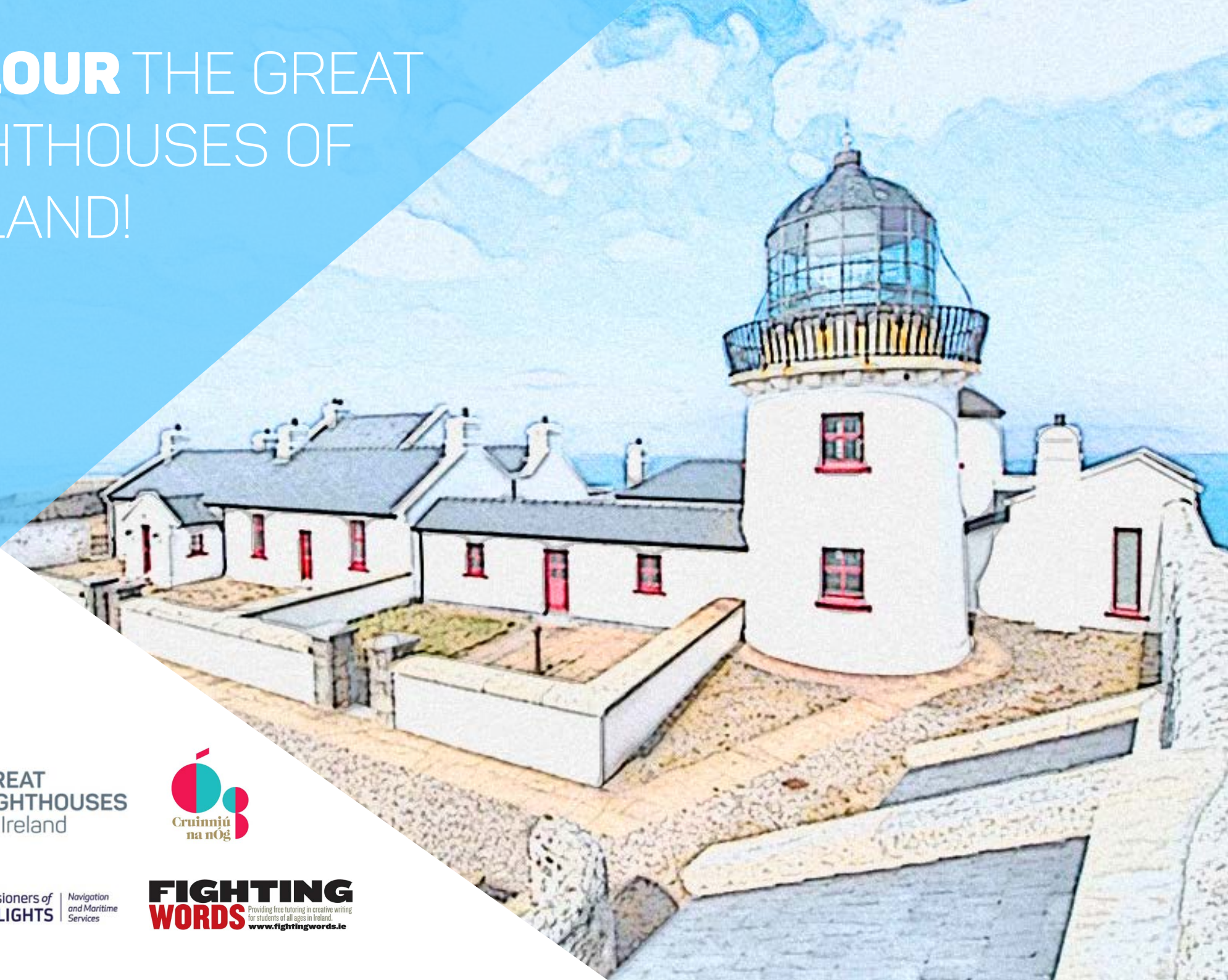


COLOUR THE GREAT LIGHTHOUSES OF IRELAND!



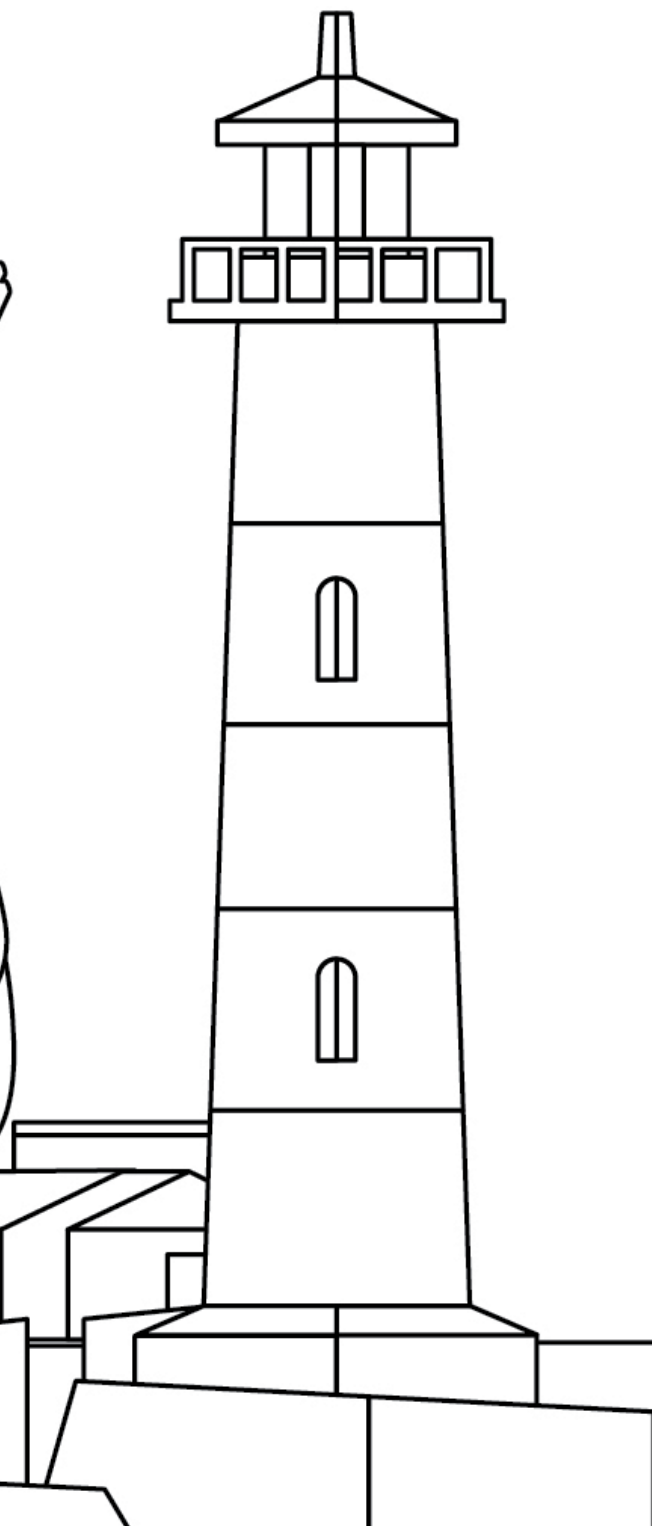
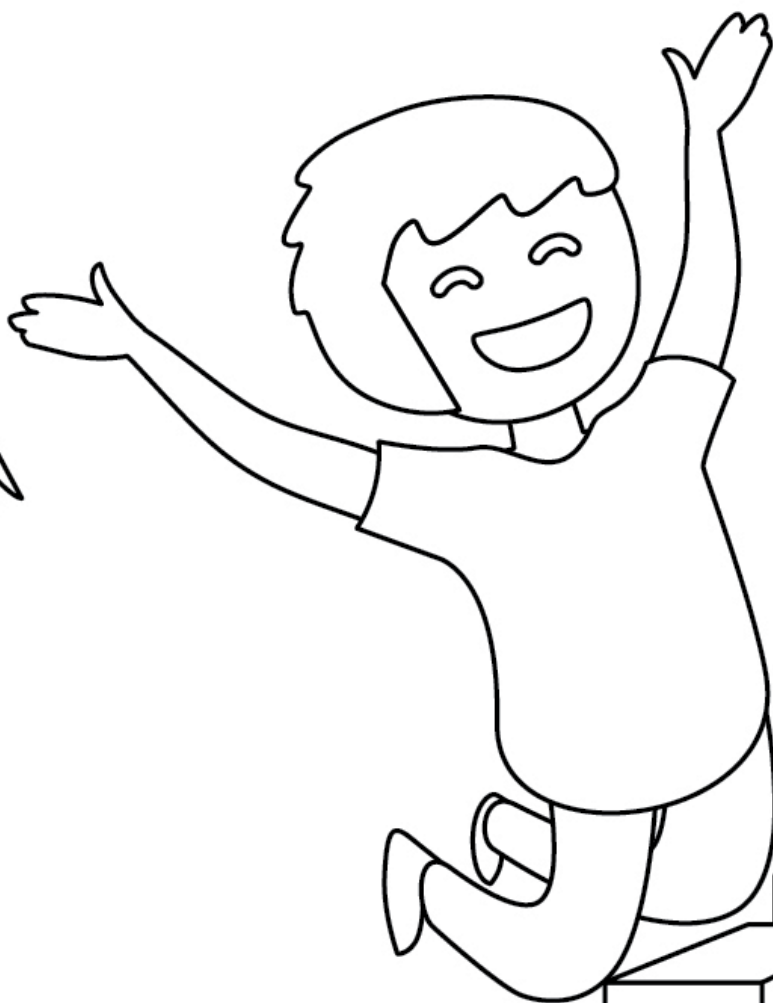
GET CREATIVE & SHARE YOUR ARTWORK!

