

George Francis Winter

It's been recorded by some historians that as early as 1766 George Francis Winter, who was one of the earliest settlers near the town of New Windsor, received an application from German colonists in Pennsylvania for land for the erection of a prospective Lutheran Church and for land for farming purposes. In addition, historians state that a log church was erected in 1772.

According to Mr. Charles H. Glatfelter author of "Pastors and People" which possibly has the most recent history of St. Luke's, and I quote, "Berks County Deed 7, p. 20, dated December 27, 1766, recites that George Frantz Winter and Judith, his wife, joined the other heirs of Deobald or Theobald Baum, late of Berks Co., Pa., in a transfer of the latter's property. The deed recites that George and Judith, Jacob and Margaret Baum, and Frederick and Eva Barbara Baum, all heirs of Deobald, are residents of Maryland".

Information from the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, states that a George Winter arrived in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1733. This information came from a book entitled "A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of Germans, Swiss, Dutch, French, and other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776". Depending upon his age upon arrival and if this is the same George Winter he would have been in the age range of his 50's up to 80's or 90's when he deeded the ground for the erection of the church.

The information could be added here that the only deed found was Frederick County Deed WR - 17, P. 271, dated September 17, 1798, wherein, "for and in consideration of the sum of seven shillings and six pence current money, and for the love and veneration, he feels himself to have for the true Worship of Almighty God", George Winter deeded to Jacob Haines, Conrad Brook, John Engleman, and Adam Swigart - and their heirs forever, all the parcel of land being part of a tract of land situate lying and being in the County - and State aforesaid - called - and known by the name of "Six in One". The deed went on the state that this was three quarters of an acre of land more or less in Trust for the use of the German Lutheran Church, according to the confession of faith made at Augsburg.

According to Mr. Glatfelter in "Pastors and People", the church property was completely surrounded by George Winter's land and the author found this to be true, in checking a map of land patents made by Dr. Arthur Tracey of the Historical Society of Carroll County. Most of the land lies between Clear Ridge and New Windsor. The Arthur Thompson, Jr. farm, the Frank Cave farm, and the Singer farm are a few examples of present day properties that were once owned by George Winter. According to Mr. Glatfelter in "Pastors and People", a deed dated January 22nd 1831, 230 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres were transferred from the estate of John Winter, to Samuel, Joseph, and Catherine Winter. This deed stated that excepted from the transfer was three-quarter acre "lot of ground laid out by direction of George Winter, deceased, for the use of a Lutheran Church and a School and grave yard" (Frederick County Deed JS - 36, page 36). This provides us with more proof that George Winter was instrumental in providing ground for our church.

From Rev. Frederick Weiser's translation of the German script records in the Parish Register, 1783-1884, George Franz Winter and Judith (his wife) were sponsors of the baptism of Susanna (birth date Feb. 19th 1782 - baptism date not given), and the parents were John and Elizabeth Winter. All information given does not tell much about the personal life of George Francis (Frantz) Winter, but it does prove that he was a prominent land owner.

The Winter name stands out in our church. Evidently, they were a large family and through the years most of them have died or moved away. Our pastor from 1849-1852 was Rev. John Winter, and we find such names as Isaac and Josiah Winter, who were trustees in the year 1904. In our records in 1912, Isaac Winter received payment of \$7.60 for boarding the hired hands while working at the cemetery fence. Board was \$1.00 per day, and meals were 10 cents a meal. Josiah Winter's name appears on a note at First National Bank of New Windsor, Maryland, along with Winfield S. Drach's for \$450.00 for Winter's Church, dated July 17th 1908. This money evidently was for the pavilion where the strawberry festivals and other social affairs were held. This gives us an idea when the pavilion was built. I have found no evidence that the total

cost of the pavilion was \$450.00. John Winter was a trustee in 1852. These papers are in the possession of St. Luke's (Winter's) Lutheran Church at this time.

There are other "Winter" names, such as Levi and Jesse. Moreover, let us not forget some of the ladies names, such as Judith, Catherine, Susanna, and Elizabeth. Hence the name St. Luke's (Winter's) Lutheran Church. However, I can find no evidence of when and how we were called, "St. Luke's". My theory is that the name "St. Luke's" was first used when our congregation was incorporated March 30th 1856, as in Article 1 of the Articles of Incorporation, Section 1, states, "The name of this congregation shall be St. Luke's (Winter's) Lutheran Church of New Windsor, Maryland". We have a copy of the "Articles of Incorporation" on display.

