



# Sutter-Meyer Society Newsletter

Winter 2022

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

## Remembering Elsie Beck Glickert 1925-2022



Our good friend (and board member) Elsie Glickert died on January 28. She was a founding member of the Sutter-Meyer Society and played a leading role at every stage of our work.

## Elsie Was There from the Beginning by Carol Diaz-Granados

Before the Sutter-Meyer Society was even formed, we did archaeological excavations on the Farmhouse grounds, looking for remnants from the people who lived there long ago. Elsie took a definite interest in our work and the pieces of cultural materials we were finding. The four summers that my volunteers and I were working at excavating units around the Farmhouse, Elsie would often come by with lunch for the crew! She'd bring a pot of beans and franks, rolls, and butter in a big basket over her arm. It was always a welcome break from digging in the hot sun and much appreciated! The interesting things we found in our excavations, including the well and cistern, helped stir interest in starting a society that would preserve the Farmhouse and grounds for future generations.

## Elsie Loved the Heman Park Pool by Jen Jensen

Heman Park Pool was constructed in 1932 as an economic relief effort during the Great Depression (it was dug out by hand to maximize job creation). The pool, which was designed in a unique oval shape, has a deep end with diving boards and a shallow end for non-swimmers and for teaching lessons. A small baby pool is on the side. Elsie loved this pool! She was just 8 years old when it opened in 1933. She claims she was first in a long line of kids and adults that extended out along the sidewalk. She also told me that she went swimming every day that the pool was open, continuing until the pandemic showed up. Elsie had a great sense of humor. One afternoon at the pool a little boy asked her if she was the mother of the pool. She did not hesitate, answering "Yes I am!" And she was!



Elsie at the pool.  
Painting by University City artist  
Connie Mueller

## Open House at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse April 3, 2022, 2-4 pm

Dedicated to founding member Elsie Glickert. Special exhibits will be displayed honoring Elsie.

## Open House at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse May 8, 2022, 2-4 pm

Our Mother's Day Open House will offer a special gift to mothers and an artistic theme throughout the house, highlighting the visual arts.

## Open House at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse June 11, 2-4 pm

### A Summertime Past Home & Garden Tour

Held in cooperation with Historic St. Louis. We'll be one of 27 historic sites participating in this regional event. During the open house, we will host local authors speaking about their books.

## The Missing Cups Are Found! by Bonnie Tesson

Six hand-painted cups from Bavaria have been part of the parlor decorations at the Farmhouse since we completed the parlor décor in 2018. During Christmas decorating in 2019, we packed them away to avoid breakage during the holiday event. But in January 2020, after we put away the Christmas decorations, the cups were nowhere to be found. We were afraid that they had accidentally been thrown away with the recycling. In 2020, we didn't decorate due to the pandemic.



China cups, back in the parlor

In December 2021, we again brought out the Christmas decorations. At the bottom of one of the boxes, all wrapped in tissue paper, were the china cups! We were all relieved. Be sure to look for them the next time you visit the Farmhouse.

## Painted China Has a Special Place in the History of the Farmhouse by Bonnie Tesson

Elizabeth Elsie Meyer, born in 1893, was Elsie Glickert's mother. Elizabeth was the youngest daughter of Roman and Barbara Meyer and grew up in the Farmhouse. She painted the china pieces shown in these photos in 1916.



Elizabeth studied china painting at the Art Academy and Porcelain Works established by U City Founder E.G. Lewis. One of the teachers of china painting was Kathryn E. Cherry, a native St Louisan.

We are happy that these pieces remain as special heirlooms in the Glickert family. Many thanks to them for providing pictures of Elizabeth's work.

## Tribute Donations in Memory of Elsie Glickert

Thanks to the following donors who have contributed in memory of Elsie Glickert: Julie Beck ~ Mark & Patti Beck ~ Warren & Sharon Danzinger ~ Angela Doherty ~ Kay Drey ~ A. Maynard Engebretson ~ Betty Epstein ~ Joan Fiala ~ Mary Kay Beck French ~ Carolyn & Steven Glickert ~ Phyllis Glickert ~ Joan Gray ~ Mary Virginia Gray ~ Diana Hartnett ~ Richard Hinkle ~ Margaret Israel ~ Jen & Gary Jensen ~ Steve & Sandy Marsh ~ Joan McCormack ~ Bill & Mae Meyer ~ Frank & Jane Ollendorff ~ Questors ~ Donna Beck Smith ~ Bonnie & George Tesson

## Help us keep the past alive!

Email: [thepastlives@suttermeyer.org](mailto:thepastlives@suttermeyer.org)

Website: [www.suttermeyer.org](http://www.suttermeyer.org) ■ Follow us on Facebook 

Newsletter editor: Ginger Griffin [griffin.ginger@gmail.com](mailto:griffin.ginger@gmail.com)

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)

## Bringing Grandpa Meyer Home by Bill Meyer

Growing up next door to my grandparents, who lived in the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse at the time, I wondered: Who was the young man pictured in the formal portrait in the parlor? I was amazed when Grandma told me it was my Grandpa Edward Meyer as a young man (by then, he was in his late seventies). After Grandpa died, Grandma moved to Denver, and the portrait moved with her. But I always wondered what happened to the picture. Many years later, I discovered that Elsie's cousin Mary Jo had the portrait – but she wasn't giving it up. One Sunday during the summer, after mass at All Saints Church, I gently suggested to Elsie that she might be the person who could bring Grandpa home to the Farmhouse.

Months later, at our Sutter-Meyer Society Christmas party, I saw a Fed Ex box on which Elsie had written, "Do not touch or you will die." Elsie told me to open the box. Inside was the portrait of Grandpa. I was overcome by emotion, knowing that Grandpa had come back home after 45 years. Elsie just smiled.

## Sutter-Meyer Society Board of Directors

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## Sutter-Meyer Society Annual Board of Directors Meeting May 2, 2022, 7:00 PM

Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Center  
737 Kingsland, University City, Missouri

During the meeting, we will approve a new board of directors. Our guest speaker will be **Andrew Wool**. Mr. Wool is a 1987 graduate of University City High School. He is currently working on a documentary about the University City Hall searchlight. Mr. Wool will discuss the light's history and offer information on the documentary. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting.