

The Triumph and Tragedy of the
Orphan Train

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Paper

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Introduction

The train rattles and shifts beneath you and you watch the scenery blur past through the dirty and smudged window panes. The knot in your stomach twists uncomfortably, reminding you that you are blind to the events of the future- good or bad. The only knowledge you possess is that your past is left behind in the city you now speed away from; everything you've ever known is gone and fading as quickly as the smoke emitted from the chimney of the train. You are one of the many children on the Orphan Train. The Orphan Train, running between 1854 and 1929, is both a triumph and a tragedy. This movement relocated abandoned¹ and unwanted children in an attempt to give them a brighter and happier future. It moved around 300,000 lost children out of the major cities and towards the Midwest. Created by Charles Loring Brace, the founder of the Children's Aid Society, the Orphan Train was meant to help children who could not help themselves². Brace once said, "When a child of the streets stands before you in rags, with a tear-stained face, you do not easily forget him. And yet, you are perplexed what to do. The human soul is difficult to interfere with. You hesitate how far you should go."³ He encouraged people to help their fellow community

¹ Renee Wendinger, Orphan Train rider quotes, "They were found in doorways and other out-of-the-way places, hungry and starving,"<http://www.theorphantrain.com/>

² "An ambitious and controversial social experiment that is now recognized as the beginning of the foster care system in the United States, the Orphan Train Movement placed more than 120,000 orphaned children with families across the country between 1853 and the early 1900s." Children's Aid Society <https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/about/orphan-train-movement>

³ Charles Loring Brace quote; https://www.azquotes.com/author/46963-Charles_Loring_Brace

members: he wanted to change the world, but the way he went about doing it had too many flaws and loopholes to count. Although some children were given a prosperous life like they were promised, countless other children were not as fortunate and suffered many wrongdoings such as abuse, rape, and, in some cases, murder. Along with assisting innumerable orphans, the Orphan Train⁴ reinforced the vast and rapid migration of thousands of individuals in a seventy-five-year span. In spite of the fact they gave children a new chance and meaning of life, they also gave children to people who later become the objects of nightmares.

It is arguable that The Orphan Train could be seen as a triumph, however; the Orphan Train, when created in the mind's of its designers, was never met to have an unfavorable outcome. The way Charles Loring Brace and the Children's Aid Society saw it was that there was no possible way for the Orphan Train to go wrong. It moved orphans out of the city streets, inevitably lowering crime rates; too many children lived on the streets during this time period, and it was destined to cause problems in the near future if something wasn't done⁵. The train also gave abandoned and orphaned children an opportunity to be given to a loving family whom The Children's Aid Society could only hope would care for them the best they could.

Regardless of the facts and opinions that disagree with the belief that The Orphan Train was only a tragedy, there were still many wrongdoings committed during

⁴ Stanly Cornell quote; "They called it Orphan Train, riders that rode the trains looking for mom and dad like my brother and I."

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/757284/Survivors-remember-ride-on-Orphan-Train.html>

⁵ Charles Loring Brace quote; "There are thousands on thousands in New York who have no assignable home and 'flirt' from attic to attic, and cellar to cellar."

this span in American history. Children who were placed on the Orphan Train were told to completely forget their past, that it no longer mattered and that it never happened.⁶ They were told to tell no one of it, with the promise of punishment if they did. The train ride itself was uncomfortable and unsanitary, and the workers unfair. Trains were often dirty and unclean⁷ and many children who were already poor in health became sicker as the ride progressed, reaching their new families weak and close to death. When they reached the station, things continued to plummet downhill with an adoption process where children were taken by anyone who desired them⁸ and whisked away to a future that in some cases turned out to be only as bright as the grime on the train floors.

The transition was a difficult one; many of the riders only recently finding themselves “orphans.” Flo Inhern, a historian of the Louisiana Orphan Train Society, says; “In those early years, with so many immigrants coming into the United States, there was often jobs, no housing, a lot of fathers and mothers died at sea, mothers died at birth, and many parents simply were destitute, with no way of taking care of their kids.”⁹ Children coming from these types of similar situations were not uncommon; more than a third of the riders were from Ireland and Germany immigrant descent. Besides those children, other riders came from large eastern cities in the United States such as

⁶ Alison Moore, Orphan Train preserver, “About half of the children that rode these trains had one living parent. And many of these were children of immigrants who had left extended family in Ireland, Germany or Italy and so if one parent died, then the children would have nowhere to go..”

