Mortal Remains

Death in Early America

Edited by NANCY ISENBERG and ANDREW BURSTEIN

PENN

University of Pennsylvania Press Philadelphia

Contents

List of Illustrations ix

America 163 Elizabeth Reis

Introduction 1
PART I. MORTALITY FOR THE MASSES 1. The Christian Origins of the Vanishing Indian Laura M. Stevens 1. The Christian Origins of the Vanishing Indian Laura M. Stevens
 Blood Will Out: Sensationalism, Horror, and the Roots of American Crime Literature 31 Daniel A. Cohen
3. A Tale of Two Cities: Epidemics and the Rituals of Death in
Eighteenth-Century Boston and Philadelphia 56 Robert V. Wells
PART II. THE POLITICS OF DEATH
4. Death and Satire: Dismembering the Body Politic 71
Nancy Isenberg
5. Immortalizing the Founding Fathers: The Excesses of Public
Eulogy 91
Andrew Burstein
6. The Politics of Tears: Death in the Early American Novel 108 Julia Stern
PART III. PHYSICAL REMAINS
7. Major André's Exhumation 123 Michael Meranze
8. Patriotic Remains: Bones of Contention in the Early Republic 136
Matthew Dennis
9. A Peculiar Mark of Infamy: Dismemberment, Burial, and
Rebelliousness in Slave Societies 149
Douglas R. Egerton
PART IV. AFTER LIFE
10. Immortal Messengers: Angels, Gender, and Power in Early

viii Contents

11. "In the Midst of Life we are in Death": Affliction and Religion in Antebellum New York 176
Nicholas Marshall

 The Romantic Landscape: Washington Irving, Sleepy Hollow, and the Rural Cemetery Movement 187 Thomas G. Connors

Notes 205 List of Contributors 247 Index 249