

= An Assisted Elopement =

An Assisted Elopement is a 1910 American silent short comedy produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film focuses on Gladys and Charlie who meet each other on the train home and they become romantically interested in each other . It turns out their parents are friends and wish for them to get married , souring the relationship between them . In a ploy to get their children to elope , the fathers become bitter enemies in public and the couple elopes much to their enjoyment and intention . A surviving film still shows several of members of the cast , including Frank H. Crane , Violet Heming , and Alphonse Ethier . The film was released on August 30 , 1910 and saw a wide national release . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

The film is presumed lost as no known surviving copies of the film exist . A synopsis of the film was published in The Moving Picture World . It states : " Glade and Sears are next door neighbors and old friends . Glade has a daughter , while Sears has a son . The young people have never met , being away at school while the old folks have been cementing their friendship . As the two men own adjoining places , they believe that the best thing for the younger people to do is to get married . So they try to bring this about . Gladys Glade and Charlie Sears meet on the train while they are returning home and start a flirtation . Perhaps they would have married in the end , if the old folks hadn 't ' butted in . ' As it is , they lose all interest in each other . Then the fathers try another tack . They decide to be bitter enemies in public , hoping the opposition will bring the children together . The new plan works like a charm , and Gladys and Charlie , realizing their parents ' shortcomings , decide to elope . They do so , much to the satisfaction of Glade and Sears . "

= = Cast = =

Frank H. Crane
Violet Heming
Alphonse Ethier

= = Production = =

The writer of the scenario is unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . The film director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil . Film historian Q. David Bowers does not attribute a cameraman for this production , but at least two possible candidates exist . Blair Smith was the first cameraman of the Thanhouser company , but he was soon joined by Carl Louis Gregory who had years of experience as a still and motion picture photographer . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . Identification of three members of the cast come from a surviving film still in a Thanhouser advertisement . Other credits may have included Anna Rosemond , one of two leading ladies of the Thanhouser company in this era . One of the actors in the film was Frank H. Crane , a leading male actor of the company and also involved since the very beginnings of the Thanhouser Company . Bowers states that most of the credits are fragmentary for 1910 Thanhouser productions .

= = Release and reception = =

The one reel comedy , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on August 30 , 1910 . The film saw a wide national release , with advertisements in Kansas , Wisconsin , Pennsylvania , North Carolina , Nebraska , Arizona , and Oklahoma . The film was also shown by the Province Theatre in Vancouver , Canada . Though it had been released years prior to its examination by the Pennsylvania State Board of Censors of Moving Pictures , the film was approved without need any

modifications or censoring .

The New York Dramatic Mirror review was positive despite the plot having been produced previously . The reviewer wrote , " This film story has been done before and by an Independent producer , which prompts the wonder if the Independents would not do well to avoid borrowing - at least from each other . The Thanhouser producers have the excuse , however , in this particular case that the former telling of the story was a sad failure , while this one has pleasing qualities . Two fathers are determined that their children shall wed each other , but the young folks object to such cut and dried procedure , whereat the fathers pretend to quarrel and forbid the children to love , and the perverse youngsters at once elope , assisted secretly by the parents . The trick of having the boy join the girl in her apparent banishment by hiding in her trunk is the one discordant note in an otherwise plausible and human comedy . " The Moving Picture World was more brief , acknowledging the plausibility of the scenario and that the acting was convincing . The Moving Picture News review was also brief , stating , " The film calls for shrieks of laughter ; it deserved it , for it is built upon human nature . A story anyone can see and enjoy . " In 1912 , the American Film Manufacturing Company released the similarly titled An Assisted Elopement and the Selig Polyscope Company released its own An Assisted Elopement .