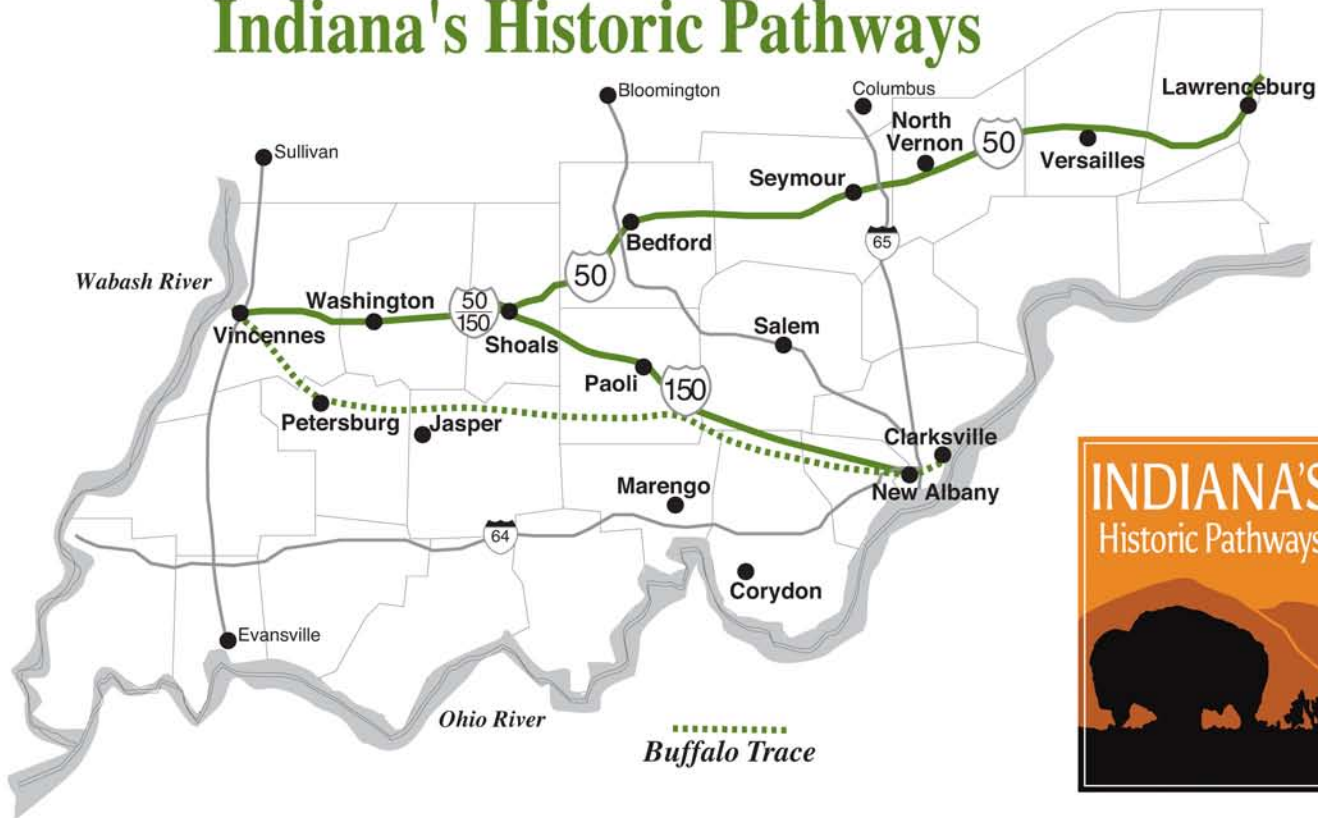


# Indiana's Historic Pathways

## A National Scenic Byway



# Indiana's Historic Pathways



Indiana's Historic Pathways is a National Scenic Byway that tells the story of early settlement and transportation in Indiana and westward migration. It began with the footpaths worn by the now extinct Eastern American bison on their annual trek between Kentucky and the Falls of the Ohio to the prairies of Illinois. These footpaths, known as the Buffalo Trace were later used by the native peoples and European settlers.

After the creation of the Indiana Territory in 1800, a road, constructed just north of the Buffalo Trace, served as a stagecoach and wagon route and eventually became U.S. 150. In the 1850s the railroad, along with a parallel road, provided east-west access across the region linking Cincinnati to St. Louis. Constructed in the 1920s and 30s, U.S. 50 linked the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Today it is still a major east-west federal highway crossing 15 states and the nation's capitol. Indiana's Historic Pathways was designated a National Scenic Byway on October 16, 2009.

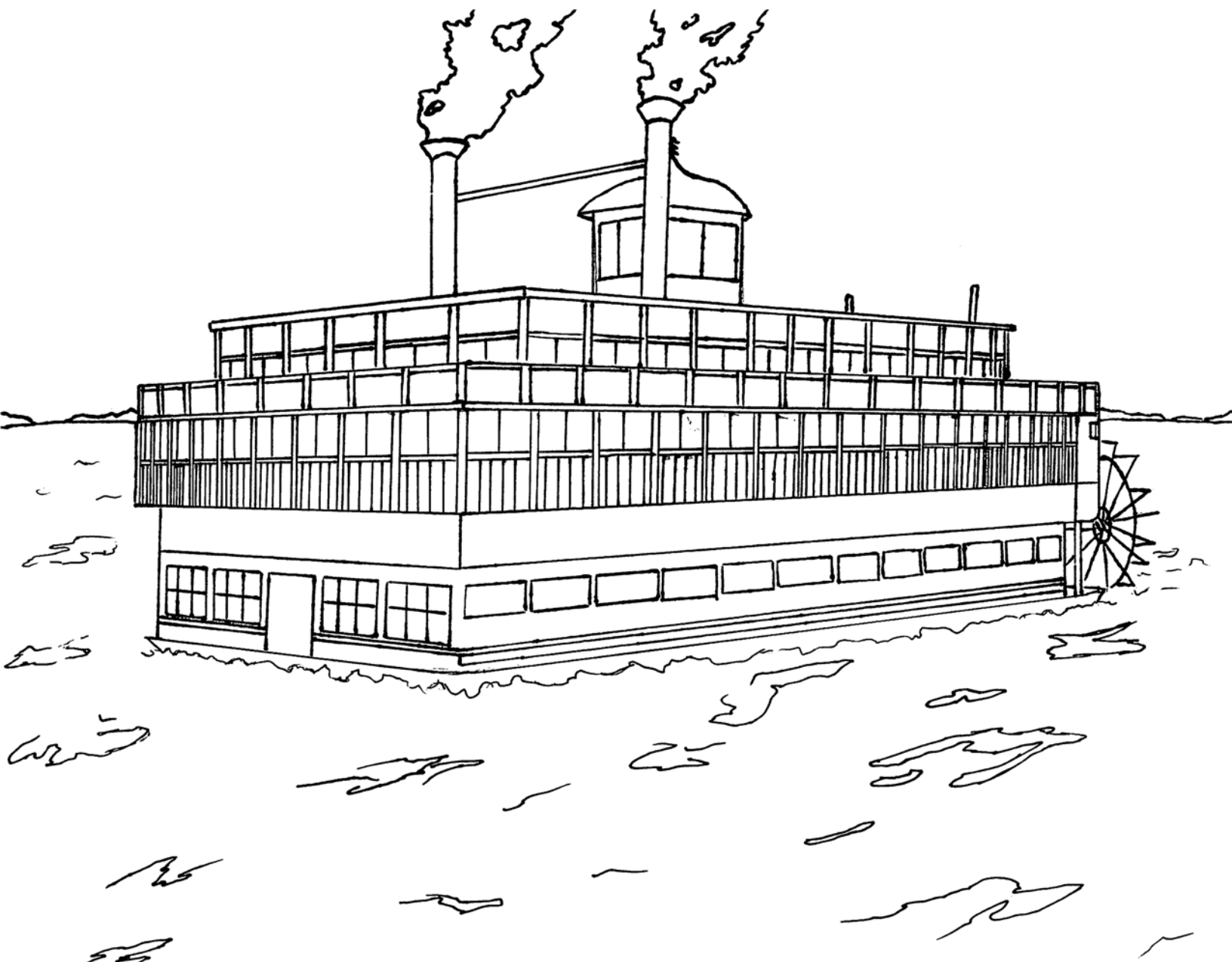
For more information, contact us at:

Indiana's Historic Pathways  
115 West Chestnut Street  
Jeffersonville, IN, 47130  
[www.indianahistoricpathways.org](http://www.indianahistoricpathways.org)  
1-800-489-4474

During the early to mid-1800s, Indiana was an integral part of the Underground Railroad due to its proximity to southern slave states. The Underground Railroad was a network of safe houses called “stations” that were used to hide slaves during their journey north. “Conductors” were people who guided slaves to the next safe house. According to legend, a song called Follow the Drinking Gourd was used by a conductor named Peg Leg Joe to guide escaping slaves. “Drinking gourd” is a code name for the Big Dipper, a star constellation which points to the North Star, which escaping slaves used to find their way north.

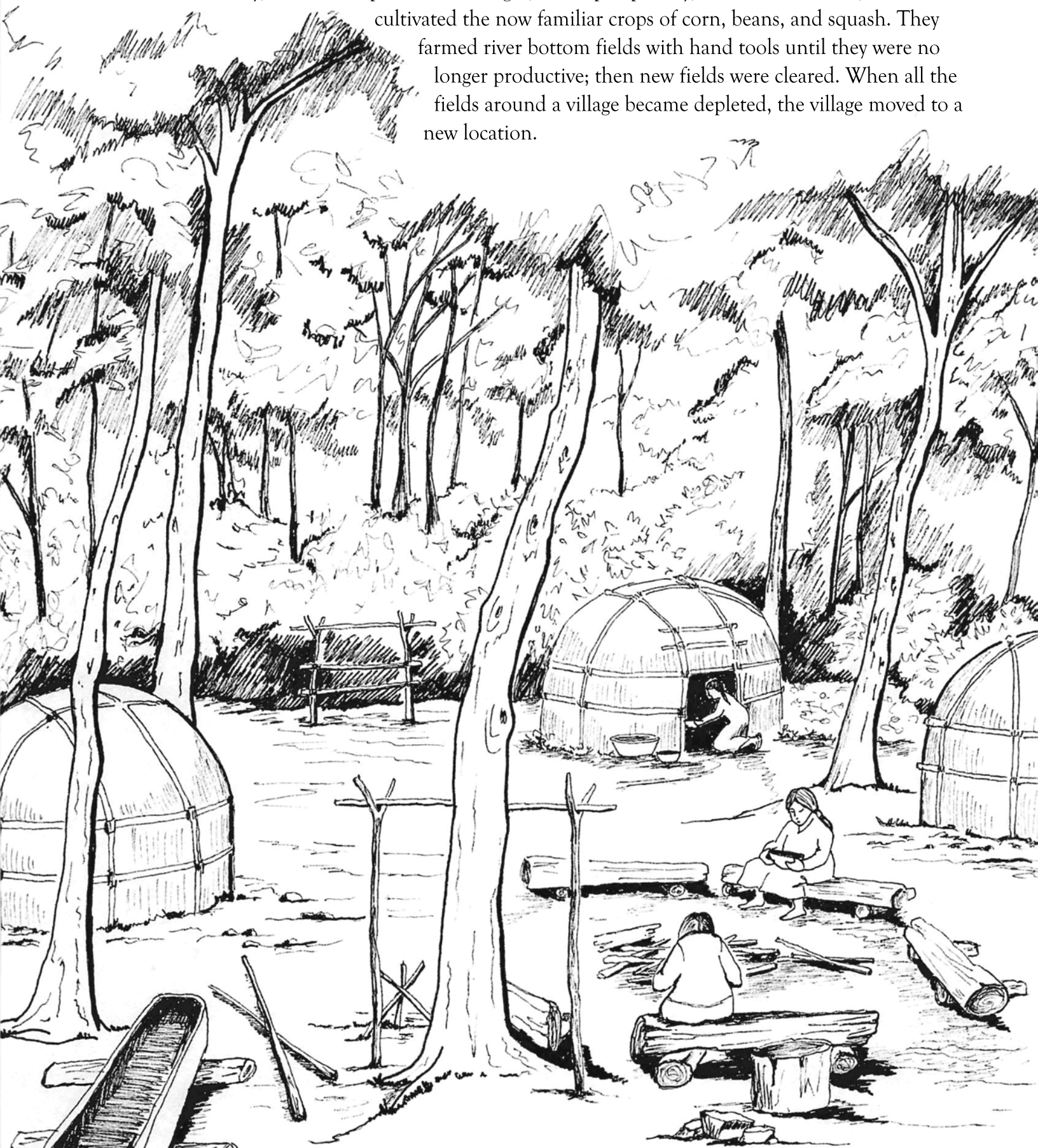


Robert Fulton, who had ties to Indiana and owned over 1,000 acres along the Ohio River near Tell City, developed the first efficient steamboat in 1807. A paddle boat, sometimes called a paddle steamer, is a type of steamboat that moves along the water using a large paddle wheel usually turned by steam power. This type of ship allowed boats to travel against the water current so that goods and passengers could be transported upriver or downriver. Paddle boats began traveling on the Ohio River in the early 1800s and were a common sight for the next 100 years.





