

PHOTO: ORPHANAGE.

We were used to being around children all the time. We weren't around adults [at the orphanage]. So being around adults was all so new to us.

PHOTO: TONI & PARENTS.

I knew my foster mother didn't care too much about me and my foster father was a railroader; so he was gone a lot of the time. This left me with her. Looking back, that was kind of unfair since she didn't want me in the first place. But I guess my foster father made the proposition either/or, because they couldn't have any children of their own. I guess that's why she put up with me.

PHOTO: LATER PHOTO OF TONI AND FAMILY.

I stayed with them until I was eighteen. They moved from McCook to Hastings and that's where I went to school from the fourth grade.

PHOTO: FORLORN LOOKING ORPHANS.

You know, I was looked at as a bastard. Anybody that was an orphan in those days, they say that your mother wasn't married and that the mother was bad, so of course, the kid was bad. You weren't going to amount to anything. I sure fooled them!

PHOTO: TONI.

I hate to be called a survivor. I went above surviving. I think I'm a transcender.

PHOTO: EARLY ABIGAIL SCOTT.

NARRATOR: Abigail Scott could hardly have known that she too would become a transcender when she set out with her family from Illinois along the Oregon Trail in 1852.