

STARTING A NEW LIFE:

Dowagiac's Orphan Train Story

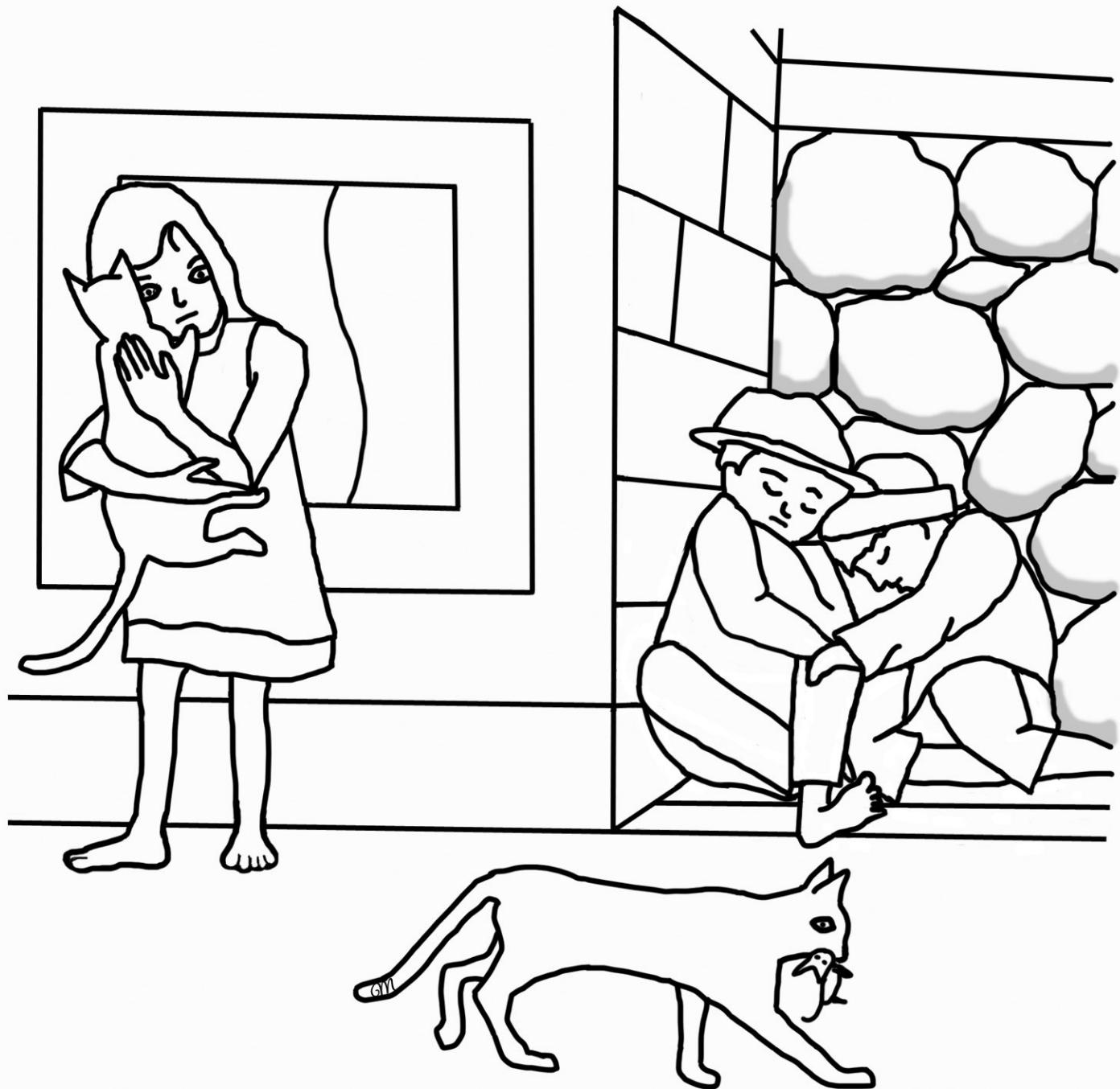
2017



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In the 1840s, thousands of children were living on their own on the streets of New York City.



