

**WINDHAM
HISTORY
PROJECT**

By:

WINDHAM ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

APRIL 2017

Prologue

This book has been created by the students at Windham Elementary School during the weeks of April 17th through April 28th, 2017. The final book project was the culmination of work resulting from a grant obtained by Jen McKusick of Windham Central Supervisory Union through the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts. This grant provided the school with a weeklong artist in residence who worked with the students using a variety of modalities to examine the history of Windham, Vermont and make comparisons with how they are living in this town currently versus how people were living here up to 250 years ago.

The artist who worked with the students was Christine Mix from Londonderry, Vermont. She taught multiple in-class lessons, showed some videos, took the students on a variety of local field trips, invited a panel of Windham residents to come in for interviews, and provided structure, as well as some art lessons, for the creation of this book. Her dedication to this experience helped to inspire the kids.

The students used sketchbooks along the way to draw items of interest from any of the experiences they were having. There were trips to a pair of Windham churches, the cemetery that borders the school property, as well as a meeting house and a one-room schoolhouse in Stratton, Vermont. The students reviewed a great deal of literature to learn about Vermont over 200 years ago. One such book was called *Two in the Wilderness*, and you will also see some pictorial interpretations by the students from listening to this book read aloud. Additionally, the students were responsible for binding the books using an old-fashioned method.

A huge thank you goes out to the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts, without whom this project could not have happened.

If you look around, there are different types of people, but there is one thing that we all have in common, and that is we are all dressed...thank goodness. People over the years have changed their appearances in their clothing. Many styles have changed throughout the years. In the early 1700's and the late 1800's, they wore dresses and hats that were very formal and fancy. Even if they were just going outside or going to the store, they would have some nice shoes and a fancy dress on. Some people think that women liked wearing fancy clothing, and some women did, but a lot of women didn't like dressing that way. Women wished that they could wear clothing that was a little less fancy. Just imagine lugging around a huge dress all day! They even had to wear dresses or skirts in the winter. Not to mention the corsets they had. Most women back then wore a corset when they were dressing formally. I am sure that they wanted to wear something a little bit more comfortable.

Men back in the late 1700's and the early 1800's, wore suits and top hats everywhere they went. Most men back then wouldn't wear jeans and a raggy shirt, they had to wear something that was nice.



I wear a tux that does not suck,
And unlike all of the other mutts,
I am not a clutz,
I work hard,
And my top hat is chard,
I wear a tie,
And I never get high,

The reason why is because I am super fly,
I wear clothing that is nice,
And not clothes that look like they got torn up by mice,
I do not live in a well,
And I do not smell,
My hair cut is swell,

And it does not look like someone was driving in a rut when it was cut!



My dress is so fine,
It is the color of wine,
And I don't look like slime,
I'm going to shop,
And buy some clothing,

That won't get me pulled over by a cop
Now please girls stop dressing like slop!

Clothing 1700-2017

By Lillie Beshay

In 2017, most women wear shirts that aren't as appropriate and shorts or pants that are very casual. Also, most men wear clothes that are a lot less formal and not very fancy.

I think that people dress a lot different nowadays than how they dressed back then. I think that if you like and feel comfortable in your clothes, you should wear it.



I don't have much time,
So here's my lame rhyme,
Baggy pants,
My hat's on at a slant,
You ask if I can be normal,
I just can't
Chains around my neck,
I look like a wreck,
What the heck,
Just give me a sec,
I look so cool, but I feel like a fool,
My rap's so lame,
And I think I got fame,
Because their all the same,
My shirts look like dirt,
It looks like I sneezed when I cut off the sleeves,
I told you to give me some luck,
Because my rhymes really suck!



Want to go for a swim?
But please not kim,
She dresses like a sin!
She should be put away in a bin,
For goodness sakes you are showing everything,
including your limbs!
You should be like Tim,
Not showing all skin,
The clothing is so short and slim,
Put some real close on,
That don't look like you got them from your son,
Please someone,
We can see your bum!
ALERT! ALERT!
My eyes really hurt!
Short skirts and shirts,
I don't even care if you put on a yurt!

Gracie

The Windham
center church is
white and gray.

You can go up
in the Belfry
I have never
been up in
the Belfry,
but I have
always wanted
to.



Gracie

Activities

by Mary McDonald

The difference between what kids used to do back in the seventeen and eighteen hundreds, to what kids do now in 2017 is huge. The activities for the different genders were also different, because boys were a little more active, while girls were more of a mother's helper in the kitchen or garden. Back then boys would play with the hoop and stick, play Cowboys and Indians, or tag. Nowadays, most boys play video games or sports. Girls back then played with corn husk dolls, sewed or knitted, and helped their parents. Now girls do sort of the same things that boys do, they play sports and use electronics. To some people, like me, the difference is sad because a lot of people just stare at their phones, but back then people actually socialized, used their imaginations and played with things that were good for them physically and mentally. I hope someday we can be humans again, instead of becoming robots.

Then

Vs

NOW



Cowboys

And

INDIANS



The Aiken Family History

By Madison Coolbeth

I'm Nara, the granddaughter of Deacon Edward Aiken one of the first settlers in Windham, VT. I'm here to tell you the story of my grandfather, and mother Naomi Aiken.

It started when my grandfather brought Naomi and my uncle Peter to their land. My grandmother at the time was home with my aunts. My grandfather had bought the land a year before, it still didn't have a cabin or anything else, it was woods and tree as far as the eye could see. Naomi and Peter traveled with grandfather for miles before they realized their dog followed. They crossed the Connecticut river with their dog, and they walked to their land.

