



## Historic Middleton *The Rowley House*

**The Rowley House**, built in 1868 by Middleton Doctor Newman C. Rowley, was constructed for a total cost of \$800. The 30,000 yellow-clay bricks were from a brickyard in Edgerton (& perhaps Milwaukee). In July of 1868, the house was insured for \$2000. The Rowley House is a common 19<sup>th</sup> century residential vernacular form (domestic and functional) known as a Gabled Ell. This style was quite often found in rural Wisconsin. The porch provides the only ornamental details in the form of brackets and turned posts. Stone lintels and sills frame the double-hung sash windows; muntin bars separate the six individual panes in each sash.



*Early Photo of the Rowley House*

The two-story house was occupied by Dr. Newman C. Rowley until his death in 1871. He was the first of three generations of Rowley doctors to reside in the house at 7410 Hubbard Avenue. His son, Antinous A. and grandson, Antinous G. (commonly referred to as A.G.) carried on the family's medical legacy as they cared for Middleton area residents. The house served as a residence only and was never used as a Doctor's office. A.G. Rowley grew up in the house, but lived there only a few years while practicing medicine.

Arlene Rowley Morhoff (daughter of Dr. A.A. Rowley and his second wife, thus A.G.'s half sister) continued living in the home until her death in 1988; hence the home witnessed 120 years of unbroken Rowley family occupancy. Arlene's son Dan Morhoff inherited the house and offered it to the Middleton Area Historical Society in 1989. Mr. Gilsie T. Techam, a local farmer, donated the money to purchase the house; this allowed society artifacts to be moved from the basement of City Hall to new quarters in the home for preservation and display.

The Middleton Area Historical Society, a private non-profit organization now owns and operates the Rowley House Museum. Many of the old artifacts are now on display in the various rooms that are open to the public for viewing (1-4 pm, Tuesday & Saturday, mid-April to mid-October). The Rowley House is a Middleton Landmark and was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1999.



*The Rowley House in 2014*



*Dr. Rowley's Office next door to Rowley House*

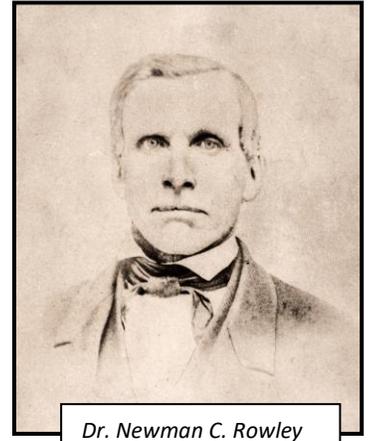


Over the years, a few home repairs have been necessary: a new front porch in 1995, the building of the carriage house (an adjunct to the house that contains many additional artifacts), the replacement and enlargement of the back porch, and most recently the renovation of the kitchen and bathroom (including new floors). These projects have been completed with the hard work and dedication of many Historical Society volunteers.

*Middleton Area Historical Society, Middleton, Wisconsin  
[www.middletonhistory.org](http://www.middletonhistory.org)  
Rowley House Museum, 7410 Hubbard Avenue  
Middleton Depot Tourism Center, 1811 Parmenter Street*

## The Rowley Doctors of Middleton

After first working as a teacher in Ohio and then a farmer in Illinois and Wisconsin, Newman C. Rowley (born in New York) received a medical diploma from the Cincinnati College of Medicine & Surgery in 1854 (the College's first graduating class). Dr. Rowley then apprenticed with a Janesville doctor before starting his own practice in Verona. After moving to Middleton Junction in 1864, Dr. Newman C. Rowley soon realized that the village (and later city) of Middleton was a growing community with people and businesses rapidly moving there, so he relocated his practice to this "busy hub" in 1866. Hanging out his sign "Surgeon and Horse Doctor, Enter Here" Dr. Rowley was soon providing medical treatment to area families and their livestock.



Dr. Newman C. Rowley



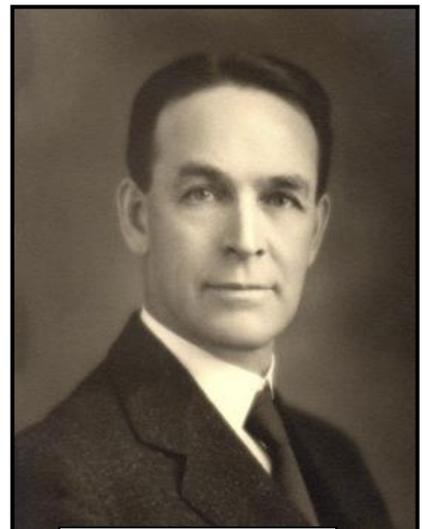
Dr. Antinous A. Rowley

Dr. Newman C. Rowley's oldest son, Antinous A. was born in Ohio in 1841. After serving in the Civil War (11<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Infantry), Antinous soon completed his medical studies at Rush College in Chicago, receiving his doctor's degree in 1867 and in 1868 moved to Middleton and joined his father's practice. Dr. Newman C. Rowley opened a Drug Store with medical offices upstairs in the late 1860s. Located at 7452 Hubbard Avenue the building carried the name "Rowley & Son" but was subsequently the site of many other businesses.

Unfortunately Dr. Newman C. Rowley lived in the Hubbard Avenue home only three years, dying in September, 1871. Dr. Antinous A. Rowley moved into the home following his father's passing and around 1885 built a new office building just west of the yellow-brick house. Dr. A.A. Rowley practiced medicine in Middleton for about 34 years, dying in 1902 at the age of 61.

Another Rowley, Antinous G., would eventually follow his ancestor's medical path in Middleton. Born in 1875, "A.G." Rowley graduated from Middleton High School and, like his father, received a doctor's degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago. Starting his medical career in Prairie du Chien, WI, Dr. A.G. Rowley returned to Middleton when his father became ill and took over the aging doctor's practice. Dr. A.G. Rowley married in 1907 and soon left the old Rowley house, building a new home at 7320 Elmwood Avenue in 1909.

The third Dr. Rowley to practice in Middleton would frequently travel to numerous neighboring communities, often in very poor weather conditions, to treat patients. He was one of the first in Middleton to own an automobile, a 1905 Franklin, and as the story goes would take the motor apart and store parts in his office during the winter months. In 1903, he moved his office from the small building next door to the second floor of the new bank building farther west on Hubbard Ave. Dr. A.G. Rowley died in 1956 at the age of 81.



Dr. Antinous G. Rowley



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