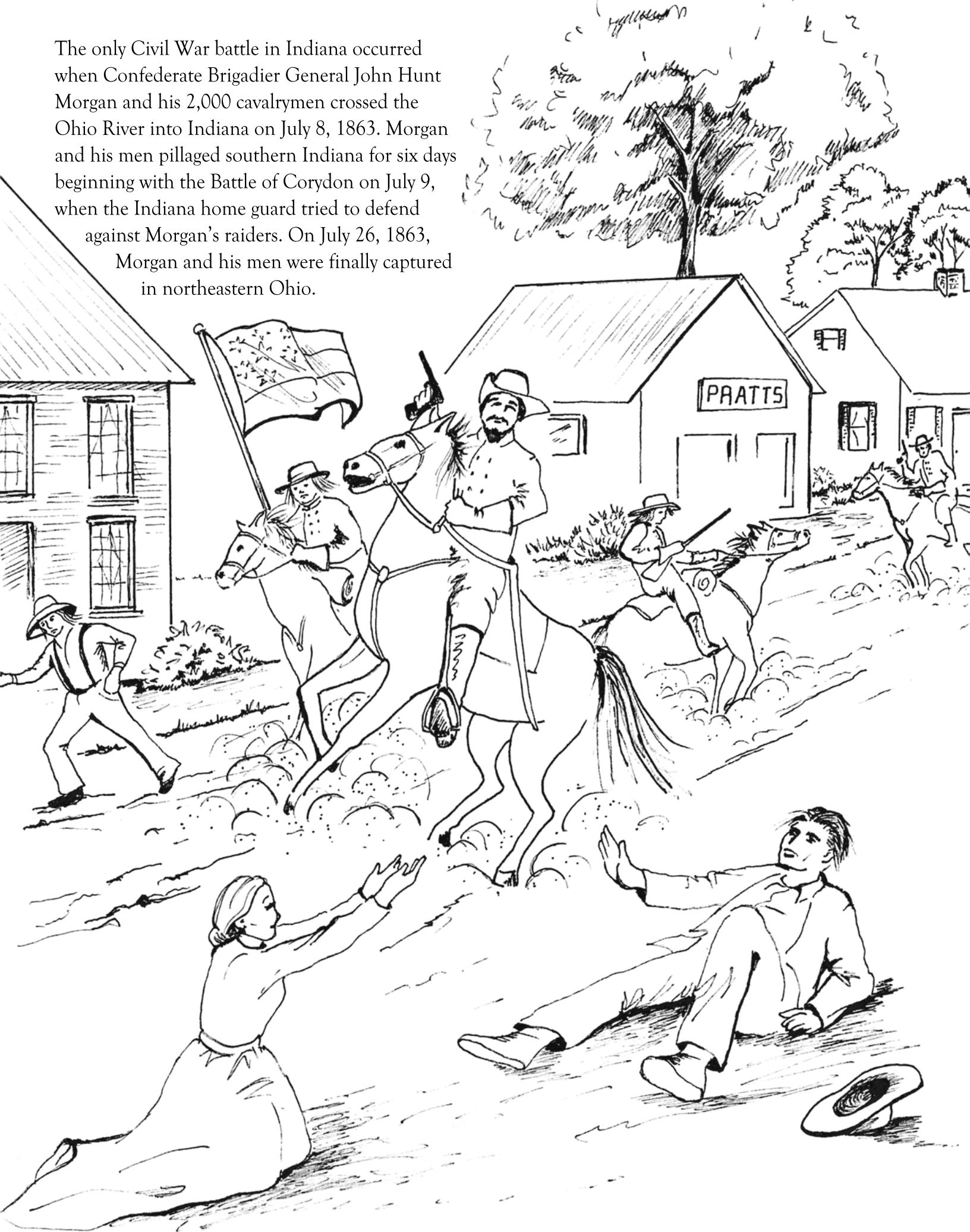
Southern Indiana was inhabited from as early as 12,000 years ago by Native Americans. The earliest inhabitants traveled through the area as bands of hunter/gatherers in a time when mastodons, elk, and bear roamed the land. Later, Native American cultural groups established seasonal camps and villages. They continued to hunt and gather, but they also began to cultivate native seed plants. Over time they became more sedentary, established permanent villages, developed pottery, continued to hunt, and cultivated the now familiar crops of corn, beans, and squash. They farmed river bottom fields with hand tools until they were no longer productive; then new fields were cleared. When all the fields around a village became depleted, the village moved to a new location.

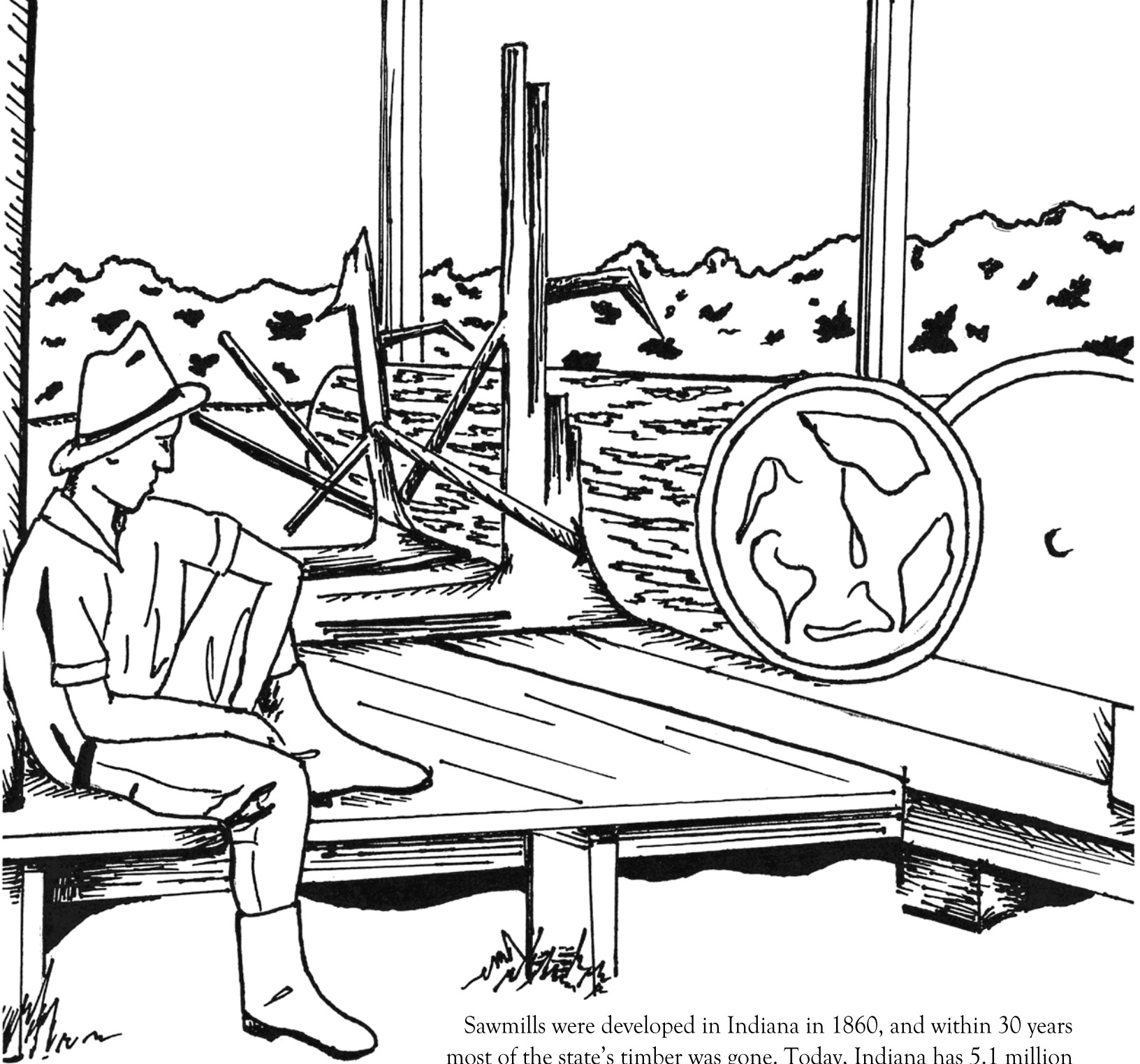


Southern Indiana's first school was built in Washington County in 1809. Two more were built by 1815. These school houses were small one-room cabins with simple stools and writing desks. Blackboards were not used until 1820, and lead pencils were not available until the 1830s. Until then, students wrote with slate pencils or goose quills. Ink was commonly made by boiling down bark from red maple trees. Children made their own notebooks by folding large sheets of paper into smaller sheets and cutting a cover out of course brown paper. The books were then sewn together, and students drew lines on the paper using a ruler.



The only Civil War battle in Indiana occurred when Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan and his 2,000 cavalrymen crossed the Ohio River into Indiana on July 8, 1863. Morgan and his men pillaged southern Indiana for six days beginning with the Battle of Corydon on July 9, when the Indiana home guard tried to defend against Morgan's raiders. On July 26, 1863, Morgan and his men were finally captured in northeastern Ohio.





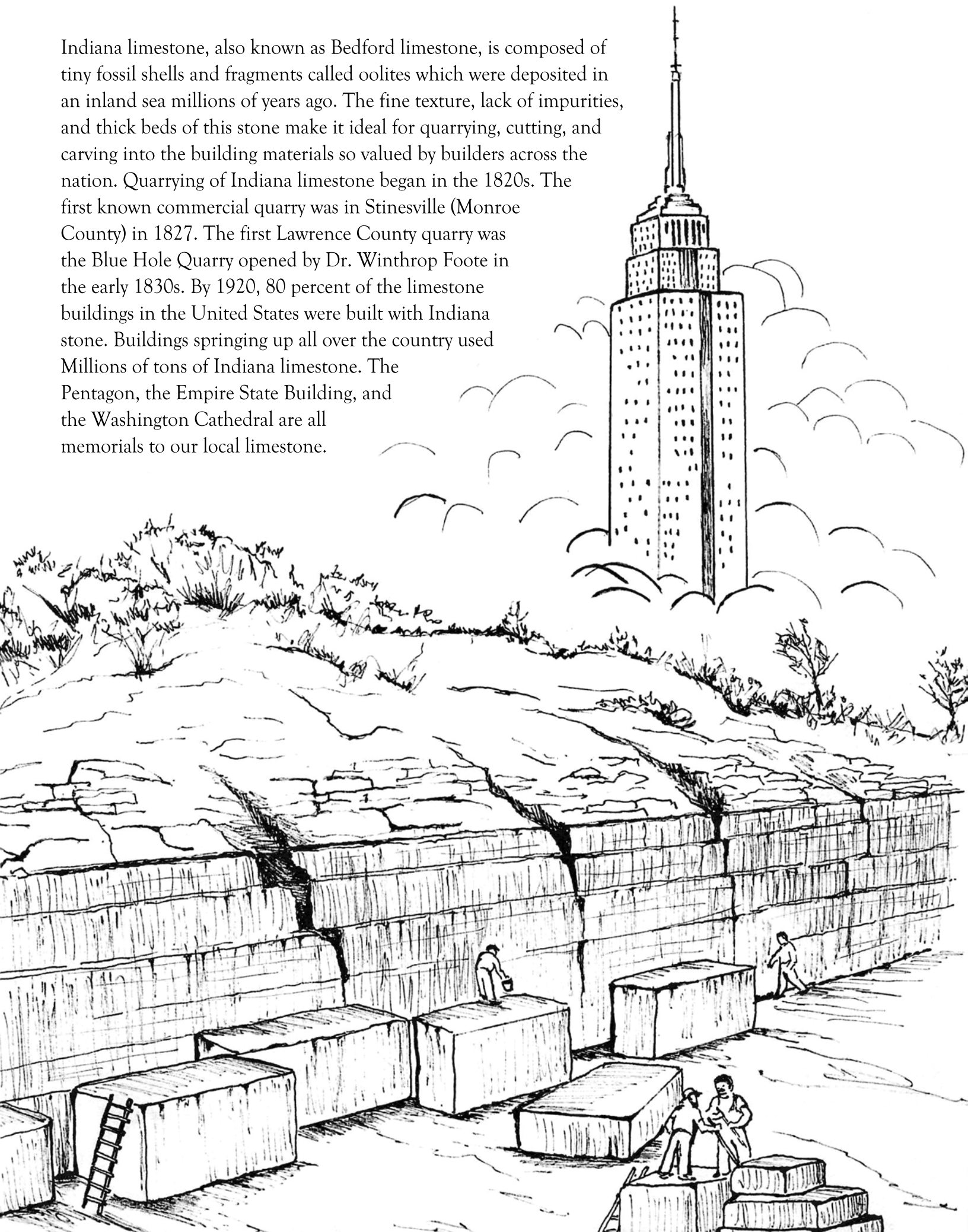
Sawmills were developed in Indiana in 1860, and within 30 years most of the state's timber was gone. Today, Indiana has 5.1 million acres of forest land and its forests are thriving. State, federal, and private landowners work together to manage Indiana's forests.

Indiana still has many active sawmills but today, they work to sustainably harvest trees.

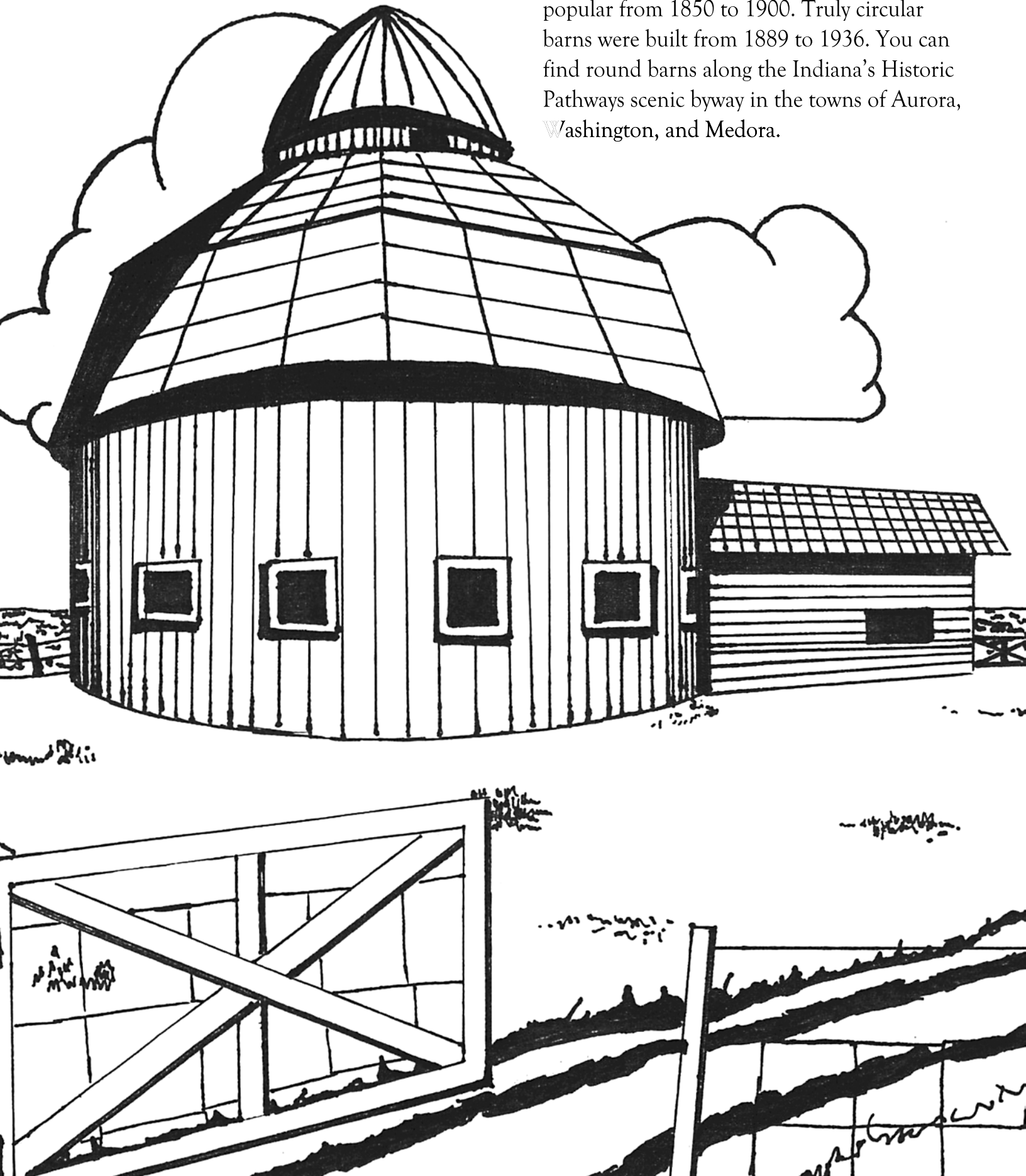




Indiana limestone, also known as Bedford limestone, is composed of tiny fossil shells and fragments called oolites which were deposited in an inland sea millions of years ago. The fine texture, lack of impurities, and thick beds of this stone make it ideal for quarrying, cutting, and carving into the building materials so valued by builders across the nation. Quarrying of Indiana limestone began in the 1820s. The first known commercial quarry was in Stinesville (Monroe County) in 1827. The first Lawrence County quarry was the Blue Hole Quarry opened by Dr. Winthrop Foote in the early 1830s. By 1920, 80 percent of the limestone buildings in the United States were built with Indiana stone. Buildings springing up all over the country used Millions of tons of Indiana limestone. The Pentagon, the Empire State Building, and the Washington Cathedral are all memorials to our local limestone.



Though round barns were not as popular as traditional barn designs, their unique shape makes them noticeable. Octagonal barns were popular from 1850 to 1900. Truly circular barns were built from 1889 to 1936. You can find round barns along the Indiana's Historic Pathways scenic byway in the towns of Aurora, Washington, and Medora.







Overlooking the Ohio River, Hillforest mansion was the home of industrialist Thomas Gaff between 1855 and 1891. Thomas was involved in the shipping industry and owned many steamboats that transported shipments up and down the Ohio River. The curved porches, arched windows, and circular third floor of Hillforest Mansion are inspired by the steamboats that used to travel the river.

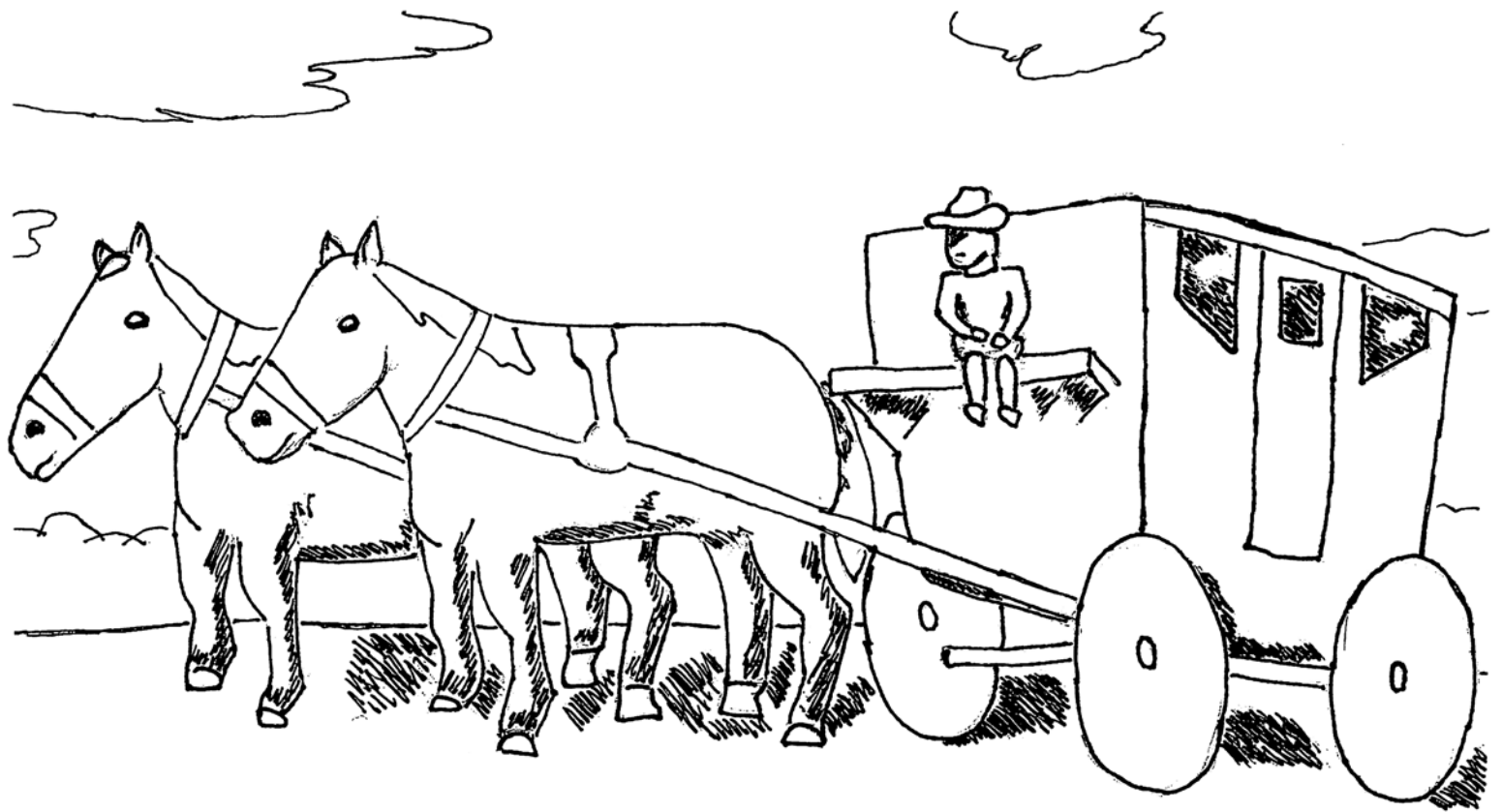
# Word Search

How many Indiana's Historic Pathways words can you find?

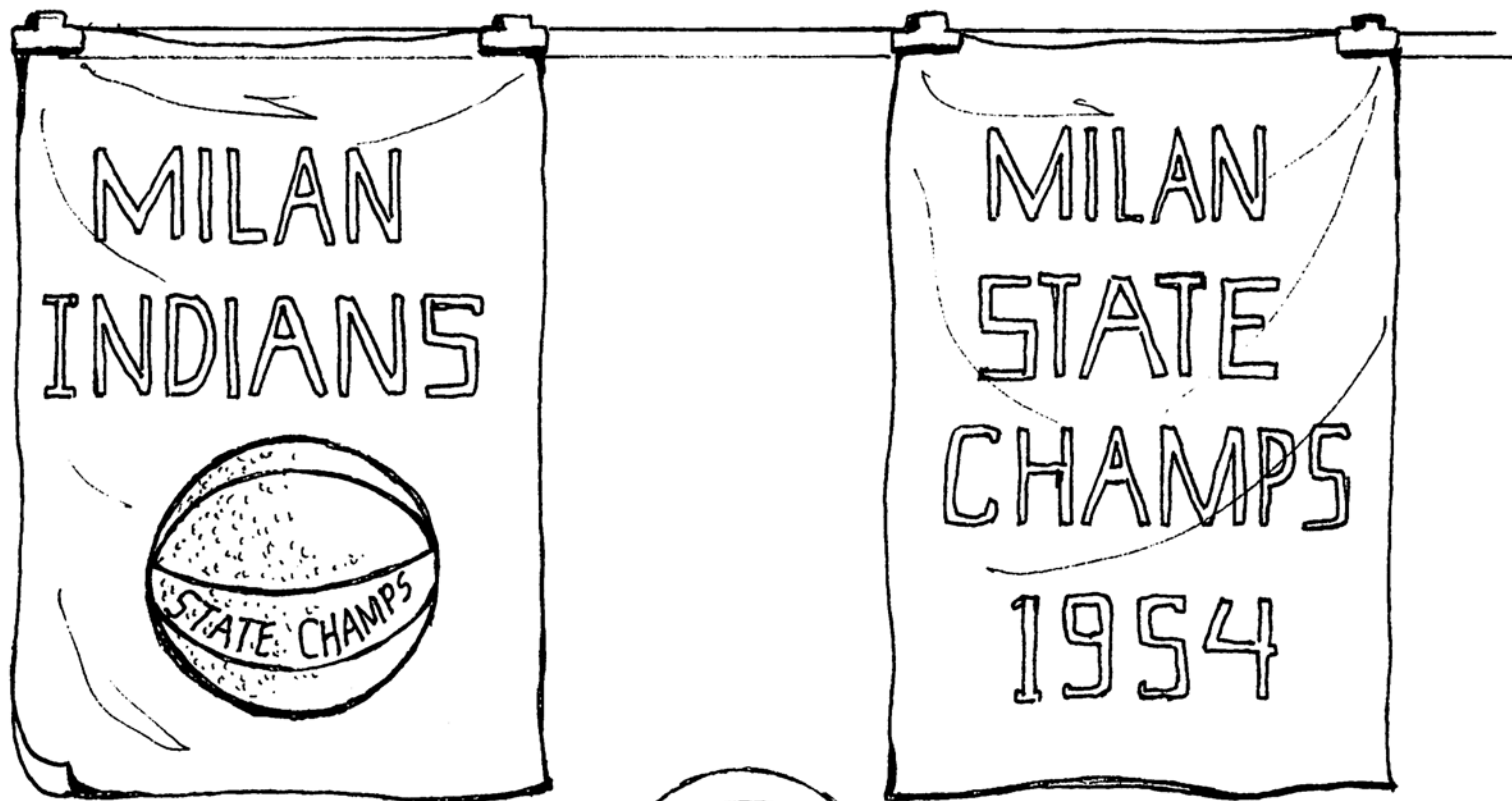
Q M J O B U C W T G E C M C Q F G E B G  
D Z O O U F A T S T A G E C O A C H M P  
M O A N S T R I N G F O R T P O R Q G G  
W A E Q O A D R V M J S L R A Q D Y W H  
H Q E O N N I Z O B S U I R D M F R I I  
O A Z Z M J N M D U O A M W D U H Z N L  
E D B J M F A H D F Z E E W L D P G I L  
V H F G D K L R Q F Q W S J E K D R L F  
R I W T F R W O D A C F T D B T Y I J O  
Y G J T J P I U L L E V O P O V O S V R  
M H B C E G B N J O K M N N A J U S A E  
A W N P W S X D K I D X E V T N A O W S  
R A J S Y U T B G I B P M I C J N M B T  
E Y I N W L W A U J N V I N C E N N E S  
N J S K S N A R M T S G U W R C K W S P  
G B I I Z H N N K R P V G K S H Q S Y Q  
O M F N B J M E C Y A O Y O U P Q P M S  
B W L H C R J V R U W W D R U U F J W I  
P U C J V I D C E A A H U C F R P A F G  
P Y U U E O Z T O A X D T K I R D U C B

