

Alfred J. McCollum. - This gentleman is a native of Byron Center, Genesee county, New York, born September 27, 1841. His early life was spent in farming and in other laborious occupations, and the education he acquired, which fitted him for the practical duties of life and usefulness as a public official, was the result of some sacrifice on his part, coupled with a firm endeavor to succeed. He attended the public schools until he had reached his seventeenth year, working hard in the summer and doing chores in the winter to pay for his board while he went to school. When he was nine years old his parents removed to Paw Paw, Michigan, and nine years later he went to Lake county, Illinois. He traveled for four years as an agent, and was employed as salesman for the same length of time in a store at Waukegan, Illinois. In 1866, he tried his strength and fortune in the mines near Central City, Colorado; but, it not proving a bonanza, he went back East, locating in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, where he farmed for four years. Later he engaged in the wood business. In 1876, during his residence in Kenosha county, he was married to Miss Belle McDougall, by whom he has six living children, in 1876, and for three years thereafter, he held an important position as foreman of a large stock ranch at Ottawa, Illinois.

In the fall of 1879, Mr. McCollum, accompanied by his family, arrived in California, and located in Salinas, where he has ever since made his home. The diversity of his experiences in the East had fitted him to fill almost any position offered, and

during the first six years of his residence in Salinas he was employed as clerk in the post office and store. For four years he served most acceptably as Deputy Tax Collector; was afterward elected Tax Collector by a popular majority, and is now serving his second term in that office.

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