



# Sutter-Meyer Society Newsletter

Autumn 2014

*Enriching the present by sharing the stories of our past*

**Holiday Open House  
at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse  
Saturday, December 6, 2014  
1 to 4 pm  
Free and Open to All**



**Sponsored by the Sutter-Meyer Society and Gargoyles Chapter #1322 of the MO State Questers (in the past the Questers have raised over \$4000.00 for projects such as restoring our original doors and repairing front porch posts).**

**The house will be decorated in festive Victorian style. Tea and cider will be served, along with cookies. Members of the Sutter-Meyer Society will be on hand to tell tales of holidays past at the oldest house in University City.**



**Gargoyles members are making small hand-decorated holiday trees to be sold at the open house, with all proceeds benefiting the preservation and restoration of the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse.**

**For further information,  
call Jen Jensen at 314-862-4569**

## Who Were the Sutters?

The Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse was built by William Sutter, who could trace his ancestry back to 14<sup>th</sup> century Germany. William's father, John Sutter II, was born in 1815 in Altenheim, Baden, Germany. As a teenager, John II immigrated to America with his parents and two brothers, Michael and Jacob. They sailed from Le Havre, France on a ship named the Hanover, landing in New Orleans on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1831. Traveling on the same ship was Ursula Anselm (also from Altenheim), who later became the wife of John Sutter II.

The Sutter family made their way to St. Louis, where they bought 9½ acres in the Common Fields, at a location later bounded by Cherokee, Utah, Kansas, and Louisiana Streets. They established a dairy farm, along with a milk depot located in the area where Busch Stadium now stands. Under the guidance of John II, the Sutter Dairy became one of the largest and most successful dairies in the Midwest.

John Sutter II married Ursula Anselm on March 11, 1839. By 1840, the couple were living in Bonhomme Township, where he built a house known as "The Homestead." One of the first brick houses to be constructed in what is now University City, it was located just north and west of the former Sutter Avenue Presbyterian Church. The house was destroyed by fire on December 8, 1894.

John II and Ursula Sutter had 11 children, six of whom died in infancy. William, their fifth child, was born on January 10, 1846. William married Julia Broking in September 1869.

(continued on reverse side)

### (Who Were the Sutters? Continued)

William and Julia Sutter built what is now known as the Sutter-Meyer House in 1873, on an 8.33 acre tract of land inherited from William's father. In 1875, the Sutters sold their house and property to Roman Meyer, another German immigrant.

One of our Sutter-Meyer Society board members, Joe Clooney, is a great, great, great grandson of John II and Ursula Sutter. Joe has lived in University City all his life.



### Sutter Tombstones

If you've toured the Sutter-Meyer House, you may have seen the two tombstones on the north side of the garage (near the cannas). These are the original tombstones of John II and Ursula Sutter, the parents of William Sutter, who built the house. Ursula died in childbirth in 1856; John died of cholera in 1867. Both were buried at Salem Methodist Cemetery, later moved to St. Paul's E. & R. Cemetery on Olive Street Road.

After another expansion on Olive Street Road, the tombstones were removed and given to a family member in University Hills, who donated them to the Sutter-Meyer Society for placement on the farmhouse property (see picture at left).

Help us keep the past alive! To donate, volunteer, or share ideas, contact us at  
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### Welcome Back, Iris!

The iris plant pictured here arrived on a slow boat from Germany in 1914 – 100 years ago. It was a condolence gift to the University City family of Roman Meyer, who had died in May 1913. Barbara Meyer, his widow, and their daughter, Elsie, traveled to Germany to visit Roman's family in Baden-Baden and share the news of his death (no cell phones 100 years ago.) The iris was to be planted on the Meyers' farm (now known as the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse) in Roman's memory.

The iris has been propagating and blooming on the Meyer farm since that time. In 1968, Elsie Beck Glickert (Roman and Barbara's granddaughter) received several tubers from her Uncle Edward Meyer, who had been living on the farm since Roman's death. He said, "Your grandmother and mother brought this iris from Germany in 1914 and you should have a clump." Subsequently, it has been propagating in Elsie's yard at 6712 Etzel, which was the northern boundary of the original farm. And now, 100 years after its arrival from Germany, the iris has returned to its original location at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse. Look for the beautiful, slender leaf and the white flower, which blooms in mid to late May.



### Sutter-Meyer Society Board of Directors

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