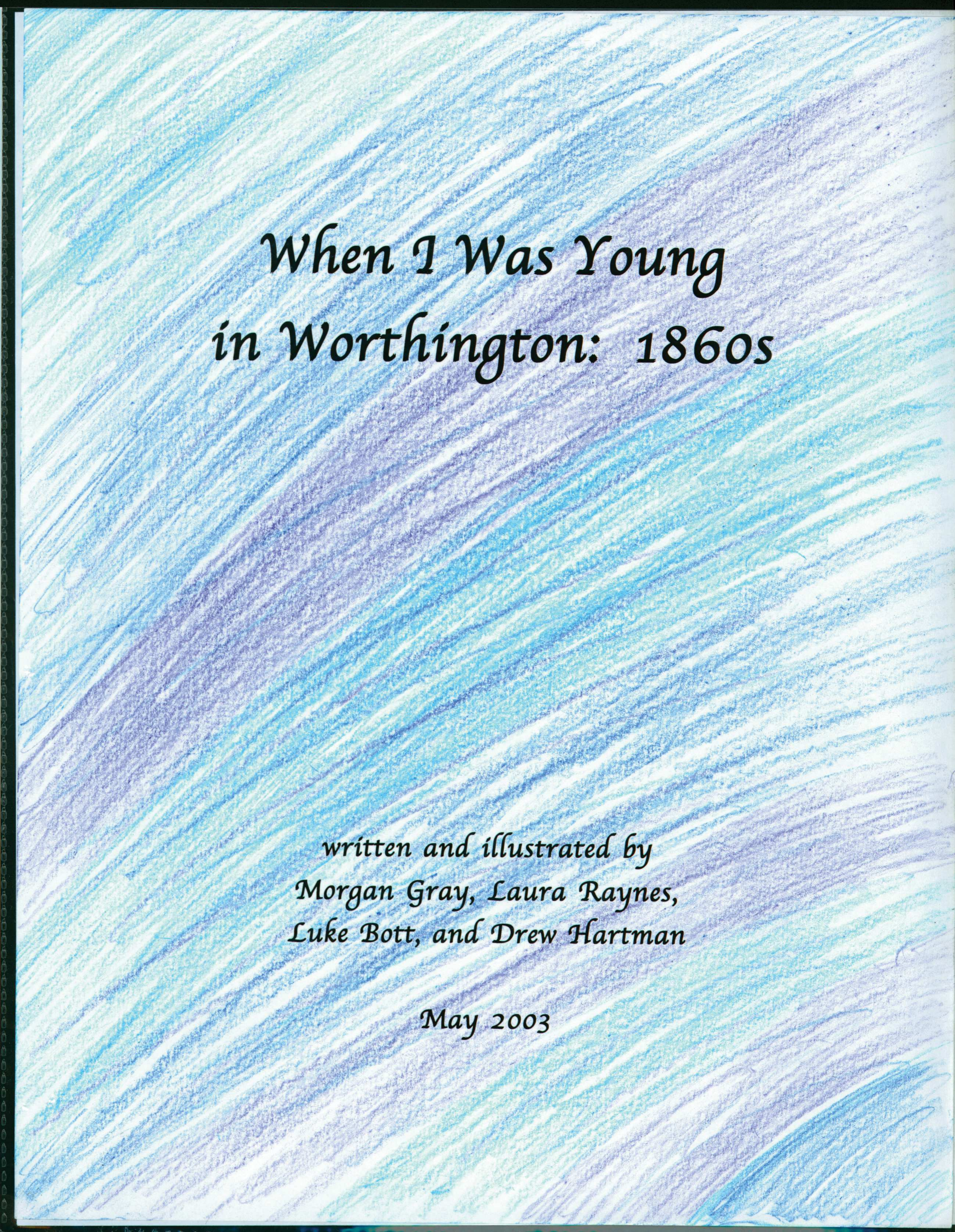




When I Was Young in Worthington: 1860s

*written and illustrated by
Morgan Gray, Laura Raynes,
Luke Bott, and Drew Hartman*

May 2003

This book is dedicated to
Mrs. Watson for helping us
so much. We couldn't have
done it with out you!!

Morgan

It was Luke's idea. He was the one who wanted us to check out the graveyard. I didn't want to go; graveyards are full of buried dead people.

Laura

Morgan's a chicken. I thought we should go. After all, it was a dare and I am not one to turn down a dare.

Luke

I was bored. What else was there to do on a spring night in Worthington, Ohio? So I said we'd take the dare.

Drew

A half hour didn't seem like all that long at first. We had been talking about our Bicentennial project for school. Our class had been to downtown Worthington earlier that week. We visited the Orange Johnson House and took a walking tour of downtown. I was the one who said how cool it would be to actually go back in time.

