

Renée Wendinger---Since my mother (New York name- Sophia Kaminsky) is an orphan train rider from New York (*read her story in Last Train Home: An Orphan Train Story*), and was placed in the state of Minnesota, I began an early search of news items exclusive to Minnesota. I've known about the orphan trains since the age of ten, and grew up knowing the people that rode them, and listening to each unique story. Little did these people know they were a part of American History that began as a mass migration of children spanning the course of seventy-five years formulating America's earliest child welfare system.

Early news and photographs of and about the children of the orphan trains are extremely rare. *Extra! Extra! The Orphan Trains and Newsboys of New York* is a comprehensive nonfiction resource book about the children of the train across North America. As a part of that research, and as an orphan train author, orphan train historian, orphan train speaker and presenter, orphan train descendant, and honorary president of the Minnesota based Orphan Train Riders of New York organization, I have included a number of early editorials exclusive to Minnesota I've researched and compiled here.

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Minnesota Historical Society.

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HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS

On last Saturday Mr. Chas. R. Fry, Agent of the Children's Aid Society of New York, arrived in this city with eighteen boys for whom homes were wanted. They were taken to dinner had been proved by the ladies. After this was over with, persons who had made applications for a boy made their selection. The greatest care was exercised that only those persons at whose hands good treatment could be expected should be allowed to have one of them. The lads were bright, intelligent looking little fellows and ranged from about six to fourteen years of age. Everybody was surprised to find there were more applications than boys. Mr. Fry says he never met with so kind and hearty a welcome for the homeless ones under his charge as was at this place.

The following list of those who took the orphans will show that the boys, or most of them, got good homes:

Santiago: F. O. Wiley

Sauk Rapids: Justus Carpenter, H. Caywood, Ed. Hall, J. D. Hyke, A. Smith.

St. Cloud: Rev. E. V. Campbell, H. J. Fowler, Geo. E. Fuller, Dr. E. Mariatt, B. Overbeck, F. H. Owen, S. J. Shepard, F. M. Shook, Charles T. Smith.

Maine Prairie: D.A. Hoyt, E. Kidder, Charles Neal.



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Journal Editor: W.A. Chapman

BOYS WANTING HOMES

"A company of boys from the Children's Aid Society of New York City will arrive in St James on Friday, September 1, 1882 for the purpose of finding homes and employment with farmers and others.

"A meeting for the distribution of the boys will be held at the Court House Hall at 1:00 o'clock on the day of their arrival. Those proposing to take one or more of the boys are requested to hand their names as soon as possible to the following gentlemen who have consented to act as committee, and be at the hall promptly at the hour named to receive the children. J.S. Aldrich, T. Veltum, W.A. Chapman.

TERMS

"The boys will be placed with applicants who have the recommendation of the committee. They are expected to remain until they are of age, but should a removal be necessary, it can be arranged by writing to the agent. Applicants are expected to treat the children as their own in the matter of schooling and training.

"Neither is bound by writing, and The Society reserves the right to remove the child at any time for what may be considered a just cause. The Society pays all the expenses attending the transportation of the children from New York, and desires to place them in homes where they will be, at least, under strictly moral influences."

E. Trott, Agent
Children's Aid Society
No. 19, E. Fourth St. New York



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THE ORPHANS

"If any stranger were present at the Court House last week, and witnessed the "rush" for the boys and girls sent out by the Children's Aid Society of New York, they may readily be excused for thinking that the baby crop, like all others, had fallen short for the past several years. The demand for the children was simply immense. After seeing them and inspecting them, the "hankering" became general. Before their arrival, the number of applicants did not exceed twelve. Had there been fifty in the company, all would probably have been taken. The disappointed ones will be forced to continue childless until the arrival of the next batch, which will be in about 5 weeks.

The company already settled in this section, arrived in St James on Friday noon of last week, in care of E. Trott, Agent of The Children's Aid Society. Headed by the editor of The Journal, the procession moved upon the court house, Messrs. Veltum and Aldriff bringing up the rear and preventing any flank movement on the part of the town urchins.

Shortly after reaching the destination, the needy and curious began to flock in, and the hall was soon filled. After a few touching remarks by Mr. Trott, a brief history was given of each child in the company, when the names of applicants were called and the children turned over to new (and we trust better) masters. The children ranged from 1 to 20 years, and there were 31 of them, 10 of whom were girls.