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/757284/Survivors-remember-ride-on-Orphan-Train.html>

⁷ Howard Engert; “I can recall the hard wooden seats..They got so uncomfortable, some of the kids slept on the floor, even though we had no pillows. I remember we ate sandwiches for most meals. The train stopped a lot and it seemed like we were always getting on or off it.”

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/the-children-who-rode-orphan-train/>

⁸ Stanley Cornell; “We'd stop in these little towns and get out of the trains, and they'd interview us. It was kind of like a cattle auction. If they liked us they'd take us.”<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/757284/Survivors-remember-ride-on-Orphan-Train.html>

⁹ Flo Inhern; https://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2015/01/alice_bernard_louisianas_last.html

New York and Boston from where they lived hidden in the streets, starving to death and pickpocketing in an attempt to live another day. Charles Loring Brace realized that if nothing was done for the largely growing number of orphans in the cities than it would lead to mass problems in the future¹⁰. He once said, "...Explosion from this class which might leave this city in ashes and blood..."¹¹ He prided himself on helping the helpless,

but he didn't realize that he never should have tried to play God.



¹²Background On Charles Loring Brace

Born into a well-connected New England family on June 19, 1826, Charles Loring Brace was an American philanthropist who would one day create the social welfare movement known as the Orphan Train. As a child, his father was strict regarding his education and made sure that Brace was well educated by homeschooling¹³ him. As he grew older, Charles entered Yale University in 1842. He graduated just four years later, in 1846, and in 1849 he was ordained as a Congregational minister. Time passed, and the young Charles soon grew into a man with big dreams. He had long since witnessed face to face the struggles of the orphans of New York, but unlike others who noticed as

¹⁰ Charles Loring Brace; "The police soon knew them as "street-rats"; but, like the rats, they were too quick and cunning to be often caught in their petty plunderings, so they gnawed away at the foundations of society undisturbed..." <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/>

¹¹ Charles Loring Brace; <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/>

¹² Photograph of Charles Loring Brace; <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/>

¹³ Social Welfare History, "Young Brace was homeschooled by his father..." <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/>

well, he decided it his mission to do something about it. In 1853, Reverend Brace, with several ministers alongside him, created the Children's Aid Society. After, when he was only twenty-six, Brace was chosen to be in charge of a new organization¹⁴, and he would hold this position until his death in 1890.

His idea began simply, starting with the small goal of providing resources for children, building lodging houses and industrial schools, and even a summer home on Long Island. Charles wanted more; he wanted to see his efforts change the world, and because of that desire, the Orphan Train was created. Determined to provide children with a better life than even his previous creations could¹⁵, Rev. Brace believed the only way to do so was to move them out of the cities and to landmarks on the map where they could become "self-reliant members of society were gainful work, education, and a wholesome family atmosphere."¹⁶ He realized that if they stayed in New York it would result in serious crime problems in the very near future. He knew what life was like in the Midwest, and also knew the people there would be excellent adopters for the swarms of children he would send their way. With this in mind, Charles Loring Brace began "placing out" children on the Orphan Train, a movement that would last for seventy-five years.

Regarding his Orphan Train development, Rev. Brace once said, "I have seen the quick tears drop over the dirty cheeks at the simple tone of some warm-hearted man

¹⁴ <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/> "Rev. Brace's theory of an organization devoted to helping poor children was radical."

¹⁵ <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/> "Rev. Charles Brace was determined to give children an alternative to life in the squalid slums and teeming New York City streets. His theories were grounded in the conviction that institutional care stunted and destroyed children."

¹⁶ <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/>

who had addressed them with a deep feeling of their loneliness and desolation.”¹⁷ He also spoke of the deep sadness he felt when he witnessed the children around him in the streets, clothed in mere rags. He said, “Thousands are the children of poor foreigners who have permitted them to grow up without school, religion, or education. All the neglect and bad education and evil examples of a poor class...”¹⁸ His words touch our hearts and make us recall times we too have ignored the pleading cries of our fellow neighbors when we have walked past them in the streets without a glance.

Despite the many flaws in Charles Brace’s Orphan Train, some good did come from it.

