



## Sutter-Meyer Society Newsletter

Winter 2021

Preserving and celebrating University City's oldest building/house  
Built in 1873 ▪ Located at 6826 Chamberlain Court

Sutter-Meyer Society ▪ PO Box 300285 ▪ University City, MO 63130

### Looking Toward a Better 2021

by Bonnie Tesson

We thank our friends for their continued support of the Sutter-Meyer Society during these difficult times. At this point, there are approximately 75 active friendships on our rolls. We had to close the house to tours and events in 2020 – but we look forward to inviting everyone back soon. During this past year, we have continued to hold board meetings outdoors and via Zoom. Some house projects have continued on a limited basis and more will happen in 2021. We wish you all safety, health, and hope for the end of this pandemic.

We'd like to share some of the history that makes the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse so special. In this issue, we focus on the history of the Sutter family, whose members built the farmhouse.



Headstones of  
John Sutter II  
and Ursula Sutter



John Sutter III

### Sutter Family History

The Sutter family began living in what is now University City over fifty years before the city was incorporated. John Sutter, his wife Barbara, and their children immigrated to the U.S. in 1831 from Baden, Germany. Their son John Sutter II and his wife Ursula established a local dairy farm and homestead in 1850. They had 11 children, 6 of whom died in childhood. Ursula died giving birth to the last child. John II later married Catherine Hartnagel and they had 3 additional children.

After John Sutter II died in 1867, the family sold the dairy farm and divided the land. One of John Sutter II's sons built the residence that we now know as the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse – although there are conflicting accounts about which son it was. Some family members believe that Edward Sutter built the house, while local historians think it was probably William Sutter. Edward Sutter briefly operated a dairy with his older brothers, John III and Michael.



Edward Sutter with  
wife Josephine

## (Sutter family history continued)

William Sutter sold the farmhouse to Roman Meyer in 1875, only about two years after it was built. But members of the Sutter family continued to live in the area.

John Sutter III (1840-1911), the eldest child of John II and Ursula Sutter, married Christina Preiss in 1865 and they had 7 children. John Sutter III became a justice of the peace, as well as a contractor for a stone quarry and a road overseer. A letter in the family's possession says he "lived in the Mount Olive House (S side of Olive, just east of North and South Road)," which served as the temporary county courthouse after St. Louis city and county separated.



John Henry Sutter IV

His son, John Henry Sutter IV (1871-1935), married Amelia Schuchman and they had 7 children. John IV worked at a rolling mill before graduating from the Physicians and Surgeons Medical School in 1903. He entered the general practice of medicine and surgery. John IV developed an extensive practice in North St. Louis and served on the staffs of Missouri Baptist and Deaconess Hospitals.

**Information for this article comes from *University City, Missouri: Its People and Events, 1906-1931*, by C. Edwin Murray and Ilene Kanfer Murray (with assistance from members of the Sutter family).**

### Tribute Donations

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If you are interested in volunteering at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse or have a construction service that could help us with our many needs, please contact Chris Blumenhorst at [thepastlives@suttermeyer.org](mailto:thepastlives@suttermeyer.org)

### Note from the President of the Sutter-Meyer Society by Christopher F. Blumenhorst

As I write this letter, the temperature outside hovers around zero degrees; I hope everyone is staying safe and warm. This letter is to provide an update to all the friends of the Sutter-Meyer Society. Currently, we are implementing a facility improvement and repair plan to address the integrity of the farmhouse. Weather permitting; tuckpointing will take place around the outside of the house. Also new flashing will be installed on the roof, as well as replacement windows for the back part of the house. Inside the house, historically correct repairs will be made to the fireplace in the parlor and spot plastering and painting will occur throughout the interior of the house. There will be additional improvements in and around the house this spring, as well as planning for long-term projects. Also, in the past months, the board rewrote and ratified the by-laws for the society and developed a plan to accept electronic payments for both memberships and donations.

We are sad to announce that, because of the pandemic, the board has decided not to hold any spring open house tours. We fully expect to be back in the tour business this coming fall. As part of reopening the house for tours, the board will host a friends' appreciation event. This will give the friends of the Sutter Meyer Society an opportunity to come and see the updates and repairs that have been made during the pandemic. Also, for us, this is a way to say thank you for your commitment and your continual support to the Sutter Meyer Farmhouse. On behalf of the board, we look forward to seeing you this coming fall. Stay safe and warm during this winter season.

### Sutter-Meyer Society Board of Directors

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