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KORT MICHAEL WINDING, 1910-1982

A Danish Immigrant in Alberta, Canada

Michael Vinding, dr. phil.

Kurt Michael Winding was born 13. February 1910 in Denmark as son of Peter Michael Winding (PMW) and an unknown mother.¹ The parents never married, but PMW acknowledged paternity. Thus, Kurt got his father's surname (and middle name), and later, in 1960, in accordance with a codicil from 1939, after the death of his father's wife in 1958, inherited DKK 15,000 from his father's estate - a small fortune at that time.

In 1930, Kurt emigrated to Canada with support from his father. Kurt changed his first name to Kort. He settled in Ponoka in Central Alberta. In 1953, Kort moved 130 km south to Carstairs where he owned and managed a creamery. Reportedly, Kort was a master butter-maker and won several prizes in Alberta.

In Carstairs, Kort lived at The Manor, no. 18.

¹ For PMW, see M. Vinding 2001a, *Peter Michael Winding: En ung dansker i Argentina 1902-1908*, Slægtsforskernes Bibliotek (in Danish); and M. Vinding 2001b, *Kaffeplantagen*, Slægtsforskernes Bibliotek (in Danish).



Carstairs Creamery with Kort's Cadillac in front

It appears that Kort was married. The Canada Voters Lists 1962 mention a “Mrs Kort Winding” of Bow River, Alberta; Bow River is a federal electoral district of southern Alberta. She is also mentioned in the 1972 Voters Lists. In later life Kort lived alone. It is not clear whether Ms Kort Winding died before Kort – or whether they separated.

In his dairy, PMW writes that in [July or August?] 1937, he was visited by Ms Kofoed from Canada. Most likely, she was a friend of Kort and brought letters, messages and gifts from him to his family in Denmark; or was she – which appears less likely - Kort's fiancé and later wife?

In the late 1970's, Kort became close to Mrs May Smith of Ponaka, who had become a widow in 1975. Kort and May made several trips to Vancouver.

On 9 January 1982, 71-years old Kort died in Carstairs from a severe heart attack. The funeral was held at Carstairs in the Church of God which Kort had attended from time to time. He was later cremated.

According to Kort's last will, May Smith was the sole beneficiary – which indicates, that Kort had no children. May Smith died in 2013 aged 93 years.