

Joseph Bowie, for many years a resident of San Juan, San Benito county, and one of the most successful merchants of the place, is a native of Montreal, Canada, born September 6, 1850. His parents, Alexander and Elizabeth (Arthur) Bowie, were natives of Scotland and of the north of Ireland, respectively, the latter being a daughter of William Arthur. Alexander Bowie was a baker by trade. He came to California in 1852, worked at his trade in Murphy's camp, and in 1857 came to San Juan. Joseph was twenty-three years of age when he landed in California. He mined in the diggings of Calaveras county about three years. In 1857 he came to San Juan and found employment on a stock ranch. He subsequently served six years as Deputy Sheriff of Santa Clara county, under Sheriff Adams, and during that time was stationed at the New Almaden quicksilver mines. He afterward served as Deputy Sheriff of old Monterey county, under Andy Wasson. Since 1877 he has been engaged in the merchandise business at San Juan.

Of Mr. Bowie's family we record that he has one single sister, Eliza; Alexander, his brother, is in Europe; Agnes is the wife of J. P. Sargent, a prominent and wealthy rancher of Santa Clara county; Charlotte H. is the wife of S. W. Smith, of Monterey.

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