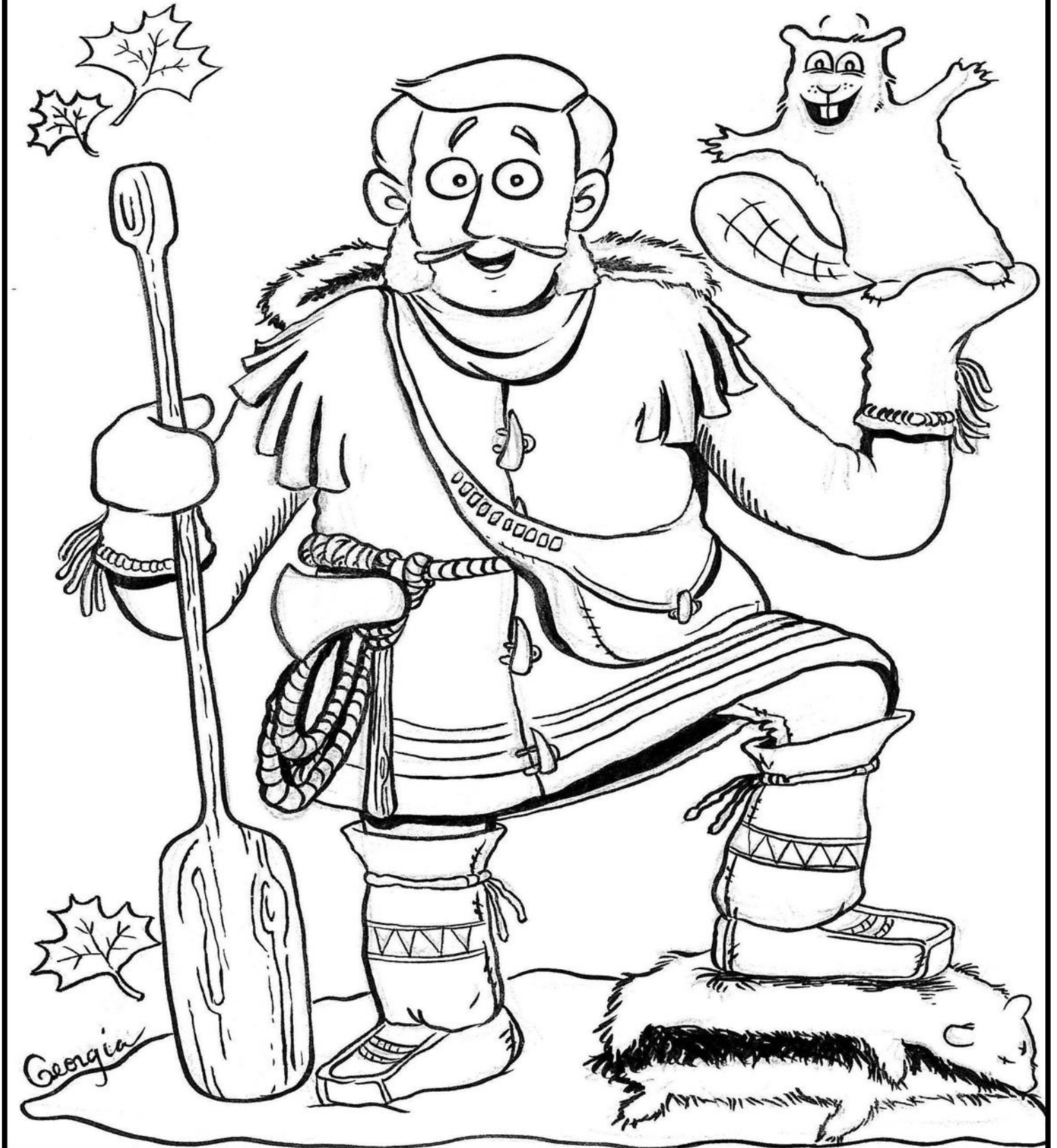
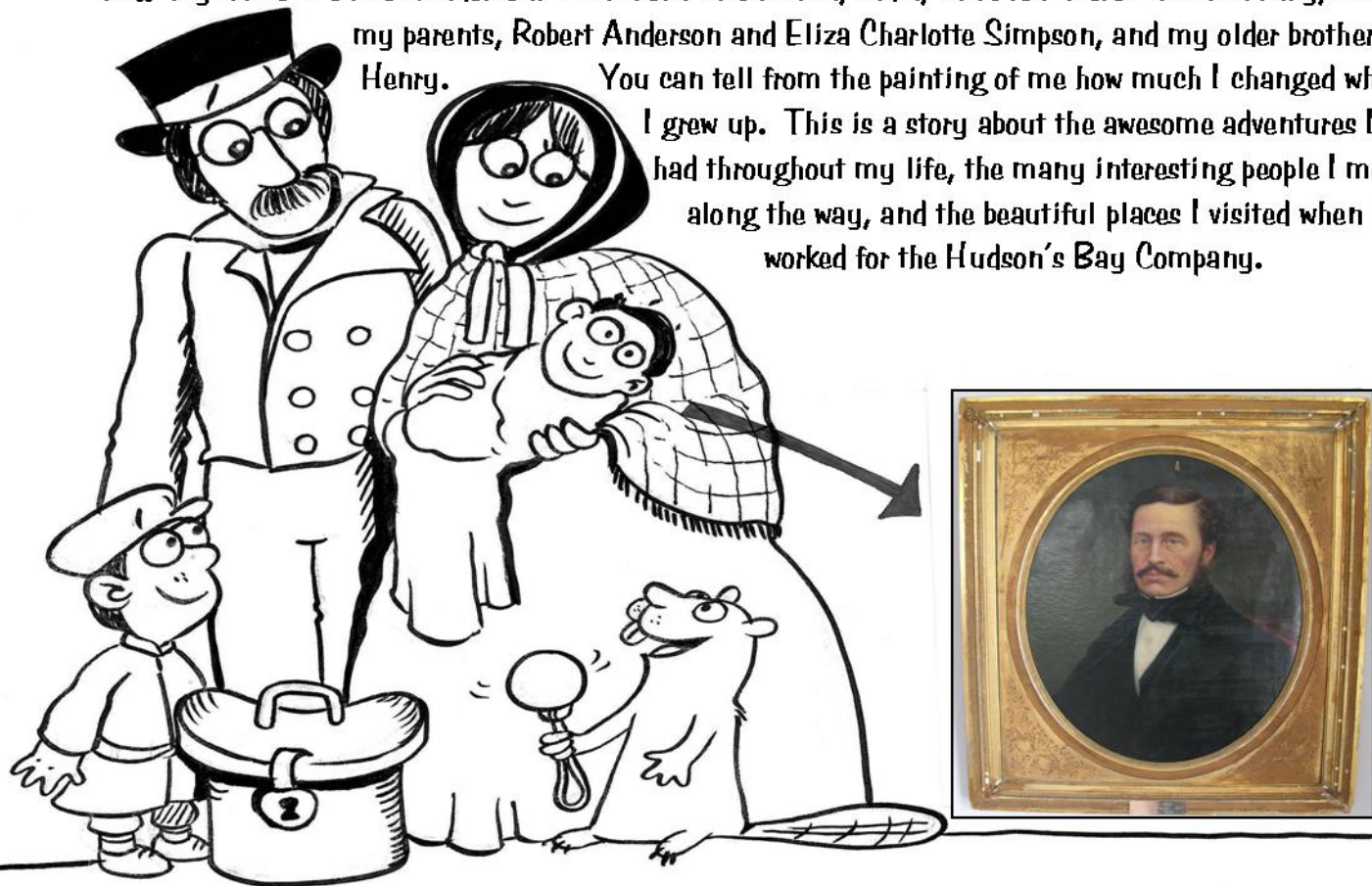