The entire afternoon was taken up in making the distribution, and if there is any dissatisfaction over the manner of the doing so, the committee members are not to blame. Approximately 20 of the applicants were made after the arrival of the children, and it was impossible to keep the list straight. Mr. Trott says that if a sufficient number of applicants are prepared within the next ten days he will bring another company of children to this place. Those desiring one or more of the children should deliver their names at once, or drop a postal card to any one of the committee making their wants known. The second company will not be as large as the first.

Children brought to St James, Watonwan County, Minnesota, on September 1, 1882.

Child Placed

Odelie Schmidt, age 20
Jennie Schmidt, age 10
Gertrude Schmidt, age 16
Herbert Schmidt, age 13
Harry Schmidt, age 12
Bettie Smith, age 15
Owen Williams, age 4
Thomas Myer, age 13
Cornelia Wilson, age 7
Jennie Eltensted, age 13
Charles Rettiche, age 14
John N. Daly, age 13
Lillie Harris, age 10
Joseph Goodison, age 15
Robert Parker, age 11
Raphael Millard, age 6
Maggie Stephens, age 9
Lewis Newberger, age 12
Frank Morris, age 10
John Hale, age 11
Marie Gargona, age 13
Alfred Keeling, age 15
Samuel Keeling, age 13
Oliver Armstrong, age 9
Mary Ellen Cain, age 15
Louis Dornheim, age 15
Bertrand Moore, age 12
Montague Young, age 10
George Rothert, age 12
Mathew Maher, age 4

Bertie, a one-year-old baby was left with Mrs. Harry Smith until the party for whom he was destined arrives. He has recovered from a spell of sickness and is now in good health. Mrs. Smith has become attached to the little fellow and thinks strongly of keeping him.

Home Placement

Mrs. J.W. Palmer, St James, Minn.
Mrs. J.W. Palmer, St James, Minn.
Mrs. J.L. Jones, St James, Minn.
Joseph Hartung, St James, Minn.
N. Schnellling, St James, Minn.
Thos. Veltum, St James, Minn.
Mrs. A. Merigold, St James, Minn.
Barney Smith, St James, Minn.
Mrs. C.C. Waste, St James, Minn.
John Luff, St James, Minn.
Mrs. D.C. Atwell, Adrian Township, Minn.
B.A. Town, Antrim Township, Minn.
B.A. Town, Antrim Township, Minn.
Mr. Porter, Nelson Township, Minn.
W.D. Forsythe, Nelson Township, Minn.
M. Bradford, Riverdale Township, Minn.
M. Bradford, Riverdale Township, Minn.
D. Pedvin, Riverdale Township, Minn.
N.A. Melick, Riverdale Township, Minn.
N.J. Grogan, Riverdale Township, Minn.
Mrs. M. Donley, South Branch Township, Minn.
Mrs. M. Donley, South Branch Township, Minn.
Thomas Marsden, South Branch Township, Minn.
John Duar, South Branch Township, Minn.
A.R. Town, Martin County, Minn.
A.R. Town, Martin County, Minn.
A. Catlin, Martin County, Minn.
Silas Mills, Martin County, Minn.
John Brennen, Worthington, Minn.
P. Calvin, Sioux City, Iowa

The following parties must call on J.S. Aldritt, and will be given possession of baggage belonging to their charges: A. Catlin, W.D. Forsythe, A.R. Town, B.A. Town, Thos. Marsden, and M. Donley.

Summary Note:

*Just one month later (October, 1882) the Children's Aid Society was investigating a report that one of the boys, 15 years of age, had been picked up in Buffalo, New York. He alleged that the man who took him home was a drunken brute who had beaten and kicked him as soon as they reached home. The boy was speeding his way to New York where his mother lived.

*Whatever the truth of the matter, Editor Chapman declared in his Journal on October 27, 1883, "New York children brought to St. James in August of last year have proved great nuisances." He stated that most of them had come from "vicious and dissolute" parents. Only 7 of the 31 were still living in the home where they were originally placed. Most of those over 12 years of age either changed from home to home or ran away. Instead of becoming vagrants within the confines of a city they became wanderers all over the U.S. at a very early age.

*One of the orphans who "made the grade" in Watonwan County, Minnesota, was Frank Morris, a boy of 10 years when he was a passenger on the orphan train to St James. He was taken into a farm home and given an education in a rural school plus some additional training at a junior college. At age 19 he was associated with the first general store built at Grogan.

See autobiography of Frank Morris.

Researched and Composed by: Author, Renée Wendinger ©2006.

Manuscript: ©Kari Halder, Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, 2006, descendant of Frank Morris.

The Autobiography of Frank Morris

They tell me that I was born in Herkimer, New York on July 4, 1872. My parents both died during some epidemic when I was about two years of age and I left facing the world alone. I never knew of any other relatives.

In the early years of my life I used up several sets of foster parents and step foster parents. Of the whole lot, I only really loved (and possibly the only one that really had the same feeling for me) were my first foster father, Hugh Weber. I saw him die of spinal meningitis when I was about five-years-old.

I also liked his sister, "Aunt Helena" (Mrs. John C. Rowley, whose husband was a Chicago, Illinois banker.) What I didn't care for much were nice clothes, a stiff collar, and cuffs. Aunt Helena was what we called in those days "bed ridden", and thank goodness we don't have the malady of that sickness now. At any rate, I thought she was a fine looking woman. When she'd call me to her bed she would flash the diamonds on her fingers against the coverlet. I remember when Hugh, my foster father was dying, he'd identified his sister by feeling those same rings on her fingers as she'd reach her hand to him for one last clasp. As Aunt Helena's sickness got worse, I was shuttled back to my step-mother, (Mrs. Groviley) in Herkimer, New York who in the meantime had acquired a step-foster-father for me. One can easily imagine how my return to the "circle" would react on him as I was getting old enough to have strong dislikes in my life. We lived close to the banks of the Mohawk River; I can still remember the old covered bridge.

One incident I can illustrate on how easy one could (do away with someone) was my step foster father had the habit of taking his axe with him as he sauntered down to the river to collect driftwood and I was to go along and help. It was not a pleasure jaunt for either of us as I was in the lead as we near the water of the fast flowing stream. I suppose I wanted to see all that I could of my surroundings, and I must have been a little slow for my "dear" father gave a rough command and gave me a slight shove with the hand that held the axe. Did he have murder in his mind, maybe not, but I considered it later in life that he did.

Somewhere along the road of life I must have had good times when I was placed "way out West". I could recite numerous old circus songs such as, "Up in a balloon, boys. Sailing round the moon. Do you know a balloon, has gone up to the moon! The moon has been found, by a great big balloon. Up in a balloon, boys. Sailing round the moon boys. Just think of that! Hurrah for the balloon! Hurrah for the moon! Sliding down Grime's cellar door, and many others. The nurse maid sang a lullaby adage to me, "Now my little man, tell me if you can, where Moses was when the light went out." Followed by "Now I lay me" and Twinkle, Twinkle little star." One of these same girls gave me a full cup of beer and half was my regular ration. I went to sleep in an old horsehair chair, and when I awoke was found I'd vomited on the elegant chair. From then on, I hated the sight of those old, cold, slippery, horsehair chairs.

When I was about eight my "dear" father through some pull or acquaintance got me into the Children's Aid Society in New York City. I went to the "big burg" with a tag on my little coat and was put in charge of the conductor. This was not my first ride as I'd been to Chicago years before, but I don't recall the trip. People were very kind to me, and one lady gave me an orange. A real one, not the kind Barnum used to throw out to the crowds for advertising. I was at the Home about a year and had my first schooling there. I hated the sight of highly colored Roman letters the rest of my life. The reason, I believe, is because I was drilled on them to a great extent. I got around the City very little, but I knew of Central Park and saw and rode the "Elevated".

The Home was a real home to me, but the time came when I found myself in the library with many fine ladies, the

finest and boot-hearted of the City, and seeing that they all were dressed in their silks and satins. One of the well-to-do, but the most sympathetic, was showing me a picture in a little book of a boy driving a herd of cows and she asked me, "Frankie, how would you like to go out West and do just like that boy in the picture?" Well I balked as I didn't know what it was all about. I had never seen a cow, not even Mrs. O'Leary's, or a live chicken or pig until I came West, and then I saw plenty! The ladies explained as kindly as possible that some of the older children must make way for the younger ones since this was the original purpose. I found I could still cry as I was one of the youth. We made it unanimous, but can you imagine anyone crying "not" to leave New York City?

