



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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No. 1

## OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS FOR ABUSED, NEGLECTED, AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN IN MINNESOTA: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Marian E. Saksena

*Editor's note: In keeping with the Adoption topic at the March members' meeting, this feature article is an historical perspective of adoption in Minnesota. Written by Marian Saksena, an attorney at law, with Walling Berg, & Debele, this article was first published in the William Mitchell Law Review. This is an abridged version of the original article.*

### INTRODUCTION

The traditional view of the origins of the juvenile court in Minnesota focuses on the legislation passed in 1905 establishing the juvenile court and

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delineating its jurisdiction. The 1905 legislation created the juvenile court in Minnesota and gave it "original and exclusive" jurisdiction in cases involving dependent, neglected, or delinquent children.

Juvenile law in Minnesota has distinguished between two classes of children: those deemed to be delinquent and those deemed to be dependent, abused, or neglected. Historically, the out-of-home placement options for such youth usually followed those distinctions: delinquent youth were placed in reform schools, correctional facilities, and facilities for "wayward" youth, while dependent, abused, or neglected youth were placed in orphanages, foster, or adoptive homes.

This article examines the social response to child welfare matters in Minnesota by reviewing out-of-home placement options for children who were deemed to be dependent, abused, or neglected prior to and after the establishment of the juvenile court in Minnesota.

*Placements (continued on page 14)*

**Homes Wanted  
For Children**



**A Company of Orphan Children**

of different ages in charge of an agent will arrive at your town on date herein mentioned. The object of the coming of these children is to find homes in your midst, especially among farmers, where they may enjoy a happy and wholesome family life, where kind care, good example and moral training will fit them for a life of self-support and usefulness. They come under the auspices of the New York Children's Aid Society. They have been tested and found to be well-meaning boys and girls anxious for homes.

The conditions are that these children shall be properly clothed, treated as members of the family, given proper school advantages and remain in the family until they are eighteen years of age. At the expiration of the time specified it is hoped that arrangements can be made whereby they may be able to remain in the family indefinitely. The Society retains the right to remove a child at any time for just cause, and agrees to remove any found unsatisfactory after being notified. Remember the time and place. All are invited. Come out and hear the address. Applications may be made to any one of the following well known citizens, who have agreed to act as local committee to aid the agent in securing homes.

A. J. Hammond, H. W. Parker, Geo. Baxter, J. F. Damon, J. P. Homes,  
B. N. Welch, J. A. Armstrong, F. L. Dargis.

This distribution of Children is by Consent of the State Board of Control, and will take place at the

**G. A. R. Hall, Winnebago, Minn.**  
Friday, Jan. 11th, '07, at 10.50 a. m. @ 2 p. m.

H. D. Clarke, State Agent,  
Dodge Center, Minn.  
Office: 105 East 22nd St.,  
New York City.

**Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota**

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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So. St. Paul MN 55075-1150

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of Minnesota Newsletter**

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The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is included with membership. Dues are \$20 per year, or \$50 for three years.

**Please use application form on insert page.**

Items submitted for publication are welcomed and encouraged. We require feature-length articles be submitted exclusively to PGS-MN. Articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, etc. should be mailed to: Peggy Larson, 557 98th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 or e-mailed to <EditorPGSMN@gmail.com>

**Address/e-mail changes or membership questions?**

Contact: Dori Marszalek, Membership Chair  
 3901 - 61st Ave. N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429-2403  
 or e-mail: <doripgs@comcast.net>

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**President's Letter**

Welcome to 2013! If you were at our Annual Meeting in January (story inside this issue) you will remember that this is the crystal anniversary of our organization being under the umbrella of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. So, what's next for our 21<sup>st</sup> year?

Well, we will continue with our informative member's meetings each fall and spring. Our new Vice President, Dan Schyma is hard at work filling our program meetings with excellent speakers from all around the Metro... and beyond. You will see a mix of cultural and genealogical meetings focused on both the United States and Poland itself. Our big thrust this year is to broaden our meeting audience. We will be advertising in several different ways and partnering with like-minded organizations. We also ask you to reach out to a friend or relative that might accompany you to a meeting. Remember, the library is open after each meeting for your individual research.

In the next few months we will migrate our website from the current provider to a new host. This will give us more opportunity to manipulate our content and serve you, our members. There will be a public side to the web that lists our meetings, has links to other web resources, and contains library and calendar information. There will also be a private side, accessed by a username/password. It will hold back issues of the newsletter and notes from the monthly presentations. We are working on making most of this information searchable for easier use.

So, look for great meetings and a new website in the coming weeks and months. I hope your Easter was full of Polish traditions and your Spring will be full of health and happiness for you and your whole family.

Jerome Biedny  
President



## *The Bulletin Board*

### **Correspondence ... Komunikacja**

#### **Extra Contributions**

We thank the following for their extra monetary contributions to PGS-MN--to the Library Fund, to Family Ties or to the Capital Campaign Fund.

**Genevieve M. Glen**  
**George Hamernick**  
**Bobbi (Roberta) Hoyt**  
**Gerald Keeville**  
**Mary Losinski**  
**Michael McGee**  
**Jeannette Peterman**  
**Phyllis Sulkowski**

**Dziękuję**

[Thank you!]

We are a non-profit, educational organization. Contributions beyond basic membership dues may be income tax deductible.

#### **Recently at PGS-MN Meetings**

##### **“Adoption History and Records”**

March 2, 2013. Presented by Gary Debele

For the March meeting of PGSMN we were thrilled to have attorney and adjunct professor Gary Debele come to present on the topic of adoption. Mr. Debele has a Master’s Degree in Legal Constitutional History as well as a law degree. His personal background in adoption includes, besides his law training, the adoption of his 13 year old daughter from Korea as well as his maternal grandfather, who was adopted from Norway and moved to the Two Harbors area. He shares an interest in Genealogy with his wife, a prominent member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mr. Debele’s presentation focused on Adoption History and Records. He noted the increasing

demand for adoption as compared to the decreasing supply of adoptable children. He also explained that from a genealogical/bloodline standpoint many of the issues that arise from adoption remain uncomfortable. Mr. Debele thoroughly explained adoptions’ early beginnings - the Code of Hammurabi to Eastern Societies emphasizing ancestral bloodlines to Native American societal adoption. He then explained the significant shift from adoption as estate planning to adoption as a means of better welfare for the children involved. Mr. Debele also explained the rise of adoption in America as a stark contrast to the views of European countries at the time. He cites the watershed 1851 Massachusetts Adoption Act as a crucial example of American attitudes towards child welfare, it being the first law to include the phrase “best interests of the child.” The history portion of the presentation concluded with an explanation of the orphan train movement of the second half of the 19th century and the fall of institutionalization, accompanied by the rise of foster care. The Progressive Era (1890-1920) in particular was emphasized by Mr. Debele to be one of increased accountability and transparency.



Tom Boelz w/ speaker Gary Debele

The next part of the presentation focused on current and future adoption practices. Mr. Debele explained to the audience the many types of adoption: Private Agency, Direct Placement, State Ward, Co-Parent, Stepparent, International, and Adult Adoption. He clearly outlined the importance of home studies in current adoption law, the issue of birth fathers in adoption, and the Minnesota Punitive Father’s Birth



Registry, which allows for litigation on behalf of the biological father. Lastly, Mr. Debele explained the differences between a biological, intended, and genetic parent as well as the difference between a surrogate mother and a gestational carrier. The future of assisted reproduction was emphasized by Mr. Debele as being completely unregulated and mostly commercial.

Lastly Mr. Debele explained the complicated access rules for records of adoptions. He explained that Adoption Agencies, County Courts, County Social Services, and the Dept. of Human Services are all excellent places to search for adoption records. However, the presenter was precise in explaining the many obstacles that arise in finding these records, including sealed court files that require a petition for access. Mr. Debele also explained that Adoption Agency files can only be released with consent of all parties unless it can be proven that the parties are deceased. These Adoption Agency files include copies of home studies and the social/medical back-ground of the birth parents. While name changes do occur during adoptions, Mr. Debele closed by explaining that as the face of adoption has changed to reflect assisted reproduction the birth certificates do not show biological parents in every case.

Thank you, Mr. Debele, for your time and talent in illuminating this topic for us.

Jeremy Biedny, PGSMN Director

## DNA for Genealogists

April 6, 2013. Presented by John Rys

John Rys presented "DNA for Genealogists." His presentation included descriptions of three DNA tests (Y-chromosome, mitochondrial and autosomal tests) currently used by genealogists. The presentation described how these DNA tests are translated into understandable numeric values for use in searching genealogy databases.

Examples of DNA test certificates and information on how different DNA testing companies handle DNA searching were discussed also. If you are interested in having your DNA test performed here are some online databases to check for information.

- mitosearch.org (FamilyTreeDNA)
- ysearch.org (FamilyTreeDNA)
- smgf.com (Sorenson Molecular Foundation)
- familytreeDNA.com (FamilyTreeDNA)
- dna.ancestry.com (Ancestry.com)

(Source: Family Tree Magazine, pg. 66, December 2009 and ISOGG.org)

Thank you, John, for an interesting, entertaining, and informative presentation!

1

### Y-Chromosome DNA (Y-DNA)

- Y-DNA is inherited only by men from their father
- This test provides markers (numbers) to compare to other people's DNA, to determine if there is any relationship.

2

### Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)

- mtDNA is inherited both by women and men from their mother.
- Only the mother passes on the mtDNA.
- This DNA test provides values to compare to other people's mtDNA to determine any relationship.

3

### Autosomal (Bio-Geographical DNA)

- Autosomal DNA is inherited from **all ancestral grandparents.**
- Autosomal **only provides** connections to broad geographical areas, such as: African, Asian, or European.
- This test provides **No DNA markers or values** to compare to other people's DNA to determine any recent relationship.

## Poland Travels

April 6, 2013. Presented by Jeremy and Jay Biedny

Jeremy and Jay Biedny discussed their trip to Poland last summer comparing and contrasting the constant interplay of urban and rural, old and new, tourist and genealogical findings.

The focus of the presentation was on the results of the two week tour split between an organized bus group and a freelance genealogical guide. An interesting contrast of perspectives between young Jeremy and 30-year veteran researcher, Jay, was evident in their presentation. They both shared some great travel adventure stories and many serendipitous ones too! They had a very good slide show presentation of all the various areas they traveled. (Who knew gnomes were special in Polish culture?) In the end both Jay and Jeremy gave the same advice – Go Tomorrow! It's definitely a worthwhile trip!

Jay is the current president of the PGS MN. He is a third generation American, but 100% Polish and has been researching in Poland since he was a teenager.

His son Jeremy is a history buff and a current member of the PGS MN Board. To date, he has visited the ancestral home towns of 12 of his "sweet sixteen" great, great grandparents

## Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events....

### Early Polonia in Northeast Minneapolis

Sister Cities International presents  
Columbia Heights, MN-Lomianki, Poland

Saturday, April 20 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Presented by John Rys

Place: Columbia Heights Public Library  
820 40th Ave NW

The presentation centers on the Polish immigrants arriving in Northeast around 1900. Specific agenda items include: Early Poles in Minnesota; History of St. Anthony and Minneapolis; Nicollet Island; Northeast; Polish and other churches in Northeast; and the areas of Poland where this community emigrated from in the early 1900s.

Speaker, John Rys, has prepared a well-illustrated slide presentation about this area of Minneapolis, where his grandparents settled around 1905 and where he spent many of his formative years.

John is a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, Minnesota Genealogical Society, and Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. John has published over 25 genealogy articles in *Minnesota Genealogist*, *Rodziny*, *Journal of PGSA* and the *PGS-MN Newsletter*. He is the recipient of the 2011 Wigilia award presented annually by the Polish Genealogical Society of America of Chicago for outstanding contributions to the field of Polish Genealogy. He received the 2011 service award from the Minnesota Genealogical Society.

## 2013 Polish Genealogical Society Meetings Calendar

**May 4** – Genealogical Cluster Studies

**September 7** – Poland and Emigration during the Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

**October 5** – Genealogical Resources and New Historical Information

**November 2** - Joint meeting w/ Pommern group  
Topic 1 - Genealogical Studies and the Use of County Records,

Topic 2 - Travel in Poland for First Time International Travelers

See details below...

## PGSMN Member Meetings

### Genealogical Cluster Studies

Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
presented by Gretchen Leisen

Gretchen Leisen will present her experience with a "Cluster Study" that she pursued for eleven years. She will discuss the characteristics of cluster studies, the tools she used and the value of doing cluster studies.

Gretchen is editor of "PasTimes," the St. Cloud area Genealogist newsletter. She has done genealogical studies for 40 years. She is a retired medical technologist who is currently assisting the St. Cloud, MN diocese with their historical church records.

### **Poland and Emigration during the Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

Saturday, Septmber 7, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
presented by Dr. Anne Klejment

Dr. Klejment will talk about the social conditions in Poland, including the economic and political conditions, that led to immigration during the period that many of our ancestors came to Minnesota.

Dr. Klejment is a professor at the University of St. Thomas. She earned a PhD from the State University of New York at Binghamton and is a trained social historian with a specialty in twentieth century U.S. history. A native of Rochester, New York she is proud that her great grandfather and his brother were among the founders of the first Polish Roman Catholic parish in the city.

### **Genealogical Resources and New Historical Information**

Saturday, October 12, time TBA,  
presented by Daniel Necas

Daniel Necas is a research archivist at the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, and an immigrant to this country from the Czech Republic. His current work includes a multi-national digitizing project for several Central European countries, including Poland. He will share his experience and present on the resources available to genealogists at the U of M.

### **Topic 1 - Genealogical Studies and the Use of County Records**

Saturday, November 2, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
presented by Mary Ostby

Mary Ostby is Executive Director for the Benton County Historical Society & Museum. Mary will present on the numerous county records available to genealogists and the specific resources available to

research ancestors who settled in Benton County. Mary has extensive experience and is enthusiastic in directing genealogical researchers to the county records that finally locate that one piece of information you needed to open the doors to your research.

### **Topic 2 - Travel in Poland for First Time International Travelers**

Saturday, November 2, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
presented by Dr. Arthur Grachek

Dr. Grachek is Professor Emeritus from St. Cloud State University. His specialty is speech and communications. Dr. Grachek has traveled extensively both with the St. Cloud State University International Studies Department as well as on personal trips. He will present on his personal travels in Poland as well as the tour groups he has taken to Poland. This will be an excellent opportunity for people planning a first trip to Poland to ask questions and overcome the fear of first-time international travel.

### **2013 Pommern Calendar**

#### **May 4 – Wolfgang Samuel**

Works by Wolfgang W. E. Samuel

- *German Boy: A Refugee's Story.*
- *I Always Wanted to Fly: America's Cold War Airmen.*
- *The War of Our Childhood: Memories of World War Two.*
- *American Raiders: The Race to Capture the Luftwaffe's Secrets.*
- *Coming to Colorado: A Young Immigrant's Journey to Become an American Flyer.*
- *Glory Days: The Untold Story of the Men Who Flew the B-66 Destroyer into the Face of Fear.*

**June 1** – Teutonic Knights Castles DVD/ current views by Jim Neuenfeldt

**July 6** – Saturday in MGS Library using computers

**August 3** – TBD

**September 7** – "The Wall" by Margie Deutsch

**October 5** – Military uniforms pre-WWI. Bring any photos you have.

**November 2** – Joint meeting with Poles.

**December 7** – Christmas Celebration

## MSG 2013 Classes and Events

### The "Big Two" Websites for Family History Research-Ancestry and FamilySearch

Saturday May 18, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Instructors: Mary Wickersham, Sheila Northrop, and Tom Rice, CGSM

[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) and [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) are the two largest and most widely used websites for family history research. Come to this workshop and learn how to make effective use of these resources. Mary and Sheila will be your guides to Ancestry.com, showing you how to search, how to find databases related to the area you are researching, and how to locate "lost" family members when you don't know a married name or the spelling changed. Mary and Sheila will also review features of membership in Ancestry.com, including the Shoebox, family trees, and connections.

Tom Rice will demonstrate how the FamilySearch website lets you access the rich resources of the world's largest genealogy library, search FamilySearch's ever-growing treasure of digitized record images and databases, access thousands of digitized family and local history books, and look for ancestors in its online genealogies. The workshop will also show how to search the Family History Library's catalog and rent films online, find information about records from around the world, and find and view hundreds of genealogical instructional videos.

Cost: \$30 MGS members/\$35 non-members  
Register online at: <http://www.mnsgs.org/>

### Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

August 21-24, 2013 - Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Wednesday through Saturday, August 21-24 at the Grand Wayne Center. Fort Wayne is home to The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library.

Centrally located in downtown Fort Wayne, the conference site is connected to one of the

conference hotels, the Hilton, and across the street, but connected by a sky walk, to the Courtyard by Marriott. The Grand Wayne Center is just a half-block walk from the Allen County Public Library.

Bergetta is planning a bus trip this year to Fort Wayne for the conference. It will be leaving most likely 6:30 or 7:00 a.m. from MGS on Tuesday, August 20 and return Sunday, August 25. The cost will be \$175 round trip until August 1, 2013 when the price will go to \$210.

Bergetta has set up a rate with the Days Inn at 1181 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne, IN. Phone is [\(260\) 489-6556](tel:2604896556). The rate is \$59 plus tax per night which works out to \$341.95 total for the five nights including tax for the room. If you have a roommate, it is really a good rate. You can stay at the Inn even if you drive yourself instead of riding the bus. If you ride the bus and want to stay at the conference hotel, the bus will drop you off there.

You are responsible for making your own conference and hotel reservations. More information on bus trip will come at a later date. The bus will make occasional trips to and from conference and hotels.

See <http://www.fgs.org/> for more information.

## Minnesota Genealogical Society Announces....

### The Fifth Annual Family History Writing Competition

Two Awards will be offered:

1. Problem-solving article, demonstrating research and source documentation, and
2. Family story or memoir, engaging the reader in persons, places, and time.

The Michael Clark Family History Writing Awards will be presented at the MGS Awards Banquet on 4 October 2013. Winning entries will be published in the Minnesota Genealogist Journal. All entries receive judges' comments.

Entries must be postmarked by 15 June 2013.

See contest rules and entry form at [www.mnsgs.org](http://www.mnsgs.org).

## PGS-MN Annual Meeting 19 January 2013

Quite a crowd turned out this year at Gastof zur Gemutlichkeit restaurant in Northeast Minneapolis where the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Society's Annual Meeting on 19 January 2013. A traditional Polish buffet lunch (including pierogi) was served and enjoyed by all.

Annual Board of Directors elections were held. Positions scheduled for election were: President, Vice President, Director I, and Director III. Two additional positions were open this year, Secretary and Director IV, due to current folks having to cut back on volunteer commitments.

Election results:

President – Jay Biedney  
Vice President – Dan Schyma  
Director I – Rita Peterson  
Director III – Richard Theissen  
Secretary – Jason Waldowski  
Director IV – Jeremy Biedny

Congratulations newly elected and re-elected board members! We look forward to a fun 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!

Crystal, the traditional symbol of a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, was on each table as a crystal bowl filled with candy. The crystal bowls served as the prizes for the drawings. But there were even more prizes brought by Paul Kulas, charter member of the Society! Paul conducted a drawing for many items of his memorabilia collection. Thanks Paul! **PGS-MN**



The sign in is a MUST!

Is friendly bunch The Welcoming Committee?



President Jay Biedney starts the meeting!

PGS's bookseller, Paul Kulas, is downsizing his collection of memorabilia so he gave away "prizes" galore! ☺ (See page 24). Good luck Paul!!







A crystal bowl winner!



Genealogy discussions!

No disagreements about those records, is there?!!

Yeah! Lots of members at this 20<sup>th</sup> celebration!



**Published in Star Tribune on January 20, 2013**



Brandt, Edward R. age 81, of Mpls., passed away peacefully after a long illness on January 17, 2013. Preceded in death by his son, Bruce and sister Jessie. Survived by his wife of 60

years, Marie; daughters, Rose Brandt and Eileen Johnson; son, Douglas; son-in-law, Steve Johnson; granddaughters, Rachel Damiani and Christine Winckler; grandsons-in-law, Austin Damiani and Brandon Kier; great-grand daughter, Elora Damiani; and siblings, Bill, Lena, Evelyn, Nettie, Elma, Mary and Carolyn.

Ed was born to a Mennonite family in southwestern Kansas during the Dust Bowl, although he was raised in the small farming town of Steinbach, Manitoba.

*In Memoriam*

**Edward R. Brandt**

**+January 17, 2013**

PGS-MN mourns the death of long-time and charter PGS-MN member, Edward R. Brandt.

Ed Brandt was a charter member of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. He served on the board of directors from 1993 to 1996. He was also a frequent contributor to our newsletter.

*Editor's note: I didn't know Mr. Brandt personally but I did correspond with him via e-mail these last few months. I'm sure members have great memories of him and will miss him.*





## The Early Years: PGS-MN is Older than Twenty!!

by Paul Kulas

At our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, January 19, 2013 the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota celebrated twenty years of its existence. That "20 year" figure was based upon the official acceptance by the Minnesota Genealogical Society of PGS-MN as a Branch member of MGS and on the publication date of our first newsletter--Winter 1993. Our newsletter is indeed twenty years old (this issue begins its 21st volume). But our organizational roots are actually a bit older than that.

I was a founding member of PGS-MN. That anniversary celebration in January caused me to reflect a bit on our organization's origins and caused me to do little research on the matter.


Unfortunately our original records are incomplete and not well organized. But I did find evidence of organizational activity prior to January 1993.

PGS-MN has its roots in the formation of the Polish American Genealogy Club. This "Club" held a series of informal organizational meetings in the late 1980s and the early 1990s (the dates are uncertain). On page 6 of its February 1989 issue, the *Pol-AM Newsletter* announced that a meeting of a "Polish Genealogy Study Group" would be held on March 10 at the Polish White Eagle Hall. This may have been the date of the first meeting of what was to become the Polish American Genealogy Club.

That first meeting was called by Blanche Krbechek (PGS-MN's first President) and included among others, Ed Brandt, Kornel Kondy and Paul Kulas (all current members of PGS-MN). The goal of that first meeting was to establish an on-going permanent organization devoted to Polish genealogical study. That effort had a few false starts (the first named chairperson never called another meeting). Blanche then took over and called additional meetings. Blanche was named the chairperson of the group and is considered our "Founding President." She was the person who gathered that original working group together and kept it functioning until our formal acceptance as a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society in January 1993.

Regardless of when the first organizational meeting took place, it is certain that the first general meeting open to the public occurred in May 1991. On page 6 of its April 1991 issue, the *Pol-AM Newsletter* announced a "Community Gathering" on Saturday, May 18, 1991, at the Northeast (Minneapolis) Library "Toward a Polish American Genealogy Club" (See announcement below and notice that it includes the PGS-MN logo).

**Toward A  
Polish American  
Genealogy Club**



**Community Gathering  
Saturday, May 18, 1991  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Northeast Library  
2200 Central Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418**

Share Family Histories  
Learn How To Start  
Ask Experienced Genealogists  
Suggest Future Meeting Topics

The first meeting will be an  
opportunity to find others interested in  
researching family history in a relaxed  
"show and tell" atmosphere  
Phone Contact: 545-7107

Meanwhile, an "Ad Hoc Committee" was formed to write the club's constitution and by-laws that would be acceptable by MGS (a pre-condition for branch membership). I located a memo dated October 14, 1991 sent by Blanche to committee members Ed Brandt, Kornel Kondy, Paul Kulas, John Pokrzywinski, Barbara Rockman and David Zaworski

regarding some language issues concerning the proposed constitution and by-laws. A follow-up committee meeting was set for November 7.

The proposed constitution and by-laws were presented to the club's members for approval at a meeting on November 16, 1991. (On right, see meeting announcement in the form of a flyer sent to members.) Concerning this meeting, the *Pol-AM Newsletter* (November 1991, page 4) reported: "The Polish-American Genealogy Club plans to become a branch of the Minnesota Genealogy Society. A constitution and by-laws will be submitted for a vote at the November 16th meeting."

By 1992 the Polish American Genealogy Club changed its name to the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota to conform to the names of nine other Polish genealogical organizations in the United States (Polish Genealogical Society of California, Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, etc.).

And by 1992, PGS-MN began collecting dues from its members. Dues were \$10.00 a year. The records of our first Treasurer, Barbara Rockman, show that the first dues were collected on 1/11/92 from Mary Rekucki, Steve & Marge Hoffa, Violet Burck, Delores Meyers, Walter Kornel Kondy and Paul Kulas (On right, the first page of Barbara's ledger, notice that the heading lists our organization's name as Polish Genealogical Society of Mn).

Throughout 1992 PGS-MN continued to hold regular meetings for its members. By January 1993 it was accepted as branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society and in winter 1993 it published its first newsletter. Regarding this first issue, the *Pol-AM Newsletter* (January 1993, page 7) reported: "This month we are pleased to introduce yet another periodical *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota - Newsletter*. It is filled with information for those with genealogy interests but also has some fine articles pertaining to Polish heritage." PGS-MN



# Polish American Genealogy Club

presents  
JOHN POKRZYWINSKI

ADVANTAGES OF COMPUTERS  
GENEALOGICALLY SPEAKING

Also a brief business meeting to approve a Constitution

Saturday, November 16, 1991

10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Northeast Library  
2200 Central Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Next Meeting will be in January. Watch for time and place.  
Mary Alice Rekucki will tell about the Chicago Convention  
of the Polish Genealogical Society

Phone Contact 545-7107

Free. All interested are Welcome

Polish Genealogical Society of Mn

Date	1992		
1	1/11/92	Mary Rekucki (dues)	10.00
2	1/11/92	Steve & Marge Hoffa (dues)	10.00
3	1/11/92	Violet Burck (dues)	10.00
4	1/11/92	Delores Meyers (dues)	10.00
5	1/11/92	Walter Kornel Kondy (dues)	10.00
6	1/11/92	Paul Kulas (dues)	25.00
7	2/2/92	Elyzabeth Joyce (dues)	10.00
8	3/30/92	S. Lawrence Myslagis (dues)	10.00
9	3/30/92	Mary (Myslagis) Jarne (dues)	10.00
10	4/7/92	Ed. Schmidt (dues)	10.00
11	7/10/92	Daniel Kozarowski (dues)	10.00
12	5/29/92	Jerman Luking (dues)	10.00
		Deposit 7/13/92	135.00
			135.00
13	8/15/92	Blanche Krabochek (dues)	10.00
14	9/18/92	Michael Eysman (dues)	10.00
15	8/15/92	Barbara Kozlowski (dues)	10.00
		Deposit 9/11/92	20.00
		Deposit 10/11/92	165.00
			165.00



**Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota  
2012 Financial Report**

	12/31/2011 Actual	2012 Budget	12/31/2012 Actual
Starting Cash Balance	\$5,910.41	\$5,910.73	\$5,910.73
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Back Issues	112.00	90.00	10.00
Donations / Library Fund	245.00	200.00	215.00
Dues	4,365.00	4,440.00	4,605.00
Miscellaneous	976.40	25.00	417.97
Program Attendance	987.00	1,200.00	2,076.01
Sales (Books)	1,003.79	800.00	876.63
Sales Tax Collected	67.47	53.77	64.77
Freight/Shipping Out	7.50	10.00	20.00
Surnames/Family Ties	90.00	155.00	135.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$7,854.16</b>	<b>\$6,973.77</b>	<b>\$8,420.38</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	21.90
CD purchased	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Items for Resale	164.85	600.00	972.29
Library Expense	0.00	200.00	95.91
Meetings/Speaker Fees	1,674.33	1,450.00	1,490.22
Office	505.14	550.00	329.24
Supplies/Copies/Misc.			
Postage	631.23	650.00	449.21
Publishing Expense	2,469.00	2,800.00	2,181.60
Rent/Insurance MGS	1,372.00	1,449.00	1,449.00
Sales Tax Paid for Prior Year	37.29	67.47	67.47
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$7,853.84</b>	<b>\$7,766.47</b>	<b>\$7,056.84</b>
<b>TOTAL DIFFERENCE IN CASH</b>	<b>\$ 0.32</b>	<b>(\$ 792.70)</b>	<b>\$1,363.54</b>
Ending Cash Balance	<b>\$5,910.73</b>	<b>\$5,118.03</b>	<b>\$7,274.27</b>
TCF CD	\$6,063.97	\$6,114.62	\$6,114.73
<b>Total Ending Assets</b>	<b>\$11,974.70</b>	<b>\$11,232.65</b>	<b>\$13,389.00</b>
New Members	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>
Paying Members at Year End	<b>285</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>258</b>

The Polish Genealogical Society's financial results through 12/31/12 show a healthy increase in the cash in the checking account that is higher than that shown in the budget. The increase is mainly driven by the Program Attendance number that includes \$886.01 of income from our co-sponsorship of the Eastern European Conference. The 2012 budget for dues assumed 45 members with 12/31/2011 end dates at the beginning of 2012 would not renew but 58 actually failed to renew. The number of new members exceeded the 20 assumed in the budget and more members paid for 3 years so that the dues did come in above budget. The Miscellaneous income includes contributions for Polish Festival expenses, amounts for rental of our tents, and a response to the 2011 Campaign. The total of Library, Miscellaneous, and Family Ties contributions are well above the budget for the year. The \$969.40 Miscellaneous amount in 2011 was a contribution for the Polish Festival tents and contributions to the 2011 Campaign. On the expense side, rent, the annual meeting, newsletter, postage, and sales taxes are in line with or below budget. Items for Resale are above budget as we restocked the books that we sell. The Bank Charges are for an order of new checks. Meeting Fees include the expense to participate in the 2012 Twin Cities Polish Festival and lunches at the November meeting. The 2011 Meeting Fees include the cost of the Polish Festival tents. The Library Expense is for a stamp to mark our maps and map lamination. **PGS-MN**

*Placements (continued from page 1)*

The legal definitions of "dependency," "abuse," and "neglect" have evolved over time, but during the 1800s and early 1900s, these were relatively broad terms for describing a needy child. During this era, a child deemed to be "dependent" could refer to a child born out of wedlock or a child who was without a parent or parents who were able and willing to provide for the child's support. A child deemed to be "neglected" could refer to a child who was abandoned, orphaned, physically abused, or whose parents were somehow "depraved" or had failed to provide the child with necessary medical care, education, or training.

This article reviews historic out-of-home placement options for dependent and neglected children in Minnesota. By examining the historical antecedents of the modern foster care system, this article strives to provide an alternative perspective for consideration of the evolution of the juvenile court in Minnesota and the current social response to, and options for, Minnesota children who are living in out-of-home placements due to abuse and neglect by their parents.

### **SOCIAL BACKGROUND**

Colonial America's response to needy children was shaped by the Elizabethan Poor Laws from England, including the principle of institutionalization as a response to dependent, abandoned, or poor children. The Elizabethan Poor Laws were premised on the notion that poverty was a sin of the parents that also affected children. The colonial system of "poor relief" included almshouses, workhouses, and indentured servitude of dependent children with the goal of protecting children and punishing "sinful" parents. However, with placement in almshouses or poorhouses, children were often "mixed indiscriminately" with adults who were "insane, drunk, and venereal paupers." Early nineteenth century reformers were critical of this practice of mixing vulnerable children with adults in institutional settings, but the number of children in almshouses nonetheless increased during this era. By 1830, however, an increasing number of orphanages for children were established in the United States as an alternative to

placing children in almshouses and other such institutions.

Indeed, the increased focus on children in need became a hallmark of nineteenth century social welfare endeavors. With urbanization, industrialization, and immigration on the rise, many families became "enmeshed in a web of poverty, desperation, and squalor, and the devastating effects" of these problems were especially visible in children. Social commentators from the mid-nineteenth century noted the phenomenon of bands of urban children, "destitute of proper parental care, wandering about the streets, committing mischief, and growing up in mendicancy, ignorance, idleness, and vice."

Other children were affected by social and familial disruptions. There was little in the way of legal protection for children born outside of wedlock in nineteenth century America; so-called "illegitimate children" and their mothers often became the responsibility of locally operated poorhouses when they were without the benefit of support from their fathers. Some desperate mothers abandoned their children, "little 'foundlings,' as they were called," in the anonymity of the city. The overall number of orphans and "half-orphans" (the term for children who had lost one parent) increased also, as "[a]ll the dangers of disease were compounded by crowded city life, by filthy tenements and equally filthy and dangerous work places." In addition, scores of children lost one or both parents to war or disease as waves of cholera, smallpox, and tuberculosis epidemics swept across the country in the 1800s.

By the early nineteenth century, the colonial system of poor relief for children and families was beginning to collapse. By the middle of the nineteenth century, public attitudes toward child abuse and neglect began to shift. While physical cruelty to a child, for example, was once viewed as a private, family matter, state intervention in such matters was becoming increasingly accepted.

With a heightened public concern for the well-being of children, many citizens took matters into their own hands and established numerous private charity organizations concerned with children and destitute

families, especially during the last three decades of the 1800s, the period of American history known as the Progressive Era. During this era, most child-welfare workers agreed that abused, neglected, or needy children should be placed in specialized children's asylums or family farm homes rather than almshouses and public poorhouses.

By 1883, Minnesota had established the State Board of Corrections and Charities which established guidelines for giving full guardianship of a child to private child-caring institutions. The name of this state agency has changed over the years from the State Board of Corrections and Charities (1883), to the State Board of Control (1901), to the Department of Social Security (1939), to the Department of Public Welfare (1953), and most recently, to the Department of Human Services (1983), which currently oversees the county-based child protection system.

During the Progressive Era, reformers and social justice pioneers such as Lucy Flower and Julia Lathrop identified the need for a special 'parental court' to hear cases of all dependent, neglected, and delinquent children. Lobbying for their state to assume its responsibilities as *parens patriae* for needy children, the social justice pioneers' vision of a "parental court" was realized in 1899 in Chicago, when the world's first juvenile court legislation went into effect, establishing the Juvenile Court in Cook County, Illinois. Minnesota established its juvenile court in 1905 and vested in it original and exclusive jurisdiction over cases involving dependent, neglected, and delinquent children.

## ORPHANAGES

In the nineteenth century, the number of orphanages, or "orphan asylums," increased dramatically. Minnesota was no exception to this national trend, with orphanages being built around the state in the late nineteenth century and well into the early twentieth century. During this time, the orphanages began bringing in a wide variety of children, and not just children whose parents were deceased:

[T]hey admitted the abandoned as well as the orphaned child, and those whose

widowed or deserted mothers, hard pressed to make ends meet, had little time for supervision. They accepted minors whose parents were quite alive but very poor, and those from families that seemed to them morally, if not financially, inadequate to their tasks.<sup>1</sup>

Four types of orphanages emerged across the state:

- Privately-funded no-sectarian
- Privately-funded, non-sectarian culturally specific
- Publicly-funded, state-run
- Privately-funded, religious

The juvenile court was required by statute to place children, as far as practicable, in institutions "...controlled by persons of like religious faith of the parents of said child," or with individuals holding the same religious beliefs as the parents of the child.

The state of Michigan was the first to develop a plan, known as the "Michigan Plan" whereby "the state assumed primary responsibility for dependent children, not by warehousing them in local poorhouses [or placement in private orphanages,] but by placing them in state-run, central institutions from which they were placed out into foster and adoptive homes." The Michigan model was praised by child advocates as being a more efficient and humane system for caring for dependent and neglected children and the model was thereafter adopted by Minnesota and Wisconsin and then spread to other states around the nation.

Children came to be placed in the orphanages through a variety of means. Some children were voluntarily placed in orphanages by their parents or relatives. Some parents were evidently coerced into assenting to such a placement. And sometimes the state intervened and the child was placed in the institution without parental consent.

For example, in its early years of operation, the Minnesota State Board of Corrections and Charities (later renamed the Board of Control) provided private orphanages with full guardianship over the

<sup>1</sup> David J. Rothman, *The Discovery of the Asylum* 207 (1971).

children placed there. When the State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children was established by Minnesota law in 1885, the pre-juvenile court statute provided that the situation or condition of the child must belong to one of the classes enumerated by the statute to qualify for admission to the school. Therefore, a qualified child could be placed in the state school, with or without parental consent, by transferring guardianship and custody of the child to the Board of Control of the state public school.

In this pre-juvenile court era, a transfer in guardianship and custody was effectuated when the county probate court judge granted a petition or application for guardianship, signed by two county commissioners, that alleged that the child

is dependent upon the public for support, or that [the child] is in a state of habitual vagrancy or mendacity, or that [the child] is ill treated, and in peril of life, health, or morality, by continued cruel personal injury or by the habitual interference or grave misconduct of the parents or the guardians.<sup>2</sup>

[O]nce committed to the care and guardianship of the school, the [child] should continue as an inmate thereof during minority, unless the board in charge of the school should sooner voluntarily relinquish and surrender its control to a suitable person willing to adopt, rear, and educate the child. Whether [a child] committed to the care and custody of the school should be released prior to arriving at majority is a matter resting in the sound discretion of the school board, --a department of the executive branch of the government-- the exercise of which the courts have no jurisdiction to interfere or intermeddle in any way.<sup>3</sup>

With the advent of the juvenile court in Minnesota, decision-making power was shifted from the Board of Control to the juvenile court.

For example, the juvenile court asserted jurisdiction to change or terminate guardianship noting that the law gives the juvenile court exclusive jurisdiction over dependent children, while the state board of control had only supervisory duties over the institutions which the court might appoint to guardianship of such children. This meant that the board of any institution appointed guardian might recommend, for example, discharge of a minor, but the juvenile court ultimately had the power to act thereon. The Minnesota Supreme Court held that "the authority and power of such courts over their wards is always supreme to that of the guardian to whose custody they have been committed by those courts."<sup>4</sup>

#### A. Private, Non-Sectarian Orphanages: Washburn Memorial Orphan Asylum

Washburn Memorial Orphan Asylum was established with a bequeath from Cadwallader Colden Washburn, the former governor of Wisconsin, Civil War major general, and founder of the Washburn-Crosby Milling Company in Minneapolis, now known as General Mills. It has been said that "[t]hrough the eyes of his mill employees and through personal knowledge, he knew that all too often, families were broken apart by death, accident, and disease."<sup>5</sup> Thus, Washburn provided in his will for the creation of an "environment of security to care for orphaned children," and at his death in 1882, he left "\$375,000 for the founding and preservation of the Washburn Memorial Orphan Asylum, in memory of his mother, Martha Benjamin Washburn."<sup>6</sup>

Located between 49<sup>th</sup> Street and 50<sup>th</sup> Street along the western side of Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis, Washburn Memorial Orphan Asylum opened its doors in 1886 to the first eight of the 924 children who were to live there. As with most 19<sup>th</sup> century orphanages, Washburn Orphan Asylum admitted children who were not necessarily orphaned. In those early years, the Minnesota State Board of Charities and Corrections provided Washburn Orphan Asylum with full guardianship over the children placed there.

<sup>2</sup> State *ex rel.* Rea v. Kinmore, 54 Minn. 135, 139, 55 N.W. 830, (1893).

<sup>3</sup> Armstrong v. Bd. of Control of State Pub. Sch., 88 Minn. at 382, 384, 93 N.W. at 4 (1903).

<sup>4</sup> State v. Probate Court of Mahnomon County, 150 Minn. 19-20, 184 N.W. at 29 (1921).

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Vandam, *The Doors of Tangletoown* 13 (2002).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*



The experience of Harry Oliver was not atypical. Harry and his younger sister, Susan, were living in rural Marshall, Minnesota, when their mother, pregnant with her third child, was abandoned by their father and found she was unable to care for her children. Susan was placed with a family in Richfield while Harry was sent to Washburn Orphan Asylum where he lived from 1892 until 1897. At fifteen, Harry was discharged from Washburn Orphan Asylum, as required by institutional policy, and went to work on a farm in Iowa.

Children living at the Washburn Orphan Asylum attended school and performed chores, such as gathering fruit and vegetables and tending livestock to help with the needs of the institution.

Washburn Orphan Asylum originally had a liberal visitation policy for relatives and friends of the children, and by 1887 such visitation was undoubtedly facilitated by the development of the Twin City Rapid Transit streetcar system which extended to 50th Street and Nicollet Avenue, ending at Washburn Orphan Asylum. By 1897, however, Washburn Orphan Asylum had restricted its visitation policy whereby friends and relatives of the children were only allowed to visit once every three months. Children were frequently seen near the front gate to the Washburn Orphan Asylum waiting for their guests to arrive.

As child welfare practices shifted in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the number of children living at Washburn Orphan Asylum began to decrease. In 1929, after 43 years of operation, the Washburn Orphan Asylum was demolished. However, the mission of caring for children continued as Washburn became a foster home care placement agency. In 1951, the board of trustees determined Washburn should become a children's mental health agency; thus, Washburn became what is now known as the Washburn Child Guidance Center, a community-based mental health agency in Minneapolis providing services for community children and their families, including many foster children and their families.

B. Private, Non-Sectarian, Culturally Specific Orphanages: Crispus Attucks Colored Orphanage and Old Folks Home

Crispus Attucks Colored Orphanage and Old Folks Home, also known as the Crispus Attucks Home for the Friendless, was established in 1906. The Home was named for the black hero, Crispus Attucks, who was the first Colonial-American patriot to lose his life in the Boston Massacre in 1770. Originally, the Home was located at Randolph and Brimhall Streets in St. Paul. It was later relocated to a charity residence on a hill near the corner of DeSota and Collins (now Tedesco) Streets, just west of Payne Avenue in the St. Paul neighborhood later known as "Swede Hollow" or "Railroad Island." The Crispus Attucks home was a unique institution in Minnesota inasmuch as this private facility was operated by and for African Americans and up until the 1920s it housed young orphans and dependent children, as well as poor, elderly people.

During the early years, the Crispus Attucks Home was dependent on charitable contributions, primarily from St. Paul's black community. The conditions at Crispus Attucks, therefore, fluctuated with the ebb and flow of community donations: "[s]o when there was money, or plentiful gifts of food, or the Attucks gardens produced well, the residents ate well. But when resources got thin and handouts did not come, nutrition declined to a level of misery."<sup>7</sup>

In 2000, Lloyd Brown (formerly known as Lloyd Dight), age 88, was considered one of the oldest surviving ex-residents of Crispus Attucks Home and shared his recollections with interviewers. Lloyd was born to a German American farm girl from Stearns County, Minnesota and an African American waiter from Alabama. Lloyd's mother died when he was four years old and Lloyd's father sent his four young children to Crispus Attucks Home as he was not able or not willing to care for them. Lloyd and his siblings lived at Crispus Attucks from 1918 until 1920.

<sup>7</sup> Paul D. Nelson, *Orphans and Old Folks Revisited, with a Story by Lloyd L. Brown*, Minn. Hist., Fall 2001 at 370-71.

Lloyd described the conditions at Crispus Attucks as "bleak." During hard times, sometimes the only bread available was moldy bread "discarded from bakeries and scavenged by the old folks." In addition, elderly residents of Crispus Attucks regularly traveled to the South St. Paul stockyards for "a sack of bones and chicken feet to be cooked for broth and whatever rubbery flesh the orphans and old folks could detach from the bones."<sup>8</sup> According to Lloyd, this type of fare might be their only food for days at a time.

In addition to food shortages, the young residents of Crispus Attucks Home often lacked suitable clothing. Not all the children had shoes and for many who did, those shoes were "ill-fitting castoffs often lined with cardboard or paper to cover holes in their soles," the likes of which gave young Lloyd such frostbite, or "chilblains" as he termed it, that he tied strings around his toes because the "counter pain was better than the itch" of frostbite. The hand-me-down clothing marked the children as "charity cases" to their peers at school and their sleep was disturbed by bedbug infestations in their tick mattresses. Lloyd, albeit fair-skinned enough to "pass" for white, recalls the racial names and taunts he received from classmates, who "knew where he lived and drew the inescapable conclusion."

Lloyd also had positive memories of his years at Crispus Attucks Home, particularly the relations between the children and the elderly residents, "most of whom had lived in slavery and told stories of those distant times," whose spirits were "so utterly compassionate and humane," and who took an interest in his accomplishments at school, showering him with praise.

In 1920, Lloyd, who was Catholic, was moved to the Catholic Boys' Orphan Asylum in Minneapolis. He later attended school in St. Paul (Cathedral Hill and Cretin High School), living on his own with his older brother with some financial support from their father. In the 1920s, Crispus Attucks Home stopped accepting children but it continued to serve elderly African Americans until the facility closed in 1966.

### C. Public Orphanages: Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children

The State School for Dependent and Neglected Children was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1885 and was influenced by innovative theories in social work. Hastings H. Hart, then Secretary of Minnesota's State Board of Charities, conducted a study in 1884 of 340 children who had been placed with Minnesota families by Charles Loring Brace's Children's Aid Society via the "orphan trains." Minnesota's State School for Dependent Children was influenced by Brace's emphasis on family home placements and modeled after the so-called Michigan Plan, whereby the state assumed responsibility for providing centralized, institutional care for dependent and neglected children, pending placement with a family.

The Michigan Plan was based on the philosophical premise that dependent children were not delinquent and could therefore be "saved." The theory was that through preventative and remedial measures, such as providing children with a pastoral environment and discipline, these children could be rendered acceptable to a new family. Hart was confident that the Michigan Plan would work in Minnesota, since the state public school in Coldwater, Michigan, had been operating since 1874 and was considered successful.

Adapting the Michigan Plan for Minnesota, children placed at the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children were to experience "family-like" life by residing in "cottages" with approximately 25 children and a matron serving as a surrogate mother. The cottage model was a dramatic departure from the typical orphanage experience where children lived in large, congregate dorms. It was hoped that the children would reside in the cottages for less than a year, while working, playing, eating, worshiping, and learning in a communal setting. After the children had "basic training," they were to be "placed out" via adoptive, foster, or indentured placement with a suitable home, chosen by state agents and subject to regular inspections.

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<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 371

The State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children was built in Owatonna, Minnesota. Owatonna was considered a prime location for the new State School as it was situated in a densely populated region in southern Minnesota at the junction of two key railroad lines. As a result of this location, children could be easily transported from all parts of the state to the State Public School.

The School opened in 1886 when a sufficient number of applications for admission to the State School had been received to fill the cottages. When placed at the State School, the children became wards of the state and were called "State Schoolers." The young residents attended school and assisted with the operation of what became a virtually self-sustaining institution.

At its peak, the State School was home to 500 children living in sixteen cottages. The State School grew to include a nursery, hospital, school, gym, laundry, power plant, superintendent and staff residences, greenhouse, icehouse, a complete farm operation on 287 acres of land, and a cemetery.

Although the home-like cottage model was a new concept in child-care institutions, education of the children placed there was not. The earliest orphanages in Minnesota and elsewhere included school rooms, based on the generally accepted premise that education could be the key to "saving children" from a life of poverty. Indeed, since many of those early orphanages "antedated the creation of public schools [they] offered the children of the poor their only chance to learn to read and write."<sup>9</sup>

Minnesota's compulsory education law was enacted in 1885 and mandated that children between the ages of eight and sixteen attend school 12 weeks a year; however, at the time, the new compulsory education law was largely viewed as an expression of sentiment and not necessarily practice in this large, agrarian state where child labor was essential to farm life and schools were often situated a considerable distance from rural homes. As a result, from

1887 to 1909, the few children who remained at the State School for several years probably received more formal education than the majority of children who were indentured or otherwise placed with a family within a year or so after their arrival at the State School, despite the State School's requirement that such families ensure that the children attend local schools for at least five months of the year until reaching the age of 18.

The 1900 Bi-annual Report of the State School recorded the following:

Children received	2,148
In MN homes	1,499
In homes - other states	238
Died	66
Returned to county	87
Present at school	258 <sup>10</sup>

Legal adoption of State Schoolers by foster parents was the ultimate goal of the school's officials. However, adoption rates for these state wards were much lower than anticipated. From 1887 to 1897, only six percent of the state wards had been adopted and in the following decade, the adoption rate had increased to just twenty percent. Typically, most of the children who were adopted were female and very young, with an average age of three years. However, most of the state wards living at the State School were over six years of age and male and such boys were often desired primarily for their labor.

As an alternative to legal adoption, many state wards were placed in homes on "indenture contracts." With the school's aggressive "placing-out" program, the mean length of stay in Owatonna decreased to eight months in 1915-16. Because children could be placed in families hundreds of miles from the State School and most homes could only be reached by a combination of train and wagon travel, the school's agents could not visit the children very often. Because of this, an emphasis was placed on trying to ensure a successful placement by a "careful matching of child and home."

<sup>9</sup> Priscilla Ferguson Clement, *With Wise and Benevolent Purpose: Poor Children and the State Public School at Owatonna, 1885-1915*, Minn. Hist., Spring 1984 at 5.

<sup>10</sup> Newsletter (State School Orphanage Museum, Owatonna, Minn.), Spring 2003 at 4.

The State School agents generally lived at the school and thereby became acquainted with the children's needs. Once a child was "placed out" with a family, the state agent tried to visit the child several times a year, typically unannounced, and interviewed the parents and child separately. The agents checked local school records to determine whether the children were receiving the education promised to them in the indenture contracts. They also visited when the children's term of service was finished to ensure that they received the financial settlement promised upon completion and to ascertain if they had secured suitable employment thereafter.

While some children found good homes through this process, many were taken out strictly for work and were ill-treated. If a child was being mistreated or the arrangement was not considered a satisfactory match, the state agent could remove the child from such a home. Indeed, between 1887 and 1897, sixty-seven percent of the children did not fare well in their first placement and had to be removed from that home; most of those children returned to the State School and were then placed out again.

The school had a more difficult time finding a good fit for older children. According to the State School records, less than twenty percent of children between the ages eleven to sixteen, who were placed out from the state school between 1897 and 1907, were happy, satisfied, and well accepted in their first foster homes. Older children placed out from Owatonna were most likely to be denied access to schooling. Records also document the rate of pregnancy and childbirth among teenage girls; several of whom had children by their foster fathers or foster brothers. Some agents tended to blame the child rather than the foster family for whatever problems developed, agreeing with pronouncements by the foster parents that the child was, for example, "mischievous," or "disagreeable." However, it was clear that some of the placements did not succeed because of the expectations or actions of the foster parents. In 1898, a state agent offered this theory for why some placements were not successful:

[O]ne of the principal causes of failure of our children is the lack of foresight and the

penuriousness of the foster parents, some of whom take children, not from a desire to do them good, but as a business venture, expecting to do little for them and get much from them ... [despite this, it] is a very rare thing to find a child who will complain of his surroundings if they are at all endurable.<sup>11</sup>

In some cases, the state wards were physically abused by the foster parents. The local newspaper, *The Owatonna Journal*, included a weekly column entitled "State School News," which published this disturbing piece in 1896:

[State School] Superintendent Merrill has received word from the county attorney of Waseca County that the case of Fred Harrington, charged with having maltreated Lulu Connor, one of the states [sic] wards entrusted to his care, will be tried sometime this week. It is charged that the little girl was unnecessarily and brutally whipped by the defendant, the marks of the punishment showing plainly on her body when she was taken away.<sup>12</sup>

The *Owatonna Journal* later reported the following:

The Waseca Judge before whom the case of Mrs. Fred Harrington, charged with maltreating a state school girl, was tried, dismissed the case, evidently thinking abuse of a dependent and unprotected child a less offense than the ill-use of a horse or dog.<sup>13</sup>

In contrast to Lulu Connor's fate, other State Schoolers had more positive experiences. Former State Schooler Florence (Logan) Wuollet of Glenwood, Minnesota, reported that the State School placed her in a "good home" at the age of 15 and she later became a registered nurse. The following are excerpts from her reminiscence of life at the State School:

<sup>11</sup>Clement, *supra note* 8, at 8.

<sup>12</sup>Newsletter (State School Orphanage Museum, Owatonna, Minn.), Winter 2004.

<sup>13</sup>*Id.*



I remember . . .

. . .One girl per size taken to the Shakopee Women's Prison in the summer so the women prisoners could get accurate sizes of the dresses they would sew for us. We were given lunch at the prison ... what a big day for us girls!

. . .Our chair was our whole life! A special memory is sitting in our chairs a half hour before bedtime and saying our prayers together out loud....

. . .Little babies being laid out naked in the summer to get their Vitamin D. The Matrons also had us older boys and girls lay out in the sun (in our "sun suits") to get our Vitamin D and also prevent later sunburn.

. . .Sunday afternoons going to "New Testament League" in the Chapel. We sang and also got our own little copy of the New Testament.

...SINGING! We sang all the time! I still love those old songs.

. . .Going to the power plant to get light bulbs.

. . .As a Girl Scout going house to house in Owatonna selling candy bars (Baby Ruth, O'Henry, etc.). Girl Scout training was excellent.

. . .Playing "Kittenball."

. . .Having to eat EVERYTHING on our plate! (Including spinach and parsnips)

. . .Every Saturday polishing our shoes and washing our hair.

. . .Wearing black bloomers that came to the knees.<sup>14</sup>

While the State School endeavored to place its children in foster or adoptive homes, officials were

extremely reluctant to reunify children with their birth families. From 1897 to 1907, just five percent of State Schoolers were full orphans and over fifty percent still had two living parents. When a child was committed to the State School, all legal ties with his or her parents were terminated and most children never saw their parents again. Sadly, some "indigent parents did not always realize when they signed Owatonna commitment papers that they were relinquishing" all legal rights to their children. One mother wrote to the superintendent of Owatonna: "Let me know whether she is dedd or alive yet how she is and if she is well ... it brakes my hart when I think I may nevere see theme again on earth."<sup>15</sup> Others begged school officials to return their children. If a child had not been placed out with a suitable family or the child was repeatedly running away, officials might return the child to his or her parents. However, from 1897 to 1907, just eleven percent of all children admitted to the school were reunited with their birth families, and only twenty-seven percent of the children eventually returned to their birth families after some time spent with a foster family.

In addition to severing ties between children and their parents, State Schoolers were often separated from their siblings. Although most children entered the State School with one or more siblings, they were often assigned to different cottages based on age and later indentured or adopted by different families. It was not uncommon for children to try to reconnect with their siblings after being separated. For example, in 1891, Frank H., then eighteen, had not received any correspondence from his brother in three years. He wrote to the school superintendent and expressed his unhappiness about not being able to contact the boy except through the school and threatened to pursue him to where he was last known to be staying.

In 1917, the Board of Control for the Owatonna school was abolished and replaced by the State Board of Control. By this time, the power of commitment (and the power to reunify children with parents) had been turned over to the county juvenile

<sup>14</sup> Newsletter (State School Orphanage Museum, Owatonna, Minn.), Winter 2003 at 3.

<sup>15</sup> Clement, *supra note 8* at 10 (misspellings in original).

court. Over time, the juvenile courts began to send "feeble minded" children to the State School, while entrusting healthier, younger children to local, private foster care agencies. The State School closed its doors in 1945, by which time social workers had come to view institutionalization as an option of last resort for all but the most "unplaceable" child.

From its inception in 1886 until the State School closed in 1945 due to shifts in child welfare practices, 10,635 Minnesota children had lived at the State School. From 1945 until 1970, the school provided academic and vocational programs for mentally disabled individuals. The City of Owatonna now houses its administrative offices and other city departments on the property.

In 1992, with significant help from former State Schoolers, such as Harvey Ronglien, along with his wife, Maxine, the Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum opened on the property. Through photos, artifacts, documents, film from the 1930s, and the 2002 award-winning documentary, *The Children Remember*, the museum provides a unique view of orphanage life from the 1880s until the 1940s. Since the establishment of the museum, former State Schoolers and community members raised funds to provide grave markers with names in the children's graveyard where dozens of children who died during their placement at the State School had originally been buried with headstones bearing their institutional number but not their name.

#### D. Private Religious Orphanages: St. Joseph's Home for Children

In the face of cholera epidemics, the Civil War, and other hardships of pioneer life, many children living in Minnesota in the 1800s were left in need of parental care. In response to that need, the Sisters of St. Joseph opened the first Catholic orphanage in St. Paul in 1856. Like other religious groups that established orphanages in Minnesota, the establishment of orphanages by Roman Catholics was shaped by specific religious beliefs that called for the care of orphans. At the time there were a number of Protestant and non-sectarian orphanages in Minnesota, and the Catholic community was interested in

preserving and nurturing the Catholic faith of Catholic children who needed to be cared for in an orphanage.

The institution now known as St. Joseph's Home for Children in Minneapolis resulted from a merger of two orphanages that started in the late 1800s. The first was called St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphan Asylum (later called St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphanage and then St. Joseph's Home for Children), and was located in St. Paul. The second orphanage was called Minneapolis German Catholic Boys' Home (later called Minneapolis Catholic Boys' Home).

St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphan Asylum was operated by the Sisters of St. Benedict and financed by the St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphan Society, a group established by parishioners from Assumption Parish in St. Paul. The first six children of German and Slavonic nationality entered St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphan Asylum when it opened its doors on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1877. St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphan Asylum was originally located in a rented 2-story frame house on the corner of 9th and Robert Streets in St. Paul. In 1900, St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphan Asylum moved to its own 5-story building at 1458 Randolph Street in St. Paul. While the institution was originally established by German Catholics for German-speaking Catholic orphans, children of other nationalities, including Polish, Bohemian, French, Hungarian, Slovenian, and Irish children also came to live there. Furthermore, in the early years of St. Joseph's many children had lost both parents; however, by 1931, there were only five full orphans out of the 188 children living at St. Joseph's. Eventually, St. Joseph's German Orphan Asylum changed its name to St. Joseph's Home for Children.

After placement at St. Joseph's, some children were eventually placed in foster homes, adopted, or returned to family. However, some children became so accustomed to living at St. Joseph's that they resisted leaving. For example, one nun recalled how a girl hid at the top of a set of lockers after she was told that foster parents were coming to take her.

Apparently, other girls knew where she was, but did not want her to leave them.

Other children faced the trauma of waiting to be adopted by a family. One former orphan from St. Joseph's stated: "I have the saddest, vivid memories of the many times I stood in the hallway at the Home with my brown suitcase containing everything I owned, waiting for someone to come get me. I hope my children will never have that experience of uncertainty and dreadful fear that I felt at those times."<sup>16</sup>

At its peak, 283 children resided at St. Joseph's in 1923. However, the population of children living at St. Joseph's eventually decreased to 54 in 1960, which was the year the facility closed after it was unable to afford to make major repairs to the building as required by state licensing agency.

The Minneapolis German Catholic Boy's Home traces its roots back to 1855, when land was bought at the intersection of 46th Street and Chicago Avenue, then a pastoral location, a half-day's ride from the city of Minneapolis. Bishop John Ireland met with a small group of businessmen, professional men, and artisans at the school house of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis to discuss establishment of a Catholic orphanage in Minneapolis. According to the minutes from that first meeting, Bishop Ireland spoke of "the justice and necessity of this community bearing a portion of the burden of orphaned children."<sup>17</sup> In response, the Orphan Asylum Association was established and began raising money to open the Minneapolis German Catholic Boys' Home.

With the establishment of the Minneapolis German Catholic Boys' Home, children were educated and cared for by the Sisters of St. Joseph in a setting that

was considered to be far from the ills of city life. A new building, likened to a "baronial castle," was completed in 1887, complete with its own well and windmill to supply water to the building. A reporter from the *Minneapolis Times* visited the Catholic Boys' Home in 1897 and provided this account: "The home is located out among the hills and woods on Forty-sixth Street...A group of children were frogging down on the lowlands and looking forward to a feast of frogs' legs for supper. Others were wading in Minnehaha Creek and there was a merry time generally."<sup>18</sup> Later, the Catholic Boys' Home became less remote and more accessible when the Twin City Rapid Transit streetcar system was developed and extended to a stop near the Catholic Boys' Home.

By the 1960s, foster care began replacing orphanages as the favored placement for dependent or neglected children. With declining numbers of children living in orphanages, the Minneapolis Catholic Boys' Home and St. Joseph's Home for Children were consolidated on the Boys' Home property under the name of St. Joseph's Home for Children. St. Joseph's Home for Children is currently operated by Catholic Charities and provides community and residential programs for children in crisis, children with mental health problems, and homeless teens. In contrast to the dozens of orphanages in Minnesota that have long since been closed or otherwise stopped providing residential care for children, St. Joseph's Home for Children still provides residential care for children, as it is often the first temporary placement for Hennepin County children who are the subject of a child protection petition. As Executive Director Father Larry Synder put it, "[k]ids today are orphaned through lack of a stable family environment, parents with drug addictions, parents who are in jail."<sup>19</sup>

## ORPHAN TRAINS

Charles Loring Brace, a minister and one of the pre-eminent child welfare reformers from the nineteenth

*Placements.....(Continued on page 25)*

<sup>16</sup> Claire Lynch, *St. Joseph's Home for Children 1877-1960: A Symbol of the Charity of Christ* (unpublished manuscript) (on file with Minnesota Historical Society and St. Joseph's Home for Children).

<sup>17</sup> Marian Veronica DeVoy, *The Catholic Boys' Home: History of the Minneapolis Catholic Orphan Asylum at 37* (Mar. 1944) (unpublished paper in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts in Social Work at the University of Minnesota, on file with author).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* at 68.

<sup>19</sup> Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis, *History of St. Joseph's Home for Children*, <http://www.ccspm.org/stJo/es/stJo/esHistory.html> (visited Feb. 28, 2006).





4. O której godzinie kończy się doba hotelowa?  
 \_\_\_ May I reserve a room?  
 \_\_\_ When is check-in time?  
 \_\_\_ When is check-out time?

5. Jaki jest kurs wymiany?  
 \_\_\_ What is the rate of exchange?  
 \_\_\_ Where can I exchange money?  
 \_\_\_ Can I exchange travelers checks?

6. Która godzina?  
 \_\_\_ Where is the bathroom?  
 \_\_\_ What time is it?  
 \_\_\_ What's that?

(Answers on page 31)



**Placements.....(Continued from page 23)**

century, criticized the practice of institutionalizing needy children. In 1853, he founded the Children's Aid Society to care for street children in New York City. Institutions, according to Brace, were costly, physically and psychologically barren, and antithetical to good child development. Brace noted "the longer [the child] is in the asylum [i.e., orphanage], the less likely he is to do well in outside life."<sup>20</sup> He believed that the personal attributes that were rewarded in an institutional environment, such as "mindless obedience" and "dependence" did not help a child develop into a "healthy, independent" citizen.<sup>21</sup> Additionally, as investigations and scandals unfolded, it seemed like institutions by their very nature fostered and covered up abuse and mistreatment of children.

In the hopes of improving the treatment and outcomes for vulnerable youth, Brace launched the "Baby Trains," or "Orphan Trains," whereby thousands of children left East Coast slums and were placed on trains headed toward Midwestern and Western states, such as Minnesota. As with orphanages, not all the children on the Orphan Trains were orphans---some

<sup>20</sup> Charles Loring Brace, *The Dangerous Classes of New York, and Twenty Years' Work Among Them* 76-77 (Wynkoop et. Al. eds., 1872).

<sup>21</sup> Gittens, at 69.

had been taken from abusive parents, and many others had been given up by poor, often immigrant families, unable to care for the child. Brace believed that resettling the children in homes was the "simplest and most direct way [to improve these children's lives], relying as much as possible on the basic goodness that he believed informed the souls of most Americans, especially those who still lived away from the corrupting city in the virtue-producing agricultural heartland of the nation."<sup>22</sup>

Thus, from 1854 to the 1920s, Brace and his associates would arrive in a town with a trainload of children, and with the assistance of local churches and committees, would ask citizens to open their home to these vulnerable children. Word of the children's arrival was spread by word of mouth, flyers, and advertisements. For example, one such advertisement, circulated prior to the arrival of the orphan train in Winnebago, Minnesota on January 11, 1907, contained a photo of children with the caption "Homes Wanted for Children."

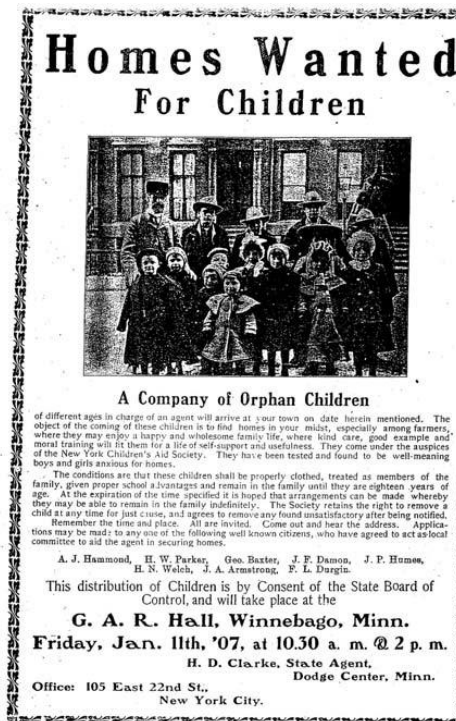


Figure 1 – Orphan Train Advertisement from Winnebago, Minnesota, courtesy of Ron Peluso, Artistic Director, Great American History Theatre.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*



The advertisement noted:

The object of the coming of these children is to find a home in your midst, especially among farmers, where they may enjoy a happy and wholesome family life, where kind care, good example and moral training will fit them for a life of self-support and usefulness. They come under the auspices of the New York Children's Aid Society. They have been tested and found to be well-meaning boys and girls anxious for homes.

The conditions are that these children shall be properly clothed, treated as members of the family, given proper school advantages and remain in the family until they are eighteen years of age. At the expiration of the time specified it is hoped that arrangements can be made whereby they may be able to remain in the family indefinitely. The Society retains the right to remove a child at any time for just cause, and agrees to remove any found unsatisfactory after being notified ...<sup>23</sup>

At each stop, the Orphan Trains were met by town-folk and farmers, and the children lined up in front of the train as the chaperone gave the children's names and ages while the children waited until (and if) someone chose them. According to the Winnebago, Minnesota advertisement, "[t]his distribution of Children is by the Consent of the State Board of Control," and took place at the G.A.R. Hall in Winnebago on January 11, 1907 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.<sup>24</sup> Unfortunately, this method of "distribution," often meant that siblings were frequently separated if a family only wanted a girl or a boy of a certain age. According to the Children's Aid Society report, by 1910, 3,258 children from the orphan trains had been placed in homes in Minnesota.