JAMES ANDERSON'S AWESOME ADVENTURES

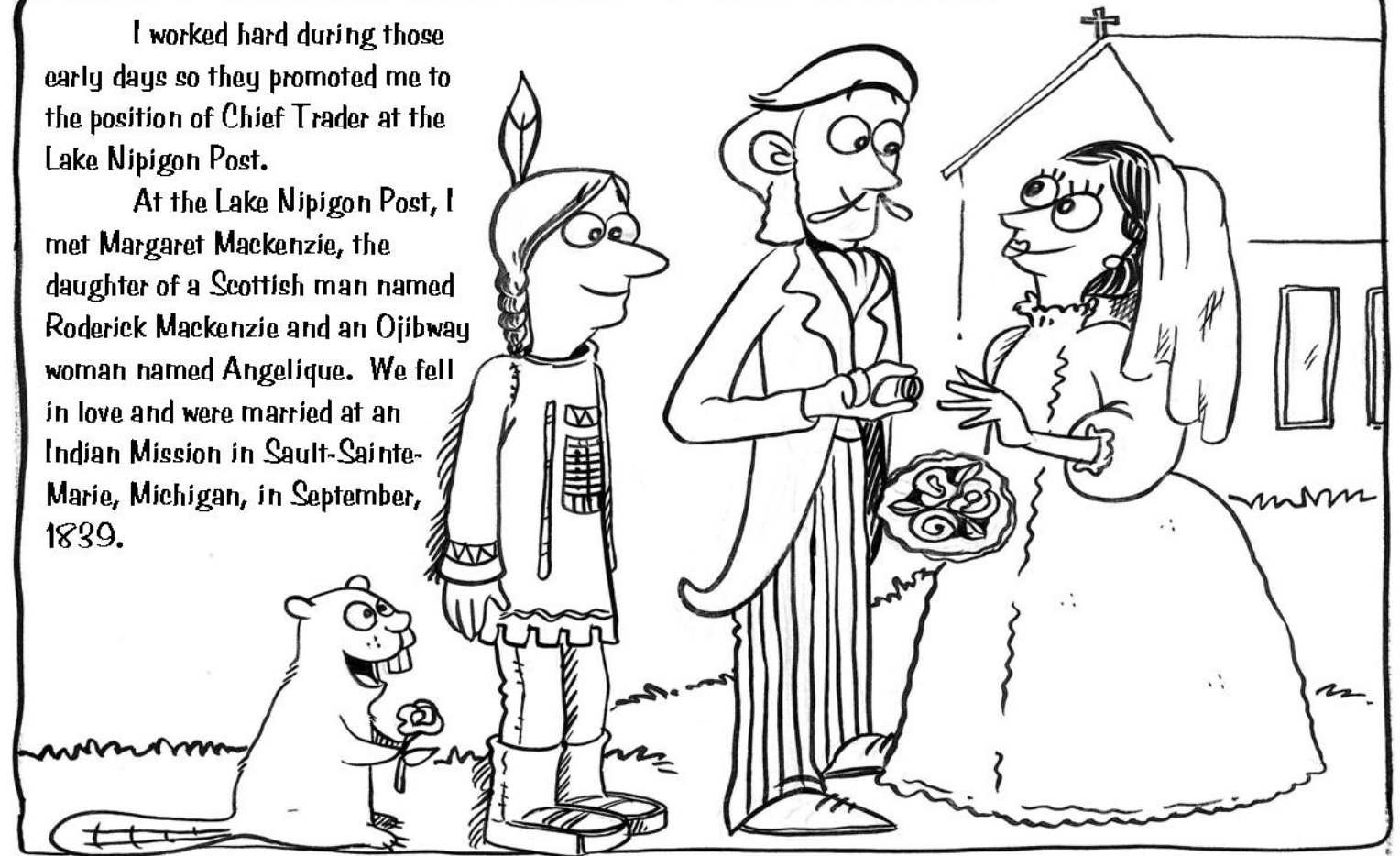


Hi!! My name is James Anderson. I was born in Calcutta, India, in 1812. Here I am as a baby, with my parents, Robert Anderson and Eliza Charlotte Simpson, and my older brother, Henry. You can tell from the painting of me how much I changed when I grew up. This is a story about the awesome adventures I had throughout my life, the many interesting people I met along the way, and the beautiful places I visited when I worked for the Hudson's Bay Company.



I worked hard during those early days so they promoted me to the position of Chief Trader at the Lake Nipigon Post.

At the Lake Nipigon Post, I met Margaret Mackenzie, the daughter of a Scottish man named Roderick Mackenzie and an Ojibway woman named Angelique. We fell in love and were married at an Indian Mission in Sault-Sainte-Marie, Michigan, in September, 1839.