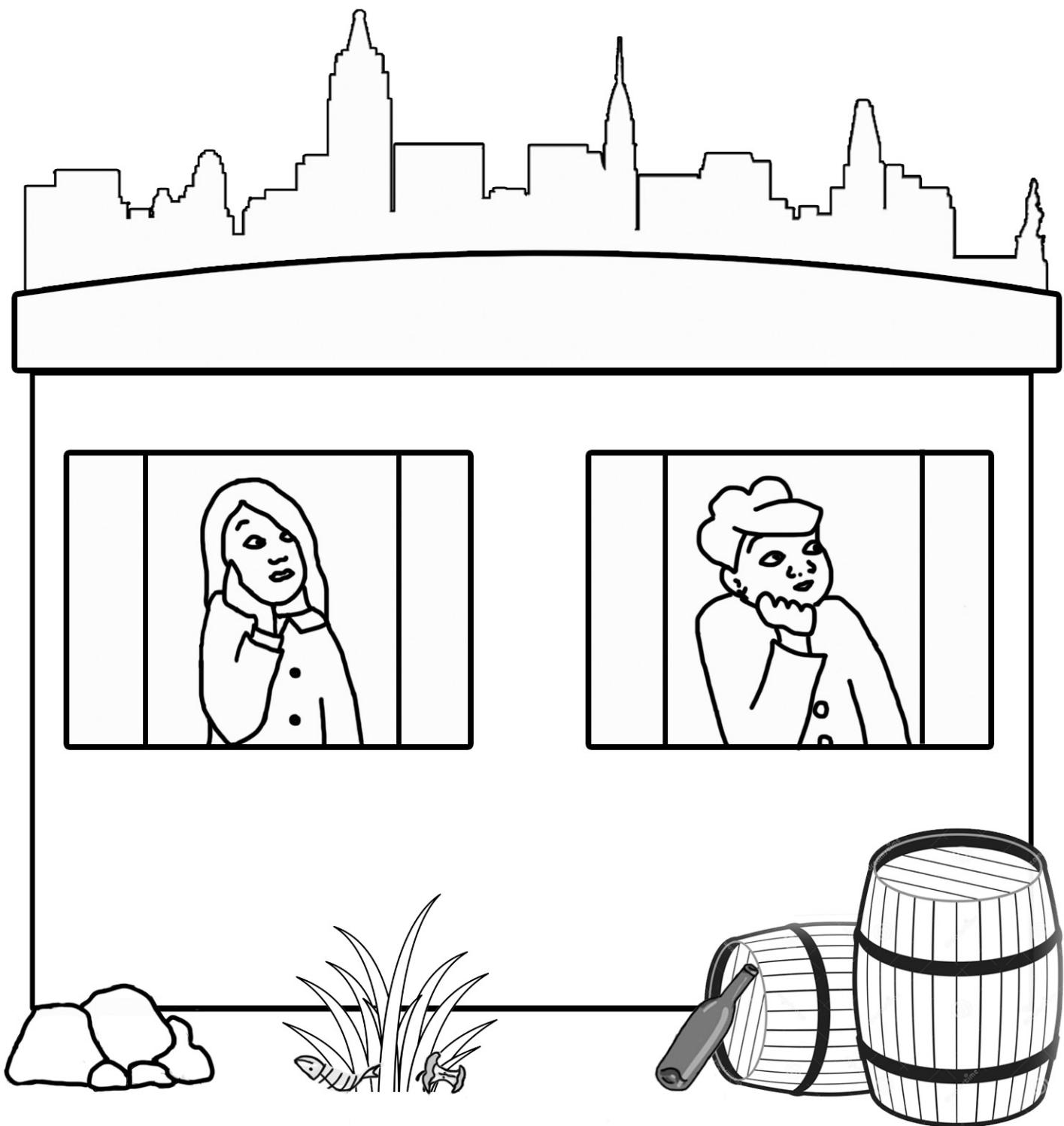
En los 1840s, miles de niños vivían en las calles en la ciudad de Nueva York.

The children did what they had to do to survive—some even turned to stealing. Charles Loring Brace started the faith-based, Children's Aid Society in 1853 to help these children.



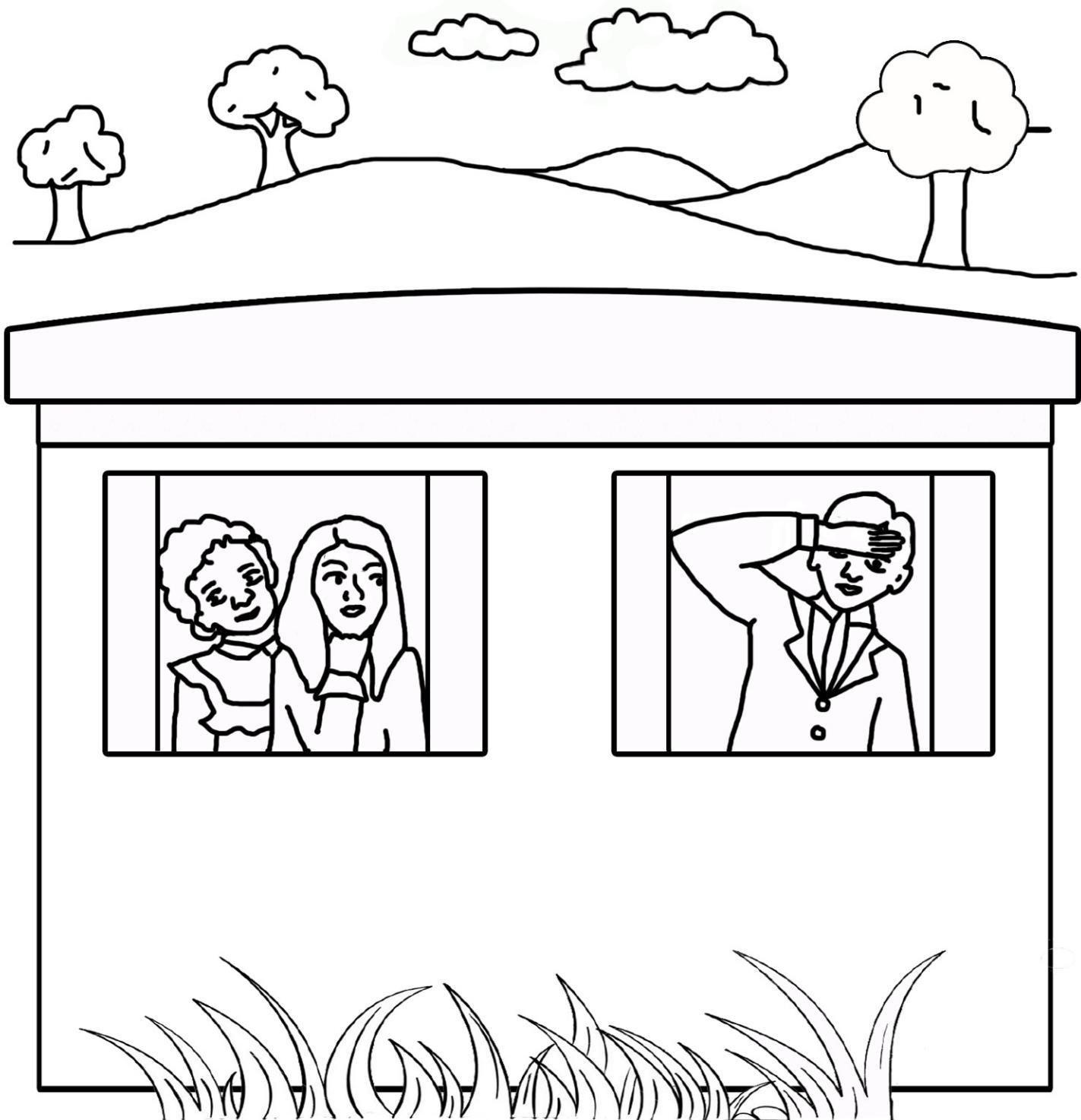
Los niños hicieron lo que tenían que hacer para sobrevivir, algunos tenían que robar. En 1835 Charles Loring Brace, lleno de fe, comenzó el Children's Aid Society en 1853 para ayudar estos niños.

