



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** **WILLIAM HENRY LENTZ** (b. c. 1845 Baltimore; active in Petaluma c. 1867 - c. 1870)

**SITTER:** "Member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows"

**DATE:** between 1867 and 1870

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

**IMPRINT:** "From W. H. Lentz's (Late Johnson's) Photographic Gallery, Main Street, Petaluma"

**PRIVATE COLLECTION**

This is a rare, early portrait of a leader of the Petaluma Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is dressed in his official regalia consisting of a heavy embroidered collar and apron. He holds the official Odd Fellows gavel and stands between a podium and chair which are still housed in the Petaluma Odd Fellows Lodge # 30, 111 Petaluma Boulevard North.

The Petaluma Odd Fellows Lodge was established in 1854 and played a very important role in the city's development. The Lodge's early member lists included many Petaluma pioneers. Among the most prominent was Legrand Ellsworth. Make certain to view his portrait which is centrally located on the west display wall. The portrait is on loan from the Petaluma Odd Fellows Lodge, and in front of the portrait is the organization's beautiful eulogy to Ellsworth.

Paula Freund, 2017