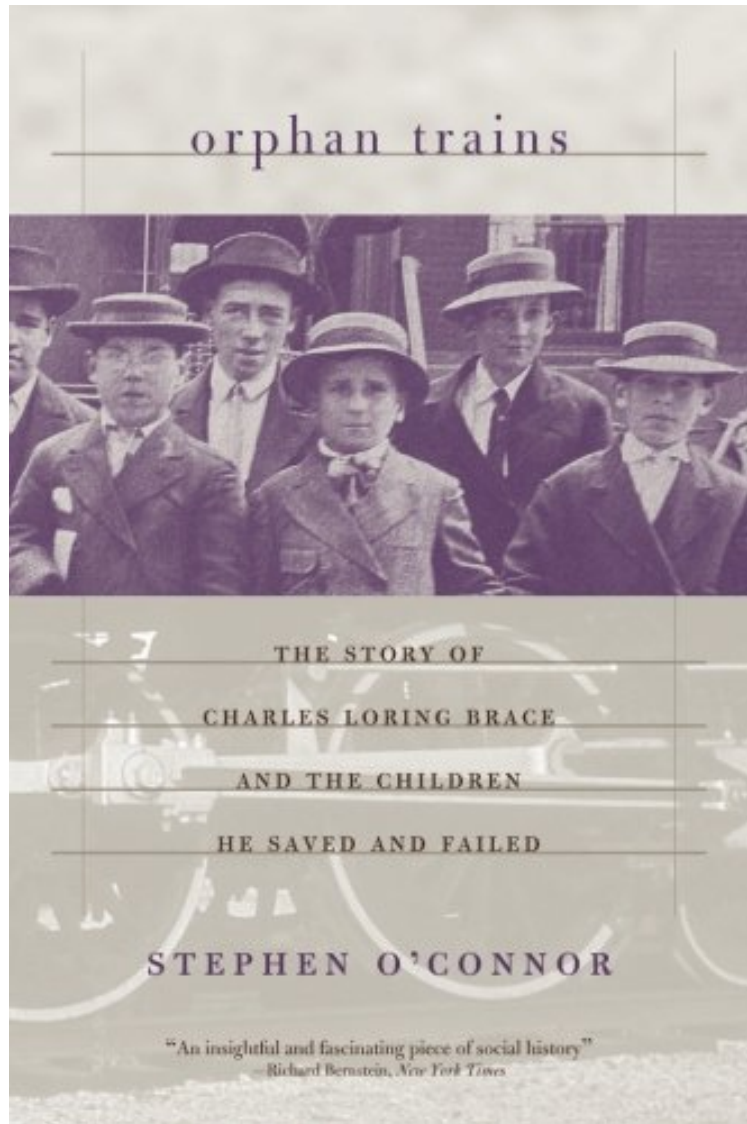


(Ebook pdf) Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved and Failed

# Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved and Failed

*Stephen O'Connor*

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#251465 in Books Stephen O Connor 2004-03-01 2004-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.20 x 6.00l, 1.12 #File Name: 0226616673384 pages Orphan Trains The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved and Failed | File size: 32.Mb

**Stephen O'Connor : Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved and Failed** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved and Failed:

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. very dissappointedBy GretchenI feel the author Stephen O'Connor

was being overly critical of Charles Loring Brace the founder of the Children's Aid Society. He seems to judge Brace's work of 150 years ago according to modern standards. Seems Brace did the best he could do to help the thousands of poor children and families before any social service system was in place. Pioneers make mistakes, so others can do better on the back of his work. I completely disagree with O'Conner's statements (page 220) that "to applaud their (prostitutes) desire to profit from and, at least in some instances, enjoy sex." O'Conner is talking about child prostitutes as well. The context of prostitution he is writing about is derived from sheer desperation and can only be humiliating at best to the girl. Hardly a joy or a desire for profit when in the 1800's purity in women was highly valued. I would have liked to read more about the children's stories and less about O'Connors opinions of a man he never met, but obviously did not agree with his values. As I finished the book, I read it feeling I had to 'hear' it thru the words of one man who decided not to like Brace perhaps because he did not like Braces Victorian Christianity. Too bad, cause I think the story merits a much deeper analogy from an open mind. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. The background on Foster Care By Sharon Miner This book gives info on this early foster care system. O'Connor's research is obvious, and explained clearly. The stories are remarkable, touching and often sad. This is a wonderful resource for social workers, but will be enjoyed by anyone interested in American history centering on families. My grandfather, a NY orphan, was sent by train to Colorado in 1897 when he was 7 years old; no one met him at the station and by the morning the town drunk found him and took him in. I'm writing a YA novel based on his adventures called "The Wildcat Orphan." The horse-loving but quick-tempered boy grows into a young man who becomes an avid geologist and expert on mining. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Using modern standards to criticize historical figures isn't exactly fair By Escherme I was very disappointed at the criticism directed at Brace for "failing to follow up" and only in the books conclusion does the author state recognition of the lack of technology used by modern social workers to keep track of cases today (and the imperfect results). I do commend the author for his research to paint a picture of urban life in the 1800's

In mid-nineteenth-century New York, vagrant youth, both orphans and runaways, filled the streets. For years the city had been sweeping these children into prisons or almshouses, but in 1853 the young minister Charles Loring Brace proposed a radical solution to the problem by creating the Children's Aid Society, an organization that fought to provide homeless children with shelter, education, and, for many, a new family in the country. Combining a biography of Brace with firsthand accounts of orphans, Stephen O'Connor here tells of the orphan trains that, between 1854 and 1929, spirited away some 250,000 destitute children to rural homes in every one of the forty-eight contiguous states. A powerful blend of history, biography, and adventure, *Orphans Trains* remains the definitive work on this little-known episode in American history.

From Publishers Weekly From 1854 to 1929, an estimated 250,000 children were "emigrated" out of "vice-ridden" urban areas and put up for grabs in the West, where labor was in short supply. Brace (1826-1890) educated himself for the ministry, but under the influence of Darwin and progressive European experiments like the Rauhe Haus, a children's settlement house, he set about saving lives. Rather than work with adults ("saving" prostitutes or banning rum), Brace chose to save their children. As organizer of the Children's Aid Society (CAS), he devised a series of projects to help street kids help themselves: lodging houses, industrial schools and, finally, the infamous "orphan trains." As haphazard and casual as Brace's adoption system may have been, it was the only solution to child abuse and neglect in America at the time. O'Connor intercuts his narrative with the life stories of a few orphan train successes and failures, as if to emphasize that there's no clear verdict on the CAS and what they did. While the book is organized as a biography of Brace, O'Connor digresses compellingly, drawing readers into accounts of rancher warfare, protestant philosophy and Horatio Alger's pedophilia. With a fast-forward to modern times, he reveals that there's nothing new about the crises in what we now call the foster care system. (Feb.) Forecast: From the typeface to the footnotes, this effort is too scholarly for general interest audiences, although it's bound to be required reading for anyone in the social work field. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Multitudes of street urchins constantly abused or neglected as they struggle for survival--these are images we associate today with urban centers in Third World nations. Yet in the nineteenth century, such horrors were commonplace in most large American and European cities. In mid-nineteenth-century New York, many of these children wound up in prisons or workhouses. Charles Loring Brace strove mightily to save some of these children by providing them with sustenance and then sending them westward by train to families. O'Connor is an author and former New York public school teacher. In this riveting and often heartbreaking account of Brace's successes and failures, he describes the process of adoption, the assumptions behind this massive effort, and the lessons we have learned, or should have learned. Many of the personal accounts of the children and their ultimate fates are both moving and disturbing. This is a very valuable and informative work that must compel us to ponder how we approach seemingly intractable social ills. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "O'Connor tells these stories lucidly and gracefully. He is particularly evocative in his descriptions of the transportation conditions the children endured, the

conditions of urban poverty in New York in the 1800s, and of a typical day of a New York newsboy."