Brace wrote to his friend, Reverend Olmstead in Cass County, Michigan, and arranged for the first train to bring orphaned children to Dowagiac.



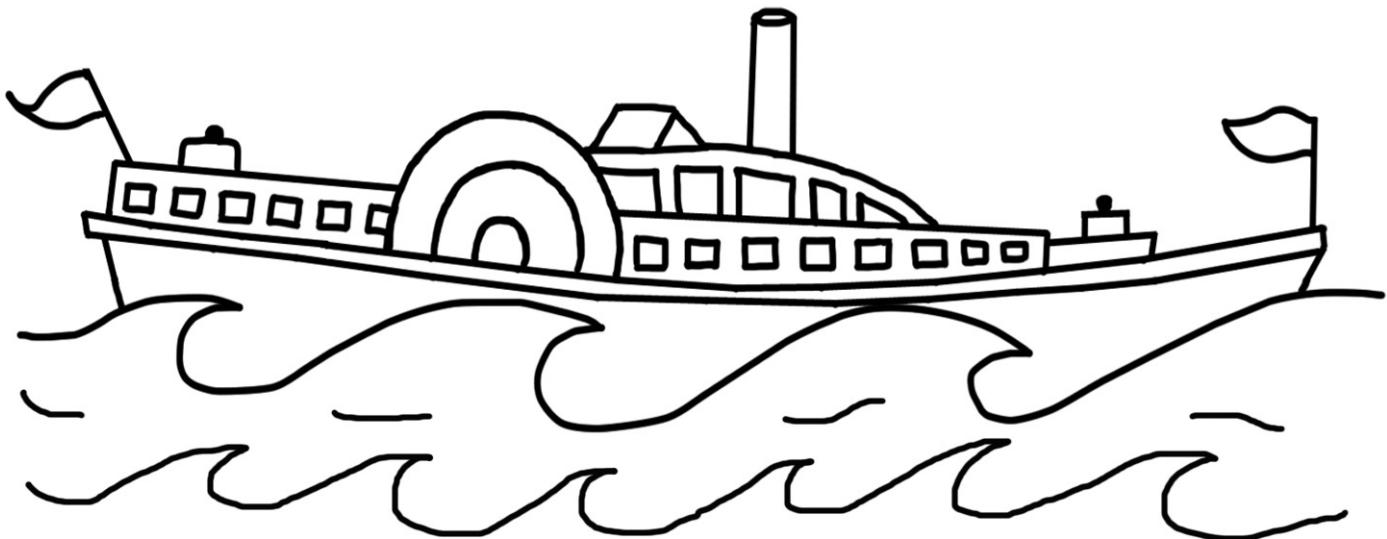
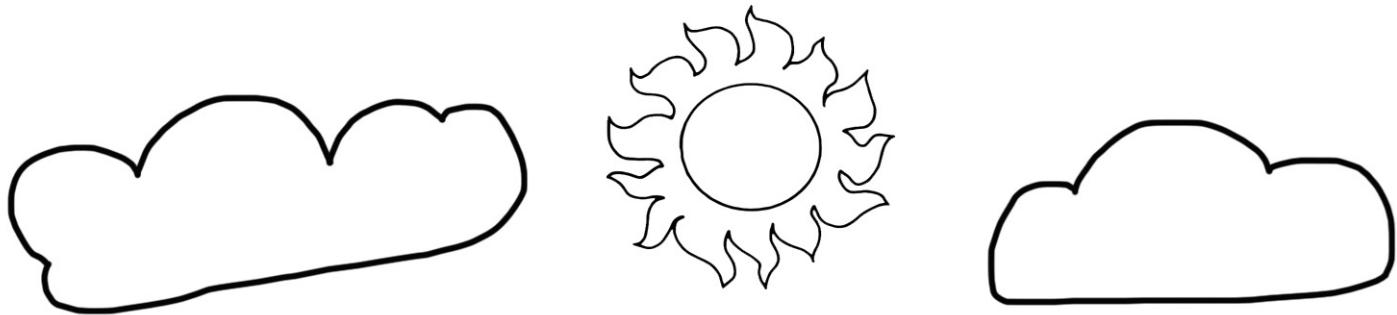
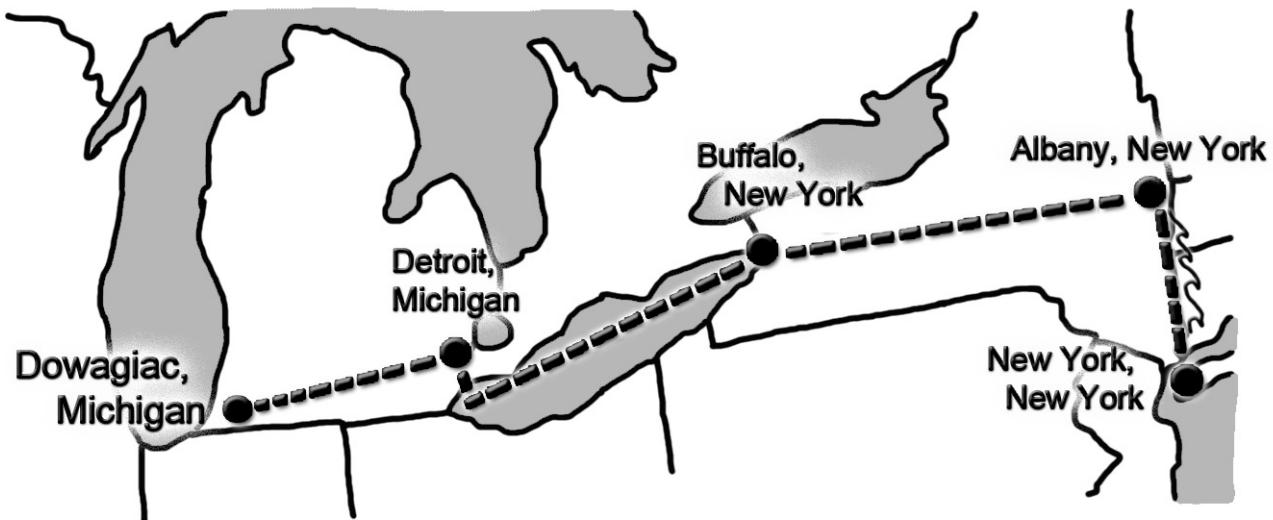
Sr. Brace escribió a su amigo, el Pastor Olmstead en Cass County, Michigan. El arreglo para que el primer tren levara los huerfanos para Dowagiac.

