

# Mary, Catherine & Francis Burns

1861-62 ~ Orphan Train Riders ~ Illinois  
“Siblings Who Stayed Close”

Mary Burns, Catherine Burns and Francis Burns were children of Bridget and Hugh Burns, immigrants from Ireland into New York City. Mary, age nine, and Francis, age eleven, were admitted into the New York Juvenile Asylum in September 1860, the reason given was that the family was destitute. Catherine was admitted in July 1861, at the age of seven, the reason was given was that her father had gone to war and she was without a home. Records show that Mary and Catherine were sent west and indentured to Hezekiah Phillips, a farmer in Mahomet, Champaign County, Illinois. It is known that Mary served out her time in 1870 and received fifty dollars. Mary then became a servant in the home of Samuel Foster at the wages of \$1.50 a week. It is assumed that Catherine followed her sister into the work place as she is found in the 1880 Piatt Coun-

ty Illinois Census in the home of James Ownby, Willow Branch Township, as a servant. Francis was sent to the Champaign County area to be near his sisters in January, 1862. He was indentured to R. F. Carter, a farmer, in Champaign City, Illinois, in March 1863. According to the Asylum records, Francis was kept in touch with his parents through the agent through 1866. He left the Carter home around May, 1870. It is known that Mary and Catherine married brothers. Mary Burns married Joseph Neal Cornell, 13 November 1872, in Champaign County, Illinois. They had three children: Frank C., Annie, and Ida. They lived in Willow

Branch Township, Piatt County, Illinois, and in Brown Township, Champaign County, Illinois. Mary (Burns) Cornell died 25 March 1903, and Joseph Cornell died in 1911. They were buried at Willow Brook Cemetery, Fisher, Champaign County, Illinois. Catherine Burns married Charles Edward Cornell, 22 December 1881, at the home of her sister, Mary and Joseph Cornell, by Justice of the Peace, James Ownby, in whose home she had been working. Catherine and Charles were the parents of five children: Cloyd P., Lee E., Acy F., Clarence E., and Glenna M. Cornell. They farmed in Willow Branch Township, Piatt County, Illinois, and resided in

Richland County, Illinois for a few years, returning to Willow Branch Township, where they lived out their years. Catherine (Burns) Cornell died 7 January 1921, and Charles Cornell died 1 September 1912. They are buried at the Croninger Cemetery, Willow Branch Township, Piatt County, Illinois. Nothing more is known of Francis Burns. Information about Francis Burns, Hezekiah Phillips, and R. F. Carter is being sought. Phyllis (Cornell) Abner, granddaughter of Catherine (Burns) and Charles E. Cornell, through their son, Clarence E., has been researching these two sisters who rode the Orphan Train from New York to the “west”—Champaign County, Illinois—and is grateful to The Children’s Village, Dobbs Ferry, New York for the above information, and to OTHSA for addresses to contact and encouragement. Submitted by: Phyllis Abner, December 1991



The Orphan Train Article is

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



HOOD

HEATING • AIR • PLUMBING • ELECTRIC

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

2201 E. 6th St.

Concordia, KS

(785) 243-1489

## FEMA approves LOMR for Concordia

The City of Concordia is pleased to share that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the City’s request for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) on April 4, 2025. This action is related to the mapped floodplain and affects property owners within the city limits of Concordia. After more than a decade of research and advocacy, an estimated 200 structures in Concordia are no longer located within the Special Hazard Flood Zone A, and have been re-assigned a Shaded Zone X designation. This means a 1% chance of flooding (also known as the 100-year storm) may still cause flooding on property but only to an average depth of less than one foot (12 inches). There were also a handful of properties that have now been added to the Special Hazard Flood Zone A designation, though City staff believes the impact to structures on those properties is minimal. “This LOMR shows how important it is to continue to advocate for what we believe is right, even if it takes several years,” said Bruno Rehbein, City floodplain administrator. “The FEMA floodplain maps went into effect in July 2014 without consideration given to the new 21st Street Dam and Plum Road Dam that were under construction. We are grateful the City Commission continued to support us, and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources listened to our story in 2021. Their technical assistance grant allowed us to prove the value of these dams and our underground storm sewer system that ultimately resulted in this LOMR approval.”

