

HUNTERDON COUNTY ★ NEW JERSEY

TREASURES

★ COLORING AND ACTIVITY BOOK ★



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HUNTERDON COUNTY
HISTORY AT
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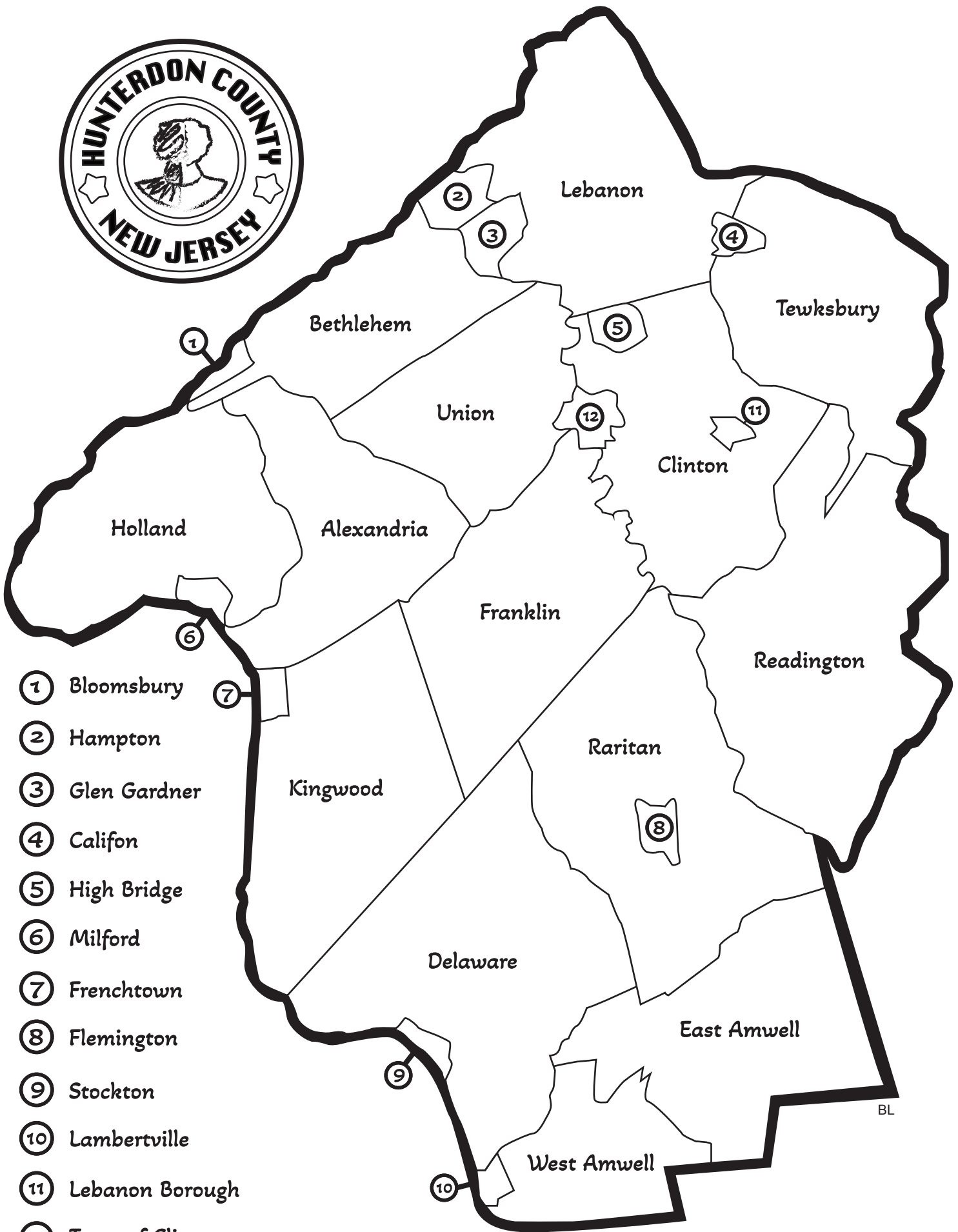
Welcome to Hunterdon County!

Hunterdon County is made up of **26** towns, also known as **municipalities**. Each municipality has its own unique history. When put together, they all make up the history of Hunterdon County!

Here are some fun facts about some of Hunterdon's municipalities:

- **Bloomsbury Borough:** Bloomsbury almost had a \$50 million amusement park built in 1975, but the application never made it past zoning complications.
- **Franklin Township:** One of four Franklin Townships in New Jersey, this town was named after Benjamin Franklin.
- **Frenchtown Borough:** Frenchtown was named after French officer Paul Henry Mallet-Prevost, who was actually Swiss!
- **Glen Gardner Borough:** The Borough of Glen Gardner gets its name from "glen," the area in which the town is situated: between two mountains with a stream (Spruce Run) running through the center. "Gardner" is the name of the family of five inventive and business-minded brothers who put the town on the map.
- **Hampton Borough:** Hampton used to be named Junction, being the intersection of the New Jersey Central, Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroads.
- **Holland Township:** The last municipality to be added to Hunterdon. It took five years (1874-1879) for Holland to officially break off from Alexandria.
- **Kingwood Township:** Kingwood used to be called Johnson's Tavern before it changed its name when it got a post office in 1827.
- **Lebanon Borough:** In April 2024, Lebanon Borough, Oldwick and Tewksbury were epicenters of a rare 4.8 magnitude earthquake that was felt throughout the Northeast.
- **Lebanon Township:** From 1961-1980, show business personality Merv Griffin owned a mill/home in Lebanon Township at Teetertown. He named his TV company Califon Productions after nearby Califon.
- **Union Township:** The Northwest New Jersey airport used to be in Union Township before moving to Alexandria Field after World War II.
- **West Amwell Township:** Amwell used to be a township in Burlington County, which was eventually split into seven different townships! West Amwell and East Amwell split from each other in 1846.

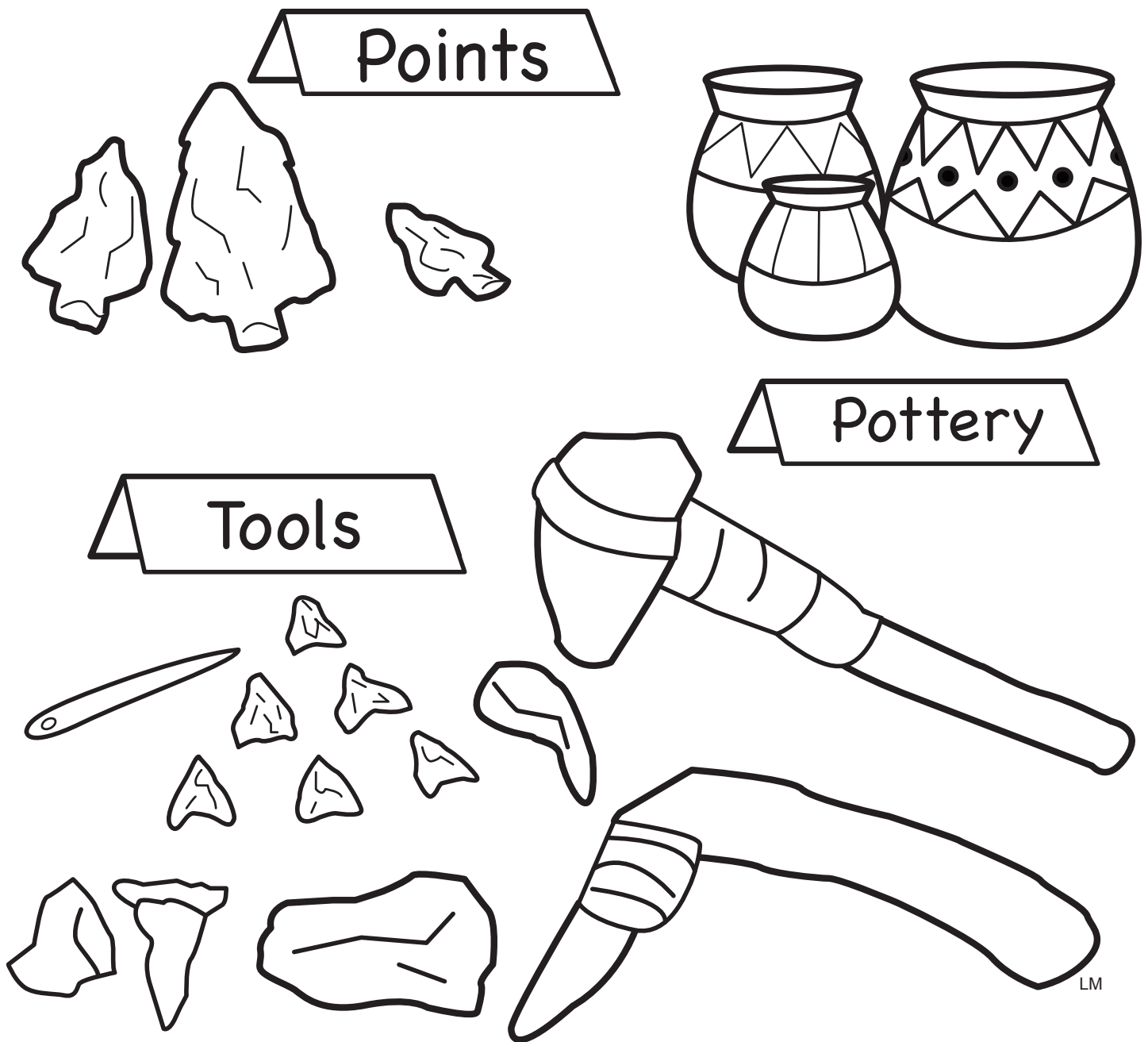
Facts from 300 Fun Facts About Hunterdon County's Municipalities and 350 Fun Facts About Hunterdon County's Municipalities by John Kuhl.