Finally I realized it was all for the best for if I stayed I had no doubt been Mayor of the "old burg" by now, or dead. I was a little runt and in very delicate health extending beyond a few years, but after I got out West and mixed with fresh air, butter and eggs my life became a question whether it paid to raise me. While I was out among the "sticks" my new foster parents had a great deal of fun with me for a while and had me chewing gun-wads for lozenges and I learned the meaning of driving cows. Later I could "ride 'em cowboy!" Later years followed with more foster parents.

As I matured, I was allowed scattered schooling, and later a couple of years of college. I learned a good trade and established a little business on a broken shoe string with a decorating trade business earning around \$1,000.00 per month until War I got underway.

Note: Frank Morris, (born July 4, 1872; passed January 5, 1983) married Edie May Dodge (born February 15, 1873, passed October 8, 1948)



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The Sentinel (Martin County) Minnesota, October 13, 1882

Child Placed

Andrew Spring, age 16
Geo. O'Donnell, age 14
Michele P/Fu-pisek, age 15
Edward Naber, age 16
John J. Travis, age 9
William Styles, age 13
William James Hope, age 12
Henry Style, age 11
K.J. Sui-ille, age 12
Alice Boyle, age 14
Nora Logne, age 14
Alice Buckley, age 15
Carrie Douglass, age 18
Henrietta Thompson, age 15
Samuel Dowling, age 18
E. Ehrmann, age 18
J. O'Brien, age 18
J. Lutirell, age 18
R. Kempton, age 18
R. Brown, age 13
E. Corbin, age 18
Nelly Kinny, age 13

Home Placement, City/Township

John Watson—Fraser
Geo. Tanner - Fairmont
C.C. Smith - Rolling Green
Geo. Smith -Fairmont
Wm. Clark - Fairmont
Alonzo B. Hall – Center Creek
Fred Peterson - Fairmont
J.W. Moore - Fraser
R.N Taylor - Rutland
Mrs. Geo. Tanner - Fairmont
Mrs. John Tanner - Fairmont
Mrs. Barnett - Westford
Capt. Weberland - Rolling Green
R. J. McCadden - Rutland
H. R. Rouse - Fairmont
W. G. McCadden - Rutland
Alonzo Hall - Center Creek
G. S. Livermore - Fairmont
R. Boudrye - Fairmont
John Tanner - Fairmont
A. St. John - Welcome
Byron St. John - Fraser

The Sentinel (Martin County) Minnesota, October 27, 1882

Child Placed

John Rose, age 8
Willie Thompson, age 6
Charles Brown, age 5
Freddie Lester, age 4
Robert Reil/Rail, age 5
Evelyn McGlynn, age 5
Philip Darens, age 7

Home Placement, City/Township

F. Bickel/Rickel - Fairmont
R.W. Thomas - Fairmont
Mrs. Mary Curtis - Rolling Green
A.C. Gilbert - Rutland
A.R. Johnson - Rutland
L.S. Parker - Fairmont
James Hendry - Fraser

John Briscoe, age 5
Charles E. Smith, age 7
Jeremiah Shaw, age 4
Stephen Firicette, age 15
Robert Taylor, age 11
Donald Monroe, age 9
Joseph Lyons, age 6
Henry Shaffer, age 6
Willie Snedicker, age 6
Mary Forti, age 6
William Reasler, age ?
Charles Haug/Haag, age 18
Joseph Burrows, age 18
Geo. Thompkins, age 6
Eddie Frost, age ?
Edward Zeeler, age 5 or 8
Henry Straiton, age 16
Daniel Maby, age 4

E. M. Hyatt - Fairmont
Mrs. M.E. St. John - Fraser
S.R. Older - Pleasant Prairie
James German - Fraser
Alvin Woodbury - Pleasant Prairie
R.A. Chambers - Pleasant Prairie
Charles E. Wood - Tenhassen
Ezra Graham - Tenhassen
J.R. Watson - Jay
Edward Whelpley - Chain Lake Center
O.S. Burdick - Chain Lake Center
J.H. Smith - Nashville Center
Orrin Bacon - Nashville Center
Joshua Betts - Nashville Center
Thomas Humphries - Fairmont
A. St. John - Welcome
J.M. Hasse - Fountanelle
Tom Allen - Center Creek



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BOYS WANTING HOMES
A Company of Boys from The Children's Aid Society of New York City
Will arrive in Albert Lea, Minn.
Friday, Nov. 17th, 1882

For the purpose of finding HOMES and EMPLOYMENT with Farmers and others. There will be a meeting held for the distribution of the boys on Friday at 4 o'clock p.m. at the courthouse. The purpose in taking one or more boys is required for bonding in families as soon as possible.