19Triumph

One of the most memorable and impactful results that came as a cause of the Orphan Train was the abundance of people that were migrated westward children who were in the process of being “placed out”. Noyes Home for Children labels the Orphan Train as “America’s Largest Child



Migration.”²⁰ The goal of the Train was to move close to a quarter million of abandoned children out of New York and other large cities to the rural Midwest where they would be resettled with new families. Because of the sheer amount of children who were made to

¹⁷ Charles Loring Brace;
https://books.google.com/books?id=nEAOAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA313&lpg=PA313&dq=charles+loring+brace+quotes&source=bl&ots=hyHQmkLqjb&sig=ACfU3U3ipF-BNfJr9_gK9nhROlid2BY4CQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjtdLDv7TgAhX4HDQIHbK1Af0Q6AEwCXoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false
¹⁸ Charles Loring Brace;
<https://www.storemypic.com/image/thousands-are-children-poor-foreigners-who-have-permitted-th.Pdfj>
¹⁹ Orphan Train Advertisement; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_Train
²⁰ <https://noyeshome.org/blog/the-orphan-train-americas-largest-child-migration/>

ride the train, it also resulted in a large intake of people in the Midwest²¹. Transporting over 300,000 children in just seventy-five years increased the population in the rural parts of our country immensely.

Regardless of the number of people being rapidly resettled, there were other upsides to the Train than just migration. They gave the children on them the promise of a fresh start, and a new chance. While some of them did not receive what they hoped, countless others were fortunate to end up with loving parents, and the excellent future they were promised by Rev. Brace and Children's Aid. One rider by the name of Lorraine Williams recalls, "A man with a gentle voice handed me a strawberry ice cream cone and said I could have one... I could not have had more loving parents."²² Almost all of the children on the Orphan Train were indeed orphans, had been for most of their lives, and when they were adopted by a loving family they experienced a whole new side of life. Three meals a day, a bed, and a roof over their heads were a lot more than children had before the Train. Not every family involved in adopting children were monsters, and children had the opportunity to make new friends on the train as well. Many Orphan Train riders write not only of their good experiences on the train but also afterwards. It was the door to futures for not only them, but their generations to follow²³. Sophia Hillesheim-Kral, another rider of the Train who went on to give birth to her own

²¹"The Orphan Train Movement was a supervised welfare program that transported orphaned and homeless children from crowded Eastern cities of the United States to foster homes located largely in rural areas of the Midwest."

<https://noyeshome.org/blog/the-orphan-train-americas-largest-child-migration/>

²² Lorraine Williams, Orphan Train Rider

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/the-children-who-rode-orphan-train/>

²³ "Many children that would have died, lived to have children and grandchildren. It has been calculated that over two million descendants have come from these children. The trains gave the children a fighting chance to grow up." <https://noyeshome.org/blog/the-orphan-train-americas-largest-child-migration/>

daughter, named Renee, says happily, “Well, I think the Lord’s making up for it.”²⁴

Although many happy and fulfilling tales like these are told by many riders, there is a darker and more secretive side to this moment in American history.



²⁵Tragedy

Reverend Charles Loring Brace gathered children for the Orphan Train from orphanages scattered throughout many major cities and from families that felt the last thing they could do for their children was entrust them to the Children’s Aid Society. Many parents felt that in the midst of financial crisis, unplanned pregnancies²⁶, or deathly sickness that the only way they could secure a future for their young offspring was to place them in the hands of someone more responsible, someone who could better look after and provide for them. Unfortunately, their hopes were not always fulfilled. After the uncomfortable transition from their previous locations²⁷ to the train station itself, and from there the equally uncomfortable train ride, children were unloaded and given strict instructions on how to behave and what to say. Aligned in a row, the orphans were then

²⁴ Sophia Hillesheim-Kral;

<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2013/09/23/98-year-old-recounts-experience-as-orphan-train-rider/>

²⁵ Daniel Boone Regional Library; <http://www.dbrl.org/news/riders-orphan-train>

²⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/horizon/nov98/orphan.htm?noredirect=on> “As an adult, Winifred Lorraine Williams learned that she was placed in a New York City orphanage soon after her birth in 1922 because her unmarried mother feared the wrath of her prominent family if they discovered that she had a baby.”

²⁷ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/horizon/nov98/orphan.htm?noredirect=on> “In 1926, Williams and 13 other orphans were scrubbed, dressed in new clothes and put aboard a westbound train at Grand Central Station.”

observed and selected by the many people who had come to look for another addition to their families, or a slave. One orphan train rider, Emily Kidder, says, “The process is not unlike picking out a puppy.”²⁸

Paperwork or proof of good intentions was hardly ever needed to adopt these children, and as far as anyone knew the children lined in front of them in their Sunday best had no past, though many still did. It did not matter to those who accompanied the children on the train what their adopter wanted them for; a replacement for a lost child, a doll to dress up, a human punching bag²⁹, or a sex toy, they were almost certainly guaranteed one. Countless children who unboarded the Orphan Train were headed towards doom and unbelievable wrongdoings such as abuse, rape, and in some very drastic cases murder. Stories are told and diary entries are read of unfortunate children who were placed with unloving or neglectful parents, or simply taken to be used as an extra farmhand or slave³⁰. Thousands of children’s fates became intertwined with experiences that Charles Brace had never planned and had never expected. Children’s personalities and feelings were not often taken into account when adopted, and as Record Click states truthfully, “It was not unusual for choices to come down to looks, hair, and eye color, nationality, or health.”³¹ A rider, Lee Nailing, remembers, “.a large

