

## THOMAS DONOVAN

The subject of this sketch was, for many years, a well known citizen of the town of Meaford. Apparently he had no relatives in this country, and as he was unmarried, very little definite information can now be obtained respecting his career.

He was undoubtedly an Irishman, and was probably born about 1830. He showed his racial proclivities in his conduct, appearance and speech.

He took an interest in the militia and was Quarter-master of the 31st Grey Battalion, of which Lt.-Col. W. D. Pollard was for some time the Commanding Officer. At a review of the Battalion on July 1st, 1868, Col. Pollard rode Mr. Donovan's horse, a fine animal named "Prince." Col. Pollard was a prominent citizen, noted for his hospitality and his military appearance.

Mr. Donovan at one time owned a large tract of land north of and adjacent to the original plot of Meaford, part of which he sub-divided into town lots and sold.

He also owned a residence where he lived, but for some years before his death he boarded at a hotel in town.

He qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor on July 5th, 1855, and carried on a general surveying practice at Meaford from about that date until his death, which occurred in August, 1881. He provided in his will that a tombstone should be erected to his memory, the only inscription to be his name. His wishes were respected. This tombstone is now standing in the Meaford cemetery.

The late J. G. Sing, O.L.S., was articled to Mr. Donovan, but after about eight months' service, he transferred to Charles Rankin, of Owen Sound.

