

James Dakin

The Architect who built Louisiana's Old State Capitol

Illustrated by: _____

My very own picture book of a historic story



My drawing of Louisiana's Old State Capitol

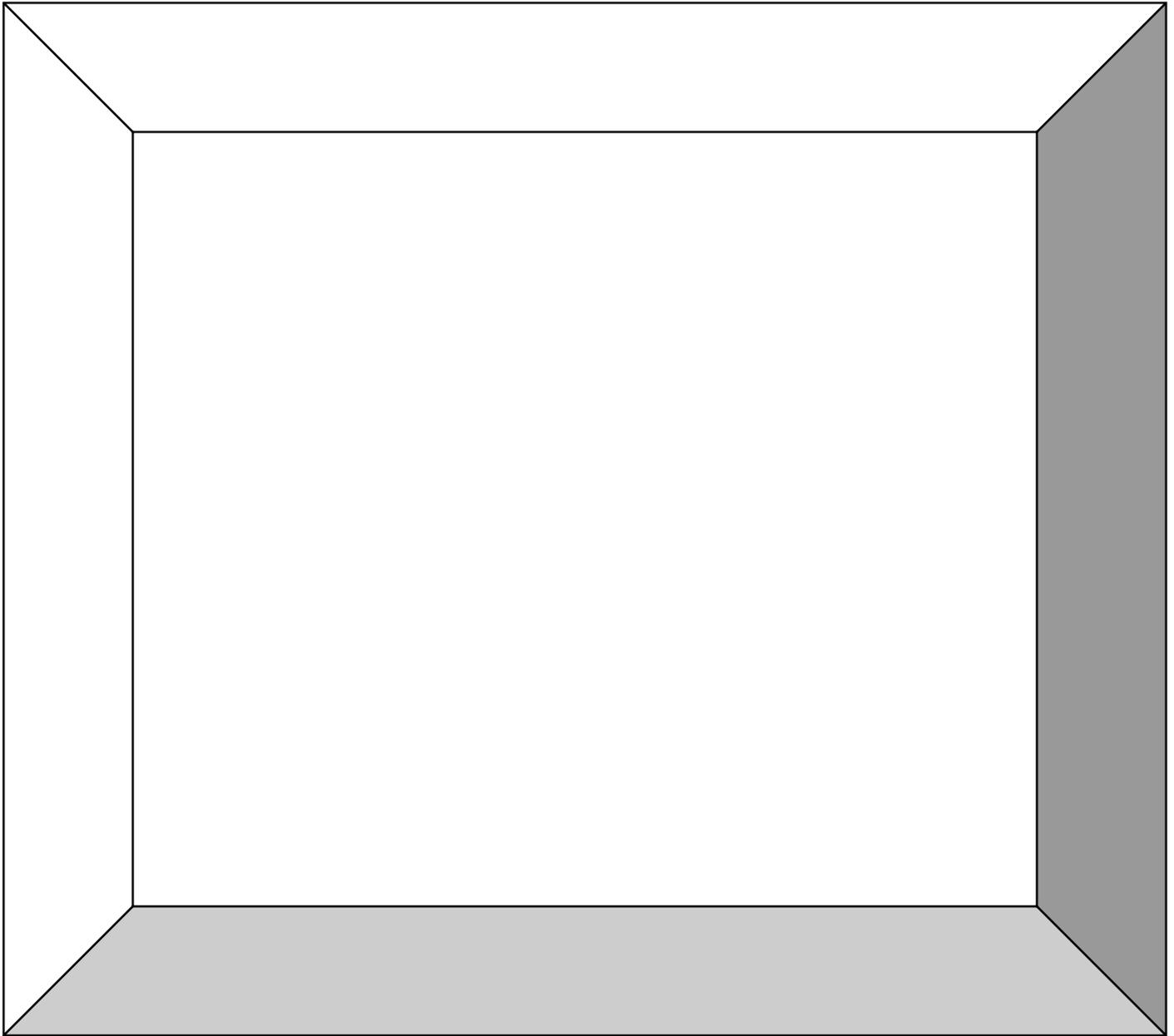
James Dakin was very, very particular about using the finest materials when he built Louisiana's Old State Capitol.

Way back in December of 1847, the bricks arrived that were to be used to build the walls of this beautiful castle. But, James Dakin did not like them at all! They just weren't strong enough. He stopped everything until the bricks could be replaced with harder, stronger ones.



James Dakin says "NO!"

James Dakin was also picky about the iron used in his design, and he said "NO!" to a shipment of iron and asked for stronger iron to be made. His demands slowed down the progress of the project and made it more expensive, too.



James Dakin tears down the walls!