²⁸ Emily Kidder, story retold by granddaughter Clark Kidder <http://westbyorphantrain.com/emilys-story/>

²⁹ Hillesheim Kral, Orphan Train rider quotes; “if I did just something wrong, I had to lean across a chair and she’d beat me up,”<https://www.twincities.com/2015/09/30/they-survived-minnesotas-orphan-trains-to-celebrate-life/>

³⁰ Winifred Lorraine Williams; “An old man with a white beard approached the small, fair-haired Williams and pointed a bony finger at her. “I’ll take that one!” he boomed. “My wife is sick, and I need someone to wash the dishes.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/horizon/nov98/orphan.htm?noredirect=on>

³¹ <https://www.recordclick.com/orphan-trains/>

farmer sticking his hand into my mouth to see if my teeth were sound. It was all I could do to resist the urge to bite him.”³²

Because of these disturbing, hidden facts about the Orphan Train, it is easy for historians to try and brush over it lightly without uncovering it in its entirety, but it should not be kept concealed any longer. It is time for the world to know about the Orphan Train and the people who left so much behind as they rode it.

Conclusion

Charles Loring Brace was the founder of the Children's Aid Society, and with the hope of creating a successful and helpful system created the Orphan Train. Children who came from poor families, orphans, and homeless children were given another chance with the Orphan Train. Many children ended up in happy homes, though others were not as lucky and their lives were destroyed and their innocence cut short. The Children's Aid Society was founded in 1853 by Rev. Brace along with a group of social reformers. It was formed at a time when there were many orphan asylums and almshouses, and they tried to find a better way to help the mass numbers of abandoned children. Their solution was the Orphan Train. The Orphan Trains, existing between 1854 and 1929, is an excellent example of tragedy and triumph, showing two sides of a crucial moment in our country's history. For some riders, good prevailed in the end, and they enjoyed a fortunate life, while others faced the darker side of this time period. The Orphan Trains are proved to be not all bad, but they weren't as pure as many choose to believe. They leave a lasting mark on our country, one that cannot be erased by any

³² Lee Nailing, Orphan Train Rider; <https://www.recordclick.com/orphan-trains/>

amount of time. Impacting us today through their stories of perseverance and hope, they help us during our personal difficulties and tragedies. Lanchester, of KUT News, reminds us, “When we had the opportunity over the years to meet these Orphan Train riders, one of their crying songs was that they don't want to be forgotten.”³³

Let us not forget these riders or their stories of triumph and tragedy that took place during that small dot in time. Let us listen to their stories of those short years that left a deep impact on our history, and our hearts.

³³ Phil Lanchester, reporter;
<http://www.kut.org/post/riders-orphan-train-preserves-unforgettable-stories-unwanted-children>

The Triumph and Tragedy of the Orphan Train Annotated Bibliography

Thesis-

The Orphan Train, spanning between 1854 and 1929, is both a Triumph and Tragedy. This movement relocated abandoned and unwanted children in an attempt to give them a brighter and happier future. It moved around 300,000 lost children out of the major cities and towards the midwest. Created by Charles Loring Brace, the founder of the Children's Aid Society, the Orphan Train was meant to help children who could not help themselves. Although some children were given a prosperous life like they were promised, countless other children were not and suffered many wrongdoings such as abuse, rape, and in some cases murder.

Primary Resources-

Alice Bernard, Louisiana's last known living Orphan Train rider, dies at 98

Alice Bernard, Louisiana's last known living Orphan Train rider, dies at 98. (2015). NOLA.com.

Retrieved 13 February 2019, from

https://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2015/01/alice_bernard_louisianas_last.html

This source talks about Alice Bernard, who is Louisiana's last known Orphan Train rider. They tell her story and how she died. This proves my thesis because it shows that some people had a good life because of the Orphan Train and got something more than what they had before. I better understand my topic now because I can see stories from people all over the country. The reader should trust this source because it is a news story. The author of this source is a website.

Bonham, Texas - November 19, 1898 | National Orphan Train Complex

Bonham, Texas - November 19, 1898 | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). *Orphantraindepot.org*.

Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/bonham-texas-november-19-1898/>

8/

This is a record of a number of boys who were made to ride the Orphan Train to Texas. There were seventeen boys who rode the Train in this particular occurrence. This information proves my thesis because it provides information about seventeen unwanted and abandoned boys. I understand my topic better now because I can see just how many children they rounded up in a single round. The reader should trust this source because it is a real record. The author of this source is a newspaper.

Brace, Charles Loring

Brace, Charles Loring. (2011). Social Welfare History Project. Retrieved 13 February 2019, from <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/>

This source is about Charles Loring Brace and how he first he got the idea to build an Orphan Train. It provides information on life before he grew up and what inspired him to help children. This source proves my thesis because it talks about Rev. Brace and that he started the Orphan Train. I know more about my topic now because I know the reasons behind the man who started it. The reader should trust this source because it is reliable and distributed by the Social Welfare Society. The author of this source is a website.

Brace, Charles Loring

Brace, Charles Loring. (2011). Social Welfare History Project. Retrieved 11 February 2019, from <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/people/brace-charles-loring/>

This is a photograph of Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society. This information proves my thesis because it shows a photograph of Charles Loring Brace. I better understand my topic now because I can better picture who the man so many diary entries and sources speak of. The reader should trust this source because it is an actual photograph from the time of the Orphan Trains. The author of this source is a photographer.

Chicago Tribune - We are currently unavailable in your region

Chicago Tribune - We are currently unavailable in your region. (2019). [Chicagotribune.com](http://chicagotribune.com). Retrieved 13 February 2019, from

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-flashback-orphan-train-children-separated-immigrants-0722-20180718-story.html>

This source is about the Orphan Train and it's negative sides. It provides many good resources to why the Orphan Train was bad. This proves my thesis because it is about how children were treated badly on behalf of the Orphan Train. I better understand my thesis now because I have more information. The reader should trust this source because it is a newspaper. The author of this site is a newspaper.

Emily's Story | West by Orphan Train

Emily's Story | West by Orphan Train. (2019). *Westbyorphantrain.com*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from <http://westbyorphantrain.com/emilys-story/>

This source tells the story of an Orphan Train rider name Emily Kidder. It is told by her grandchildren. It proves my thesis because it tells of both Triumph and Tragedy. This proves my thesis because it shows that the Orphan Train was not one or the other, but both. I better understand my topic now because I can see through one of the rider's eyes. The reader should trust this source because it is an actual story told from someone's perspective who was there. The author of this source is Clark Kidder.

Genealogists Ride Search for Orphan Train Rider Ancestors

Genealogists Ride Search for Orphan Train Rider Ancestors. (2013). *Professional Genealogists*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from <https://www.recordclick.com/orphan-trains/>

This is a report done by a genealogist to discover facts and stories of the Orphan Train. It includes several interviews done with riders and also background information about the Orphan Train itself. This source proves my thesis because it shows both sides of the Orphan Train. I better understand my topic now because I have gained new information regarding the Train. The reader should trust this source because it is reliable and made by professionals. The author of this source is Debra Hutsell.

The Minneapolis Journal - October 15, 1908 | National Orphan Train Complex

The Minneapolis Journal - October 15, 1908 | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019).

Orphantraindepot.org. Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/the-minneapolis-journal-october-15-1908/>

This is a newspaper headline from October, 15, 1908 regarding sixty-seven children shipped West. It also includes a brief interview with the conductor of the Train, who says that he would never go through the experience again. This information proves my thesis because it shows that they were moved to the midwest. I better understand my topic now because of this source because it helps me understand that not everyone was on board with the idea of the Train. The reader should trust this source because it is an article from the time of the Orphan Train movement. The author of this source is a newspaper.

The Minneapolis Journal - October 22, 1909 | National Orphan Train Complex

The Minneapolis Journal - October 22, 1909 | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019).

Orphantraindepot.org. Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/the-minneapolis-journal-october-22-1909/>

This is a small excerpt from a newspaper published on October 22, 1909. It talks briefly about how forty five homes for orphaned children were available for anyone who wanted them. This information proves my thesis because it shows that anyone could have taken the children. I better understand my topic now because I can see not everyone got the future they were promised. The reader should trust this source because it is a piece of a newspaper from 1909 during the Orphan Train. The author of this source is a newspaper.

Newspaper from Maquoketa, Iowa | National Orphan Train Complex

Newspaper from Maquoketa, Iowa | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). Orphantraindepot.org.