Entries for Great Lighthouses of Ireland and Fighting Words' recent Young Storykeepers initiative might be closed but the lighthouse creativity doesn't end there!

With Cruinniú na nÓg, a national online day of creativity, happening on June 13th, we'd love you to get your paints, pencils, markers and more out to colour the Great Lighthouses.

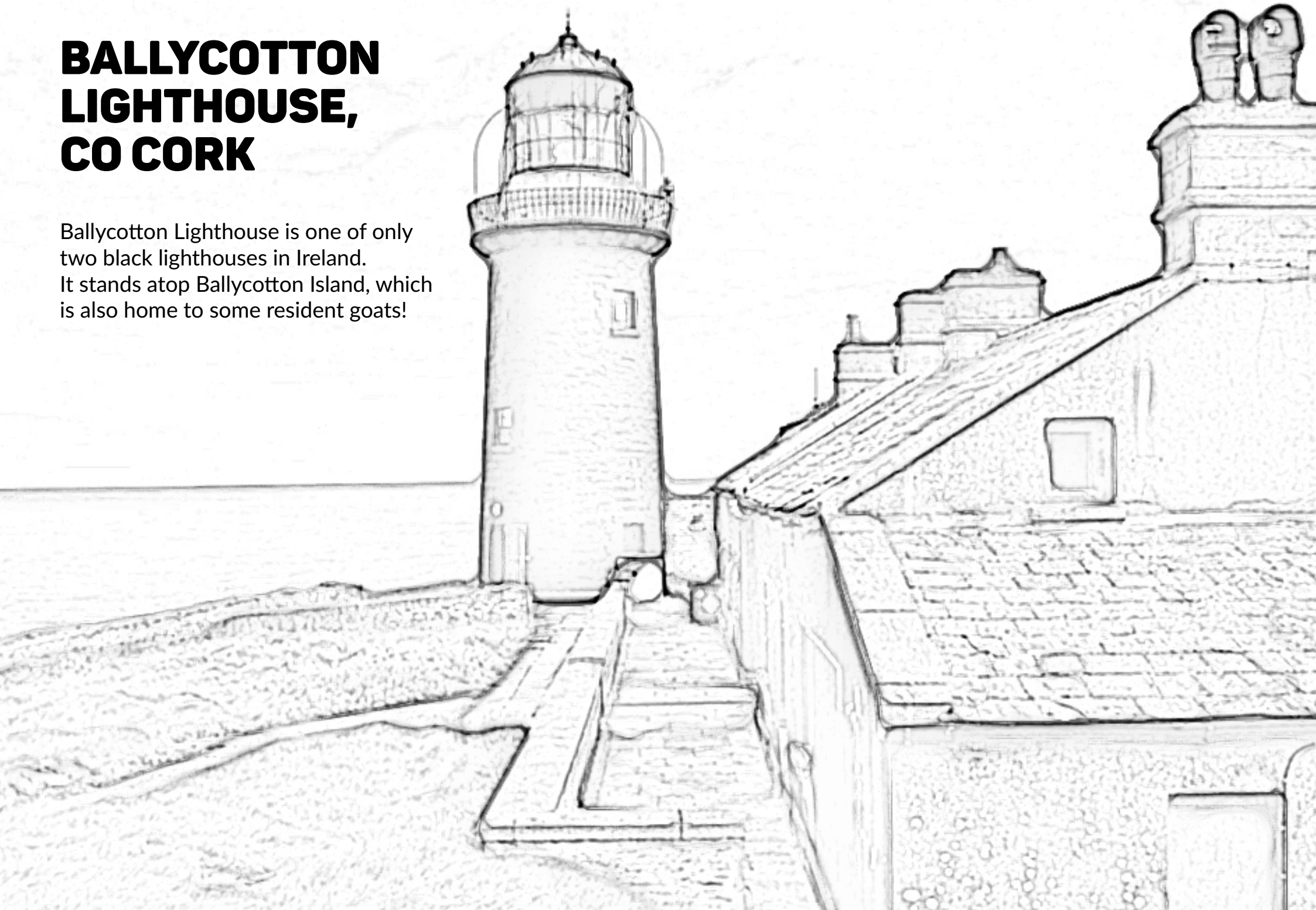
Parents/guardians can share videos/photos of your creative efforts with us by tagging Great Lighthouses of Ireland and Creative Ireland on social media.

And when you've finished, why not draw or create a lighthouse of your own? Creativity can happen every day, so let your imagination soar!



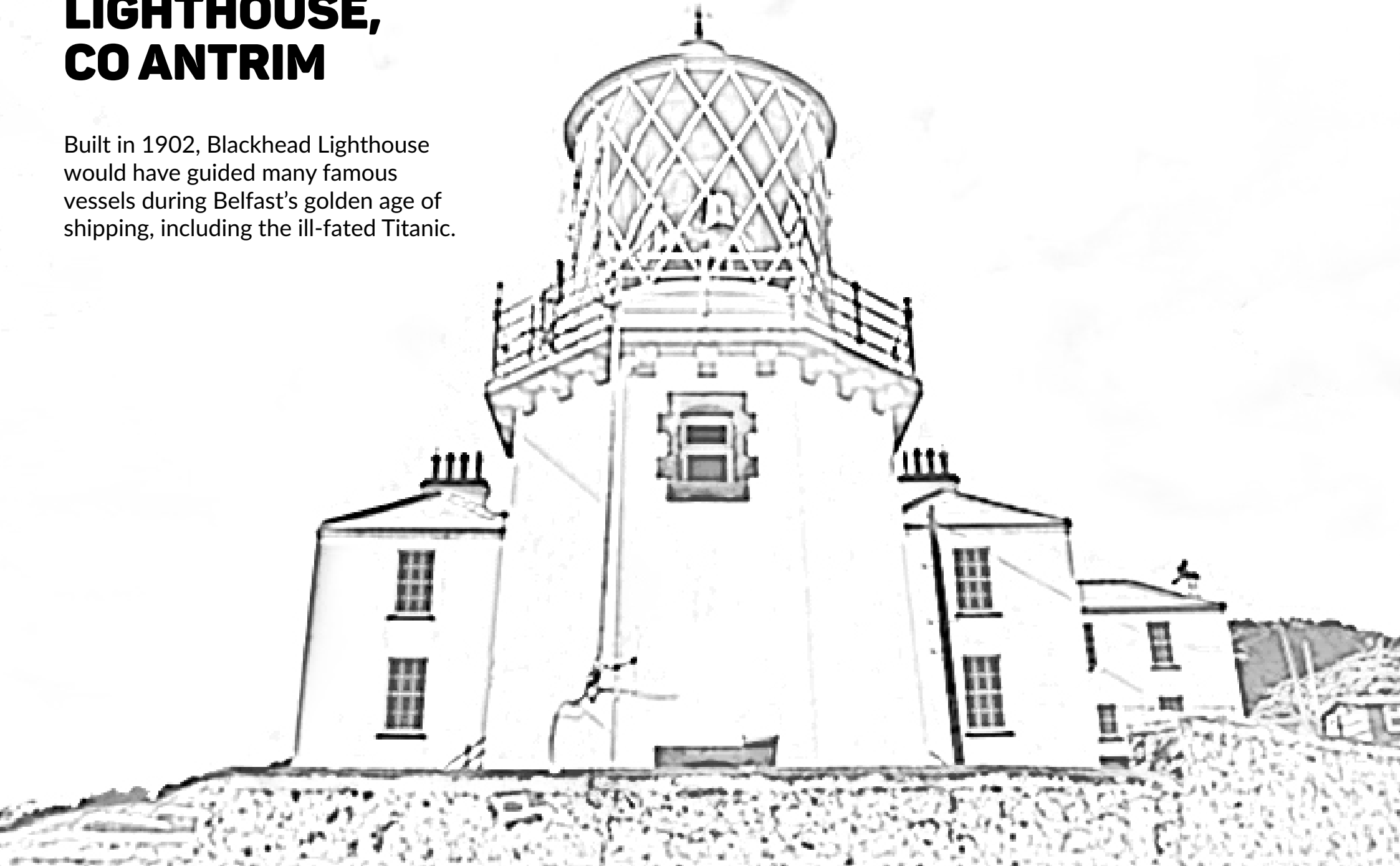
BALLYCOTTON LIGHTHOUSE, CO CORK

Ballycotton Lighthouse is one of only two black lighthouses in Ireland. It stands atop Ballycotton Island, which is also home to some resident goats!



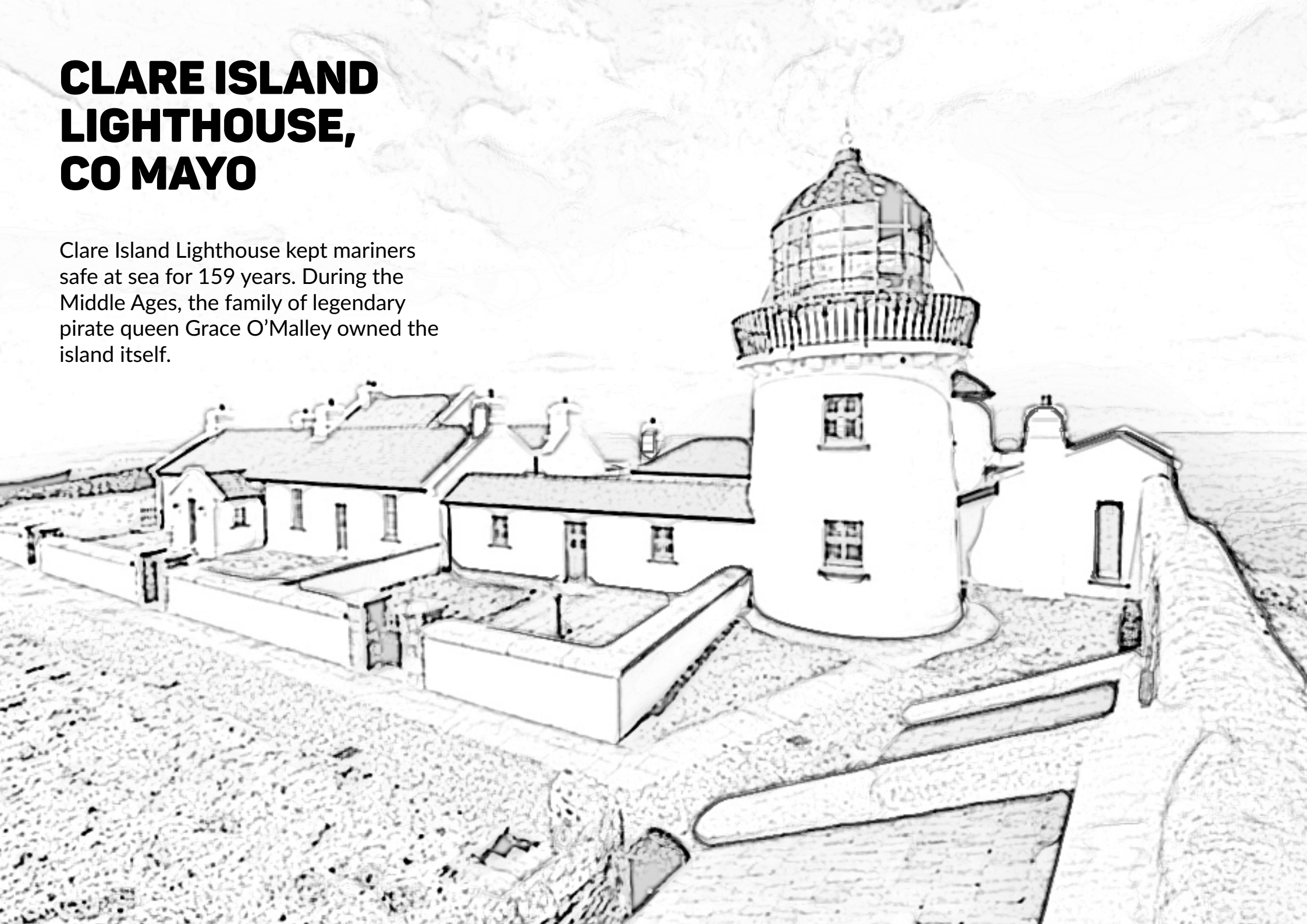
BLACKHEAD LIGHTHOUSE, CO ANTRIM

Built in 1902, Blackhead Lighthouse would have guided many famous vessels during Belfast's golden age of shipping, including the ill-fated Titanic.



