

## Warrick County, Doctor J. A. Newton Medical Ledger, 1864–1867

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Doctor John Airhart “J. A.” Newton was an oculist in Boonville, Warrick County, Indiana. His medical ledger spans from 1864 to 1881.<sup>1</sup> The authors of this article have indexed the ledger for the years 1864 through 1867. The index covers the first few pages of the ledger, which lists date of visit, patient name, and patient residence. The entries also include the price of each visit, but this data has been excluded from the index. Newton’s practice must have been well-known throughout the Ohio River Valley as patients came from all over.

The oculist’s ledger is filled with clippings from books and newspapers about new healing remedies and medicine. In addition to the clippings, the last pages of the ledger contain recipes and concoctions for Rx pills and medical formulas. Some of those recipes were for diseases such as cholera and diphtheria.

In an associated advertisement, Newton describes his expertise and experience as an eye doctor:

*Having devoted many years to the study the Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology of the Eye and its appendages, I am prepared to treat successfully the Diseases and Accidents to which it is liable. I will treat every form or type of “Sore Eye,” “Weak Eye,” “Dimness of Sight,” &c. Operations for Cataract, Artificial Pupil, Cross Eye, Entropium, Ectropium, Lachrymal, Fistula, Staphyloma, &c., successfully performed. Tumors of all kinds removed from the lids and orbits.*

The doctor also inserted artificial eyes without “pain, corresponding with the natural in size, shape and color—defying detection.”<sup>2</sup>

Doctor Newton died on July 26, 1894. His son, Grant Spencer Newton, took over his practice in Boonville after his father’s death. The practice was located on the southwest corner of the town square in Boonville (upstairs) in 1909. Grant’s mother, Virginia Studebaker Newton, lived with her son until her death on March 12, 1907.<sup>3</sup>

## Notes

1. Dr. J. A. Newton Records, 1864–1881, BV 2106, Indiana Historical Society. Transcribed pages for the years 1868 to 1871 appeared in “Ophthalmologist Accounts for Warrick–Spencer County Area,” *The Hoosier Genealogist* 40, no. 2 (June 2000): 104–6.
2. Monte Katterjohn, *Four Histories of Warrick County, Indiana* (1891; repr., Evansville: Unigraphic, 1976).
3. LadyN70, “Dr John Airhart Newton,” April 22, 2010, Find a Grave Memorial 51476118, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/51476118/john-airhart-newton>, accessed March 10, 2021.

## Doctor John A. Newton Oculist Ledger Index, 1864–1867

### 1864

May 20      Ashby, J.J., Madisonville Kentucky  
June 2      Ashby, James & Ann  
Aug 4      Scott [Ann/Amy?]  
Oct 30      Coffman Benjamin  
Nov [5?]    Plain Nancy (Jessey Plain)

### 1865

Jan 5      Schutt Nannie (Wm Schutt), Rumsey Kentucky  
30      Davis Carrie  
Feb 13     Morrow Frances (Robt Marrow), Neb, Kentucky  
15      Marrow Annie (John Marrow)  
            Marrow Lelia  
24      Winstead Sally  
            Winstead Wm  
            Winstead Piggy  
[Mar?] 4    Knox James  
            [Sik/Sisk?] Mrs  
            [Graiz/Craig?] Eden

[Mar 7?] [Mourser/Mounger?] Virginia  
Rust Dow  
Rhinehammer [L/C]attie  
[Benton/Burton?] [L/C]attie (Wm Benton), Charleston Ky.  
Powell W. J., Bordley  
Kirkwood F. (James Kirkwood), Madisonville Ky.

June 4 Martin Lydia; Caseyville  
6 Cates Richard (Alfred Cates), Nebo  
July 10 Ashly [Beitie/Bettie] (Col John Ashly), Madisonville  
[Denofs/Dernops] [Ger/Gev?] (Washington [Denofs/Dernops])  
[Denofs/Dernops] Thomas  
[Denofs/Dernops] Thomas (Samuel [Denofs/Dernops])  
14 [Denofs/Dernops] Mark  
16 Stokes John  
Walker Frank  
Hiadly Mrs (Daniel Hiadly), Providence Ky

July 30 Fugate C. D., Madisonville Ky  
Aug 8 [Hoye/Hodge?] Mrs  
9 Armstrong James M., Hopkinsville Ky  
20 Slaton O. E., Madisonville Ky  
Fugate Henry, Slaughtersville Ky  
25 Lue[r/s]termous Elisha, Claysville Ky

Sept 5 Fugate Lewis Madisonville Ky  
14 Davis, Joseph  
27 Ashby Mrs Huldy Slaughtersville Ky  
Oct 4 Johnson Mrs (James Johnson), Providence Ky  
10 Day Mrs, Madisonville Ky  
Haly Josiah, Hopkinsville Ky

Nov 21 Welch Patrick Rumsey Ky  
24 [Schult/Shutt] Leonard  
25 Harper John, Glenville Ky

Dec 12 Davis L. H., Madisonville Ky  
 27 Ell[i/e]tt William, Calhoon Ky

**[18]66**

[Ja]n 9 Coffman Sarah, Sacramento Ky  
 Howard Martha M, Calhoon Ky

[F]eb 9 Shutt Jacob, Rumsey Ky  
 Bates Walker

20 Coffman Isaac

28 Girvin Wilson

[M]ar 9 Williams America, Rochester Ky

16 Anderson Mrs (George Anderson), Livermore Ky

21 Roberts Miss Sally, Calhoon Ky

Apr 17 Gorch Daniel, Louisville Ky

20 Hendricks Richmond, Rumsey Ky

28 Dame John

May 18 Paton [Mils/Miss], Bluford Ohio Co Ky

19 Cain Owen, Owensboro Ky

June 24 Thomas Rust, Rumsey Ky

June 28 Jackson Mrs (Wm Jackson), Charleston Ky  
 Dunn Mrs (David Dunn), Greenville Ky

30 Riley Margaret, Owensboro Ky

July 1 Clements John J, Calhoon Ky

18 Hicks Daniel, Sacramento Ky  
 Pender Martha (John Vicars), Calhoon Ky

Aug 4 Harper [Mrs?]

10 Mosee Monroe, Vandersburgh Ky

16 Tompkins Mrs Emily M. Longfall Creek

18 Howard James (Thomas Howard), Rumsey Kentucky

Sept 22 Francis M. Arnold (Elijah Arnold)

30 Ellis Mrs (John [M/H] Ellis), Greenville Kentucky

Oct 2 Baker Mrs Minerva (P.H. Baker), Calhoon Kentucky  
16 Ethington Sally A (Elijah), Nebo Kentucky  
21 Cates Ephraim Steamport Ky (1867)  
Nov 5 Frasier [Illoria/Alovim?], Calhoun Ky  
9 Dexter [Litilia/Lutilra?] (James R. Dexter), Madisonville Ky  
14 Wicks J. T., Grand Glase Ark  
16 Fowles J. T., Owensboro Ky  
21 Bailey Mary J. (Marthy/Murphy?), Owensboro Ky  
26 Stroud Isaac (Jessey Stroud), Rumsey  
Dec 18 Wall Sarah R. (Hamp Wall)  
20 Kirtley E. V. (Son of), Pt. Pleasant Ky  
31 Fleming John (Napoleon Cosby), Hibbardsville Ky

**1867**

Jan 16 Murphy Elisha Owenburo Ky  
Feb 5 [MoGreur/McGrew] Charles A, Calhoon Ky  
7 Barnett Wm A. Owensburo Ky  
16 [Toublord/Trublood] B. A., Nebo Ky  
May 26 Bell Thomas, Rumsey Ky  
18 Reburn Green, Denton Texas  
24 Kinney Mrs, Calhoon Ky  
Curtis James Pt Pleasant Ky  
June 27 Sider Emma Cairo Ky  
July 28 Kinney Mrs Polly, Rumsey Ky  
30 Rust Abe (Daughter of)

**1867**

Aug 10 Newton [I?] Baker  
18 Armstrong Mrs Eli[z/s]abeth, Laurell Bluff Ky  
23 Ge[u/i]per George A, Saraloo Ky  
26 John E. Cary, Calhoon Ky

Sept 6 Cliff Wm (Daughter of), Madisonville Ky  
Oct 6 Lutitia Crabtree (Enoch Crabtree), Owensb[u/o]ro Ky  
23 Winstead Thomas S., Eura Hendersonville Ky  
24 Denton [Enimi/Emma], Cairo Ky (3 miles Sou-East)  
29 Brown W. L., Rochester Ky  
Nov 5 Cox B. F., Slaughterville Ky  
27 [Brown/Barnes?] F. F. (Daughter of), Henderson Ky  
Dec 8 Higby Elias, Garnettsville Ky