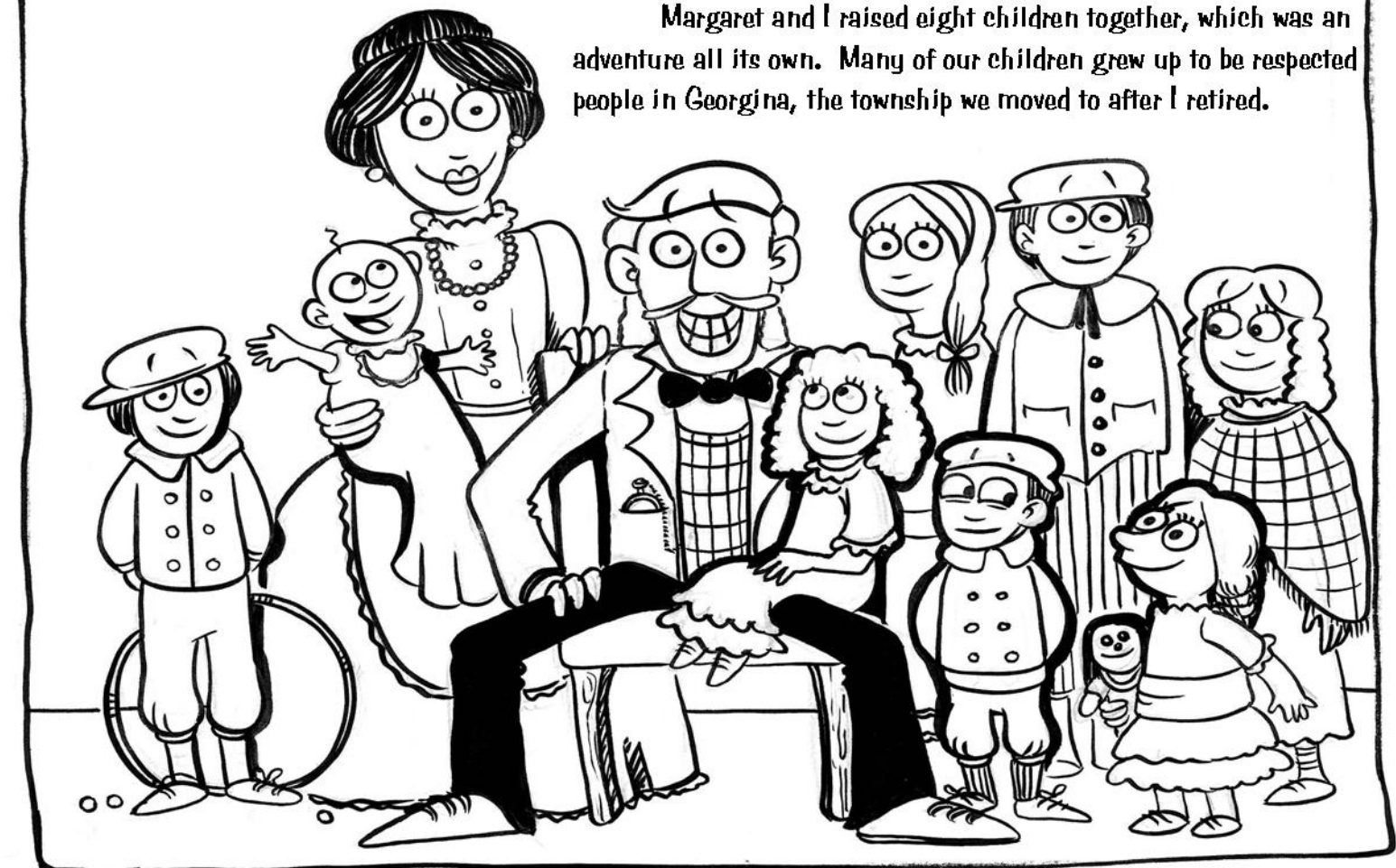
My brother, Alexander Caulfield, and I joined the Hudson's Bay Company in 1831. I was 19 years old and my brother was 17.

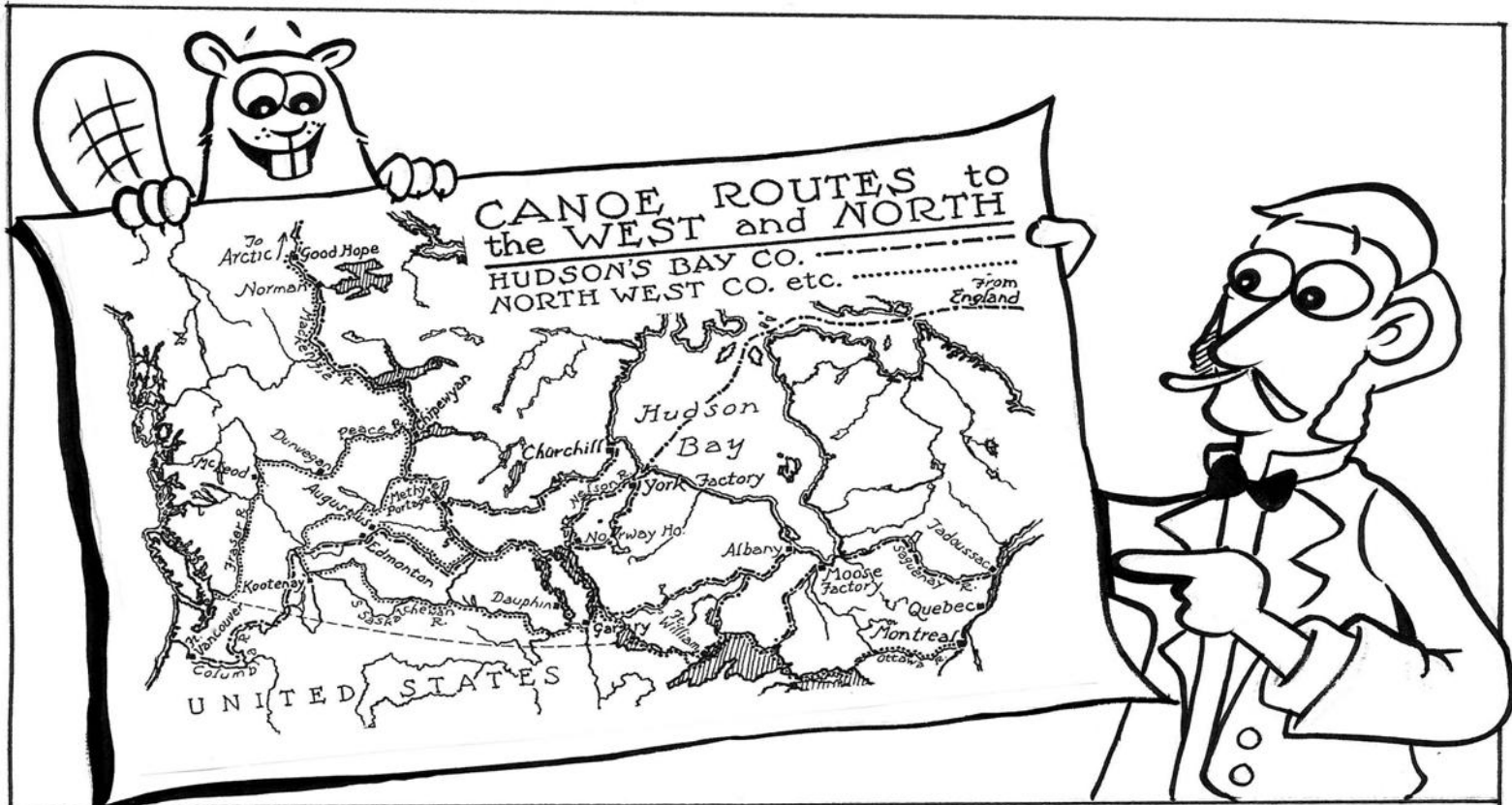


After we entered the Company, my brother and I went to Canada to begin our careers. Both of us looked forward to the adventure and excitement in store for us. Our parents followed us in the same year, and settled in Georgina Township on Lake Simcoe in Upper Canada.

