

Heading: **GODFREY SUTTER** from THE HISTORY OF OTTAWA COUNTY "OHIO AND ITS FAMILIES"
Published by OTTAWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1985
282 pages -- submitted by Mildred M. nee Danklefsen Walmsley

The Rev. Godfrey Sutter, (1829-1912), son of Johann Jakob Sutter, Bretzwil, Canton of Basel, Switzerland and Barbara nee Schneider of Reigoldsvil, Canton of Basel. The family left Europe for New York on the sailing vessel "Attica" in 1839., a voyage of 50 days. Buried at sea the eldest daughter; her death after twelve hours of illness.

The family settled in New Basel, Fairfield County. After Godfrey's father's death in 1844, they moved to a farm in Putnam County. Godfrey became a carpenter, an expert rail-splitter.

Following his brother, Johan,, in the ministry, he enrolled in Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Capital University, Columbus, 1859. Graduating in June and ordained four years later; in August married Mary Magdalene Reiff.

Born in 1846 in Wurttemberg, Bavaria, daughter of George Frederic Reiff and Johanna Regina Veyl. Emigrating in 1849 they settled near Lancaster, Fairfield County; later to Columbus. Godfrey's first two parishes were near Leipsic, Putnam County; taught in Dutch Settlement School District. Shortly after their first child, William Henry (1864-1930) was born, Godfrey received the call to Wapakoneta, Auglaize County. Born there: Amelia Agnes (1866-1961) and (Mary Veronica) Fanny (1867-1947). Leaving the urban parish, he chose to accept a rural one nearby. There Anna Christine (1869-1895) was born.

After eight years Godfrey accepted a call, 1871, Woodland, Drake County. In their seven years serving the Woodland congregation; three children: (Margaret Elizabeth (1871-1945), (John) Henry August (1874-1951), Christina Wilhelmina Louisa (1877-1955). Leaving the happy years in Woodland, the family moved to Fireside, Seneca County, where his brother, The Rev. John Jacob, left to accept a parish in Marion, Ohio. Godfrey served four churches. Born, the three youngest: Emma Magdalene (1879-1976). Paul Raymond (1881-1959). (He served in the U.S. Navy during the Spanish-American War), and (Catherine) Katie (1889-1943).

In 1885 Godfrey and family moved to a rural parish in Allen County near Fort Wayne, Ind. Three years later the Sutter family returned to Ohio to accept a newly organized parish, Briceton, Paulding County. As the last agricultural frontier in Ohio, the area was being cleared of dense hardwood forest, the Black Swamp, and drained for prosperous agriculture. When the Nickel Plate Railroad was built through Briceton, the pioneer village was organized in 1882. Godfrey became the first resident pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church; built by its members (1887-1888) for an "out-of-pocket" cost of \$400. The Sutter family purchased 25 acres of woodland, cleared by church members and the pastor for the family farm. The parsonage, built by son-in-law, George Kronmiller, had two front rooms; one being the classroom where Godfrey taught children of church members in both German and English.

During his ministry he married his nine children; the youngest lived at home. (Married names of daughters and long-time residence each): William, Fort Wayne; Amelia Kinsel, Oak Harbor; Fanny Kronmiller, Fort Wayne; Anna Helle, Briceton; Elizabeth Paysen, Payne, Paulding County; Henry, Oak Harbor; Louisa Zeigler, Grass Lake, Michigan; Emma Danklefsen, Bellevue; Paul, Kalamazoo; Katie, Oak Harbor.

Four years after Godfrey's retirement, 1907, they moved to Oak Harbor, soon afterward on Walnut, same street as daughter, Amelia Kinsel, and son, Henry. Godfrey was known for his sharp intellect, wit and dry humor; his spouse, gentle and demure. They gave to their large family, their descendants, also, a staunch sense of responsibility, to labor willingly, to accomplish; to live the Christian ethic of diligence and forthrightness.

In 1912 Godfrey departed from this world at the age of 84. His widow, Mary and youngest daughter continued to reside in their home until Mary's death, 96, (1943). Grandmother Mary's pastor, the late Rev. Benjamin Franklin Brandt of St. John's Lutheran Church, Oak Harbor, summarized in her obituary a fitting response of her life. "...She was a faithful member of our church and of Lutheran's Aid Society; attending divine services regularly; frequent guest at the Lord's Supper.. She was little in stature but not in spirit. She set an example of an upright Christian life to members of her family, to members of the congregation, to the people outside the church." Godfrey and Mary are buried in Oak Harbor Cemetery as are descendants who had lived in Oak Harbor.

Descendants of the Rev. Godfrey and Mary Sutter: Five generations: One of America's large living families: 456 Deceased: 53

FORMER CLYDE MINISTER DIES

Funeral of the Rev. Godfrey Sutter at Oak Harbor Thursday afternoon was largely attended. The services at the house were conducted by Rev. Geo. Dillman, of Fostoria, at the St. John's Lutheran church, by the pastor, Rev. O. M. Bartz, Rev. C. H. Althoff preaching the funeral sermon in German and Rev. W. A. Bowman the English discourse. At the grave Rev. O. Lljje and Rev. E. Eckhoff officiated. The following brief sketch of Rev. Sutter was read by Rev. Bartz at the close of the service in the church.

Rev. Godfrey Sutter was born September 9, 1829, in Bretzwell, Canton Basel, Switzerland. In 1839 he came with his parents to America and a few weeks spent in New York, came to Basel, Fairfield county, O. nine years later located near Leipsic, Putnam county. After attending the public schools and high school at Tiffin, engaged in teaching. Having an inclination to study literature and theology he entered the Capital University at Columbus, in the year 1859, and finished the theological course in the year 1863. After his ordination at St. Marys, O., he began labor in his first charge at Lima, O.

His second charge was a Leipsic, then in the year 1865 he located at Wapakoneta, his next charge was at Willow Dell from 1871 to 1877 and in 1885 he moved from Clyde to the vicinity of Fort Wayne, Ind. Then in 1888 he moved to Briceton, O., and serviced in his last charge twenty-one years. in all forty-six years. He was a faithful pastor and led a plain and simple life. He was an earnest preacher and successful pastor. For the past few years he lived a retired life at Oak Harbor and spent his later day in reading and profitable contemplation. Shortly after entering the ministry he entered the marriage state with Miss Mary Reiff, who together with three sons, six daughters, thirty-seven grandchildren and other relatives mourn over his departure. Among those relatives are Rev. H. G. Sutter of Norwalk and Frank Knapp of Bellevue.

Thus another faithful pastor has finished his labors on earth and gone to that heavenly peace and rest.

Pastor of a Lutheran Church, Lima, Allen Co., OH 1863-18__.
Pastor of a Lutheran Church, Leipsic, Putnam Co., OH 18__-18__. Pastor of a Lutheran Church, Wapakoneta, Auglaize Co., 1865-1871. Pastor of a Lutheran Church, Willow Dell, Darke Co. , OH 1871-1877. Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran, Clyde, Sandusky Co.; Adams Lutheran, Adams Twp., Seneca Co.; Fireside Lutheran, Thompson Twp., Seneca Co. 1877-1885. Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran, Lyme Twp, Bellevue OH 1882-1885. Pastor of a Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Allen Co., IN from 1885-1888. Pastor of St. John Lutheran, Briceton, Paulding Co., OH from 1888-1909. Mary: