

CASED IMAGES



1. [DAGUERREOTYPE] Anon. Rattlesnake Bar, Placer County, California, circa early 1850s. Half plate daguerreotype of a California Gold Rush town or mining camp historically recognized as Rattlesnake Bar, about six miles south of Auburn along the North Fork of the American River. Folsom Lake now covers the site. The Rattlesnake Bar post office was established in 1854, discontinued in 1869, reestablished in 1882 as Rattlesnake, and discontinued again in 1883. Gudde, in his **California Gold Camps**, writes, "Mining on the bar was exhausted in 1850-51 because the claims were so situated that they could not be worked by natural water. In 1853, however, the flat bench above the bar was prospected with success and a town was built, taking its name from the Bar. Water was brought by the Bear River Ditch Company in July, 1853... In 1854 the three men of the Rattlesnake Company made 6 thousand dollars in six weeks with one sluice." The production declined in the mid-1850s, but an 1855 report stated that the dirt still paid ten dollars to the wheelbarrow load. The area was reactivated in the 1880s and again in the 1930s. Visible signs in this rare image include *Bowling Saloon*; *T. Woods & Co. / Boarding*; *Rattlesnake Hotel / & Boarding House*; and *Ohio House*. The structures depicted are wood frame and tents, both typical forms of very early California mining camp architecture. The daguerreotype is housed in a purple lined, embossed leather covered case; plain, double elliptical brass mat. There are some surface scratches, o/w in Fine condition.



2. [AMBROTYPE] Anon. San Andreas, California, circa 1850s. Half plate ambrotype depicting an outdoor street view of an early California Gold Rush town, said to be San Andreas in Calaveras County. San Andreas is located near the confluence of the north and south forks of the Calaveras River. It's post office was established in 1854. The image looks down a street, with buildings on both sides, toward a hillside in the background dotted with cabins. Signs readable on the buildings on the left side of the street include *Creamer's / Hotel*; *Groceries & Provisions*; *Wells Fargo & Co*; *Antelope Hotel & Restaurant*; *Hardware / & Tin Shop*; and *Hotel de France*. Visible on the right side buildings are signs advertising *Lager Beer / 12 ½ Cts*; and *American Hotel*. Five men are standing in front of the American Hotel (or perhaps they just ventured outside from the saloon). The sign for the Antelope Hotel & Restaurant is a great piece of American folk art depicting an actual antelope in the design. The presence of the iconic Wells Fargo & Co sign adds considerable interest and importance to this view of this mining town, first settled in 1848. The image is encased in an oval brass mat and housed in a full strap design leather covered case. The case is separated in halves, but can be repaired; the clasps are in fine condition. There is a small area of emulsion rubbed off the surface, o/w in Fine condition.

3. [AMBROTYPE] Shew, William. [Mother and child], San Francisco, California, circa 1855-1861. Sixth plate ambrotype by this early San Francisco photographer of a young mother holding an infant in her lap. The woman is wearing a brooch that is highlighted with a dab of gold color, as is her bracelet and ring. The artist has given a touch of pink tinting to her cheeks as well as the baby's. William Shew (1820-1903) came to California in 1851 and for the next half century worked out of photographic studios in several locations in San Francisco (and for a while in Marysville). His name, blindstamped on the lower left corner of the mat, along with the address *115 Montg'y St / San Francisco* indicates the image dates from circa 1855-1861. [Palmquist & Kailbourn] The image is housed in a thermoplastic "*Rebekah at the Well*" case [Berg 1-85]. The upper left inner corner on the purple velvet-lined left side is broken off; the lower left brad on the front cover of the case is missing; otherwise the case is in VG+ condition. The image is in excellent condition.



4. [TINTYPE] Anon. American Indian woman, circa 1870s. Sixth plate tintype of a waist-up portrait of a young Native American woman wearing an elk's tooth dress. The woman, with long curls down both sides of her shoulders to the bodice, was attributed to the Nez Perce tribe by a previous owner. Her appearance and clothing suggest either a Plateau (which includes the Nez Perce) or Plains tribal connection. This striking image is housed in a leather covered half case with an embossed geometric and floral design; ornate, oval opening brass mat.