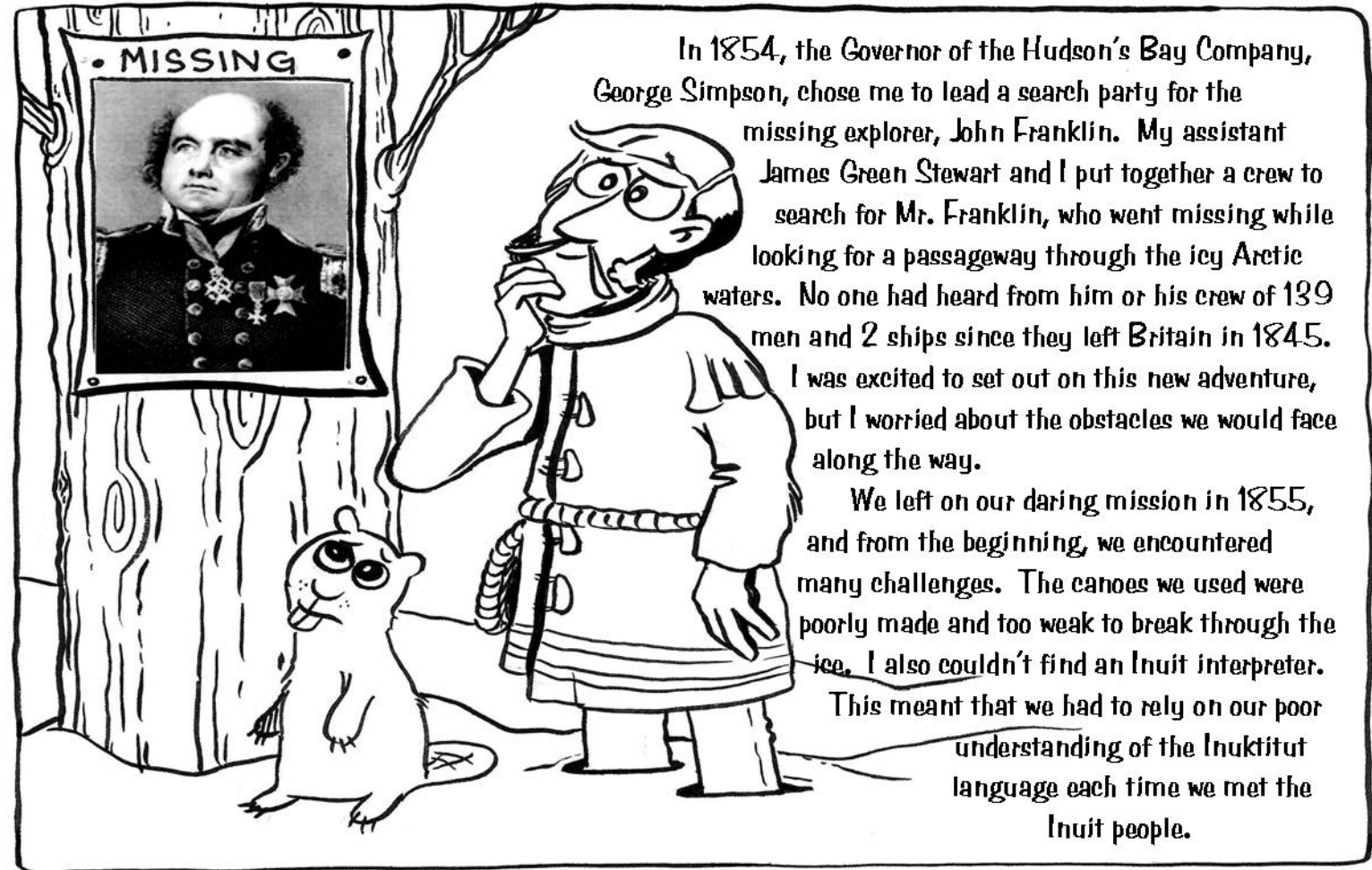
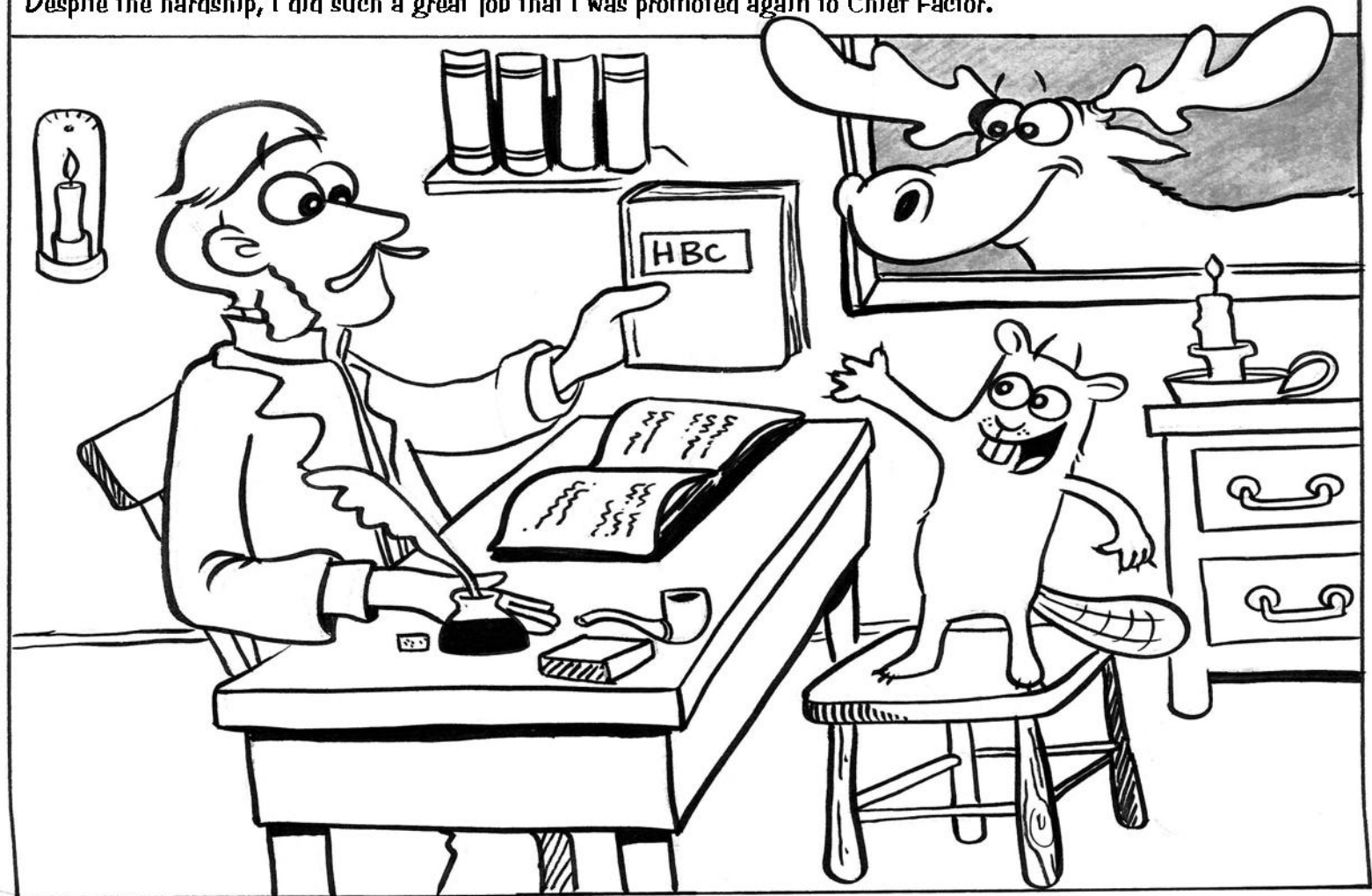
I was first sent to Moose Factory near the southern end of James Bay, to work as an Apprentice Clerk. Sadly, my brother, Alexander Caulfield, was sent to a different post and I never saw him again.

