

Horace Lanfair Chidsey is conducting an extensive business as a contractor and builder and is also one of the prominent real estate dealers of East Haven, his interests in both connections having reached extensive proportions. He was born March 26, 1867, in East Haven, on the old homestead which has been in possession of the family for nearly a century and of which property his present place of residence is a part. He comes of a family of English origin, the ancestral line being traced back to John Chedsey. as the name was originally spelled, who came from England and was deacon of the First church in New Haven and was also a signer of the colony constitution in 1644. In 1681 he removed to Stony River, now East Haven, where the family home has since been maintained. Captain Isaac Chidsey, one of the ancestors, was the first on the list of the first board of selectmen of the town, having been elected to that position in 1785. The family has been prominently identified with public affairs through all the succeeding generations down to the present. The great-grandfather of Horace L. Chidsey was John Chidsey, the grandfather, Horace Chidsey, and his father, William H. Chidsey. The last named was born on the old homestead October 24, 1841, and has spent the greater part of his life in connection with the fishing industry although in early manhood he engaged in the milling business. He is now living retired in East Haven and has reached the age of seventy-six years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Anna Rowe, was a native of Illinois but a representative of an old Fairhaven family. Her father was one of the '49ers who went to California following the discovery of gold in that state and died there. When Mrs. Chidsey was eight years old she returned to Connecticut having gone to California with her father and she continued to reside in East Haven until her demise, which occurred in February, 1882. By her marriage she had become the mother of six children: Emma I. and William S., both deceased, Horace L.; Mary L., the wife of Leon B. Fowler, of East Haven; George M., who married Grace Walker and resides in East Haven; and Harry A., who died at the age of ten years.

Horace L. Chidsey, after attending the public schools of East Haven, devoted four years to work in a rubber shop in New Haven and subsequently learned the carpenter's trade. In 1889 he and his brother, William S., embarked in the contracting and building business, in which they continued together until the brother's death on the 7th of March, 1917. They carried on their operations under the firm style of Chidsey Brothers and built up a business of large and gratifying proportions. Since the death of his brother, Horace L. Chidsey has continued alone. The firm have also entered the real estate field, in which they have been active for a number of years. They erected many buildings for sale and for rent not only in East Haven but also in neighboring towns, and they opened up several new additions, among them being Bradley Park and Green Lawn Park. In 1888 and 1889 the brothers were also engaged in the ice business and their interests were most carefully conducted, close application, diligence and business enterprise winning for them a substantial measure of success. In East Haven, on the 23d of January, 1890, Mr. Chidsey was united in marriage to Miss Hattie A. Augur, a daughter of Charles Augur, of East Haven, and they have become parents of two children: Irving L., twenty-two years of age, who was formerly associated with his father in business but is now in the United States army, being a member of Company D, One Hundred and First Machine Gun Battalion; and Stanley A., eighteen years of age, now in the ordnance department. The family residence is at No. 7 Park Place, in East Haven.

In politics Mr. Chidsey is a republican but not an active worker in party ranks. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, belonging to Adelphi Lodge, and he belongs also to the New England Order of Protection. He likewise has membership in the Old Stone church and is serving as deacon. His entire life has been passed in the town where he resides and his career has reflected credit and honor upon an untarnished family name. He has done much to further the development of this section through his building activities and real estate operations. His interests have been conducted not alone with an eye to individual success but with regard to public welfare and he has done much to add to the architectural beauty and improvement of his town.

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