

J. A. Blessing, a California pioneer of 1850, and a prosperous farmer of San Benito county, residing near Hollister, is deserving of some personal mention in this work.

Mr. Blessing is a native of Virginia, born on the Red river, son of Abraham and Mary (Anderson) Blessing. By the death of his parents He was left an orphan at the age of two years and was cared for and reared by strangers. When a youth he went to Missouri and at the age of twenty crossed the plains from that State to California, coming via the northern route, and after a journey of seventy-five days landed in "Hangtown" on the 1st of July 1850. He spent twenty-five years in the mines of Placer, El Dorado and adjoining counties, and in 1875 came to San Benito county and located near Hollister. Here he owns a fertile farm of eighty acres.

Mr. Blessing was married at San Francisco, in 1863, to Mrs. Ruth Roe, a native of Lenawee county, Michigan. They have five children: William A., Estella M., Mary, Alice, John Franklin and Oliver C. The two daughters and one son are married.

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