- ① Bloomsbury
- ② Hampton
- ③ Glen Gardner
- ④ Califon
- ⑤ High Bridge
- ⑥ Milford
- ⑦ Frenchtown
- ⑧ Flemington
- ⑨ Stockton
- ⑩ Lambertville
- ⑪ Lebanon Borough
- ⑫ Town of Clinton

BL

The first to live in what would later become Hunterdon County were the **Paleo-Indians**, who crossed a land bridge from Asia at the end of the last Ice Age. Many indigenous peoples lived in this area through the centuries, through the Archaic and Woodland Periods. Five hundred years ago, the **Lenape** first met the European colonizers, who brought trade but also disease and conflict, eventually forcing many of the Lenape to leave their ancestral lands. Today, the Ramapough Lenape live and work in northern New Jersey and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape live and work in southern New Jersey.

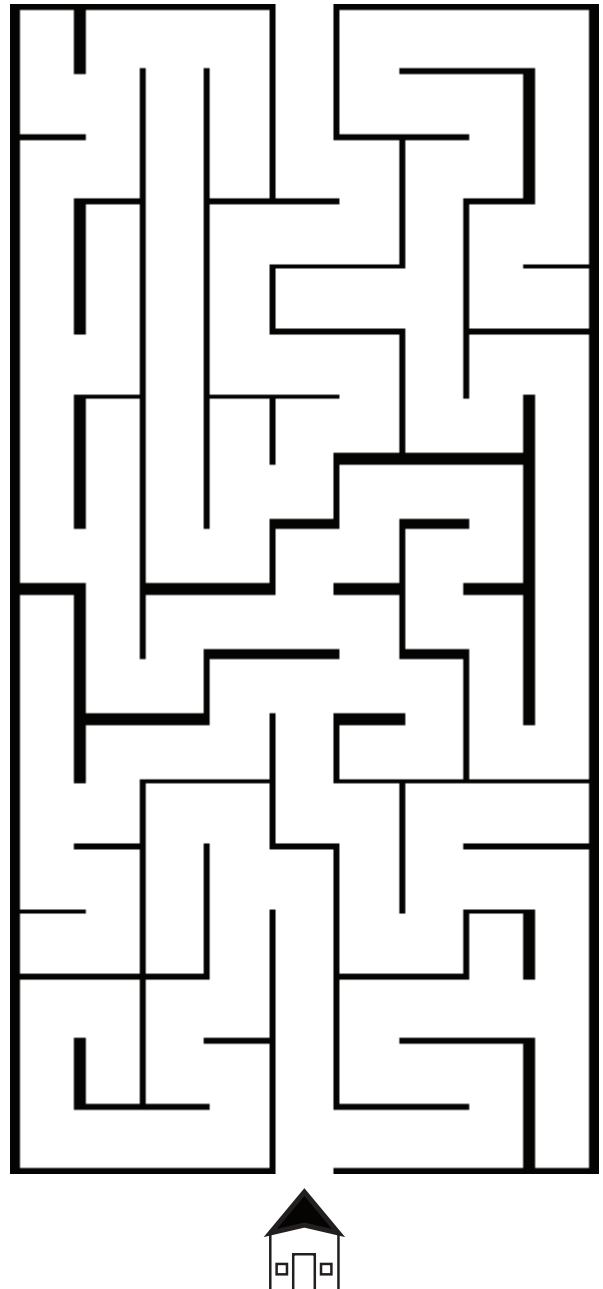


Thousands of artifacts dating as far back as 12,000 years have been found throughout the county, many on display as part of a Hunterdon County Historic Society exhibit at the Flemington Library.

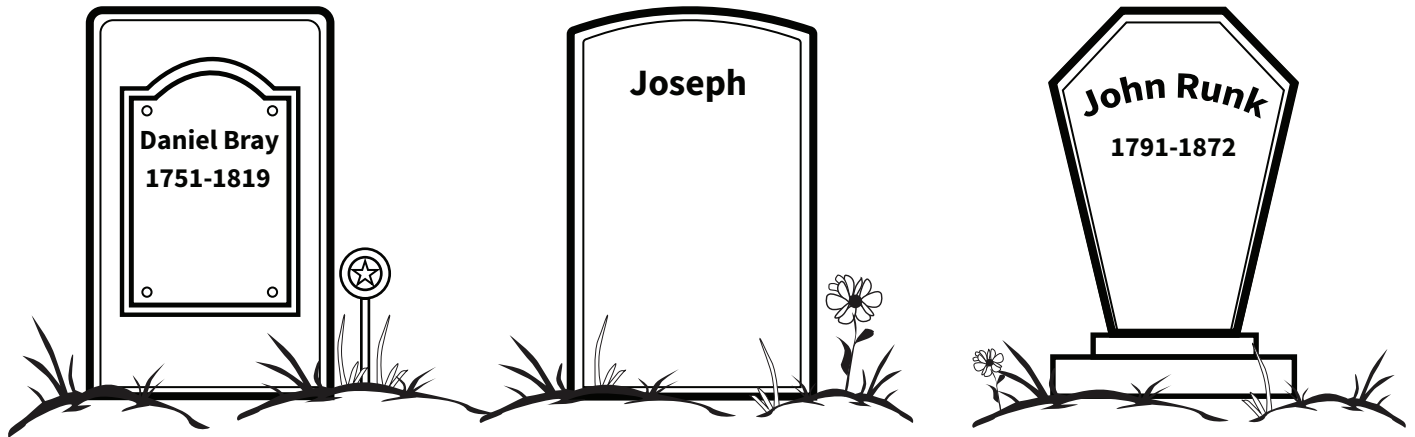
The Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse in Flemington was only four years old when **Jacob Francis** stepped inside on August 18, 1832, to tell his amazing story. His purpose was to seek a pension (payment) for his service during the American Revolution. Jacob told about his time in the Continental Army, and later, the New Jersey State Militia.



Help Jacob Francis get from his house to the Courthouse to collect his pension!



Looking for a story with a good plot? Well, at the **Rosemont Cemetery**, you can find a plot with a good story. There are several prominent people buried here, from Revolutionary War patriots to the winner of the closest U.S. Congressional race in New Jersey history!



A captain in the Hunterdon County militia, he led parties of soldiers to collect the boats Washington used to cross the Delaware River in 1776.

A nondescript gravestone tucked in the corner by Kingwood-Stockton Road, away from all the other graves, reads: "Joseph, faithful servant of Daniel Bray, Sr."

He won the closest U.S. Congressional race in New Jersey history. In 1844, he ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives against Isaac Farlee of Flemington, and won by only 16 points!

He is considered Hunterdon County's first historian. He may have written the book *Traditions of Hunterdon*, published after his death, in 1957.

This man found himself in the middle of many significant events in U.S. history, serving in several Union units throughout the Civil War.

His story offers a cautionary tale on how *not* to pack when moving to a new home. He and his family was moved to Kingwood during the winter of 1930. The day after the move, shortly after a hearty pancake breakfast, he died! The culprit? Someone accidentally put insecticide into the baking powder can that was used for the pancakes.

He was an illustrator who developed new methods to detect forgery. He also examined handwriting. He helped solve three murder cases and was consulted during the Lindbergh Trial.

**★
ACTIVITY**

Visit the Rosemont Cemetery in Delaware Township and color in the graves that you find. You can also try and match the descriptions of the people below with their headstones. Need a hint? Visit www.hunthistory.org, click the cemeteries icon, and then Delaware Township on the map to learn more about Rosemont Cemetery!



This couple loved antique cars and had more than 20! In 1960, they planned the road trip of a lifetime: to drive a 1953 retro-fitted Volkswagen micro bus from Stockton to Texas and down the Pan-American highway to Santiago, Chile. But they didn't quite make it, having to end their trip in northern Chile due to an earthquake.

Another lover of cars, and during the 1930s, this man drove his 1904 Oldsmobile to the Chicago World's Fair and won a gold Packard for having traveled the farthest in the oldest car. In 1964, he motored to the New York World's Fair and received a five-foot-high trophy as "The Greatest Restorer" of antique autos.

She was a soap opera star, starring in the radio soap opera "Stella Dallas." When Matthews retired she launched

the River's Edge restaurant in Lambertville and guests were frequently greeted with appropriate one-liners from Stella Dallas.

On Friday nights every fall, Hunterdon Central Regional High School students spend a few hours at a place named in honor of this man. He was a basketball standout sharp-shooting guard in high school and at Geneva College before serving in the Army in Korea. After his discharge in 1956, he became Central's first-ever basketball coach.

She was the daughter of Jersey City radio star Thomas "Sunshine" Shinnars, and married a pilot. Because of his occupation, she witnessed several historical aviation moments, including the preparations for the first trans-Atlantic flight of Charles Lindbergh.

