

*When I Was Young
in Worthington: 1850s*



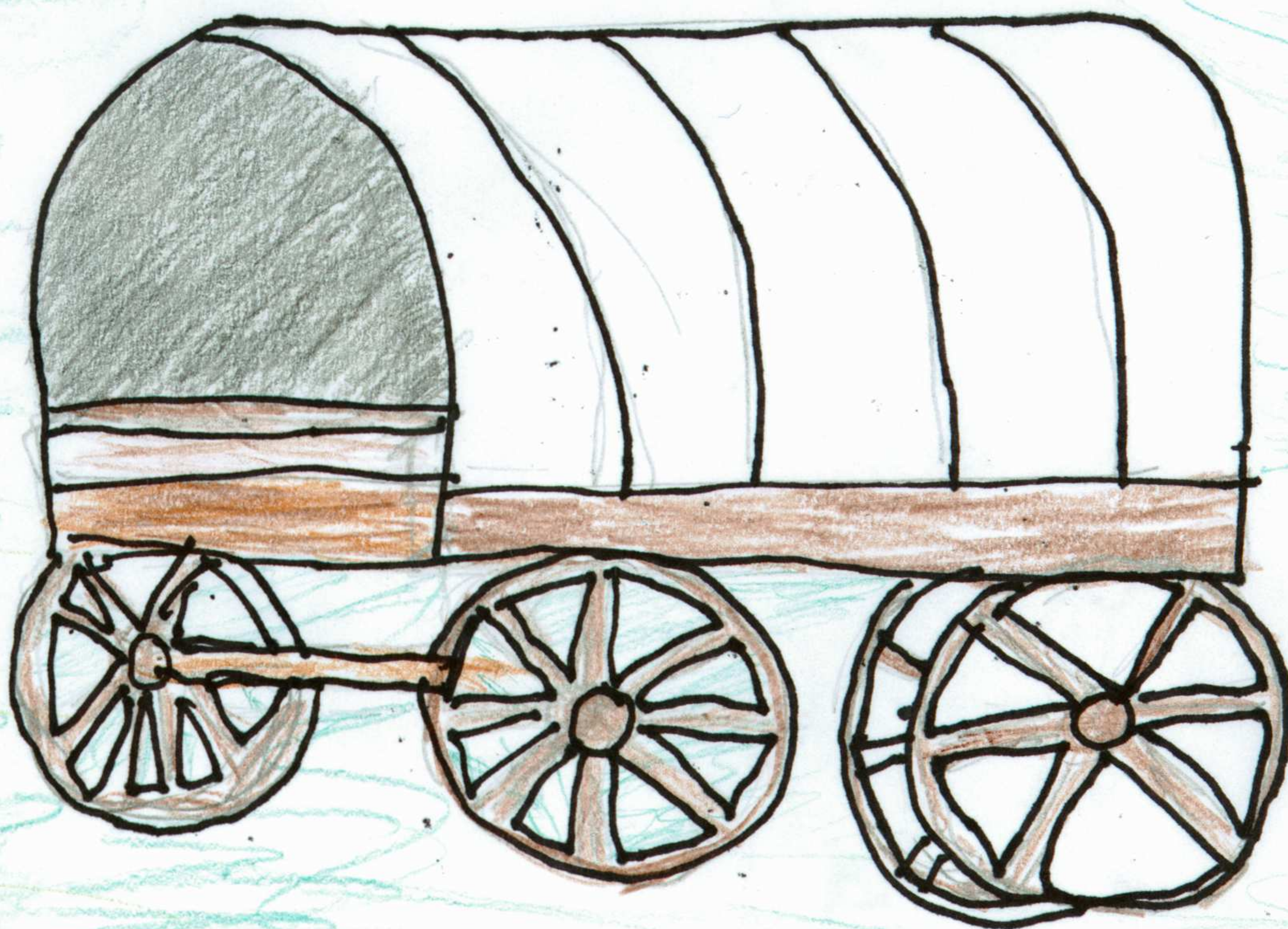
*written and illustrated by
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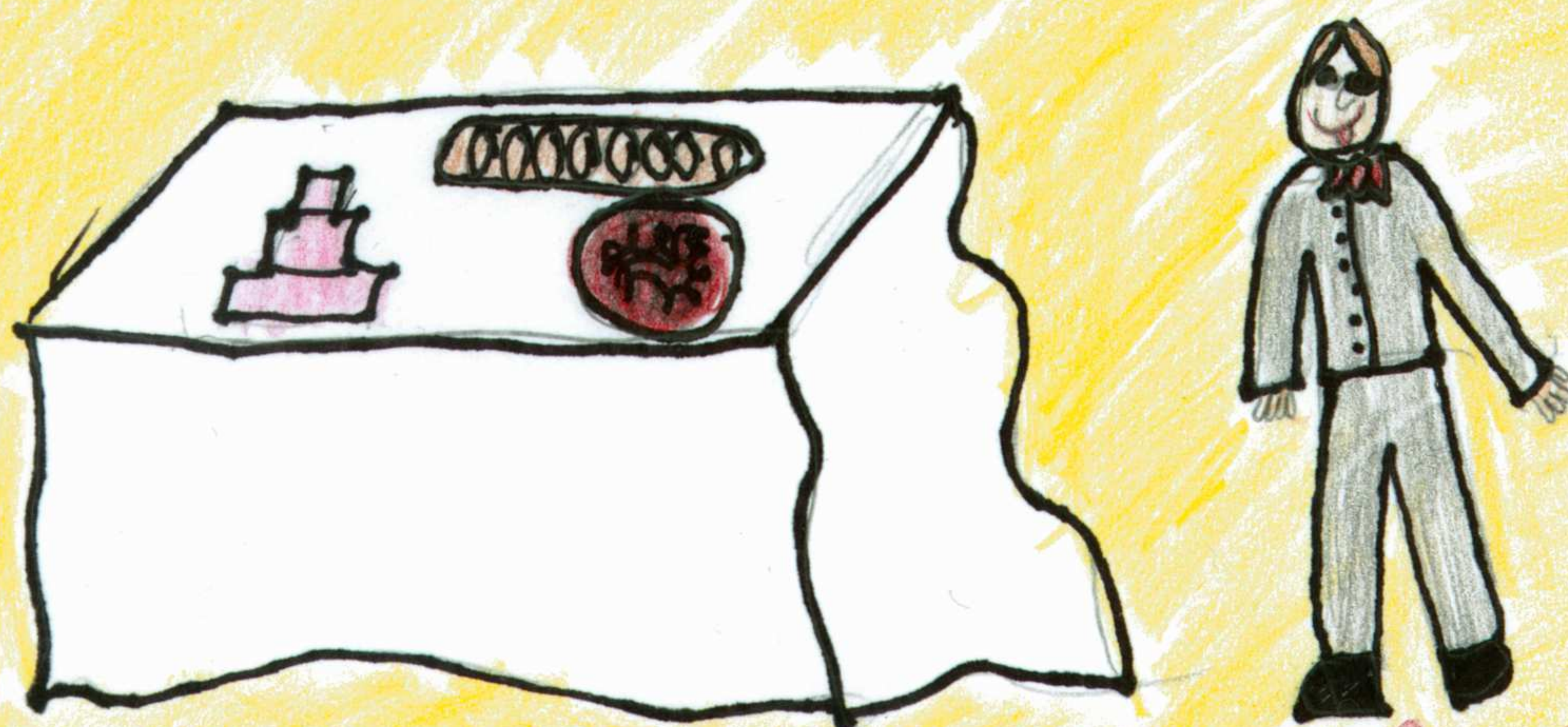
***This book is dedicated to Miss
Swearengin, Mrs. Watson, and
Miss Wood our teachers of the
2002 - 2003 school year.***

"William Smith!" Mother called as I started to play with my sister Ashley. "You shouldn't be playing in your party clothes." I was just about to go to my grandma's for a family reunion. "Get in the wagon we're going to Grandma's," Mother said.

When we got there, we heard Aunt Margaret screaming because Uncle Rob, her husband, was pulling her corset so hard that her feet were lifting off the floor! Our cousin Henry walked out to greet us. We went outside to play games with him. We had a great time playing baseball and paddleball.



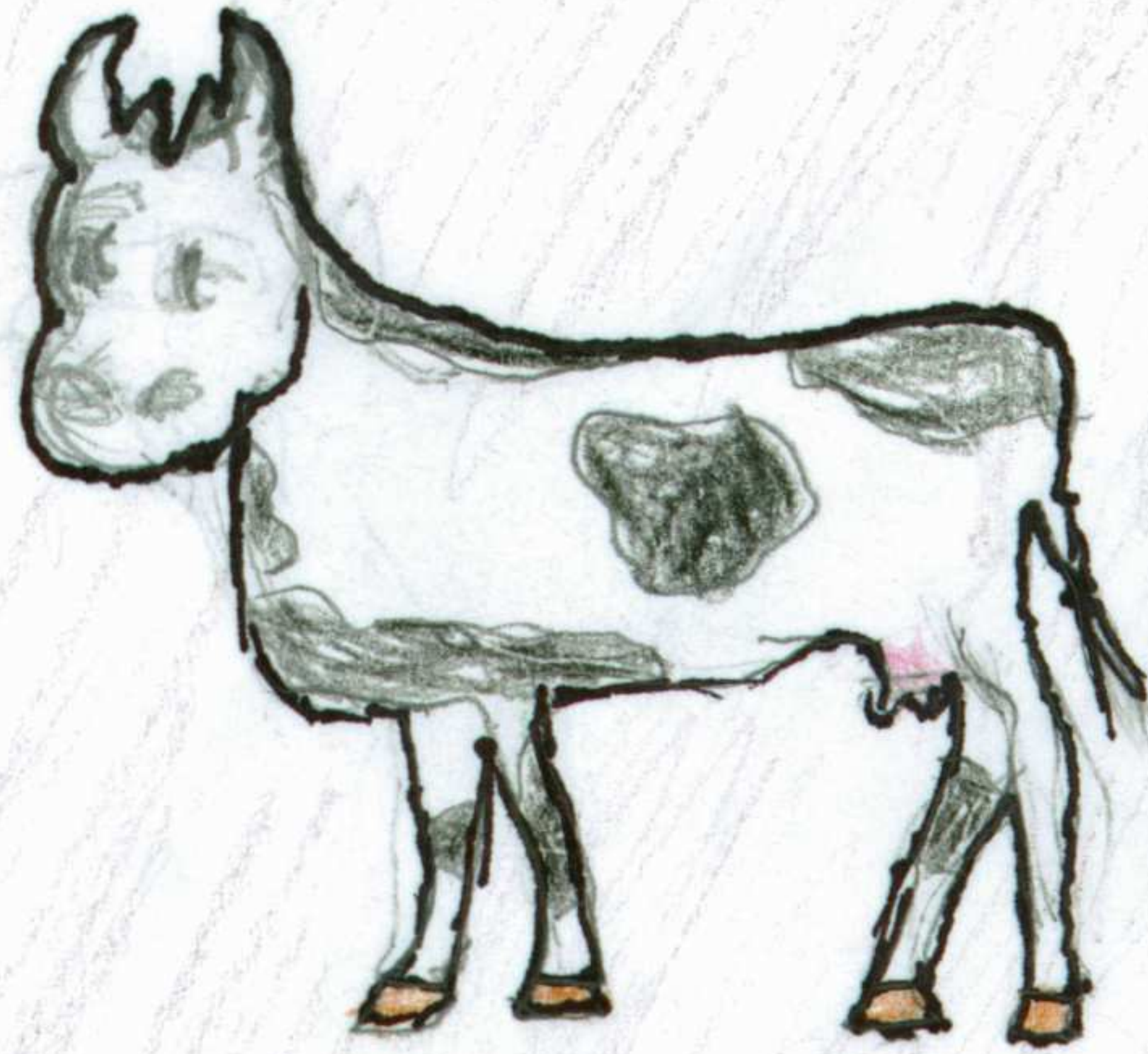
For dinner, my grandmother had made bread and noodles with a cake for dessert. While she was making dinner, I had heard my grandmother say "I'm so glad baking powder was invented in 1850 because it makes things easier to bake." When I was done eating the cake, I was glad that baking powder was invented too.



Now it was time for the dance! I had to dance with my mom because Pa went to California for the Gold Rush. I felt bad because I stepped on my mom's feet while I was dancing with her. I'm such a bad dancer.

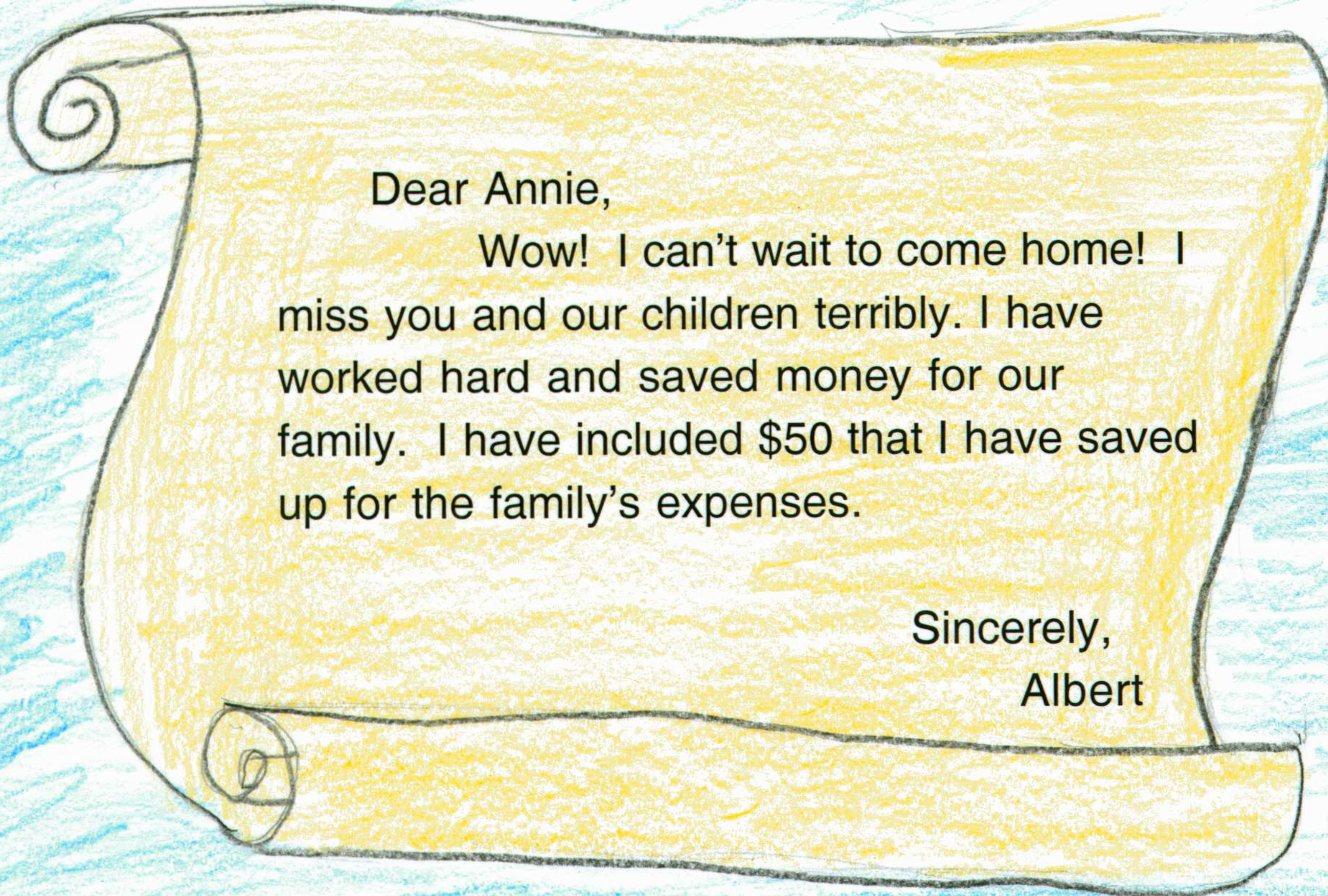


After the dance, we slept at my grandparent's house. When I woke up, it was a mighty fine day. We left my grandparents' house and took along one of their cows. We were on our way to the country fair that included exhibits, livestock, juggling, and an auction. My ma auctioned off my grandfather's favorite cow. The Fouly family bought him. At least we got a good amount of money for it. We got a fifty dollar coin for selling the cow.

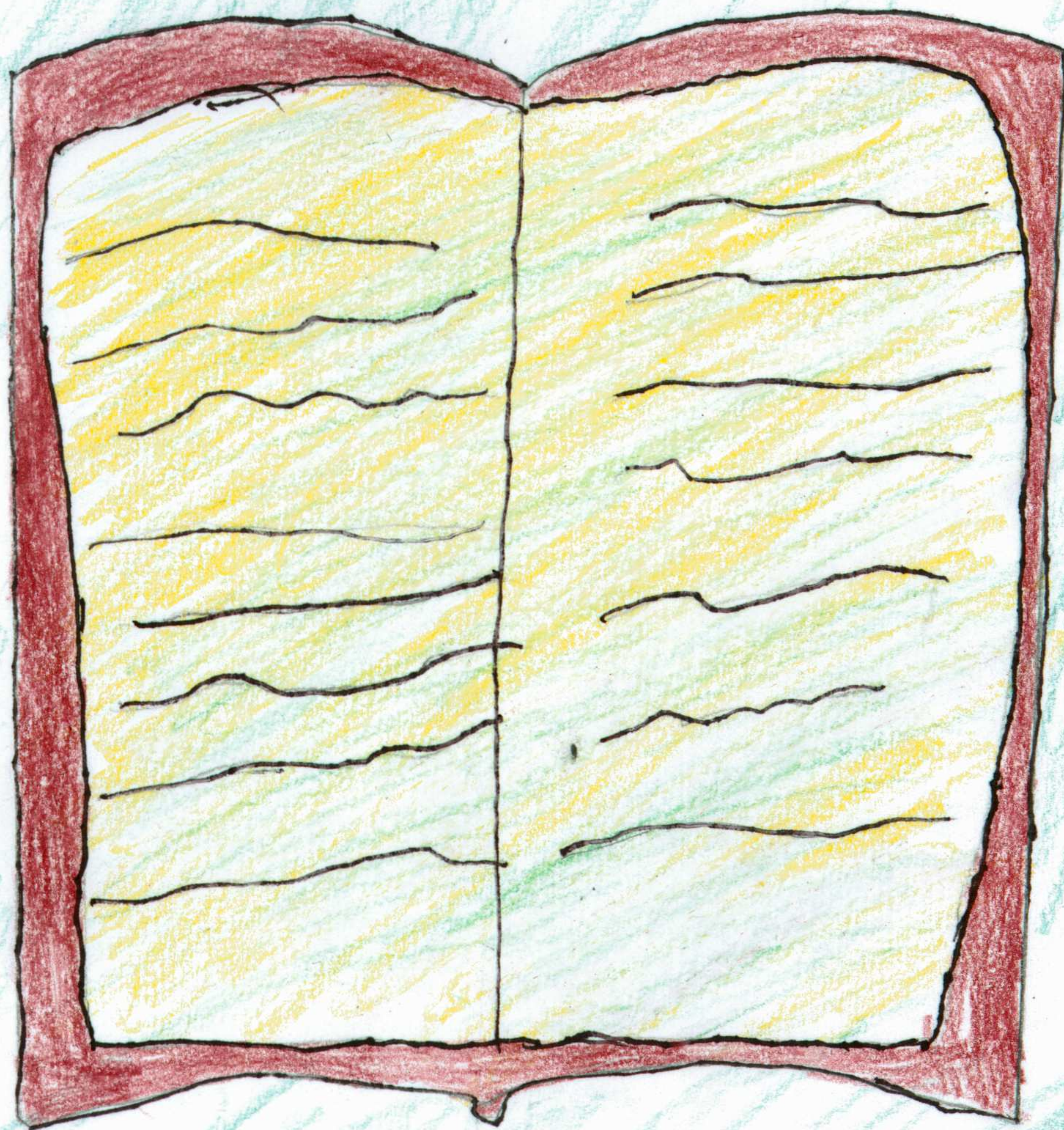


A few months have passed by and we have finally received a letter from California.

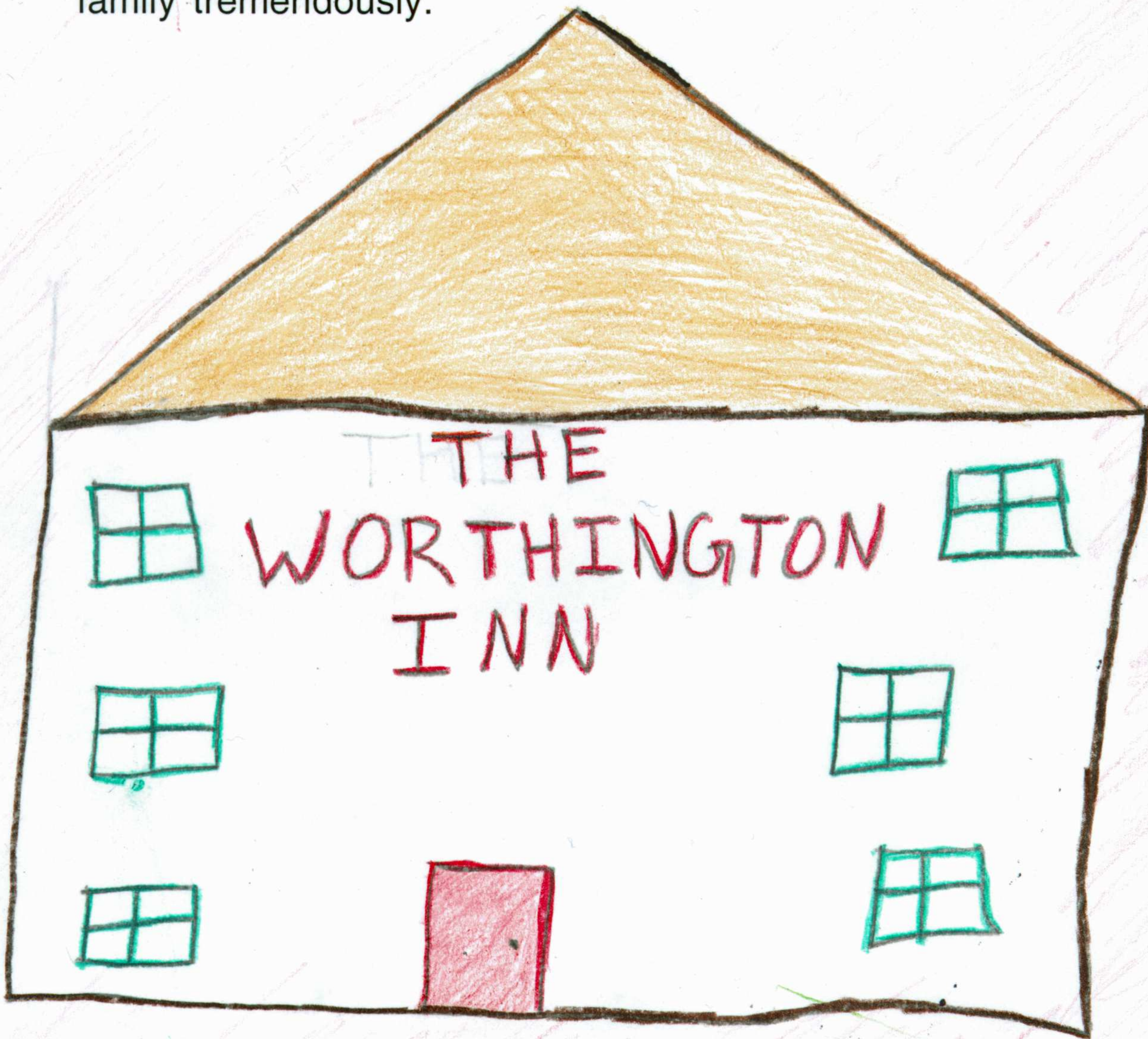
“Goodie!” my mother screeched as we read the exciting letter.



Since our family does not have to worry as much about money, we kids can take time get an education. We went to Worthington Middle School, which opened in 1850. On our first day of school, we learned that James Kilbourne had died the day before, April 24, 1850. Everyone in town will be going to the funeral. We are also told that Worthington is becoming a village under general law.



My Uncle Harry has come to visit and is staying at the Worthington Inn. While he is here we will take the time to seed the garden behind our house. Having an adult man around will help our family tremendously.



Years have passed and I am now on my own. Today I will pack up my belongings and head West to look for gold. Who knows, I may strike rich.



William never struck rich. In 1859 he met Miss Molly Burton. They got married and had three children. William missed the community of Worthington and ended up bringing his own family back to live on Hartford Street. Worthington would always be his home.

