

THE ABRAHAM CHIDSEY HOUSE  
 (Mrs. Eliza Reeves Story)  
 1750

For many years the house at 133 Main Street has been known as the Old Lucius Linsley house. It is estimated that this house was erected about 1750 to 1760. A long search of the old town records failed to give light on the actual date their house was built, but the old deeds do indicate the house was occupied by Abraham Chidsey who was born in 1741 and died in 1812.

In 1797 the townsfolk voted that Abraham Chidsey have liberty to erect a Blacksmith shop which stood for many years at the northeast corner of the Green in front of his house and in front of the Leverett Bradley house.

According to Dodd's Register John Chedsey 1621-1688 owned a three acre piece of ground, the same on which this house now stands. Deacon John was East Haven's first leather tanner and shoemaker. In 1680 he built a house on the site ~~of~~ of the present house and had in the rear of this lot his tanning vats along the edge of a small brook. Slight indentations could still be observed in the bank of this brook marking the location of the old vats, up until some years ago.

Deacon John Chedsey's son Ebenezer 1665-1726 followed his father's calling and became a shoemaker and he lived all his life in the vicinity of this house.

It is now presumed the original house built at this location by the father of all the Chidseys to live in America, was replaced about 1750 by the present building now on this site.

Abraham Chidsey died in 1812 and the place was transferred to Roswell Chidsey in 1816. On March 5, 1833 Roswell Chidsey in turn sold the property to Samuel H. Bradley. In 1841 Lucius Linsley bought the house thus returning it once more to the descendants of Deacon John due to the fact Mr. Lindley's wife before marriage was Elizanne Chidsey a lineal descendant of the first of that name.

On Sept. 7, 1896 Robert J. Allen bought the house from the Union School District and Mr. Allen sold it on May 10, 1904 to Henry J. Barrows. The next transfer took place on Sept 1, 1910 when it was sold to Willie H. Reeves who sold it to his wife Eliza C. Reeves on April 22, 1920. At present Mrs. Eliza Reeves Story still owns this property.