

BOOK NEWS



Praeger Publishers

Gettysburg's Unknown Soldier

The Life, Death, and Celebrity
of Amos Humiston
By Mark H. Dunkelman

"Of the multitude of human interest stories associated with the battle of Gettysburg, that of Amos Humiston has long been regarded as one of the most poignant. But of all the many times that Humiston's story has been recounted, it has never before been told with the rich detail found in Mark Dunkelman's *Gettysburg's Unknown Soldier*. For the first time, the reader is introduced to Humiston the man. . . Mr. Dunkelman has woven together a compelling narrative that should fascinate all who are interested in the broader, human implications of the tragic events that occurred at Gettysburg in 1863."

William A. Frassanito
Author of *Early Photography at Gettysburg*

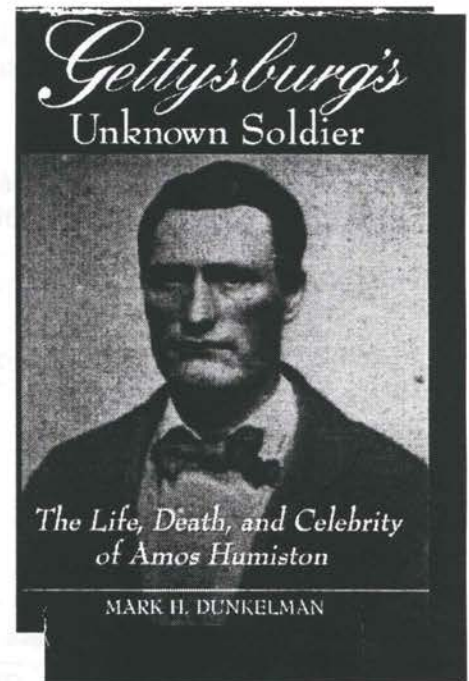
"The fate of Amos Humiston was one of the great human interest stories of Gettysburg. . . Mark Dunkelman has told Humiston's story with a verve and sensitivity that will leave no reader unmoved."

James M. McPherson, Author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*

"Mark Dunkelman's thorough research and facile writing has produced the definitive account of one of Gettysburg's best human interest stories."

Harry W. Pfanz
Author of *Gettysburg—Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill*

He was found dead on the battlefield at Gettysburg, an unknown soldier with nothing to identify him but an ambrotype of his three children, clutched in his fingers. With the photograph as the single, sad clue to his identity, a publicity campaign to locate his family swept the North. Within a month, the bereaved widow and children were located in Portville, New York, and the devoted



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father was revealed to be Sergeant Amos Humiston of the 154th New York Volunteers. Using many previously untapped sources, this book tells the tale of 19th-century war, sentiment, and popular culture in greater detail than ever before.

The Humiston story touched deep emotions in Civil War America, and inspired a flood of heartfelt prose, poetry, and song. Amid a vast outpouring of public sympathy, a charitable drive evolved to assist the bereft family. At the end of the war, the crusade was expanded to establish a home at Gettysburg for orphans of deceased soldiers. The first residents of the institution were Amos Humiston's widow Philinda and her three children: Franklin, Alice, and Frederick. In this extensive account, a full portrait emerges of Amos Humiston, the loving husband and father destined to be remembered for his death tableau, and his family, the widow and orphans who struggled for the rest of their lives with celebrity born of tragedy.

CONTENTS: Introduction; Amos; A Green Hand Sails from New Bedford; Roving the Pacific; Philinda; To the Front; Camp Misery; A Close Call at Chancellorsville; Gettysburg; Whose Father Was He?; A Widow and Her Orphans; Celebrity; The Homestead; A Tarnished Legacy; The Family's Later Years; Amos Humiston Remembered; Appendix: Songs Inspired by Amos Humiston; Bibliographical Note; Index.

MARK H. DUNKELMAN has written and lectured extensively on the 154th New York Volunteer Infantry, Amos Humiston's regiment. He lives in Providence, Rhode Island, with his wife Annette and son Karl.

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