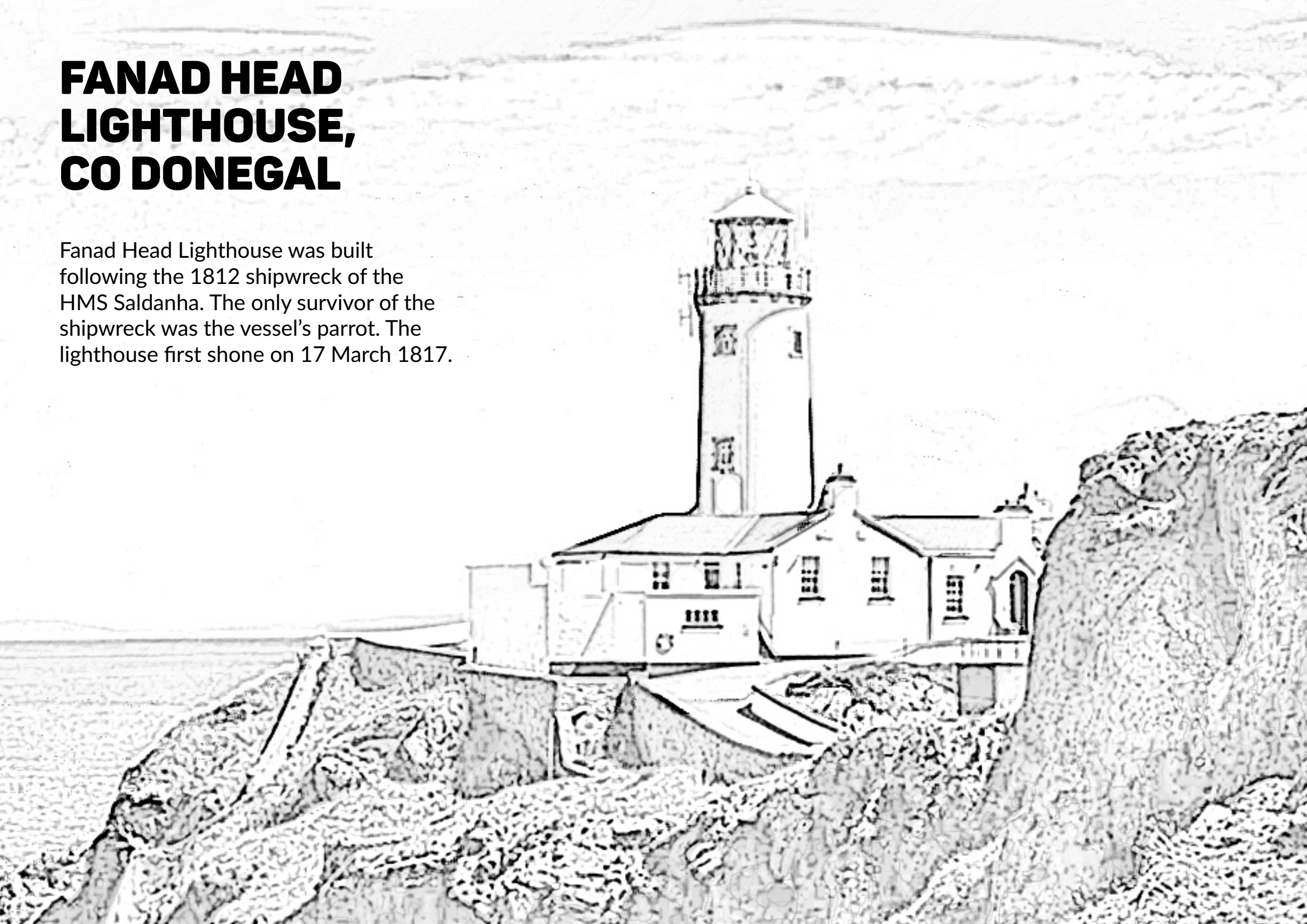
CLARE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, CO MAYO

Clare Island Lighthouse kept mariners safe at sea for 159 years. During the Middle Ages, the family of legendary pirate queen Grace O'Malley owned the island itself.



FANAD HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, CO DONEGAL

Fanad Head Lighthouse was built following the 1812 shipwreck of the HMS Saldanha. The only survivor of the shipwreck was the vessel's parrot. The lighthouse first shone on 17 March 1817.



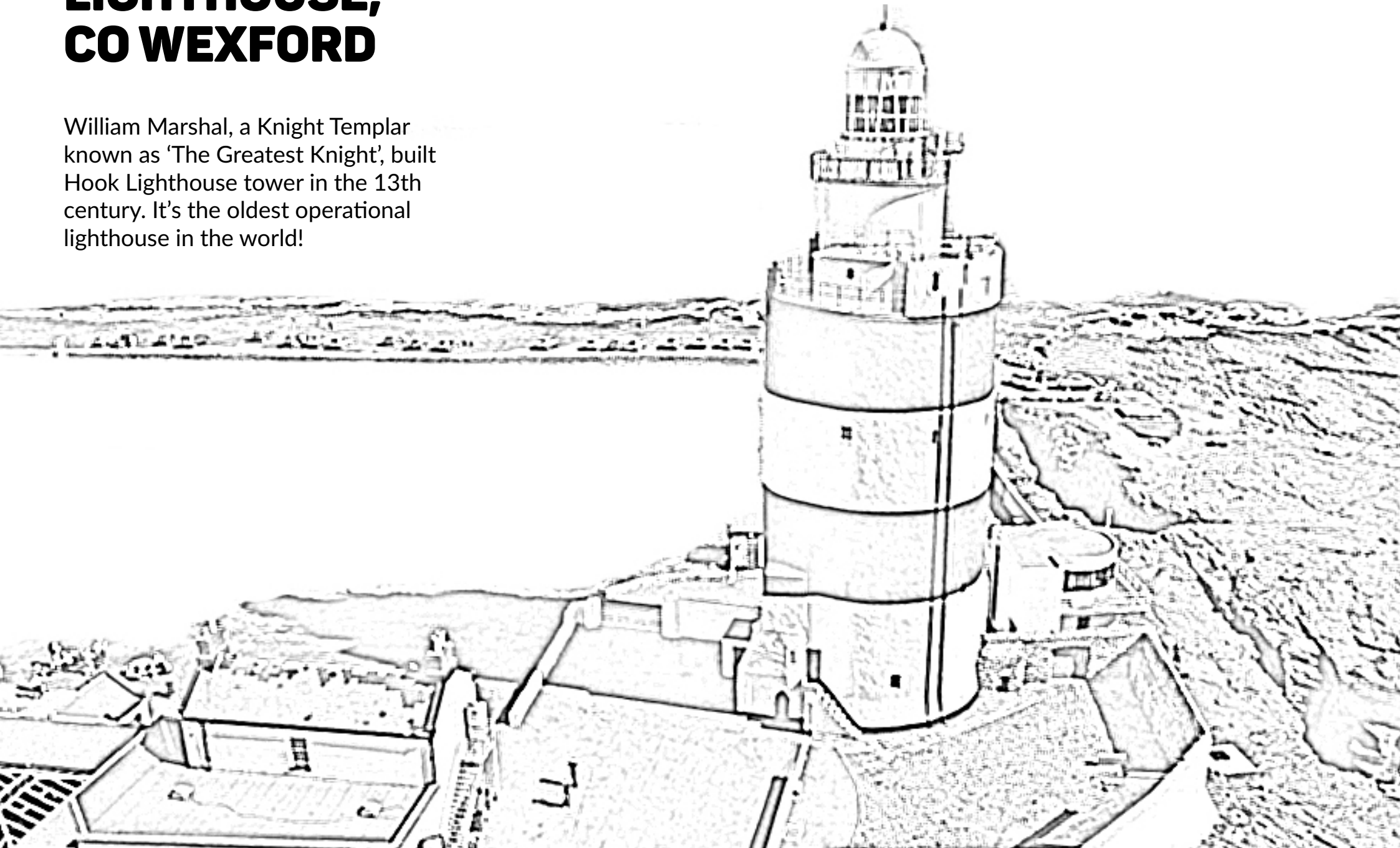
GALLEY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, CO CORK

At the time of its construction in 1875, Galley Head Lighthouse boasted the most powerful lighthouse beam in the world.



