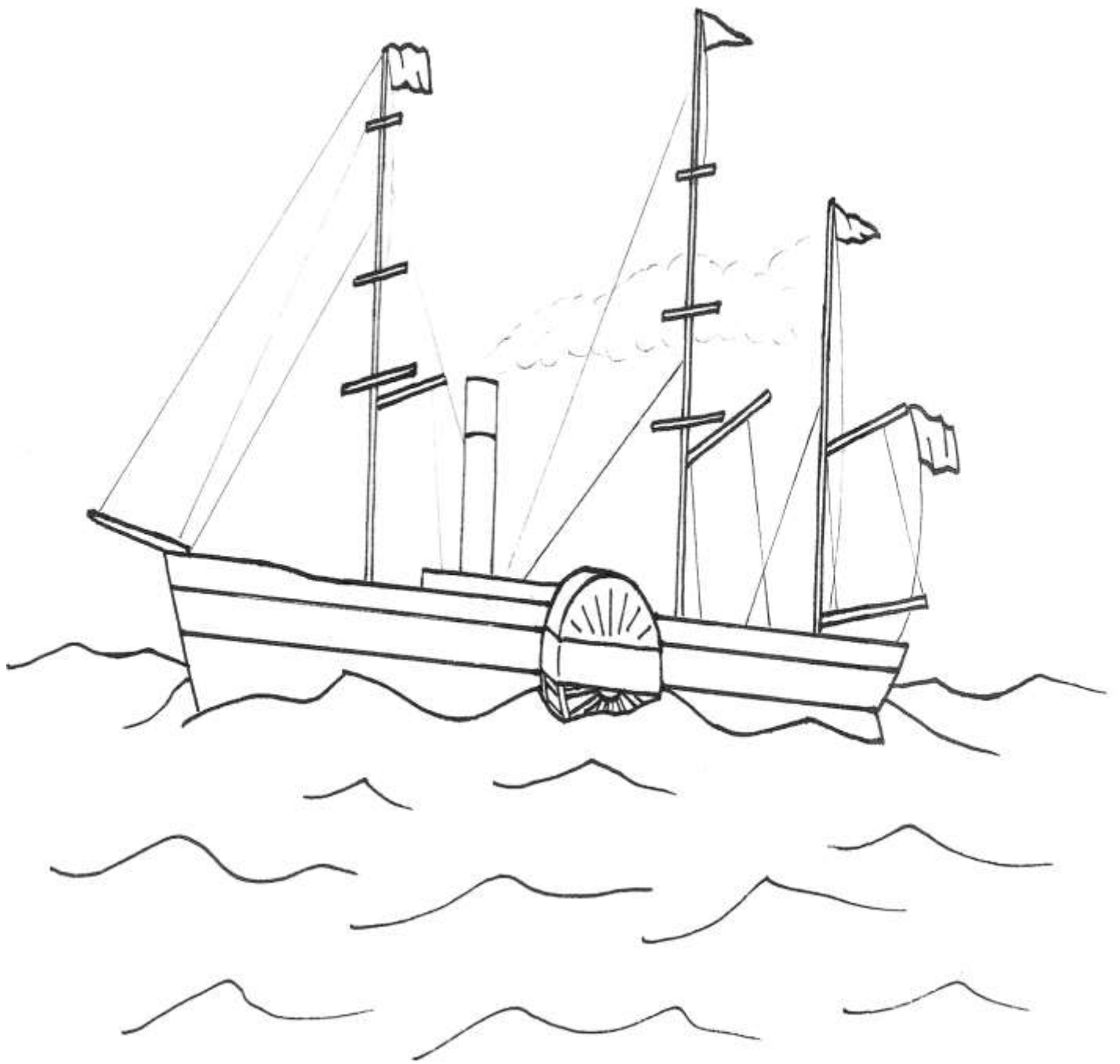


# The Queen City Saint My Sister Blandina Coloring Book

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Illustrations by Whitney Schieltz



