



**Through Children's Eyes: Tales of Old Columbus** written by Carole Gerber, illustrated by Marty Husted.

In 2003, the Columbus Historical Society published a book of stories for children in the third and fourth grades which highlights key events in Columbus history as told through the eyes of children. The Gerber/Husted book is available for sale from the Columbus Historical Society for \$9.00. Bulk rate pricing is also available. Call 614-224-0822 or write the CHS for details at [info@columbushistory.org](mailto:info@columbushistory.org) or at 51 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

The book has seven chapters which are summarized below.

Chapter 1 - "Aunt Sarah's Unexpected Son." This tells the story of Arthur Boke, a mixed race child who was adopted by Lucas and Sarah Sullivant in 1803. Boke lived with the Sullivant family until his death in 1838. Sullivant was a surveyor who laid out the original settlement of Franklinton on the west bank of the Scioto River. Franklinton is now part of Columbus. He and his family were prominent residents and boosters of the City of Columbus for many decades.

Chapter 2 - "A Gift from the Wyandot." In this story, the baby Keziah Hamlin, a child of settlers on the east bank of the Scioto River, near the present day Brewery District, is taken by the Wyandot Indians and given a pair of moccasins in exchange for food which the Hamlins had stored. Keziah Hamlin was a real life person who grew up and lived in Columbus. She and her husband David Brooks owned the White Horse Tavern in the city. Her son, David W. Brooks was later a prominent city leader.

Chapter 3 - "My Family Hides Runaway Slaves." Elizabeth Bull, daughter of the Methodist Minister Jason Bull, helps her family hide two runaway slave children as part of the Columbus Underground Railroad network prior to the Civil War. The Bulls lived in Clintonville, and the Methodist Chapel mentioned in the story was one of several

“stops” on the Underground Railroad. Today, the Kelton House on Town Street is a restored stop on the Underground Railroad which conducts tours for third and fourth graders.

Chapter 4 – “Our Journey from Germany.” After a long journey from the Rhine River valley of Germany, 9-year old Carl and his family finally reach Columbus on the Ohio and Erie Feeder Canal. They join the thousands of German immigrants who settled on the south end of Columbus from the 1840s onward.

Chapter 5 – “When Mr. Lincoln Came to Town.” Abraham Lincoln stopped in Columbus, Ohio, on February 13, 1861, on his way to his first Inauguration. He visited the newly completed Ohio State House where later his body lay in state on April 29, 1865, after he had been assassinated. Young Nathaniel Johnson recounts how he got to shake Lincoln’s hand.

Chapter 6 – “We Arrived on the Orphan Train.” Orphan Trains ran from New York City and other east coast urban areas to various rural locations from the 1850s through the 1920s. They were organized to help relocate poor children from conditions of poverty to productive farm life. Orphan trains stopped in Columbus and other Ohio cities during this period, particularly after the Civil War, but most children who rode these trains were settled further west. In this story, Ben Williams describes the experiences that he and his sister Hazel have on an orphan train. At the time of this story, the City of Columbus was grappling with its own problems of urban poverty and several private charities were formed to provide assistance.

Chapter 7 – “Mamie’s Diary of the Great Flood.” Mamie McCampbell keeps a diary which describes her experiences of the “Great Flood” in Columbus which took place in late March of 1913. An unusually intense and widespread rain storm across the state of Ohio began this flood on Easter Sunday in 1913. Both the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers overflowed their banks, and the rushing water swept away millions of dollars of buildings and businesses on the west side of the city. Ninety-three people died. While floods were common in Columbus prior to 1913, the intensity of the flood waters and the greater population and settlement made this one of the worst disasters in Columbus history.

Both Carole Gerber and Marty Husted are available to speak to school children. Contact Carole Gerber at <http://www.carolegerber.com> and Marty Husted at <http://www.martyhusted.com>.