

## **Leytze Building [No. 114]**

*1886 – Ernest Leytze*

From 1875 through 1891, this building served as a meat market. **Stevens & Norton** were the first to set up shop in the frame building constructed after the 1873 fire. In 1878, J.A. Phillips and W.H. Gates opened the **Chatham Street Meat Market**. They sold to J.C. Williamson in 1885 and it was the **Williamson Meat Market** that was destroyed by fire in May 1886. Ernest Leytze fast-tracked rebuilding so that Williamson could re-open. **Cobb & Holmes** bought him out in 1888.

In 1892, the building began a new career. James J. Wellmon opened a “chop house and fruit depot” that he named the **Gedney Annex** after the newly constructed hotel. He came with catering experience from

working the buffet car service on the St. Paul to Chicago railroad line. John W. **Evans** purchased the business in 1898 and ran it until 1901 when he closed the doors.

**Adolph Leytze, Jr.** , the youngest of the Leytze children decided to go into the restaurant business. He spent three weeks getting pointers from the owner of a cafe in Belle Plaine, Iowa, then opened the first **Chatham Street Cafe**. He sold the business to his brother, Charles, in 1905. **Charles Leytze** operated it until 1909 after which the cafe had frequent changes in ownership, all under the same business name. The most steadfast of these owners were N.C. **Knudson** and his son, Eddie. They operated it from 1916 through 1919 and lived in the apartment above.

## **Leytze Annex [No. 108, 110, & 112]**

*1899 – Albert Leytze*

The largest of the three frame buildings constructed after the 1873 fire was located toward the south end of the property. It was first occupied by **S. Newman Agricultural Implements**, who had bought out Nathaniel Burr. In 1880, two ambitious young women named **Emma Grimwood** and **Louisa Udall** launched a music school at this location. They moved on to larger quarters and the **Empire House**, a hotel, leased it as a sample room for use by traveling salesmen. In 1891, Albert Leytze, now owner of the property, moved his **Leytze Cigars** to this location from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of No. 210 on 1<sup>st</sup> St. where he began with H.W. Oliver. In 1894, he rented the south half of the building to **Haffa Bros.**

**Barber Shop.** They were followed by Charles W. Satterlee's **Palace Barber Shop**, who was succeeded by John **Burke's Barber Shop** in 1897.

The middle building became a shoe store. William Hartman ran **Hartman's Boots & Shoes** until 1899.

With the construction of the new block of buildings in 1899, Albert was able to lease space to three different business on the main level. The **U.S. Express Company** first moved its office to No. 112, the northern most storefront. It remained until 1905 when it moved two doors south the No. 108, replacing John **Burke's Barber Shop**. Frank B. Ireland who had gotten a start in the music business with his father-in-law in Smale's Drug Store needed new quarters. He opened **Ireland's Music Store** at this

location, remaining through 1910.

The new middle storefront, No. 110, was promptly rented by Joseph Limbert of **Limbert Bros. Cigars**. Joe was a longtime cigar salesman and had decided to come off the road to run a wholesale cigar outlet. With his know-how, the business soon added a retail section and continued to grow. In 1913, it expanded into No. 112 to the north remaining until 1915 when the Limbert family acquired a building of their own.

In 1913, R.F. **Carsey Seeds** and M.M. **Blackman Plumbing** rented No. 108 for their business offices, remaining through 1920.