**The Segale family traveled on a steamship to get to the United States.**

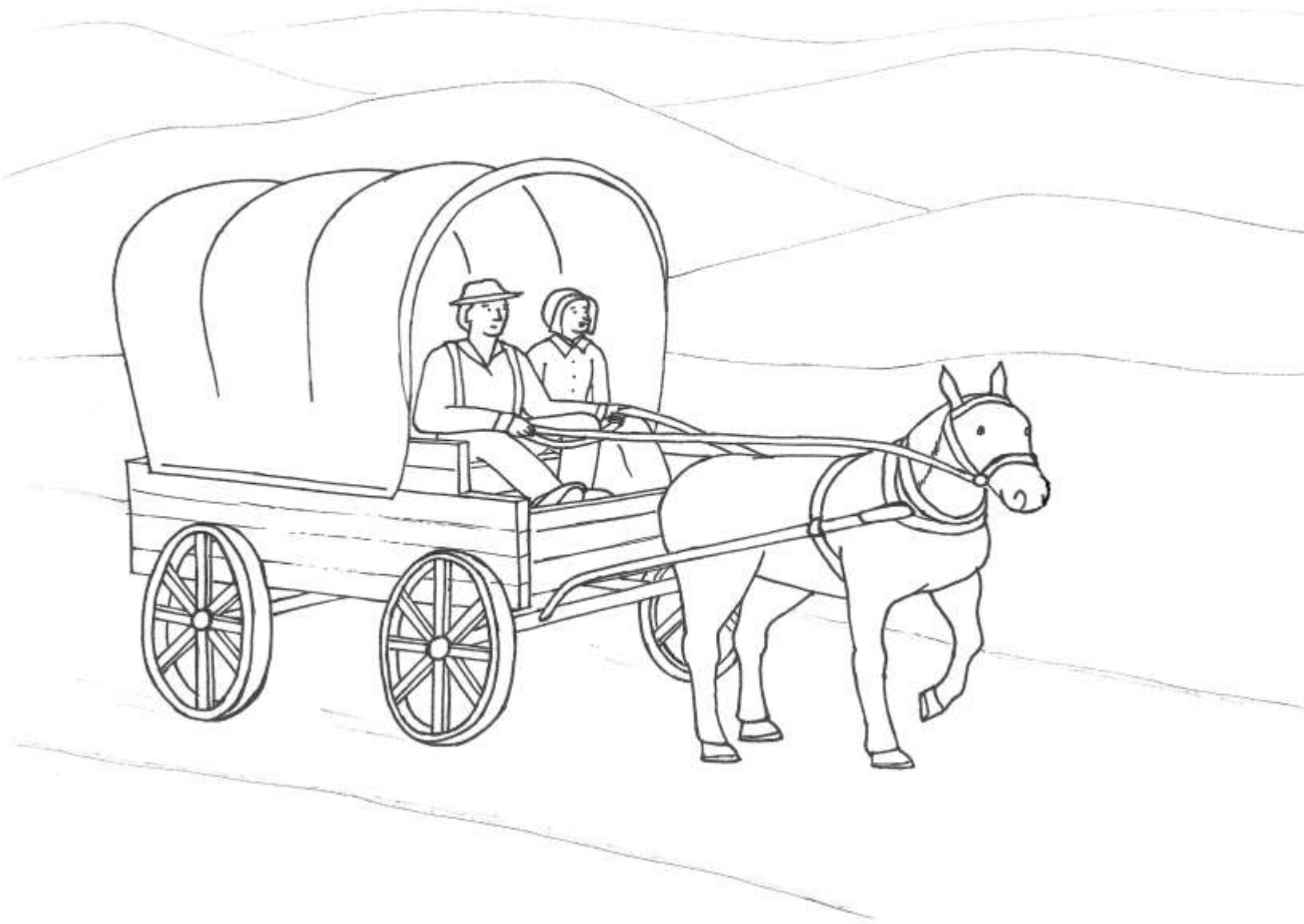
Maria Rosa Segale was born in Cicagna, Italy, on January 23, 1850.

