

Guide to the Newton Family Papers

PVMA Library

Scope & Content Note:

The Newton family papers largely consist of business-related documents, invoices and receipts (personal, business, and tax), and correspondence generated by the children and grandchildren of James and Esther Newton of Greenfield, Mass. Among the businesses represented are the construction firm of D.H. & J.C. Newton, Hampden Paper Co., Wauregan Paper Co., and the Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington Railroad. Numerous items were the gift of the heirs of Mary B. Parker (1862-1942), niece of Daniel, James H., John C., and Solon Newton.

Biographical Note:

James Newton (1801-1891) was born in Hubbardston, MA, and married Esther Hale there in 1824. The couple had eleven children, several of whom are mentioned below. After 1835 the couple lived in Greenfield where he operated a sawmill and had a thriving lumber business.

His papers consist of business correspondence, notices from banks and local organizations, several land deeds, a fire insurance policy, town tax evaluations, and some correspondence regarding his estate. Numerous accounts with his son, Joseph Drury Newton (1828-1901), are in Box 1 of the collection. The vast majority of invoices and receipts (Boxes 4 and 5) pertain to him and his business in Greenfield. A few invoices to his wife, Esther Newton, are in Box 5, folders 3 and 5. More than 30 volumes of his ledgers and cash books are in the Account Books Collection.

Daniel Howe Newton (1827-1911), son of James Newton and Elizabeth Hale, was born in Hubbardston, MA. He attended school in New Salem and Bernardston, MA, eventually joining his father in the lumber business in Greenfield. Newton became active in local politics and served as Franklin Co. Treasurer beginning in 1861. In 1864, he and his wife, Mary Cogswell of Essex, MA, moved to Holyoke. There he joined his brother John Carter Newton in opening a general contracting firm and founding the Hampden Paper Co. In 1869 he was elected to the state legislature, representing Holyoke.

His papers largely consist of business and personal correspondence, most of it written to his brother, Solon L. Newton.

James Hale Newton (1832-1921), son of James Newton and Elizabeth Hale, was born in Hubbardston, MA. Educated at Dartmouth College, he became principal of a school in Worcester, MA, and married Susan Wadsworth Taft of that city in 1863. The next year

they moved to Holyoke, MA, where he founded the Hampden Paper Co. with his brothers Daniel H. and John C. Newton. James H. Newton built and operated numerous paper mills in Holyoke, and has been described as the town's foremost paper manufacturer. He also organized the Mechanics Savings Bank of Holyoke and served as its president. His few papers consist of letters and documents relating to the Franklin and Wauregan Paper companies.

John Carter Newton (1838-1899), son of James Newton and Elizabeth Hale, was born in Greenfield. He graduated from the Westfield (MA) Normal School and went on to have a successful career as a builder of gas works, bridges, schools, and factories, and dwellings. In 1865, he married Frederica Vultè of New York City. With his brothers he founded the Hampden Paper Co., serving as general manager, and later became president of the Massachusetts Screw Co. of Holyoke.

His papers (2 items) relate to business matters. Numerous letters from him are addressed to his brother, Solon L. Newton, and are among the latter's papers.

Solon Luther Newton (1841-1901), son of James Newton and Elizabeth Hale, was born in Greenfield where he lived most of his life. For at least a year (1866) he worked as a book keeper with his brothers in Holyoke. Considered a pillar of the Second Congregational Church where he served as deacon for many years, he became a noted antiquarian and collector, and left his pewter collection to Memorial Hall Museum upon his death.

His papers include personal and business correspondence, newspaper articles about his antiques collection, and a number of invoices and receipts in Boxes 4 and 5. Five diaries he kept between 1862 and 1866 are shelved in the Diary Collection.

James Stuart Newton (1863-1920), son of Daniel H. and Mary Newton, was born in Greenfield, where he is buried in the Green River Cemetery. He married Adeline Frances Curtis of Brookline, MA, in 1891. Newton worked with his father and served as treasurer of the Massachusetts Screw Co. (Holyoke) and auditor of the Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington RR.