Taverns played an important role during the American Revolution, serving as informal meeting places for people to discuss ideas.



Below is a list of some of the notable Revolutionary taverns in Hunterdon County. Can you find them and the bold words in the word search below?

Bonnell's Tavern: The Second Hunterdon County **Militia** Regiment met at the **Bonnell** Tavern. According to Bonnell family papers, Aaron Burr and his daughter, Theodosia, stayed at the **tavern** several times before his duel with Alexander **Hamilton** in 1804.

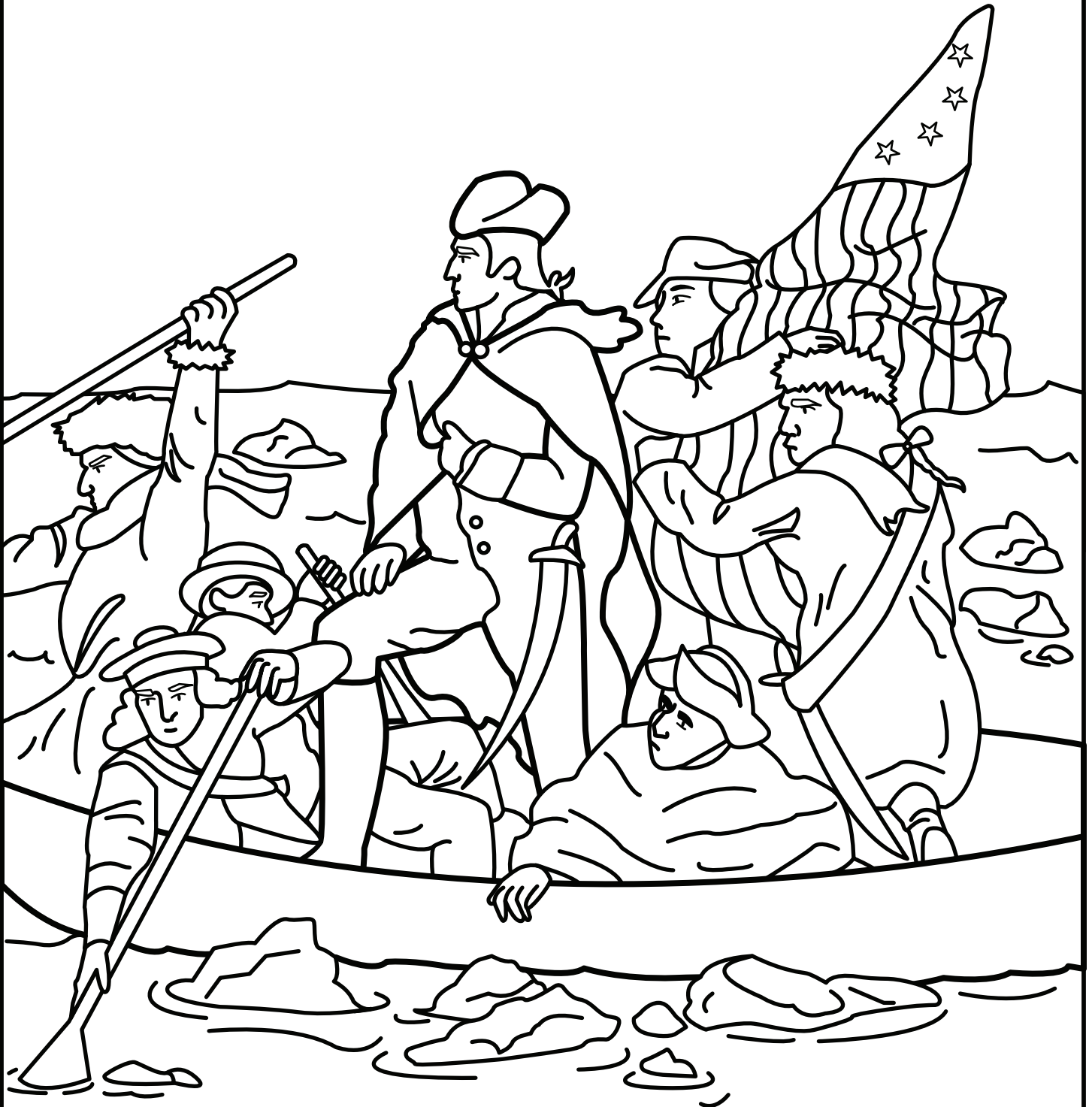
Ringo's Tavern: The Sons of **Liberty** met at **Ringo's** Tavern in 1774 - see how the name is spelled differently than what we know today: Ringoes! Here, they wrote the **Hunterdon** Resolves (their opinions on the rights of the **colonies**), and chose delegates to send to the first Continental **Congress**.

Van Syckle's Tavern: This tavern was the meeting place for the **Bethlehem** Sons of Liberty.

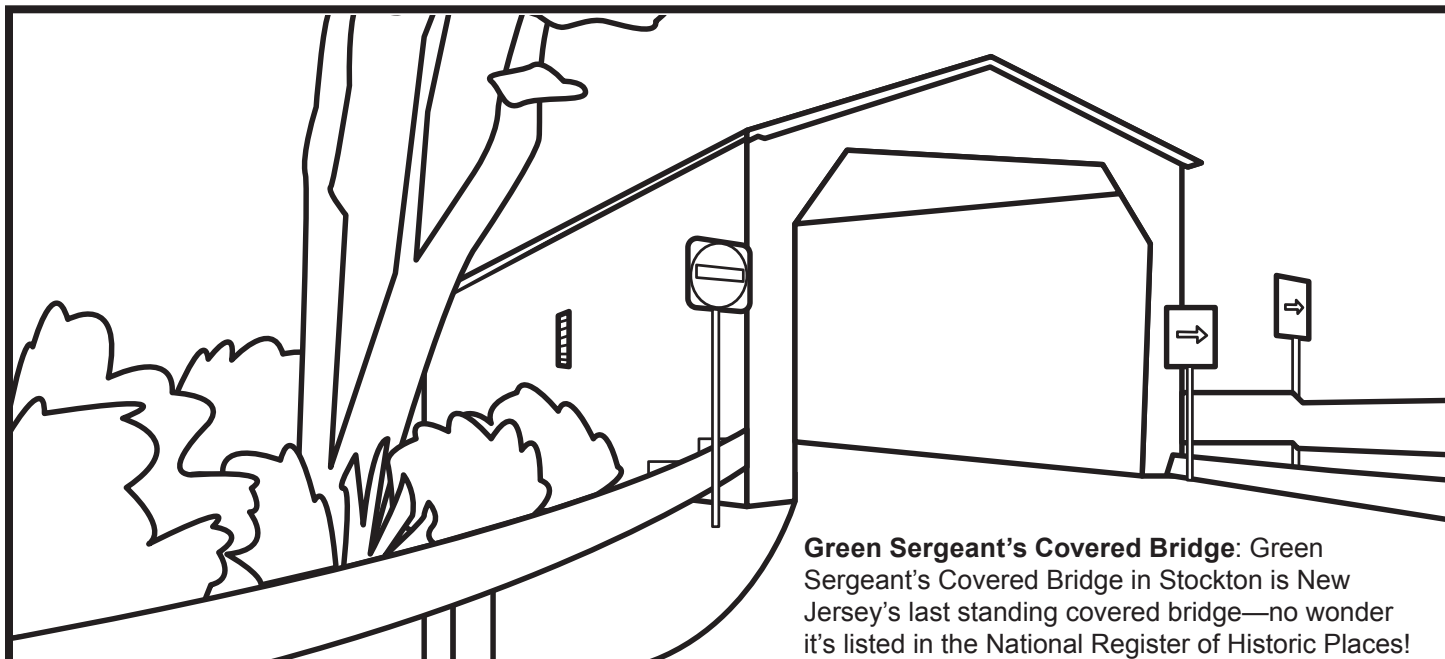
The Thomas Jones Tavern: In 1776, Captain **Thomas Jones**, owner of this tavern, helped collect boats for George **Washington's** December crossing of the **Delaware**.