Margaret and I raised eight children together, which was an adventure all its own. Many of our children grew up to be respected people in Georgina, the township we moved to after I retired.



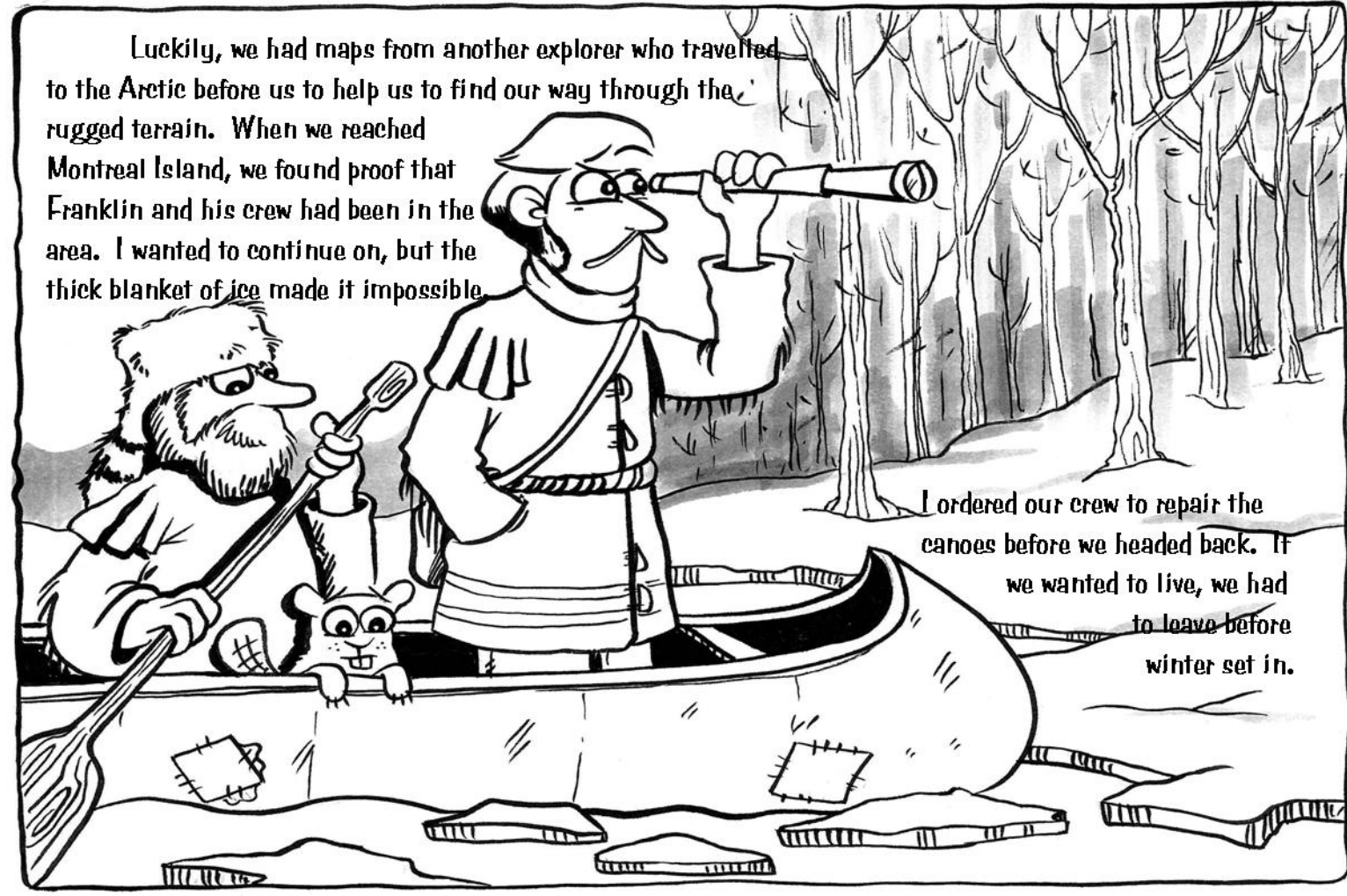


After three years at Lake Nipigon, the Company placed me in charge of the Athabasca District at Fort Chipewyan. I spent one year there, and then I was transferred to the Mackenzie River District at Fort Simpson. When I was there, I worked to improve the Company's bookkeeping. This was a tiring and sometimes lonely job. Despite the hardship, I did such a great job that I was promoted again to Chief Factor.



In 1854, the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, George Simpson, chose me to lead a search party for the missing explorer, John Franklin. My assistant James Green Stewart and I put together a crew to search for Mr. Franklin, who went missing while looking for a passageway through the icy Arctic waters. No one had heard from him or his crew of 139 men and 2 ships since they left Britain in 1845. I was excited to set out on this new adventure, but I worried about the obstacles we would face along the way.

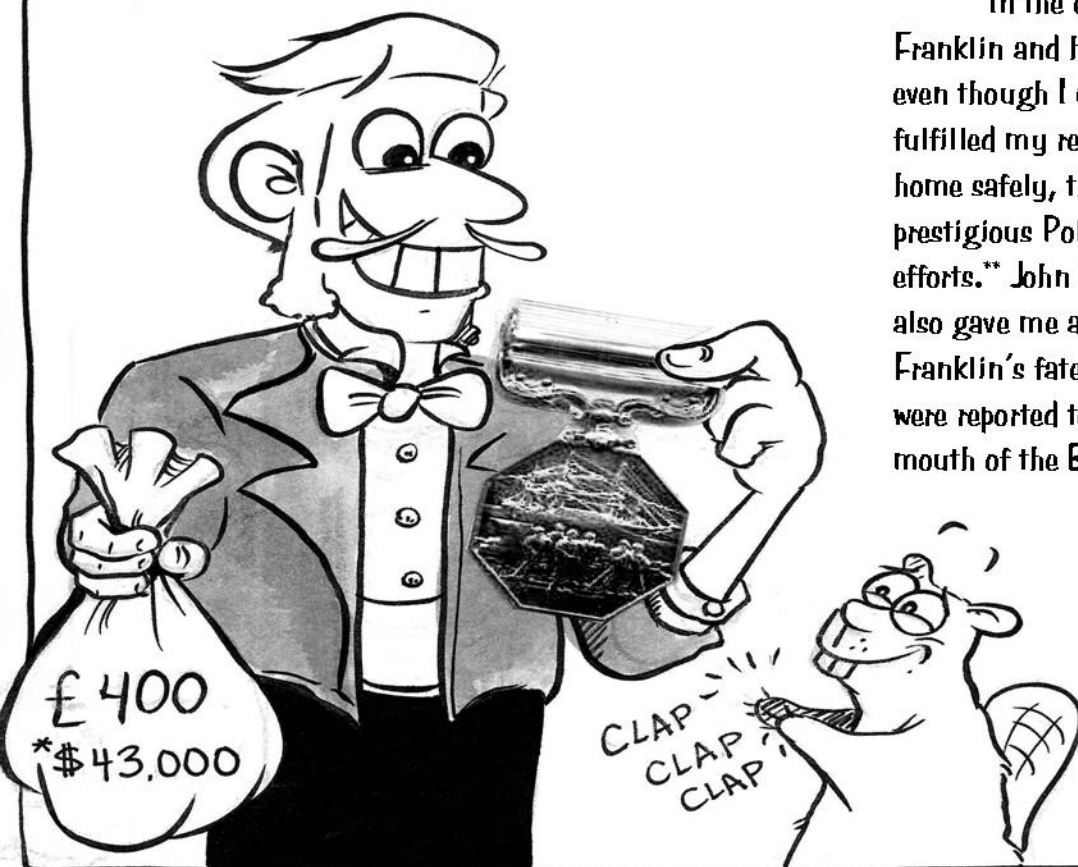
We left on our daring mission in 1855, and from the beginning, we encountered many challenges. The canoes we used were poorly made and too weak to break through the ice. I also couldn't find an Inuit interpreter. This meant that we had to rely on our poor understanding of the Inuktitut language each time we met the Inuit people.



