

Sutter-Meyer Society
6826 Chamberlain Court
University City, MO 63130



Sutter-Meyer Society Newsletter

Winter 2014

Enriching the present by sharing the stories of our past

Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse News



Winter may find some hibernating, but it's been a very busy season at the Farmhouse. Thanks to a generous donation from Gargoyles Chapter 1322 of Missouri State Questers—and the extraordinary work of University City resident and master carpenter Jim Patterson—we have a brand-new back entrance (pictured above). The restoration work, which involved substantially renovating the exterior building structure and refinishing and refitting the door, would make the Sutters and Meyers proud.

In addition to the exterior entrance project, we also tackled the huge problems that a 141-year old limestone foundation basement can pose. Because of severe and continuing water damage, we were concerned about possible structural deterioration. The constant moisture also made it impossible to use basement space to display our historical and educational exhibits. Now, however, with the installation of a comprehensive drainage system by Woods Basement Systems (including floor drains, sump pumps, and ice shields), the water problem has been solved and a new usable area has opened up. The next time you visit, come see what an historic limestone basement looks like (for a preview, see the picture below).




The Big Divorce
Celebrating 250 Years of St. Louis History
by **Elsie Glickert, Member of the Sutter-Meyer Society Board of Directors**

When the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse was built in 1873, it was located in the City of St. Louis. Now it is in St. Louis County—and we're proud to celebrate it as the oldest house in University City. So what happened? No, the farmhouse didn't move. But when the city and county of St. Louis separated in 1877—an event remembered as the "big divorce"—the farmhouse found itself on the county side. Its address then was 6801 Old Plank Road. That later changed to 6805 Olive Street Road, and finally to 6826 Chamberlain Court.

Only two years after the farmhouse was built, William Sutter sold it to my grandfather, Roman Meyer. History does not reveal why the Sutters sold this well-built farmhouse so soon, but we do know that the United States was suffering a severe financial depression at that time.

My mother, Elsie Meyer, was born at the farmhouse in 1893. She often reminisced about walking from the house to the 1904 World's Fair, which was held in Forest Park. She also recalled sitting on the park's grassy hill watching a beautiful pageant about the founding of St. Louis (with the lagoon standing in for the Mississippi River). The Meyer family continued to live at the farmhouse until 1969, when the last member of my mother's generation died.

This year, we again celebrate the founding of St. Louis, which took place 250 years ago, in 1764. The Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, and was designated a University City Landmark in 1986. It is now owned by the City of University City and leased to the Sutter-Meyer Society, which is working to preserve it as an educational museum that showcases local history.

Help us keep the past alive! To donate, volunteer, or share ideas, contact us at:
Sutter-Meyer Society, 6826 Chamberlain Court, University City, MO 63130
Phone: 314-725-9094 Email: thepastlives@suttermeyer.org
Website: www.suttermeyer.org Follow us on Facebook 
Newsletter editor: Ginger Griffin, griffin.ginger@gmail.com

Remembering Richard Dockett

Our good friend Richard Dockett passed away in June 2013. In addition to being a founding member of the Sutter-Meyer Society and serving on our board of directors, Richard was president of the Roth Grove Neighborhood Association—"The Cradle of Civilization," as he used to call it. The Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse is part of that neighborhood. We miss Richard very much!

Coming Soon

The Farmhouse will open again in the spring for tours. And we'll be holding our Sutter-Meyer Society annual meeting in May. Watch for details!

Just a Reminder

Sutter-Meyer Society board meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse. All members are welcome to attend.

**Sutter-Meyer Society
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* Our newest board members—welcome!