When Maria Rosa was four years old, her parents decided to immigrate from their home in Italy to the United States. Though they loved their country, there were many problems at that time, and the Segales wanted to give their children a better life. Her parents and four siblings settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where three more children were born to the family. They loved the hills surrounding the city because they reminded them of home. Maybe this exciting experience was the beginning of Maria Rosa's love of adventure!



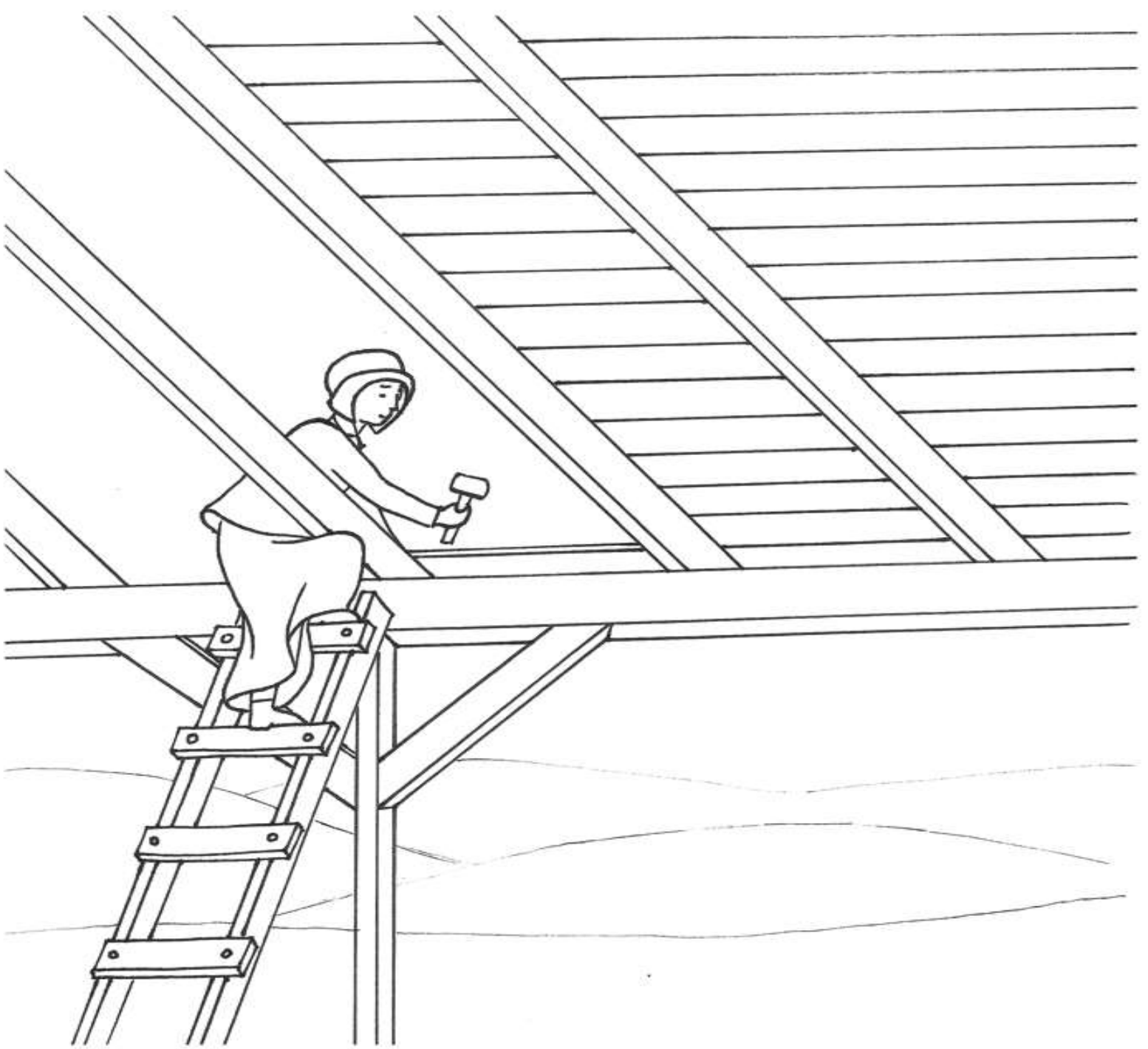
**Maria Rosa loved music and became a teacher.**

