

June 1974



(Photo Courtesy of the Charley Weaver Museum)

**ORPHANS** — Three children of Sgt. Amos Humiston and his wife Phylinda, Portville, are shown in this photo, which is on exhibit in the Showcase of the Civil War, Charley Weaver's Museum, at Gettysburg. Sgt. Humiston, killed in the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, was identified through a picture of his children. His widow became

the first matron of an orphanage set up in General Howard's headquarters building, and their three children were its first orphans. The Humiston story, printed in the Times Herald in 1960, is one of many in the History of Portville, now being prepared for publication in connection with the nation's Bicentennial.

# Humiston Story Featured In Portville History Book

**PORTVILLE** — A book on the history of Portville is being prepared as a major feature of the town's celebration of the nation's Bicentennial.

Under the auspices of the Portville Bicentennial Commission, a special historical society was formed for the

special purpose of writing and publishing the book.

Editors of the book, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pollock, said it would include maps from 1869 historical stories on various parts of the town, many photos, all older than 1920, and a list of advertising businesses which would add to the book's value in the future.

Mrs. (Ronda) Pollock said the book fulfills one of the requirements set forth when the community qualified for Official Bicentennial Community status.

Alderfer.

The book will include reproductions from the 100-year-old Gazetteer and Business Directory of Cattaraugus County.

The town map from that date includes a list of residents in 1875.

Mrs. William Anderson is in charge of advertising in Portville village, and Mrs. Orville Clark for the Weston's Mills area.

A copy of the book will be placed in the time capsule which will be sealed and buried

wrecker's museum, at Gettysburg. Sgt. Humiston, killed in the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, was identified through a picture of his children. His widow became

times Herald in 1900, is one of many in the History of Portville, now being prepared for publication in connection with the nation Bicentennial.

# Humiston Story Featured In Portville History Book

PORTVILLE — A book on the history of Portville is being prepared as a major feature of the town's celebration of the nation's Bicentennial.

Under the auspices of the Portville Bicentennial Commission, a special historical society was formed for the

special purpose of writing and publishing the book.

Editors of the book, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pollock, said it would include maps from 1869 historical stories on various parts of the town, many photos, all older than 1920, and a list of advertising businesses which would add to the book's value in the future.

Mrs. (Ronda) Pollock said the book fulfills one of the requirements set forth when the community qualified for Official Bicentennial Community status.

The book is due to be published prior to the town's celebration on July 10 and 11. It will cover the period from the first settlers in the early 19th century to 1915, just before the entry of the U.S. into World War I.

Its Civil War section will include a list of men from the town who fought in the Civil War.

Mrs. Pollock, who is researching the Civil War period, said she will include a reprint of a 1960 Times Herald article by Marian Reynolds about Amos Humiston, a union soldier whose widow became the first matron of an orphanage at Gettysburg, for children of veterans.

Sgt. Humiston attained some posthumous fame because his remains were found after the Battle of Gettysburg, with a picture of his three children clutched in his hand, and no further identification. He was identified, and his widow notified of the circumstances, because of the picture.

Other features of the book include: The Weston's Mills area, by Clyde Collins and Mr. and Mrs. Orville Clark; the Village of Portville by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Miller; Transportation by trolley, canal and railroad by Mrs. August Kayes, Mrs. John Higley and Mrs. Donald Wormer and the Bedford Corners area by Charles Eshelman.

A special section on outstanding individuals of the past is being written by C.R.

Alderfer.

The book will include reproductions from the 100-year-old Gazetteer and Business Directory of Cattaraugus County.

The town map from that date includes a list of residents in 1875.

Mrs. William Anderson is in charge of advertising in Portville village, and Mrs. Orville Clark for the Weston's Mills area.

A copy of the book will be placed in the time capsule which will be sealed and buried after the Happy Birthday Parade on July 10.

The book will be published by the Van Mark Printing Company of Wellsville. John Gerringier, Weston's Mills, is the financing officer.

A thousand copies of the book will be printed, and books may be reserved by contacting any of the contributors.