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On July 16, 2014, FEMA floodplain maps went into effect putting a number of citizens in the City of Concordia into the floodplain. The impact of this mapping was that a number of homeowners with federally backed mortgages were required to purchase and carry flood insurance on their homes and businesses, at a significant expense. While Concordia staff had raised red flags in that previous mapping process, they were unable to get significant changes made to the mapping before it went effective. The City continued to express concerns and in 2021 the City was able to secure technical assistance funding from the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR) to restudy this area, which was completed in March 2022. The results of this project appeared favorable for Concordia homeowners and more accurate of actual flooding conditions, reducing the size of the floodplain. Therefore, the city decided to move forward with a Letter of Map Revision process (LOMR) to change the floodplain maps. Benesch was retained by the City of Concordia to provide services

associated with the development and submission of a LOMR request to FEMA via a Consulting Services Agreement that was authorized by the city and dated March 2023. The expectation at the time was to use the data previously developed as part of the KDA-DWR technical assistance project and provided to the City, which included updated flood modeling and mapping developed by one of KDA-DWR’s on-call consultants, AECOM, for the LOMR submittal. The scope of the FEMA LOMR project included a review of the modeling and mapping for FEMA compliance, preparation of the documentation, datasets, and panels needed for a LOMR submittal package, and assistance with public notice and outreach. Upon review of the modeling and mapping data, Benesch identified several errors and issues that needed to be resolved to achieve FEMA compliance and ultimately obtain LOMR approval. Benesch coordinated with the City of Concordia staff and KDA-DWR staff to discuss these concerns. KDA-DWR staff were under the impression that the modeling and mapping would be suitable for LOMR submittal and wanted to follow through with providing the city with high quality data. Therefore, KDA-DWR, with support from FEMA, agreed to fund a second phase of the technical assistance project for the City of Concordia and utilized Benesch, another one of their on-call consultants, to develop a new rainfall-runoff model for the City of Concordia that limits model instability, flow losses and addressed errors; thus being of the quality suitable for FEMA compliance. The project also included the development of draft floodplains that adequately represent the flood risk. The modeling was also done in a software package that is more widely accepted in the industry and more useful to the community in the future. The second KDA-DWR technical assistance project for Concordia concluded in February 2024. Draft floodplains were developed for the tributary to the Republican River, which crosses through town, to represent the 1% annual chance (100yr) and 0.2% annual chance (500yr) storm events. The majority of the flooding associated with the 1% annual chance draft floodplain for the subject stream is very shallow in nature, much of which is only a couple inches in depth. In addition, for much of this floodplain there is no channel with defined bed and banks. Typically, FEMA defines a regulatory Zone A special flood hazard area as a hazard zone that corresponds to the 1% annual chance floodplains. However, in the case of shallow flooding areas, FEMA defines 1% annual chance flooding where average depths are less than 1.0 foot as a Zone X (shaded) moderate flood hazard, which would

only be considered an advisory floodplain. The average 1% annual chance flood depths for the tributary to the Republican River are less than 1 foot and there is a lack of continuous channel through town. Given these conditions, at Benesch’s recommendation, the City requested concurrence with FEMA Region 7, with support from the KDA-DWR, to change the Zone A special flood hazard area for the tributary to the Republican River to a shaded Zone X flood hazard with average depths less than 1 foot. FEMA Region 7 concurrence has already been obtained for this zone change. The shaded Zone X designation would result in advisory floodplains that do not have mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements for homeowners with federally backed mortgages and have minimal regulatory requirements which are generally only tied to critical infrastructure. It should be noted that backwater from the Republican River will still be a Zone A Special Flood Hazard Area. The proposed floodplains are significantly smaller in many locations than the effective floodplain, and larger at other locations. However, the identified risk and associated regulation is significantly reduced for this proposed mapping. Benesch prepared and submitted the LOMR package to FEMA in April 2024. Following several rounds of review and clarification questions by FEMA, the LOMR was ultimately approved on April 4, 2025.

