

Allen Leonard, a prominent figure in the business circles of San Benito, is well known throughout this part of San Benito county, and it is fitting that some personal mention be made of him on the pages of this work.

Mr. Leonard was born at Mechanicsburg, thirteen miles east of Springfield, Illinois. He came to California in 1860, to take a position under J. S. Short, Indian Agent in the northern part of the State, who had received his appointment from Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Leonard, however, remained there only a short time. Going to lone, Amador county, he successfully engaged in copper mining two years. He then went to Virginia City, Nevada, and turned his attention to silver mining, but this expedition resulted in financial loss. In 1868 he went to work for the Central Pacific Railroad Company, as foreman of teams, and followed railroading until 1872. That year he came to San Benito county, purchased a store at San Benito, and engaged in business for himself being still engaged in merchandising here and doing an extensive business. He also owns and conducts a hotel, blacksmith shop, meat market, etc., and for several years has been Postmaster of San Benito. He is also engaged in farming and stock raising and owns a fine tract of land. He has served two years as Supervisor and two years as Chairman of Board of Supervisors of San Benito county.

Mr. Leonard was married April 15, 1872, to Miss Bell Morton. They have had eight children, viz.: Frank M., Belle E. (deceased), Mollie, Allen, Harry, Edna, Jacob and Herman J.

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