

At the present writing (1911) John McDonald is not actively engaged in business in Montezuma but for many years was closely associated with commercial interests here and is still connected with the grain trade in other parts of the state. He has ever placed a correct valuation upon life and its opportunities and as the years have gone by has made such wise use of his advantages that a very desirable measure of success has crowned his industry and perseverance.

He was born in Godridge, Ontario, Canada, June 10, 1837, his parents being John and Hannah (McMillan) McDonald, both of whom were natives of Nova Scotia. The former was the son of Angus McDonald, who was born in Scotland and on coming to the new world settled in Nova Scotia but afterward engaged in farming near London, Ontario. Hannah McMillan's father was also a native of Scotland. In fact both of the grandfathers of our subject were from the Highlands and became residents of Nova Scotia, where John McDonald and Hannah McMillan were born. They were married, however, in London, Ontario, and in 1866 became residents of Iowa. Two or three years later they took up their abode in Montezuma, where Mr. McDonald passed away in his seventy-fifth year. His widow afterward made her home with her daughters and reached the very advanced age of ninety-four years.

The second in order of birth in a family of eight children, John McDonald remained at the place of his nativity until he came to Iowa in 1862. The following year he established his home in Montezuma and after the great Chicago fire of 1871 went to that city, where he remained for three years. In early life he entered the carpenter's trade with his father and for a long period followed that pursuit, being engaged in the rebuilding of Chicago after much of the city had been destroyed. He also worked at his trade in Montezuma for about four years. In 1879, however, he went to Colorado, where he resided until the fall of 1884. He owned a ranch upon which he made his home and also engaged in the hay and feed business there. In 1884, however, he again came to Montezuma, where he established a lumber and grain business, in which he continued with gratifying success until July, 1910. He then disposed of his interests in the city but is still part owner of an elevator at Barnes City and another at Clarion, being associated at the latter place with T. Harris under the firm style of T. Harris & Company. Mr. T. Harris, Sr., was Mr. McDonald's partner in the lumber and grain business in Montezuma and following his death his son became a partner in the business. In addition to his other interests Mr. McDonald owns a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres a mile and a half west of

Montezuma and an attractive residence in this city which he has occupied continuously since 1885.

Mr. McDonald first married Miss Mary E. Vest, who died in 1875. She was a daughter of Dr. J. W. H. Vest, one of the pioneers of this county and quite a prominent man. In 1880 Mr. McDonald was again married, his second wife being Miss Sarah Elizabeth Harris, who was born in Massachusetts in 1856 and came to Iowa with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Harris, both of whom are now deceased. The home of Mr. and Mrs. McDonald has been blessed with five children, as follows: Professor Thomas H., a graduate of Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, who is now an engineer in the employ of the state, being located at Ames and having charge of improved road work in Iowa; Ross, who was a student for three years in the Iowa College at Grinnell and is now operating his father's farm; Charles M., an employe of the Southern Pacific Railroad located at Tuscon, Arizona, who attended the engineering department of the University at Ames for three years; Jean, at home; and Florence, a student in the Montezuma high school.

Mr. McDonald has never been an office seeker but has served as a member of the city council and also as a member of the school board. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and is interested in all that pertains to the material, social, intellectual and moral progress of the community. In fact his influence is always on the side of right, justice and truth, and his friends recognize in him a man who is dependable under all circumstances.

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