Retrieved 12 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/newspaper-from-maquoketa-iowa/>

This is a newspaper from Iowa advertising twelve children who will be arriving and will be up for adoption. It tells the children's name, along with the name of their accompanying adult. This source proves my thesis because it shows that anybody could take them with little questions asked. I better understand my topic now because it helps me understand why so many people were drawn to the places where orphans were being showed. The reader should trust this source because it is a actual newspaper from the time of the Orphan Trains. The author of this source is a newspaper.

The New York Daily News | National Orphan Train Complex

The New York Daily News | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). Orphantraindepot.org. Retrieved

11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/the-new-york-daily-news/>

This is a newspaper article regarding a baby girl found abandoned and sent on the Orphan Train for a new future. This information helps me prove my thesis because it is proven that many abandoned children were sent on the train. I better understand my topic now because of this source and knowing that even infants were sent on the trains. The reader should trust this information because it is a newspaper article from the time period of the Orphan Trains. The author of this source is a newspaper.

New York Daily Tribune - April 7, 1880 | National Orphan Train Complex

New York Daily Tribune - April 7, 1880 | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). Orphantraindepot.org.

Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/new-york-daily-tribune-2/>

This is a newspaper article from 1880 about nineteen boys between the ages of 14 and 19. It contains interviews from all nineteen passengers about their lives before they rode the Orphan Train. They left New York and traveled to Virginia. This information proves my thesis because it shows nineteen examples of children who couldn't help themselves so they boarded the Train. I can better understand my topic now because it gives first hand accounts on why some of the children willingly went to look for a better home. The reader should trust this source because it is an article from the time of the Orphan Train. The author of this source is a newspaper.

New York Daily Tribune - January 21, 1880 | National Orphan Train Complex

New York Daily Tribune - January 21, 1880 | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019).

Orphantraindepot.org. Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/new-york-daily-tribune/>

This is a newspaper article from 1880 about thirty five poor boys and girls sent to Iowa on the Orphan Train. It has a timeline of events leading up to how all the children were gathered and ultimately began their new lives. This information proves my thesis because it talks about how Charles Loring Brace assisted them. I can better understand my topic now because I can better understand the process of before boarding the Train. The reader should trust this source because it is an article from the time of the Orphan Train. The author of this source is a newspaper.

Orphan Train Advertisement | National Orphan Train Complex

Orphan Train Advertisement | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). Orphantraindepot.org. Retrieved

11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/orphan-train-advertisement/>

This is an advertisement for asylum children that are being sent on the Orphan Train in 1888. They are all mostly boys, with the exception of a few girls, between the ages of seven to fifteen years old, and the advertiser claims they will be good farm hands. They will remain for the taking for four weeks. This information proves my thesis because it shows that they hoped they would have a good life on farms. I better understand my topic now because of this source and knowing that all ages of children could be taken for any means. The reader should trust this source because it is an advertisement from the time period of the Orphan Trains. The author of this source is a photographer.

The Orphan Train and the Children Who Rode Them - New England Historical Society

The Orphan Train and the Children Who Rode Them - New England Historical Society. (2015). *New England Historical Society*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/the-children-who-rode-orphan-train/>

This source is about many of the riders of the Orphan Train and what they went through. This proves my thesis because it shows both good and bad that came from the Train. I better understand my topic now because I have read many different accounts of riders. The reader should trust this source because it is reliable and has many different links showing where they got their information. The author of this source is a website.

Orphan Train

Orphan Train. (2019). *En.wikipedia.org*. Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_Train

This is a poster advertising the homes wanted for children in the time's of the Orphan Train. It shows where the children will be showed and how to adopt one. This source proves my thesis because it shows that anyone could go and get a child if they wanted one. I better understand my topic now because I have a visual representation of what the posters looked like during that time period. The reader should trust this source because it is an actual poster. The author of this source is J.W. Swan and it is retrieved from a museum.

Orphan Trains

Orphan Trains. (2019). *Archive.nytimes.com*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from

<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/first/o/oconnor-01orphan.html>

This is a nonfiction book centered around Charles Loring Brace and his Orphan Train. It includes many quotes from Rev. Brace and members of the Children's Aid Society. It also includes a multitude of information about the train ride itself and the adoption process. This source proves my thesis because it shows that anyone could adopt the children. I better understand my topic now because I have a better understanding of the steps of the orphan's adoption. The reader should trust this source because it is a nonfiction book written by a historian. The author of this source is Stephen O'Connor.

Orphan Trains

Orphan Trains. (2011). *Social Welfare History Project*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/programs/child-welfarechild-labor/orphan-trains/>

This is an informative source stating the process of the Orphan Train with large amounts of detail about each step. It proves my thesis because it talks about The Children's Aid Society and also the adoption process. I better understand my topic now because I know more about each part involved in the Orphan Train. The reader should trust this source because it has a number of links showing where they got their information. The author of this source is Angelique Brown.