Luckily, we had maps from another explorer who travelled to the Arctic before us to help us to find our way through the rugged terrain. When we reached Montreal Island, we found proof that Franklin and his crew had been in the area. I wanted to continue on, but the thick blanket of ice made it impossible.

I ordered our crew to repair the canoes before we headed back. If we wanted to live, we had to leave before winter set in.

In the end, I was unable to locate John Franklin and his doomed crew. It seems that even though I couldn't find Franklin, I still fulfilled my responsibilities. When I returned home safely, they awarded me with the prestigious Polar Medal and £400 for my efforts.* John Franklin's wife, Lady Franklin, also gave me a book about the discovery of Franklin's fate. Sadly, Franklin and his crew were reported to have died near the mouth of the Back River.



*Today, £400 is worth around \$43,000 Canadian dollars.

Even though I was sick, I continued to work for the Company at the Fort Simpson Post until 1857. I intended to retire that year, but was convinced not to. After a short break, the Company sent me to the Mingan Post on the St. Lawrence River in 1859.

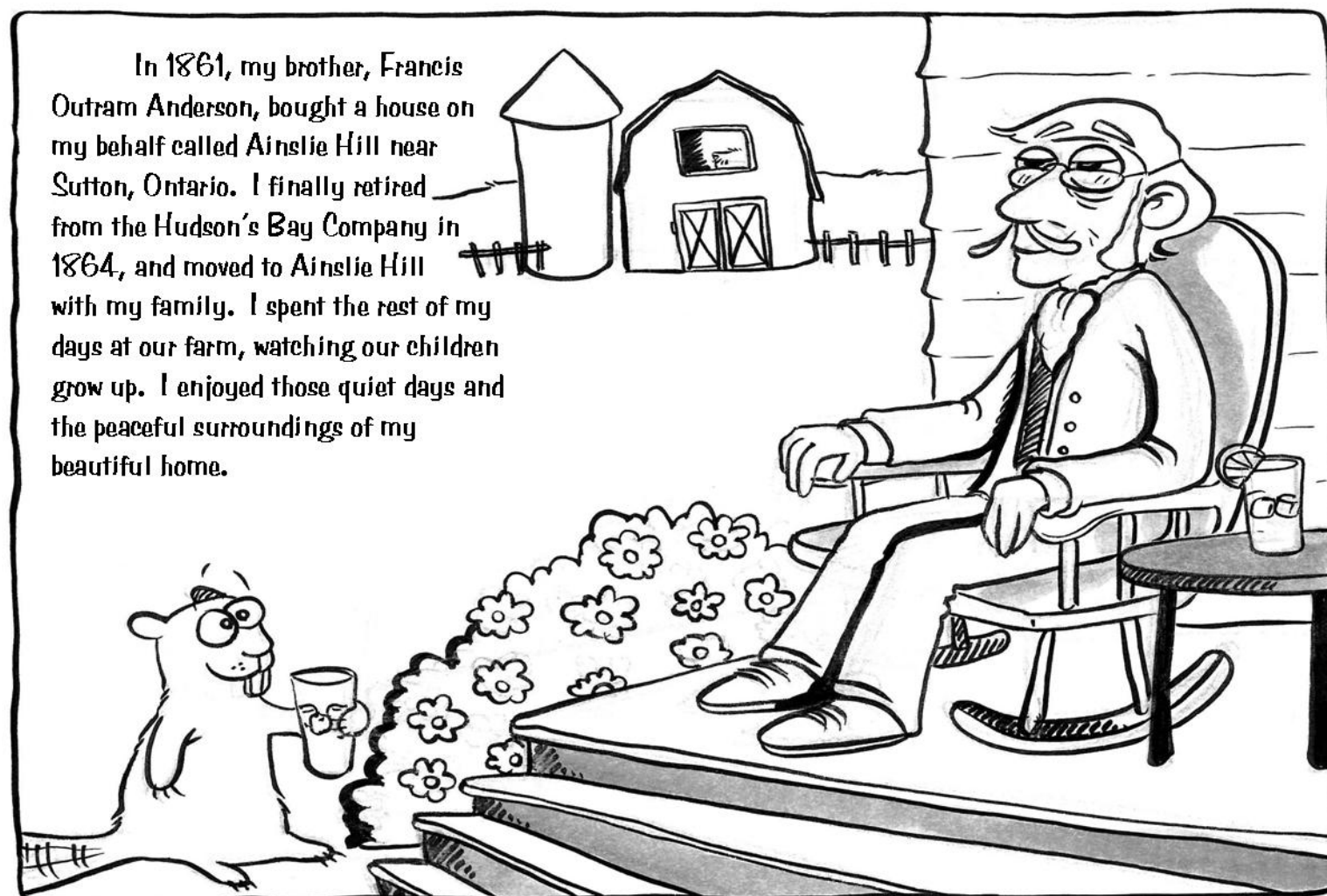
Thankfully, this job was easier than my previous posts. I entertained important people, went fishing, and, once again, made sure the accounts were in order. I was made Chief Factor of the Southern Department and left Mingan in 1864.

