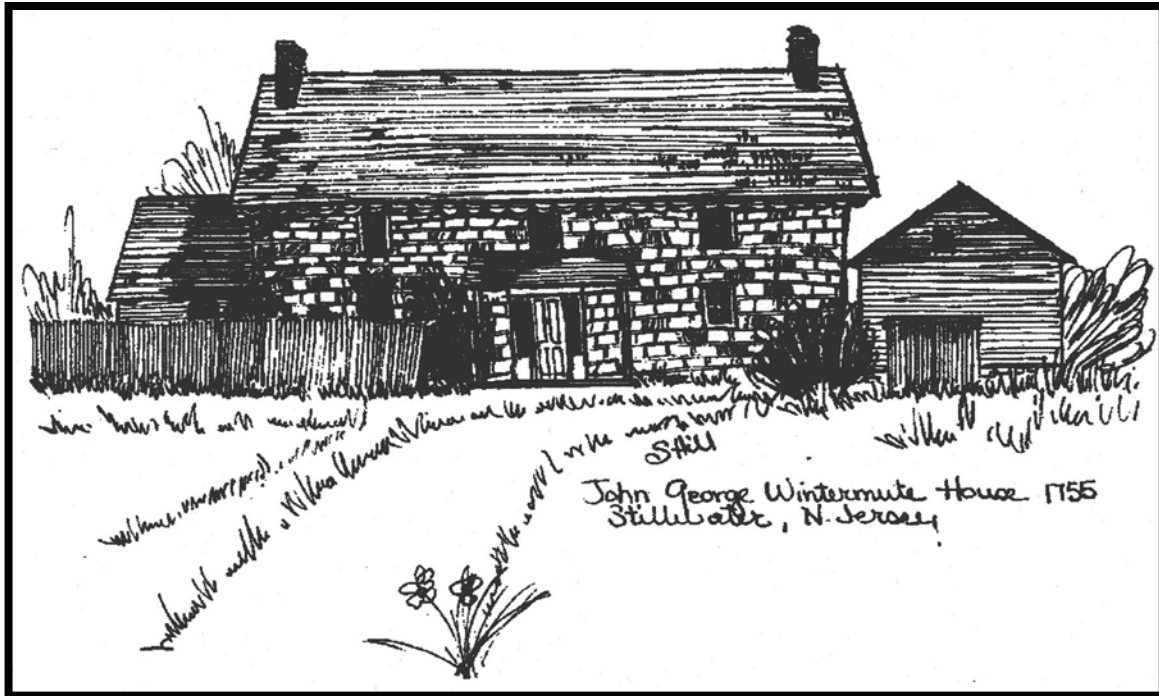


Windemuth Family Newsletter



Scraps of History — Stillwater, New Jersey

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The above pen and ink sketch is of the home of Johan Georg Windemuth, built in 1755 at Stillwater, NJ. Drawn about 30 years ago by Sadie Hill Gass of Newton, NJ, the sketch was limited to a series of 100 copies. It is produced here with the permission of the artist.

Jacob Perry Wintermute, publisher of the 1900 "Windemuth Family History" noted: "Among the places visited which were of special interest, was the Old Stone House at the foot of the lane running east from just south of the cemetery; the house is now owned by David Lanning, a descendant of John Wintermute, the Emigrator's youngest son; at this time occupied by a renter. On the south end of the house, on the window cap, we found the inscription 'J.G.W., 1755,' showing the house was erected by the Emigrator, and was at that time 142 years old. This is the house inherited by the Emigrator's young-

est son, as shown by the will."

According to James A. Wintermute, Johan Georg Wintermute signed his "will" as "George", leaving the name "John" off. In 1755, he built the stone house on 57 acres of farm near Stillwater, N.J. The house looks the same on the outside as it did in 1755. His "will" states in part, "Also, I give and devise to my son Peter the Lot of land whereon he now lives lying on the West side and being part of my homestead containing fifty seven acres and three tenths of the Fulling Mill and its appurtenances to him and his heirs..." The first Fulling Mill was built by the Wintermute's about 1770 in Sussex County one-half mile below Stillwater.

