

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Bacon, one of the earliest residents of Bear Valley, in San Benito county, located here in 1866.

Mrs. Bacon is a native of Ohio, having been born in that State, November 23, 1827. When she was about three years of age her parents emigrated to Illinois, where she spent her girlhood, and in 1846 married Philip Shell, at Gilead, Calhoun county, Illinois. In 1851 the young couple came overland to Oregon, where they engaged in farming near Salem, and there Mr. Shell died in 1854. The following are their children: Deborah, wife of Henry Melendy, of Bear Valley; John, of Bear Valley was born May 3, 1848, married and died, leaving a son, John, who was adopted and reared by his grandmother, the subject of this sketch; Susan was born in Salem, Oregon, June 14, 1854.

In 1856 Mrs. Shell married Myron A. Bacon, a California pioneer of 1849, who came across the plains with an ox team. He engaged in mining, farming and dealt in stock raising. He returned to Illinois for a brief time, but returned to California via the isthmus, and upon his return to California pursued farming and fruit culture until his death. He was born in Ohio, January 25, 1821, and died at San José in 1890. By this marriage Mrs. Bacon has three sons and one daughter, namely: Oliver F., a farmer of Bear Valley, born October 13, 1856; Horace G., born March 7, 1864; Benjamin, born December 12, 1866, and Mary, now Mrs. David Churchill of Stunner, Kern county, California, born August 10, 1858. All the children reside in California.

Horace G. Bacon is by profession a schoolteacher. He completed his studies at the State Normal School at San José, from which institution he graduated in December 1885. Upon graduating he embraced teaching as a profession, and taught one year in Tulare county, three years in Contra Costa county, and two years in San Benito county. He married at Alamo, in Contra Costa county, December 9, 1891, Miss Nettie, daughter of George and Annie (Trudy) Smith. Mrs. Bacon was born at Alamo, December 9, 1869.

The estate of our subject comprises 320 acres of titled land, fertile and nicely located at the foot of Bear valley.

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