

John Henry McBirney, an orchardist and general farmer whose two hundred and forty acre ranch is six and one-half miles west of Boise, on the Meridian road, in Ada county, is a member of the McBirney Fruit Company, a firm that is composed of himself and his brother, William S. McBirney, of Boise. This company is the largest grower of apples and prunes in Ada county, having a total acreage among five McBirney brother, of nearly one thousand acres of fine fruit and agricultural lands all of which is in Ada county. John H. McBirney, alone, has two hundred and forty acres in one body, midway between Boise and Meridian, and adjacent to the Cloverdale school. About eighty acres of this land is in apples and prunes--ten acres of apples and seventy of prunes, all bearing and yielding excellent crops. Thomas McBirney, the father of the subject of this sketch, who lives in Boise, also has two hundred and forty acres in the same vicinity, twenty-five acres being in apples and prunes. William S. McBirney, a partner in the Fruit Company, likewise has two hundred and forty acres in the same neighborhood, about one-half of which is in apples and prunes.

The McBirney Fruit Company owns and operates four packing houses, one being at Perkins Station and one at Ustick, one at Beatty Station and one at Meridian. They also own and operate three dry houses for the drying of apples and prunes before marketing. The individual orchards of John H McBirney, in 1919 produced over three hundred and fifty tons of fruit, including three hundred tons of prunes. Over one thousand tons of fruit were produced on all the McBirney orchards, while the prospect for 1920 shows that two thousand tons of fruit may be raised.

The McBirneys are an Iowa family and have been in Boise valley from ten to twenty years, different members of the family coming at different times. Herman C. McBirney, younger brother of John Henry, now living in Boise, was the first to arrive about twenty years ago. Back in Grundy county Iowa, the father and eldest son held over six hundred acres of Iowa land, now said to be worth six hundred dollars an acre, but they sold at a time when land was bringing only one hundred and twenty-six to one hundred and ninety dollars an acre.

John H. McBirney was married in Marshall county, Iowa, June 29, 1899 to Bessie O. Waters, who was born in that county, August 28, 1871. She was educated in Iowa and Kansas, and for several years before her marriage had been teaching school, as did her husband for two years. He was educated in Coe College, Cedar Rapids and at the Iowa State Agricultural College, Ames.

In 1910, Mr. McBirney sold his interests in Iowa and removed to Idaho. He resided in Boise for two years, but since 1912 has been living on his ranch. In his family are four children; Henry Leonard and Stanley Ward, both attending the Iowa State Agricultural College; Irene Margaret, attending Boise High School; and Mary Elizabeth in Cloverdale school. The family are earnest members of the Presbyterian church, of which Mr. McBirney is an elder. He is a supporter of the Republican party and held various minor offices in Grundy county, Iowa. He is now serving as president of the Cloverdale school board, and in other directions he has given of his time and ability toward the furtherance of all movements intended to benefit the community in which he makes his home

MCBIRNEY, J.H.