Did they wonder about their new homes? Did they wonder if they would stay together with their brothers and sisters?



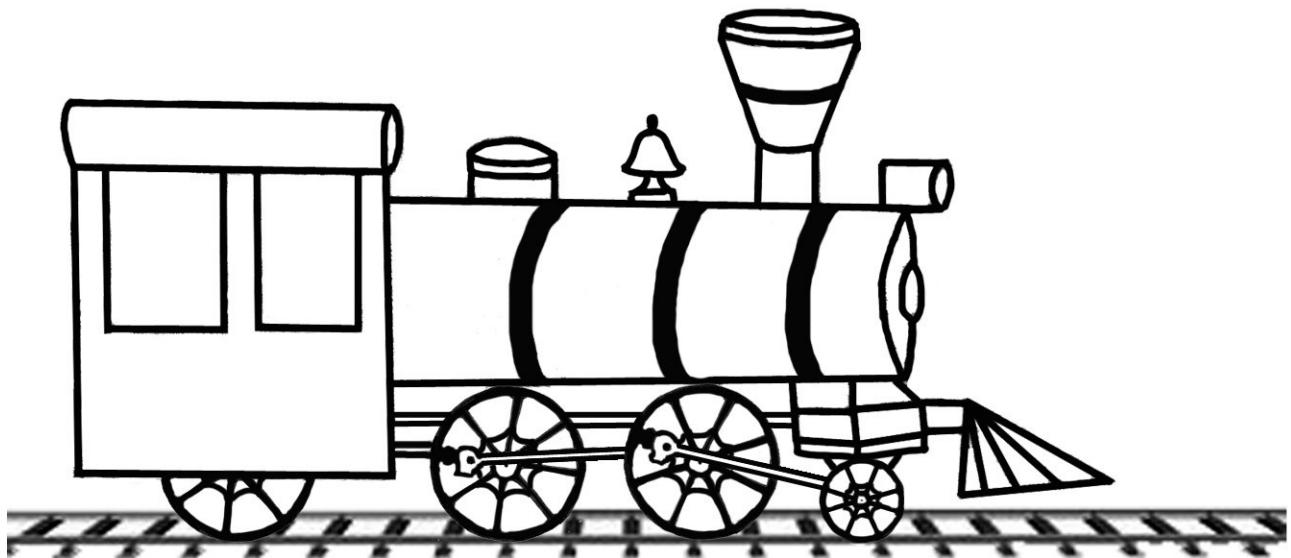
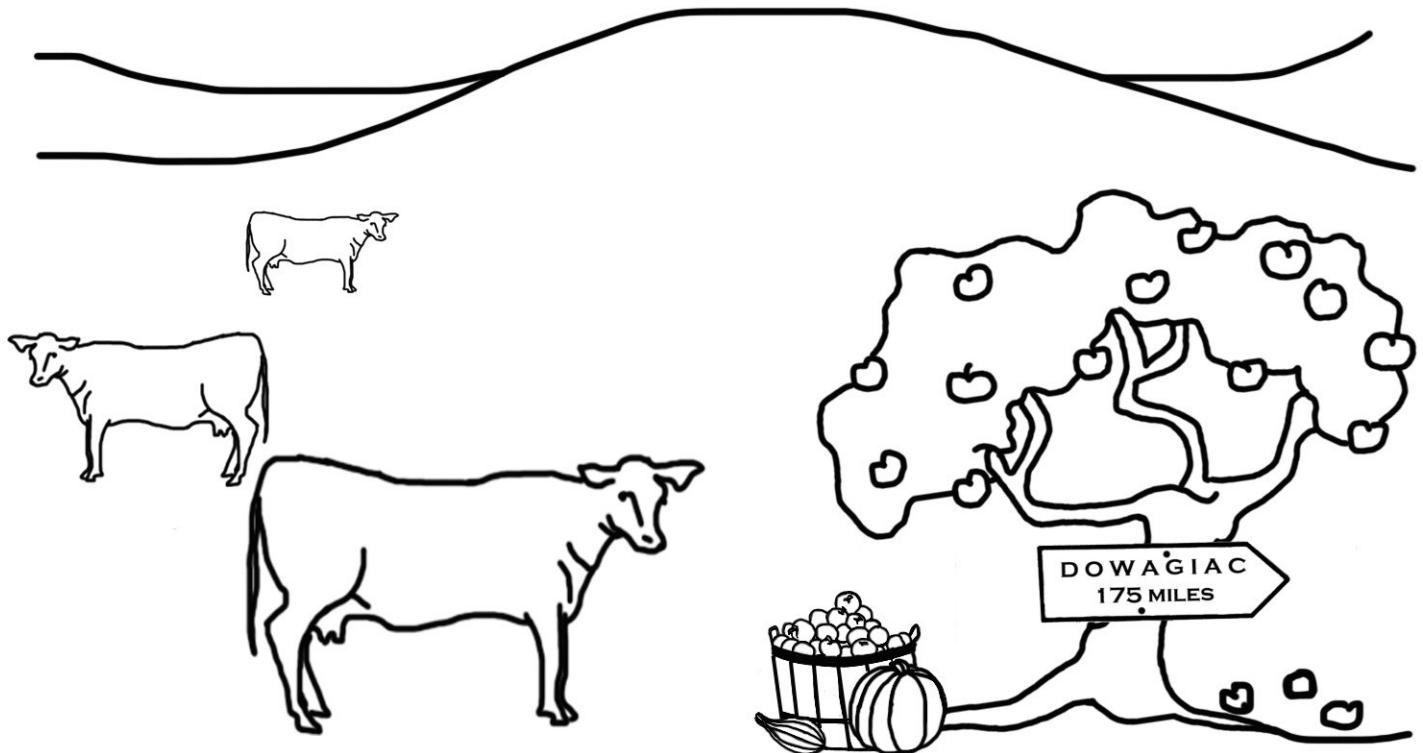
¿Pensaban de sus nuevos hogares? ¿Llegarán a permanecer juntos?

The homeless children traveled on two steamboats and two trains to reach Dowagiac, Michigan.