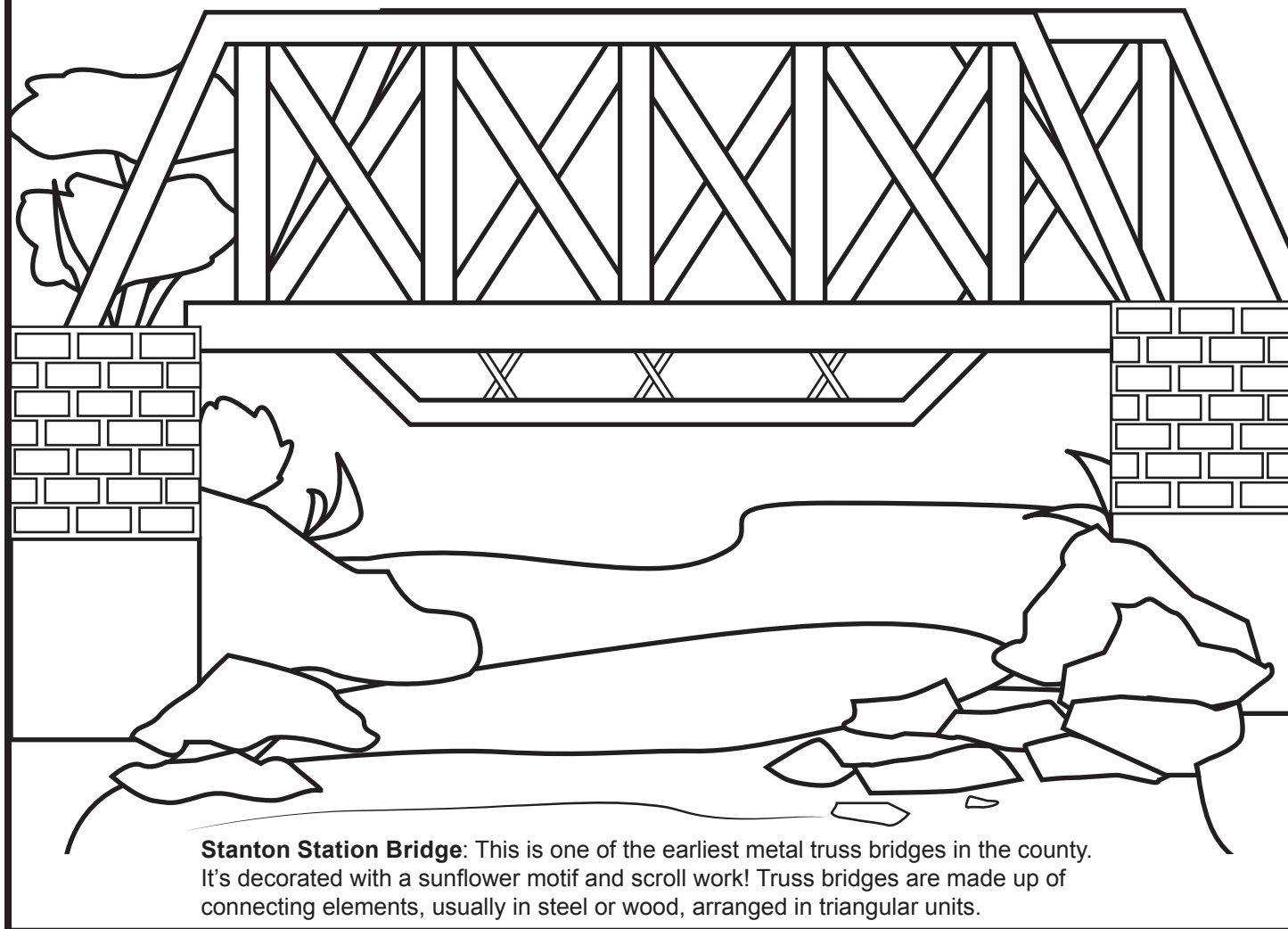
Did you know that **George Washington** crossed the Delaware River into Hunterdon County on Christmas 1776? During the Revolution, Mercer County was part of Hunterdon County!



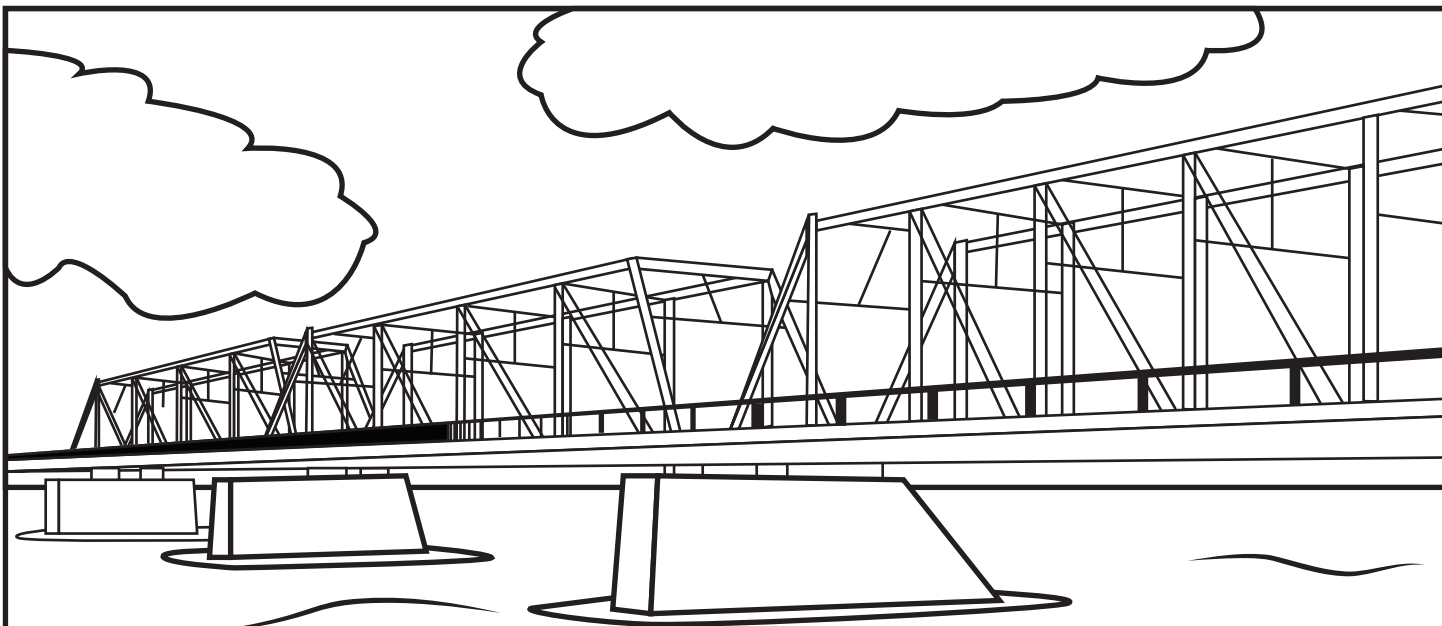
Buildings aren't the only historic things in Hunterdon County! Many of the **bridges** in the county are historic as well, some dating back to the early 1800s. Here is just a small sample of some of the county's bridges. Plan your own excursion through the county to discover even more bridges! How many historic bridges can you find?



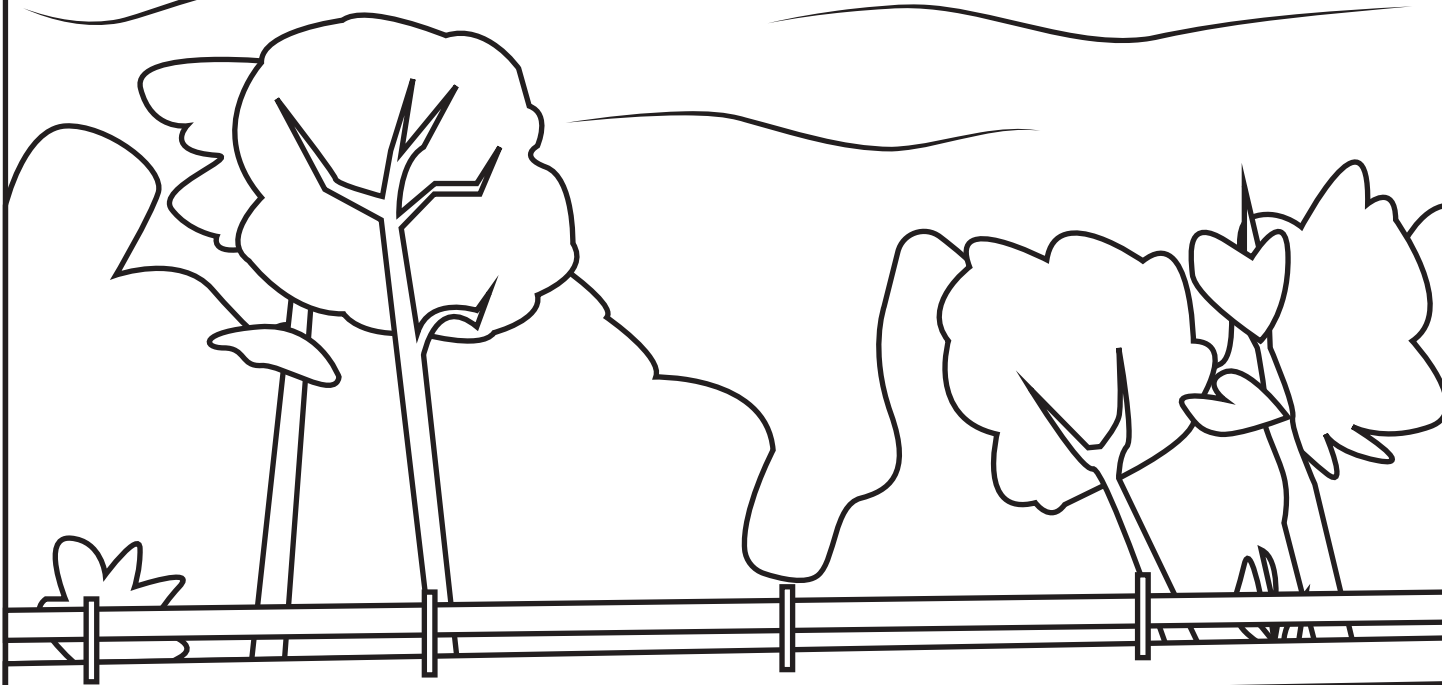
Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge: Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge in Stockton is New Jersey's last standing covered bridge—no wonder it's listed in the National Register of Historic Places!