### WHY IS THIS WORK SIGNIFICANT?

The Shaded Zone X designation means a property owner is no longer required to obtain flood insurance if they have a federally-backed mortgage. This designation also lifts some development restrictions, allowing the property greater flexibility for property improvements. “We are grateful for Bruno’s tenacious work on behalf of the residents and business owners of Concordia,” said Concordia city manager Amy Lange. “His tireless efforts have made property ownership less expensive and property improvements less cumbersome in the heart of Concordia as a result of this LOMR. We also want to thank the KDA for their grant-funded technical assistance work, and our floodplain consulting engineer, Benesch, for their extremely detail-oriented and technical efforts related to this LOMR application submittal. As always, success requires teamwork.” Revised maps are available for viewing at City Hall. Limited assistance is available for those property owners requiring an elevation certificate and/or a Letter of Map Amendment – Out As Shown (LOMA-OAS). Please contact Bruno Rehbein, floodplain administrator, at (785) 243-2670 or building@concordiaoks.org with questions about a specific property.

# SUDOKU

Here’s How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4								
5	3	2				9		
		9	5				7	
	9				2	4		
			4	8			5	
2								
					6			4
	7	5	9	2		8		3
8								

Level: Intermediate

## Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30			31				32	33	34	
35			36				37				38			
39							40			41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

### CLUES ACROSS

1. McCarthy acolyte Roy

5. Ancient Korean chieftoms

10. Not soft

14. Jai \_\_, sport

15. Philosophy

16. Do what you’re told

17. Gaffe

18. Widely known and esteemed

19. Amusement park attraction

20. Popular comic strip Viking

22. Usually has a lid

23. American sportscaster

24. Lung fibrosis

27. General’s assistant (abbr.)

30. Pouch

31. Upset

32. Partner to hem

35. Astronomy unit of distance

37. Witch

38. Gradually disappear

39. Regions

40. Possesses

41. Body parts
42. A way to comprehend

43. Defraud

44. Sandwich type

45. Expression of disappointment

46. Popular Dodge truck model

47. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

48. Soviet Socialist Republic

49. Songs to a beloved

52. Custom

55. Partner to cheese

56. West Indies trees

60. Member of a Semitic people

61. Plant that originated vegetatively

63. Squandered one’s money

64. Ethiopian river

65. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

66. Acquire by one’s efforts

67. Irish goddess

68. Hungarian village

69. Cereal grasses

### CLUES DOWN

1. Currency

2. Ceramic jar

3. Reagan’s Secretary of State

4. God worshipped in Kanesh

5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)

6. Semitic

7. About blood

8. Benign tumors

9. Move one’s head

10. Hours (Spanish)

11. Hebrew calendar month

12. Advise someone

13. Colors clothes

21. The sun does it

23. Concealed

25. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)

26. Droop

27. Away from one another

28. Challenges

29. A harsh scraping sound

32. Attaches to a wall

33. Capital of Ethiopia: \_\_ Ababa
34. German river

36. Disappointed

37. Star Wars character Solo

38. Supervises flying

40. Not mass-produced

41. Nonsense

43. Automobile

44. Hoghead (abbr.)

46. Soak in water

47. Flower cluster

49. Romanian city

50. A parent is often one

51. Fencing sword

52. Body part

53. Region

54. Farm building

57. Ali’s surname at birth

58. Waxy bird beak covering

59. Stiff bristles

61. VCR button

62. Small amount

Puzzle Answers on Page 15

CONCORDIA,  
LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT YOUR  
BABY IS GRADUATING!

Deadline: May 2



For \$30  
your “baby” can be  
included in our  
special section about  
2025 CHS graduates.

email your photos or stop in

bladeempire@nckcn.com

510 Washington St.  
Concordia, KS

INCLUDE:  
• PHOTO  
• GRADUATE’S NAME  
• PARENTS’ NAMES  
• A SHORT MESSAGE

• BY MAY 2ND •