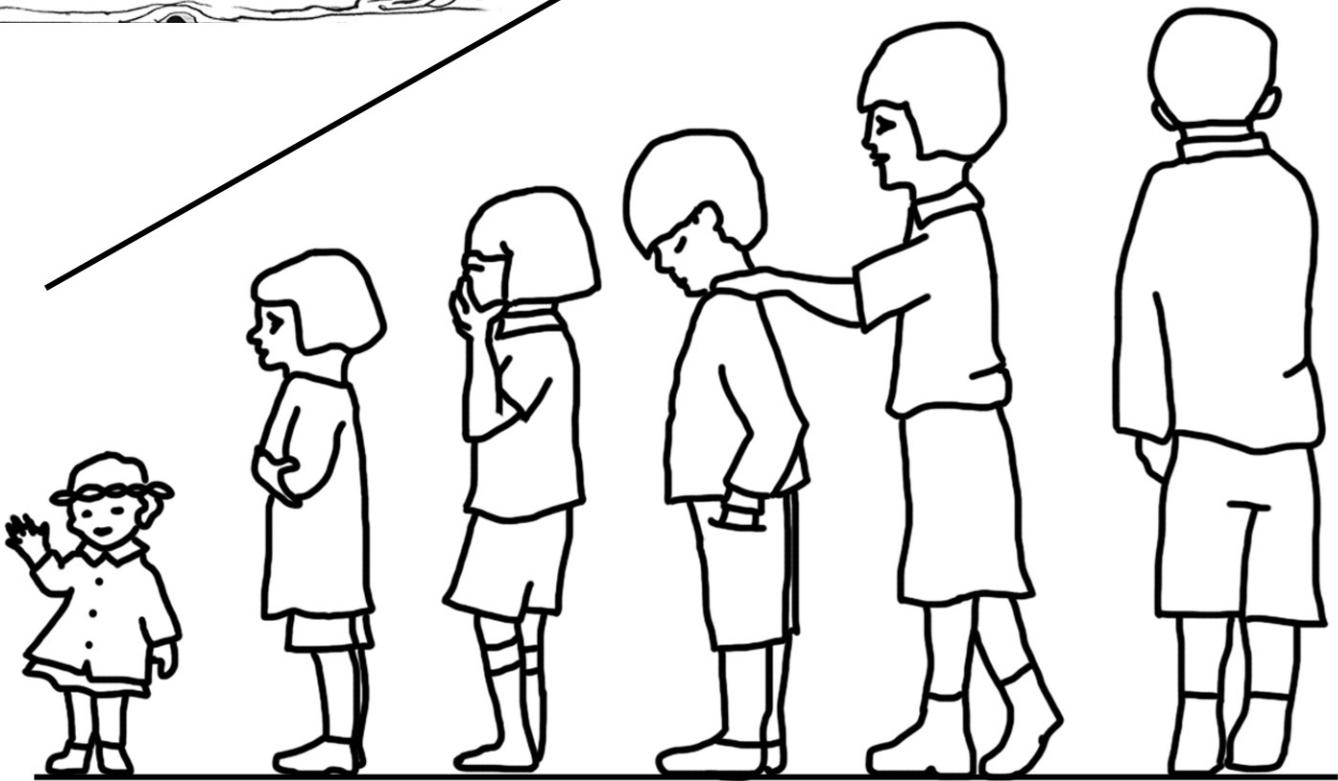
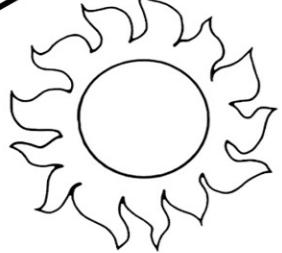
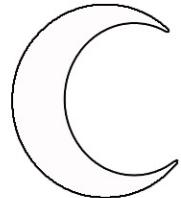
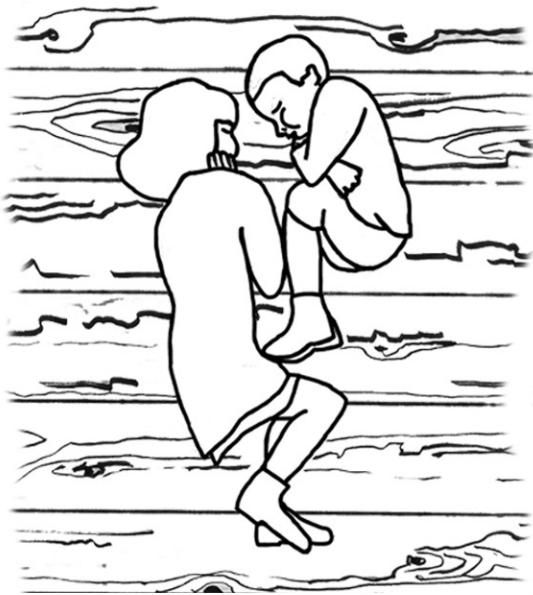
Los niños viajaron en dos barcos de vapor y dos trenes para llegar a Dowagiac, Michigan.

The kids were amazed that in Michigan they saw more cows than people.



Los niños se sorprendieron que en Michigan vieron más vacas que personas.

These first riders and their chaperones arrived at the Dowagiac train station in the middle of the night and had to sleep at the station. The next day, the nervous children went to a church and stood in a line. Farm families could pick which child they wanted.



Los primeros niños, niñas y acompañantes llegaron a la estación de trenes en Dowagiac en medio de la noche y tuvieron que dormir en la estación. El día siguiente, los estaban niños nerviosos. Fueron a una iglesia y se pararon en una línea. Las familias, de los ranchos, podrían escoger cual niño que querían.

Some children started a new life in Dowagiac. They lived on farms and helped with chores.