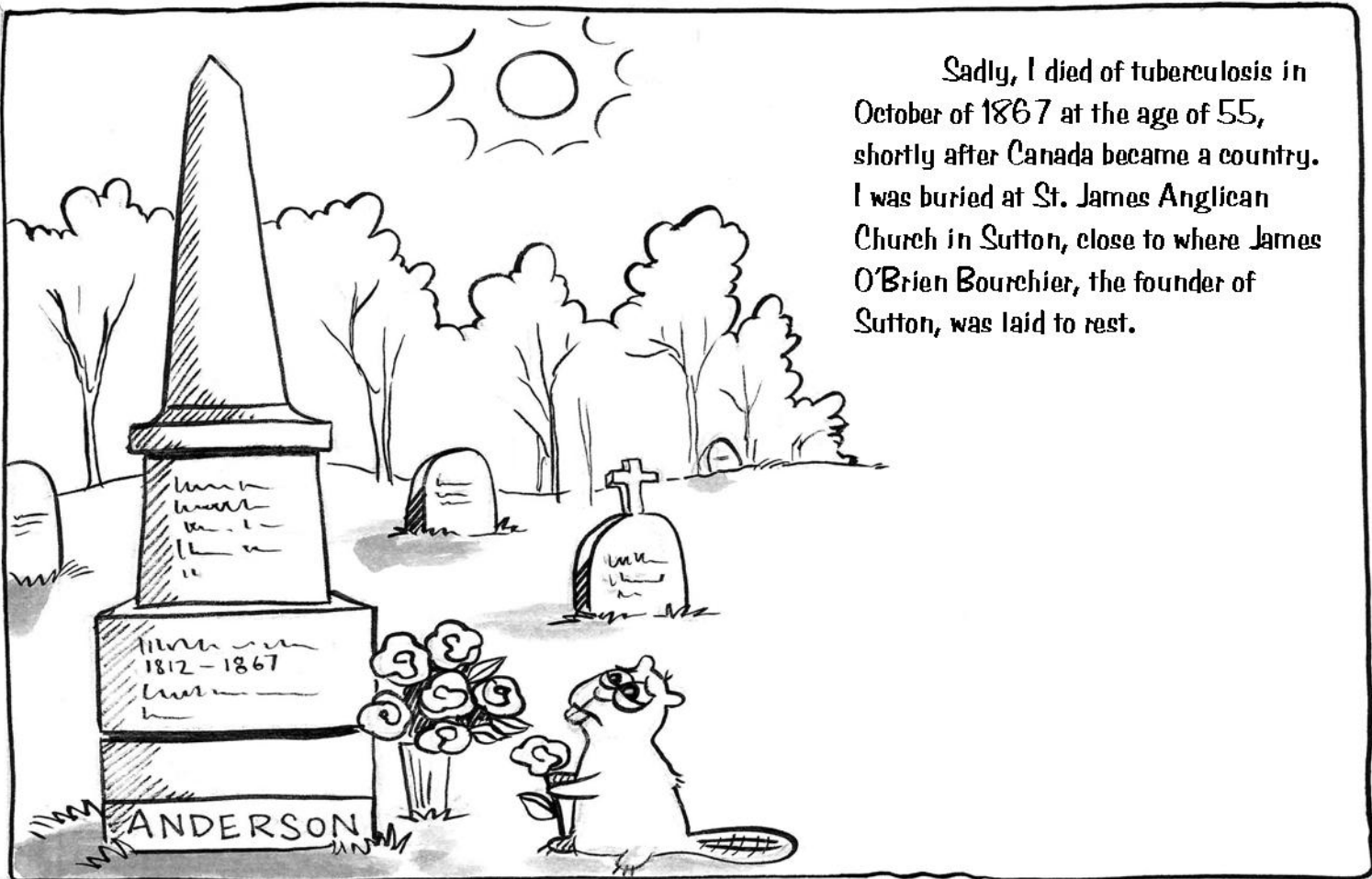


Despite the tributes I received for my courageous Arctic expedition, the journey to the north took its toll on my health. I eventually lost my voice and contracted tuberculosis because of the exposure to the freezing temperatures.



In 1861, my brother, Francis Outram Anderson, bought a house on my behalf called Ainslie Hill near Sutton, Ontario. I finally retired from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1864, and moved to Ainslie Hill with my family. I spent the rest of my days at our farm, watching our children grow up. I enjoyed those quiet days and the peaceful surroundings of my beautiful home.



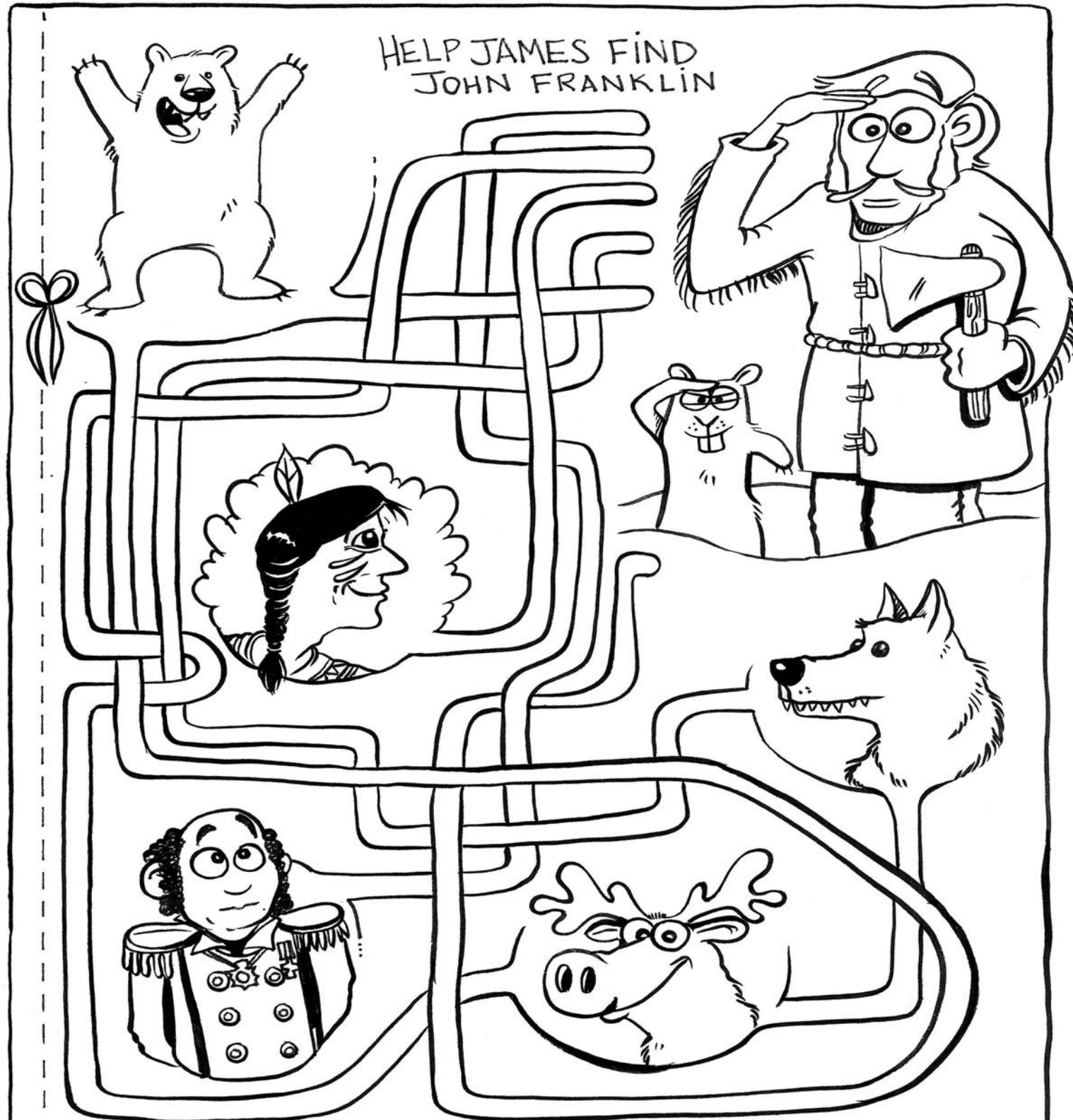


Sadly, I died of tuberculosis in October of 1867 at the age of 55, shortly after Canada became a country. I was buried at St. James Anglican Church in Sutton, close to where James O'Brien Bouchier, the founder of Sutton, was laid to rest.