Laura

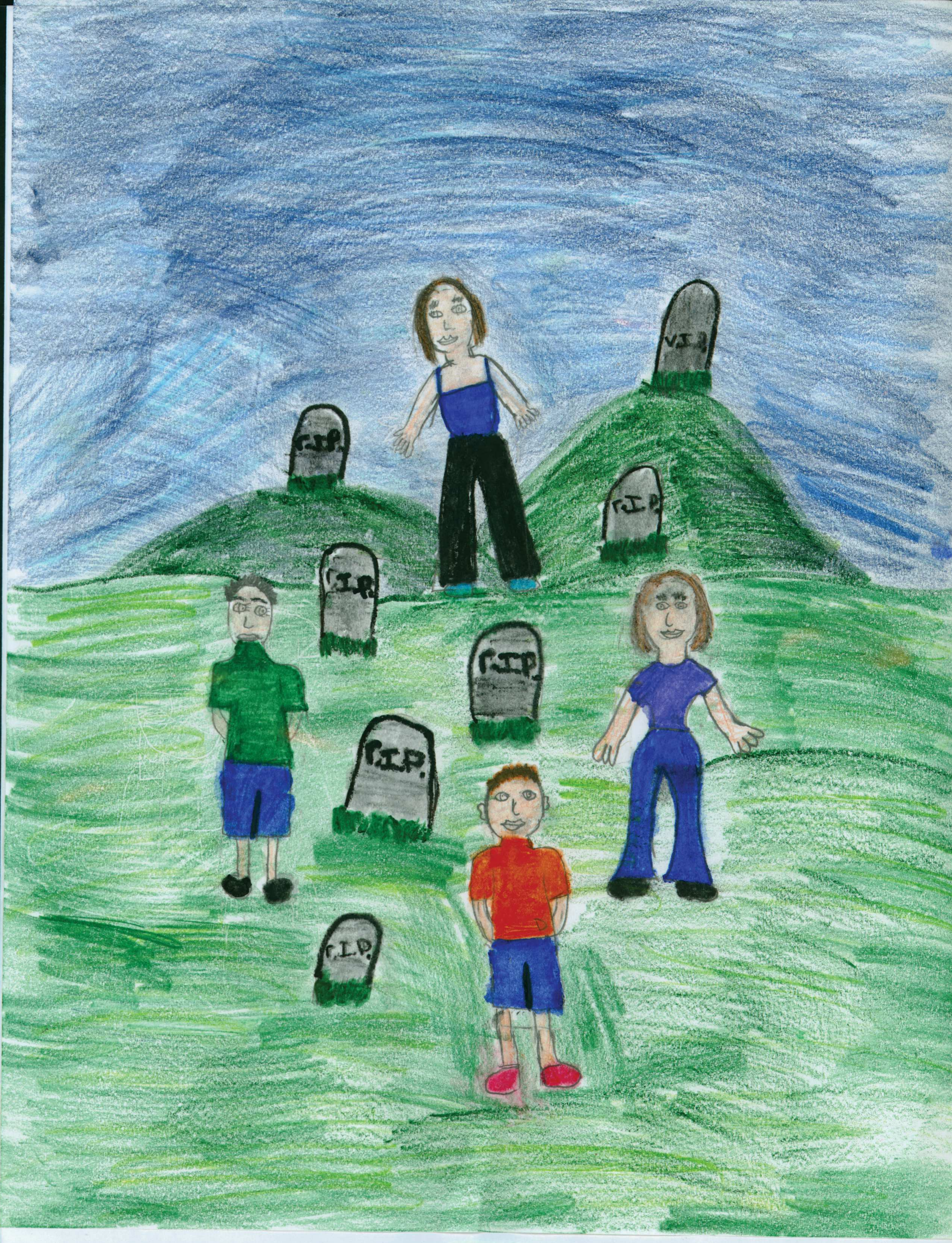
I mentioned the graveyard behind St. John's church. I'd heard that I was related to people buried back there. So I told Drew he ought to check it out~ maybe he'd get a feel for the 1860s standing back there!

Drew

Morgan shivered at the mention of the graveyard. That's when I dared everybody to meet me there at midnight. Luke jumped on the idea, and Laura agreed, also. Morgan was the only one who didn't want to go.

Laura

I suggested that Morgan and I would meet the boys at the graveyard at midnight. She was going to spend the night at my house that night, anyway, so it would be fairly easy for us to get there. Drew and Luke both live on Morning Street, so they could walk there together.



Drew

At 11:45 pm I got out of bed and walked over to the window to signal Luke. It was a very dark night and we could see the street lights of High Street. We started out for the graveyard behind St. John's church. At 12:00 all of us got to the graveyard.

