

Mr. Van Norman was one of the first Councilmen for the County of Norfolk; has been a Councilman for the Town of Tilsonburg, and was magistrate for a long time. His political affiliations have always been with the Reform party, whose candidate he was at one time for the Parliament of Upper Canada, prior to the union of 1841.

He is a member of the Methodist Church of Canada; a good example of a steadfast Christian and one of the most hospitable men that ever lived in these parts, his door standing open for fifty years for the entrance of the weary traveler, or the agent of benevolent, religious, and other commendable enterprises. The hungry he never turned empty away, and probably a more generous heart rarely beats in any Christian land.

August 25, 1817, Mr. Van Norman married, at Pembroke, New York, Miss Roxilana Robinson, a native of Hertford, Vermont, and they have four children living, and have buried seven, three of them, Carolina, Susan Maria, and Roxilana, dying after having grown up; the last two mentioned after they were married. Romaine, their eldest child living, is at Beamsville; George Robinson is a Barrister and County Attorney for Brant, residing at Brantford; De Witt is an attorney-at-law at Palmerston; and Harriet Eliza is living with her parents. All the sons are married. Mrs. Van Norman, born in the last year of the last century, and at the time of writing this sketch just four-score years old, has the sprightliness of mind and vivacity of middle life, and has grown old with unusual gracefulness. The writer once heard her describe her first home at Normandale in 1822, it being one end of bellows-house to the furnace, with a hole in the top to let the smoke out! "But godliness with contentment is great gain;" she preserved her cheerfulness, had a better house in a few weeks, with a chimney in it, and still laughs at the humble style in which she commenced house-keeping in the wilds of Canada.

JOHN McDONAGH,

THOROLD.

JOHN McDONAGH is a native of Rivers Town, County of Sligo, Ireland, and was born February 6, 1822. His mother, before her marriage was Elizabeth Carsou. His father, William McDonagh, was the youngest of five brothers, four of whom volunteered in the militia at the time of the rebellion of 1798, afterwards joined the regular army, served under Wellington in the Peninsular War, and were with him till after the battle of Waterloo. His father, who was not a whit behind the four brothers in patriotism, served twenty-five years in the yeomanry or local militia, removing to Upper Canada in 1840, and settling in the Township of Tecumseth, County of Simcoe, where he died in 1877 at the age of eighty. The mother died about ten years earlier.