



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** **HUGE S. ANDERSON** (born between 1820 and 1828, Scotland; active in Petaluma 1874 or 1875 -1876)

**SITTER:** **CHARLOTTE DAMON ELLSWORTH** (1842 to 1908)

**DATE:** between 1874 and 1876

**PHOTOGRAPHIC FORMAT:** enlarged reprint of original carte de visite

**IMPRINT:** "H. Anderson's Sunbeam Gallery, Main Street Petaluma, California"

**COLLECTION OF LAWRENCE REED**

As a young girl, Charlotte Damon traveled with her mother and father from Massachusetts to California, most probably by ship. She lived in Tomales on the Burbank farm until her marriage to Legrand Ellsworth in 1861. Charlotte and Legrand settled in Petaluma and had nine children, seven of which lived to adulthood. Her obituary referred to her as, "... one of the most highly esteemed and best beloved pioneer women of Petaluma."

In this portrait, Mrs. Ellsworth is between 32 and 34 years of age. She is dressed simply but elegantly in a striped silk bodice which is darted and seamed to create a multilayered yoke which is repeated by a dark strip of sheer lace. This decorative design is contrasted by her simple, crisp, white collar. She wears long, drop earrings, most probably of jet with gold findings, a gold locket and a bar brooch which links her collar.

Mrs. Ellsworth's hair is pulled up off her face and drawn back above and behind her ears. Her crown braid and back bun are most probably hairpieces, which were highly fashionable in the 1870's.