Luke

I went in first. I wasn't one bit scared, and to be honest, I was kind of hoping for something exciting to happen. All of the sudden, I heard a scream and I turned around. Morgan was gone. I ran over to the rest of the group. Laura said, "Morgan fell down a hole."

Laura

I remember thinking, "Oh my gosh! She was just walking and she fell down the hole?" So I told the guys to let me down there and I would help her get up. "Sure, that's fine and then if you two can't get up, we can help you," Luke told me. I took a deep breath and jumped down the hole.

Drew

I told Luke, "This couldn't have gone any better. Both girls are stuck in an eight foot hole, we are up here, and the best part is we can leave the girls here."

Luke sounded incredulous when he said, "You meant to do this?"

I answered, "No, but this is great!!!" As I tried to turn and leave, I sensed something behind us. I felt a presence and the next thing I knew, someone pushed me. Just as we were falling over the edge, I looked behind me, and standing there was a ghost.



Morgan

"What are *you* doing down here ?" I asked.

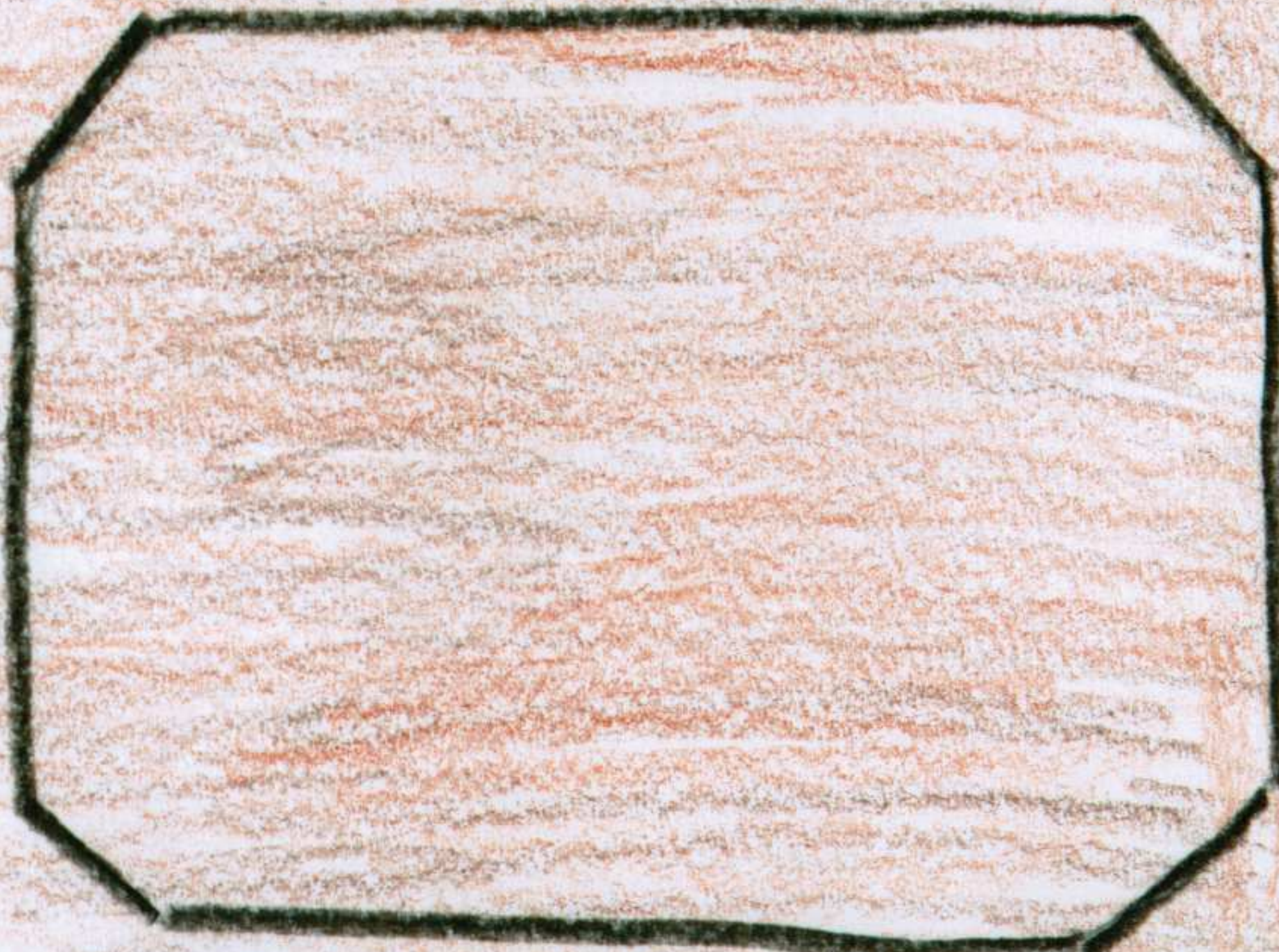
"We got pushed by a ghost," said Drew.

