



ARTIST: C. W. BOWLES

PHOTOGRAPHER: LEWIS DOWE (b.1838)

SITTER: SUSAN DURGIN EASTMAN WHITNEY (1832 - 1917)

DATE: 1881

FORMAT: oil on canvas, embellished photograph

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM



PHOTOGRAPHER: LEWIS DOWE (b.1838)

SITTER: SUSAN DURGIN EASTMAN WHITNEY (1832 - 1917)

DATE: 1877-1881

FORMAT: enlarged reprint of original cabinet card

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The exhibit's exceptionally lovely pair of oil on canvas portraits depicting Susan Durgin Eastman Whitney and her husband Albion was donated to the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum by a Whitney family descendant. This portrait of Susan, painted by C. W. Bowles in 1881, is based upon the depiction of her taken by Petaluma photographer Lewis Dowe sometime between 1877 and 1881. These two portraits are displayed in the exhibit side-by-side so that you can compare the compositions.

Susan traveled to California by the Panama Route with her four children in 1861 to join her husband who had been working in the lumber business in Placer County. They settled in Petaluma, and Albion became a well-known and respected Petaluma businessman and state politician. It was recorded that as a widow Susan managed the businesses her husband had created, and, as executrix of his estate, "carried out his wishes to the letter." She was also reputed to be a very charitable and kind woman and was an active member of the Masonic Order of the Eastern Star and of the Episcopal Church.