

Process Paper

My National History Day project is about two people, Harry and Bertha Holt, who changed many children's lives in the 1950's by giving them a family through international adoption. The Holts adopted eight Korean war orphans in 1955, even though they already had six biological children of their own. They also helped other families find children through international adoption. I chose this topic because I have a strong connection with it. My brother and I were both adopted through the Holt International Children's Services, and my adoptive mom and brother even got to meet Bertha Holt.

In my research, I used several secondary sources. My most useful sources were two online magazine articles that included information about Bertha Holt leading the international adoption movement. I used other websites to gain information about the Holt story and about how international adoption has changed. I also found several of my pictures on internet sites.

Then I found primary sources to get even more information about the Holt family. I interviewed one of the Holts' adopted children and two of their birth children. I emailed them about more personal information that I wouldn't find in secondary sources. I also interviewed my adoptive mom to learn more about the adoption process. I found the document called the Holt Bill, which allowed the Holts to bring their eight adopted children from Korea to the U.S. I used that in my website. I also read Bertha's book, *The Seed from the East*, which explains the process of adopting the eight Holt children and what followed. In addition, I found several primary

source images, videos, and newspaper articles, which I used in building in my website.

My website was not easy to do but not impossible. I started out by finding information about the questions I wanted to answer to get the facts about the Holt story for my website. After I found enough information, I chose the design and colors for my site. I chose red to represent China, which is the country I am from originally. I organized my site based on the most important topics that I researched. Then I built each page with text, quotes, pictures, and videos.

This topic relates well to the theme of “Leadership and Legacy in History.” Through their leadership in helping others adopt children from other countries, Harry and Bertha Holt changed the lives of so many children and families. Now other people continue doing what Harry and Bertha Holt started through the Holts’ legacy, Holt International Children's Services. Harry and Bertha Holt believed God gave them a path that would change the world for the good, and it has.