



**PHOTOGRAPHER: BRYAN R. JOHNSON** (b. 1834)

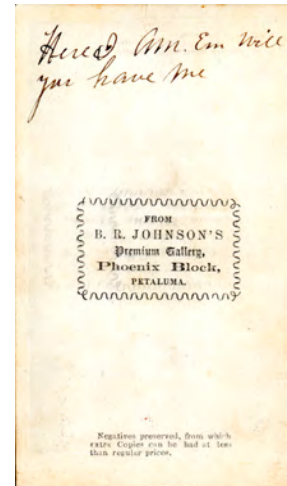
**SITTER: GILES PEASE KELLOGG** (b.c. 1825)

**DATE:** 1863-1867

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

**SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS**

This portrait was taken by Bryan R. Johnson of his fellow Petaluman portrait photographer, Giles Pease Kellogg. According to the scholar, Peter Palmquist, Kellogg was Petaluma's first photographer. He worked as a daguerreotypist, ambrotypist and paper photographer in Petaluma between 1856 and 1857, and again in 1860. During these years, Kellogg repeatedly advertised his Petaluma photo studio in the *Sonoma County Journal*. On January 10, 1856 he announced the opening of his "Daguerrean Gallery" next door to Dr. Brown's Drug Store on Main Street in Petaluma. He proclaimed, "The Operating Room is furnished with a MAMMOTH SKY-LIGHT, arranged on the most scientific plan, which, with the latest improvements in cameras, apparatus and chemicals enables Mr. Kellogg to produce pictures of the 'human face divine' in a style of excellence not to be surpassed." Later, in 1860, he proclaimed, "Ambrotypes of deceased persons taken on the shortest notice," and "Pictures taken as well on cloudy days as on fair."



Reverse of carte de visite, photo courtesy of the Society of California Pioneers

It is very unfortunate that not one daguerreotype or ambrotype by Kellogg is known to exist. To learn more about these early portrait formats, listen to the educational video, provided courtesy of the George Eastman Museum, looped on this display's iPad. You can also view examples of these early portrait formats in the adjacent display cases.

Close inspection of the obverse and reverse of this portrait reveals that Kellogg had a special purpose in mind when he visited Johnson's studio to have his portrait taken. The inscription on the front reads, "Will you be my wife," and the inscription on the back reads, "Here I am. Em will you have me." Although not the most sophisticated marriage proposal, the portrait itself depicts Kellogg in a very polished and romantic fashion. With a tender look in his eyes, Kellogg gazes off to his right, and his bust is softly encircled by an oval vignette.