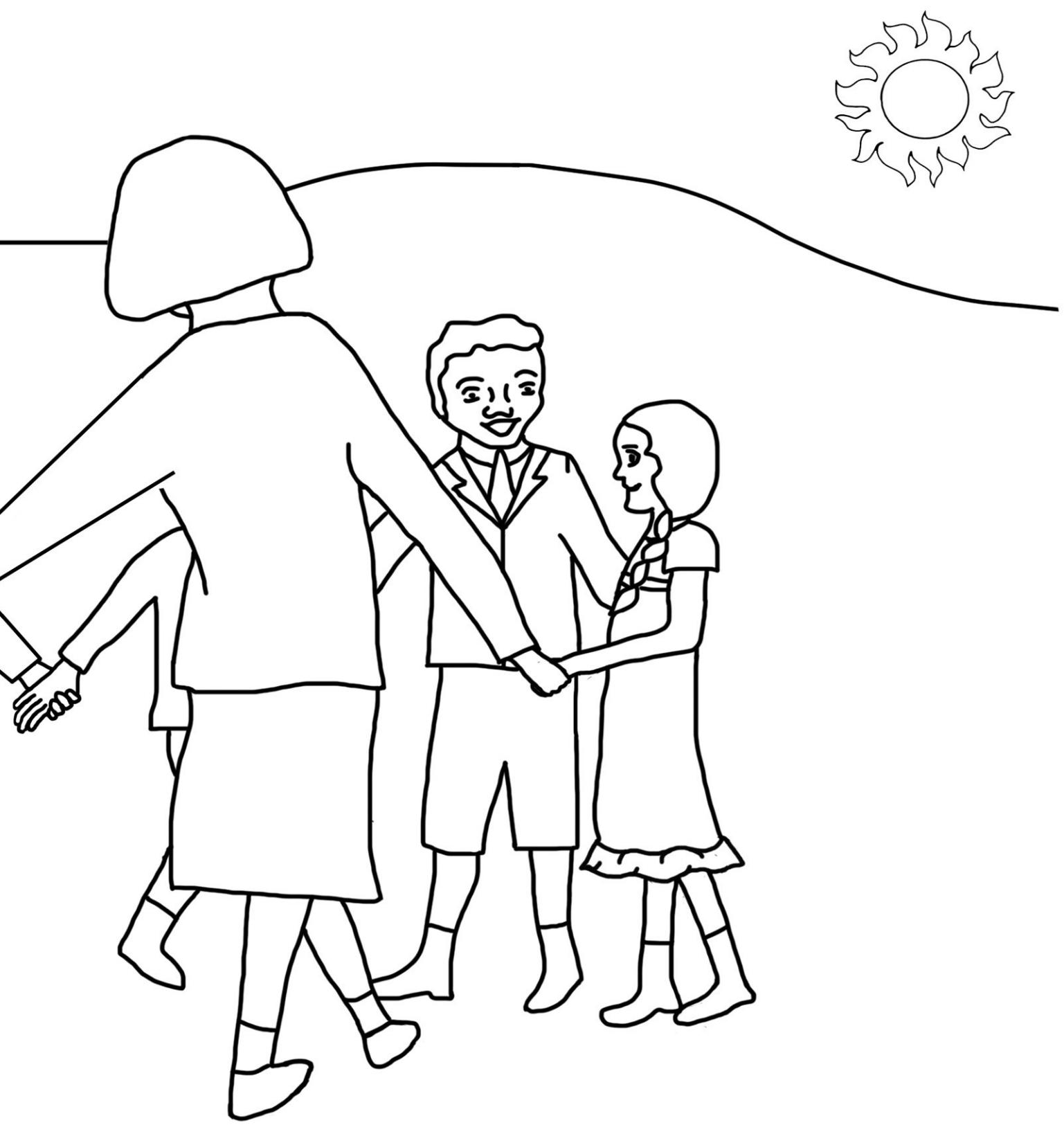
Unos de los niños comenzaron una nueva vida en Dowagiac. Vivían en ranchos y ayudaron con las tareas.

Children attended school and went to church with their new families.



Los niños fueron a la escuela y a la iglesia con sus nuevas familias.

The riders grew up and had families, farms, and businesses of their own.



Los ninos crecieron y tuvieron familias, ranchos y negocios.

The first Orphan Train arrived in Dowagiac in 1854. The program was successful at placing 250,000 children throughout 46 states. The last Orphan Train was in 1929. Some children had great experiences with their new families and were adopted; other children were employees and were not treated well. The Orphan Train changed how America dealt with orphaned children and had a lasting impact on child welfare laws in the country.

Little is known about the thousands of children who rode the Orphan Train. The Children's Aid Society's records are closed because of adoption laws. The information that is known about riders comes primarily from families that have passed stories down through the generations. The following pages tell the stories of a few known Michiana area Orphan Train riders.



El primer tren de huérfanos llegó en Dowagiac en 1854. El programa ayudó a 250.000 niños y niñas en 46 estados. El último tren para huérfanos fue en 1929. Algunos niños tenían grandes experiencias con sus familias y fueron adoptados; otros niños eran empleados y no fueron tratados bien. El tren de huérfanos cambió cómo América trata niños huérfanos y tuvo un gran impacto en las leyes para niños en el país.

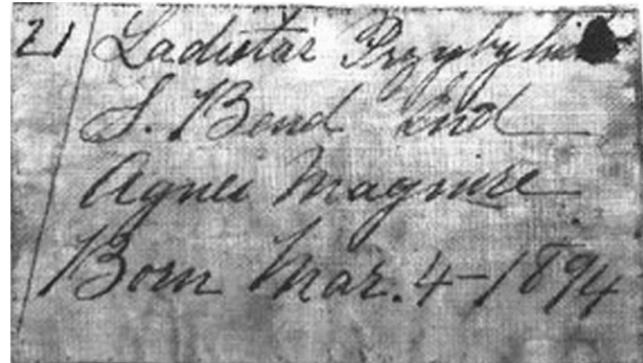
Poca información se sabe sobre los miles de niños que montaron el tren de huérfanos. Los registros del Children's Aid Society están cerrados debido a las leyes de adopción. La información que se conoce acerca de niños y niñas proviene principalmente de las familias que han transmitido historias a través de las generaciones. Las páginas siguientes dicen las historias de unos huérfanos de Michiana.

Agnes Maguire



Agnes Maguire arrived in South Bend in 1896 when she was only two years old. She was adopted by a couple through a church. Agnes lived the rest of her life in the area. She married in 1916 and had four children. One of her grandchildren still has the nametag that was sewn inside her coat.

Agnes Maguire llego en South Bend en 1896 cuando tenia dos años de edad. Fue adoptada por una pareja de la iglesia. Agnes vivio toda su vida en esta area. Se casó en 1916 y creio cuatro niños. Una de sus nietas todavia tiene la tela con su nombre que estaba cosido en su saco.



Gaetano (Guy) Hills

One of the young boys on the Orphan Train was Guy Newman or Neuman. Guy rode the first train to Dowagiac at the age of 13. Guy was adopted by the Hills family and took his new family's last name. When Guy grew up, he stayed in the area and started his own family. Guy Hills' great-great granddaughter Bobbie L. (Hills) Labar still lives in Cassopolis, Michigan.



