On March 9, 1891, John Miles, 35, and Rosanna (Smith) Miles, 43 welcomed a son, Robert Frances Miles at St. Ann’s Maternity Hospital. The hospital was a part of the New York Foundling Hospital run by the Sisters of Charity. Many orphan train riders would be born at St. Ann’s; it welcomed expectant mothers regardless of circumstance and offered the ability to safely give up a child for adoption at birth. At four days old, the couple placed their son in the care of the New York Foundling Hospital at 175 East 68th Street.

In Lexington, Missouri, Luke B. Summers and Mary Ellen (Harrison) Summers had been informed of the placing out program run by the Sisters of Charity through their parish priest. They had filled out their application, made their requests for the child’s features and patiently waited to hear of their future son’s arrival. Little Robert arrived as a toddler and was quickly welcomed as the couple’s only child. The family would stay in Missouri long enough for Robert to attend first grade before moving out west to Oklahoma in 1900. The family settled in Chickasha, Oklahoma. By 1910, Luke ran a grocery store with son Robert by his side. We know Robert was of a medium, slender build, with dark brown hair and gray eyes thanks to his World War I Draft Registration.

On November 21, 1925, married Effie Dillard. Together the couple would have one son, Robert Francis Miles Summers II, in 1926. Sadly, in 1927, Robert I would die of blood poisoning on October 15, 1927. He left behind his wife and son, only 9 months old at the time.

Orphan Train Riders’ story do not end with their passing, however; Robert Summers II is an old friend with the National Orphan Train Complex. Robert II has lived an eventful life that would make his father very proud. In 1944, Robert II, joined the U.S. Navy at 17 during World War II. After being honorably discharged he returned to Chickasha, Oklahoma and finished high school. He obtained a pilot’s license and worked at Tinker Air Force Base. Robert II and Amanda Bertie Lorene Smith married May 29, 1949 and had two sons. Together the couple celebrated 44 years of marriage before Lorene passed in 1993.

Robert II will celebrate his 92nd birthday this Christmas Eve. He is still living life to the fullest, attending US Navy reunions, enjoys Western Swing dancing and has participated in an ‘Honor Flight’ to Washington, D.C.

Statue sponsored by Robert Francis (Miles) Summers II
Robert II served in the US Navy and along wife his wife of 44 years raised two sons. In honor of the father he never knew Robert Francis Summers II dedicates this statue.
Statue 1 – Miriam Zitur: Underneath the clock at Broadway Plaza. Sponsored by Miriam’s 220+ descendants. (Corner of Broadway & Sixth Streets)

Statue 2 – Elmer & Ethel Barney: In front of Britt’s Fountain & Gifts. Sponsored by Amanda & Brian Strait family (118 W 6th Street)

Statue 3 – Jessie Feit/Teresa Binder Martin: On the north side of Frank Carlson Library. Sponsored by the Charles H. & Isabell Blosser Foundation. (702 Broadway Street)


Statue 5 – Holly Stoll/Hallie Garwood: Near the main entrance to Cloud County Museum (South side of the museum on 7th Street). Sponsored by the Charles H. & Isabell Blosser Foundation. (635 Broadway Street)

Statue 6 – Kansas Riders: In front of Brown Business Services. Sponsored by Irene Brown in memory of her mother. (1710 Republican Street)

Statue 7 – Alberta Cole/Roberta “Happy” Slifer: She stands near the playground up from the tennis courts at City Park. Sponsored by the Concordia Rotary Club and Rotary Club International 5670 (Off of 11th Street. Park in parking lot by Swimming Pool.)

Statue 8 – Father Paul Fangman: In front of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1142, OLPH Altar Society and an anonymous donor. (307 East 5th Street)


Statue 10 – Thelma Taylor: In front of Monique and Company. Sponsored by Lisa Brewer in memory of her parents. (225 West 6th Street)

Statue 11 – Genevieve Hunt/Sister Roberta Dreiling: Next to main entrance to the Nazareth Motherhouse. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. (1300 Washington Street)

Statue 12 – Gertrude Vale/Sister Eva Marie Vale: Next to main entrance to the Nazareth Motherhouse. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. (1300 Washington Street)

Statue 13 – The Clement Brothers: Sponsored by and in front of Citizens National Bank. (115 West 6th Street)

Statue 14 – Anna Fuchs: Stands between the Majestic Theater and Dumbbells. Sponsored by the Marian D. Cook Foundation. (229 W 6th Street)

Statue 15 – Michalena Birraglio/Lena Nelson: In front of State Farm Insurance. In memory of Keith and Fern Waters by their children. (605 Broadway)

Statue 16 – Frank G. Simmons: In front of Wentz Eye Care. Sponsored by St. John’s Masonic Lodge #113. (Corner of 6th and Highway 81)

Statue 17 – Mary and Catherine Burns Cornell: In front of Farm Bureau Financial Services & Fresh Perspective Counseling Services. Sponsored by the Chuck and Amber Lambertz Family. (821 Broadway St on south side of building)

Statue 18 – William Sidney Emay: Sponsored by and in front of Farm Management Service, Inc. (310 Washington Street)

Statue 19 – Mamie Gunderson: Sponsored in loving memory of Bob and Darline Rasature. At the T-Ball field at Rasure Field (South east corner of East 7th Street and Cloud Street)

Statue 20 – Alfred Ulshoefner: Sponsored in loving memory of Bob and Darline Rasature. At the T-Ball field at Rasure Field. (South east corner of East 7th Street and Cloud Street)

Statue 21 - Henry Lee Jost: Sponsored by The City of Concordia. At Concordia City Hall. (701 Washington)

Statue 22 – Rev. Robert Panzer: Sponsored by the Friends of The First United Methodist Church. (740 W 11th St.)

Statue 23 – Robert Frances Miles Summers: Sponsored by Robert Francis (Miles) Summer II. (National Orphan TRAin Complex, 300 Washington St.)