The Orphan Train

The Orphan Train. (2019). *Cbsnews.com*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from <https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/the-orphan-train/>

This is a slideshow showing many photographs of orphans on trains, and orphans around big cities, among other things. It also contains captions for each picture explaining what is shown. This source better proves my thesis because it shows the poor condition of the children and the trains. I better understand my topic now because these photographs gives me the visual representation that I need to understand the Orphan Train. The reader should trust this source because it is a series of trustworthy photographs from the time period of the Orphan Train. The author of this source is multiple photographers.

Orphan Train Rider Stories | National Orphan Train Complex

Orphan Train Rider Stories | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). *Orphantraindepot.org*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from <https://orphantraindepot.org/orphan-train-rider-stories/>

This is a page full of links to diary entries of Orphan Train riders, all of them different stories from different years. This source proves my thesis because it shows from many different experiences that it was both a Triumph and Tragedy. I better understand my topic now because of this source because it shows me different parts of the rider's lives. The reader should trust this source because they have been compiled by a website dedicated solely to the sharing of the riders' stories and pasts. The author of this source is a website.

The Orphan Trains 1854-1929

The Orphan Trains 1854-1929. (2010). *Thefencepost.com*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from <https://www.thefencepost.com/news/the-orphan-trains-1854-1929/>

This is a nonfiction article regarding the Orphan Trains. It provides background information about the Children's Aid Society and the Train. It proves my thesis because it shows that not all things about the Train were good. I better understand my topic now because I can be more knowledgeable regarding my topic. The reader should trust this source because it is reliable. The author of this source is Pat Martin from Colorado.

The Peabody Gazette | National Orphan Train Complex

The Peabody Gazette | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). *Orphantraindepot.org*. Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/the-peabody-gazette/>

Written in May of 1911, this article talks about a number of children shipped West. It includes their names and ages and where they came from. It also gave some information on why they were in the situation they were in, how they became orphaned in the first place. This source proves my thesis because it shows that they were orphaned. I better understand my topic now because I can put myself in the children's shoes. The reader should trust this source because it is an article from the time period of the Orphan Train. The author of this source is a newspaper.

Princeton Telegraph | National Orphan Train Complex

Princeton Telegraph | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). *Orphantraindepot.org*. Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/princeton-telegraph/>

This is telegraph from January 24, 1906 discussing a total of twelve orphaned children who were brought to Princeton. It claims that ten of them were placed in comfortable homes right away. It also provides a record of the names and ages of the children. This proves my thesis because it proves that some of them got the good homes they were promised. I better understand my topic because of this source because I can see how not all the children were placed into an unfortunate circumstance. The reader should trust this source because it is a genuine telegraph from the time period of the Orphan Trains. The author of this source is a museum.

Rice, L., Benavides, L. and Bernier, N.

Rice, L., Benavides, L., & Bernier, N. (2019). *Riders Of The Orphan Train*; Preserves The Unforgettable Stories Of Unwanted Children. *Kut.org*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from

<http://www.kut.org/post/riders-orphan-train-preserves-unforgettable-stories-unwanted-children>

This is combination of many rider's diary entries and stories along with multiple quotes directly from the riders. This source proves many parts of my thesis because it has many direct sayings and facts about the Orphan Train and how it was both good and bad. I better understand my thopic now because it helps me see both sides of the Orphan Train. The reader should trust this source because it has many details about the Train and many quotes from riders. The author of this source consists of multiple riders' stories.

Riders on the Orphan Train

Riders on the Orphan Train. (2018). *Daniel Boone Regional Library*. Retrieved 12 February 2019, from

<http://www.dbrl.org/news/riders-orphan-train>

This is a picture of children in a line before they board the Orphan Train. It shows poorly dressed children all clothed the relatively the same. This source proves my thesis because it shows that children who rode the Train were not very well off. I better understand my topic now because I can see what the riders looked like at the time they rode the train. The reader should trust this source because it is a reliable photograph. The author of this source is a library.

Wilson County Citizen Kansas | National Orphan Train Complex

Wilson County Citizen Kansas | National Orphan Train Complex. (2019). *Orphantraindepot.org*.

Retrieved 11 February 2019, from

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/artifacts-of-the-orphan-trains/wilson-county-citizen-kansas/>

An advertisement for the two remaining orphans on a train that have yet to be claimed. It tells their names, along with the names of the other orphans who were already claimed. This source proves my thesis because it shows that not all the orphans were claimed straightaway. I better understand my topic now because I can tell that the Orphan Train was a stressful time for it's riders. The reader should trust this source because it is from the town they were sent to. The author of this source is a newspaper.