HOOK LIGHTHOUSE, CO WEXFORD

William Marshal, a Knight Templar known as 'The Greatest Knight', built Hook Lighthouse tower in the 13th century. It's the oldest operational lighthouse in the world!



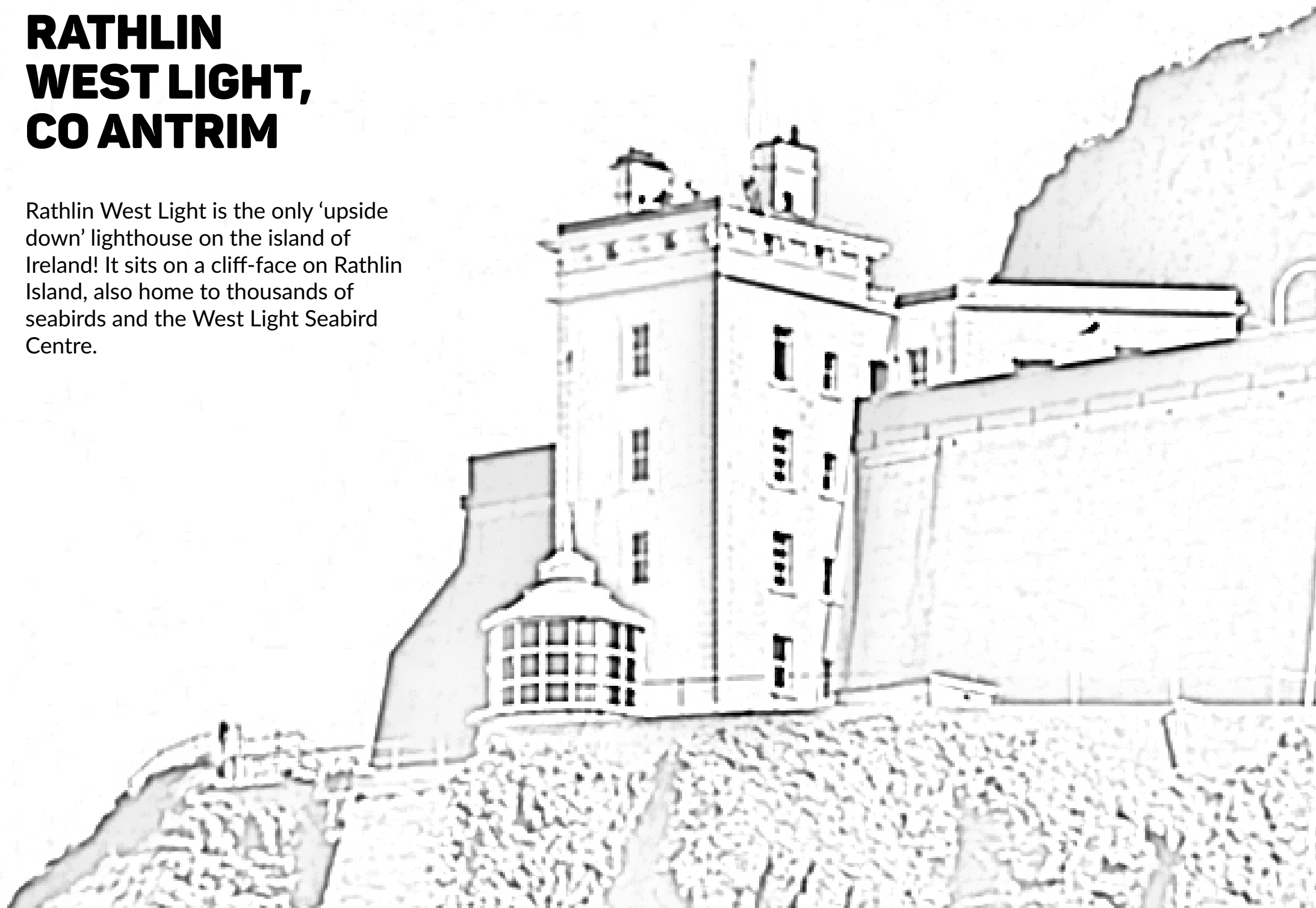
LOOP HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, CO CLARE

Loop Head has been home to a lighthouse since 1670. The lighthouse's character – the sequence of flashing light – is a white light flashing four times every 20 seconds.