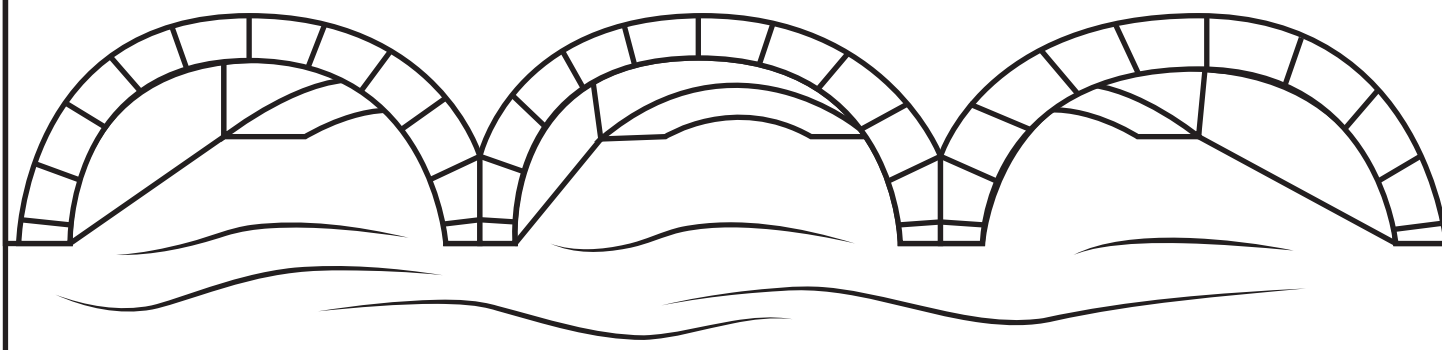
Stanton Station Bridge: This is one of the earliest metal truss bridges in the county. It's decorated with a sunflower motif and scroll work! Truss bridges are made up of connecting elements, usually in steel or wood, arranged in triangular units.



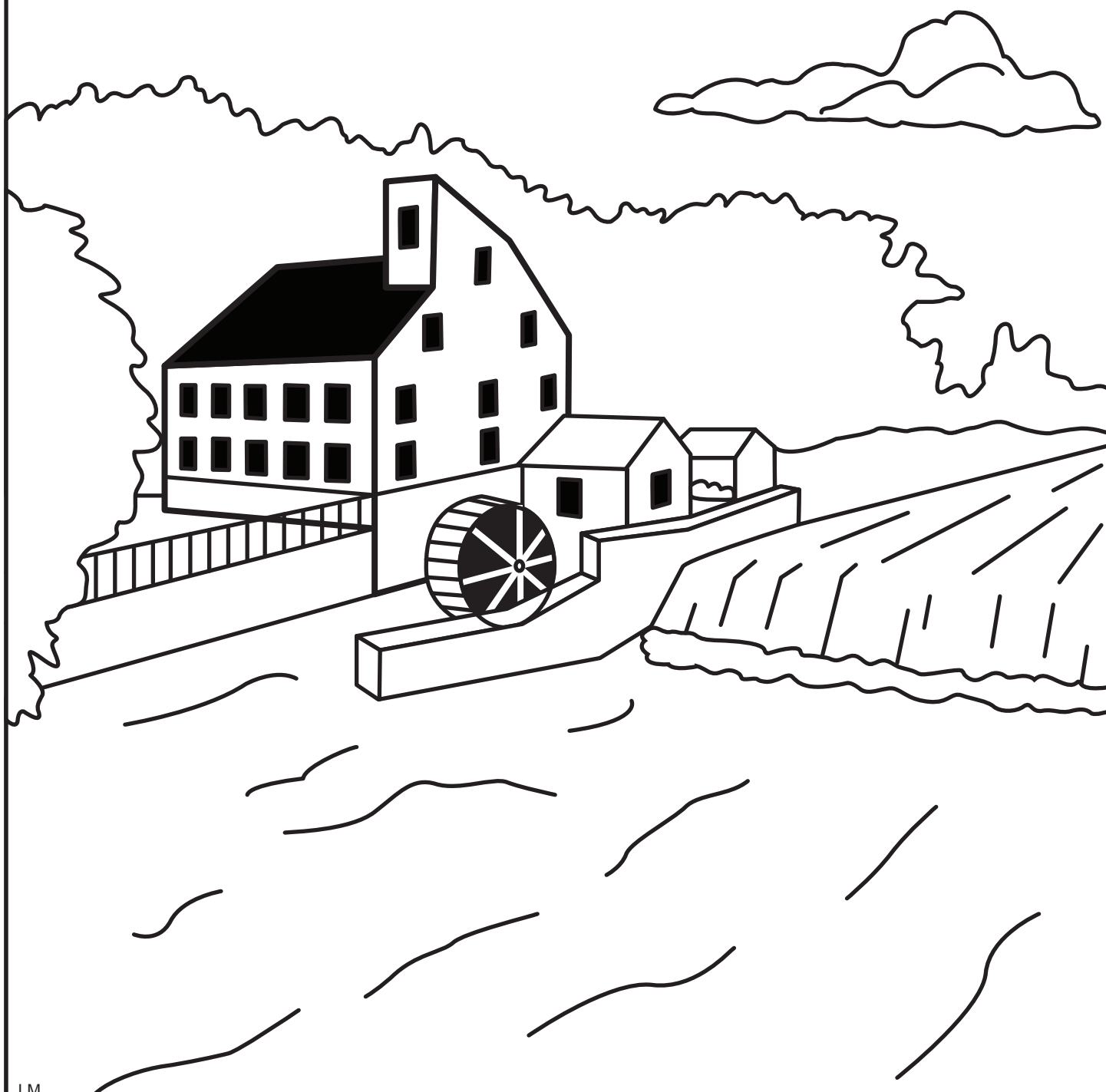
New Hope-Lambertville Bridge: The New Hope-Lambertville Bridge is a truss bridge that crosses the Delaware and connects Lambertville to New Hope, PA.

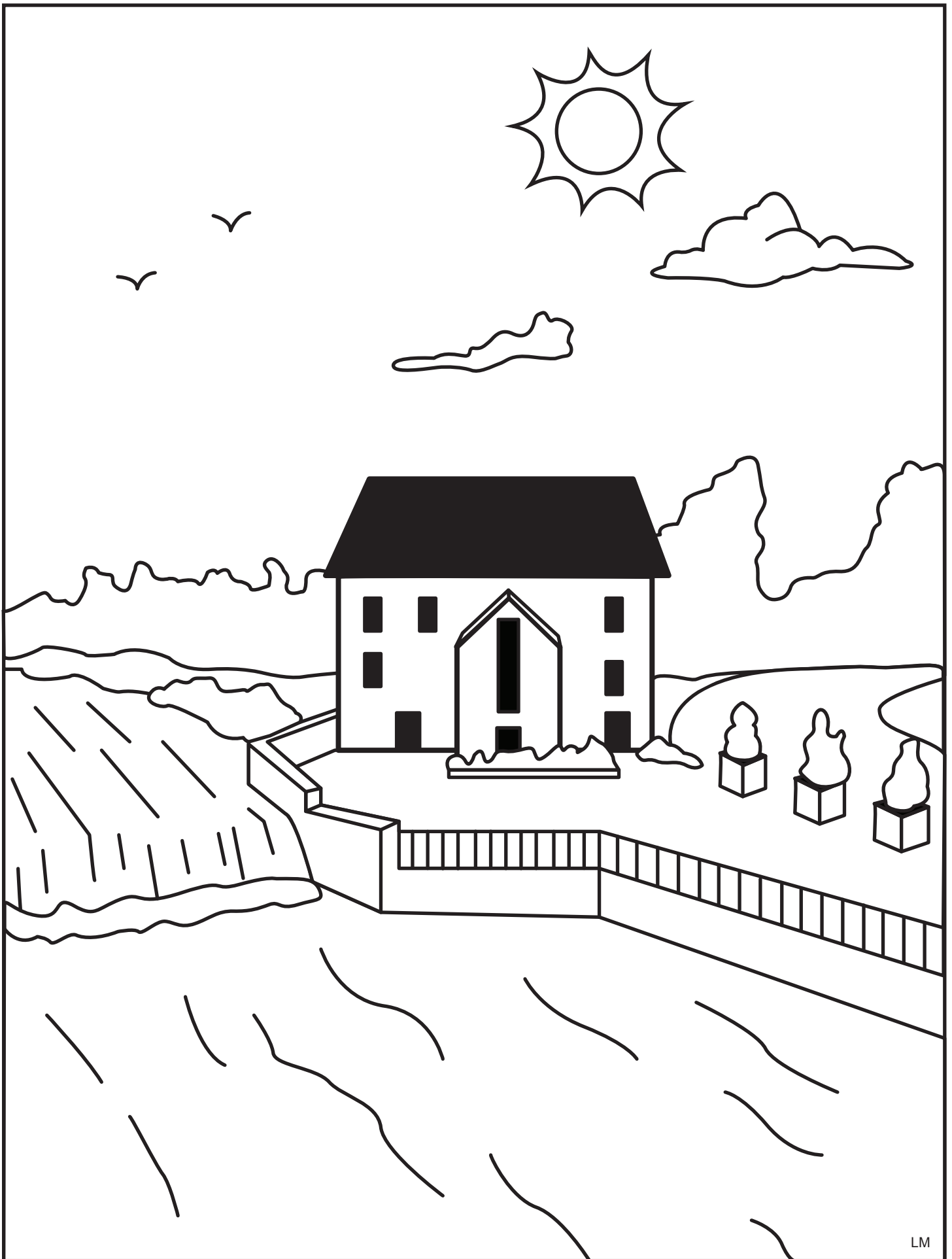


Stone Arch Bridges: Hunterdon County has over 100 stone arch bridges, the largest concentration in the country!



