

Mr. Dufort was educated at the College of L'Assomption, and graduated in 1841, after which he taught 18 years. He was married 19th October, 1856, to Rosannah Smith, of Ansonia, Conn. He was appointed Municipal Clerk in Plantagenet in 1875, and served nine years; and in 1880 was appointed School Inspector, an office for which his experience in teaching, and his intelligent, liberal views, admirably adapt him. He has a nice cottage here, and the possession of a farm affords him recreation and a pleasant change from the arduous labors of his office.

CENTERFIELD.

About three miles from Plantagenet Mills, in a westerly direction, is a locality long known as the Irish Settlement, but which, from the idea that it is in the central part of the township, has been designated more frequently of late years, as Centerfield. "McDonald Hill," and the "Darragh Settlement," are also names by which it has been distinguished, and though these names are used indiscriminately, and are all understood in the township, we prefer the more euphonious one of Centerfield.

To one who has crossed the level, sandy and clayey land between this and the Ottawa, timbered with cedar and other evergreens, the ridge of high land which he meets at Centerfield, with its cheery groves of maple and other hard woods, presents a most agreeable contrast.

This section has about it an air of prosperity; the farmers are a thrifty, hardy class; their farms show that they are tilled for a purpose, and their stock that it is properly cared for, and returns a profit to the proprietors.

As in many other localities along the Ottawa, the early settlers here depended far more for their livelihood on the lumber business than they did upon stock-raising, or what they could make from the produce of the soil; for which reason their land was neglected. In the spring they sometimes sowed a little buckwheat, and planted a small piece of potatoes and corn among the logs on their half-cleared land—much of this being done by the hardy housewives of that era—but it was much easier to work in the shanty or to follow the "drives" down the river.

Every day spent in the latter employment was sure to bring a certain amount of profit in cash; without incurring the risk of loss by storm, frost or drought—hence, the settler naturally looked upon his farm as something of secondary importance. It was well to have one; it afforded a home for his family, and for himself, also, in case of sickness, and when he was out of employment; but his present occupation, in his opinion, was of far greater importance. Moreover, there was a degree of excitement in his life in the shanty and on the river—social enjoyment among so many of his fellows—which it was difficult to forego, and which caused clearing land and farming to appear to him a work of drudgery—a lonely, humdrum sort of an existence. But a change came that he had not anticipated; year after year the lumber business grew smaller, and less profitable, and then he began to realize the necessity of making his farm yield enough to support his family; and to this end he worked, and his children after him. The result of their industry is visible in the well-improved and well-stocked farm of to-day.

Among the early settlers here were John McCrank, John Beggs, Robert McAuley, Andrew and Archie Darragh and Hugh McKinley.

ROBERT MCAULEY, with a few others from Ireland, is said to have been the first to begin a settlement on this Ridge, Mr. McAuley taking up Lot 14, in the 4th, Concession, where he died more than a century ago, after having lived here over forty years.