

J. A. McCroskey, an early settler and an influential businessman of Hollister, has been a resident of California since 1859. His father, John McCroskey, was a native of Sevier county, Tennessee; was born about thirty miles east of Knoxville, March 17, 1798. He was a farmer by occupation, a man of local influence, and of great character. He was twice married, first to Miss Lucinda Ann, a daughter of Reuben Grant, a merchant of Shelbyville, Tennessee, who was for several years Sheriff of Monroe county, Tennessee. Mrs. McCroskey was born in 1799. She bore four children, of whom Mrs. M. A. McCray, widow of the late Daniel McCray, of Hollister, is the oldest. One other now survives, viz.: J. P. T. McCroskey, of Washington. The mother died in 1833. In 1836 Mr. McCroskey married Mrs. Priscilla McCray, a daughter of Harry McCray, by whom He had six Sons and two daughters, viz.: John A., subject; Pentalope, Henry M., Robert C., Frances, Thomas U., Benjamin B., and Edgar II. Of these children our subject and Benjamin, who is located in Hollister, are the only ones in California.

When our subject came to California he located at San José, and later lived at Gilroy and engaged in farming. Upon the formation of the San Justo Homestead Association and the division of the Hollister Grant, he came to San Benito county, and was the original settler on 172 acres of farming land, adjoining the town site. Here he remained for about eight years, when he engaged in the warehouse and grain shipping business, which he followed about

nine years. At that time he leased his property to the Hollister Warehouse Company and retired from business, and now devotes his time to the care of an eight-acre fruit farm, his home in the city of Hollister and other business affairs.

His marriage occurred at Gilroy, in 1863, to Elizabeth F. Howkins. This lady has borne her husband six children, five living and one deceased. All the living children are residing at home. Two are teachers in the public schools of San Benito county. Our subject has been a successful businessman, and has the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

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