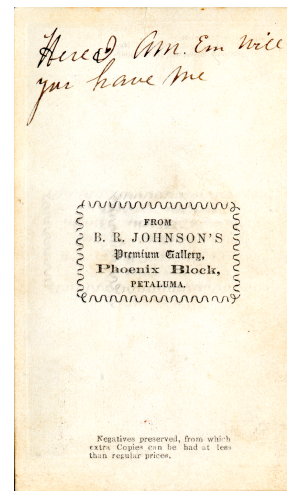


PHOTOGRAPHER: BRYAN R. JOHNSON (b. 1834)
SITTER: GILES PEASE KELLOGG (b.c. 1825)
DATE: 1863-1867
FORMAT: enlarged reprint of original carte de
visite
SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS

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 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, but we are fortunate to have this portrait of him. It is especially notable, because close inspection of the obverse and reverse 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. 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.