Research for this article was provided by James A. Wintermute of Hillside, N.J. Want more information? Check out the "Windemuth Family Heritage 1996" and the web site: <http://www.dpo.uab.edu/~aron/wintermu.htm>

Let's get to know each other...

By Pat Lundburg

Pat Lundburg authors a regular column aimed at helping us get to know our "cousins" better. We hope you enjoy learning about them. Pat requests that you send her stories, information and photos for use in future newsletters.

Major John W. Kiser, Jr.

For more than two centuries, hundreds of Windemuth descendants have served in the U.S. military. Today, we will get to know one of them, John W. Kiser, Jr.

A Presbyterian Minister, John is serving in the U.S. Army as Chaplain at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He has also served in Infantry, Logistics, and as a Public Affairs Officer. John was stationed in Germany twice for three year tours of duty (1988-1991 and 1998-2001) giving him the opportunity to visit the "family stomping grounds". He has also served in Honduras, Bosnia, Kosovo and Desert

Storm. Most recently, he has returned from a year in Iraq where he was deployed as Senior Chaplain with the 28th Combat Support Hospital located in Baghdad and Tikrit. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for ministry to wounded and dying soldiers in the combat zone. John was also promoted to Major June 25, 2004.

John received his Bachelors degree from the University of Kansas and then went on to Princeton Seminary for his Masters. On May 7, 2004, Oblate School of Theology presented him with his Doctor of Ministry degree.

According to John, "I am related to the Windemuths from my Dad's side. My great-grandfather, Oltman Kaiser, was a sheriff in southern Missouri." The spelling of their last name has changed. "I believe (great-grandfather) changed it after World War One. Being named Kaiser at that time was probably as popular as being name Hitler in the mid 20th Century."

John, lives with his wife, Sonia (Molina) Kiser, son John III and daughter Julia. They are expecting their third child in August, a "War in Iraq R&R baby!"



Major John Kiser, Jr. seated on Saddam Hussein's Throne while serving a tour of duty in Iraq.



Major John Kiser, Jr. (left) serving communion during Christmas Eve service, 2003 in Baghdad.

Dick Wintermote (e-mail: KUAARet@aol.com) of Lawrence, KS assisted Pat Lundburg in researching this article.

*Submit stories on family members of interest to:
Pat Lundburg
PO Box 112
Fergus Falls, MN 56538
e-mail: kplund@prtcl.com*

A Family Civil War History — Andrew and Aaron Wintamute

By Rachel Denise Phillips Terry

The following article is condensed from an essay researched and written by Windemuth descendant Rachel Denise Phillips Terry of Centreville, VA. Rachel is pursuing a degree in history at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA and wrote the paper as a requirement for her Civil War History class. Her paper "A Family Civil War History of Andrew Rice Wintamute of the Pennsylvania 143rd Regiment and Aaron Hazen Wintamute of the Pennsylvania 12th Reserve Corp" has been included in the Civil War historical files at Antietam National Park and Battlefield. Her grandmother, Lois Jean (Shupp) Tiller of Lake Anna, VA, assisted Rachel in the research.

Members of the Windemuth/Wintermute/Wintamute family have fought in every major American conflict going back to the Revolutionary War. The focus of this essay is two brothers, Aaron Hazen and Andrew Rice Wintamute. The brothers were two of the thirteen children born to Jacob Staley Wintermute and Rachel Ann Rice. Both were born in Stillwater, Sussex County, New Jersey. Aaron Hazen was born October 19, 1835, and Andrew Rice was born August 29, 1841. The family relocated to Mehoopany in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, in the spring of 1855.

Aaron Hazen Wintamute was twenty-five years old when he enlisted into Company B of the Twelfth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserve Infantry on May 15, 1861. He was five feet nine inches tall with a dark complexion, grey eyes, and black hair.