The following named gentlemen have agreed to act as the "committee."
DR. WEDGE, Int. Revenue Collector
DR BALLARD, Mayor of Albert Lea
C.M. HEWITT, Merchant

TERMS

The boys will be placed with applicants who have the recommendations of the committee. They are expected to comply with the terms of the application. Applicants are expected to treat the children as their own in the matter of schooling and lodging. The Society will provide the transportation of the children from New York to the placement of homes where they will have normal influence.

James Mathews
Children's Aid Society, 150 E 45th Street, New York, NY



©Rochester (Minnesota) Post, Minnesota, Feb. 8, 1888.
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EYOTA, MINNESOTA

A company of homeless boys from the Children's Aid Society, of New York, are expected at this place on the 17th instant. They are to be in charge of the Society's agent, Mr. A.P. Stockwell, and will be added in finding them suitable

homes by a committee of our leading citizens. We understand some of the farmers in this vicinity have already decided to furnish some of these unfortunate boys' homes.



©The New York Times. June 20, 1897; pg.12.

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Minnesota: Legendary Publications, 2010. Print.

SENDING FOUNDLINGS WEST
Mother Superior of the New York Asylum
Defends Robert Curran and Tells of the Practice

Two Sisters of Charity connected with the New York Foundling Asylum, 175 East Sixty-Eight Street returned from Chicago yesterday. Robert Curran, the out-door agent of the asylum, against whom charges have been made that he has been carrying on a traffic in little children, selling them at \$6 apiece is said to be still in that city.

The Mother Superior in charge of the asylum yesterday made a statement in regard to the affair wholly recommendation and approval of Curran. "Mr. Curran has been our agent for the past twelve years "she said, "and we have implicit confidence in him. He is a kind hearted, tender and considerate man, and we have innumerable letters from those who have adopted our children testifying to his good character.

"In the case of little Mary, or Mary Bliss, I find from the records that she had been indentured to a Mrs. Lizzie Murphy in Chicago, but it developed that this woman was not able to provide for the child and returned her to our agent. A little while afterward Mary was indentured to a Mrs. Casey, who has become deeply attached to the little girl and has proved to be a true mother to her. Mrs. Murphy, I imagine, took the course reported through malice. I can account for her actions in no other way.

"No child is indentured or given for adoption until we are satisfied that a good home will be provided. In rare cases, like this one, it happens that those who obtain a child are unable to continue the proper care of it and so report to us. The child is then taken back and placed elsewhere. "We pay all expenses of the children sent to the West, and accept no money for them, except in cases where the adoption has been arranged in advance".

"Mr. Curran went West two months ago with forty-eight children. He was accompanied by two nurses and two Sisters from the asylum. The two Sisters returned today and have given the most satisfactory account of the children, not only the ones they accompanied, but many of the others previously sent West by us. They were empathic in their praises of Mr. Curran. We place from 250 to 300 children a year through him and we have never had a complaint against him".



©Minneapolis (Minnesota) Journal, Jan. 13, 1899.

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CHILDREN FIND HOMES
Company of Homeless Children from New York
Placed with Families Here

Thirteen homeless children from New York City, ten boys and three girls, were found homes with families in this vicinity yesterday. The Children arrived on the 9:16 passenger, and came direct from New York City in charge of Mr. Trott, a representative of the New York Children's Aid Society who will remain for a day or two to visit the homes in which they have been placed and see that all are agreeably located.

The children were all well clothed and had the appearance of being bright and well behaved. It was an affecting scene at the hall where they were taken for distribution. Saddened by the thought of being separated from one another the children burst into tears, and more than one of the people gathered there, touched with sympathy and pity for the little ones, wiped a tear away. Specially affecting were the acts of the little brother and sister, who embraced and cried over one another. The placement of the children was quickly arranged for, and in a few hours they had separated and gone into strange homes and among strange people. Below are the given names of the children, and the name of the persons in whose homes they were placed.

