

HISTORY OF Fillmore County MINNESOTA

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Thomas Frankson.

ILLUSTRATED

H. C. COOPER, JR. & CO.
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the home place and 160 acres in section 32. While on a business trip to Preston in March, 1865, he was drowned in crossing the Root river near Preston. His wife passed away several years later. They were the parents of five children, Archibald, James, William, Jane and David, of whom all are deceased except David.

David Donald, who first saw the light of day on the farm where he now lives, is said to have been the first white child born in Canton township, and the second white child born in the county, the date of his nativity being January 7, 1853. He received his education in the district schools, after which he took up farming on the home farm, where he remained until he was married in 1879, after which he purchased 100 acres of land in section 35, Canton township, and engaged in farming for himself for a period of four years, after which he returned to the old homestead, where he has followed general farming in a systematic manner ever since. He has a fine dwelling house and a complete set of outbuildings, and the farm is a model place in every particular. His 350 acres of well-tilled and fully developed land, show thrift and enterprise, and bespeak of the ability of their owner. For several years he was much interested in the breeding of Poll-Angus cattle and of Norman and Clydesdale horses. Mr. Donald is a man of good sound judgment and far-sightedness. His honor and integrity have won for him a high standing in the community where he was born and where he has lived all his life. Some years ago he retired from the activities of farm life, and his place is now successfully conducted by his son-in-law, Allen Whitset. The subject of this sketch was married December 25, 1879, to Eliza Jane Frego, daughter of Godfrey Frego.

Godfrey Frego was born in Waskinonge, Quebec, February 17, 1840. At the age of fourteen he was thrown on his own resources. May 2, 1860, he married Mary E. Bates. In 1864 they came to Canton, this county, and purchased a farm of 336 acres. For two years he rented this farm, and devoted his time to buying and shipping live stock. After this he devoted his years to farming his land. He is dead and his wife lives in Canton village. They had five children: Eliza J., George E., Murray I., Hiram W. and Myrtie May.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald were the parents of two children, Mary F. and Mabel C. Mary F. was born August 13, 1882, and is the wife of Allen Whitset, of Canton township. Mabel C. was born January 24, 1887 and married Earl Rolens, D. D. S., of Spirit Lake, Iowa, where they now live. Mrs. David Donald was an artist of ability and the paintings in the Donald home show talent, training, and a truly esthetic appreciation of art values

as well as a technical mastery of the brush. She passed away March 11, 1912, largely mourned and greatly missed not only by her family but by a great host of friends.

William Donald, deceased, was a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, born February 17, 1845, son of Archibald and Elizabeth Donald, whose biographies are to be found elsewhere in this work. William came to America with his parents in 1850 and lived for a short time in Wisconsin. From there they came with a team and covered wagon, locating one mile east of the present town of Prosper, Fillmore county, where they lived for several years. After the death of his father who was drowned in Root river in 1865, William settled on a farm in section 35, Canton township. Here, for many long years, he combated with adverse circumstances, but his courage never faltered and success at last crowned his efforts. To his original small farm, he added until he eventually became the owner of 655 acres, 230 of which were located across the state line, in Iowa. Mr. Donald erected the fine home, which now stands on the farm, and also put up good barns and other outbuildings. He was ever actively interested in all movements which tended toward the development and improvement of both town and county and became one of its foremost citizens. When the State Line Bank of Prosper was organized, he was chosen its vice-president and in this capacity served with credit until his death. After his death Mrs. Donald was chosen vice president in his stead. He was one of the organizers of the Prosper Creamery, and was generally recognized as a man possessing great executive ability. His death, which occurred December 14, 1911, was a shock to all and a great loss to the county and especially to the community where he had so long resided. Mrs. Alice (Babcock) Donald, his wife, was born in Dexter, New York, in 1865, daughter of Kendrick and Caroline (Edgerly) Babcock, natives of New York and Maine, respectively and of English descent. These worthy people came to Minnesota January 1, 1869, and engaged in farming in Canton township. The father died December 14, 1882 and the mother May 8, 1902. They were parents of three children, Frank, of Englevale, North Dakota, Mrs. Mary Bowerman, of Oakes, North Dakota, and Mrs. William Donald, of Canton. Mrs. Donald was given a good education and for several years before her marriage to William Donald, taught school. For nine years she was clerk in the store of R. H. Baker of Prosper.

Bennie H. Benson, a modern agriculturist of Canton, was born in section 30, Harmony township, this county, April 7, 1876, son of Even and Gunvor (Homme) Benson. He was reared on