The Twelfth Regiment was commanded by Colonel John H. Taggart of Philadelphia, Lieutenant Colonel Sam-

uel Bailey of York, and Major Peter Blady of Northampton. On October 10 the Regiment began a march into Virginia.

On the morning of June 26, 1862, the Twelfth Regiment was holding the extreme left of the line from Ellerson's Mill to Cold Harbor. Corporal Wintamute's Company B occupied rifle pits and a grove of trees as cover while they engaged the Confederate troops from three o'clock in the afternoon until nine o'clock that night. The regiment was ordered to maintain their position until daylight and then retire. During the next three days, they marched to Gaines' Mill where they were placed to support Griffin's Battery. During the next three hours, there was a tremendous battle that resulted in a loss of six men and twenty-five wounded soldiers from the Twelfth Regiment.

On June 30, the Twelfth Regiment, as ordered by General McCall to Colonel Taggart in person, took their places on the extreme left of the line at one o'clock in the afternoon. The engagement at Malvern Hill was dreadful for the Twelfth Regiment. After 24 hours of heavy combat, most of it hand-to-hand, the regiment was finally ordered to Harrison's Landing, where it arrived on July 2. The total loss of the Twelfth Regiment in the Peninsula campaign was thirteen dead, sixty wounded, and thirty-six missing.

The next major combat for the

Twelfth Regiment was Gettysburg. They had been combined into the first division of the Twenty-Second Army Corp. They reported to the city of Washington in April for six weeks of provost duty. They reached the battlefield at 10am on the morning of July 2, 1863. They were ordered to the left flank of Little Round Top to the right of Hazlett's Battery and eventually took part with the Third Brigade on the assault on Little Round Top. As far as casualties, the Twelfth only lost one man with only a couple of wounded.

Andrew Rice Wintamute was twenty-one years old when he enlisted in the One Hundred Forty Third-Pennsylvania Regiment, Company K, of the U.S. Army at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on August 20, 1862. The Regiment was stationed to the northern defenses of the city of Washington from November 7 through February 17 when it was ordered to the front at Belle Plains and assigned to the Second Brigade, Third Division. They took part in the Battle of Chancellorsville May first through the sixth. They camped at Falmouth until they were ordered to Gettysburg. In Gettysburg, the 143rd was in position where the Theological Seminary stands. They later fell back and took position at Cemetery Hill. In July of 1863, Andrew was wounded in Gettysburg on the first day of battle and was absent from duty until February of 1864. He rejoined his Regiment in March of 1864, which had been so depleted that they were reassigned to the First Brigade, First Division, Fifth Corps. Andrew Wintamute continued with them until he was killed at the Battle of Wilderness on May 5, 1864. The Fifth Corps was commanded by



(continued on page 7)

The Wintermutes' "Gigantic Little Circus"

The Autumn 2003 issue of the Wisconsin Magazine of History contained a 17 page article with color photos titled "The Wintermutes' Gigantic Little Circus" by Milton J Bates. We have summarized it here for your enjoyment. The full article with color photos can be found on the Wisconsin Historical Society web site:

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wmh/issues/autumn03.asp>

A century ago, the circus coming to town excited adults and children alike. Quoting Milton J. Bates, "A heady bouquet of canvas, sawdust, animal dung, popcorn, and sweat suffused in the air. Despite these distractions, all eyes were focused on the center ring..."

John Harry Wintermute was the driving force behind the Wintermute's circus. Starting in 1884, Harry with his younger brothers Thomas and Halsey, formed the Wintermute Brothers Show. The name changed over the years and in 1901 they began calling their circus



Circus World Museum, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Wintermute Circus lithograph poster, ca. 1908

the Great Melbourne United Shows "to lend their enterprise a touch of exoticism."

num Counties in New York, known as the "cradle of the American circus."

The Wintermute family circus lasted two generations, and "finally reached the end of their sawdust trail in July 1938" when the Great Depression reduced their audiences as fewer people could afford the price of admission.