Child Placed

Geo. Smith, age 11

Wm. Stevenson, age 12

Home Placed

Geo Leatherman

F. Hoffman Jr.

Fred Clark, age 13	F.S. Reynolds
James A. Hamilton, age 14	G.C. Bice
James May, age 10	Fred Bremer
Edward May, age 13	Lewis Gardner
Amelia Engle, age 9	C.G. Newell
Pearl Gaido/Gaide, age 3	I.E. Ondler
Geo. Gaido/Gaide, age 5	Geo. Oldridge
Harry Johnson, age 11	Joshua Winn
James Mayne, age 8	E.R. Watson

Anton Jnouskey, age 13 and his half-sister Tilla Remer, going to Lime Springs, Iowa



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GOING TO HOMES
Half a Hundred Orphans Among
the Great Northern Passengers Today

An extra coach attached to the Great Northern West-bound passenger train this morning was occupied by fifty-one children from the Catholic Orphan Asylum of New York City. They ranged in ages from four to six and half years. The car was in charge of three Sisters of Charity and the children were looked after by a matron. Homes are waiting for each one of the children in Northern Minnesota and North Dakota. They have all been told that they are going on a trip to find "papa and mamma", and if you ask them where they were going they will tell you so. Each one of the little ones is anxious to see "papa and mamma" and every visitor meets with the severest scrutiny from them.



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 Minnesota: Legendary Publications, 2010. Print.

MANY LITTLE ORPHANS
A Coach Load of New York Orphans
Finding Good Homes in Stearns County

The arrival of twenty-seven little boys and girls was a part of the west-bound local passenger train on the Great Northern today. Their sweet little faces were glued against the windows as they gazed into strange faces, for the tots were miles and miles distance from the place of their security. They are a second group of orphan children from a New York Catholic Foundling Home and where good homes have been arranged in Stearns County. A gentleman and his wife from New York spent several weeks in the county and arranged good homes for them and now delivery is being made. The parish was in charge of a gentlemen and his wife and three or four sisters of Charity and the little people were spotless, clean and inviting. Three were received by their foster-parents at the depot here and the others were will be distributed at various points along the line in this county.



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 Minnesota Historical Society.
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 Minnesota: Legendary Publications, 2010. Print.

FEARS FOR ORPHAN'S FATE
North Dakota Officials Thinks Them Doomed to Drudgery

Last Saturday a special car filled with children, none more than four years old, passed through Minneapolis. Eleven of the little ones, who were sent out by a Foundling Society in New York, were placed in homes near the Twin Cities, and forty, in charge of Miss Grace Holburton, of New York, and four men, were sent on to Dakota. Today Supt. Hall of the North Dakota Children's Home, at Fargo, said that these and other children sent out from Eastern cities were doomed to drudgery which would amount to serfdom.

Twenty-seven applicants for the orphans, he said, were Russians. Many of them had children of their own, lived on farms far from towns and schools, and were illiterate and unclean. Among these people, who hold aloof from Americans and cling to Old Russian customs, the orphans would be reared unless the state authorities can prevent it. This they hoped to be able to do under an old law which prohibits the importation of needy or orphan children.



©Minneapolis (Minnesota) Journal, October 1, 1908.
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CARLOAD OF FOUNDLINGS

Nearly a car load of foundlings from the New York Foundling Hospital, passed through Minneapolis yesterday on their way to St Cloud and other towns in the northern part of the state, where they will find homes. They were in the charge of two Sisters of Mercy. Homes have been promised for all of the children



©St Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer, Oct. 15, 1908.
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A CARLOAD OF BABIES Sixty-Seven Little Ones Shipped West from New York

A dispatch from Milwaukee says:

There were 67 of them and 67 different varieties. There were babies from two years up to five, all colors, shapes, sizes, and previous conditions of servitude. Little waifs they were, the discard of New York, out in search of a home far from the center of sorrows and woes that they were born into.

On the way to St Paul from New York a special car with these babies passed through Milwaukee. With the children there were several Sisters of Charity and two trained nurses. The Foundling Hospital of New York is sending them West to deal them out into good homes among the farmers near St Paul, Minnesota.

