Price of Loyalty, Continued

from Old Sussex Almanack

spoke to the jailer and pretended to be their prisoner. Although the jailer was "highly pleased with the idea of having so notorious a tory in his custody," he refused to come down and accept the man, having received orders not to open the door after sunset due to the general alarm set off by Moody himself. Angered, Moody immediately revealed himself to the jailer, demanded the keys and threatened to attack with his party. "On this, Mr. Moody's men, who were well skilled in the Indian war-whoop, made the air resound with such a variety of hideous yells, as soon left them nothing to fear from the inhabitants of New Town." During the panic they "made their way through a casement," captured the jail and set eight prisoners free including Maxwell.

On September 14, 1777, a large group of militant loyalists heading for the British lines were apprehended by the militia at Perth Amboy, and ultimately imprisoned and tried in Morris County. By November 11, they were all found guilty of high treason and sentenced to hang on December 2. All but two of these men were granted clemency on condition of enlisting in the Continental service. John Mee of Sussex County, who had previously taken the oaths before the Council of Safety and was discharged, now faced the ultimate penalty. Several of his

neighbors, including John Anderson and John Hendershot, petitioned the governor for clemency stating he was "serviceable in this township in instructing the soldiers in their military discipline has once turned out in the militia and has for a considerable time attended trainings and muster days as becomes a good subject in his company at home." But, in his own undated petition to the governor written from Morristown jail, Mee stated that he had been "in the service of the king of Great Britain many years both during and since the last war." He explained that he deserted his regiment in Ireland and came to America to find a family member, and "has since married in the country and has two small helpless children and his wife pregnant with a third." While he claimed he bore no hostility against the American rebellion, "he looks upon himself as a servant and soldier to the British king." Mee's problems were worsened by other local active loyalists who were secretly recruiting men in the area for the British. They were familiar with his background and reported his desertion in order to force his hand. According to Mee, he received "repeated notice from the regiment from Staten Island, (New Brunswick, etc., forthwith to join his regiment," which would have excluded the death sentence he was under.

On November 30, Susannah Livingston, the governor's daughter, sent a message to her father by express rider that John Mee's wife had come to their home to beg for his life, or at least postpone his sentence. Obviously affected by the woman's grief, she wrote "the poor creature like a downing man is willing to catch at a straw." But John Mee's fate had been sealed by taking arms against the new government. On December 2, he and James Illif were hanged in Morristown by the county sheriff, paying the ultimate price for their loyalty.

Plea for Help From Susi Wright

Sent by e-mail to Rebecca Lewis, Secretary. Hopefully someone will recognize this man and help out this lady.

"If anyone has an address or telephone number for this TOM WINTEMUTE, contact Rebecca (Phone 661-792-3151; or 12412 Andes Ave, Bakersfield, Ca 93312 or RebeccaLws@aol.com."

"I am trying to find Tom Wintemute, a friend of my husband Simon Wright, who was in the US Air Force stationed in Suffolk in the 1980's. He was last heard of in New York, any information please, he would love to get back in touch."

Susi Wright

Census Taker submitted by Richard L. Wintermute

It was the first day of census, and all through the land;
The pollster was ready—a black book in hand.
He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride;
His book and some quills were tucked close by his side.

A long winding ride down a road barely there;
Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the air.
The woman was tired, with lines on her face;
And wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place

She gave him some water—as they sat at the table;
And she answered his question—the best she was able.

He asked of her children—Yes, she had quite a few;
The oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.

She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red;
His sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.
She noted each person who lived there with pride;
And she felt the stirring of the wee one inside.

He noted the sex, the color, the age—
The marks from the quill soon filled up the page.
At the number of children, she nodded her head;
(continued on Page 8)

Gene Winfield Dennis
Vice-President

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We're on the net
[http://www.kern.com/
maykoski/wintermute.
htm](http://www.kern.com/maykoski/wintermute.htm)
[http://www.Jesnet.com/
wintermute.htm](http://www.Jesnet.com/wintermute.htm)

Census Taker (cont) submitted by Richard L. Wintermute

And saw her lips quiver for the three that was dead.

The places of birth she "never forgot":
Was it Kansas? Or Utah? Or Oregon*** or not?
They came from Scotland, of that she was clear:
But she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.

They spoke of employment, of schooling and such;
They could read some* and write some* though really not
much.
When the questions were answered, his job there was done;
So he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.

We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear;
"May God bless you all for another ten years."

Now picture a time warp —it's now you and me;
As we search for the people on our family tree.

We squint at the census and scroll down so slow;
As we search for that entry from long, long ago.

Could they only imagine on that long ago day;
That the entries they made could effect us this way?

If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning we feel;
And the searching that makes them so increasingly real.
We can hear if we listen the words they impart;
Through their blood in our veins and their voice in our heart.

Author Unknown

The Best Millennium

Here's hoping the Y2K bug doesn't bite any of you
I have a good celebration. It is exciting to think
about the year 2000 and what it will bring to us in
the future

Happy New Year to Everyone !