



PAINTER: unidentified

PHOTOGRAPHER: **JOHN QUINCY REED** (b.1841 or 1842, d.1902)

SITTER: **FRED NORTHRUP** (1883-1944)

DATE: between 1884 and 1888

FORMAT: embellished photograph

COLLECTION OF LAWRENCE REED

The baby portrayed here is Fred Northrup, and, as the firstborn son of Lulu Ellsworth Northrup and Charles Northrup, he was a grandson of Legrand and Charlotte Ellsworth. Make certain to read about this important Petaluma pioneer family and view their other portraits hanging to the left of this image.

Both a painter and a photographer must be credited with the creation of this portrait. This painted image originated as a photograph by John Quincy Reed, which was most probably a salt print enlargement of the cabinet card illustrated below. A “retoucher,” most probably working in Reed’s studio, enhanced the salt print with color and shading. Almost all retouchers remain anonymous, and many were young women. In a display box nearby, you can find a reprint of a photo portraying one of these women at her work desk and a rare 19th century artist’s box containing the paints and tools utilized by a photograph retoucher.



To see another example of an embellished portrait photograph, see the portrait of Henry Ellsworth, Fred Northrup's uncle, on the wall just opposite.

Paula Freund, 2017