"Okay great! We're stuck down here. What are we going to do now? Luke, you and Drew are so dumb." As I was walking around the whole hole, my hand hit something wooden. I shouted, "Hey guys, come here and see this door. Let's see where it goes."

We went through the door and something odd happened. It felt like the air was being sucked out of the small room we were now in. Later, we found out that we *never* should have gone through that door.

R.I.P.

Laura
Smith



Luke

Apparently, bad things happen to those who don't wait because the next thing I knew, we were in this house with a dirt floor and an odd fireplace. On the fireplace was food being cooked and we were dressed in odd trousers and suspenders, while the girls were dressed in different dresses with a lot of layers.

Morgan

Something weird was going on because sitting near the fire was a lady who resembled Laura. All of the sudden, I heard Laura gasp and say, "Oh my gosh! I think that that is my great-great-great-grandma."

Laura's Relative

"Children, I was wondering when you were coming. What took you so long? Mrs. Steele has been expecting you. We need to eat and then you boys must go to bed. You know, you'll have a big day tomorrow, walking to the nearest regiment to fight in the Civil War."

Luke

I started to feel faint and I heard Drew let out a strangled scream. Fight in the Civil War? We must have traveled back in time to the 1860's! I was not happy. Not happy at all.



Luke

When we got to Camp Chase there were more people than I thought. I realized that this war was going to be more difficult than I thought.

Drew

When we had to set up camp, I thought that would be the hardest thing to do. But no, I was wrong. The fighting was the worst. I could never, not in my wildest dreams, have been able to imagine the terror. The thought that I or Luke might die, that I would never again be able to see Kelsie--well, it was almost too much to bear.

Luke

I wondered how we had gotten there and how I had gotten into this mess. Because that was what this war was; a gory mess. There never was any glory or fame. Boredom sure did look good.



Laura

It turned out that we were in the house my family now lives in. I knew it was an old house, but I had no idea it was this old. We discovered that the lady by the stove was the serving girl for Mrs. Harriet Steele. Mrs. Steele and her husband, John, had purchased the home in 1864. Later it was moved to its present location at 700 Hartford Street. Captain Skeeel was in the 113th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He actually marched with General Sherman! Anyway, enough of the history lesson. We were ushered into a room to sleep. In the morning, the boys got up, packed some food, and left. We didn't have time to be sad because the rest of the day was spent cooking breakfast, cleaning, cooking dinner, and helping with the crops. We didn't finish until after dark. We were so tired we fell asleep as soon we laid down.

Morgan

The days were a blur. We didn't know how we had got there and we weren't sure how to get back home. We spent all of our time cleaning, cooking, and cleaning some more. Occasionally we would get a break. We used that time to explore Worthington. It was weird to see what our city was like back then. The Village Green was actually fenced in, and there were 62 new trees that had been planted a few years back. Laura's relative (her name was Laura, too) said that Homer Tuller and Ezra Gilbert were actually paid to plant the trees.



Morgan

I wondered if we were supposed to do something. I had read books where the people went back in time because they have magic charms and they changed the course of history. There were other books that had someone go back in time to do something that someone else had done themselves. I had thoughts that maybe Laura or I might create an easier way to make butter or something! Whatever it was, I hoped it would happen soon because I wanted to go home.

Laura

We learned a lot about Worthington from our new friend, Laura. We learned that Sharon Memorial Hall was built in 1861. The Worthington Inn (which people today believe is haunted) was known as the Bishop House. There was an omnibus which left from there and took two hours to get to Columbus! The Methodist church had just replaced its building with a new church. It sat next to the female seminary. At any rate, it seemed like we had been there for two months. I was tired of working constantly, tired of having dirty hair, and I wanted to hear some juicy gossip from my friends. But most of all, I wanted to go back to Kilbourne Middle School!



Drew

Finally, something odd happened. Just as someone was coming at me with a bayonet, I felt all the air around me suck away. (Later when we were talking, I found out that the same thing happened to the others.) But all of a sudden, I was standing in the middle of the Village Green with normal clothes, shoes, and a watch. As I looking at my watch, I saw it said 12:30 on May 2, 2003. I told the others this and Morgan started babbling about alternate realities and books.

Morgan

Apparently I was thinking about the wrong books. This was more like the Narnia Series. We had gone back in time and even though it seemed we were there a long time, in the 2003 time, it was only a half hour - our allotted time for being in the graveyard.



Drew

I'm psychic, I knew this would happen the whole time.

Luke, Laura, and Morgan

DREWWWWWW!!!!!!

