

village, for ten or twelve terms, still holding that office, and making a judicious member of the county council. He was a school trustee for seven terms, and then declined to serve longer. His education, though picked up in Prussia, the West Indies, and on the frontier of Canada, is fair, considering the circumstances; and he has done noble service in helping to elevate the grade of the local schools.

Mr. Hilker has been and still is a very industrious man, and his well-spent time and prudent habits placed him years ago in very comfortable circumstances.

GEORGE McDONALD,

CLIFFORD.

GEORGE McDONALD, the first merchant in Clifford, and the leading business man of the place, was born in the county of Peel, June 14, 1835. His parents, John and Catharine (McDougall) McDonald, were from Argyleshire, Scotland, his father being a builder and contractor. His mother died when he was one year old. Partly on account of this loss, George received quite limited school privileges in his youth, but subsequently attended night schools, and acquired a fair knowledge of the elementary branches. He worked on his father's farm until fourteen years of age, then spent four years at Brampton, in learning the carriage maker's trade, and after working one year as a journeyman, commenced the business for himself at Cheltenham, in his native county. The next year his health beginning to fail, by the advice of his physician, he sold out, and abandoned the carriage business. Going to Culross, in the county of Bruce, he opened a store, traded two years, and in 1858, settled where the village of Clifford, in the township of Minto, now stands, the only person here then being Frank Brown, who had a little saw mill, and was keeping an inn in a little log cabin. This part of the county of Wellington, and that part of the county of Bruce in which Mr. McDonald had just resided, were almost a complete wilderness twenty-two or twenty-four years ago, with none but the poorest apologies for roads. Gravel roads have since been made, railroads have been run through the country, and this part of the Province is filled up with thrifty farmers, and dotted with smart young villages and towns. A few years afterwards he was influential in securing better roads, and getting a railroad into town, working very hard for both enterprises.

At the time Mr. McDonald settled here, emigrants were beginning to come in rapidly; he opened a store in a small building; had a fair trade from the start, and two or three years later, put up a much larger building, which he used for a hotel as well as store. In those days he had to haul his goods by teams from Guelph, a distance of fifty miles, being sometimes eight or nine days in making the round trip. His wife tended the store while he did the teaming. At one time he had three or four branch stores at other points in this vicinity.