



ARTIST: Unidentified
PHOTOGRAPHER: **H. F. ROBERTS** (active in Petaluma c. 1892-1894)
SITTER: **HELLENE KRECKLOW MYERS** (1835 -1916)
DATE: c.1892 - 1894
FORMAT: embellished photograph
ON LOAN FROM EDWARD PETERSON



ARTIST: Unidentified
PHOTOGRAPHER: **H. F. ROBERTS** (active in Petaluma c. 1892-1894)
SITTER: **FRANK HEINRICH MYERS, SENIOR** (1827-1892)
DATE: c.1892 - 1894
FORMAT: embellished photograph
ON LOAN FROM EDWARD PETERSON

This pair of portraits depict Hellen and Frank (Heinrich) Myers, two early Petaluma settlers. Although Frank was a Petaluma steamboat captain, little is known about this couple. More is known of their son, Frank Heinrich Myers, Junior (1867-1953). Frank junior married Ida Mabel Brownlee, the daughter of James and Harriet Brownlee, also early Petaluma pioneers. Frank owned the Myers Harness Shop on Washington Street, served as Petaluma's City Treasurer for many years and was a dedicated Odd Fellow.

Both an artist and a photographer must be credited with the creation of these portraits. They originated as photographs by the Petaluma photographer H. F. Roberts, which were most probably salt print enlargements of the cabinet cards illustrated here. The compositions of the framed drawings and the photographs are exact with the exception that Mrs. Myers' image has been rotated horizontally. A retoucher, most probably working in Robert's studio, enhanced the salt prints with charcoal shading. Almost all retouchers remain anonymous, and many were young women. In the 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. There are other examples of embellished portrait photographs throughout the exhibit. Have fun identifying them.