The Red Mill and the **Hunterdon Art Museum** in Clinton are iconic sites in Hunterdon County. On opposite sides of the Raritan River, both of these buildings were once mills. The Hunterdon Art Museum was once a gristmill that ground grain products, while the Red Mill processed talc and graphite. Today, they both stand as museums and picturesque features of downtown Clinton.





LM



Is there any building in Hunterdon County that has witnessed more drama and comedy than the **Historic Courthouse and Jail**? There have been many wild cases and colorful characters to pass through the Courthouse. Perhaps the most famous case was the **Lindbergh Kidnapping Case**.

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ACTIVITY

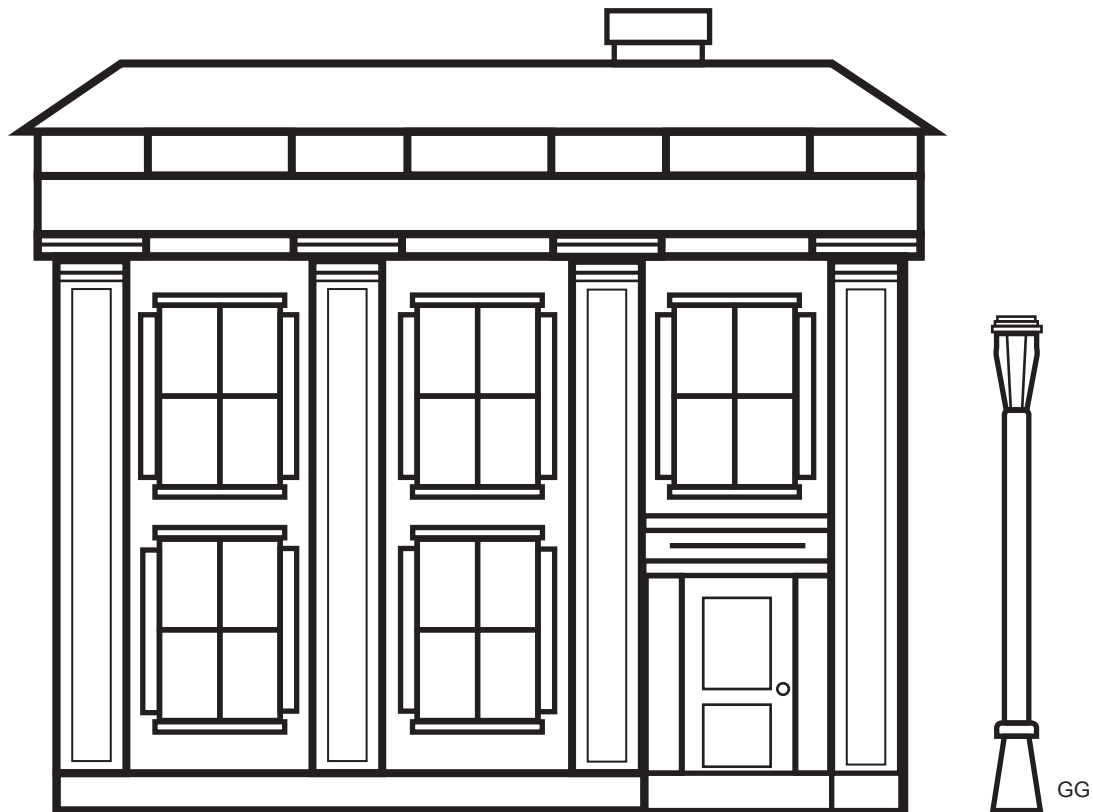
The jail in the Courthouse is no longer used, though all the original cells and features remain. How would you repurpose a space like this? An animal shelter? Art gallery? Use your imagination!

Outside the Courthouse on Main Street, there is a surveyor's meridian marker. Every county seat in NJ has one! These posts were used by surveyors to test their equipment's accuracy. You can use these markers and your cell phone or a compass to find True North. Try it for yourself!

Here's how:

- If you have a cell phone, download a compass app. Or, bring a regular compass. Your compass will point to magnetic north, which is different than True North.
- Open the app or compass and place it on the meridian marker and turn it until it points to True North. Your phone or compass should line up with engraved marker—give it a try!

Built in 1842 by Mahlon Fisher, the **Doric House** later contained apartments, a beauty shop, and a restaurant. Elizabeth Vosseller, nationally known choir director and founder of the Flemington Children's Choir, lived here. It now houses the **Hunterdon County Historical Society**.



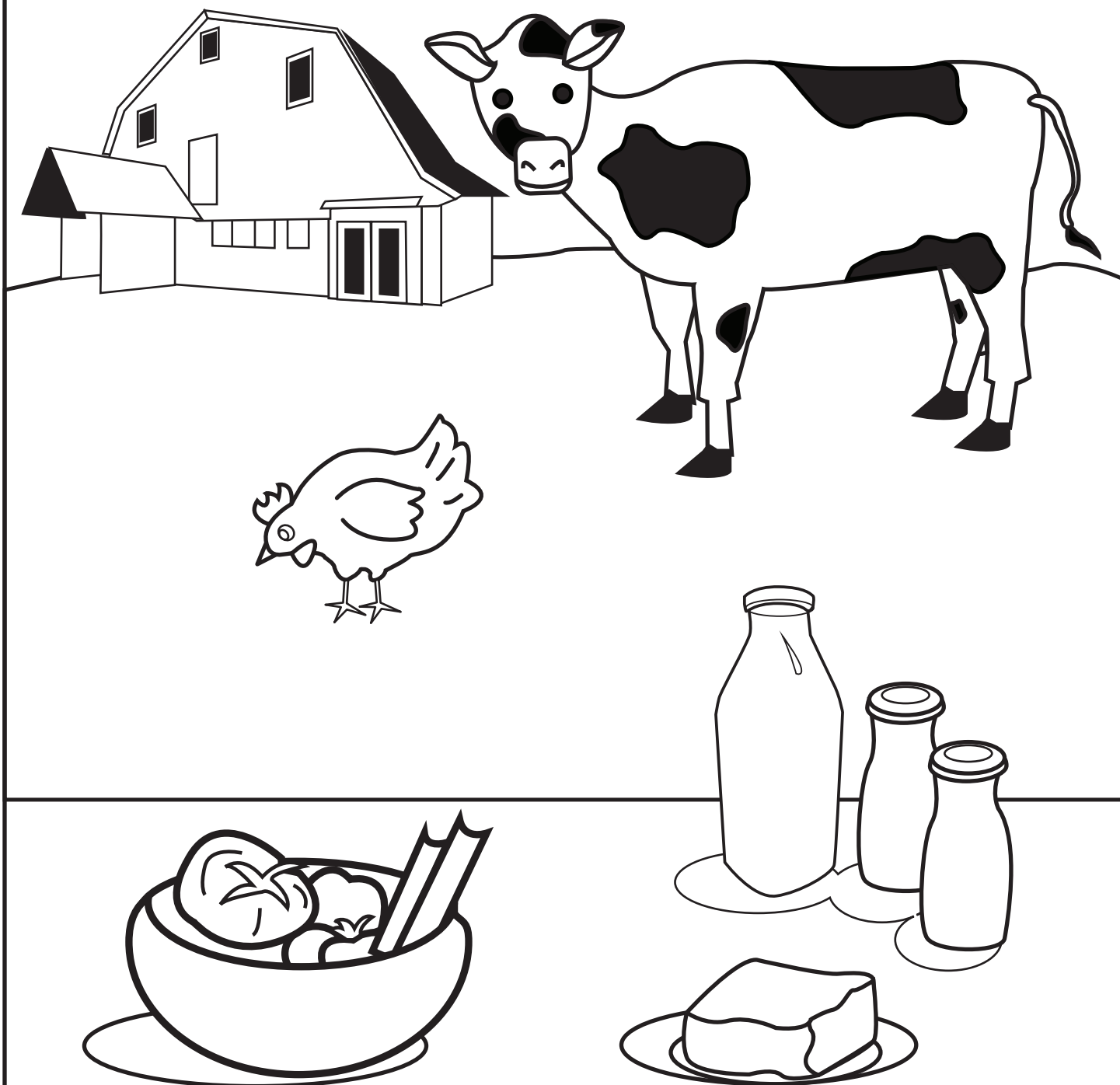
Can you solve these word scrambles, with words related to the work a historical society does?