When the conductor came out of the car there was a suspicion of moisture in his eyes. "I won't go through there again," he said. "They're happy, and all that, but it's too pitiful. They all wanted to shake hands with me, and caught hold of my hand and looked up at me and smiles as I passed. I suppose they are taught to do it. There are all kinds, and they are just as sweet as most babies are. It is a shame that they will never know a real mother and father."

The Sisters made the babies beds by placing boards across from seat to seat, for the special car was not a sleeping car. Several babies were piled into one 'bed.' The car accommodated the 67, besides the nurses and Sisters. Long pieces of sheeting were stretched across the tops of the seats to cover the 'beds' to keep out the cinders and dust.



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CHILDREN ARE WELCOME Homes for Forty-five Orphans Found in Minnesota Families

Homes have been secured for forty five orphans that are to be sent to Minnesota from the New York Foundling and Orphan Asylum.

Joseph C. Butler, representing the Institution was in conference today with Rev. T.E. Cullen of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. He said that as soon as he finds Catholic homes for sixty he will notify the New York Home and the children, attended by Sisters and nurses will be sent. The children are two and three years of age. Mr. Butler has been in St Paul for two weeks investigating homes. Most of the offers have come from the country.



©The New York Times. April 5, 1911; pg.6.

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Minnesota: Legendary Publications, 2010. Print.

FOUNDLINGS SENT WEST Sixty-six Shipped in a Special Car to Homes of Foster Parents

Sixty-six babies from the New York Foundling Hospital were shipped yesterday to foster parents in the South and West in a special car on the noon train fro St. Louis from the Grand Central Station.

The sixty-six foundlings were in charge of two Sisters of Charity and Agent O'Hara, who has been conducting the hospital's semi-annual transcontinental foundling tours for a great many years.

When the foundlings reach St Louis they will be taken to homes in Union City, Terra Hate, Kansas City and Victoria.

The other group will be taken to Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana.

The trip is the result of applications for foster children which are constantly coming into the society from charitable folk in other cities. The homes of the applicants are thoroughly investigated by the agents of the hospital before the applications for the babies are granted. Prospective foster parents this year include two lawyers, two doctors, and many farmers.

The babies wear the same clothes on the trip which they wore on their admission to the hospital, and each carries this letter from Sister Teresa Vincent:

Dear Friend:

Within a week after the reception of the little one will you please fill out the enclosed slip and forward it to us. Please write us yearly, about May 1st, how the little child is progressing, with any items of interest. Wishing you many blessings for your kindness to the 'orphan.'

I am in our dear Lord, yours respectfully,
SISTER TERESA VINCENT
The New York Foundling Hospital

Included with the slip is the blank to be filled out and returned. It requires the name of the child received, the full name of the foster parents, the business of occupation of the foster father, and the full Post Office address.

Remarks: Since its foundation forty-one years ago, the Foundling Hospital has provided for 52,673 infants. Last year (1910) 500 children were placed in permanent homes with yearly supervision lasting from fifteen to eighteen years, and 1,870 deserted and 850 committed children received.



©Minneapolis (Minnesota) Journal, Nov.19, 1913.

Minnesota Historical Society.

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Minnesota: Legendary Publications, 2010. Print.

NEW HOMES FOR ORPHANS One Hundred from New York Distributed in Stearns County Towns

St Cloud, Minnesota --- One hundred orphans from a New York Asylum conducted by the Sisters of Charity, arrived here today, and will be delivered to homes which have been provided for them. The orphans will go to homes at Avon, Cold Springs, Holdingford, Freeport, Lake Henry and other places. They range in age from one to four years.



©The New York Times. September 28, 1915; pg.11.

©Wendinger, Renée. *Extra! Extra! The Orphan Trains and Newsboys of New York.*

Minnesota: Legendary Publications, 2010. Print.

55 FOUNDLINGS SENT WEST Girls In Demand by Those Who Will Give Them Homes

Fifty-five foundlings ranging in age from one to four years, left Grand central Terminal yesterday morning in a private car for new found homes in the West. It was the latest exodus from the New York Foundling Hospital, on Sixty-Eighth Street, between Lexington and Third Avenues, whose agents have found homes for nearly 20,000 children in the last forty-six years.