His few papers are comprised of business correspondence, 1888-1892, sent to his uncle, Solon L. Newton, found among the latter's papers.

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Papers of James Newton, 1865-1888	(44 items)
Folder 2: Papers of James Newton, 1889	(70 items)
Folder 3: Papers of James Newton, Jan-May, 1890	(56 items)
Folder 4: Papers of James Newton, June-Dec, 1890	(44 items)
Folder 5: Papers of James Newton, Jan-June, 1891	(43 items)

Folder 6: Papers of James Newton, July-Dec, 1891	(34 items)
Folder 7: Papers of James Newton/estate of, 1892	(55 items)
Folder 8: Accounts of Joseph D. Newton with James Newton, 1867-1881	(32 items)
Folder 9: Contracts, patent, bills of sale, tax information,1840-1879	(17 items)

Box 2

Folder 1: Papers of Daniel H. Newton, 1867-1886	(12 items)
Folder 2: Papers of Daniel H. Newton, 1888	(29 items)
Folder 3: Papers of Daniel H. Newton, 1890	(23 items)
Folder 4: Papers of Daniel H. Newton, 1891	(42 items)
Folder 5: Papers of Daniel H. Newton, Jan.-March 1892	(37 items)
Folder 6: Papers of Daniel H. Newton, April-Dec. 1892	(39 items)
Folder 7: Papers of James H. Newton-1888, 1890-1892	(4 items)
Folder 8: Papers of John C. Newton-1890, 1891	(2 items)

Box 3

Folder 1: Papers of Solon Newton,1886-1889	(48 items)
Folder 2: Papers of Solon Newton, 1890 Jan-June	(47 items)
Folder 3: Papers of Solon Newton, 1890 July-Dec	(42 items)
Folder 4: Papers of Solon Newton, 1891 Feb-Aug	(59 items)
Folder 5: Papers of Solon Newton, 1891 Sept-Dec	(55 items)
Folder 6: Papers of Solon Newton, 1892 Jan-Apr	(59 items)
Folder 7: Papers of Solon Newton, 1892 May-Aug	(63 items)
Folder 8: Papers of Solon Newton, 1892 Sept-Dec	(44 items)
Folder 9: Papers relating to Newton's antiques collection	(6 items)

Box 4

Folder 1: Bills & Receipts - A	(32 items)
Folder 2: Bills & Receipts - B	(55 items)
Folder 3: Bills & Receipts - C	(38 items)
Folder 4: Bills & Receipts - D-E	(40 items)
Folder 5: Bills & Receipts - F	(78 items)
Folder 6: Bills & Receipts - G	(69 items)
Folder 7: Bills & Receipts - H-J	(68 items)
Folder 8: Bills & Receipts - K	(23 items)
Folder 9: Bills & Receipts - L	(29 items)
Folder 10: Bills & Receipts - M-McD	(43 items)
Folder 11: Bills & Receipts - Me-Mu	(31 items)

Box 5

Folder 1: Bills & Receipts - N-O	(20 items)
Folder 2: Bills & Receipts - P	(61 items)
Folder 3: Bills & Receipts - R	(31 items)
Folder 4: Bills & Receipts - Sa-Shearer	(39 items)
Folder 5: Bills & Receipts - Shel-Strong	(48 items)
Folder 6: Bills & Receipts - T-U-V	(43 items)

Folder 7: Bills & Receipts - W-Z	(55 items)
Folder 8: Receipts - Conn. River Railroad Co. and Receipts, 2 nd Congregational Church	(23 items) (6 items)

Box 6

Folder 1: Cancelled Checks and Stubs

Folder 2: Miscellaneous (photocopies of railroad passes and photos, information on 1938 family reunion, notes on Newton family history and businesses, check register of Solon Newton) (29 items)

Bound volume relating to a Newton Family reunion, 1901

Bound volumes (2) of "Family Record Book"

"Estate of James Newton" - In broadside collection