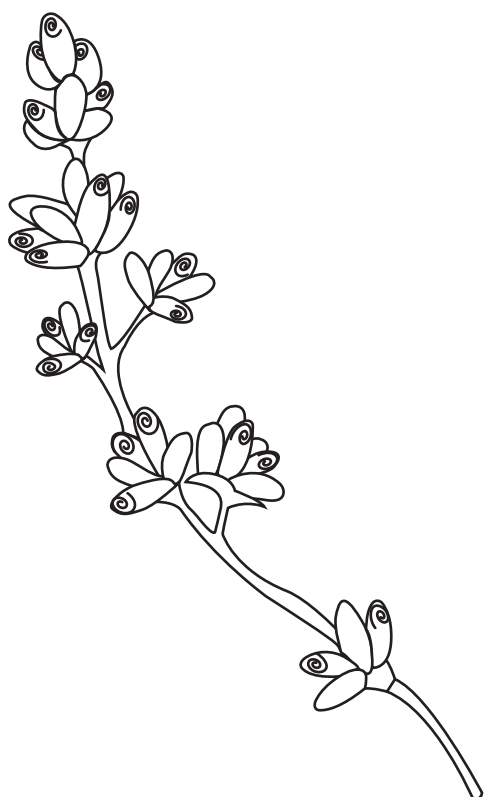
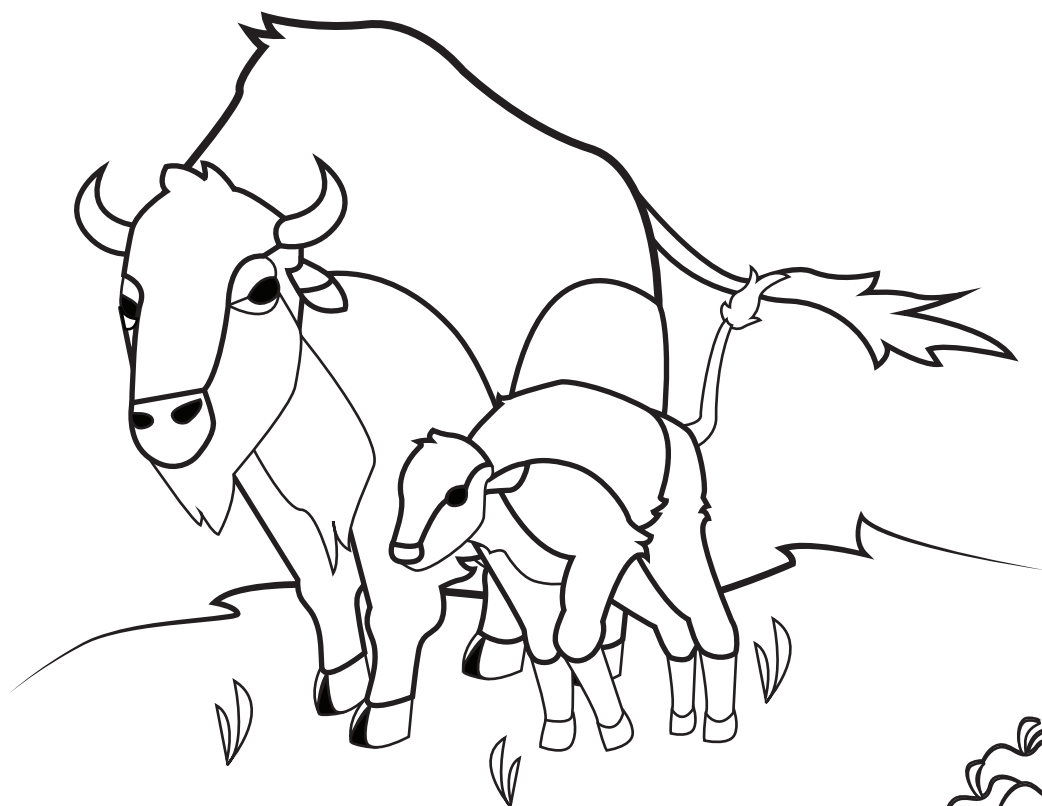


1. UMSEMU _____
2. YAGLNEG OE _____
3. VICARHE _____
4. SREEARHC _____
5. RIRYLBA _____

Answer Key: Museum, Genealogy, Archive, Research, Library

Hunterdon County is perhaps best known for its beautiful, agricultural landscapes, rolling hills, and many, many **farms**! The county is a great place for local produce, milk, meat, eggs, honey, and other farm goods. Here are a few of Hunterdon's farms. Which are your favorites?





Dvoor Farm: Built in 1738 on land once inhabited by the Lenape, the Case Dvoor Farmstead was a farm, then a tannery, then a dairy, before becoming the home of the Hunterdon Land Trust in 1999. Today, the Dvoor Farm is the location of the Hunterdon Community Farmers Market.

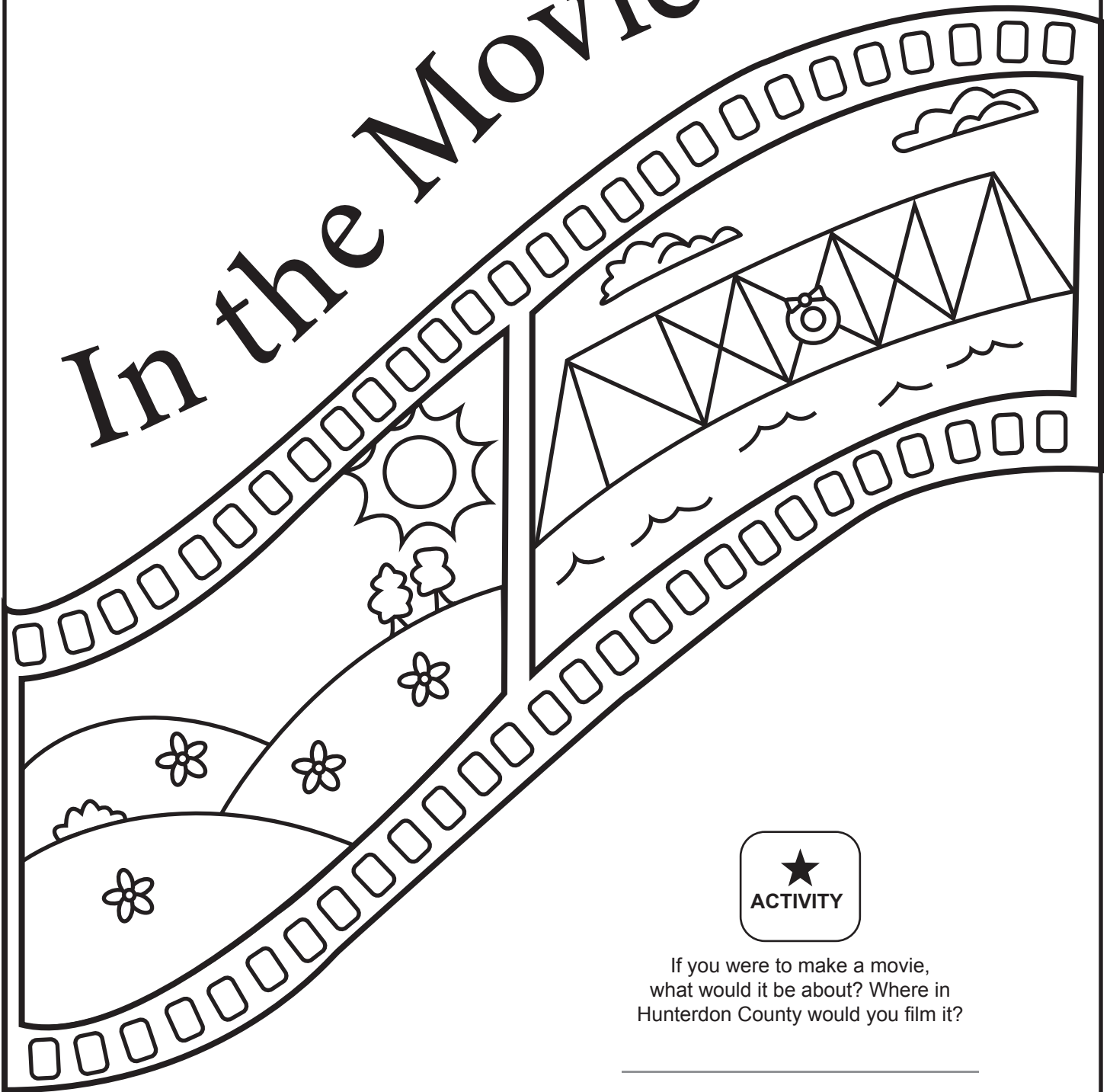
Melick's Town Farm: Melick's is one of the best places for apples and apple products! With their own orchards, Melick's offers Pick Your Own, their own apple cider, and hard apple cider.

Readington River Buffalo Farm: Buffalos? In New Jersey? Yes, at Readington River Buffalo Farm! This farm has nearly 60 American Bison. They offer tours and have a farmstand.