When they got to their "pitch" my grandfather went fishing. For a few days my grandfather stayed with them, than he left when the cabin was built, he went to go get the rest of the family. During the six weeks he was gone, My mother and Peter had multiple problems. Like snakes, crows, cornmeal issues, and the cabin itself.

In the end, it all turned out well. My mother and uncle survived six weeks alone. When My grandmother came with my aunts everything settle down a bit. They lived a long and healthy life, and now here I am living with my mother and siblings. Here in Windham is where my heart lies.



This is Naomi and her daughter Nara in the early days of Windham.



This is what they would look like today.

Mud Season

By Nyah Ryan

Back in the olden days the kids would have mud season vacation. They would have it because the roads would be bad and muddy. They could not walk to school because it would be too muddy. During mud season vacation they would do maple sugaring. They would play and also do farm work. For chores at home their main job was to get the wood. Farm jobs would be stuff like milking the cows and feeding the animals. They would plant food to get food.



Walter Fishing

By Rihanna Dryden

When Walter went to school, he asked his teacher if he could leave early to go fishing at Cobb Brook for some trout. His teacher Miss, Glenn said, "Sure I will meet you at the school very early so you can get out and go fishing with your friend Skip Hall." They would spend whole afternoons fishing and hopefully bring home a line of trout to eat for dinner. In schools today, the teacher would not allow kids to leave school early to go fishing. The students all have to stay until 3:00. That is the story of Walter Woodruff and fishing in the old days.