Education was very important to Maria Rosa's parents. She went to schools where the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the Sisters of Mercy were her teachers. After grammar school, she went to study music at St. Vincent Academy. This school was run by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. The word charity means "love." Maria Rosa was very impressed by the work she saw these loving Sisters doing as they took care of orphans and sick people who did not have any money for doctors. She learned that every person is one of God's children as she watched the Sisters nurse soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. When Maria Rosa graduated at the age of sixteen, she surprised her family by announcing that she wanted to be a Sister of Charity, too. Maria Rosa became known as Sister Blandina. During the same year, her older sister and best friend, Maddalena, also entered the community and took the religious name, Sister Justina.



When she was frightened as she traveled, Sister Blandina would say the blessing she was given, "Angels guard thy steps."

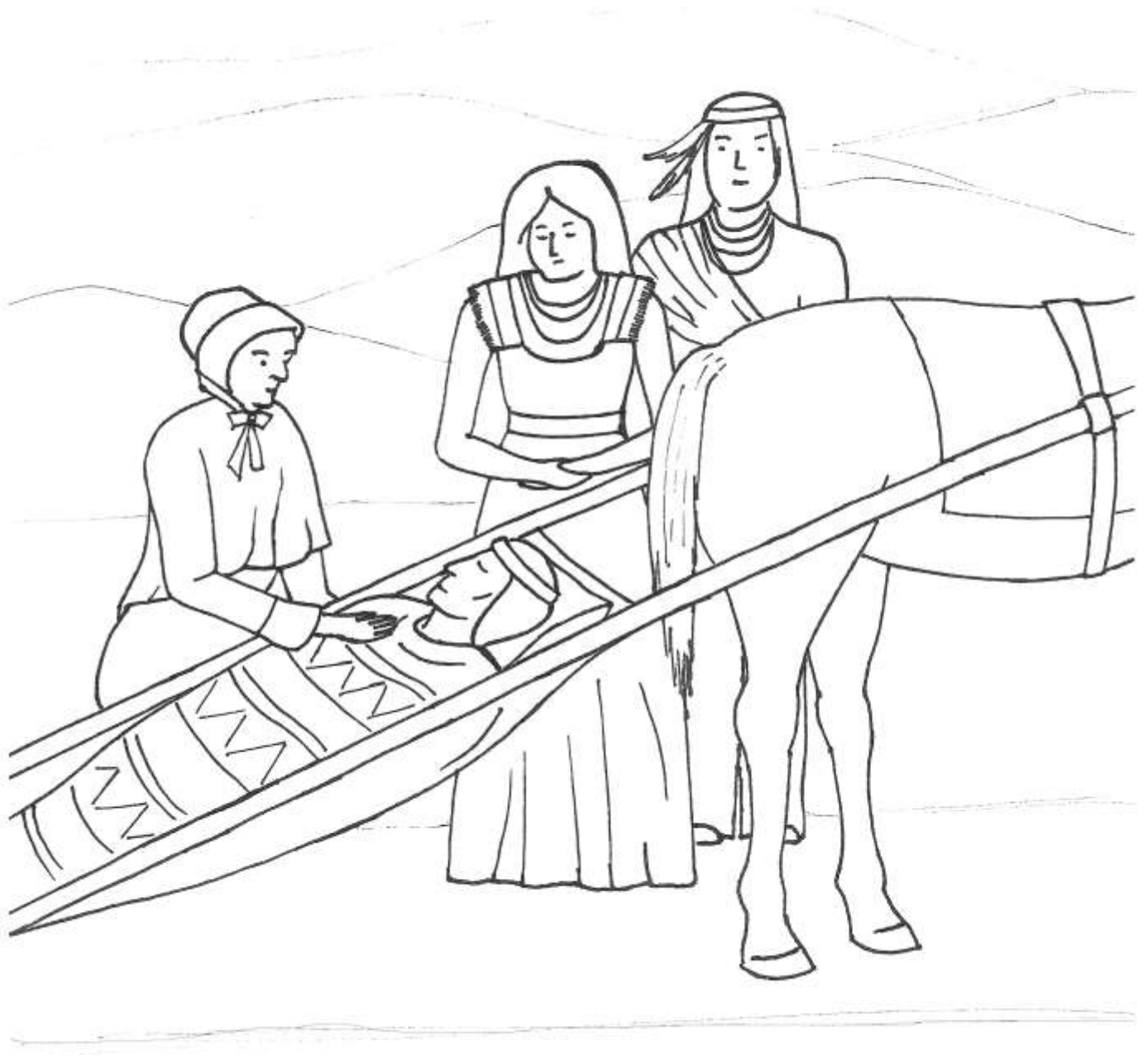
Sister Blandina was a teacher in Ohio for a few years. But when she was twenty-two, she got the chance for another adventure. She was sent by herself out West, which in those days was still unsettled, wild and dangerous! Sister Blandina knew the people there needed many things, and her deep love of God made her want to show them love, too. She traveled by wagon to Trinidad, Colorado, before it was even a state! Blandina had been warned that cowboys were very dangerous people, and she had a terrible scare when she had to share her wagon with one of them. But after talking to the young man for a little while, she realized there was nothing to be afraid of. She made him promise to write to his poor mother who had not heard from him since the day he left home looking for his own adventures.



