



Mary Reiff Sutter ~ 90th Birthday
Amelia Kinsel, Emma Danklefsen, Paul & Henry Sutter, Lizzie Paysen,
Louise Ziegler, Fannie Kronmiller ~ July 1936



**Mary Reiff Sutter was 90 on June 29. 1936
Burton twins in bottom row. Don and Ralph 6th and 7th to the right of the twins**

My Autobiography

Mary Reiff Sutter 1923 as told to Anna Sutter Helle's daughter.

I was born in the year 1846 on the 29 of June in Wurtemberg Germany. In my Baptism I received the name Mary Magdalene. My Father's name was George Fredric Reiff. My Mother's Maiden name was Johanna Regina Veyl.

In 1849 my Parents came to this Country, they landed at Lancaster Ohio. The Family consisted of Father, Mother, and 4 Children, 2 Brothers and one Sister having died in Infancy. I was the youngest of them all. My Father was a Blacksmith, a few Months after we came to Lancaster Father bought a 2 acre Lot in the Country with a Smithy on it.

I do not remember how many years we lived there until my Father had an awful Accident happen to his right Eye. He was laid up for 5 months then the Doctor's said that he had to give up his trade. So my Parents bought a small farm of 35 acres. (it was such a nice place) Mother and I tended Market. One evening he was splitting kindling, a Splinter flew in his left Eye; we had to lead him into the House; he was altogether blind for 3 weeks, but after a while, he got so that he could see to get around, but could not do any farming anymore.

My Parents then sold the Farm and moved to Columbus. I was then nearly 14 years old. As my Father could not do anything else but saw Wood with the Bucksaw he could not earn very much so I got a place to work for 75 cents a week and board. It was a heard task for me to get accustomed to housework in the City. I had not done much housework at home on the farm in Summer. I would help father and in winter I went to School; had a mile and a half to go through the Woods.

In 1860 when the Civil War was going on my oldest Sister and I worked in a large Shop where they made Soldiers Clothes. I worked through the winter at that place as the work was too hard there. I got a place as Nurse-girl for one Child in a wealthy family for a 1 Dollar a week in the year 1862. In the same year July 19 my Father died suddenly.

He fell from a Haywagon and was dead in a short time. I stayed with Mother a while then in the Winter I went back to my old Place as Nursegirl from 62-63. I stayed till Spring, then I got a place a little nearer home to do housework that was then my last place where I worked out before I got married.

It was only a few weeks before my Father died, when I became acquainted with Godfrey Sutter, your Grandfather. He had taken me to a commencement the year before, from then on our courtship started. He was to study one more year until June 63.

He was then ordained as a Lutheran Minister of the Gospel. (I made a mistake) He was ordained in 62. He got a call as Vicar in the Neighborhood of Lima. On the 11 of August 1863, we were married by Professor Lehman in the house of Rev. Schulze who was a good friend of Godfrey.

We had a nice little Wedding--A few friends of Godfrey's and my Mother and oldest Sister with her 3 Children were present. The next morning at 5 o'clock I took leave of Mother and Sister--the train took us to Leipsic Putnam Co O. where Godfrey's Mother and Brothers lived on a farm.

There it seemed almost like a new world to me, but I soon got accustomed to the Life, got to be very happy.

Godfrey had taken charge of 2 small Congregations near Leipsic. In the Winter from 63-64 Godfrey got a District School in the so called Dutch Settlement then we moved for the first time into an old Log Shanty, but we were happy. Godfrey's Mother and Brother provided us from time to time with Eateables. When School was out in the Spring, we moved 2 miles west of Leipsic in a one room house, we had a Garden there and we kept Chickens. There your Uncle Will was born on the 13 of September 1864. In the year of 65 Godfrey got a call from a Congregation in Wapakoneta. We moved in Oct. Soon after we had been there Willie became very sick of Inflammation of the Bowels but God was gracious and spared his life and he got well.

