state he worked as a farm hand in Blue Earth county, and in the winter was employed in lumber camps on the Chippewa river in Wisconsin, running logs on the drive when spring came and while it lasted.

When he quit the lumber job he went to Duluth expecting to get work on the railroad. But in Duluth he met some of his old friends from Ontario who were on their way to the Red river valley, where the Nesbit boys had already started a settlement on the Marais river, but were the only men located there. Mr. McDonald and his companion, David Morrow, who had come with him from Canada, joined their old neighbors and came to this section. He filed on a part of his present farm as a pre-emption claim, but afterward changed his claim to one for a homestead in order to get a full quarter-section. He had about $350 in money to start with.

David Morrow selected at the same time a place about one mile distant, and each of the two newcomers hired the breaking up of twenty acres of his land. This was in the spring of 1877. They cut logs and hewed them for a dwelling house, and the next winter they put up a house of the hewn logs sixteen by twenty feet in size. This house is still standing and in a good state of preservation. The winter was an open one and Mr. McDonald and Robert Nesbit built several houses, hauling logs to Grand Forks to have them sawed into lumber for finishing the houses. The next spring Mr. McDonald planted the twenty acres he had plowed. He had bought oxen but these he sold after he got his crop in and could dispense with their services for a time.

At that time Mr. McDonald and Robert Nesbit went back to their old home in Canada and were married on the same day, May 8, 1878, Mr. McDonald being united with Miss Isabella Miller, who had been his schoolmate in earlier years. He brought a carload of stock on his return trip and his wife followed with Mr. and Mrs. Nesbit. Several other settlers accompanied them, the party including James Lee, wife and family, William Hannah, Daniel H. McDonald, a brother of James, Mr. Bromlee, Sandy McLean and George Island.

In his carload of live stock James McDonald had horses for David Morris, James Lee, Robert Nesbit and George Island, of this neighborhood, and one for James Miller, of Fargo. That spring (1878) Mr. McDonald’s grain came up well but dry cold winds injured his crop. In the following winter he hauled wood to Fisher, a mile and a half distant, to supply the railroad with fuel for its engines, and got 55 cents a cord for it. In this way he earned the cost of a wagon, having none the first summer. He kept on breaking land for himself and others, raising grain and hay, and was soon enjoying substantial prosperity with good prospects of getting ahead rapidly.

In the course of time Mr. McDonald bought eighty acres of railroad land at $5 an acre, with a rebate of $3 an acre for breaking up three-fourths of it. He also acquired another tract of eighty acres which was already plowed, and in 1898 he bought an additional half-section for $7,000, all plowed and ready for seeding. He keeps twenty-five to thirty head of cattle, but grain has been his main dependence, and in 1915 his crops totaled 3,550 bushels of wheat, 3,500 of barley, 4,000 of oats and 140 of rye.

Mr. McDonald helped to organize Nesbit township, which was named in honor of the Nesbit boys, although only one of them was living in it at the time, but they and Joseph Jarvis were its first settlers. He has served on the township board many years, a large part of the time as its chairman; has aided actively and extensively in road and ditch work; has been a member of the school board almost continuously from its organization, and in all ways open to him has done all he could to help push the township along to better development and greater progress. His religious connection is with the Bethel Presbyterian church, which he has served well as a deacon and a member of its official board. His father was one of the founders of the church and he is devoted to it.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald became the parents of nine children, all of whom are living. They are: Ethel Ellen, who is the wife of George White, of Saskatoon, Canada; William J., who lives on the Mallory farm; Eva Belle, who is the wife of William Nesbit; Daniel