



Sutter-Meyer Society Newsletter

Autumn 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

Open Houses at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse For all ages – Free

Open from 2 to 4 pm on the following dates:

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Sunday, October 24, 2021

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Sunday, November 28, 2021



Roman Meyer and his daughter Elizabeth (holding the family cat) at the south end of the Farmhouse



Four generations:
Barbara Meyer (seated) with her son Edward, his daughter Norma, and Norma's daughter Mary Jo

Meyer Family History

We've been sharing some of the history that makes the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse so special. Last time, we discussed the Sutter family, whose members built the Farmhouse. In this issue, we focus on the Meyer family, who occupied it during most of the time it served as a single-family home.

Roman Meyer bought the house and land for \$7,500 in 1875, only two years after the Farmhouse was built. (Roman Meyer, an immigrant from Baden, Germany, was born in 1847, the son of Jacob Meier.) Two weeks after buying the Farmhouse, Roman Meyer married Maria Jocks and they began living at the Farmhouse (the address then was 6805 Olive Street Road). Maria already had one son of her own, and together the couple had three more children.

After Maria's death in childbirth, Roman Meyer married Barbara Ebner and they had four additional children: Edward (born in 1883), Ida (born in 1886), Bertha (born in 1887), and Elizabeth (born in 1893).

Roman Meyer did not continue the Sutter dairy-farming business. Instead, he worked as a truck farmer, growing produce and transporting it into St. Louis for sale (his livestock consisted of chickens housed in a coop behind the Farmhouse). Roman Meyer was also a philanthropist. In 1893, he played an instrumental role as a founding parishioner of St. Barbara's Catholic Church (which later became St. Augustine's).

The children of Roman Meyer attended a German school, where they were taught in both English and German. During this era, people were encouraged to create time capsules – and several reportedly were buried on the Farmhouse property (we hope to find them someday.)



Headstone of Roman & Barbara Meyer

(Meyer family history continued)



Edward Meyer

Roman Meyer died in 1913 and his wife Barbara died in 1936. Roman and Barbara's son, Edward Meyer (who had been born in the Farmhouse), inherited the house and the land surrounding it.

Edward Meyer was married to Bertha Ruff. Along with their daughter, Norma, they moved into the Farmhouse after their father's death. Their second child, Kenneth, was born in the Farmhouse.

Edward Meyer was a truck farmer, gardener, and entrepreneur who sold watermelons by the slice on hot summer days (his stand was located at Olive Street Road and Ferguson Avenue). He also sold colorful, decorated Christmas trees. At some point, Edward was challenged to grow his own cotton – and he did. He also had a beloved horse named Nelly.



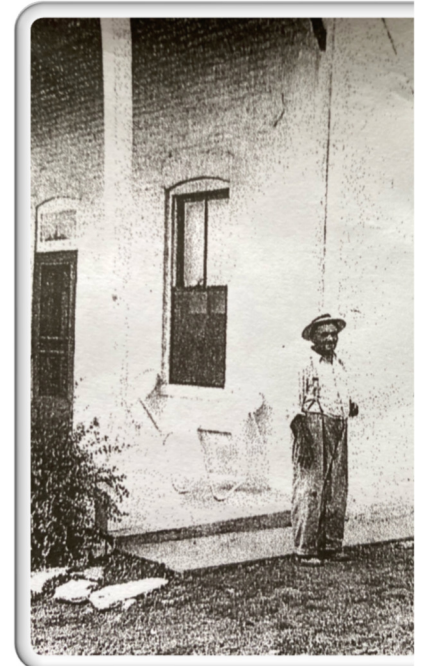
Edward Meyer with his horse Nelly

During the time Edward and Bertha Meyer were living in the Farmhouse, their son Kenneth Meyer installed electricity and plumbing to the house and updated the heating from stoves and fireplaces to natural gas.

Kenneth also built a house on the property next door to the Farmhouse, where he and his wife Rosemary raised their four children (Ken, Bob, Bill, and Mary Ann).

In 1959, Edward Meyer sold the property that housed the truck farm and Christmas tree business, but still maintained a vegetable garden for the family.

Edward and Bertha Meyer continued to reside in the Farmhouse until Edward's death in 1969. Bertha then moved to Colorado to be near her daughter. This ended 94 years of Meyer family residence at the Farmhouse.



Edward Meyer by the Farmhouse porch

After Bertha Meyer moved away, the Farmhouse had several different owners.

In 1982, the Farmhouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in 1986 it was designated a University City landmark.



Cotton grown by Edward Meyer

In 2005, the City of University City purchased the Farmhouse, giving the Sutter-Meyer Society a long-term lease to manage and maintain the property.

Thanks to then-councilwomen Shelley Welsch, Francine Brungardt, and Stephany Brot, the Farmhouse now belongs to all of us.



