

Ronald MacDonald 17-36 1930 Dies In Calif.

Word has been received here of the death at Los Angeles of Ronald MacDonald formerly of Grinnell.

Mr. MacDonald was an old newspaper writer and correspondent, of Canadian birth and his ancestors were members of the MacDonald clan of Scotland. He served for a time on newspapers at Montreal and later was employed on New York papers. He was a relative of C. H. Spencer and on account of his relatives here he located in Grinnell in the seventies and was for a time a part owner in the corner drug store under the name of MacDonald, Snider and Co. His home was on the corner where John Goodfellow's residence now is. His first wife died while living here and he was married July 1894 to Clara Vanderveer. He built the home in which the Goodfells now live.

In August 1894 he bought the interest of S. A. Cravath in the Grinnell Herald, the firm being known at that time as Cravath and Ray. After his purchase the firm was known as Ray and MacDonald until he sold out in 1899 to G. W. Cowden.

Three daughters were born to them and all are alive and were at his bedside at the time of his death. On account of the health of one of the girls he moved to Colorado and later moved to what is now Hollywood, Calif.

All the old timers remember Mr. MacDonald with interest. He was a man of rare talent, high minded, a worthy citizen and all who knew him were his friends.

He was always in good health and lived to the ripe old age of ninety-eight years.

A. L. Child Sr., Grinnell's photographer since 1880 and before, following the death of Ronald MacDonald, has brought to light one of the old time photographs of that cultured gentleman. Mr. MacDonald came

here from New York and he and Mrs. MacDonald became active in all city interests. Mrs. MacDonald was an early member of the Ladies Historical club. Mr. MacDonald was recognized at once as a man of culture and his judgment was respected, and probably no man in his time was more highly honored than he.

He married his second wife, Clara Vanderveer, in 1894 and at once bought an interest in the Herald which he retained for five years. After retiring he lived here for a time and then in Denver but for many years in Los Angeles.

It is interesting to look back and note how a man of his type could pass almost entirely out of the minds of the people in the town where he was so highly regarded for a good many years. He had been gone from Grinnell nearly thirty years. An entire generation has grown up and several generations have moved in and out of the town. It is inevitable that only a few would be left who remember him, but those who do remember the kind-hearted, cultured gentleman who filled so wide a sphere in this town for many years.

Lydia
Helen
Haworth
Anderson

1871

RONALD MAC DONALD, the subject of this sketch, is of Scotch descent. He resides at Grinnell, Poweshick County, Iowa, and was born at Alexandria, Glengarry County, Canada, October 28, 1832. Ronald Mac Donald, his father, was born at Inverness-shire, Scotland, whence his father, Roderick, emigrated to America and settled near Alexandria, where he engaged in farming. The father of Roderick was Angus Mac Donald, a native of the same shire as his son, and descended from the old Celts, the male members of the family being fishers off the coast of Scotland.

The father of our subject was engaged in the same occupation as his father before him as long as he resided in Scotland, he, with others, owning a fishing-smack. Emigrating to Canada, he first employed himself in teaching school and afterward was a merchant, dealing in general wares and lumber. In June, 1832, he died of cholera, while going down the St. Lawrence River with a raft of squared timbers. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Donald Mac Donald a native of Inverness-shire, who was also engaged in the herring fisheries. Between 1807 and 1815 he was a soldier in the British army, continuing in that service until after the first abdication of Napoleon and his exile to the island of Elba. Just after the battle of Leipsic he obtained a land grant, subsequent to his discharge, and later laid it in Glengarry County, Canada. He ended his long

life in that county at the age of eighty years, dying as he had lived, a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Heleen Mac Donald, the mother of our subject, was born in Inverness-shire, and was the daughter of Donald Mac Donald and the mother of five children, four boys and one girl, the sole care of whom devolved upon her at the death of her husband. Bravely she discharged the duty, bringing them up in Alexandria, in which place she subsequently died. But two of them are living, our subject, who was the youngest, and one other. At the age of seventeen, after attending the public schools of Canada, our subject entered the office of the *Montreal Transcript*, owned by his uncle, Donald Mac Donald, in the capacity of a reporter. Two years later he engaged in newspaper work in Boston, and in 1853 was employed on Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune*, serving first in the counting-room of the latter and afterward as a reporter on that paper, as well as on the *New York Commercial Advertiser*. In the early part of the war he went to the front as correspondent for the last-named newspaper, at which time he reported (in 1862) the operations of the Burnside expedition into North Carolina.

Mr. Mac Donald then returned to Montreal, where he again did reportorial work on the *Transcript* and also on the *Herald* for three years, or until 1865. He was next employed as night editor on the Boston *Daily Advertiser* for about two and one-half years, later was employed in New York City, in the office of the *Commercial Advertiser*, for a short time, and then became night editor of the *New York Times*, which position he held for ten years. He spent the winter of 1878-79 in Colorado and in the year last named came to Grinnell, where he became associated with the firm of Mac Donald, Snider & Co., dealers in drugs, books, stationery, etc., remaining in it four years and then retiring from active business.

Our subject is one of the original stockholders of the Merchants' National Bank and is now Director in that prosperous institution. Mr. Mac Donald was married first in New York City to Mrs. L. H. Anderson, a native of that State and a graduate of Mrs. Williard's seminary at Troy. She

died at Grinnell in January, 1858, where the memory of her exalted womanly virtues is cherished by many devoted friends. He was married again, in August, 1860, to Miss Clara J. Vanderveer, born in Poweshick County, the daughter of David Vanderveer, an old settler of the county, now resident in Grinnell, who emigrated from Ohio. Mrs. Mac Donald is a graduate of Iowa College, was a teacher at Grinnell for a while, then attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and subsequently was a teacher of English literature and French in the Hitchcock High School at Brimfield, Mass. Mr. and Mrs. Mac Donald are the parents of one child, Catherine H. The religious faith of our subject is that of the Church of the New Jerusalem, or Swedenborgian, with which body he holds membership. In politics he is a Republican.

MACDONALD, Ronald, b. Canada 1832, m. first Mrs. L. H. Anderson, who d. 1888, and and he m. again in 1890, Clara J. Vanderveer. Had daughter, Catharine H.

JPI, p. 406