The following poem reflects the experience of an orphan train rider:

Orphan Train  
April 1893

Look at me, please!  
You know why I am here  
or you wouldn't have come.

They found us alone,  
after mama died. I tried,  
really I tried, to keep  
them fed and clean,  
but then there wasn't any food  
and they took us away.

Finally, a hundred of us  
boarded the train  
and began our journey west.

It's been long.  
I tried to take care  
of Willie and Mary  
(she's three and is forgetting  
Mama already).  
I combed her hair  
into ringlets so someone would  
think she's pretty  
and take her.  
I didn't know that her cry  
would cut through my heart  
when, in Weston,  
someone did.

I held Willie's hand as  
we got on the train,  
his tears streaming  
down his cheeks.

"Don't cry," I said.  
We knew we probably  
wouldn't be together.  
But I had so hoped we would.  
Then another stop,  
this time in Milltown,  
and we got off,  
lined up in a row,  
and a woman rushed  
toward Willie  
crying, "That's my Henry!"  
"But that's not his name,"  
I cried softly.  
With a backward look

<sup>23</sup> See *infra* fig. 1

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

with those sad eyes,  
he followed them.

That left me.  
The matron pulled my hair back,  
she said that it had a  
"no nonsense" look  
and someone would think  
I was a good worker.  
But we are nearing the end  
of our journey,  
so please look at me.  
I need a home, I'll work,  
but don't let me be  
the last one.<sup>25</sup>

Some argue that Brace's plan of "free foster homes" was just a newer, transnational version of apprenticeship or indentured servitude, in which the child worked for a family in exchange for care and training. However, free foster homes such as those arranged by Brace through the Orphan Trains were different from apprenticeships in that there were no legal bonds tying the child to his or her foster family. Brace ardently believed that a child who brought "a willing pair of hands" to a family could reasonably expect to be treated well by his or her foster family. However, this did not always prove to be the case. Despite rosy outcomes from various orphan train "alumni" surveys conducted by the Children's Aid Society, critics questioned the quality of these studies and concerns mounted, with respect to mistreatment of children in their free foster homes, the overall lack of oversight, and the perception that the orphan trains were just "dumping" a troublesome population from one state to another.

### PAID FOSTER HOMES

The concept of placing dependent or neglected children with families and the conviction that these families provided a healthier, more natural environment than an institution could provide began to take root in child welfare thinking by the end of the nineteenth century. Brace's ideal of "free foster homes," with families being entrusted to care for

vulnerable children without compensation or supervision was eventually replaced in philanthropic thinking by the belief that supervision by an external agency was vital in order to monitor the home on behalf of the child. In 1925, the slogan from the Minnesota State Conference on Social Work was "a child for every childless home and a home for every homeless child." Alongside this development was the shift away from "free foster homes," to boarding foster homes where a family received payment for taking care of a child or children and was supervised by a licensing agency.

### FAMILY PRESERVATION

An additional shift in twentieth century child welfare theory was the growing conviction that the best thing that could be done for children was to keep them with their families whenever possible. In contrast to the Elizabethan Poor Laws and Colonial American belief that poverty was a sin or moral failure, child welfare theorists came increasingly to view poverty as "a result of faulty economic and social structure rather than of personal failings of feckless or lazy individuals, and they disapproved of the kind of casual invasion of poor families' lives that could demand the sacrifice of parental rights in return for assistance."<sup>26</sup>

Significant social welfare developments in the first half of the twentieth century buttressed family preservation efforts:

- 1913 - "Mother's allowances" were established in Minnesota; by 1918 mothers were receiving an average of \$67 per year;
- 1935 - Article V of the Social Security Act was signed into law and established the program Aid to Dependent Children (ADC);
- 1950 - The Social Security Act was amended to provide "caretaker" grants to mothers of dependent children, and the program Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) replaced ADC;

<sup>25</sup> Bonnie Beatson Palmquist, *Voices of Minnesota History 1836-1946* 85-88 (2000).

<sup>26</sup> Joan Gittens, *Friendless Foundlings and Homeless Half-Orphans*, Chi. Hist., Spring 1995 at 69.

- 1990s - AFDC was supplanted by the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) in response to federal welfare reform legislation.

Also of significance, the twentieth century witnessed the elimination of the legal distinctions between "legitimate" and "illegitimate" children. Additionally, single mothers began to receive help from government child support agencies and the courts with the establishment and enforcement of child support obligations for absent fathers.

The establishment of government economic support programs as well as the development of the system for child support enforcement may have spared some children and families from being separated based on poverty alone. However, the vast majority of Minnesota children now in out-of-home placements, who have been adjudicated by the juvenile court as a "Child in Need of Protection or Services" (CHIPS), still come from low-income families; which in turn qualifies the county to receive federal funds (from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act) to pay for such placements. The stated policy goals of current juvenile protection law are premised on family preservation and reunification, consistent with the child's best interests, welfare, and safety:

### CONCLUSION

In 2004, 14,359 children in Minnesota were in out-of-home placements due to a juvenile court CHIPS adjudication coupled with the determination that such a placement was in the child's best interests. Approximately 73% of these children were reunited with their parent(s), or found a permanent home with relatives. However, as of September 15, 2005, 1,473 children were wards of the State, which means the juvenile court has terminated parental rights and transferred guardianship and custody of the child to the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. These children are "legal orphans," and legally free for adoption.

Since its establishment one hundred years earlier, the juvenile court still has original and exclusive jurisdiction over cases where a child has been

abused, neglected, or is otherwise in need of protection or services and as such, the juvenile court, and not the local or state agency, has the ultimate authority to make placement decisions in CHIPS cases. The majority of children currently in out-of-home placements due to a CHIPS determination reside in paid foster families (relative and non-relative) who are licensed through the county or private child placement agency. Other children live in group homes or residential treatment centers for youth with emotional and/or behavioral challenges.

As policymakers, judges, social workers, families, children, community members, religious and civic organizations all contemplate ways to protect children, and reduce the need for out-of-home placements, and provide out-of-home placement options best suited for the needs of children, the early history of out-of-home placement options and the experiences of children warrants remembrance, reflection and evaluation.

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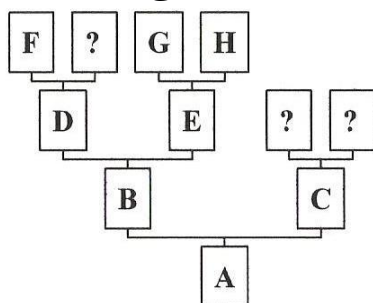
Did you know that our database allows for winter and summer change of addresses?

If you can furnish dates we can enter them into our database and it will automatically change your address so that you do not lose out on any of the newsletters and PGS-MN will not be charged for non delivery.

You can contact me by email [doripgs@comcast.net](mailto:doripgs@comcast.net) or phone 763-535-2296

Thank You,  
 Dori Marszalek  
 Membership Director

### Missing Branches



Send queries and branch updates to: **Paul Kulas**, Associate Editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145 (e-mail: <[kkulas@ties2.net](mailto:kkulas@ties2.net)>) or with new or renewal membership forms.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Patricia Bednarczyk**, 4501 Zenith Ave. No., Robbinsdale MN 55422 <[pattyjohnbednarczyk@msn.com](mailto:pattyjohnbednarczyk@msn.com)>. Researching: BEDNARCZYK and SLOVAK surnames in southern Poland and north Mpls. MN.

**LeAnn (Niewinski) Belisle**, 2308 Horizon Place, Burnsville, MN 55337 <[l\\_belisle@hotmail.com](mailto:l_belisle@hotmail.com)>. Researching: NIEWINSKI in Bransk, Grodno Province and St. Paul, MN (St. Casimir); STARZECKA in Goraj, Lublin Province and St. Paul, MN (St. Casimir).

**Jan & Ron Brown**, 1263 8th Ave North, St. Cloud, MN 56303 <[ronjanebrown@msn.com](mailto:ronjanebrown@msn.com)>. Researching: GOLIGOWSKI, WROBEL in Opole, Poland and Browerville MN.

**Barbara Carter**, 3970 McKinley St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 <[carter.barbara@comcast.net](mailto:carter.barbara@comcast.net)>. Researching: BEDNARCZYK, BEDIAS, SLOVAK (SLOWIAK) surnames.

**Jim Dochniak**, 110 1st Av N.E., #505, Mpls. MN 55413 <[shadowjumper2001@yahoo.com](mailto:shadowjumper2001@yahoo.com)>. Researching DOCHNIAK in Poland and St. Paul, MN.

**Chris Falteisek**, 15230 67th St. So., Hastings, MN 55033 <[chrisfalteisek@gmail.com](mailto:chrisfalteisek@gmail.com)>. Researching: DOBOS, unknown in Poland and Brockway Twtnshp. MN; GRZYBEK in Brzostek and Januskowice, Poland and North Prairie MN. Chris encloses a Pedigree Chart of his maternal grandfather, Peter Dobos:

1. "Pete" Peter Andrew Dobos; b. 21 Feb 1903, Brockway Twp., Stearns Co. MN; m. 5 Oct 1935 Durand, Pepin Co. WI; d. 15 Jul 1970, Prescott, Pierce Co. WI.

*Missing Branches.....(Continued on page10)*