

Adoption Agencies, Orphanages and Maternity Homes

AN HISTORICAL DIRECTORY ♦ BY REG NILES

**Volume 2
North Carolina
through
Wyoming & Canada**

PHILEAS DEIGH CORP. ♦ GARDEN CITY, N.Y.

VOLUME 2
NORTH CAROLINA through WYOMING
ALBERTA through YUKON TERRITORY

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PREFACE

NEED FOR AN HISTORICAL DIRECTORY: There are between four and six million adoptees in the United States and in many cases the secrets of their origin are filed away in the records of adoption agencies, hospitals, and similar institutions. The present policy of virtually every adoption agency is to readily release nonidentifying information upon request of adoptees. A few agencies will release identifying information and I believe their number will increase in the future. But some adoptees do not know how to contact the agencies and institutions that have their records. In some cases they have only a scrap of information, such as an obsolete name, or the name of the street an institution was located on, or only its religious denomination. Surprisingly, many natural mothers are equally ignorant of the facts, and it prevents them from contacting the appropriate agencies for the purpose of filing waivers of confidentiality, requests for current information about their children, and requests for reunions with adult adoptees. This directory presents information on the agencies so that the reader can check clues and bits of information already in his or her possession for the purpose of identifying the correct agency and hopefully finding out their present address. In some cases, relationships between adoption agencies, maternity homes, and hospitals have been delineated. So far as is known, this is the only directory—in any field—based on historical principles: it presents the various names and addresses of individual agencies at various times during the twentieth century in a format enabling the researcher to reach conclusions about affiliations between institutions and hopefully to determine the present location (if extant) of whichever institution is of concern to him. So, aside from its value to the historian, this directory will be of most value to living persons whose pasts are tied to certain agencies and who wish to discover the location of the records which relate to their pasts. This directory will be consulted by adoptees, natural parents, and those who wish to assist them: librarians, genealogists, and social service workers.

HOW THIS DIRECTORY WAS PREPARED: This directory was compiled partly from information based on my experience as a search consultant in the adoptees' rights movement, and I wish to thank the adult adoptees and natural mothers (in search of each other) who helped educate me in this area. Many adoptees have preserved old letterheads and documents which contain useful information. These adoptees and natural mothers, however, only represent a quantity of different agencies which is much smaller than the scope of this

directory, so it became necessary to do a lot of research in printed sources: privately and publicly published directories, censuses, annual reports, telephone directories, help wanted ads published on behalf of agencies, books on adoption, and so on. I have exercised judgment in determining certain affiliations between agencies. In some cases, where an affiliation was suspected, I have cross-referenced by using the phrase "also see" or "q.v."

SCOPE: The directory covers the twentieth century and is geared toward living persons. Volume 1 covers the states of the U.S. alphabetically from Alabama through New York, and includes a series of notes and a bibliography. Volume 2 completes the U.S. and covers Canada too. This directory seeks to include every adoption agency regardless of size, every orphanage or children's home with at least 15 beds, and every maternity home for unmarried mothers. It also seeks to include every maternity hospital and includes some general hospitals which are believed to be significant to adoptees. Public welfare departments have been included if they are in counties of large population or if their adoption activity has been confirmed by experience. Adoptive parents' groups have been included, as well as adoptees' rights groups (groups of adult adoptees who are searching for their roots). Vol. 1 contains 5,402 entries. Vol. 2 contains 3,860 entries.

EXCLUSIONS: This directory does not seek to include agencies which closed prior to 1900, mental health facilities (unless they have a history of caring for normal children), or facilities for the physically handicapped. Children's homes with a known capacity of under 15 have been excluded, but many of them appear as entries with the comment "Too small for inclusion." Some facilities for delinquent youth have been included because they may have been the former residences of adoptees or because—at certain times—unwed mothers were classified as delinquent. The various orphanages in Asia, Europe, and Latin America have been excluded, solely because of the difficulty encountered in acquiring information about them.