There were forty-four girls and eleven boys, for it was explained by the Sisters of the home, girl babies are in greater demand. The children were in the charge of four nurses and two Sisters. Beds for them all and food enough for one day were taken on the car.

The babies are going to homes in Minnesota and the Dakotas. There they will grow up without knowing that they are not the own children of their foster-parents. After three years they may be legally adopted. The New York Foundling Hospital has about 2,400 inmates, of which 800 are in the hospital, and the others live with families outside (wet-nurses.)



©St Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer, 1918.

Minnesota Historical Society.

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Minnesota: Legendary Publications, 2010. Print.

ST PAUL, MINNESOTA --- A CARLOAD OF ORPHANS

Fifty Infant Orphan's Heads of Curly Hair Bounce in Depot's Murkiness

**Little babies, big babies, fat babies, too.
Black heads, brown heads, red heads a few. Sisters, brothers, yes and cousins,
Babies by the tens and babies by the dozens.**

A carload consignment of chubby, dimpled little bits of humanity arrived in St Paul this morning. They are 50 foundling waifs who were brought all the way from the New York Orphan's Foundling Asylum to be placed in new homes in the Northwest. Anxiously waiting on the platform as the train drew in were a score of men and women, prospective St Paul and Minneapolis parents for a dozen of the tiny youngsters.

STATIONS ATTACHE'S AMAZED

Baggage hustlers, express men and station attaché's at the Union Depot stopped their work to gaze in wonder at the car attached to the train on the St Paul Road from Chicago. Fifty pairs of baby eyes were peering from the windows of the car into the gloomy smoke soaked atmosphere. Curly hair of brunette, blonde, and auburn, bounced up and down inside. Three nurses and two Sisters from the Home were busy caring for the babies. In the front end of the car dressed in white coats, caps and mittens, sat the children who were destined to begin life anew in St Paul, and nearby towns.

EACH BABE NUMBERED

On each shoulder was pinned a bow of ribbon with a number stamped on it. However, the number was merely to facilitate the work of keeping track of the children. They all have names, and the nurses and Sisters do not call them by numbers.

There was a minimum of crying, and lots of laughing and cooing. One real casualty occurred when Margaret's finger accidentally wandered into Dorothy's mouth and was bitten. Not hard, of course, but sufficient enough to cause an outcry from the owner of the finger.

For months, Charles P. O'Hara, Agent for the Foundling Home has been traveling through the Northwest seeking homes for the children. Prospective parents were not permitted to go through the car and make a selection. An order is sent in by the new parents.



Minneapolis/St Paul, Minnesota, date unknown.
The Minnesota Historical Society.
©Wendinger, Renée. *Extra! Extra! The Orphan Trains and Newsboys of New York.*
Minnesota: Legendary Publications, 2010. Print.

ORPHANS FOR ADOPTION

A carload of babies for adoption by Catholic families in the West was sent out last week from an Orphan Asylum conducted by the Sisters of Charity in New York. Forty-five of the sixty-five babies found foster parents in Minnesota. The ease in which suitable orphans speaks volumes for the charity of our people. It shows that there are many Catholic families in the state willing to adopt children, and give them all the advantages of a home.

While we have no intention of discouraging those who may be planning to take a child from the Orphans Home, we suggest that, before communicating with those in charge, they assure themselves that they cannot be supplied with one nearer home. In St Paul and Minneapolis, for example, there are three orphan asylums conducted by Sisters, and in other towns of the state there are Catholic children who have been deprived of their natural guardians. Very often it happens that these institutions have boys and girls for whom suitable homes in Catholic families are desired and there is no reason why preference should not be given to them by the Catholics of Minnesota and of the Northwest. Even if the diocesan orphanages cannot supply the demand made upon them by families anxious to adopt children, it does not necessarily follow that applications must be made to orphanages in the East.

Frequently priests and others who are interested in social work know of children for whom suitable homes are desired, and they would be glad to get in touch with people who may wish to adopt a child. If your pastor cannot help you in this matter, why not make an application to the City Missionary of St Paul or Minneapolis who may be able to help you in this matter. Write to the Rev. L.F. Ryan, 239 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, or to the Rev. M.A. McGrath, 1623 Laurel Avenue, Minneapolis, who will gladly aid you in your laudable and charitable purpose.