Unos de los mas joven niños en el tren de juerfanos era Guy Newman o Neuman. Guy montó el primer tren lleno para Dowagiac cuando estaba 13 años de edad. La familia Hills adoptó a Guy y le cambiaron su apellido. Cuando Guy creció se quedó en la área y empezó su familia. La abuela de Guy Hills que se llama Bobbie L. (Hills) Labar, todavía vive en Cassopolis en Michigan.

Moore Brothers

Three Moore brothers, from New York City, rode the Orphan Train to Dowagiac. George and William Moore arrived in 1868 and Charles took the train in 1870. More information is known about George than his siblings.

Twelve-year-old George Moore was taken in by the Andrews family to work on the farm, but gave up his spot to younger brother Charles in 1870. George worked in logging camps and mills before moving to the City of Dowagiac in the 1880s to open a grocery store. George Moore became a well-respected Dowagiac merchant and citizen in town.

William Moore moved to South Haven and operated a grocery store there. Charles Moore moved to Detroit and became a firefighter. He was chief of the Walkerville, Ontario, department when he returned to Dowagiac in 1905 to take over management of George's grocery store.



George Moore
(far left)
and his
employees
in front of
his store.

George Moore
(para la esquerda)
y sus
empleados en
frente de
su tienda.

Tres hermanos, apellidos Moore, montaron el tren de huerfanos para Dowagiac. George y William llegaron en 1868 y Charles monto el tren en 1870. Mas informacion se sabe sobre George que sus dos hermanos.

George Moore tenia doce años de edad cuando se fue a vivir con la familia Andrews en el rancho, pero en 1870 se fue para que su hermanito se quedara con ellos. George tabrajo en campos y molinos antes de moviendose para Dowagiac en 1880 para abrir una tendia. George Moore se conocio como un buen dueño y ciudadano de Dowagiac.

William Moore se movio para South Haven y fue operador de un tienda de abarrotes. Charles Moore se movio para Detroit y fue un bombero. EL fue el jefe del departamento en Walkerville, Ontario, hasta que regreso a Dowagiac en 1905 para cuidar la tienda de George.



Charles Loring Brace

"When a child of the streets stands before you in rags, with a tear-stained face, you cannot 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."

-- Charles Loring Brace

"Cuando un niño de las calles esta parado, antes de usted, con una cara de lágrimas, esto no te puedes olvidar.

Y sin embargo, piensas qué puedes hacer. La alma humana es difícil con que interferir. Usted vacila hasta dónde debe llegar.

-- Charles Loring Brace

Homes For Children WANTED

A Company of Homeless Children from the East Will Arrive at

McPherson, Friday, September 15.

These children are of various ages and of both sexes, having been thrown friendless upon the world. They come under the auspices of the Children's Aid Society, of New York. They are well disciplined, having come from various orphanages. The citizens of this community are asked to assist the agent in finding good homes for them. Persons taking these children must be recommended by the local committee. They must treat the children in every way as members of the family, sending them to school, church, Sabbath school and properly clothe them until they are 18 years old. Protestant children placed in Protestant homes and Catholic children in Catholic homes. The following well known citizens have agreed to act as a local committee to aid the agents in securing homes:

Dr. Heaston
F. A. Vaniman

H. A. Rowland
W. J. Krehbiel

C. W. Bachelor
K. Sorensen

Applications must be made to and endorsed by the local committee.

An address will be given by the agents. Come and see the children and hear the address. Distribution will take place at

Opera House, Friday, September 15

at 10:00 a. m. and 2:00 p. m.

WANTED Homes for Children

A company of homeless children from the East will arrive at
TROY, MO., ON FRIDAY, FEB. 25th, 1910

These children are of various ages and of both sexes, having been thrown friendless upon the world. They come under the auspices of the Children's Aid Society, of New York. They are well disciplined, having come from the various orphanages. The citizens of this community are asked to assist the agent in finding good homes for them. Persons taking these children must be recommended by the local committee. They must treat the children in every way as members of the family, sending them to school, church, Sabbath school and properly clothe them until they are 18 years old. The following well-known citizens have agreed to act as a local committee to aid the agents in securing homes:

O. H. Avery E. B. Woolfolk H. F. Childers
Wm. Young G. W. Colbert

Applications must be made to, and endorsed by, the local committee.

An address will be made by the agent. Come and see the children and hear the address. Distribution will take place at the

Opera House Friday, Feb. 25, at 1:30 p. m.

B. W. TICE and MISS A. L. HILL, Agents, 105 E. 22nd St., New York City.
REV. J. W. SWAN, University Place, Nebraska, Western Agent.

Starting a New Life Dowagiac's Orphan Train Story



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Wayne Falda

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Janet Hagen
Beckwith Theatre

Bobbie Jo Hartline
The Looking Glass
Citizens of Dowagiac

Altogether, 250,000 orphans rode trains to 46 states until 1929.

These illustrations are part of a 675 sq./ft. mural depicting the
Orphan Train story located on the 100 block of Pennsylvania Ave.
on the east side of our historic Post Office.

The Dowagiac Branch of the US Post Office,
at 202 Commercial St., celebrates local history with this mural,
as well as their 100 years of service to the community
of Dowagiac at this location.

For more information, history, or a free download of this multigenerational, bilingual coloring book, visit
www.DowagiacMuseum.info/orphan-train