



PAINTER: unidentified

PHOTOGRAPHER: **LAFAYETTE T. SHEPPARD**, (1852 - 1940; active in Petaluma 1888)

SITTER: **HENRY ELLSWORTH** (1864 - 1938)

DATE: 1888

FORMAT: embellished photograph

COLLECTION OF LAWRENCE REED

This portrait is of Henry Ellsworth, one of the nine offspring of the Petaluma pioneers, Charlotte and Legrand Ellsworth. He was 24 years old when this portrait was taken, and his attire reflects the styles worn by young men in the 1880's. His hair is cut very short, combed carefully and oiled, and he sports a wide striped tie and a stiff upturned collar. His vest is trim, fitted, fully buttoned and decorated with a watch chain which ends in a small square fob.

Both a painter and a photographer must be credited with the creation of this portrait. This painted image originated as a photograph by Lafayette Sheppard, which was most probably a salt print enlargement of the cabinet card illustrated here. A "retoucher," most probably working in Sheppard's studio, enhanced the salt print with color and 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.



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

Paula Freund, 2017