



The Stege – Klammer home is located at 302 North Walnut Street (or Lot 6 and the southern half of Lot 7 of Block 29) in downtown Chaska. These lots were surveyed and platted as part of E.B.Hood's "*Map of Chaska and Fuller's Addition*," in December 1857.

The lots remained empty for many years. Early Chaska resident Mathias Iltis held title to the lots from 1866 up to the time of his death in April 1886. His son Peter became part owner of the lots in May 1886.

Peter Iltis was a well known Chaska businessman. Volume 1 of "*Chaska – a Minnesota River City*," described Peter Iltis as involved in several businesses in Chaska, including the National Hotel. Another section of the book wrote about a 22-year-old Peter Iltis building the National Hotel in 1866, and how he referred to the hotel's hall as the Young Men's Hall. Peter Iltis was also a State Legislator, Chairman of the Town Board of Supervisors, and a Town Justice. Mr. Iltis was one of Chaska's business dynamos. Peter Iltis passed away in June 1888.



Peter Iltis's widow
Caroline married Julius Stege in
May 1890.

Mr. Stege took over
management of the National
Hotel after their marriage.

At the time of Peter Iltis's
probate hearing in March 1893,
ownership of lots 6 and 7 was
transferred to his wife Caroline;
and their three children, Mathias,
Peter, and Caroline (Caroline
went by the name Carrie.)

Caroline Stege's son Mathias Iltis passed away while serving his country in the Spanish-American War in 1898. Her son Peter passed away in June 1903 following a bout of pneumonia that turned into pleurisy.

The Home is Built – First Generation Owners

The August 13, 1903 edition of the Weekly Valley Herald announced Julius Stege had purchased the other Iltis heirs remaining interests in lots 6 and 7 on the corner of 3rd Street and Walnut. The article went on to state Mr. Stege paid \$1,000 for the lot, and that he planned to "... erect an elegant ten room residence thereon. The structure will be modern in every respect and an ornament to our pretty little city. Olaf Hanson of Carver, the architect, has the contract for the carpenter work and Herman Nicolei will do the brick work. ... Work on the foundation is already underway and the building will be completed within a reasonable time."



Caroline Stege's daughter Carrie Iltis married Kalmer K. Klammer in September 1906. Their wedding took place at the 302 North Walnut Street home in the presence of sixty people.



The 1910 census lists K.K. Klammer, a banker, wife Carrie, son Kalmer, age 2, daughter Ruth, age 1, and Julius and Caroline Stege as occupants of the home.

Julius Stege passed away in December 1912. Mr. Stege's obituary described him as an honest German Immigrant; and an active community member with memberships in the Sons of Hermann, the Lodge of Odd Fellows, and the Chaska Fire Department.

The Home is Transferred to the Second Generation

Caroline Stege became the sole owner of the property at the time of Julius Stege's probate hearing in May 1913. Caroline created a life estate for herself and signed her title and interest in the property over to her daughter Carrie Klammer a few weeks later. Ms. Stege continued to reside in the home with her daughter and her family.



Ruth Klammer, age 13, is the curly-haired girl in front of the home.

Caroline Stege passed away in July 1925. Her obituary described her as one of the grand old pioneer ladies of this section of the county and a woman who was loved and honored by all who knew her.

Ruth Klammer has been described as very bright, and was known to have taken Greek in college because she needed another "A." She graduated from the University of Minnesota at the age of 19. She was also known as a skilled swimmer, skier, and tennis player. After college, she taught English and French classes in school and worked at Honeywell in Minneapolis for a few years.

The June 3, 1937 Weekly Valley Herald announced Ruth Klammer marrying Stanley Lester at the Chaska Moravian Church, and that "*following the ceremony the young couple and their parents received relatives and friends at the bride's home ... the young couple planned to move to Minneapolis after June 5th.*"

At some point during the 1940's, the second floor of the home was turned into an apartment. Stanley and Ruth Lester moved back to Chaska in 1942. Stanley and Ruth Lester, and their two children Stanley and Linda, lived in the apartment for a number of years. Stanley Lester was appointed Deputy Clerk of Court for Carver County in 1953.

Kalmer Klammer passed away in September 1951. His obituary described him as a good husband, father, church member, and a plain good neighbor. He was a long time associate of the Carver County State Bank. He started out there as a cashier in 1904. During his career he served as a bookkeeper, vice president, and director of the Carver County State Bank. He was also a long time member of the Masonic Lodge, active in Boy Scouts, an avid collector of Indian relics and stones. Carrie Klammer passed away in May 1963. Her funeral record at the Moravian Church described her as an active member of the church and its organizations.

Family members have described Kalmer and Carrie as very interested in the larger world. Both were active in the Chaska Moravian Church. Carrie was a gifted musician who played the piano, organ, and violin. She was described as a lady in the old fashioned sense of the word, and was known for her elegant tea parties. Kalmer wrote poetry and collected books of poetry. They imparted their love of family, sports, history, geology and science to their three children, along with a love of reading and music.

Stanley and Ruth Lester, and their two children resided in the upstairs apartment while their children completed high school and college. They moved to the main floor of the home after Carrie's death in 1963.

The Home is Transferred to the Third Generation

Stanley and Ruth Lester became owners of the property in December 1963. Stanley was a long time Justice of the Peace in Chaska, and performed many weddings in the 302 Walnut Street Home. He also worked at a number of banks in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. Stanley Lester passed away in December 1973. Mr. Lester was an active member of the Chaska

American Legion, the Chaska Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was a Purple Heart recipient for his service in the South Pacific.

Ruth had a life long love of athletics and very much enjoyed following the activities of her four grandchildren as they grew. The Eden Prairie News wrote an article about her titled "Eden Prairie's Number One Fan."

The Home is Sold

Ruth Lester sold the property to Allen and Joyce Brakemeier in August 1976. The Brakemeiers extensively remodeled the home and turned it aback into a single family residence. They removed wood paneling from the walls, added wooden beams, built a large fireplace, and planted the evergreens that are seen in the yard today.

Joyce Brakemeier sold the home to John and Pamela Holm in 1995. The Holm's sold the home to Ricky and Joy Schatz in 1999. The current owners, David and Kathleen Baldrica purchased the home from the Schatz's in 2004. The Baldrica's rebuilt the carriage house on the property.

*** This history of the Stege – Klammer House was researched, compiled, and written by Debbie Boe. Ms. Boe is a Commissioner on the City of Chaska Heritage Preservation Commission. ***