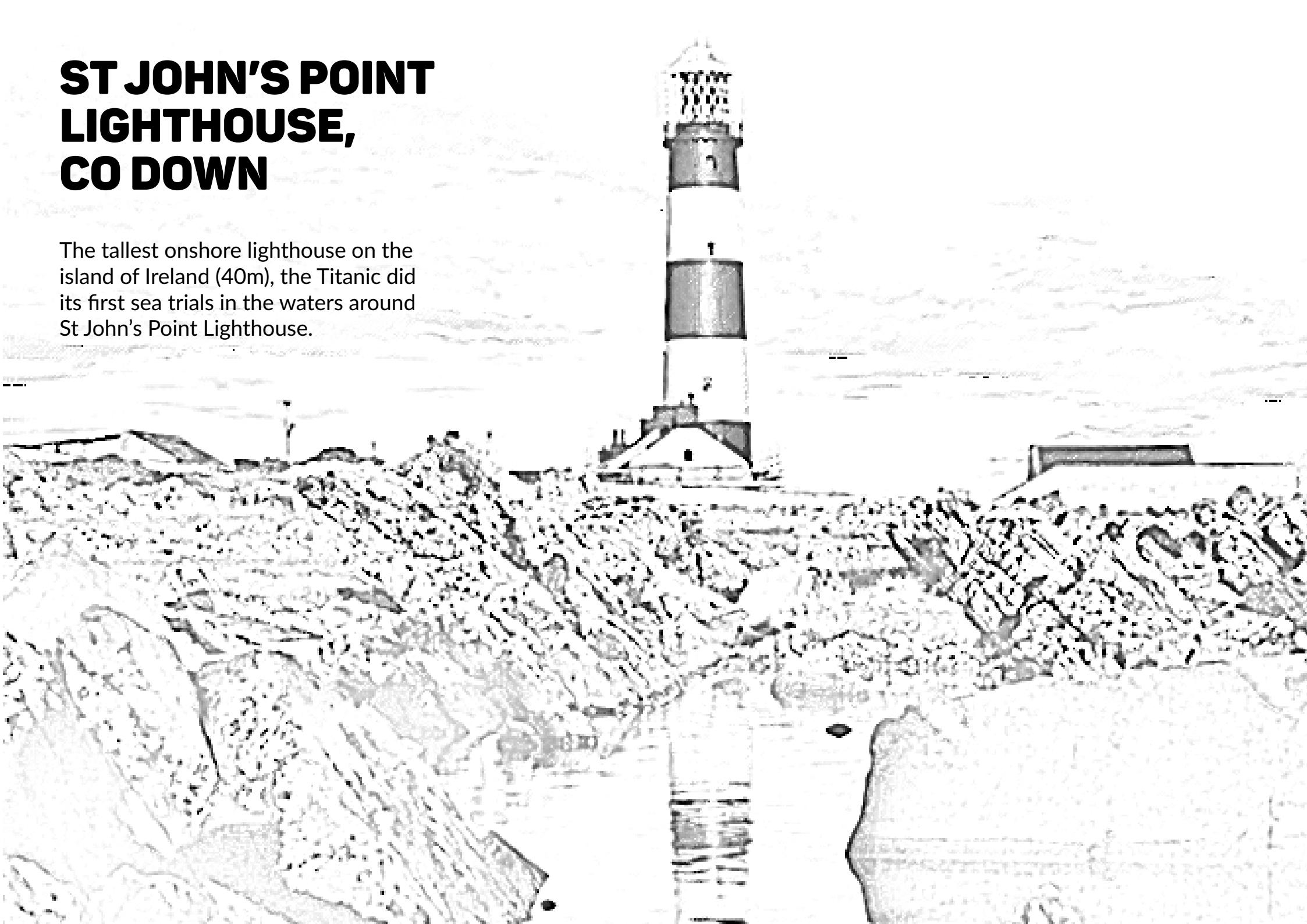
RATHLIN WEST LIGHT, CO ANTRIM

Rathlin West Light is the only 'upside down' lighthouse on the island of Ireland! It sits on a cliff-face on Rathlin Island, also home to thousands of seabirds and the West Light Seabird Centre.



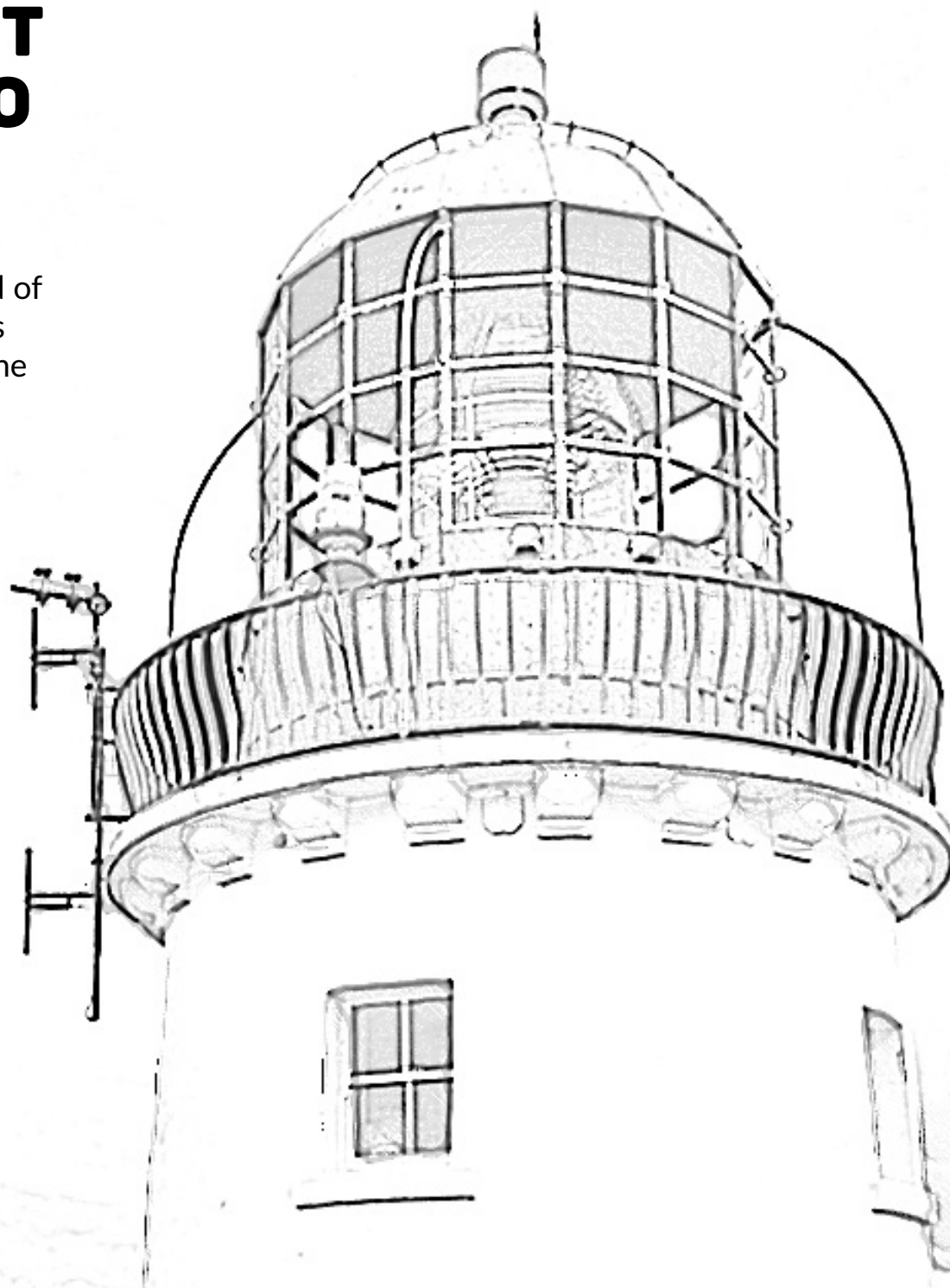
ST JOHN'S POINT LIGHTHOUSE, CO DOWN

The tallest onshore lighthouse on the island of Ireland (40m), the Titanic did its first sea trials in the waters around St John's Point Lighthouse.



ST JOHN'S POINT LIGHTHOUSE, CO DONEGAL

One of two lighthouses on the island of Ireland known as St John's Point, this Donegal beacon is a harbour light. The light first shone out to sea in 1831.



