

Hub - June 1890 - An Industrial School boy drown when he jumped off the bank of Kearney Canal into the deep end of “the second lake on Kearney Canal” on Industrial School property. His parents were unknown. He was sent to Platte county Nebraska from New York by the New York Aid Society several years ago. He lived with a farm family in Columbus until 4 months ago when he was sent to the Industrial School.

[Came on an Orphan Train]

Hub – Jan 7, 1903 – Nebraska Children’s Home Society was asking the state legislature to pass a law prohibiting the immigration of waifs from New York because no care was taken to check the homes where they were taken in when they arrived here and no one checked on them after they were placed.

From: Lcastner@neb.rr.com
To: bchs.us@hotmail.com
Subject: Buffalo County orphan train riders
Date: Thu, 21 Oct 2010 20:54:36 -0500

Box 295
Columbus Nebraska 69602
October 21 2010

Jennifer Murrish
Buffalo County Historical Society
Box 563
Kearney Nebraska 68848

Dear Jennifer

I am assisting the Nebraska State Historical Society in developing a list or orphan train riders to Nebraska. Over 4000, children rode orphan trains to Nebraska between 1880 and 1929. I am assisting the Historical Society as a volunteer as my father was an orphan train rider to Madison in 1908.

Limited information has been obtained on several orphan train riders who came to the Buffalo County area. I have the following information on these riders. Additional information may indicate some discrepancies.

James Francis Hopkins born in 1918 got off an orphan train in Kearney and was taken by a family in Overton.

Henry Melvin Hopkins born in 1922 got off an orphan train in Kearney.

Mary Ellen Hopkins also got off an orphan train in Kearney and taken by a family in Overton.

Wiley Ward age and date of arrival unknown got off an orphan train in Kearney and was taken by a family in Overton.

Orin Nelson Finney age and date of arrival unknown got off an orphan train in Kearney and taken by a Davis family

Clara Heibron arrived in 1901 and was taken by the W.S. Clark family in Gibbon.

According to the Grand Island Independent, there were orphan train stops in both Grand Island and Kearney on May 16 1912. Two riders got off in Kearney. I have no other information about those 2 riders

An orphan train stopped in either Kearney or Overton on March 31, 1908 with three Neilson children. Alexander, age 13, Oliva Alice age 7, and Arnold age 8. Alexander and Oliva Alice were both taken by the F.A. Hubbard family of Overton. Arnold was taken by the W.J. Godson family.

I have been told there was an orphan train stop in Kearny on Jan 14 1922 but have no information about the riders.

Orphan train riders usually came in a group so it is likely other riders came to the area whose names we do not know. You may want to contact any descendents of the adults or riders who continue to reside in the area.

Sincerely,

C. Lloyd Castner