Information Sheet

R  Sutter, John Jacob.
624  Collection, 1865-1871.
Two folders, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are a notebook and travel journal by John J. Sutter, a native of Germany and resident of St. 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 journal, in German, covers a trip from St. Louis to Germany and return in 1871.

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. His reports were submitted to Colonel John V. Dubois, inspector general, and Colonel Nelson Cole, chief of artillery of the department. Sutter’s notes of his findings were entered in a small memorandum book. The entries begin at St. Charles, Missouri, on 3 April 1865, after which Sutter visited the following posts: Macon City, Missouri (5 April), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (8 April), Paola, Kansas (11 April), Cape Girardeau, Missouri (3 May), Springfield, Missouri (15 May), Rolla, Missouri (18 May), Paola, Kansas (16 July), and Fort Scott, Kansas (18 July). 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 UM-Rolla Library staff. Sutter left St. Louis on 12 June 1871. His travel companion for the entire journey was Willi Rinkel, also a resident of St. Louis. They traveled by rail to New York, where they boarded the steamer Donau for Bremerhaven, Germany, on 17 June. The ship arrived in Germany on 29 June. 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 14 August. 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 4 September. Traveling by train via Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Sutter and Rinkel arrived in East St. Louis on 7 September.
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Folder 1: Memoranda book, 3 April—18 July 1865
(52 pp.)

Folder 2: Travel journal, 11 June—8 September 1871
(205 pp., in German)

Folder 2: Journal, 11 June—8 September 1871
(205 pp., in German)

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16 Jun 1871 New York City
29 Jun 1871 Bremerhaven
30 Jun 1871 Hanover/Frankfurt
01 Jul 1871 Offenburg/Altenheim
06 Jul 1871 Kehl
07 Jul 1871 Petersthal
10 Jul 1871 Stassburg
12 Jul 1871 Rohrburg
13 Jul 1871 Denzlingen/Freiburg
14 Jul 1871 Breisach/Endingen/Emmendingen/Kenzingen/Lahr
15 Jul 1871 Offenburg
16 Jul 1871 Am Rhein
17 Jul 1871 Altenheim
23 Jul 1871 Offenburg/Altenheim
27 Jul 1871 Im Breisgau
29 Jul 1871 Endingen/Riegel
30 Jul 1871 Altenheim
31 Jul 1871 Ortenburg/Offenburg
01 Aug 1871 Stuttgart
02 Aug 1871 Linzenhofen/Nurtingen/Ulm/Augsburg
03 Aug 1871 Munchen
04 Aug 1871 Alpen/Lindau/Constance
05 Aug 1871 Zurich/ Basel
06 Aug 1871 Elsass/Strassburg/Kehl
10 Aug 1871 Altenheim
14 Aug 1871 Kehl
15 Aug 1871 Mannheim
16 Aug 1871 Koeln
17 Aug 1871 Minden
18 Aug 1871  Bremen
19 Aug 1871  Bremerhaven
04 Sep 1871  New York
07 Sep 1871  East St. Louis
08 Sep 1871  St. Louis

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