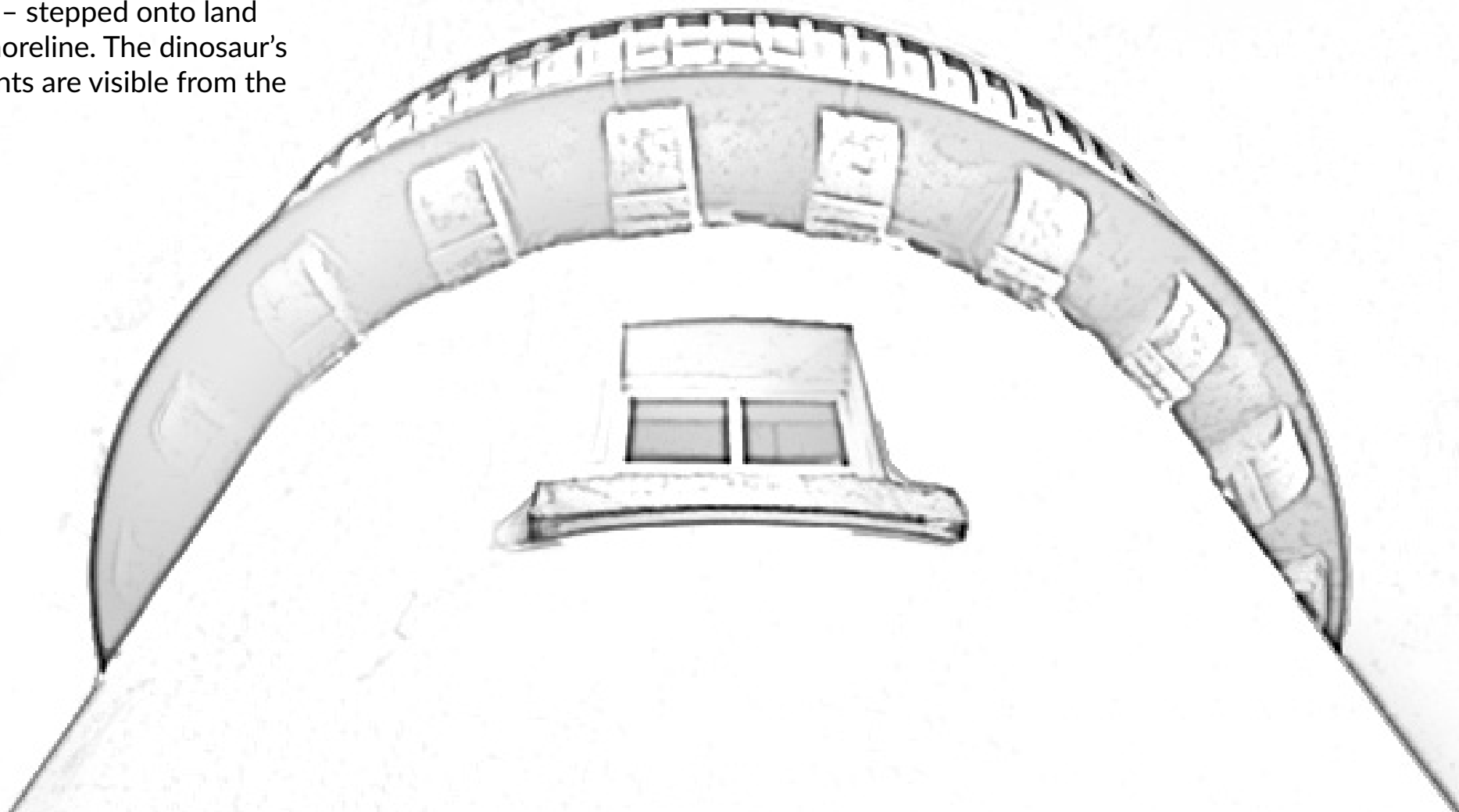
THE GREAT LIGHT, BELFAST

Although today it stands on Belfast's Titanic Walkway, The Great Light - a 10-tonne 19th-century optic - once shone from the lighthouses on Tory Island, Co Donegal and Mew Island, Co Down.



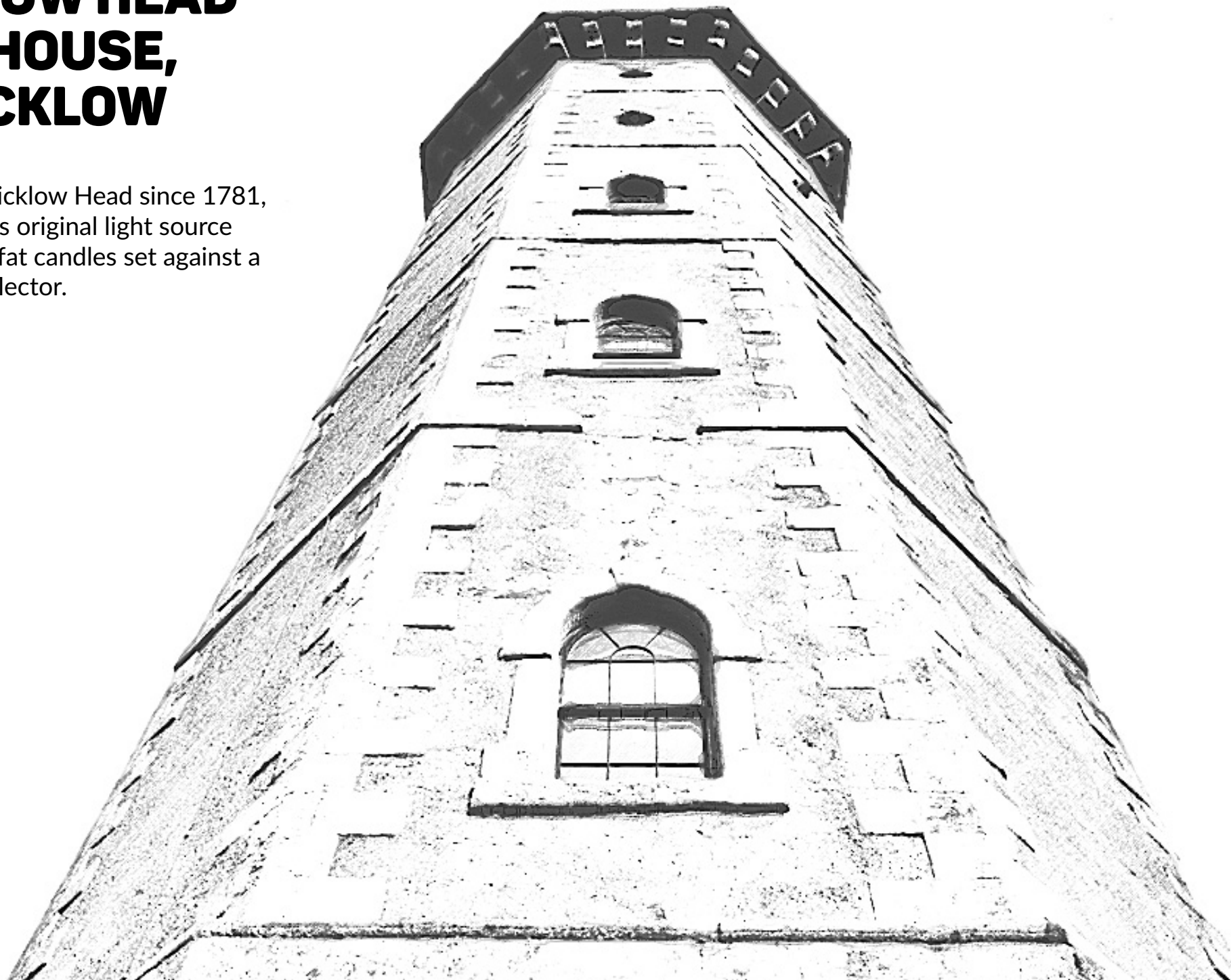
VALENTIA ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, CO KERRY

This lighthouse first shone in 1841. A few millennia before that though, a Tetrapod – the first four-legged animal with a backbone – stepped onto land on the island's shoreline. The dinosaur's fossilised footprints are visible from the lighthouse!