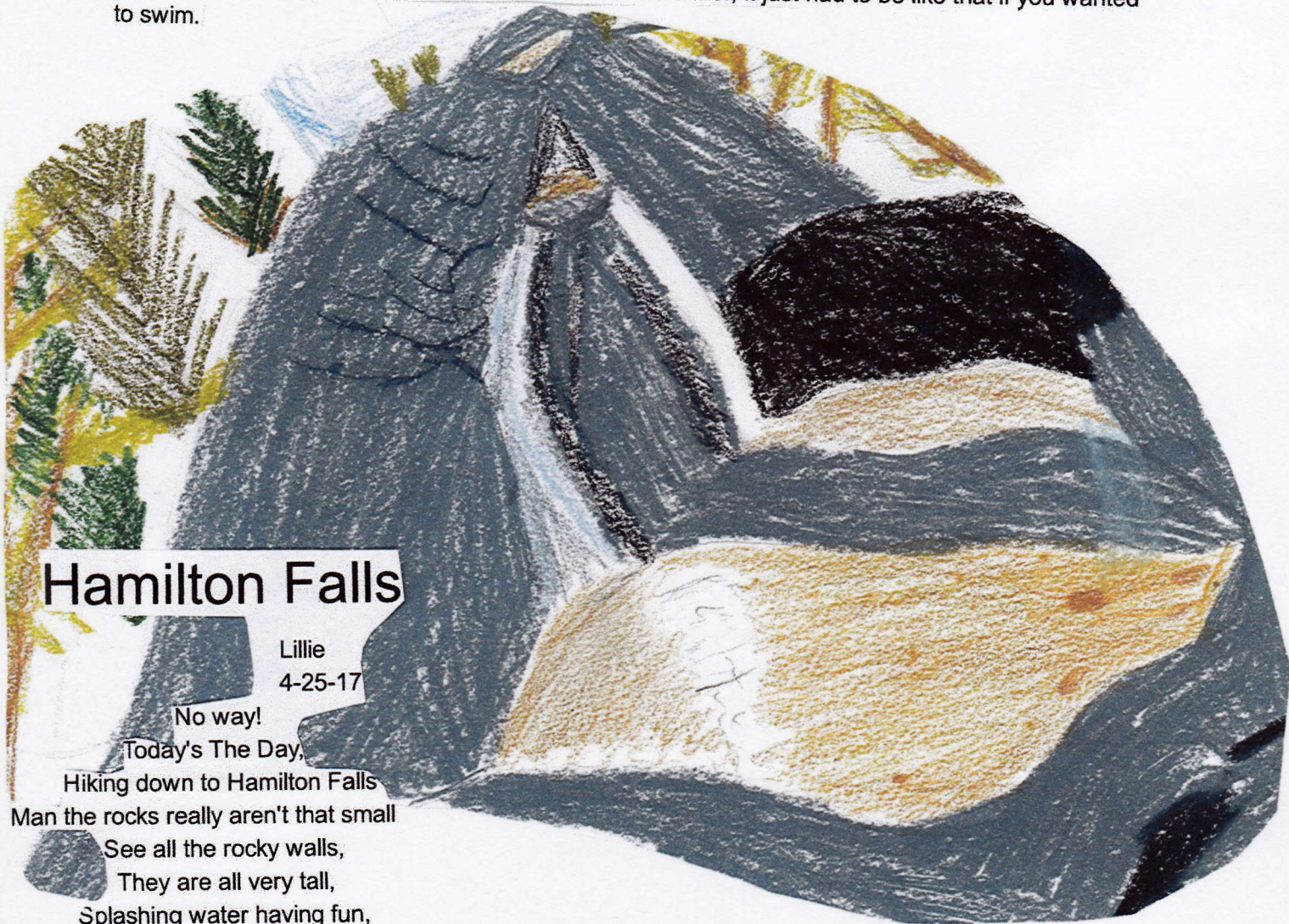


Swimming Then VS Now

By Lillie

4-26-17

"Why did the teacher jump into the pool? To test the water!" Have you ever realized that swimming now isn't really what it used to be? Well it wasn't like it was now. They didn't have amusement parks and indoor swimming pools, they had brookes, lakes, ponds and quarries. People a long time ago would go swimming in the stream in the back of their house. In Windham they have a swimming hole called Hamilton Falls. A long time ago, people used to go swimming down there pretty often. If they wanted to go swimming, they had to hike down to Hamilton Falls. They didn't have stairs to bring you down, or have a parking lot that was right next to the falls. I think that it would have been much more fun to hike down to swim. People a while ago, would work for what they wanted. If you went swimming, there wouldn't be any chlorine in the water, the water also wouldn't be heated. If the water was muddy or cold, you had to deal with it, you couldn't put chemicals in the water or heat the water, it just had to be like that if you wanted to swim.



Hamilton Falls

Lillie

4-25-17

No way!

Today's The Day,

Hiking down to Hamilton Falls

Man the rocks really aren't that small

See all the rocky walls,

They are all very tall,

Splashing water having fun,

Watching the golden water run and run,

The day isn't over because you can still see the sun,

We are going to have a great time,

Until the day is done,

Sliding down the slippery rocks,

Oh no!

I lost my sock!

Man how much I love this spot.

Swimming Then VS Now

In 2017, most people would go to amusement parks, like Six Flags, or even go to a pool. They have water slides and other fun ways to get into the water. Some people still go swimming in streams or lakes, but most people go swimming in pools in this generation. Now, we have chemicals to put in the water so that it stays clean, because god forbid we have a couple of germs on our body! We also have heating lamps in the pool to keep the water warm because some people can not stand the cold! As you can probably tell, I personally like swimming in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, quarries, and other natural places like that.

Six Flags

Lillie

4-25-17

Today my mom can get rid of those nags,
Of me begging her to go to Six Flags!
We really have to run,
We don't want to be late because the parking is not too fun,
Let's get in the shuttle,
Oh rats!
I stepped in a puddle!
At last,
They gave us our pass,
We find the pool,
But wait, they have a rule.
No Having ANY Fun
Oh bumm!
The lines are so long,
That lady's bathing suit is really wrong,
I slipped and slid down without my raft,
Oh rats!
Getting tossed up the escalator,
Man, my head is going to really hurt later!
I feel like I am in Mars,
I can see blurry stars,
I hit my head,
Now I wish I was in bed,
Water up my nose
It sure does not smell like a rose,
I can see the light,
Am I dying,
Well I just might,
I can hear the other rafts,
Then I did some math,
And then I graphed,
If I did it right...



BOOM!!

OWWW!

THUD!!!

I fell on the cement,
I think that my head is bent,
On the way back,
Ivy was being a rat,
She was being as annoying as a cricket,
Oh no,
We got a ticket!
This day has not been a blast,
We are back home at last,
I am so happy this day has past!

The Civil War

By Helena Blackwell

Vermonters are lucky that the people they live with in Vermont are so strong.

In the Civil War, the Northernmost land fighting took place in St. Albans Vermont. On October 19th, 1864, confederates robbed three different banks.

President Abraham Lincoln was overheard by a surgeon to have said, "*I do not care to see any major generals; I came to see the Vermont brigade.*"

Vermont was the first state to abolish slavery.

Vermont sent more than 34,000 people to serve in the Civil War, which was about ten percent of its population at that time.





Freedom!

\$

Peace!

war Horse

The morgan traveled and fought through the
night and day
To make peace and freedom
For the slaves

The morgan Traveled and fought through the
night and day
To make sure no one fell dead

The pull the logs to make shelter

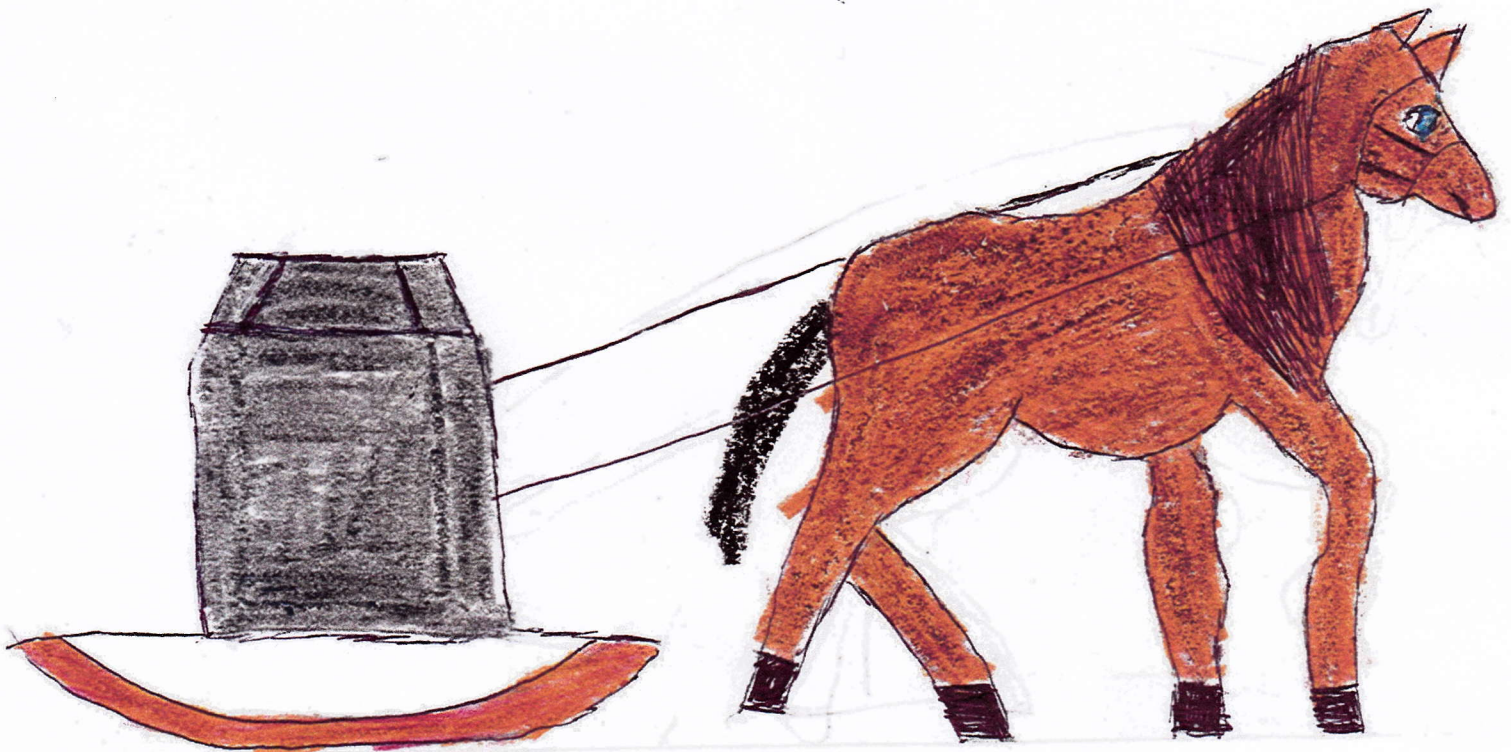
The morgan worked and helped through the
night and day
To help slaves go free !!!