On the 26 of Feb. 1866 your Aunt Amelia was born. She was a tiny Baby but had a good voice.

In the course of one year and 9 months your Aunt Fannie was born on the 23 of Nov. She and Amelia were the only ones that were born in town.

When Fannie was 4 weeks old a few days before Christmas we moved 10 miles in the Country into a house with only one plastered room and one that was not. The Congregation in Wapakoneta was to build a new Church but they wanted a Union Church that meant Lutheran and Reformed, but my Husband refused to serve such a one, and resigned; then the People in the Country called him. It was rather gloomy in those days for I could not go to Church on account of the Children. I could not leave them and to take them was too far to walk. On the 27 Nov. in 1869 your Mother was born she was a very smart Child when she was 9 months old she could push the chairs around and walk after them. We had moved then in the Summer into another house a few miles down the road and that was a Swampy Country; about the month of August the Children did not feel so well, Annie was the first one that took sick. She got the Ague every day

at the same hour. She got so weak she could not stand any more.

Then the other Children got Ague every other day, and last of all your Grandfather got Bilious fever. It was a trying time. I was the only one that was well, and surely it was God's grace that I was not taken down sick, for there were no shade trees, the Sun could beat down on the house, or rather Stable and there was no Well on the place. We had to carry the water through a big field, but God did not forsake us. Your Grandpa wrote to his Brother how matters were and he bade us to come to their home and so we did.

It was on the 25 of Sept. 1870. We just took the Bedding and our Clothes, left the Furniture there; we were so glad to get out of that place, we felt as though we came out of Prison.

Your Grandpa was well again and Willie and Amelia soon got better in Putnam Co. without any Medicine, but with Fannie and Annie it was different. The Ague had gotten such a hold on them. Uncle Henry told us there were good Homeopathic Doctors in Findlay so we took the Children there, we had given them of our Homeopathic Medicine but it was not the right kind.

In the course of a few weeks they were almost well. From the 25 of September until the 14 of Feb. we lived at Uncle Henry's. During that time your Grandpa got a call from a Congregation in Woodland Darke Co. O. Feb the 14 we moved there.

We were real happy there. They were good People; we lived in their midst over 7 years. Lizzie, Henry, Louisa were born there.

We did not like to leave there. Alas! there are always changes in this world. Pap's oldest Brother Jacob who also was a Minister had a charge of 4 Congregations in Seneca Co. wanted to move to Marion O. He wanted your grandpa to become his Successor but he did not like to do it he finally agreed but it was no good move, it was a very hard charge, because the Churches were so far apart and such bad roads, and no People like we had in Woodland. The Salary was small too did not reach for our support. Emma, Paul and Katie were born there.

In 1885, Papa received a call from a Congregation in Indiana 7 miles northwest of Ft. Wayne in Lake Township, through Rev. Helle who wrote to Papa that he should accept it. So once more we packed up and on the 13 of May the same year, we came there. We had to stay all night by the Members; of course they divided us, as there were too many of us to stay with one Family.

It was a nice place church and Parsonage, and Schoolhouse in one Lot. We lived there 3 years. In the last year there were difficulties arising on account of the German and English the latter wanted more English. preaching and the Germans would not consent to it.

They could not agree, although there were fully as many English members as Germans. Papa wrote to Rev. Helle, (He was President of the North District, then) and told him how things were.

Now there was a Mission place at Briceton, O.; the ministers of the Conference were preaching to those People by turns. Rev. Helle had been there too; he wrote to Papa he should go there and preach for them, so he went, (they had the Meetings in the Public Schoolhouse) I think it was then He organized that Congregation and the Cornerstone was laid I don't remember when the Church was dedicated it was when we lived in Indiana yet.

Before we moved to Briceton your Grandfather bought 25 acres of Ralph Magee half a mile from Briceton the House that was on it was occupied, we had to move in a 2 room Shanty near the Factory.

There we lived from June till the fore part of Oct. until George Kronmiller Fannies man had our House built. Will and Fannie had been married whilst we lived in Indiana.

Amelia, Annie, Lizzie, Louisa, Henry, Emma, Paul and Katie were at home yet. Henry got work in the Factory right away. The Place did not look like it did when you saw it. There it was where Papa worked to get the Land clear; the Men of the Congregation would come many an evening after their day's work was done in the Factory and help clear up the place.

Your Mother was the first one that got married in Briceton. I do not know anymore in what (1888) year.

After living almost 22 years near Briceton we moved to Oak Harbor, your Grandpa had resigned, he was not able to preach anymore.

Now I will write about his Life as much as I know from hearing him say it to me. He was born in the year 1829 on the 9 of September in Switzerland Canton Basil. In 1839 his Parents came to this Country.

They landed at New Philadelphia then they moved to New Basil in Fairfield Co. There his Father died. His oldest Brother and Sister had stayed in New York the other sister and two brothers were with the mother. I forgot in what year they moved to Putnam Co.

In the backwoods, they endured a great many hardships there your Grandpa was not yet 18 years old; 2 brothers Henry and Daniel were both younger. He had to take a good deal of responsibility upon him. They got the land clear in the course of years by working very hard.

They lived on Cornbread for 2 years. Then after the farm was in such a condition that his younger brothers could manage it he resolved to study for the Ministry but his oldest brother induced him to it.

He was then 29 years old when he went to Columbus. He was too old to take a College course so he started in the Seminary.

As I have already mentioned He was Ordained as a Minister of the Gospel in 1862. In the time of his Ministry he had a many a hard road to go and many a struggle to go through.

On the 11th of this month August in the evening it was 60 years that we were married. On the day before he died it was 49 years since our marriage.

Sept. 24 1923

There were 48 Grandchildren (50 in 1920) born, but there are some dead, Will had 1 Son dead, Louisa 1 Son, Lizzie 1 Son, Annie 1 Daughter.

Greatgrandchildren are 15 living and 5 are dead. 3 of Goldie's, one of Gertrude's and 1 of Albert Zieglers. I do not know anymore what Goldie's Children all were Boys or Girls. Gertrudes child was a girl. Albert Z. was a boy.

Birth: Jun. 2, 1846, Germany

Death: Jan. 14, 1943
Oak Harbor
Ottawa County
Ohio, USA

Married August 11, 1863 at Columbus, Ohio to Rev. Godfrey Sutter.

Mrs. Mary Magdalene Sutter, nee Reiff, widow of the sainted Pastor Godfrey Sutter, was born in Wuerttemberg, Germany, Jun 29, 1846. At the time of her death, she was the oldest member of our congregation having reached the advanced age of 96 years, six months, and fifteen days. In early childhood she was brought to the Lord in holy baptism. The family settled in Fairfield County, Ohio. From there they moved to Columbus, Ohio. After due instruction in the doctrines and duties of the Christian religion on the basis of God's Word, she became a member of the Lutheran Church at the customary age through the sacred rite of confirmation.

In 1863, while living in Columbus, Ohio, she entered the holy estate of matrimony with Rev. Godfrey Sutter. To this union ten children were born two of whom, one son and one daughter, preceded her in death.

Rev. Sutter held pastorates in various places, his last charge being in Briceton, Ohio, where he served for 21 years. In 1910 they moved to Oak Harbor, becoming members of the local St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. August 12, 1912, Rev. Sutter was called out of this world to the rest which remaineth to God's people, since which time Mrs. Sutter and Catherine lived alone.

Mrs. Sutter was a faithful member of our church and of the Ladies Aid Society of the same. During the days of her health she attended divine services regularly and was a frequent guest at the Lord's table. When she was no longer able to attend the services in God's house she deplored it very much for while she had her devotional services at home she longed to take part in the public services, desiring to hear God's Word and worship with the congregation. She was little in stature but not in spirit. She set the example of an upright Christian life to the members of the congregation and to the people outside of the church.

