Responding to Early Portrait Photography

I am interested in the perception of time in a photograph and in creating photographs that appear to be simultaneously contemporary and antique. In my recent photographic work, I have developed a technique for rapidly reproducing the effects of age on silver gelatin photographs. In this next phase of research, I will examine the visual cues of 19th century portrait photography. I will study portrait typologies in general as well as representations of sex, class, locale (rural versus urban), and possibly race as they are represented in the portraits. I will examine portraits made for personal consumption and those made for identification purposes. I will then respond to those approaches and create a new body of photographic portrait work. In particular, I will examine and restage the styles of background, lighting approach and personal presentation of the sitters. I anticipate encountering many interesting conceptual and creative problems in this project.