Pastors of St. Luke's (Winters) Lutheran Church

January 1st 1783	The Rev. Johann Daniel Schroeter
(unknown)	The Rev. John Grobp (or Grubb)
(unknown)	The Rev. Michael Wachter
(unknown)	The Rev. Reuben Weiser
1836-1842	The Rev. Ezra Keller
1842-1843	The Rev. Solomon Sentman
1843-1845	The Rev. Philip Willard (Westminster Charge)
1846-1849	The Rev. C. Riemensnyder
1849-1852	The Rev. John Winter
1853-1859	The Rev. Samuel Henry
1859-1863	The Rev. Jacob Martin
1863-1868	The Rev. H. C. Holloway
1868-1869	The Rev. P. A. Stroble
1870-1872	The Rev. John F. Diener (Uniontown Charge)
1873-1876	The Rev. G. W. Anderson
1876-1881	The Rev. D. B. Floyd
1882-1890	The Rev. W. S. Delp
1890-1893	The Rev. J. R. Williams
1893-1914	The Rev. G. W. Baughman
1914	The Rev. N. J. Gould Wichey (supply pastor)
1915-1918	The Rev. W. E. Saltzgeber
1919-1921	The Rev. B. E. Petrea

1921-1928	The Rev. J. Edw. Lowe
1928-1940	The Rev. M. L. Kroh
1940-1944	The Rev. Geo. E. Bowersox
1945-1948	The Rev. Charles Birx
1948-1949	The Rev. Andrew Theisz
1950-1957	The Rev. D. R. Warrenfeltz
1957-1960	The Rev. Joseph Callahan
1961-1962	The Rev. Seth S. Hester
1962-1974	The Rev. J. H. August Borleis
1974-1978	The Rev. Robert McEllroy
1978-1979	The Rev. James Davis (interim pastor)
1979-1982	The Rev. Peter Comings
1982-1983	The Rev. Lyle Peters (supply pastor)
1983-1987	The Rev. Richard Sebastian
1988-1997	The Rev. Darrell L. Layman
1997-1998	The Rev. Michael Adams (interim pastor)
1998-1999	The Rev. Richard Krebs (interim pastor)
1999-present	The Rev. Anne Rosenquist Durboraw

Celebration of 225 Years (1783-2008)

***"It is like a grain of mustard seed,
which a man took and sowed in his garden;
and it grew and became a large tree." (Luke: 13:19)***

For 225 years our church has stood like a mighty oak, strong and dependable. Therefore, it was appropriate that we planted a White Oak (a baby of the Maryland State tree, the Wye Oak) during the 1983 Arbor Day celebration. This Oak tree stands outside our church, as a symbol, taking over when the winds and aging processes catch up with the older trees. And so, it has been with our church. From the beginning of its existence, St. Luke's has always been known as a family church. The Winter family name is prominent in our records, especially during the first one hundred years. Many other family names are found repeatedly in the records, and in the cemetery next to the church. As with the Oak tree, we have branched out in many directions, with new "acorns" taking over when the time comes.

It is believed that some of the earliest settlers in New Windsor (Frederick County until 1837) worshipped in private homes and in groves long before St. Luke's was organized. Historians state that a log church was erected in 1772; however, the congregation was not organized until 1783 under the direct of The Rev. Johann Daniel Schroeter. This organization is documented in record books at the Gettysburg Seminary. The old parish register, dated 1783-1884, is still intact and kept at the Seminary due to its antiquity. On March 30, 1856 our church was incorporated under the name of St. Luke's (Winters) Lutheran Church.

Most of the first members (communicants) were German immigrants and the history records are recorded in old German, as are numerous tombstones standing today in our cemetery. At one time, both the German Reformed and the Lutherans used our church. It is believed that the church was probably served by the same itinerant preachers as the Taneytown charge and that we were also once part of the Westminster charge. In 1870, St. Luke's became part of the Uniontown Parish. This union lasted for one hundred and nine years until we decided to assume the responsibilities of having our own full-time pastor. At present, our very able pastor is the Rev. Anne Durboraw.

The current church building was erected in 1875. It has been remodeled several times, with the parish hall added in 1958. Over the years, many of the articles needed for our church were generously and lovingly donated by members and friends of St. Luke's.

We are, indeed, a true family!