It was granted to her to enjoy remarkably good health up to the last year of her life. During the past year her health began to fail and on the last day of December she took to her bed, gradually becoming weaker until the 14th day of this month. During the entire time she was confined to her home she was tenderly cared for especially by her daughter, Mrs. Amelia Kinsel.

Mother of 10.

Family links:

Spouse:

Godfrey Sutter (1829 - 1912)

Children:

William H. Sutter (1864 - 1930)*

Amelia Agnes *Sutter* Kinsel (1866 - 1961)*

Mary Veronica *Sutter* Kronmiller (1867 - 1947)*

Anna Christina *Sutter* Helle (1869 - 1895)*

Margaret Elizabeth *Sutter* Paysen (1871 - 1945)*

John Henry August Sutter (1874 - 1951)*

Louise *Sutter* Ziegler (1877 - 1955)*

Emma Magdaline *Sutter* Danklefsen (1879 - 1976)*

Paul F Sutter (1881 - 1969)*

Katharine Sutter (1883 - 1943)*

[*Calculated relationship](#)

Burial:

[Oak Harbor Union Cemetery](#)

Oak Harbor

Ottawa County

Ohio, USA

Taken from the Oak Harbor Newspaper 01-15-1943

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was a frequent guest at the Lord's table. When she was no longer able to attend the service in God's house she deplored so very much for while she had the devotional services at home she longed to take part in the public service, desiring to hear God's Word and worship with the congregation. She was little in stature but not in spirit. She set the example of an upright Christian life to the members of her own family, to the members of the congregation and to the people outside of the church.

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She leaves to mourn her departure **124 descendants**, namely two sons, Henry, of Oak Harbor and Paul, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; six daughters, Mrs. Amelia Kinsel, Oak Harbor, Mrs. Veronica Kronmiller, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Mrs. Elizabeth Paysen, Rockford, Ohio; Mrs. Louise Ziegler, Manchester, Mich.; Mrs. Emma Danklefsen, Bellevue, Ohio; and Catherine Sutter at home, 43 grandchildren, 6 great grand children and twelve great-grand grand children. May God comfort them and direct their hearts to the things which are above.

The funeral services was held Monday afternoon at the St. John's Lutheran Church with Rev. B. F. Brandt officiating. Interment was made in Union cemetery.

(This was written by her pastor.)

Children:

2. i William Henry SUTTER b. 13-SEP-1864.
3. ii Amelia Agnes SUTTER b. 26-FEB-1866.
4. iii Mary Veronica "Fanny" SUTTER b. 23-NOV-1867.
5. iv Anna Christina SUTTER b. 27-NOV-1869.
6. v Margaret Elizabeth SUTTER b. 22-DEC-1871.
7. vi (John) Henry August SUTTER b. 21-JAN-1874.
8. vii Christina Wilhelmina Louisa SUTTER b. 04-FEB-1877.
9. viii Emma Magdaline SUTTER b. 15-APR-1879.

ix Paul Raymond SUTTER b. 11-APR-1881, Fireside (Thompson Twp Seneca Co) Ohio, Occup: Carpenter, m. ___-___-19___, Bertha MILKIE, b. 15-MAR-1889, d. 17-FEB-1972, Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo Co) Michigan. Paul died 14-JUN-1969, Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo Co) Michigan, bur: 17-JUN-1969, Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo Co) Michigan. Resided in Kalamazoo, Michigan

x Katharine "Katie" SUTTER b. 01-DEC-1883, Fireside (Thompson Twp Seneca Co) Ohio, Bapt: ___-___-1884, Fireside (Thompson Twp Seneca Co) Ohio, d. 24-DEC-1943, Oak Harbor (Ottawa Co) Ohio, bur: Union Cemetery, Oak Harbor, Ohio. Resided with her parents in Oak Harbor, Ohio