



PHOTOGRAPHER: **BRYAN R. JOHNSON** (b. c. 1834 New York State; active in Petaluma c. 1863 - c. 1867)

SITTERS: "Two Standing Little Girls"

DATE: between 1863 and 1867

PHOTOGRAPHIC FORMAT: enlarged reprint of original carte de visite

IMPRINT: "From B. R. Johnson's Photographic Gallery, Doyle's Fire Proof Building, Main Street, Petaluma"

PRIVATE COLLECTION

These two young girls are dressed identically and are most probably sisters. They wear printed cotton summer dresses loosely constructed to ensure that they can be let out to accommodate growth. The dropped shoulder and low, wide neckline baring the entire upper shoulders was a traditional style for children, carried over from the 18th century when it was thought to strengthen them by making them tolerant of the cold. Both girls wear laced boots and short, narrow-legged pantalettes which end in frills just below the knee.

Their hairstyle is the typical 1860's fashion for girls with straight hair. It is parted down the center, with a blunt cut at jaw level and oiled and tucked behind the ears.

Paula Freund, 2017