98-Year-Old Woman Recounts Experience As 'Orphan Train' Rider

98-Year-Old Woman Recounts Experience As 'Orphan Train' Rider. (2013). *Minnesota.cbslocal.com.*

Retrieved 12 February 2019, from

<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2013/09/23/98-year-old-recounts-experience-as-orphan-train-rider/>

This is a news article about one of the last living Orphan Train riders recounting her experiences during an interview. This source proves my thesis because she tells of being abused in her adopted family. I better understand my topic now because I can read about some of the more gruesome facts of the Train. The reader should trust this source because it is an interview with a rider. The author of this source is a news station.

98-Year-Old Woman Recounts Experience As 'Orphan Train' Rider

98-Year-Old Woman Recounts Experience As 'Orphan Train' Rider. (2013). *Minnesota.cbslocal.com.*

Retrieved 12 February 2019, from

<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2013/09/23/98-year-old-recounts-experience-as-orphan-train-rider/>

This is an article about an elderly Orphan Train rider as she shares her experiences. She talks about being sent back on the Train because nobody wanted her, and how isolated she felt. This source proves my thesis because it describes the hardships orphans went through. I can better understand my topic now because I can feel empathy towards riders of the Train. The reader should trust this source because it is an interview with a rider. The author of this source is a website.

Secondary Resources-

Anon

(2019). *Usgennet.org.* Retrieved 13 February 2019, from <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/topic/tra>

This is a secondary source about riders of the Orphan Train. It is a paper written by someone who interviewed a rider of the Orphan Train. This proves my thesis because it is a rider telling their experiences. I better understand my topic now because I have more information. The reader should trust this source because it is an interview. The author of this source is Audrey M. Smith.

The Noyes Home For Children

The Noyes Home For Children. (2019). *Noyeshome.org.* Retrieved 13 February 2019, from

<https://noyeshome.org/blog/the-orphan-train-americas-largest-child-migration/>

This source talks about how many of the children sent were in poor health. It also has many quotes from Orphan Train riders. This proves my thesis because it shows how poor in health these children were. I better understand my topic now because I can feel more sympathy towards the riders. The reader should trust this source because it is a

website meant for informing people of the Orphan Train. The author of this source is a website.

Orphan Trains

Orphan Trains. (2019). *Human Migration*. Retrieved 13 February 2019, from

<http://dragonclass2016.weebly.com/orphan-trains.html>

This is a secondary source about the Orphan Trains and Charles Loring Brace. It shows where on a map the Orphan Train traveled to. This proves my thesis because it is shows places in the Midwest where children were transported. I better understand my topic because of the source because I can visualize just how greatly expanded the Orphan Train was. The reader should trust this source because it is put on by a reliable website. The author of this source is a website.

The Orphan Trains

The Orphan Trains. (2014). *Irish America*. Retrieved 13 February 2019, from

<https://irishamerica.com/2014/03/the-orphan-trains/>

This source is meant for Irish descendants who were sent on the Train, and their stories. It also has information about the Children's Aid Society and Charles Loring Brace. This proves my thesis because it talks about abandoned children. I better understand my topic now because I have more information about the children who rose the Train. The reader should trust this source because it is reliable and well cited. The author of this source is Tom Riley.

Orphan Train: History & Facts | Study.com

Orphan Train: History & Facts | Study.com. (2019). *Study.com*. Retrieved 13 February 2019, from

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/orphan-train-history-facts.html>

This source is about how most of the riders on the Orphan Train were immigrants. It talks about the nationalities of immigrants who rode the Train and why so many children were put on the Train. This proves my thesis because it is about abandoned children. I better understand my topic now because I know a lot more about the children riding the Train. The reader should trust this source because it is on a site specifically made for studying. The author of this source is Anne Butler.

The Orphan Train Movement: a 19th century foster-home program that sent 200,000 homeless children from the East Coast to the Midwest

The Orphan Train Movement: a 19th century foster-home program that sent 200,000 homeless

children from the East Coast to the Midwest. (2018). *The Vintage News*. Retrieved 13 February 2019,

from <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2018/01/05/orphan-train-movement/>

This source speaks mainly of children being moved from the East Coast. It is from a news channel. It also talks about how life was hard for orphaned children. This source proves my thesis because it speaks about orphaned children who needed help. I better

understand my topic now because I learned about children who rode the Train from other places than New York. The reader should trust this source because it is from a news channel and has information from a museum. The author of this source is Boban Docevski.