By: Kylie D. Kehoe

What They Used Horses For

By Kyleigh Corriveau

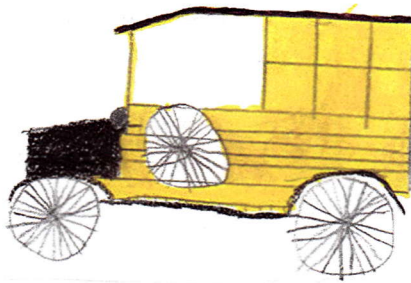
A long time ago they used horses for a lot of things. Some of the things were farming and pulling stuff. They would pull logs, snow rollers, wagons and mowers. Horses would pull snow rollers for packing down snow. They would pull wagons for getting hay back to the farm. They pulled mowers for cutting down the grass. In the spring, they would pull wagons to collect sap for maple sugaring. They would have to sugar in the spring because that was when sap would run. It would have to be warm during the day and cold at night. The most important thing that they used horses for was transportation.



Transportation

By Carson Gordon

A long time ago they had horses for transportation. The horses were tied to a buggy. About 80 to 100 years ago most families began to have cars. Feeding a horse takes hay and grain and feeding a car takes gas. Cars are faster than horses. You need a medium sized barn for a horse and a small garage for a car. Horses were so important that we now use the term horsepower to describe how much power a car or truck has today!



Transportation

By True Packard

In the old times people used horses and wagons. Now we use cars that have roofs and engines. When they used wagons and horses, all they had were the reins to steer the horses to get people to where they wanted to go. Now, people use steering wheels to steer the car and pedals to make it stop and go. Horses do not have these things to make them stop and go or turn. Cars today use gas to make them go, while horses had grain and water. That is the story of transportation then and now.



Farming

By Jack Spengler

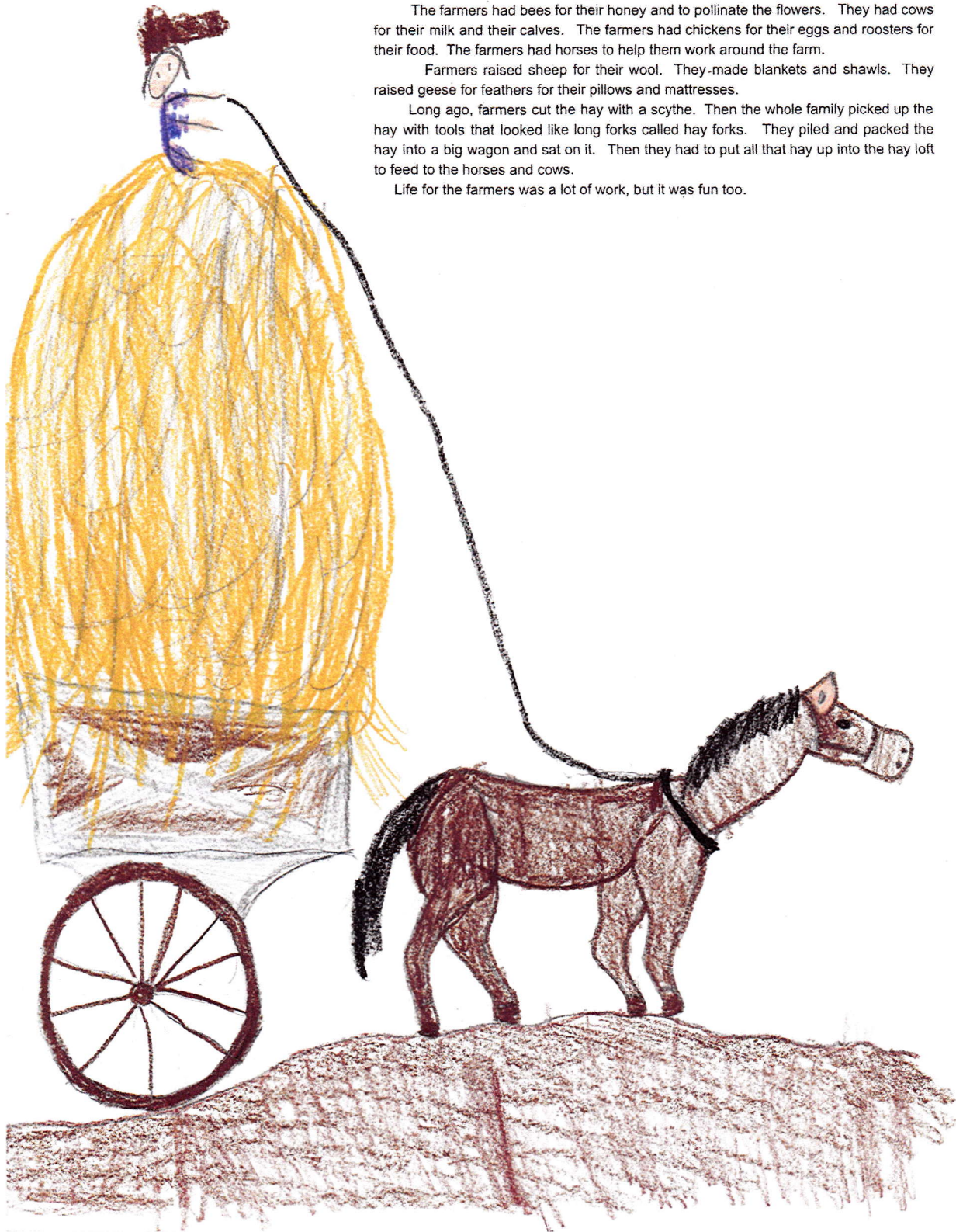
A long time ago, farmers raised pigs for their meat. The farmers used the whole pig, nothing was wasted. The pigs gave them pork, ham, sausage and bacon. The fat was saved to make lard for baking.

The farmers had bees for their honey and to pollinate the flowers. They had cows for their milk and their calves. The farmers had chickens for their eggs and roosters for their food. The farmers had horses to help them work around the farm.

Farmers raised sheep for their wool. They made blankets and shawls. They raised geese for feathers for their pillows and mattresses.

Long ago, farmers cut the hay with a scythe. Then the whole family picked up the hay with tools that looked like long forks called hay forks. They piled and packed the hay into a big wagon and sat on it. Then they had to put all that hay up into the hay loft to feed to the horses and cows.

Life for the farmers was a lot of work, but it was fun too.



The kids are
working on
the farm.





Old Fashioned Snow Plow

These horses are pulling a snowplow made of boards with children and their dad on it, through a lot of white heavy snow. The dad is steering the horses and the children are pushing the snow plow down and the snowplow is flattening the snow so people can get places.

It looks fun to do because you get to ride on moving boards.

By Annabel Carson

Plows vs Rollers
by Jake Desautels

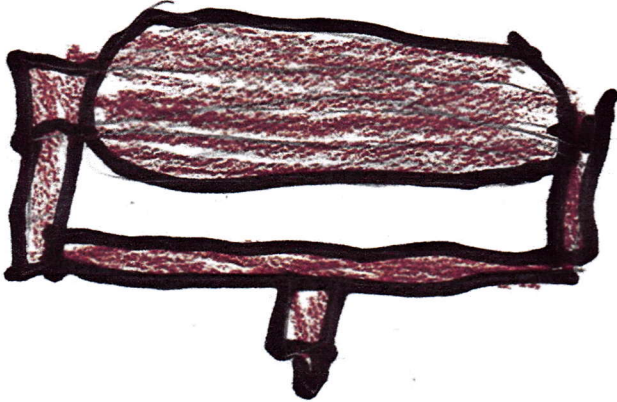
In the early days we had huge rollers for dealing with the snow in the roads. Now, we have huge snowplows to do all that work. Rollers are for packing down the snow. Plows are for moving the snow off the road.

A roller needs many people to make it work. A snowplow has only one person to do the work of many men. A roller is powered by a team of horses. A plow is powered by a battery and gas.

A new snowplow today could cost as much as \$185,500., while a roller may have been handmade and not very expensive.

These days snowplows are easier to use because they push the snow off the roads. In the early days the farmer had to feed and take care of his horse.

Roller

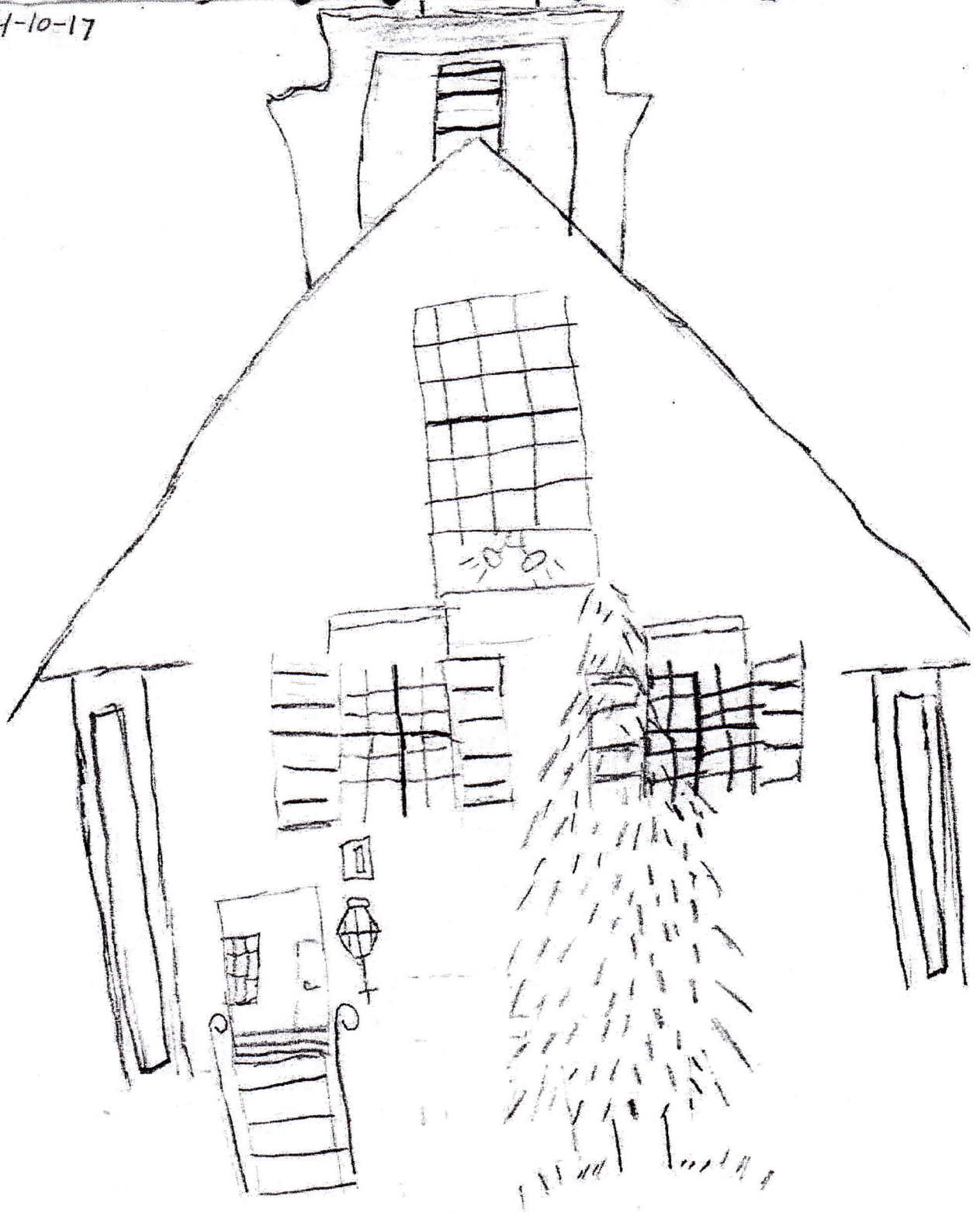


Plow

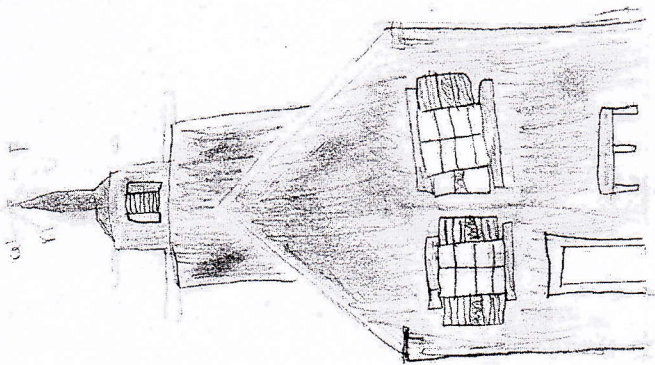
4-10-11
Meeting house
Chillicothe



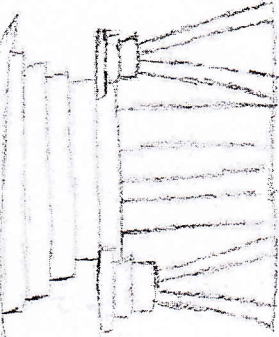
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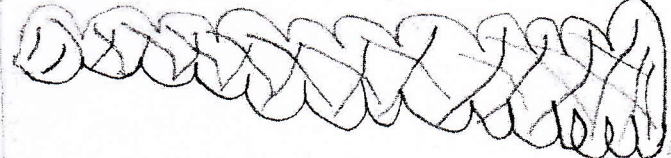
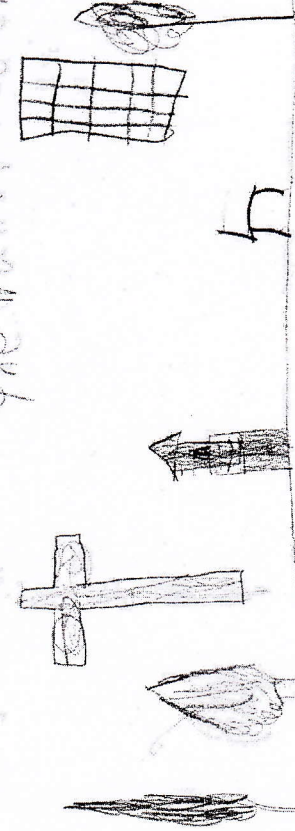
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Let's go into the safe place call sanctuary
Let's sing until we are weary
Let the bells of freedom ring
and we will all be righteous and kings



4/10/17
the wall of the church



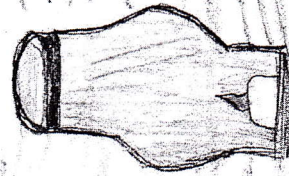
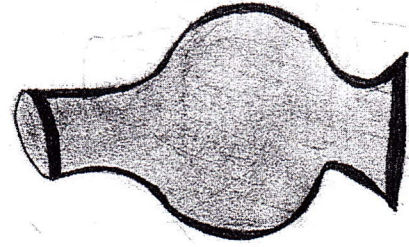
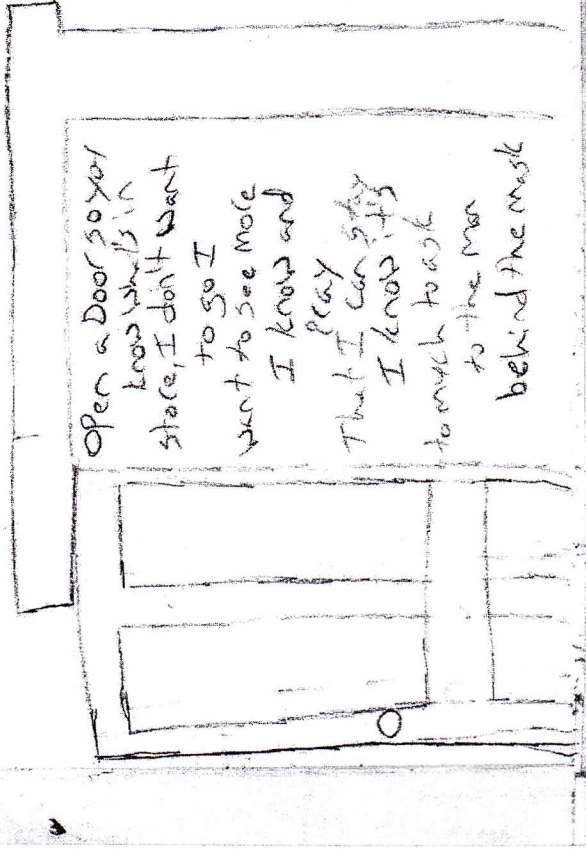
← Bell Rope

The Stratton School

By Helena

It's small, really old, and no electricity.
They had to use candles instead of oil lamps.
It has wooden doors (built in 1851).
Last used was in 1939-1940. No plastic.
Renovated in 1972-1974.

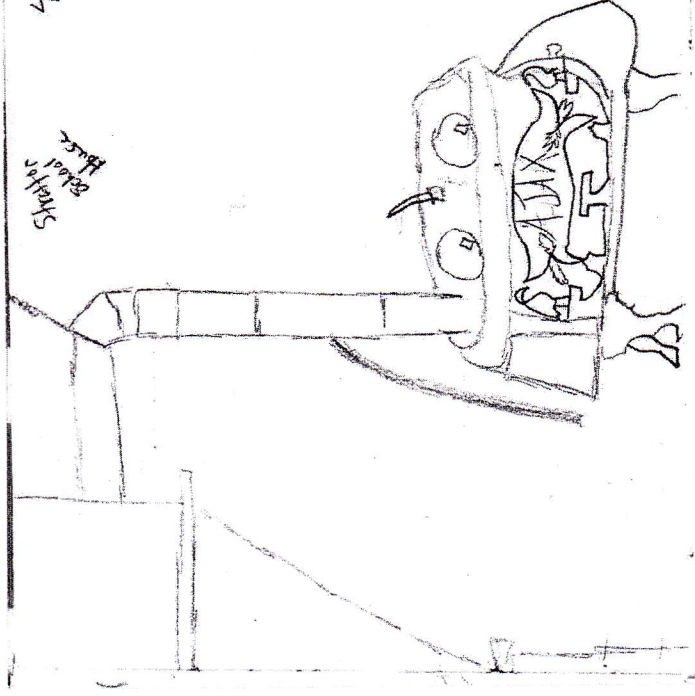
School Stratton



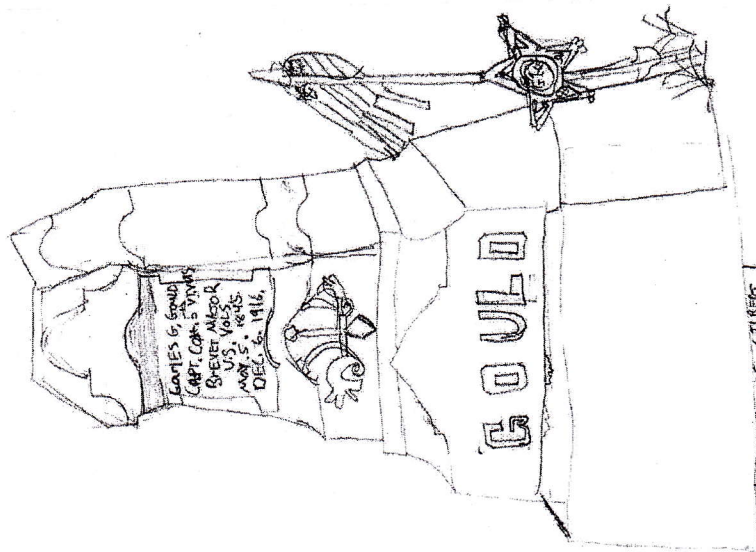
Stratton
House

4-11-17

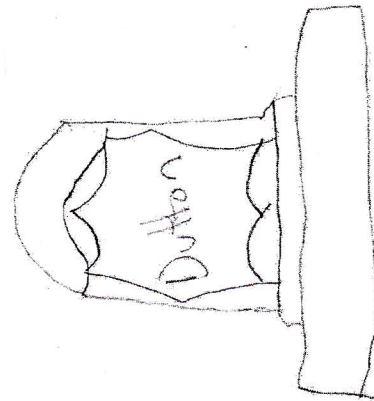
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413-17
 4112
 Mary
 William
 cemetery
 Gould



CHARLES GILBERT
 GOULD AKA OF HONOR
 CAPT. CO. 5th INF.
 MAY 5, 1875
 DEC 6, 1914



413-17

Chose

Rings are a symbol of forever
 They will never part ever
 even in death they will be
 just like you and me

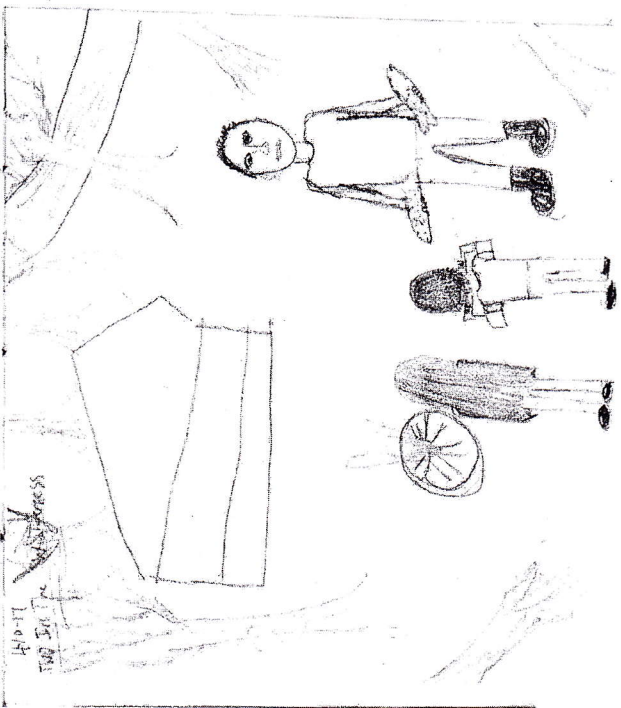


R.I.P

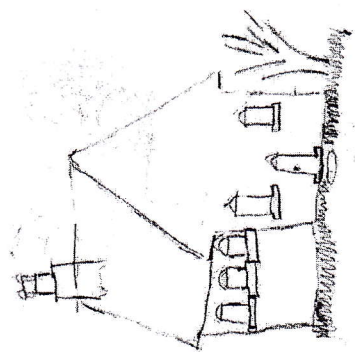
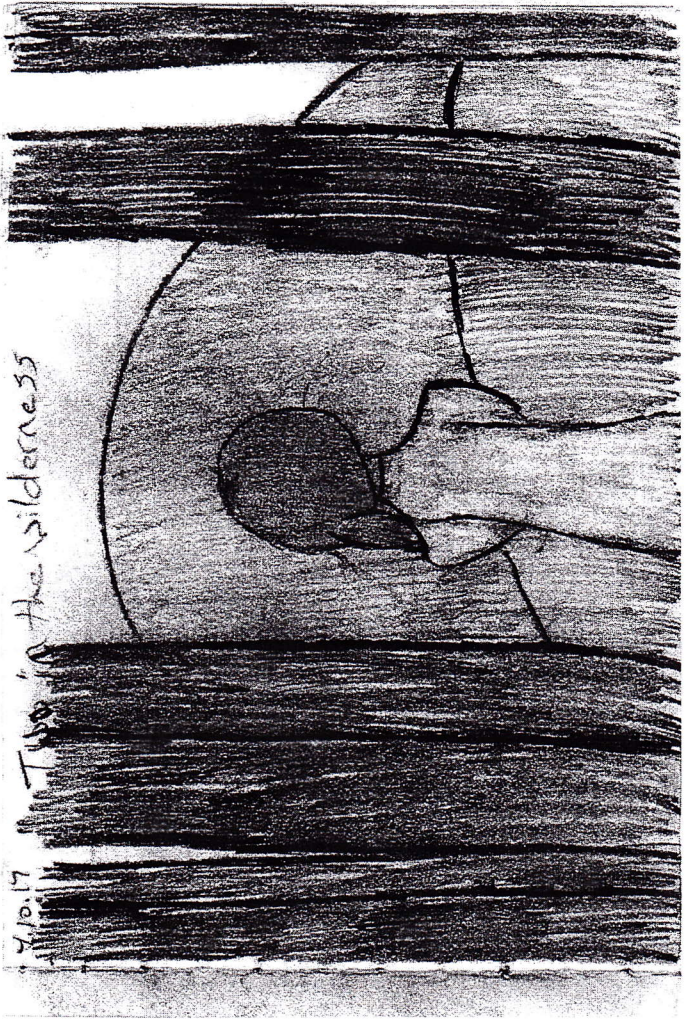
413-17
 Mary
 William
 cemetery



Two in the wilderness 4/10/17



Two in the wilderness



⑧

4-12-17 69 May
The Panel McDonald

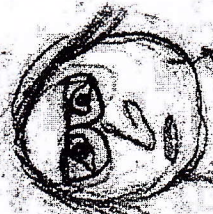
Paul
Sweet
William



Walter
Travis
Lester



David
Smith
Harris



Susan
Peters
Hunt