A special thanks to Windemuth descendant Bonnie L. Ladwig, State Representative in Wisconsin, for providing us with a copy of the Autumn 2003 Wisconsin Magazine of History. Photos are used by permission of Circus World Museum, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Please e-mail stories as well as high resolution historic photos for publication in future newsletters. Be sure to include names, dates and locations. E-mail them to: gdennis@universalsys.com.



Circus World Museum, Baraboo, Wisconsin

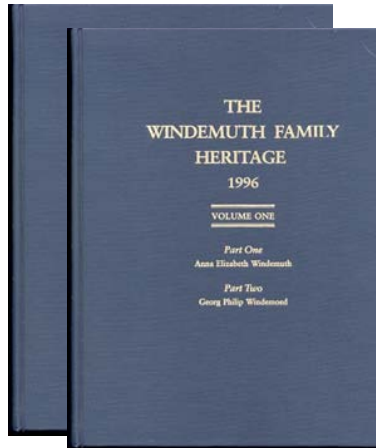
Thomas, Harry and Halsey Wintermute

Harry and his brothers came from a family of farmers, and perhaps grew tired of farm life and hankered after adventure. Their interest in circuses may have been stimulated by tales of their parents about circuses back East. The family had moved to Wisconsin about 1860 from an area across the Hudson River from Westchester and Put-

The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996 — Only \$65

Jacob Perry Wintermute originally published the Windemuth Family History in 1900. In 1996, James Woodrow Wintermute chaired a committee to update and republish this important history as The Windemuth Family Heritage 1996. Quoting from the Introduction:

“This book contains the history of the family Windemuth, from the first humble beginnings in Pfungstadt, Germany in the early sixteen hundreds, and spans nearly four centuries. It is a proud history, rich in tradition and perseverance. The family Windemuth has grown from just a small handful, to many thousands. This book contains a brief history of every Windemuth descendant that



we could locate, or learn about, and we located and learned about a lot of them.”

The two-volume set contains more than 700 pages and was professionally published by Gateway Press, Baltimore MD at a cost of \$110. The price of the remaining copies have been reduced to \$65US per set.

To order your personal set, mail your request with a \$65US check or money order payable to Windemuth Family Organization to:

Leonard Wintermute
PO Box 465
Elm Creek, NE 68836-0465

Include your street and postal mailing address.

Dues and Life Memberships

The payment of dues assists The Windemuth Family Organization in covering the costs of newsletter production and postage. It also helps accomplish the goals established by the Board at our biennial reunions. We wish to thank those members

who faithfully pay their annual dues. (Dues paying members receive an additional issue of the newsletter each year.) Dues are \$15US annually, though many members find it convenient to pay two or more years ahead.

Special thanks go out to those who have elected to become Life Members by making a single, lifetime contribution. (Life Memberships are \$300US)

Life Members:

Gene Winfield Dennis
Cathy Snover Ingraham
Thomas Michael Louden
Susan Theresa Meier
Shirley Wagoner Mickey
Janice Wintermute Snyder
Jeane Bedo Titus
Carolyn Anne Wilkie
Richard Neil Wintamute
Norman Stewart Wintemute
Leonard Noal Wintermute
Jesse Lee Wintermute
Neal Duane Wintermute
William R. Wintermute II
Dianne Wintermute Yarmoloy

Have you paid your dues?

Annual dues (\$15US) or Life Membership contributions (\$300US) should be made payable to Windemuth Family Organization and sent to:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Frankenmuth, Michigan

Location of the 2005 Windemuth Family Reunion

Though it is a year away, it's time for family members to start planning on attending the 2005 Windemuth International Family Reunion. The date for this biennial event is August 10-12, 2005, the location is Frankenmuth, Michigan.

According to Gene and Jan Dennis, hosts for the event, "Frankenmuth was settled by German immigrants in 1845 and proudly maintains its heritage. Walking through town treats visitors to authentic sights, sounds and tastes of German culture. Our headquarters hotel will be the Bavarian Inn Lodge located at the covered bridge."

