

J. A. Scholefield, the greatest skeptic in the county, could not doubt the adaptability of the section of country about Hollister for fruit-growing purposes after paying a visit to Bonnie Brae farm, which lies across the San Benito river, two and one half miles west of Hollister. The owners of this now celebrated property are Messrs. Cunningham, Curtis & Welch, of New York and San Francisco.

Previously to 1888, the firm owned property in Santa Clara county, but having sold it they must needs look about the State to find another location suitable for horticultural purposes, but where land could be purchased at a low figure. Their attention having been called to San Benito county, the firm sent hither the superintendent of their Santa Clara ranch, Mr. J. A. Scholefield, the subject of this sketch, who made a thorough examination of the Hollister valley as a whole, and this property in particular, with regard to the probable successful cultivation of fruit. He tested the soil, obtained statistics as regards rainfall; summer and winter temperature, etc, and finally reported to the company, that although fruit trees had never been planted in the locality, that the soil and climate were eminently adapted for horticulture, and he was convinced that fruit trees would thrive and bear as well here as in any portion of California. His report was accepted, and what was known as the McCroskey ranch, of 363 acres, was purchased. The work of preparing the ground commenced at once. On February 7, the work of laying off the ground begun, and by March 1 about

10,000 trees were planted, finished just before the heavy rain of the season. Twenty acres of apricots (Moorpark and Hemskirk), five acres of peaches (Foster, Newhall, Salway and Muir), ten acres of Bartlett pears, two acres of cherries (Black Tartarean, Royal Ann, Governor Wood and Rockport Bigarreau), ten acres of apples (Rhode Island greening, Violet, Baldwin and Newtown pippin), 500 four are living, viz.: Lucinda, wife of G. W. Moody; J. S., of Virginia City, Nevada; J. H., of Helena, Montana; and N. G. his wife, nee Lovey Pugh, a native of Virginia, died in Hollister in 1877.

N. G. Hardwick has been a life-long farmer and stock-raiser. His home farm consists of 200 acres, and is located on Tres Pinos creek.

Mr. Hardwick was married at San José, January 1, 1867, to Miss Mary Dean, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Isaac Dean. They have five children: John W., lithe J.. Matilda M., Charles N. and Howard H.

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