ARRANGEMENT: This directory is arranged by state, thereunder by city or town. For almost every city or town which is included, the county it lies within is identified; this is for the convenience of researchers who wish to check all entries in a particular county. The county identification is omitted if that city or town contains only an adoptive par-

ents' group or an adoptees' rights organization. Additional geographic information is sometimes added: if a county has been created during the twentieth century, if a city has been incorporated or merged during this century, if a city is currently a branch post office of another, or if a city has no post office, the post office it currently employs is identified. Cross-references between cities and towns are provided where necessary. Canadian entries, classified by province, appear in Volume 2. Within each city/town grouping, the entries are listed in alphabetical order (alphabetized word by word). The individual entries are presented in reverse chronological order, beginning with the latest name and address and proceeding backward in time.

YIELD: Few, if any, entries are as complete as one would desire, but the type of information eligible for inclusion consists of: names of agencies, addresses (including post office box numbers and room numbers if in an office building), case histories (see Note 112 on page 286), the source of the name if known (eponym or etymology), the date established or incorporated, cross-references to affiliated agencies or those suspected of being affiliated or identical (pending further information), cross-references to notes (usually provided when a single name is connected with many institutions), whether under public or private auspices (with specific identification when known), the name of the diocese (for Catholic Charities agencies), the name of the order of nuns (priests or brothers) that conducts a Catholic institution, the number of inmates accommodated by homes (for hospitals: number of beds and bassinets), restrictions (on sex, age, race, religion, or ethnic origin), function (such as adoption, intercountry adoption, foster placing, unmarried mother service, and residential care in foster homes or institutions), location of headquarters if it is a branch agency, location of branches if it is a headquarters agency, bibliographical references pertaining to a single institution or organization, whether it has been previously located in another city, explanations of acronyms, the geographic area served, the religious denomination, and if the

same address is used by other agencies. Inasmuch as most of my sources do not distinguish between the date of establishment and the date of incorporation, I have used the words "established," "incorporated," and "founded" indiscriminately. Many conflicts on date appear in my sources.

HOW TO FIND AN ENTRY: First find the city or town under which it is expected to be listed. For a public welfare department, ignore the exact title and look it up under the word "county," "state," or "city." For all other entries, look under the title, ignoring the word "the" or any personal forename; for example, The Florence Crittenton Home would be listed as Crittenton Home. Names beginning with "St." are not abbreviated; they appear as "Saint." A few entries are listed under a popular title; for example, Delaware County Children's Aid Society appears as Children's Aid Society. Hundreds of cross-references have been included, especially for cities with over ten entries. If a small town has only a few entries, the reader is expected to read all of them if he cannot readily find the name he seeks. If all else fails, and an entry cannot be found under a particular city or town, the reader should try neighboring cities and towns, especially if a small town is a branch post office or if it has no post office of its own. A road map might be the simplest way of determining nearby cities. A guide to post offices and their branches is the Zip Code Directory (see Bibliography, citation B201 on p. 292). It may be necessary to consult old editions. The best guide to towns which do not have their own post offices is *Bullinger's Postal and Shippers Guide for the United States and Canada* (revised annually). A book which lists all places (population over 100) in the United States according to their counties is the *Rand McNally Yellow Guide*; it is arranged by state, county, and town. When this method of finding an elusive agency proves unsuccessful, the researcher is encouraged to seek the assistance of other social service agencies in the same town in the hope that they know what became of the agency which is sought. A guide to general social service agencies is listed in the Bibliography: see citation B185.

Addenda

NORTH CAROLINA

A312 BANNER ELK: In Avery county since 1911; previously in Watauga county.

A313 CLIMAX: Adoptees Together, Rte. 1, Box 30-B-5, 27233; flourished 1981 as an adoptees' rights group.

A314 DURHAM: Duke Hospital: Duke University was named after James Buchanan Duke (1856-1925) and Benjamin Newton Duke (1855-1929).

A315 LEXINGTON: National Orphans' Home: The same name occurs in Tiffin, OH under the auspices of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, a fraternal society founded in 1853; HQ are in Willow Grove, PA.

OHIO

A316 BARBERTON: Barberton Humane Society: See note 057.

A317 CLEVELAND: DePaul Maternity & Infant Home: Eponym: St. Vincent de Paul (1580?-1660) cofounder of the Sisters of Charity.

A318 COLUMBUS: The Ohio Adoption Rights Society: Also in Belleair Beach, FL.

A319 DAYTON: County, entry 202: Case history: An adoptee was born 1943 at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton and was placed by the "Montgomery County Adoption Agency."

A320 PAINESVILLE: Catholic Service Bureau: The 1978 name is Catholic Service Bureau of Lake County.

A321 STRONGSVILLE (Branch post office of Cleveland): New entry: Rights of Adoptees' Parents Inc., no address; it is supervised by Mrs. Parker. This group opposes searches. It was publicized on television May 7, 1981 ("NBC Magazine with David Brinkley").

A322 TIFFIN: National Orphans' Home: See Addenda, entry A315.

A323 WORTHINGTON: United Methodist Children's Home: 1968: Also uses an address in Columbus: 1033 High Street.

OKLAHOMA

The following cities were in Indian Territory prior to the year of establishment of

their present counties. (Exception: Carmen was in Woods county.)

A324 Antlers: 1907.
A325 Ardmore: 1907.
A326 Bixby: 1905.
A327 Boley: 1907.
A328 Carmen: 1907.
A329 Checotah: 1907.
A330 Helena: 1907.
A331 Hugo: 1908.
A332 Hulbert: 1907.
A333 McAlester: 1907.
A334 Pryor: 1907.
A335 Purcell: 1907.
A336 Quapaw: 1907.
A337 Sapulpa: 1907.
A338 Tahlequah: 1907.
A339 Tulsa: 1905.

OREGON

A340 EUGENE: Holt Adoption Program: Founded by Harry Holt (c. 1905-1964); he died in Seoul, Korea.

PENNSYLVANIA

A341 ALTOONA: Adoptees' Lifeline: 1981: Pittsburgh Adoptee Lifeline, Altoona Chapter, P.O.B. 1294, 16603.

A342 BELLE VERNON: Pittsburgh Lifeline: See Rostraver, PA, entry 520.

A343 BUTLER: Catholic Social Service: Flourished 1968 at 138 E. Jefferson St.

A344 CARLISLE: Children's Aid Society: The 1980 HQ of the Church of the Brethren were at 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

A345 CHAMBERSBURG: Lutheran Social Service, South Region: Also located in Gettysburg.

A346 GRANVILLE: Malta Home: 1980: The Malta Home, for aged members, is operated by the Ancient and Illustrious Order, Knights of Malta (HQ in Reading).

A347 HILLTOWN: Pearl S. Buck Foundation: Eponym: Pearl Sydenstricker Buck (1892-1973) Nobelister in literature and the author of *The Mother* and *A House Divided*.

A348 LIGONIER: Hungarian Reformed Children's Home: The Hungarian Reformed Federation of America is a fraternal organization with 1980 HQs in Washington, D.C.

A349 MIDDLETOWN: Immaculate Conception Slovak Home: The word *Jednota* is Czech; it means "society."

A350 PITTSBURGH: Saint Rita's Home for Infants: Eponym: Saint Rita of Cascia (1381-1457).

A351 SOUTH CANAAN: Saint Tikhon's Russian Orphanage: 1980: St. Tikhon's Seminary and Monastery receives donations from the Russian Orthodox Catholic Women's Mutual Aid Society, which has its HQ in Pittsburgh.

A352 ZELIENOPLE: Lutheran Children's Home: Founded by William Alfred Passavant (1821-1894).

RHODE ISLAND

A353 PROVIDENCE: St. Mary's Home for Children: Perhaps akin to St. Mary's Orphanage, which flourished 1914, perhaps under Episcopal auspices.

SOUTH CAROLINA

A354 McCORMICK: Was in Abbeville county until 1916.

A355 WILLINGTON: Was in Abbeville county until 1916.

TENNESSEE

A356 GREENEVILLE: Holston Methodist Home: Case History: See *Genealogical Helper*, March 1981, p. 75.

TEXAS

A357 DALLAS: Saint Rita's Home: Eponym: See Addenda, entry A350.

A358 DENTON: Cumberland Presbyterian Orphans' Home: The name is probably derived from the Cumberland River in Kentucky.

VIRGINIA

A359 ARLINGTON: County, entry 007: Case history: A natural mother gave birth in 1967 at George Washington Hospital in Washington, DC and surrendered her baby to the Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax County Dept. of Public Welfare; pre-natal care had been at the Florence Crittenton Home in Washington.

A360 PORTSMOUTH: Catholic Family and Children's Services: 1979: Alternate address is Box 668, 23705.