**Sister Blandina never let anything stop her, and was always willing to do the hardest work herself.**

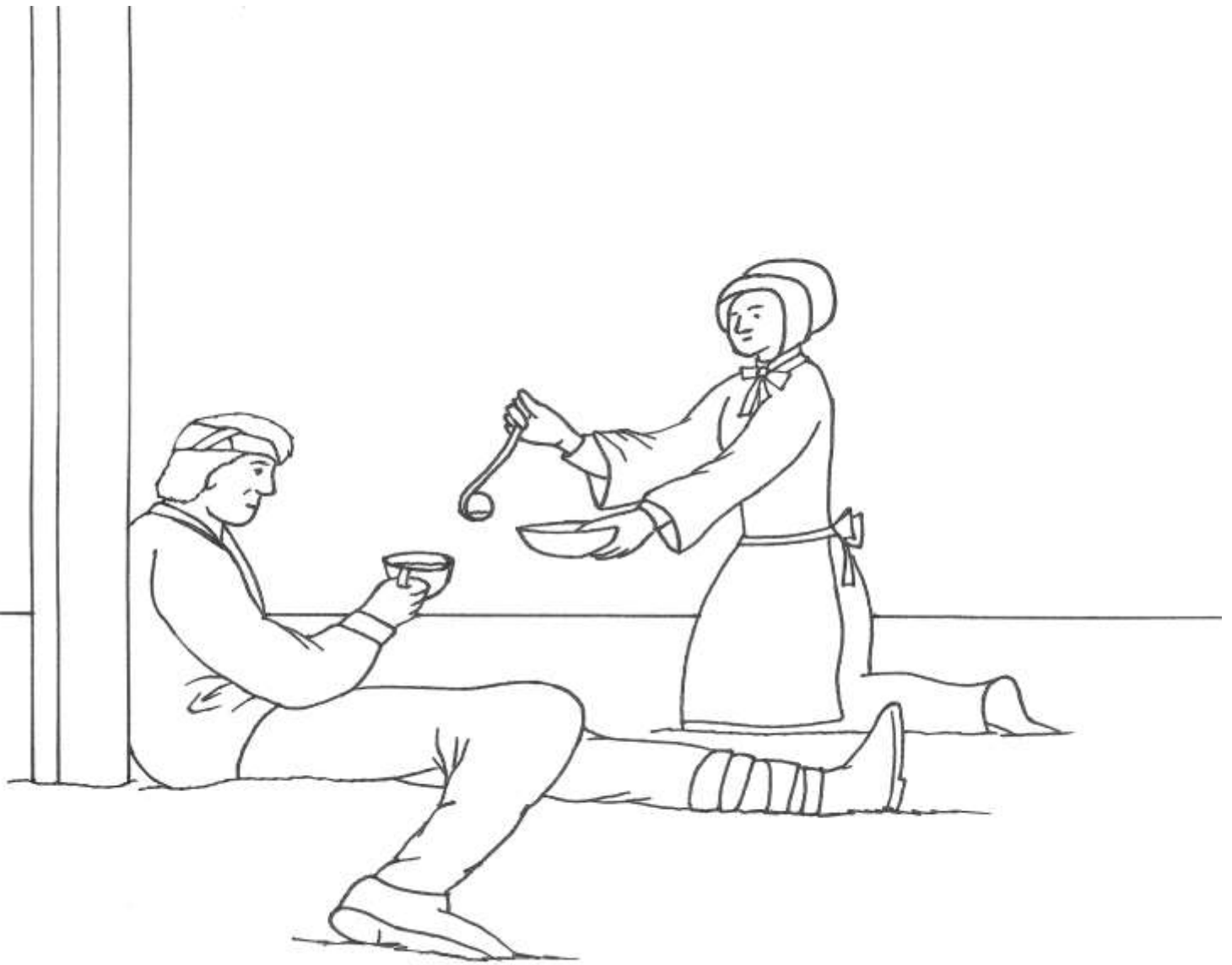
Pretty soon, everybody in the area knew Sister Blandina. She wanted her students to have a proper school, but there was no money to build one. That was not going to stop her! She believed in the goodness of people, and counted on that for help. She climbed up on the old roof herself and started pulling it apart. A lady from the town was shocked to see this and asked what she was doing. "Building a school!" In less than an hour, the lady returned with a group of men and the building materials needed. The first public school in Trinidad was built without spending a penny!





