

The History of 1006 Fourth Street

FULTON'S RENAISSANCE
MAN CALLED 1006 HIS HOME



Charles A. Griswold, was a Yale graduate, avid reader, author, impressive orator and child-sitter. Florence Utz Jones, reflecting on growing up in Fulton, recalled living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Utz, in the upper apartment at 1004. Dr. Griswold would entertain her with readings of great literature and adventurous stories; including his own Civil War experiences. She relished the time spent in his company.

Dr. Charles A. Griswold was a resident of Fulton for almost sixty years; over forty of them he resided in the upper level of 1006. When he was getting ready to move to Connecticut in 1914 to live out his final years with his daughters, one of his major tasks was donating volumes of books from his library. He donated over 100 books to the Fulton Public Library. A collection of rare, 17th century books were donated to his alma mater, Yale University. Many were gifted to his friends and colleagues and treasured by those recipients here in Fulton. He was a highly respected physician and much of his medical success was credited to the three years of experience when he served as a Civil War surgeon. The saddle used by Dr. Griswold during those war years is on permanent display in the Military Room in the Fulton (Martin House) Museum.

He was married to Alice Smith in 1866. Four children were born—two surviving to adulthood. His wife died in 1874 ten days after delivering their fourth baby. His two young daughters were educated in Connecticut, but spent their summers and holidays in Fulton.

Dr. Griswold was a devoted physician, served as President of the Whiteside County Medical Association, was elected to the Illinois State Senate, President of the Fulton School Board and an instructor in Northern Illinois College; a local institution of higher learning. He authored several chapters of the W. W. Davis, HISTORY OF WHITESIDE COUNTY book, published in 1908. They were personal friends.



Standing in front of the door is Almet Chapman. His name is lettered on the front window. The awning bears the name Summers Bros., who were the previous owners.



Pictured is Flikkema's Model Grocery Store circa 1940. The Model Grocery Store, owned by Mino Flikkema, was located here for over thirty years. Who is the pretty, tall girl walking down the street?

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1006 – Fourth Street in Fulton was a good place for Dr. Griswold to ‘hang out his shingle,’ and he an asset for Fulton.

CHRONOLOGY OF BUSINESSES:

- **1870**—Leslie Williams operated a drug store for one year; then moved his business five buildings south to 1016 where pharmaceutical establishments would serve the public for more than a century.
- **1871**—Oscar and Cloy Summers opened the first grocery store here. A grocer type of business would remain on this site for the next eighty-three years. The Summers Bros. carried a well assorted stock of general groceries, provisions and crockery.

Almet S. Chapman was the next grocer owner. His store used the branding, ‘The Model Store.’ A quarter-page advertisement in 1908 introduced the shopping bonus of S& H (Sperry & Hutchinson) green stamps. “Cut this coupon out and present it at our store with a purchase sale slip for 50 cents or more and get \$1.00 worth of stamps. Saturday specials include olives and pickles put up in quart fruit jars at only 25cents.” Chapman sold his inventory to the Flikkema Brothers and bought the Dykhuis shoe business. Later, Chapman is in the grocery business again, but with a different brand and location.

- **1913**—The grocery store was purchased by David and Mino Flikkema. David sold out to his brother at a later date, but Mino operated the store for thirty-one years.
- **1944**—Bert Van Houten became the next grocer operating in the building. The business was named ‘Van’s Grocery’ and existed for one year.
- **1945-7**—Marian (Bud) Vogel was the next proprietor of a grocery store at 1006 – Fourth Street.
- **1947**—In April, Bob Sikkema opened ‘Bob’s Certified Foods.’ His grocery store continued in business here until 1954 when he moved the business to a new location in a new building at the southwest corner of Fourth Street and Ninth Avenue.
- **1961**—The Ceramic Shop opened by Mrs. Inez Gusse and Mrs. Naomi Riceman. They were in business for several years.
- **1972**—Marge and Stan Bielema purchased the building from Mary Lou and Paul Housenga. The site was used for the Bielema Oil Company and Blackboard Maintenance Company. They purchased 1004, the building on the north side, in 1981. The Neese Insurance Agency rented space in 1006 from 1987 to 2013. Rebecca Huizenga, Attorney, had her law office there from 2003-7.
- **2013**—Wilson’s Floral & Gift Shop moved into the newly remodeled interior and attractive new edifice. The historic building is 143 years old and has been rejuvenated by Marge Bielema, the only single, female owner of a double building on Fulton’s Main Street. 1006 has been prepped, primed and is prepared to provide for another successful business for many years to come.



Walking into the upper apartment of 1006, one experiences an ambiance that is indescribable. It is a step back in time. No one has worked or lived there for over ninety years. It was home for Dr. Griswold for forty years. Myron C. Rogers had his law office here in 1916. Coincidentally, it was the same time he was defending George Nave for a crime that occurred across the street at 1005.

Florence Utz Jones



1916 graduation photo

Florence Utz Jones’ grandfather, Gottlieb Utz, built four buildings on Main Street. She lived in one and owned another one. Jolene and Roy Carpenter reside at 1009 6th Street, formerly the home of Florence and Thaddeus Jones. They found the book, *My School Life*, filled with Florence’s school information, including all of her class reunions. The Carpenters donated it to the Fulton Historical Society.