Buffalo  
Hillforest  
Vincennes  
Highway  
Stagecoach  
String fort  
Monon

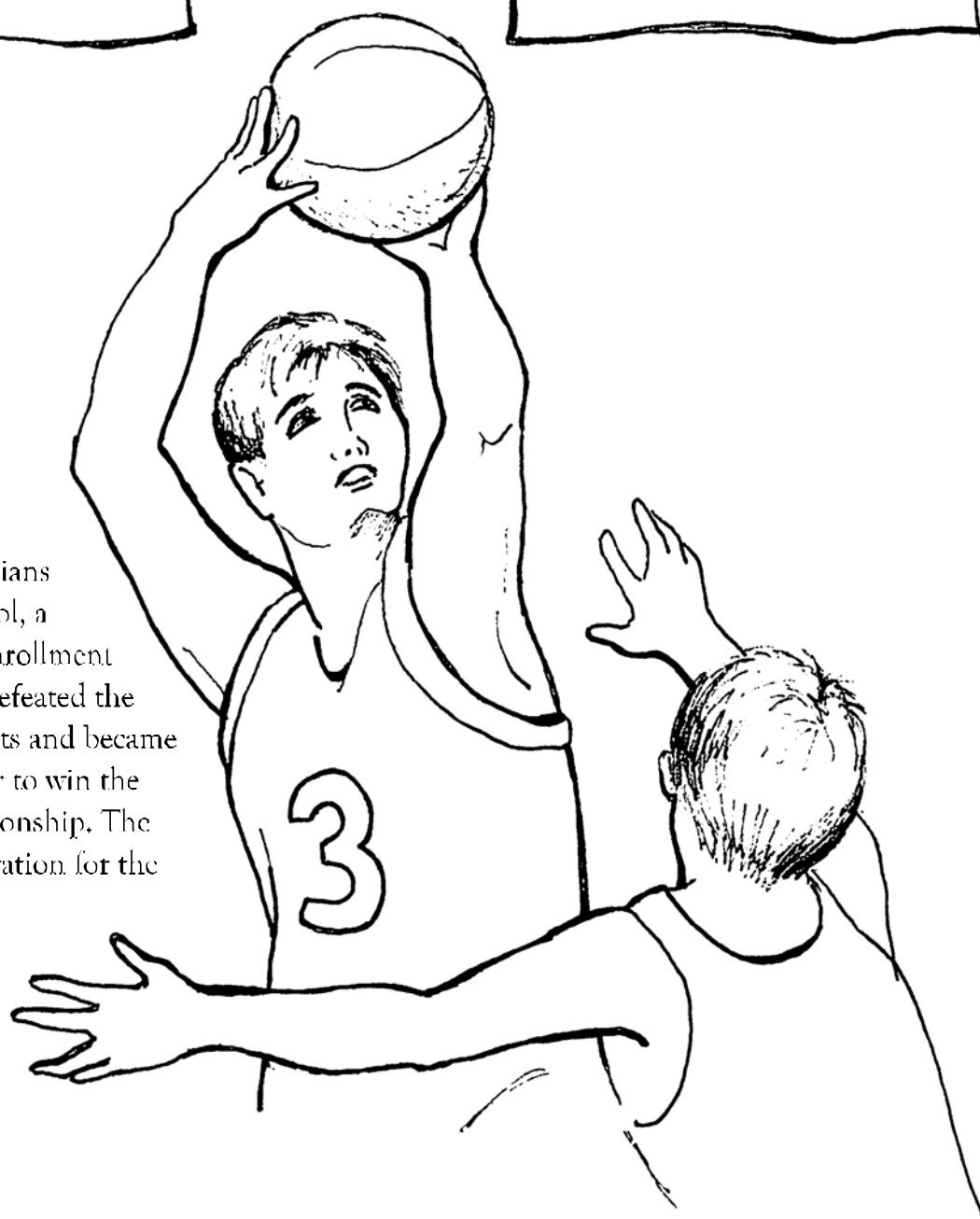
Grissom  
Round barn  
Cardinal  
Marengo  
Limestone  
Paddle boat  
Drinking gourd



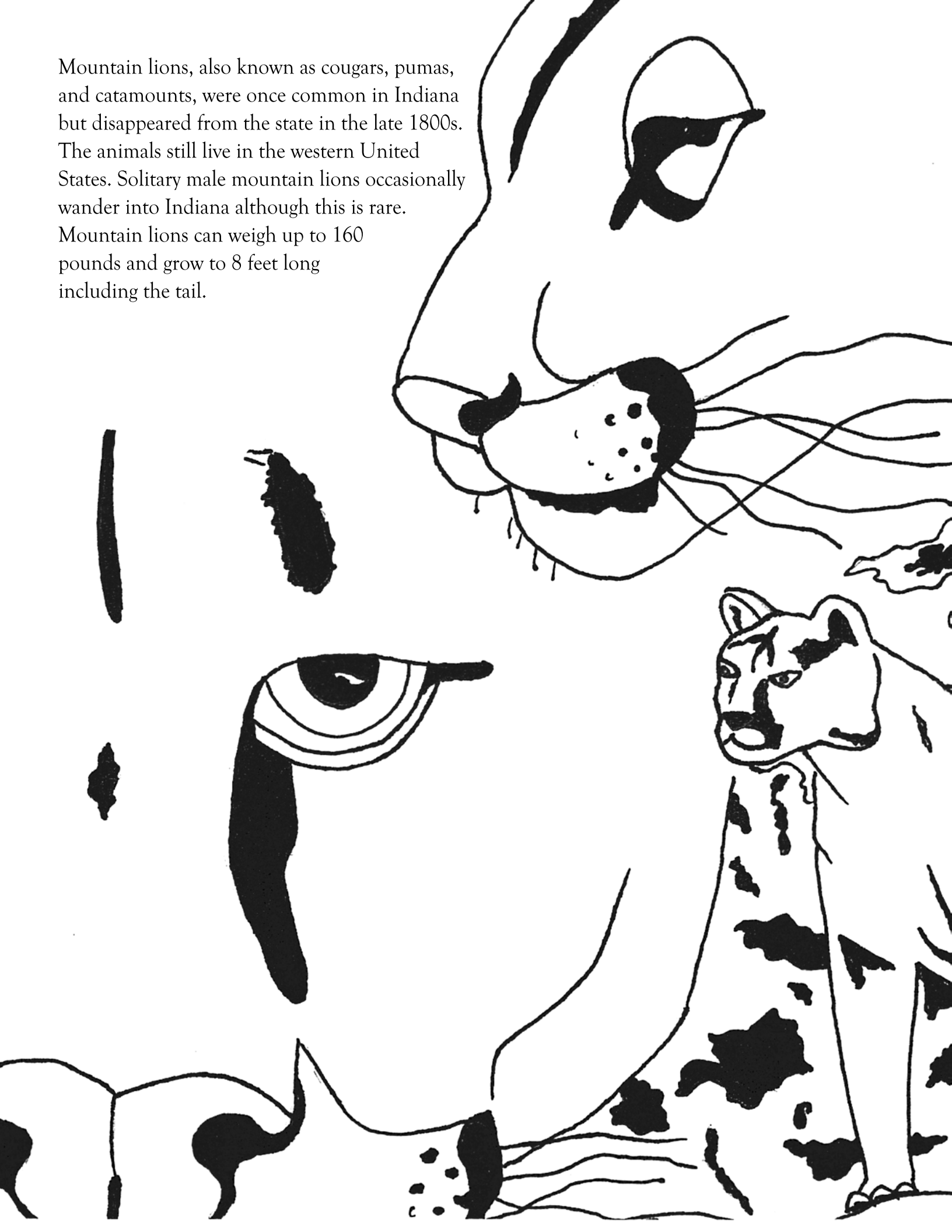
Before railroads became prominent in the 1840s and 1850s, many people travelled by stagecoach. A popular route was established along the old Buffalo Trace path and took passengers between Vincennes and New Albany. This route roughly follows State Road 150 today. Stagecoaches could hold up to nine people inside and a few more on the roof. Windows did not have glass because the roads were so rough that the glass would break. Many towns along the route had a stagecoach stop to feed passengers and take care of the horses.

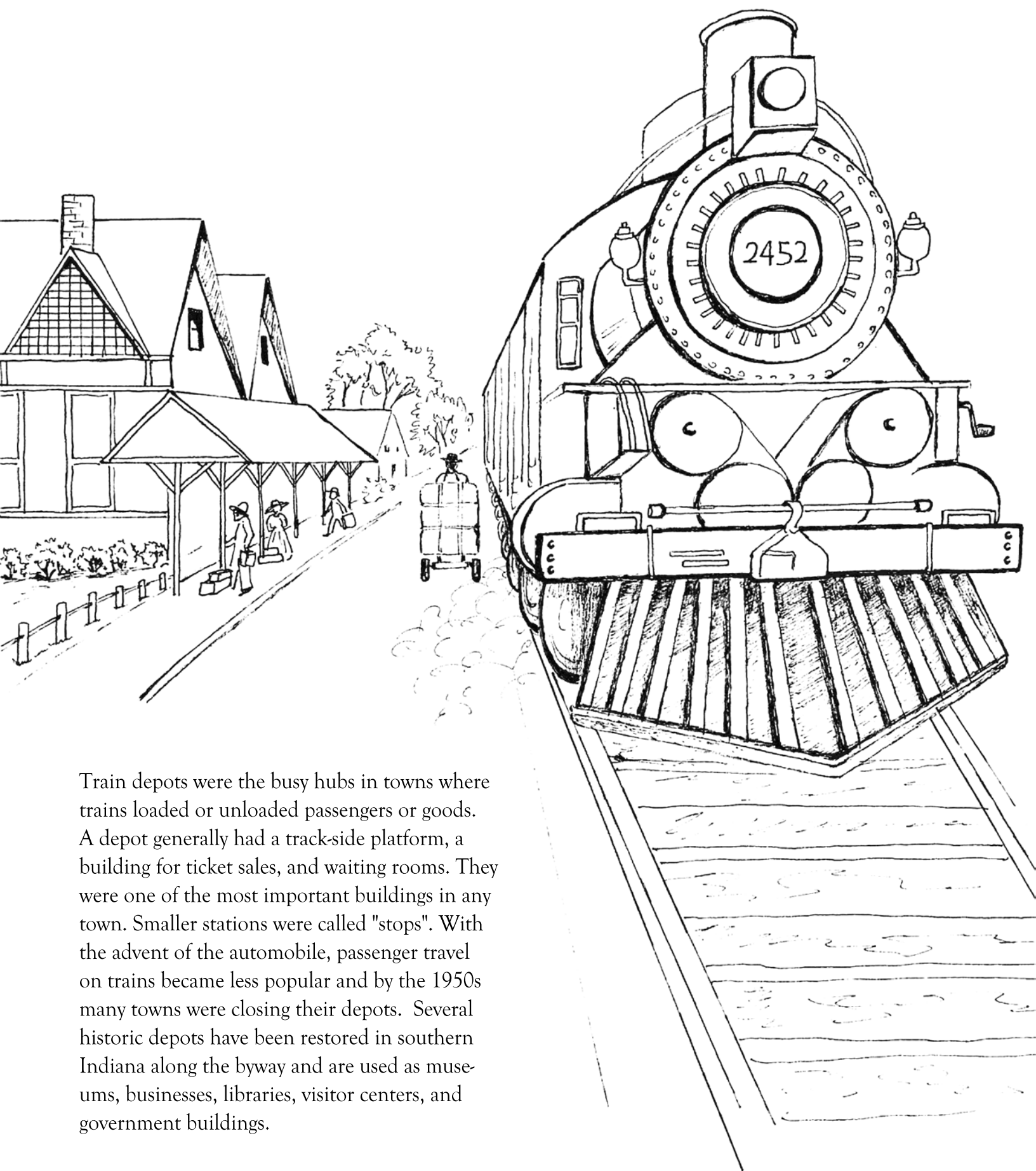


In 1954, the Milan Indians from Milan High School, a small school with an enrollment of only 162 students, defeated the Muncie Central Bearcats and became the smallest school ever to win the state basketball championship. The team became the inspiration for the 1986 film *Hoosiers*.



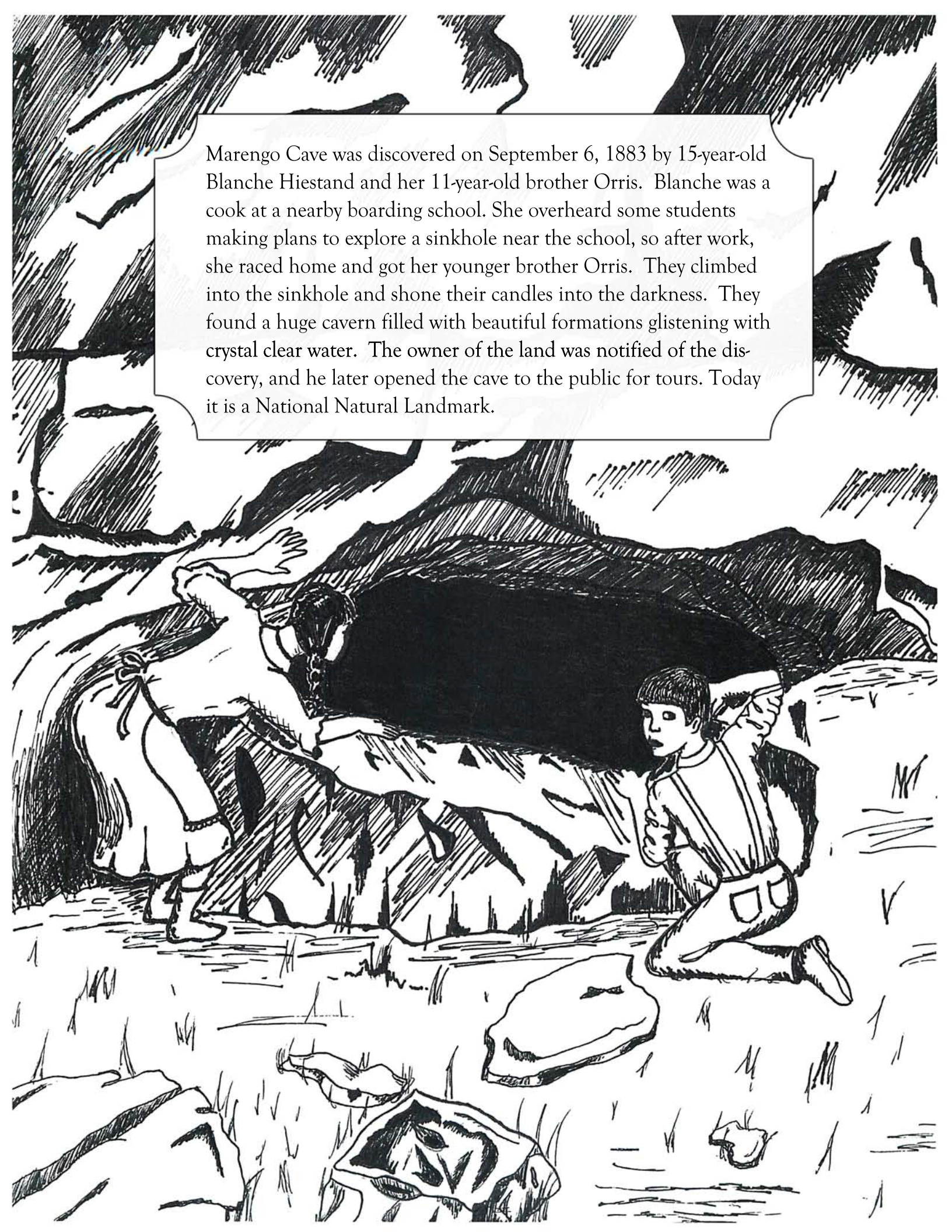
Mountain lions, also known as cougars, pumas, and catamounts, were once common in Indiana but disappeared from the state in the late 1800s. The animals still live in the western United States. Solitary male mountain lions occasionally wander into Indiana although this is rare. Mountain lions can weigh up to 160 pounds and grow to 8 feet long including the tail.





Train depots were the busy hubs in towns where trains loaded or unloaded passengers or goods. A depot generally had a track-side platform, a building for ticket sales, and waiting rooms. They were one of the most important buildings in any town. Smaller stations were called "stops". With the advent of the automobile, passenger travel on trains became less popular and by the 1950s many towns were closing their depots. Several historic depots have been restored in southern Indiana along the byway and are used as museums, businesses, libraries, visitor centers, and government buildings.





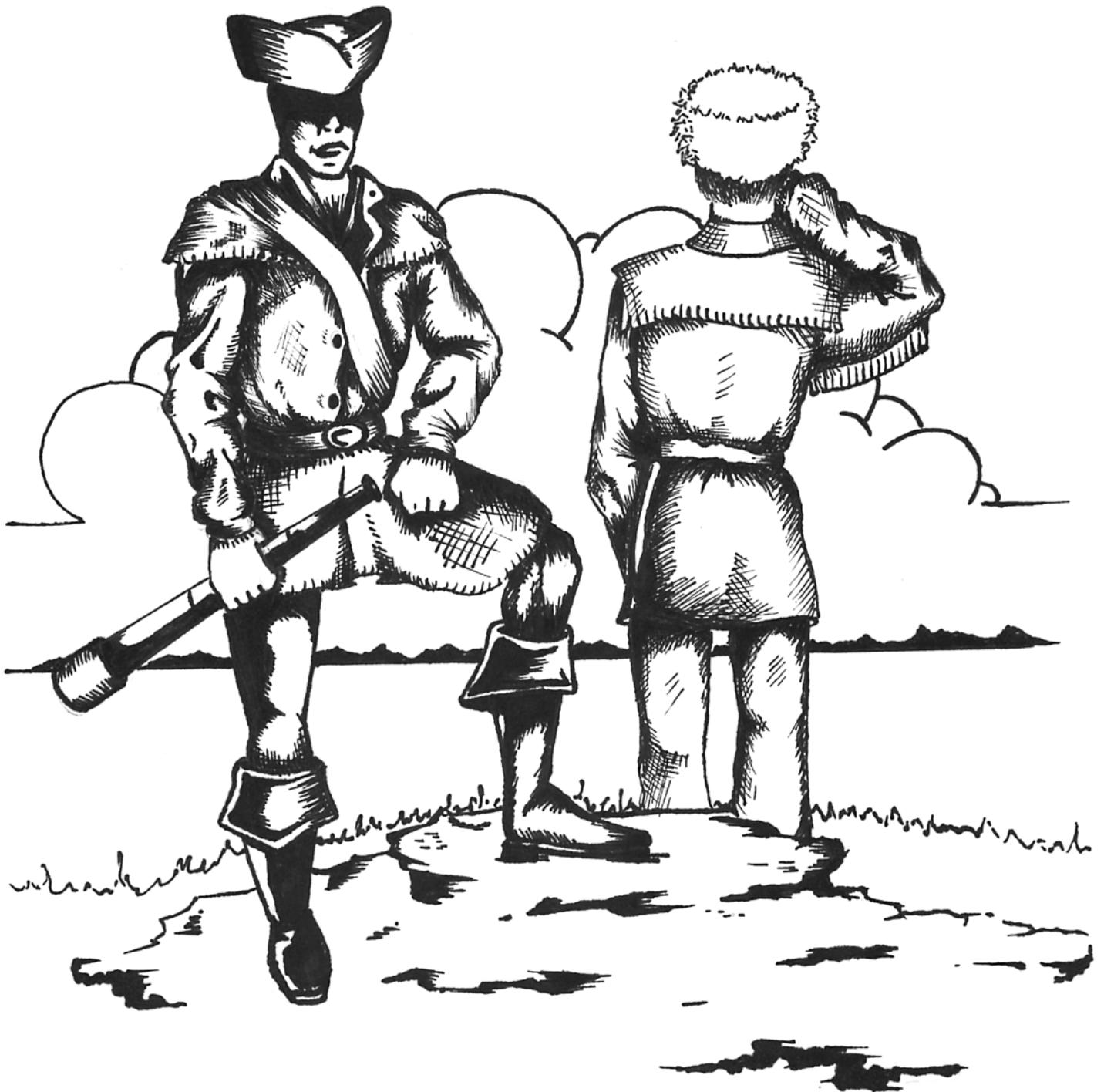
Marengo Cave was discovered on September 6, 1883 by 15-year-old Blanche Hiestand and her 11-year-old brother Orris. Blanche was a cook at a nearby boarding school. She overheard some students making plans to explore a sinkhole near the school, so after work, she raced home and got her younger brother Orris. They climbed into the sinkhole and shone their candles into the darkness. They found a huge cavern filled with beautiful formations glistening with crystal clear water. The owner of the land was notified of the discovery, and he later opened the cave to the public for tours. Today it is a National Natural Landmark.

## Did You Know?

### Fun facts about Indiana's Historic Pathways

- 1** Schimpff's Confectionery is a candy store and museum in Jeffersonville that has been open for over 125 years.
- 2** The first tomato juice was served at French Lick Springs Hotel.
- 3** Bruceville, a town just north of Vincennes, is home to a 20 foot peach statue.
- 4** Bedford is the Limestone Capital of the World.
- 5** The Colgate Clock in Jeffersonville is the second largest clock in the world.
- 6** In 1866, the first train robbery in the United States was carried out by the Reno Gang in the town of Seymour.
- 7** William Henry Harrison, the 9th President of the United States, used to live in Vincennes. His home is now a museum.
- 8** At 60 feet tall and 20 feet in diameter, Jug Rock in the town of Shoals is the only freestanding table rock formation east of the Mississippi River.
- 9** In Bedford's Bluespring Caverns, you can take a boat ride on the longest navigable stretch of underground river in the world.
- 10** The 390-million-year-old fossil beds of Falls of the Ohio State Park are among the largest, naturally exposed, Devonian fossil beds in the world.
- 11** The town of Pekin's Fourth of July Festival has been held every single year since 1830.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was the first American expedition to cross what is now the western portion of the United States. The expedition was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson shortly after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, consisting of a select group of U.S. Army volunteers under the command of Captain Meriwether Lewis and his close friend Second Lieutenant William Clark. Their perilous Corps of Discovery lasted from May 1804 to September 1806. Their goal was to explore and map the newly acquired territory. Lewis and Clark embarked on their journey from Clark's cabin in Clarksville. The land of Clark's home site is now the Falls of the Ohio State Park, and a 19th century cabin like the one Clark used can be found at the park.

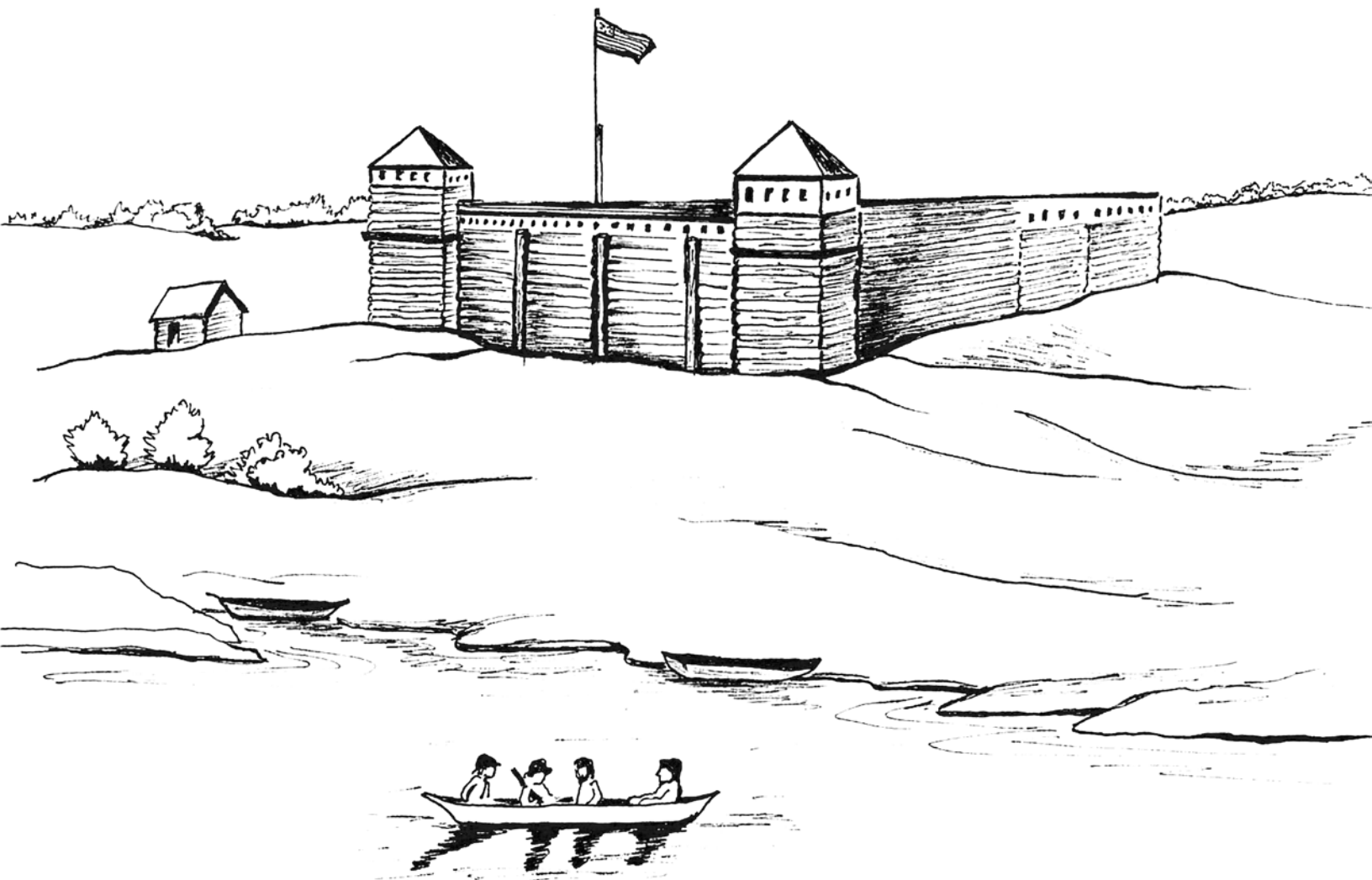


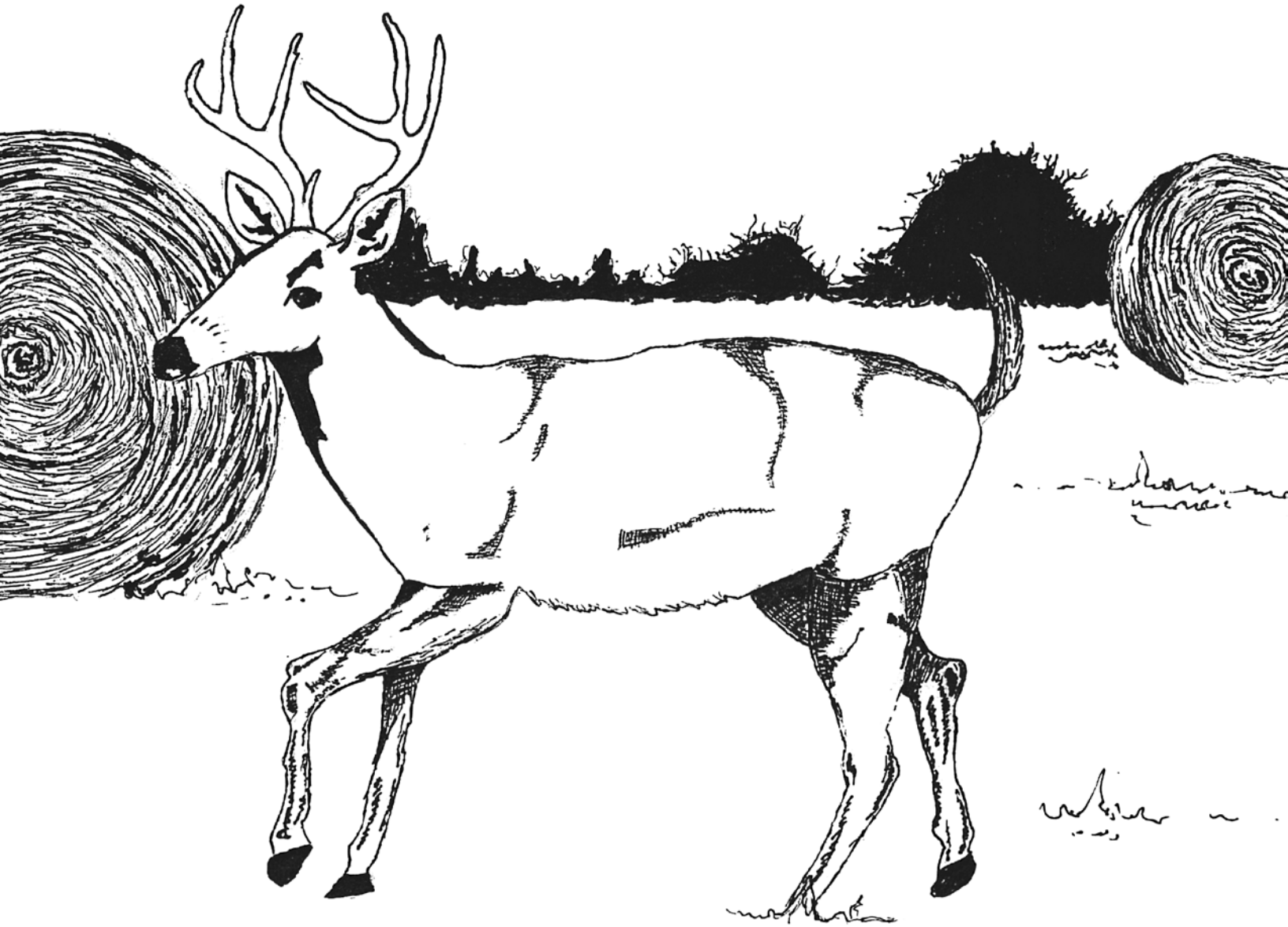


The Wabash River along Knox County was used as a highway by French explorers, traders, and missionaries in the early 1700s. Vincennes, Indiana's oldest city, was established in 1732 as a French fur trading post by François-Marie Bissot, Sieur de Vincennes who encouraged other French settlers to move there. In 1800, the city of Vincennes became the first capital of the Indiana Territory.



Several forts existed along Indiana's Historic Pathways in the 1700s and early 1800s. French, British, and American forts were built in Vincennes from 1732 to 1812 including Fort Sackville, Fort Knox, and Fort Knox II. Fort Sackville began as a British outpost in 1777. George Rogers Clark captured the fort for the Americans in 1779. The new Fort Knox was later built nearby to serve as the western-most American military outpost. To separate the fort from the town, Fort Knox II was built three miles north of Vincennes in 1803. In the early 1800s, due to the conflict between Native Americans and settlers, a series of String Forts were built along major travel routes across southern Indiana. These were generally within a half hour running distance apart and were fortified homes or forts.

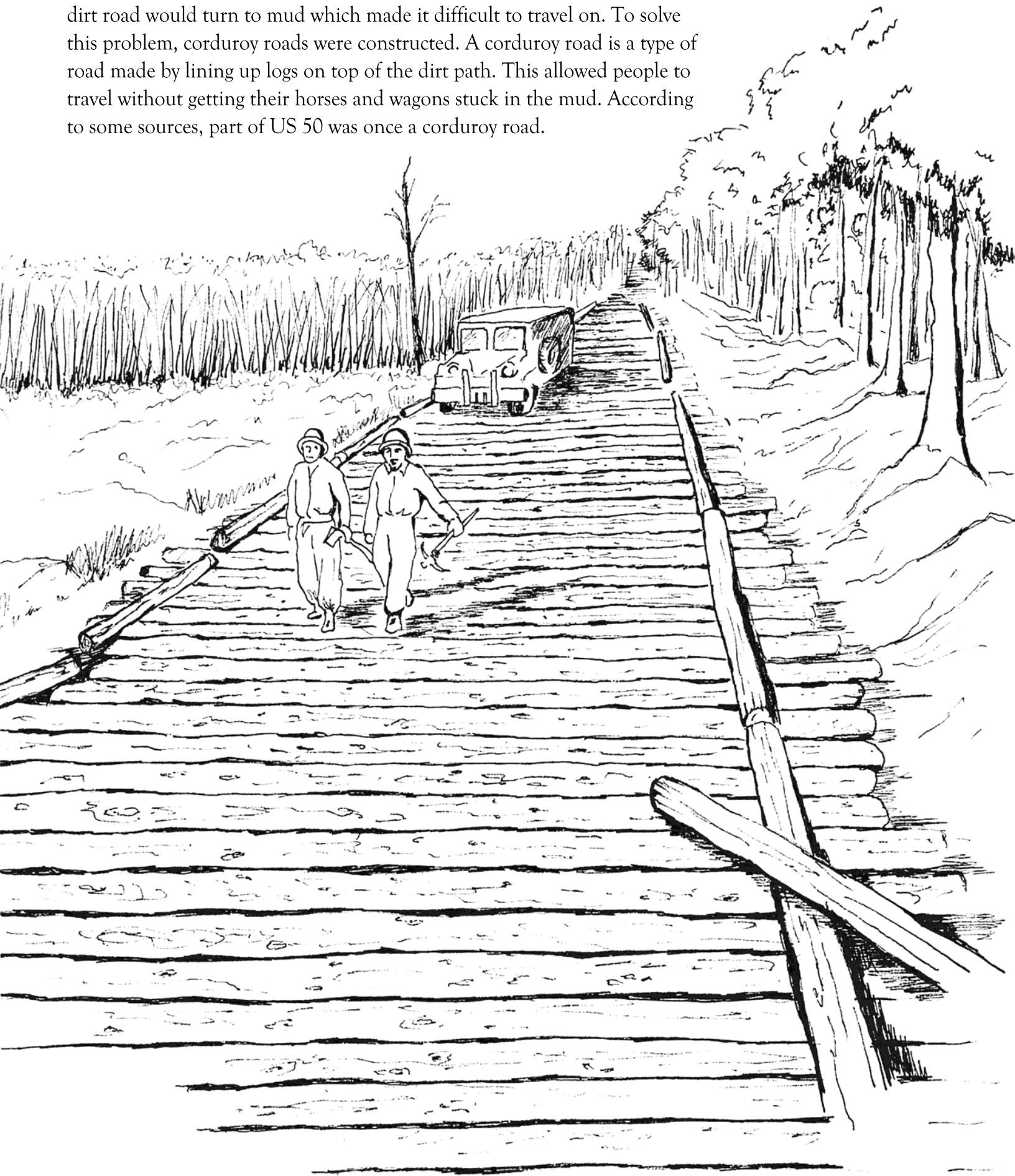




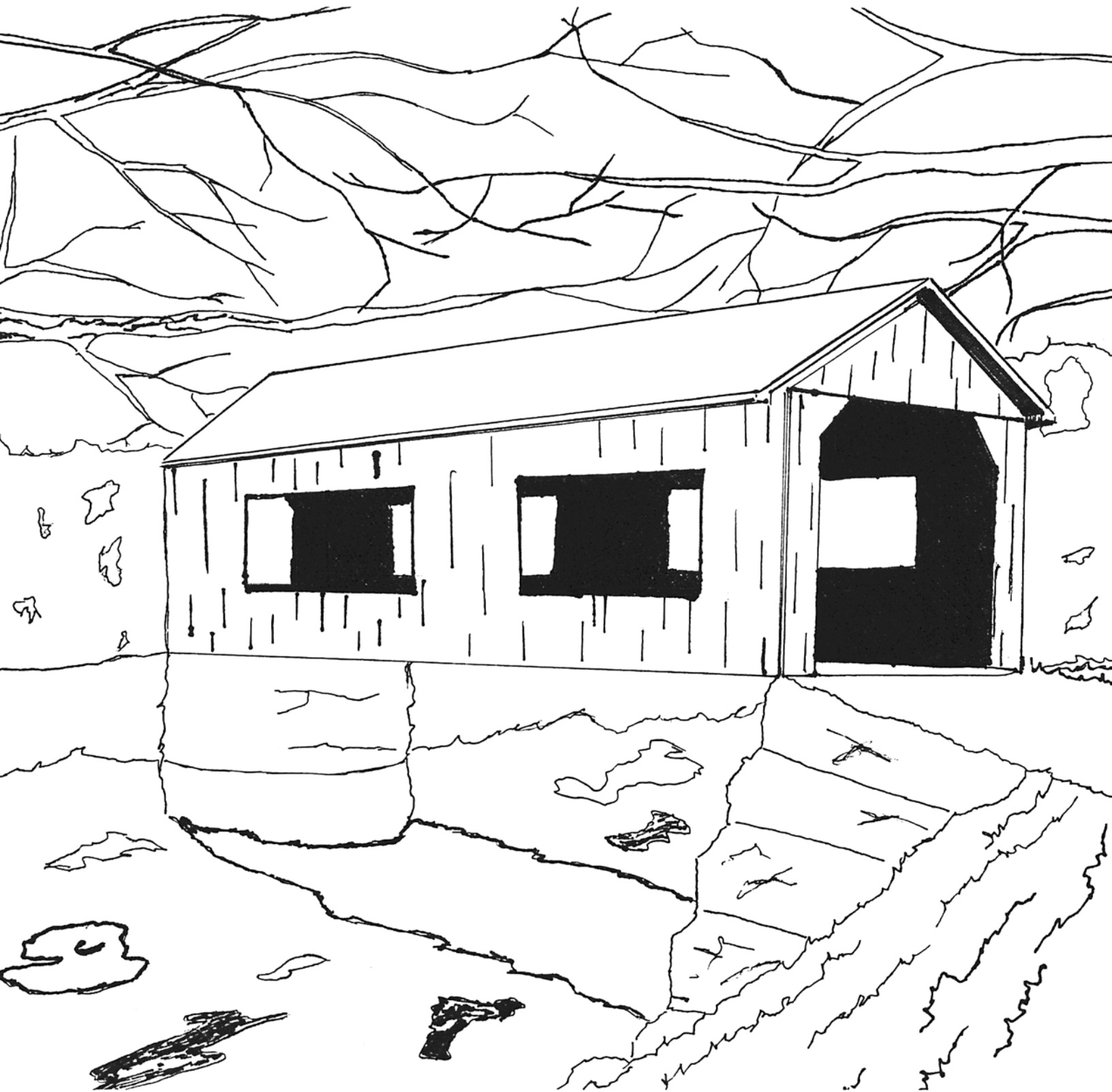
Whitetail deer were plentiful and were important for food to Native Americans. However once pioneers settled Indiana, deer were hunted until the last deer was gone by 1930. Restoration of the deer was funded by hunters. Deer were brought in from Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. Deer numbers grew until the 1980s when deer herds reached capacity in Indiana. Today Indiana deer herds are among the best managed populations in the country.

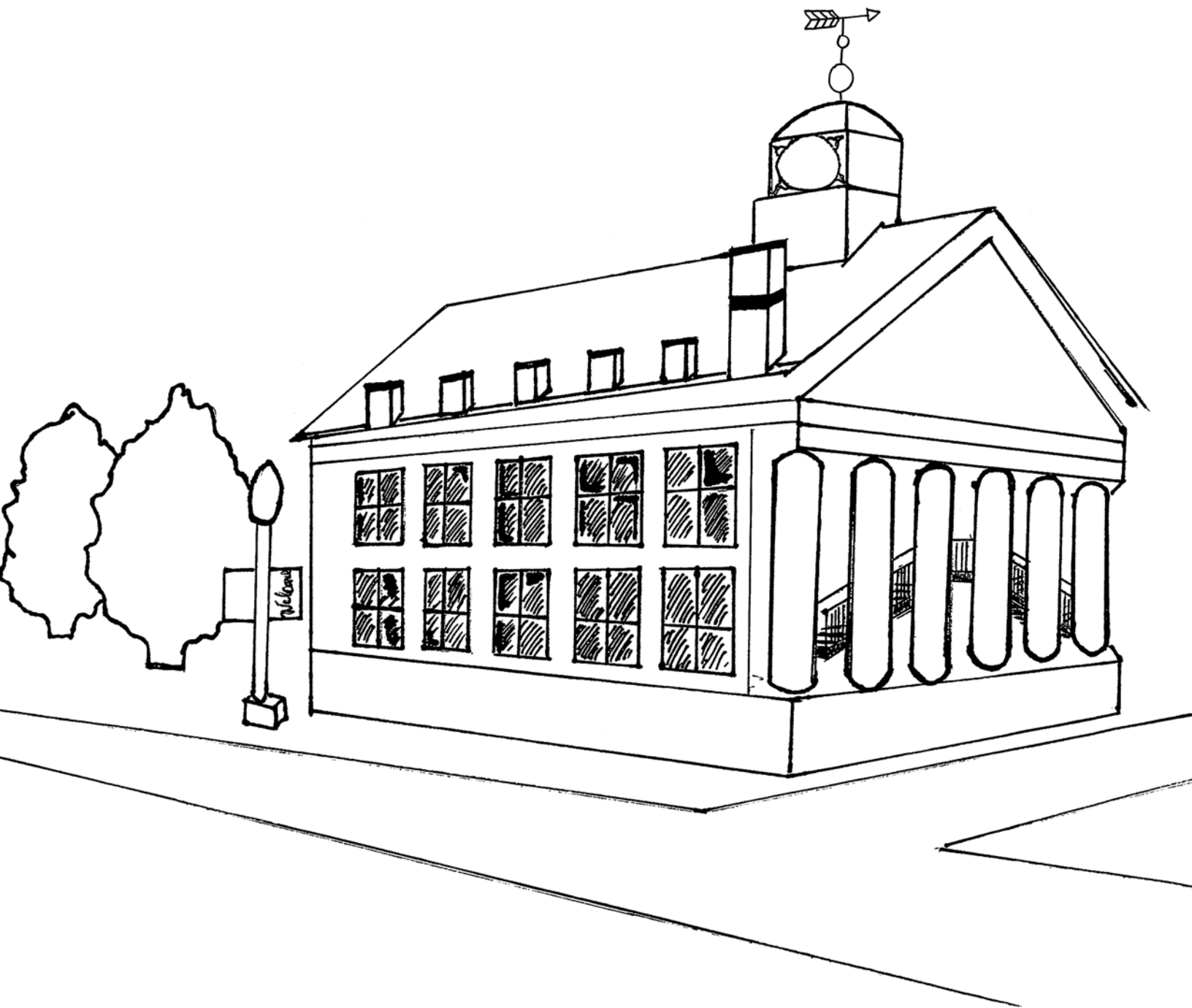


In the 1800s, most roads were made of dirt. In low or swampy areas, the dirt road would turn to mud which made it difficult to travel on. To solve this problem, corduroy roads were constructed. A corduroy road is a type of road made by lining up logs on top of the dirt path. This allowed people to travel without getting their horses and wagons stuck in the mud. According to some sources, part of US 50 was once a corduroy road.

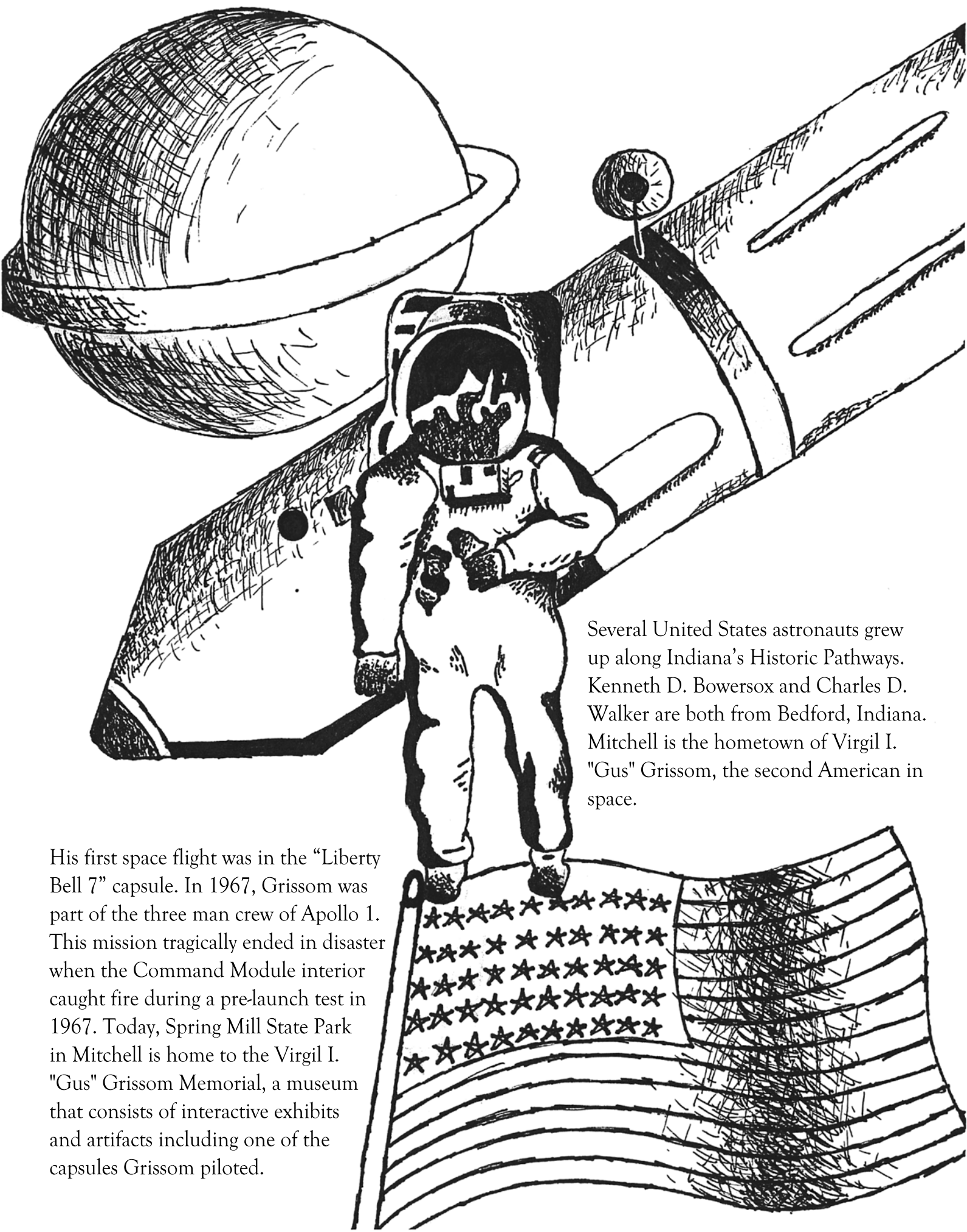


Before the days of treated lumber, wooden bridges lasted only 10 to 15 years because of rain and sun. Someone discovered that by building walls and a roof over the bridge, they would last for decades. The roof protected the bridge, but it also provided shelter for travelers who could take cover during storms. There were also horses who wouldn't cross bridges over fast water. The bridge walls hid the water, so they would cross without fear. Most covered bridges in the United State were built in the 1800s. There are several covered bridges along the Indiana's Historic Pathways scenic byway including Busching Bridge in Versailles State Park and the restored Medora Covered Bridge in Medora. The Medora Covered Bridge is the longest spanning historic covered bridge in the United States and regularly welcomes visitors from all over the world.



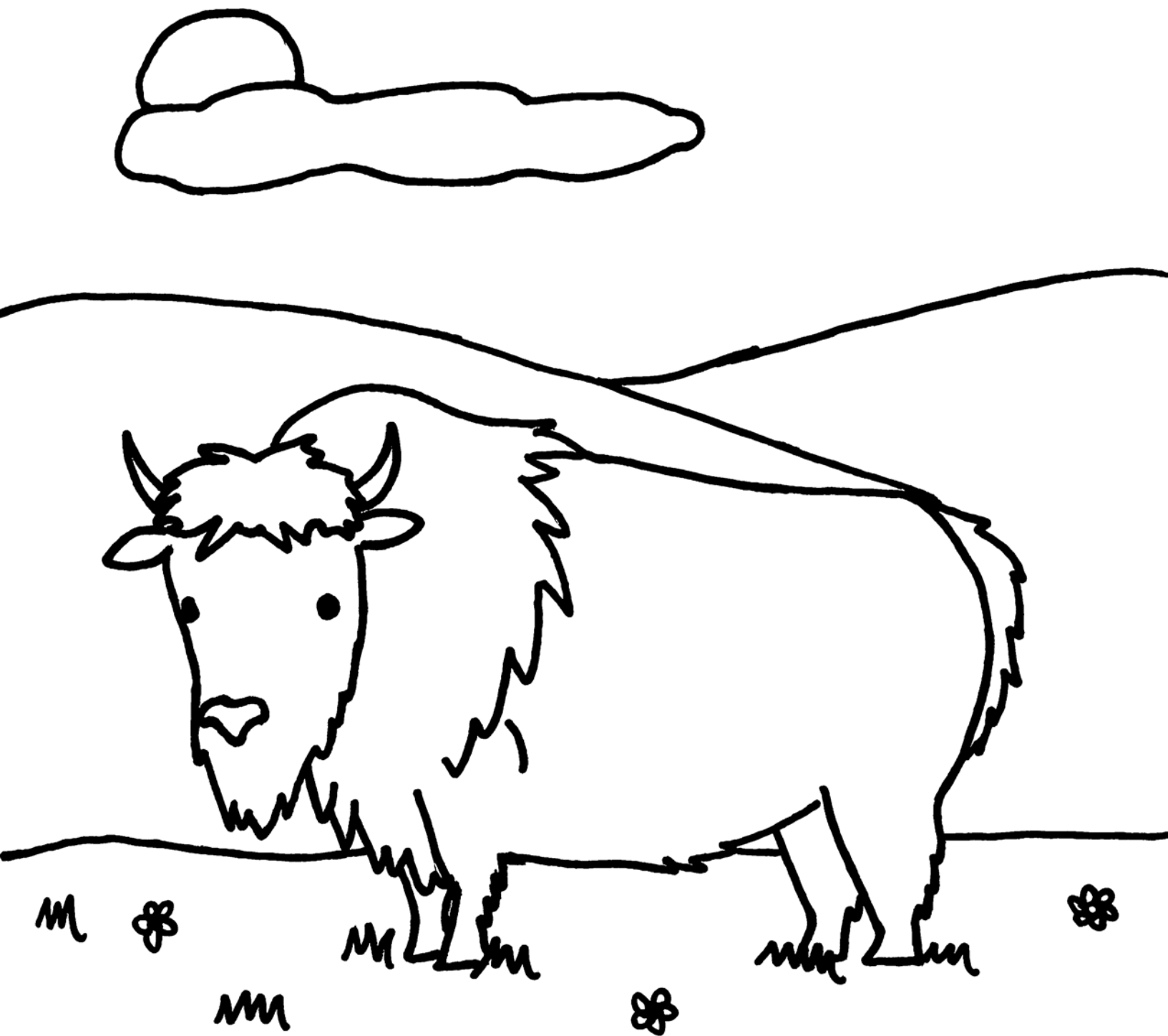


The Orange County Courthouse in Paoli, Indiana was completed in 1850 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is an example of Greek Revival architecture. It is the second-oldest operating courthouse in the state of Indiana.



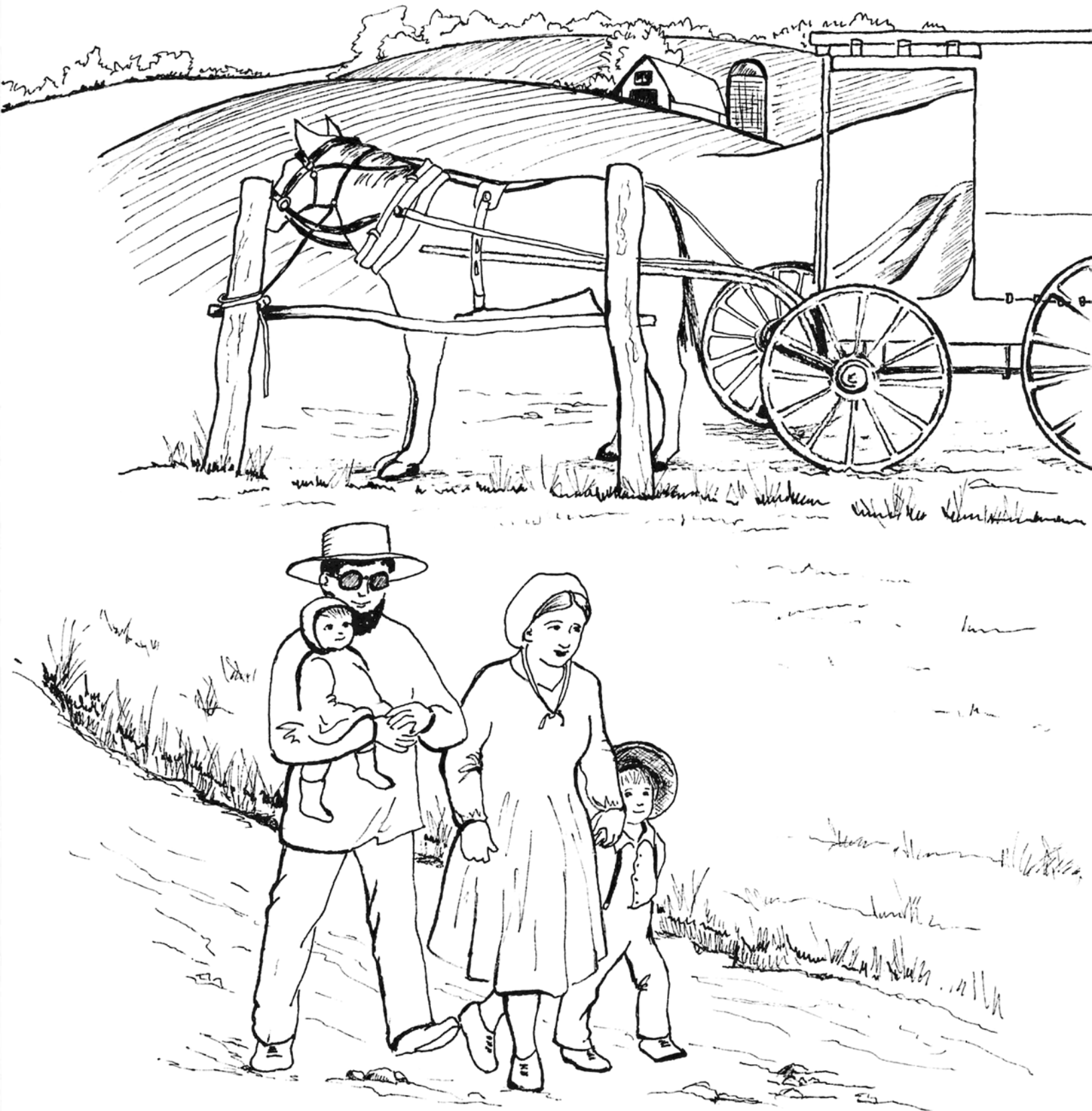
Several United States astronauts grew up along Indiana's Historic Pathways. Kenneth D. Bowersox and Charles D. Walker are both from Bedford, Indiana. Mitchell is the hometown of Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, the second American in space.

His first space flight was in the "Liberty Bell 7" capsule. In 1967, Grissom was part of the three man crew of Apollo 1. This mission tragically ended in disaster when the Command Module interior caught fire during a pre-launch test in 1967. Today, Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell is home to the Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom Memorial, a museum that consists of interactive exhibits and artifacts including one of the capsules Grissom piloted.

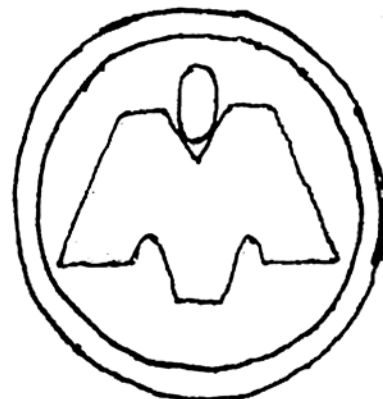


Thousands of bison (also called buffalo) once roamed southern Indiana. They traveled through our state in their migration from the open prairies of Illinois, past the Falls of the Ohio near Louisville to the salt licks of Kentucky. These giant animals used the same route and their hooves eventually wore down the ground into 12-20 foot wide footpaths across southern Indiana from Vincennes to Clarksville. This path became known as the Buffalo Trace and was used by Native Americans, European settlers, and stagecoaches. Today, you can still find remnants of the bison's wallows and paths if you know where to look. The Buffalo Trace route of the Indiana's Historic Pathways National Scenic Byway closely follows the original Buffalo Trace that was used for hundreds of years.

The Amish, known for the horses and buggies they use for transportation, came to America in the 18th century from Switzerland. They settled in many rural areas of southern Indiana because land was relatively cheap. In many of our communities, buggies parked off town squares selling farm produce or baskets and crafts are common sights. Many a house was built with the help of Amish contractors. In southern Indiana, the Amish have been good neighbors and blended in well. They are known for their skills in cooking and sewing.



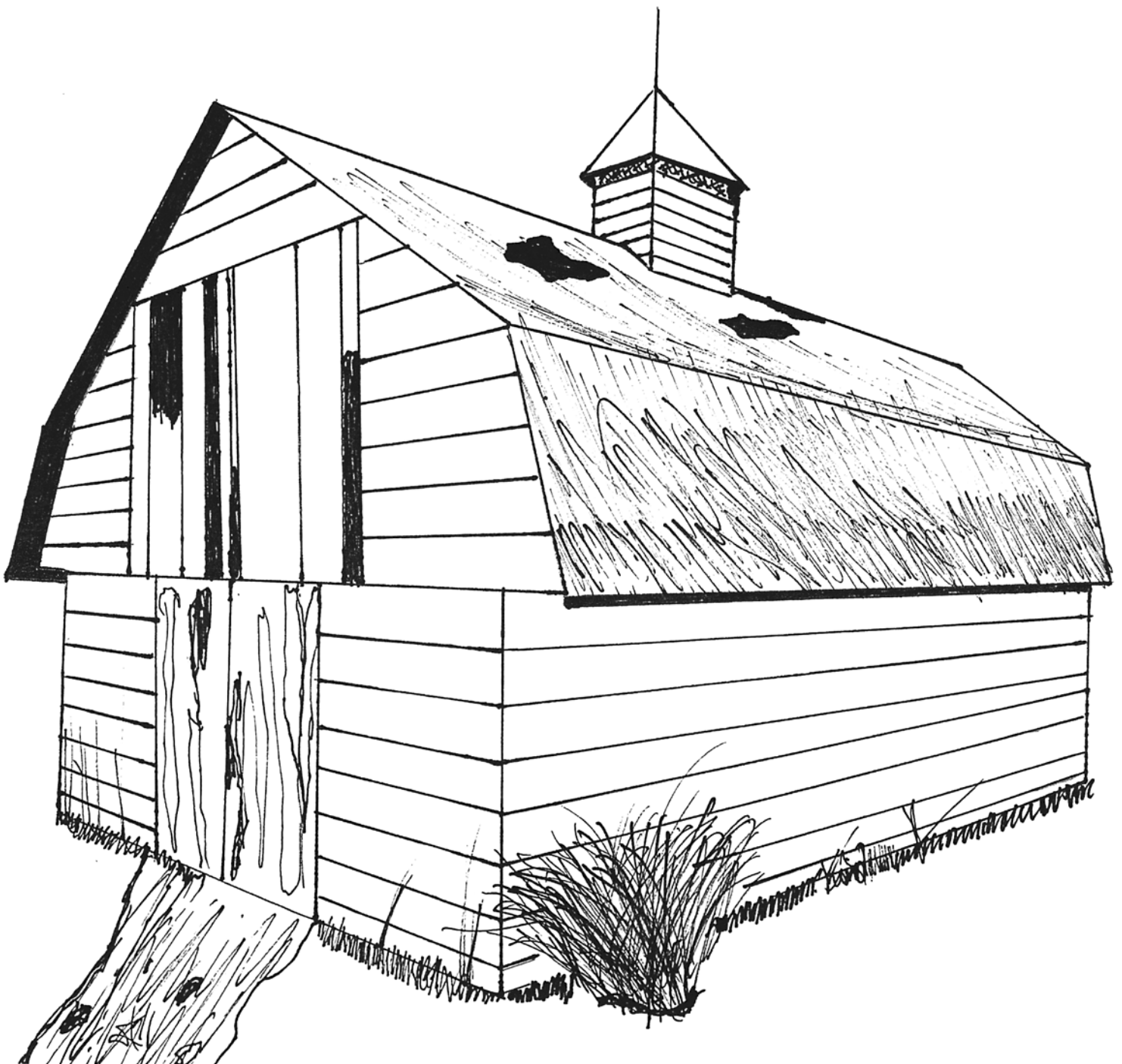


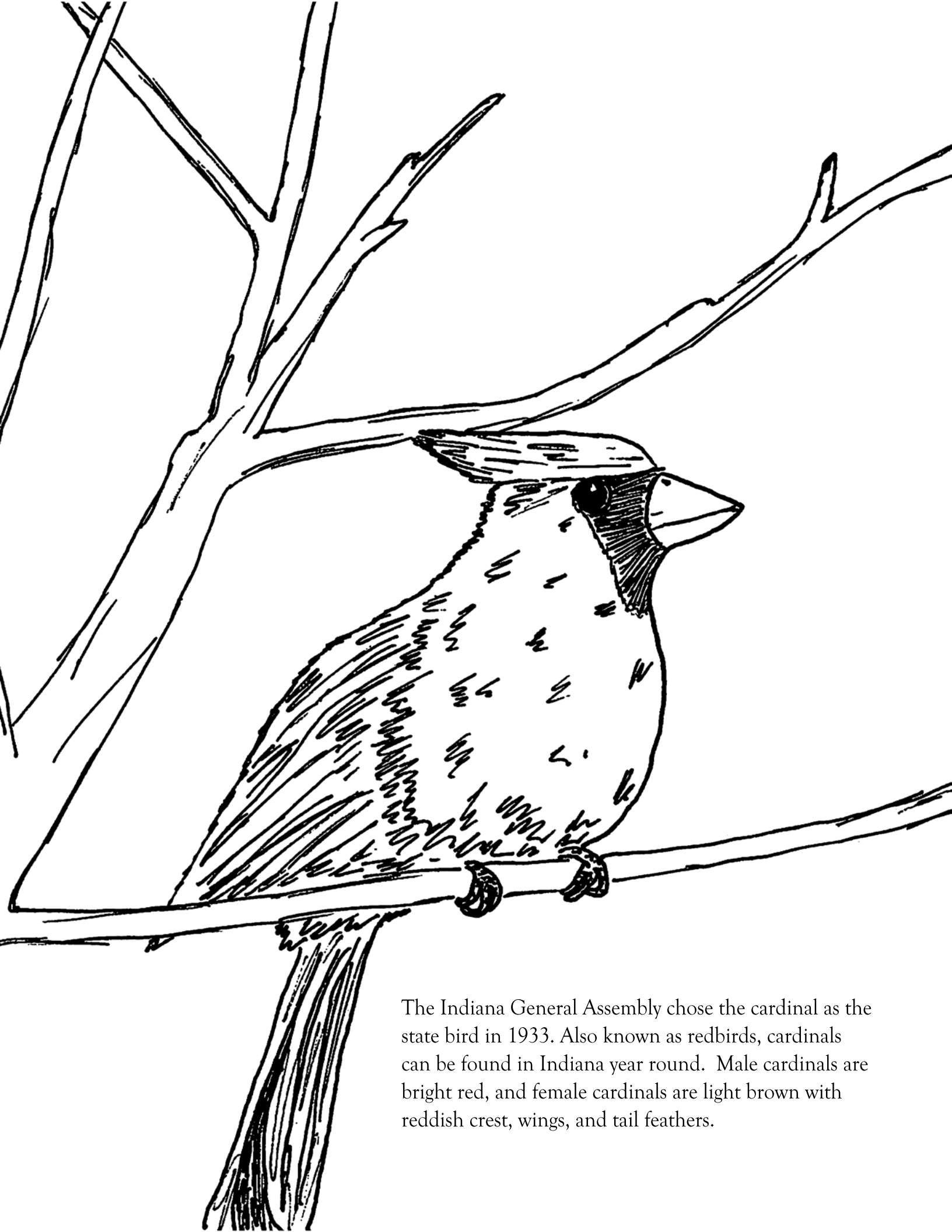


The Monon Railroad began as the New Albany and Salem Railroad in 1847. It was also known as the Chicago, Indianapolis, and Louisville Railway from 1897 until 1956, when the railway company's "Monon" nickname became its official name.

Trains travelled on the Monon route from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River. Bedford, Orleans, French Lick, and New Albany were a few of the southern Indiana towns along the route. Trains carried food, soldiers, and ammunition during the Civil War, and a Monon engine pulled Abraham Lincoln's funeral train in 1865.

Indiana has many wonderful old barns. Most were built from timbers hewn from trees on the farm where they stand. A few may be built partly of stone where stone was easily accessible. Each barn tells a story—many housed livestock and stored hay, crops, and equipment. The lofts of old barns were used to store loose hay. As times changed, equipment got larger and hay was put up in round bales, making many barns obsolete and farmers let some of them fall into disrepair. There are still lots of well preserved old barns across southern Indiana, however, and many can be seen from the byway.

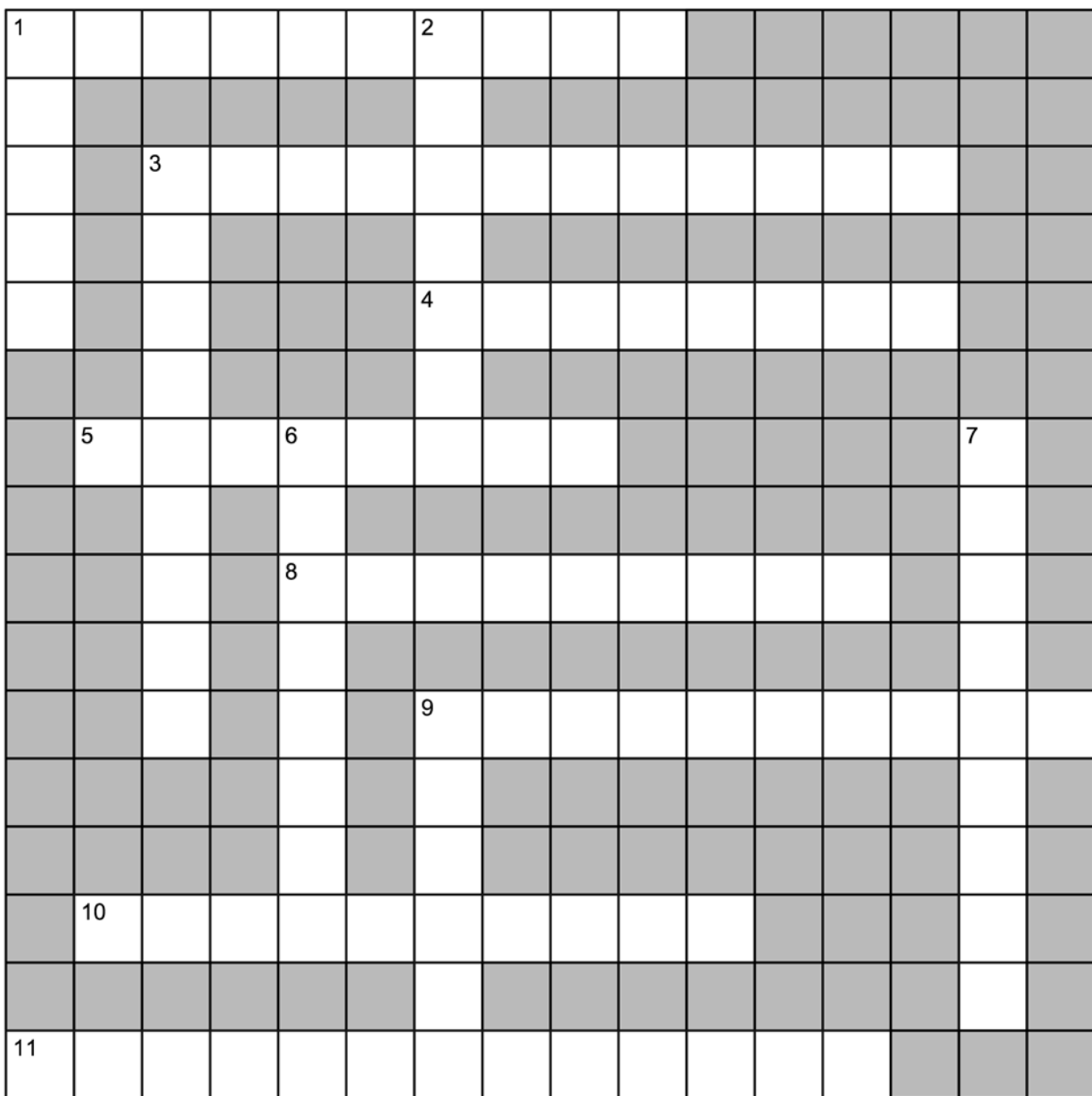




The Indiana General Assembly chose the cardinal as the state bird in 1933. Also known as redbirds, cardinals can be found in Indiana year round. Male cardinals are bright red, and female cardinals are light brown with reddish crest, wings, and tail feathers.

# Crossword Puzzle

Test your knowledge! Using the clues provided, fill in the crossword puzzle with the correct words.



## Across

1. This type of boat had a large steam powered wheel
3. Pathway that stagecoaches traveled on
4. Type of road made by placing logs on dirt paths
5. Apollo 1 astronaut's hometown
8. Type of building built from 1889 to 1936
9. Name of William Clark's expedition partner
10. Steamboats inspired the design of this mansion
11. This animal can be found in fields, forests, and neighborhoods

## Down

1. Indiana's second-oldest operating courthouse is in this town
2. Discoverer of Marengo Cave
3. The Drinking Gourd is a code name for this star constellation
6. Indiana's state bird
7. Indiana's oldest city
9. Longest historic covered bridge in the United States