Soft and crumbly bricks kept arriving however, and James Dakin was never pleased with them. In August of 1848, his temper got the best of him! When he saw that inferior brick was being used in the walls, he tore down the walls!

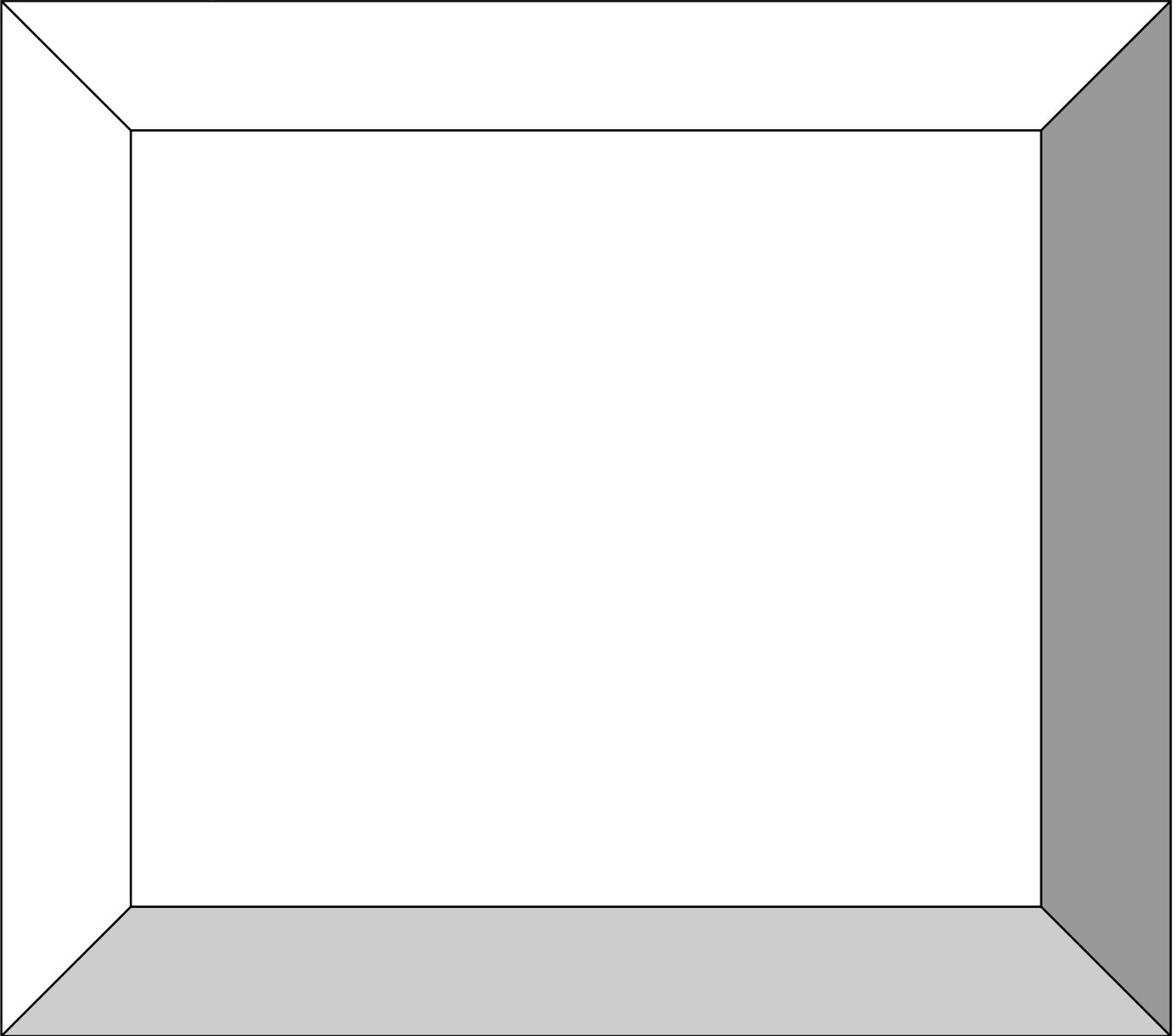
The contractor who was overseeing the work confronted Dakin, and pretty soon - a fight had started!



They started fighting!

Luckily, no one was hurt, but they were both arrested. They were both charged three dollars for "disorderly conduct." James Dakin was charged an additional \$10 since he started the fight by throwing the first punch!

Even after that, James Dakin still insisted on the best quality brick. But, he learned his lesson, not to fight about it again!



Fire destroys everything but the outside walls of the Old State Capitol!

Later, when Civil War soldiers started a fire that burned down Louisiana's Old State Capitol, the only thing that remained were the strong brick walls!

The moral of this story is:
