

Dr. George F. Newell

Dr. George F. Newell was born in 1816 in Vermont. He was educated at the University of Vermont, and the Casselton medical college. He moved to Waterford, Racine, Wisconsin where ^{he} was a doctor for nearly forty years, with the exception of two years when he served as surgeon of the 15th Wisconsin regiment of Volunteers. He was mustered out in June 1864. In May 1883 the doctor came to Cooperstown where he started the first drug store. He ~~has~~ ~~gave~~ up practice except in surgical cases. The active country practice was attended to by Dr. Theo. F. Kerr. In 1888 he sold his drug store to S. Almklov, ^{and} ~~that~~ it has been in that family ever since.

Dr. Newell had a stroke in 1890 and returned to Rochester, Wisconsin where he died in 1898.

Dr. Newell was not related to the Dubois Newell family of Dr. Andrew Newell, dentist.

Mr. Syverson built a hotel ^{in 1899} ~~in~~ 1957, the Rebecca Home — and named it the Newell House in honor of Dr. Geo. F. Newell.

The following letter to his old home town paper, the Waterford Post gives an idea of Dr. Newell and pioneer Cooperstown:

Cooperstown D. T.
Oct. 2, 1883.

Dear Post:

I have heard that the people of Waterford and vicinity are reporting that I am going back to Wisconsin. Well, that may be if my friends send me back in a box. While living I am pleased with Dakota and its future prospects. Our crops are good, climate so far pleasant and agreeable.

My health and the health of my wife are perfectly good, and I see ^{good} no reason why I should go back. I have never seen a day

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when I ever thought of such a thing, and have yet to hear the first person say they have any desire to leave here and return to the States. To be sure, we have a new country and it necessarily has some of the disadvantages of a new country, but I have found them very few in comparison to Racine county when I first came there. We have a railroad running directly to us and bringing us all the facilities necessary to the pursuit of any business. It was not so when I first came to Racine county. Here, all of God's broad acres are ready for the plow, and there has never been a failure of a fair crop. Wheat, the great staple of Dakota, is a sure crop and always abundant. The inhabitants are intelligent and industrious, and strictly mind their own business. Most of them are Americans. There is, however, a large class of Norwegians, but they are of the very best. Three of our four principal merchant firms are Norwegians, also the Clerk of the Court, sheriff, county treasurer, and several of the lawyers, and more noble and industrious men never lived. There is once in a while one seen just over from the old country with their little short jackets — but they are an "honest and industrious" people. There are a few Germans and as far as I have seen, a good class of people. And what I never saw or heard of on God's green earth — not a Jew.

Now, surrounded ~~by~~ as I am by good, honest god fearing people, and in a country as glorious as the bright sun of heaven ever shown upon, why in thunder should I go back to a country of cyclones and frost bitten corn?

I shall be glad to visit my children and old friends at a future and proper time but until then
"Dakota is my home" Very Respectfully,
G. F. Newell.