



Clara Comstock was born July 5, 1879 in Hartsville, NY. She graduated from the Canisteo Academy in 1895 and went to continue her education at the Academy's Teacher Training Course. Her teaching career began in the fall of 1898 in Hartsville at the weekly salary of \$7.00. After moving to New York City in 1911, she began working as an agent for the Children's Aid Society. Her work there would earn her the nickname "The Orphan Train Lady", which stuck with her for the rest of her life. Clara's job was to select adoptable children from New York City and take them by train to destinations farther west. She escorted seventy-four groups of children herself between 1911 and 1928. She escorted her last group of orphans in 1928 and then worked as the superintendent of the Children's Aid Society until she retired in 1944 to Collier Street in Hornell. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is credited with founding the Canisteo Valley Genealogical and Historical Society.