



Resources for Tracing Orphan Train Riders

WEB SITES

■ **The American Experience: Orphan Trains**

<www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/amex/orphan>: Companion to the PBS documentary, this Web site examines the efforts of the Children's Aid Society to find rural homes for homeless city youths between 1850 and 1929.

■ **Ancestry.com: Orphan Trains Message Board**

<boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=rw&p=topics.orphans.orphan-trains>: Connect with other genealogists researching orphan train ancestors, and post queries asking for information about your relative.

■ **Orphan Train: An Iowa GenWeb Special Project**

<iagenweb.org/iaorphans>: Find extensive photographs and records of Iowa orphan train riders.

■ **Orphan Train Riders History**

<www.hamilton.net/subscribers/hurd>: Howard Hunt recounts his childhood as a 3-year-old orphan train rider with his 6-year-old brother in upstate New York, 1925.

■ **Orphan Train: A Wisconsin GenWeb Project**

<rootsweb.com/~wiorphan>: Peruse lists of trains and the children who rode them, and view photos of people and places associated with the movement.

■ **Orphan Trains of Kansas**

<www.kancoll.org/articles/orphans>: Search for the lost history and ancestry of orphans sent from the streets of New York to the West between 1867 and 1930.

■ **Orphan Trains of Nebraska**

<rootsweb.com/~neadoptn/Orphan.htm>: You can read the actual accounts of orphan train riders here.

■ **They Rode the Orphan Trains**

<rootsweb.com/~mogrunby/orphans.html>: Get information on Missouri orphan train riders.

RECORD REPOSITORIES

■ **Brooklyn Nursery and Infants Hospital**

c/o Salvation Army
Foster Home and Adoption Services
233 E. 17th St.
New York, NY 10003

■ **Children's Aid Society**

Office of Closed Records
Attention: Victor Remer
150 E. 45th St.
New York, NY 10017
(212) 949-4800
<www.childrensaidsociety.org>

■ **Children's Home of Cincinnati**

5050 Madison Road
Cincinnati, OH 45227
(513) 272-2800
<www.thechildrenshomecinti.org>

■ **New York Juvenile Asylum**

c/o Children's Village
Office of Alumni Affairs
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
<www.childrensvillage.org/history.html>

■ **Five Points House of Industry**

c/o Greer-Woodycrest and Hope Farm
Mark Lukens, Director
Crystal Run Village
RD 2, Box 98
Middletown, NY 10940

■ **Brooklyn Home for Children**

c/o Forestdale, Inc.
67-35 112th St.
Forest Hills, NY 11375

■ **New England Home for Little Wanderers**

271 Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 267-3700
<www.thehome.org>

■ **New York Child's Foster Home Services**

c/o Sheltering Arms
122 E. 29th St.
New York, NY 10016:
Write to this address for Sheltering Arms and Speedwell records.

■ **New York Infant Asylum**

c/o Adele Lerner
Medical Archives
New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center
1300 York Ave.
New York, NY 10021
<www.med.cornell.edu/archives/our_collection/records.html?name1=Patient+Medical+Records&type1=2Active>

■ **New York Foundling Hospital**

Department of Closed Records
590 Ave. of the Americas
New York, NY 10011
(718) 596-5555
<www.nyfoundling.org>

■ **The Orphan Asylum Society of Brooklyn**

c/o Brookwood Child Care
25 Washington
Brooklyn, NY 11201
The society was founded in 1832; its records date back to 1855.

■ **University of Minnesota Social Welfare History Archives**

101 Walter Library
117 Pleasant St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
<special.lib.umn.edu/swaha>

■ **The Orphan Asylum Society of New York City**

c/o Graham-Windham Services to Families and Children
1 S. Broadway
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
This organization merged with New York Nursery and Child's Hospital in 1910.

■ **Orphan Train Heritage Society of America**

Box 322
Concordia, KS 66901
(785) 243-4471
<www.orphantrainriders.com>
The society is indexing records from the Home for the Friendless.

📖 **Read more on this topic in the December 2006 Family Tree Magazine.**