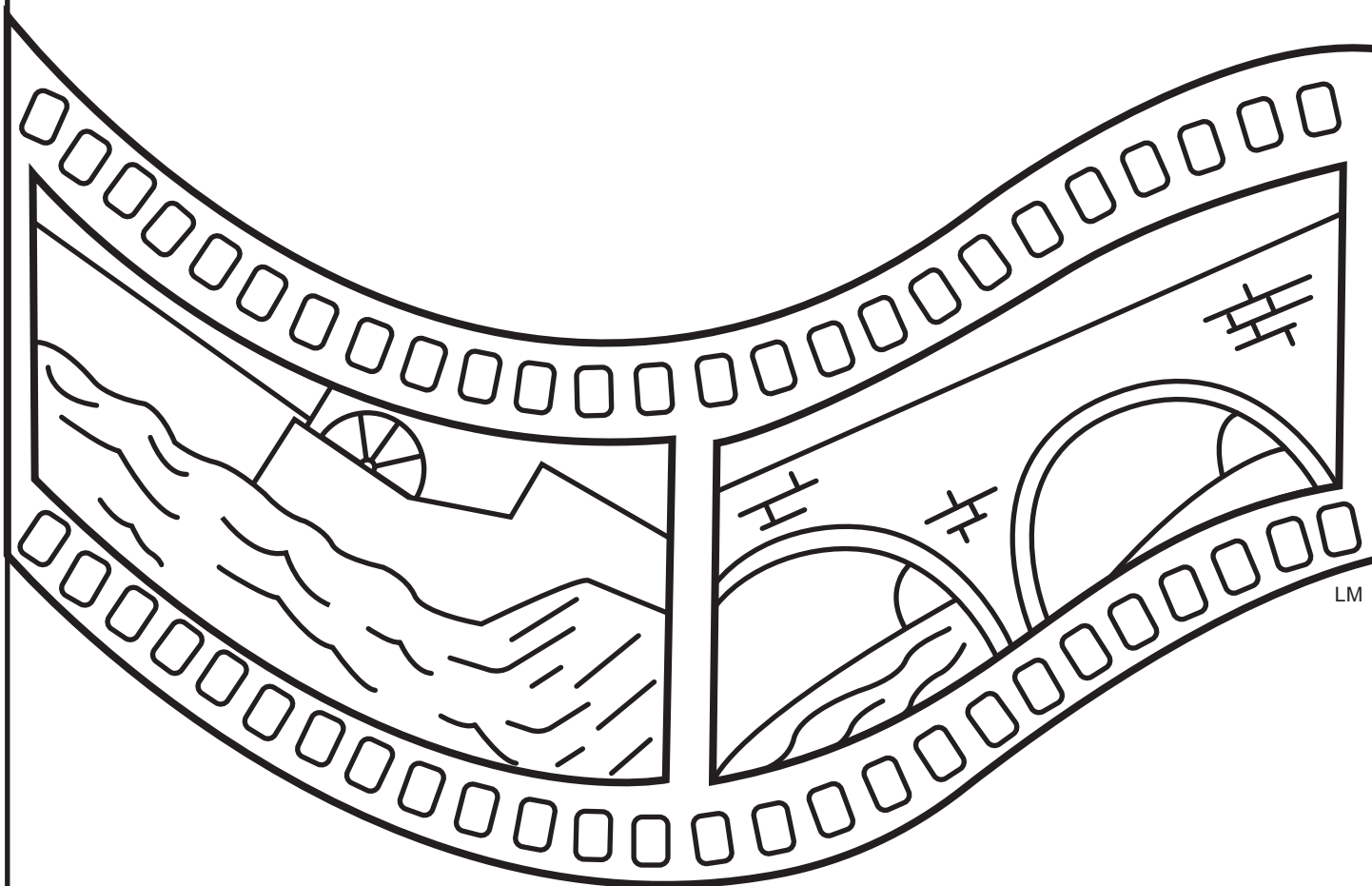
Bobolink Dairy & Bakehouse: Bobolink makes their own cheese from their own cows, and in 2018, they won a silver medal in an international farmstead cheese contest in Lyon, France! Their bakehouse makes goods using grain from local grain growers.

Mad Lavender: View the bright purple fields of lavender at Mad Lavender Farm! Mad Lavender Farm has a variety of workshops and events, including goat yoga, and a tiny shop on their property with their lavender products.

In the Movies



If you were to make a movie,
what would it be about? Where in
Hunterdon County would you film it?



Hunterdon County's charming towns and scenic landscapes have inspired many film projects throughout history, and still inspire many today. Several famous movies, commercials, and music videos have been filmed here!

Bouman-Stickney Farmstead (*The Sound of Music*)

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead in Stanton was built in 1751 by Thomas Bouman, and was the summer home of actress Dorothy Stickney from 1935-1997. Dorothy's husband, Howard Lindsay, wrote the musical *The Sound of Music* alongside Russel Crouse. It's possible that Lindsay wrote "The hills are alive with the sound of music," while gazing out the window at the Hunterdon hills!

Califon bridge (*It's a Wonderful Life*)

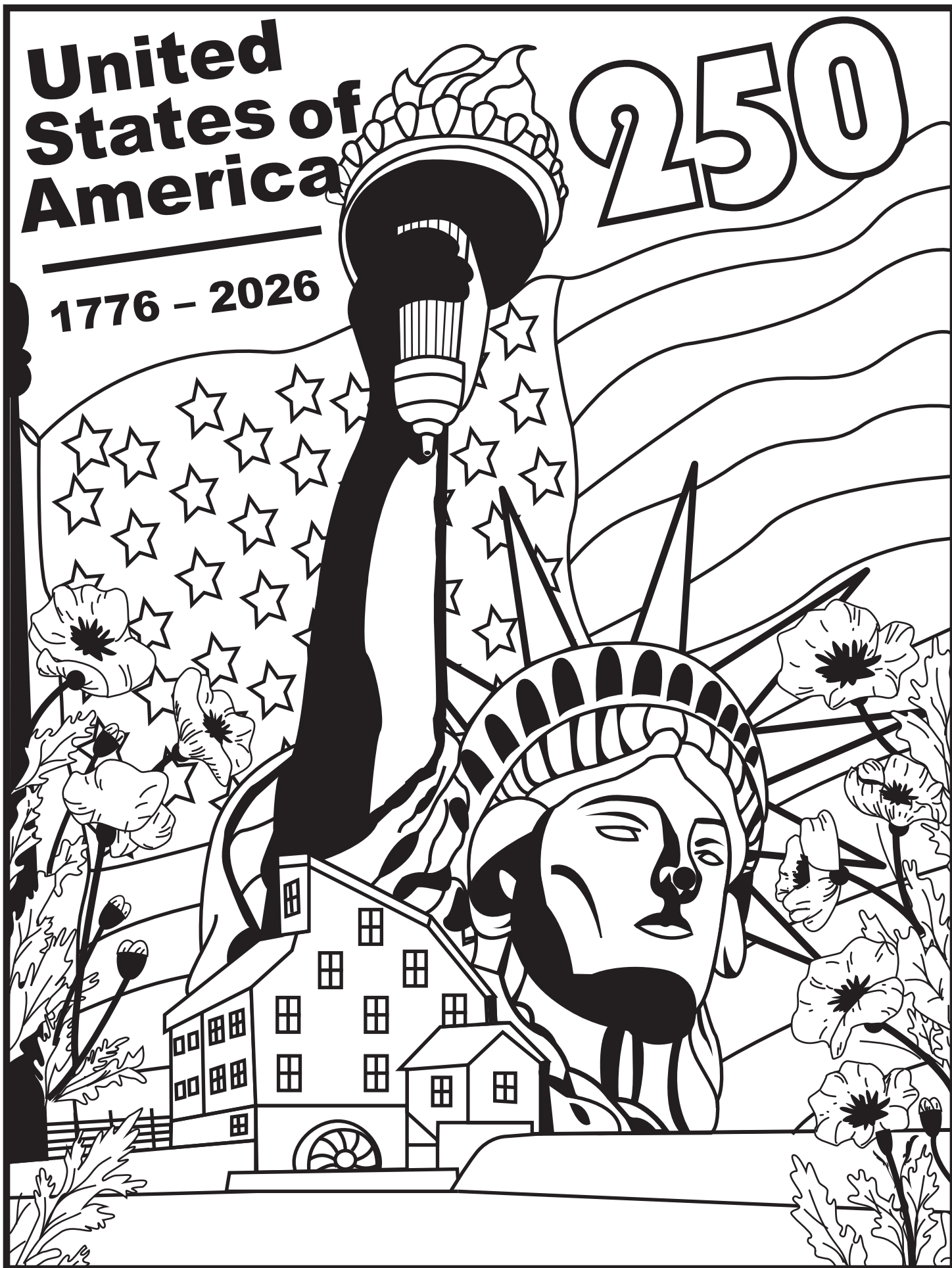
This Christmas classic was based on a short story called "The Greatest Gift," written by Philip Van Doren Stern, who lived in Hunterdon County. The famous bridge scene was inspired by the iron bridge in the center of Califon.

Clinton (*The Haunting on the River*)

This all-locally produced film was filmed in Clinton in 2022. Written, filmed, produced, and starring an all-Hunterdon County crew, *The Haunting on the River* tells the story of two teens encountering spirits.

High Bridge bridge (*Selena Gomez music video, Doritos commercial*)

Did you know the "high bridge" in High Bridge was the film location for both a Selena Gomez video ("It Ain't Me") and a 2011 Super Bowl Doritos commercial?



**United
States of
America**

1776 – 2026

250

Make your own model of the Volendam Windmill.

The **Volendam Windmill**, built in the 1960s by Poul Jorgensen, is on the property of Charlie Brown's Christmas Tree Farm in Milford. Use these pieces to build your own Volendam Windmill model!*

**PLEASE NOTE: The Volendam Windmill is on private property and is not open to the public. But you are welcome to find a Christmas tree at Charlie Brown's Christmas Tree Farm!*