**The Apache people loved Sister Blandina for her kindness and concern.**

In those days, many Hispanic and Native American people still lived on the land that the American settlers wanted. They were often tricked and cheated out of what was rightfully theirs, and treated like they were not as good as the settlers. This upset Sister Blandina, because she believed, like we do, that God loves each person as much as another, even if they don't worship God in the same way. Sister Blandina was always kind to them and took care of them when they were injured or sick. She also stood up for them against the settlers when they were treated unfairly. She wasn't afraid to tell anyone the truth about what they were doing!



**No matter who was suffering, Sister Blandina always responded, "We must do for them what we can!"**

In fact, Sister Blandina never let fear or disgust stop her from doing what she felt God wanted her to do. She even took care of an outlaw who was dying from a gunshot wound. Everyone else in the town left him to die, but Sister Blandina knew this man who had done such bad things was God's child too, and God would want him to be treated with kindness. She nursed him back to health and won the respect of his leader, the famous "Billy the Kid!" He was so thankful, he promised her any favor she asked. Sister Blandina was clever and knew Billy meant to harm the people in the town who wouldn't help his gunman. Before he knew it, she had asked him to spare the people as her favor. Billy laughed at how she had outwitted him, and agreed not to hurt the people. From then on, Sister Blandina had Billy's friendship and protection.



**In Cincinnati, Ohio, Sisters Blandina and Justina continued caring for the poor and people just arriving in the USA.**

After spending many years out West in Trinidad, Colorado, and Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico, Sister Blandina returned to the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati. Do you think she was finished with her work? Heavens, no! She and her dear sister, Sister Justina, began the new adventure of caring for all the new Italian immigrants that were pouring into the city. Just like the people who have migrated to our country now, these people had many many hardships. Sisters Blandina and Justina opened a center called the Santa Maria Institute. They helped the people in any way they could, and that center is still helping people to this day, over one-hundred years later!



Because of all the wonderful things Sister Blandina did in her life, she has not been forgotten. The schools and hospitals she built have been a blessing to thousands of people. She tried to love all people the way she knows God loves us all, and so she is still a person we admire and can learn from. This is why the Catholic Church has given her the title, "Servant of God," and is considering her for canonization. This means that all people will know her as Saint Blandina instead of Sister Blandina. How proud we are that she comes from our very own city of Cincinnati!

**Draw a picture of your own in this space!**