



## **John Jacob Sutter Papers (R0624)**

**Collection Number:** R0624

**Collection Title:** John Jacob Sutter Papers

**Dates:** 1865, 1871

**Creator:** Sutter, John Jacob, 1840-1891

**Abstract:** The John Jacob Sutter Papers contains photocopies of a notebook and travel journal by John J. Sutter, a native of Germany and resident of Saint Louis, Missouri. The memoranda book covers Sutter's service as inspector of artillery in the Department of the Missouri in 1865, and inspections at Cape Girardeau, Macon, Rolla, and Springfield, Missouri; and Fort Leavenworth, Fort Scott, and Paola, Kansas. The travel journal documents a trip from Saint Louis to Germany and return in 1871. The travel journal is in German.

**Collection Size:** 0.02 cubic foot  
(2 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English and German

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *John Jacob Sutter Papers* (R0624); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The collection was loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Terrence Rowles on April 21, 1997 (Accession No. RA0678).

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, February 10, 1998. Revised by Aaron Schmidt, April 2020.

**Biographical Note:**

John J. Sutter was born in February 1840 in Altenheim, Germany. He immigrated to the United States and came to Saint Louis in 1854. He worked as the chief clerk of the assessor's office. During the Civil War, John J. Sutter enlisted in the 2nd Missouri Artillery and was commissioned captain of Battery B. After service with the battery at New Madrid and Rolla in 1863-1864, Sutter took part in the operations against General Sterling Price in the fall of 1864. Sutter was appointed assistant inspector of artillery in the Department of the Missouri in 1865. His duties included inspection of men, horses, and equipment of various batteries in the department.

Sutter married Barbara "Babette" Dolde in 1860, and together they had a son. After the war, he accepted a position as secretary of the St. Louis Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was the originator of the West Saint Louis Turnverein, a German American gymnastics club, and served as the treasurer of the North American Turnverein. Sutter died in Saint Louis on October 23, 1891 and is buried in the Bellefontaine Cemetery.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains an inspection memorandum book and a personal journal. Sutter's inspection reports were submitted to Colonel John V. Dubois, inspector general, and Colonel Nelson Cole, chief of artillery of the department. The entries begin at Saint Charles, Missouri, on April 3, 1865, after which Sutter visited the following posts: Macon City, Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Paola, Kansas, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Springfield, Missouri, Rolla, Missouri, Paola, Kansas, and Fort Scott, Kansas. Included with notes on travel and expenses are copies of Sutter's completed reports for Macon, Fort Leavenworth, Paola, and Cape Girardeau. The reports indicate the number of men at each station, their military bearing, and the condition of the camps, public property, animals, and records. The report for Paola includes a sketch of the earthworks at that location.

In 1871, Sutter returned to Germany for a family visit and to celebrate his birthday in his native Briesgau region. His travel diary, written in German, is accompanied by notes by Gerda Adawi-White of the University of Missouri-Rolla Library (now Curtis Laws Wilson Library at Missouri S&T) staff. Sutter left Saint Louis on June 12, 1871. His travel companion for the entire journey was Willi Rinkel, also a resident of Saint Louis. They traveled by rail to New York, where they boarded the steamer Donau for Bremerhaven, Germany, on June 17. The ship arrived in Germany on June 29. Sutter met his parents, brothers, and sisters in Altenheim, after which he traveled extensively in the Alsace-Lorraine region. His purpose was primarily social and recreational, but Sutter also carried sums of money from friends in Missouri for their relatives in Germany, and visited tobacco factories and a meerschaum pipe factory, where he purchased a quantity of meerschaum. He also noted destruction caused by the Franco-Prussian war. Sutter began the return journey on August 14. Accompanying Sutter and Rinkel were Sutter's sister, Lena, who was emigrating to the United States, and his father, who returned home via Cologne. At Bremen, Sutter and his sister had their travel documents approved and bought more meerschaum with their remaining German currency. They boarded the steamer Deutschland at Bremerhaven, and returned to the United States with an intermediate stop at Southampton,

England. They disembarked at New York on September 4. Traveling by train via Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Sutter and Rinkel arrived in East Saint Louis on September 7.

**Container List:**

Box 001      f. 1      Inspection memorandum book, April 3-July 18, 1865  
                 f. 2      Personal travel journal, June 11-September 8, 1871

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder
Cape Girardeau (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Fort Leavenworth (Kan.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Fort Scott (Kan.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Germany--Travel and description	2
Kansas--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Paola (Kan.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Rinkel, Willi (William), c. 1846-1895	2
Rolla (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Springfield (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Sutter, John Jacob, 1840-1891	1-2
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Voyages and travels	2