During my time with the Hudson's Bay Company, I travelled across the country and back again. Along the way, I picked up many souvenirs of my awesome adventures. These objects tell us about the fascinating people I met, and the scenic places I visited throughout the 1800s.

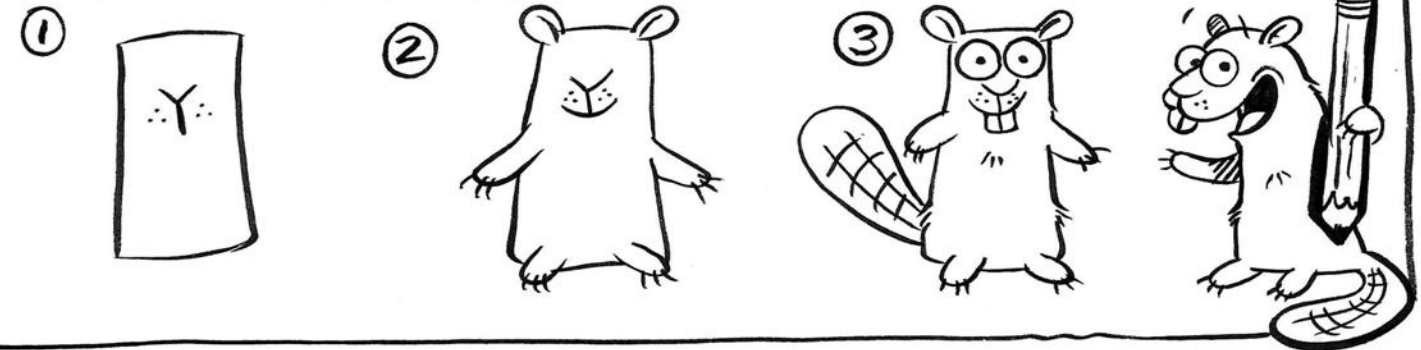
One of my favourite objects is the jacket I received from my wife's Ojibway grandfather. It is decorated with beautiful porcupine quillwork that the First Nation peoples used on leather clothing, moccasins, bags, jewellery, baskets, and birch bark boxes.

The jacket, along with some of the other keepsakes I collected, is now on display at the Georgina Pioneer Village & Archives in the gallery named after me.



HELP JAMES FIND JOHN FRANKLIN

HOW TO DRAW BILLY BEAVER:





During my search for the famous Arctic explorer, John Franklin, I encountered many challenges along the way. Can you name some of them?

Answer: Unable to speak Inuktitut language, poorly constructed canoes, extremely cold weather, frozen lakes and rivers, wild animals, and navigating unknown territory.

GLOSSARY & FURTHER READING

Hudson's Bay Company (HBC):

- <http://www.hbc.com/hbcheritage/history/>
- http://www.canadiana.org/hbc/intro_e.html

Ranks of the HBC:

The usual path for a young man entering service with the Hudson's Bay Company was to serve a five-year apprenticeship as a clerk. If he successfully completed this trial period, the clerk would be promoted to a junior trader. If he did not prove himself, or was thought to be unable to cope with the hardships of the northern climate, he was dismissed from the Company. A capable man could be promoted through the ranks of apprentice clerk, clerk, clerk-in-charge, chief trader (second-in-command of a large district or in charge of a depot), and chief factor (the highest ranking Commissioned Officers, usually in charge of districts, and given the right to sit at the annual meeting of the council and vote on promotions for clerks and Chief Traders).

Upper Canada:

Upper Canada was created by the Constitutional Act of 1791, which divided Quebec into two colonies: English Upper Canada and French Lower Canada (present-day Quebec). Upper Canada existed from December 26th, 1791 until February 10th, 1841 (at which time it became Canada West), and generally comprised present-day Southern Ontario and, until 1797, the Upper Peninsula of what is now part of the state of Michigan.

John Franklin:

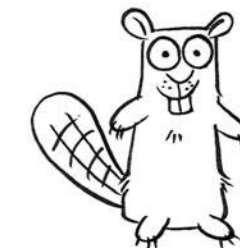
- <http://www.cdli.ca/CITE/exfranklin.htm>
- <http://www.ric.edu/faculty/potter/franklinrelics.html>
- <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/2/3/h3-1810-e.html>

Polar Medal:

A medal awarded by the Sovereign of the United Kingdom, which was originally instituted in 1857 to reward explorers who attempted to discover the Northwest Passage. The first awards were given to those engaged in the search to discover lost explorer, Sir John Franklin and his crew who went missing while looking for the Northwest Passage. The medal is octagonal and its face bears the image of the reigning monarch (Queen Victorian was the reigning monarch when James Anderson was awarded the Polar Medal). The back depicts the RRS Discovery (a wooden ship launched by Britain for Arctic discovery).

Ainslie Hill:

Ainslie Hill was located on 200 acres of lot 21, 7th concession, in North Gwillimbury. James Anderson became the owner of Ainslie Hill in 1861 when he gave power of attorney to his brother, Francis Outram Anderson, to purchase the property for £890 from W.E.T. Corbett. James died at Ainslie Hill in October 1867. He left his wife Margaret the use of the home and its furnishings for her lifetime upon the condition that she remained a widow. She, along with her son Alexander, was an executor of the estate. The property was left in equal shares to the seven children: Eliza, Alexander, James, Allan, Roderick Mackenzie, William and Robert. Allan, however, died before the will took effect. The title "Ainslie Hill" was apparently the choice of Mrs. Corbett since it was a family name.



JAMES ANDERSON'S AWESOME ADVENTURES
was drawn by Georgia Peschel of Georgia Toons and written
by staff of the Georgina Pioneer Village & Archives.



www.georgiatoons.com



The James Anderson Gallery at the Georgina Pioneer Village & Archives was
generously funded by the Hudson's Bay Company, South Lake Community
Futures Development Corporation, and the Town of Georgina.



Georgina Pioneer Village & Archives

Town of Georgina, Leisure Services Department

26557 Civic Centre Road, Keswick, Ontario, L4P 3G1

Tel: 905-476-4301 ext. 284

Fax: 905-476-7492

Email: curator@georgina.ca

Hours of Operation

First weekend of June to last weekend of August

Open to the public Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm

September-May

Open to the public by appointment only.

Admission by Donation