Michael Sutter, Elsie Glickert, John Sutter, and Joe Clooney

Today, five descendants of the Sutter and Meyer families serve on the Sutter-Meyer Society Board of Directors, working to preserve and maintain the oldest house in University City:

- Joe Clooney (a Sutter descendant)
- Elsie Beck Glickert (granddaughter of Roman and Barbara Meyer)
- Bob Meyer, Bill Meyer, and Mary Ann Meyer Wagner (great grandchildren of Roman and Barbara Meyer).



Elsie Glickert at the Farmhouse

New Trees!

By Bonnie Tesson

As University City looks forward to a plan for visioning the city in 2040, it seems appropriate that the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse does the same. Thus, we have been busy planting new trees. University City Forester Jacob Kaiser brought a beautiful young serviceberry tree to the property (see a picture of the tree at right, surrounded by flowers).

If you are not familiar with this tree, the downy serviceberry is a tall shrub (or small tree) found throughout Missouri in open or rocky woods. The showy white flowers are among the first of the early spring trees and shrubs to bloom. The striking flowers – along with the purplish, often sweet berries, and the brilliant fall color – make the serviceberry an attractive landscaping tree.



Earlier in the spring, George Tesson planted three redbud trees that he had cultivated in the backyard for a couple years (see a picture of one the trees at left).

This lovely native Missouri tree is often seen flowering in the woods in early spring. The redbuds are doing well and should add interest to the Farmhouse yard. Many Missourians will be familiar with this popular tree.

The last trees we planted were five baby black walnut trees (see picture at right). This native Missouri tree has been over-harvested for its lumber.

If all goes well, we should have a small grove of black walnuts by around 2040 (this was the vision of our forester).



Ongoing Maintenance and Repairs

When you're maintaining a farmhouse that's almost 150 years old, the work is never done. Which is why we're so grateful to all the board members and volunteers who donate their time and effort.

Special thanks to board members Chris Blumenhorst, Jim Adams, and Bob and Bill Meyer, along with volunteers Steve Moore and Jim Duncan, for their work tuckpointing the outside of the house, repairing the large hole in the upstairs bedroom, plastering and painting the walls in the parlor and dining rooms, repairing the fireplace hearth, painting the garage doors, repairing the broken garage door, cleaning up the garage and sorting through more than 10 years of "stuff," and repairing the ramp leading up to the porch.

This is just a short list of the projects these members and volunteers have been doing to keep our Farmhouse in good shape. And they do it all at no charge.

Their work is helping us make sure the Farmhouse is stable and still standing for years to come!




Recent tuckpointing work at the Farmhouse

Tribute & Memorial Donations

- Ingrid & Wilhelm Neufeind ~ In honor of Jen Jensen
- Gargoyles Chapter of the Questers and the Steve Glickert family ~ In honor of Elsie Glickert's birthday
- Elsie Glickert ~ In honor of Bill and Bob Meyer
- Jeanne Underwood ~ In honor of Bonnie Tesson
- Elsie Glickert and Jen Jensen ~ In Memory of Thomas McCormack

Help us keep the past alive!

Email: thepastlives@suttermeyer.org
Website: www.suttermeyer.org ■ Follow us on Facebook 
Newsletter editor: Ginger Griffin 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

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

Hello friends of the Sutter-Meyer Society! Thank you for your continued support of the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse. We are fortunate that those who began working over 20 years ago to found the Society, and who served as early board members, saw the importance of preserving this old farmhouse. Without them, we could not have begun this project. Now we are looking forward to the next 20 years!

I want to take this opportunity to give a big thank-you to board members Bill and Bob Meyer for their ongoing repair and plaster work at the Farmhouse, to Jim Adams for so much work of all kinds, to Bonnie Tesson for gardening work, and to Carol Diaz-Granados for her work on the parlor.

I also want to thank a few non-board member volunteers:

- Linda Fried and the butterfly gardeners for keeping our gardens so beautiful
- Steve Moore for his continual work on the outside of the Farmhouse
- Jim Duncan for plaster work and hearth repair
- Lexine Pranschke for gardening
- George Tesson for tree planting

With the support of our volunteers and board members, we're showing that is a community effort to preserve our past.

Sutter-Meyer Society Board of Directors

Chris Blumenhorst
President
Esley Hamilton
Vice President
Bill Meyer
Treasurer
Pat McCauley
Recording Secretary
Bonnie Tesson
Corresponding Secretary

Jim Adams
Susan Armstrong
Steve Aroesty
Joe Clooney
Dr. Carol Diaz-Granados
Elsie Glickert
Jen Jensen
Janet Kneller
Irv Logan
Brigid McCauley
Bob Meyer
Mary Ann Wagner
Ex Officio:
Joan McCormack