Activities planned as part of the reunion include a group photo-shoot, opening reception on Aug. 10th, board meeting and family organization meeting on Aug. 11th, and closing dinner on Aug 12th. Plenty of unscheduled time will permit opportunities to "catching up" on news from distant family members, meet new "cousins", and explore the area. Frankenmuth is a family

oriented town, located on the Cass River and features a scenic paddlewheel boat tour, exceptional shopping (including Bronner's, the largest Christmas deco-



Headquarters hotel — Bavarian Inn Lodge at Frankenmuth, Michigan

rations store in the world), and authentic German entertainment, food and beverages. Within easy driving distance, a visitor can enjoy the Great Lakes (including fishing and water sports), muse-

Frankenmuth is located 15 miles north of Flint, Michigan, just east of I-75. The modern airport at Flint offers direct connections from Detroit, Minneapolis, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Atlanta by Northwest, Air Tran, ATA, Continental and Delta Airlines. Amtrak rail service is also available. Detroit is an alternative airport located 100 miles south of Frankenmuth.

Registration and hotel information will be mailed and also appear on our web site in early 2005:

www.windemuth.org .

Please feel free to contact Gene Dennis for reunion information: home (810) 694-7735 or e-mail: gdennis@universalsys.com.

Biennial Reunion Details:

What: 2005 Windemuth Family Reunion

Where: Frankenmuth, Michigan USA

When: August 10-12, 2005

Registration: Information will be mailed and on our web site in early 2005.

ums, a planetarium at the Flint Cultural Center, and the Sourcing Eagle Casino. For those interested in genealogy, the State of Michigan Library in Lansing has an excellent collection of books and census records for Ontario and the Midwest.

2007 Reunion

Though our 2005 reunion is still a year away, it's time to begin thinking about a location for our 2007 gathering. Talk with family members in your area and consider hosting the event.

We move the reunion around North America to offer all family members the opportunity of attending. The past 4 reunions were held in Colorado, Niagara Falls Ontario, Branson Missouri, and Walnut Creek California.

Contact President Gene Dennis if you wish more information.

“ A Taste of Frankenmuth ”

Site of the 2005 Reunion

Visit Frankenmuth on the web:
www.frankenmuth.org



A Family Civil War History (continued from page 3)

General Crawford, and they were positioned at Chewing Farm in support of General Warren. They were then ordered to attack across a clearing called Saunder's Field. The word across the regiments was "Boys, label yourselves, if we must go down in there, as you will never come out again."

Private Andrew Rice Wintamute was killed "by gunshot wound while engaging the enemy." Andrew was one of two thousand, two hundred and forty-six who died during the three days of battle. He was buried in the family plot at Union Hill Cemetery in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania.

The complete essay can be found on our web site: www.windemuth.org.

Missing Family Organization Members

The Post Office returned newsletters mailed to the following family members indicating expired or no forwarding addresses. If you can provide update information, please send it to:

Gene Dennis
9095 S Saginaw #12
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
e-mail: gdennis@universalsys.com

Surname	First	Middle	Address	City	St/Pr	Zip	Country
Downes	Eileen	A.	213 East Hamtramck St.	Mount Vernon	OH	43050	USA
Eakin	Amy	Rae	1705 Benton	Garden City	KS	67846	USA
Emry	Pauline	Virginia	119 Riverview Drive	Edgewater	FL	32132	USA
Leighty	Mark		4201 West Perrier Drive	Skiatook	OK	74070	USA
Wintermute	Janet	Kay	815 W. William Avenue	North Platte	NE	69101	USA
Wintermute	Robert		77 Santa Isabel Road	Port Isabel	TX	78578	USA
Wintermute	Sandra	L.	927 Winterstone Drive	Lewisville	TX	75067	USA
Wintermute	Walter	J.	38 Maple Ave. P.O. Bx 354	Annandale	NJ	08801	USA
Wintermute	William	Joseph	527 Butlernut Ct.	New Hope	PA	18936	USA
Woeste	Stanley		1024 Braeburn Road	Charlotte	NC	28211	USA

Officers and Committee Chairmen for 2003-2005



President:

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

Vice President:

Carolyn (Sue) Wintermute Wilkie
P.O. Box 96
Prairie City, IA 50228
Phone (515) 994-2338
e-mail: swilkie11@aol.com

Secretary:

Carole Wintermute Birnie
314 East 15th Street
Hamilton, Ontario Canada L9A 4G5
Phone: (905) 515-3226
e-mail: rbirnie@mountaincable.net

Treasurer:

Leonard Noal Wintermute
PO Box 465
Elm Creek, NE 68836
Phone: (308) 856-4425
e-mail: lswintermute@nebi.com

Cemetery Committee Chairman:

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

Genealogy Committee Chairman:

Susan Theresa Meier, Chair
4974 Willow Vale Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758
Phone: (916) 684-5368
e-mail: Susan.M1215@aol.com

Committee Reports

Treasurer's 2003 Report — Leonard Wintermote, Treasurer

Sources of income were dues, life memberships, Heritage book sales, Cemetery Fund contributions and registration fees for the reunion. \$8,258

Expenses included newsletter/web site, cemetery restoration and reunion costs. (\$8,318)

Net 2003 (loss) (\$60)

The membership voted a dues increase at last years reunion. This should provide us with a positive cash flow in 2004. I want to offer a special thanks to all family members who faithfully support our organization. We could not exist without your help. I also wish to thank the family of our deceased past president, **Janice Wintermote Snyder** for their memorial contributions honoring her with a "Life Membership."

Cemetery Committee Report — Carole Birnie

For a few years now, we have been working with Neal Wintermute, Chairman of the Windemuth Cemetery Committee, the McAfee Cemetery in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada and Rigg Mooney Monuments. We are pleased to announce the Emigrator **GEORGE PHILIP WINDEMUTH'S Commemorative Stone is now in place!**

In November of 2003, I (Carole Wintermute Birnie, direct descendent of George Philip) got the call. It was installation day! My husband Roy and I headed off on the 3/4 hour drive to Fort Erie's McAfee Cemetery for the "ceremony". It was a cold day with a bitter wind, but we were thankful there was no snow. After waiting most of the morning by the roadside,



George Philip's commemorative stone at Fort Erie

the flat bed truck finally arrived.

As you may, or may not know, we have exhausted all sources, and yet have not been able to positively locate the gravesite of *George Philip* and his wife *Maria*. Therefore, (decided at the Reunion) the stone was placed beside George Philip's sons, Peter (died Dec. 1, 1838 - 87 years 4 months & 22 days) and Alex Wintermute (died July 4, 1849 (42 years 8 months) and his family in the older section of the McAfee Cemetery, Fort Erie.



Carole Birnie (right) setting stone with installer from Rigg Mooney

We would personally like to say a big "THANK YOU" to Marion Beaul, owner of the McAfee cemetery for allowing us to place the stone. Also thanks to Shirley and the staff of Rigg Mooney Monuments for being so helpful.

Contributions to the Windemuth Family Organization Cemetery Fund helped pay the expenses for this commemorative stone.

Visit our new web site at: www.windemuth.org

Why do I receive this newsletter?

From time to time, we receive correspondence asking "Why am I receiving this newsletter?"

The Windemuth newsletter is published twice a year; once to everyone on our mailing list and a second issue sent only to dues paying members of the Family Organization. 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 line.

The expense of postage and printing for each newsletter is more than \$600. 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 advise me by mail or e-mail.

Gene Winfield Dennis
9095 S. Saginaw #12
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
e-mail: gdennis@universalsys.com

Frankenmuth, Michigan Location of the 2005 Family Reunion

Plan now to attend the Windemuth



Frankenmuth provides a taste of our German heritage.

*Family Reunion in
Frankenmuth,
Michigan, USA,
August 10-12th,
2005.*

See pages 6 and 7 for details.

We're on the Web: www.windemuth.org

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Are your dues up to date?
Check the upper left corner
of the mailing label.**

July 2004

**Windemuth Family
Newsletter**