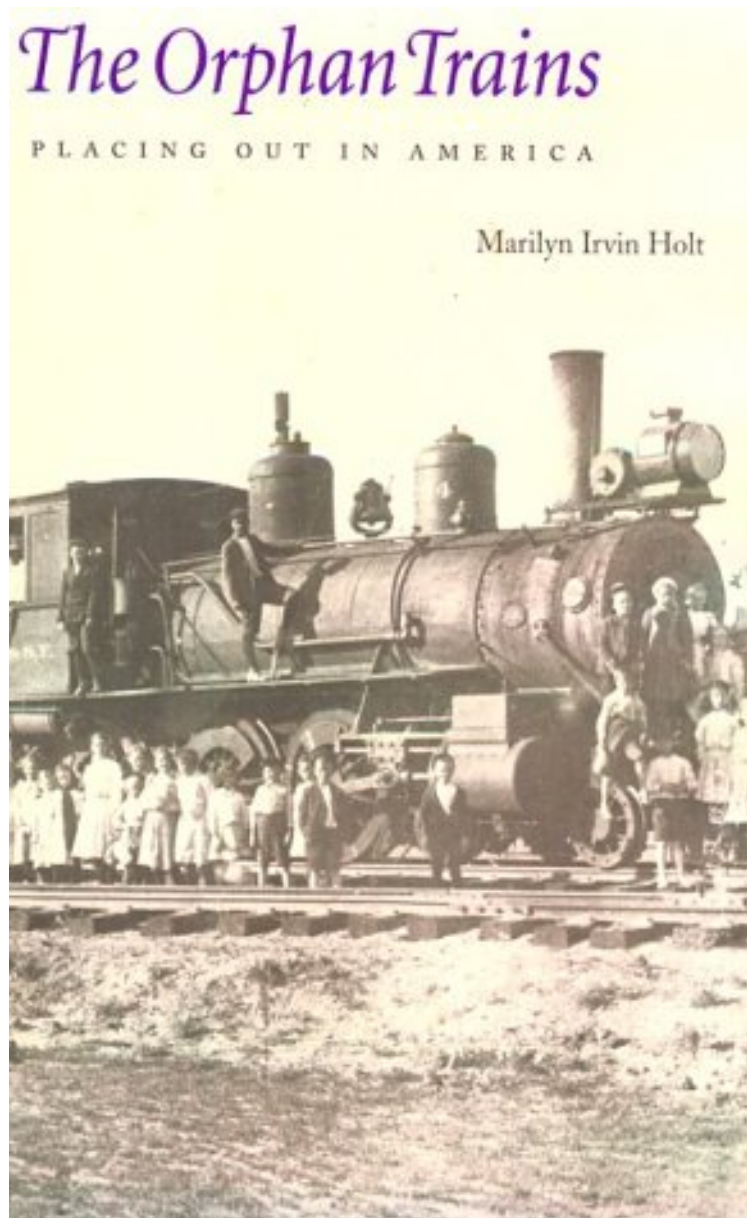


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## The Orphan Trains: Placing Out in America

*Marilyn Irvin Holt*

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**Marilyn Irvin Holt : The Orphan Trains: Placing Out in America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Orphan Trains: Placing Out in America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. " She enjoyed learning some of the history behind the event and ...By fletchmar This was a gift for a friend whose family "adopted" an orphan from the train in 1920s South Dakota

when she was a small child and did not really understand why all of a sudden she had a new "sister." She enjoyed learning some of the history behind the event and told me she would recommend both books to others who want to learn more about this little known part of US history. She read this book along with "We Rode the Orphan Trains," which shared personal stories of these children. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Orphan Trains By Debbie Scalf I had never heard of the Orphan Trains until I visited the Little White House in Warm Springs, GA. This book provides the history of adopting out children. The whole concept of giving away one's children due to financial hardships is hard to grip, but this book provides a look from the child's eye to the situation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A look into a part of American history that is often overlooked By Mimi A look into a part of American history that is often overlooked

"From 1850 to 1930 America witnessed a unique emigration and resettlement of at least 200,000 children and several thousand adults, primarily from the East Coast to the West. This 'placing out,' an attempt to find homes for the urban poor, was best known by the 'orphan trains' that carried the children. Holt carefully analyzes the system, initially instituted by the New York Children's Aid Society in 1853, tracking its imitators as well as the reasons for its creation and demise. She captures the children's perspective with the judicious use of oral histories, institutional records, and newspaper accounts. This well-written volume sheds new light on the multifaceted experience of children's immigration, changing concepts of welfare, and Western expansion. It is good, scholarly social history." - "Library Journal". "Soon there will be no memories of the 'little companies,' as they were called, of children setting out with an adult leader for a new life. This little book is kind of a preservation movement, and a contribution to our understanding of how the West was won." - David Shribman, "Wall Street Journal". "As a portrait of the time's charitable networks, "The Orphan Trains" succeeds...[Holt's] work brings to light a meaningful concept: the idea that charity; then and now, is sometimes tinged with greed, indifference, hostility, self-promotion and is an institution that can serve the giver more than the receiver." - David James Rose, "Washington Times". Marilyn Irvin Holt, former director of publications at the Kansas State Historical Society; is a freelance editor, writer, and researcher and teaches historical editing at the University of Kansas.

From Publishers Weekly A history of the emigration policies instituted between 1850 and 1930 to resettle the urban poor from the East Coast to the West. Copyright 1994 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal From 1850 to 1930 America witnessed a unique emigration and resettlement of at least 200,000 children and several thousand adults, primarily from the East Coast to the West. This "placing out," an attempt to find homes for the urban poor, was best known by the "orphan trains" that carried the children. Freelance writer Holt carefully analyzes the system, initially instituted by the New York Children's Aid Society in 1853, tracking its imitators as well as the reasons for its creation and demise. She captures the children's perspective with the judicious use of oral histories, institutional records, and newspaper accounts. This well-written volume sheds new light on the multifaceted experience of children's emigration, changing concepts of welfare, and Western expansion. It is a good, scholarly social history that provides more analytical information than James Manguson and Dorothea Petrie's Orphan Train ( LJ 6/15/78). A solid contribution on a little-known phenomenon, this book is suitable for academic and large public libraries.- Charles C. Hay III, Eastern Kentucky Univ. Archives, Richmond Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. "From 1850 to 1930 America witnessed a unique emigration and resettlement of at least 200,000 children and several thousand adults, primarily from the East Coast to the West. This 'placing out,' an attempt to find homes for the urban poor, was best known by the 'orphan trains' that carried the children. Holt carefully analyzes the system, initially instituted by the New York Children's Aid Society in 1853, tracking its imitators as well as the reasons for its creation and demise. She captures the children's perspective with the judicious use of oral histories, institutional records, and newspaper accounts. This well-written volume sheds new light on the multifaceted experience of children's immigration, changing concepts of welfare, and Western expansion. It is good, scholarly social history." Library Journal