

The story is becoming of more interest to the editor! Page 198, December 10, 1863, interjects a bit of commercialism, under the heading **NEW PREMIUM OFFERED.**

"The large-sized, handsome photo of Sgt. Hummiston's three children, copied and enlarged from the ambrotype found in the hands of the dead soldier at Gettysburg, worth \$1.00, will be sent by mail, postage paid, in return for a new subscriber paying full rates in advance."

December 17, 1863, page 101, carries a six paragraph letter from the Rev. Isaac G. Ogden from Portville, N.Y. He describes Sgt. Hummiston's background under the heading, **SERGEANT HUMMISTON AND HIS FAMILY.** He points out that the Sgt. was a harness-maker, etc...wanted to enlist earlier...finally was motivated to after learning of the disastrous Penninsular Campaign. Also, touching bit about the widow and her profession of faith...plus the needs that she and the orphans have.

December 31, 1863, page 210, has two paragraphs, measuring 2 7/8" X 5 1/2", under **GALLERY OF SOLDIERS' ORPHANS.** The efforts of Dr. Bourns in behalf of the widow of fallen Sgt. Hummiston, have not only called forth a great deal of interest in the public generally, but have awakened hope in the minds of others similarly situated. The editor goes on to propose a home...for the orphans of fallen heroes....to be built on crest of Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg.

If you think we should pursue the story into 1864 we would be pleased to follow-up.

The museum has no capacity to duplicate, or photograph, the originals which are in very good condition. We would be happy to coordinate the photography of whatever you would like. We hope this gives you what you need.

SIGNED

Gerald W. Siciaff

cc: GETT. Roach

IDENTITY ASCERTAINED

HUMMERTON

The identity of the dead soldier who was found on the bloody field of Gettysburg, with the picture of his three little children tightly clasped in his hands, has been ascertained within a week or two. The wide publicity given to the touching circumstance through the medium of the press produced the desired result. The name of the deceased was Hummerton, and his widow and three children reside at Portville, Caterangus County, New York. Large numbers of photographic copies of the picture upon which the dying eyes of the warrior-father closed have been sold and the profits realized from their sales will be appropriated to the benefit of the children.

Compiler
Nov 30, 1863

SERGEANT HUMISTON

HUMMERTON

Our citizens are familiar with the story of Sergeant Humiston, who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg and subsequently recognized by means of the ambrotype of his children found in his hand after his death. An effort is being made to raise a fund for the support of the orphan children of the deceased, by the sale of their photographs. They are executed in very handsome style, and no doubt will command a ready sale. They can be had at the Drug Store of Dr. R. Horner, in this place, who is agent for their sale. Price 25¢.

Compiler
Feb. 8, 1864

HUMISTON CHILDREN

[Compiler, August 28, 1865]

"An Affecting Story Spoiled"

Sergt. Humiston, says the Baltimore Clipper, who it was supposed expred on the field of Gettysburg--who was the hero of the celebrated Gettysburg Photographs, of a very fine poem by Jas. G. Clark, and innumerable affecting newspaper articles--returned to his home and family at Portville, Cattaraugus county, recently, having been confined as the Olean Times learns as a prisoner in one of the Southern prison pens, and but lately released."

[Compiler, September 4, 1865]

David Wills contradicted the above story and quoted the same line professed by him earlier; that the body was found on Stratton Street by Peter Beitler and was buried on Judge Russell's lot before being disinterred to the National Cemetery.