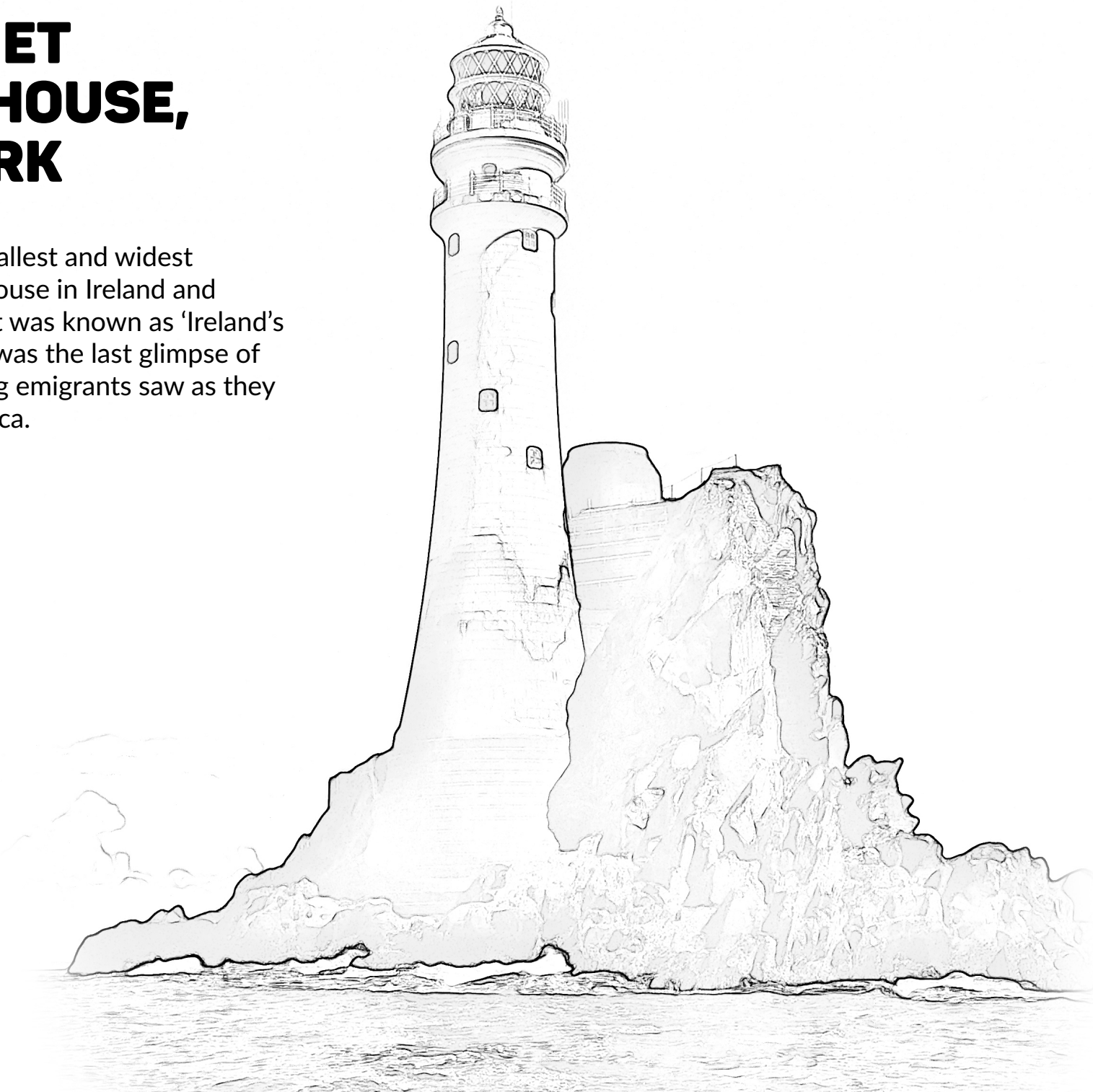
WICKLOW HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, CO WICKLOW

Standing on Wicklow Head since 1781, this lighthouse's original light source was 20 animal fat candles set against a large mirror reflector.



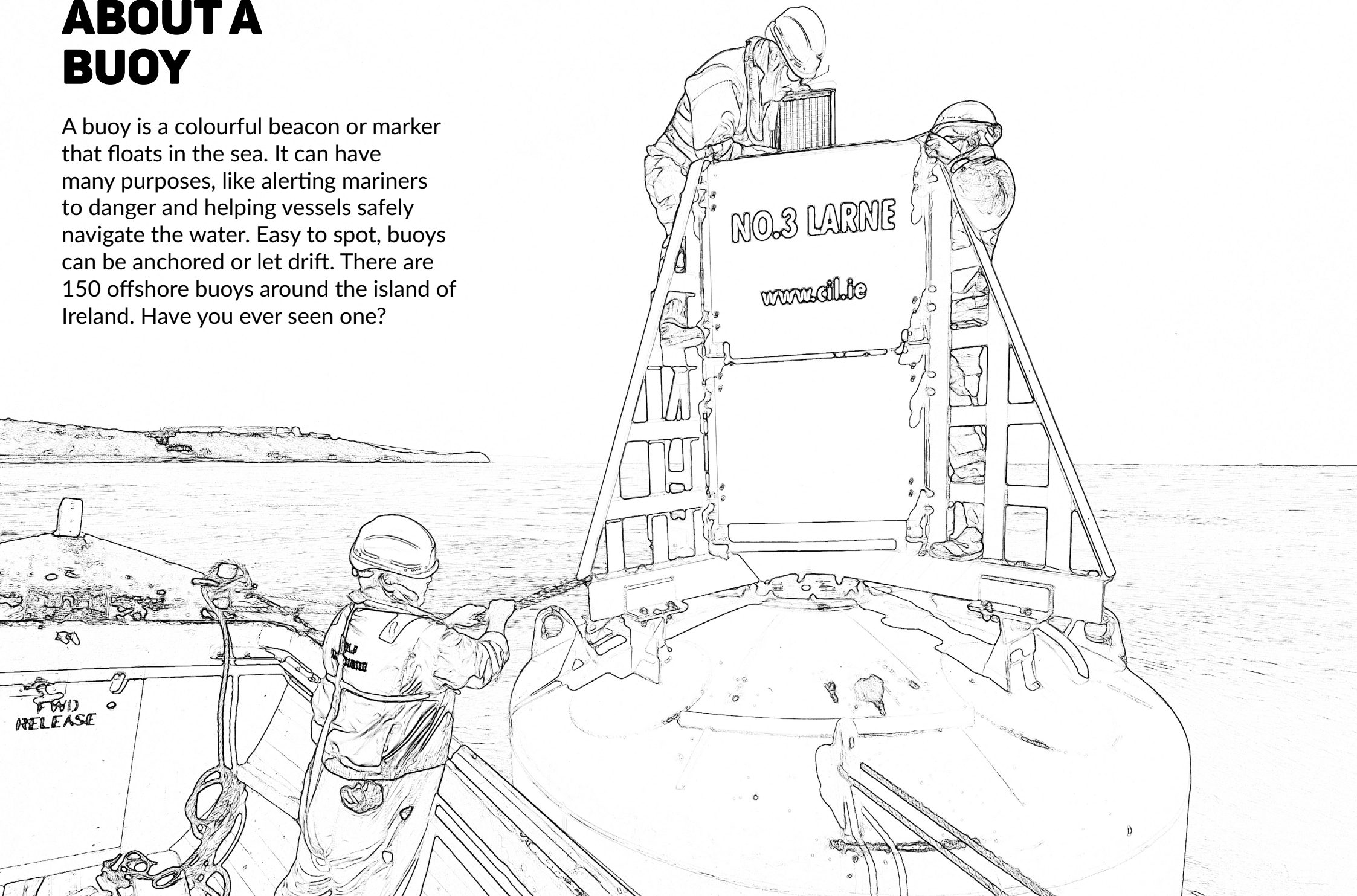
FASTNET LIGHTHOUSE, CO CORK

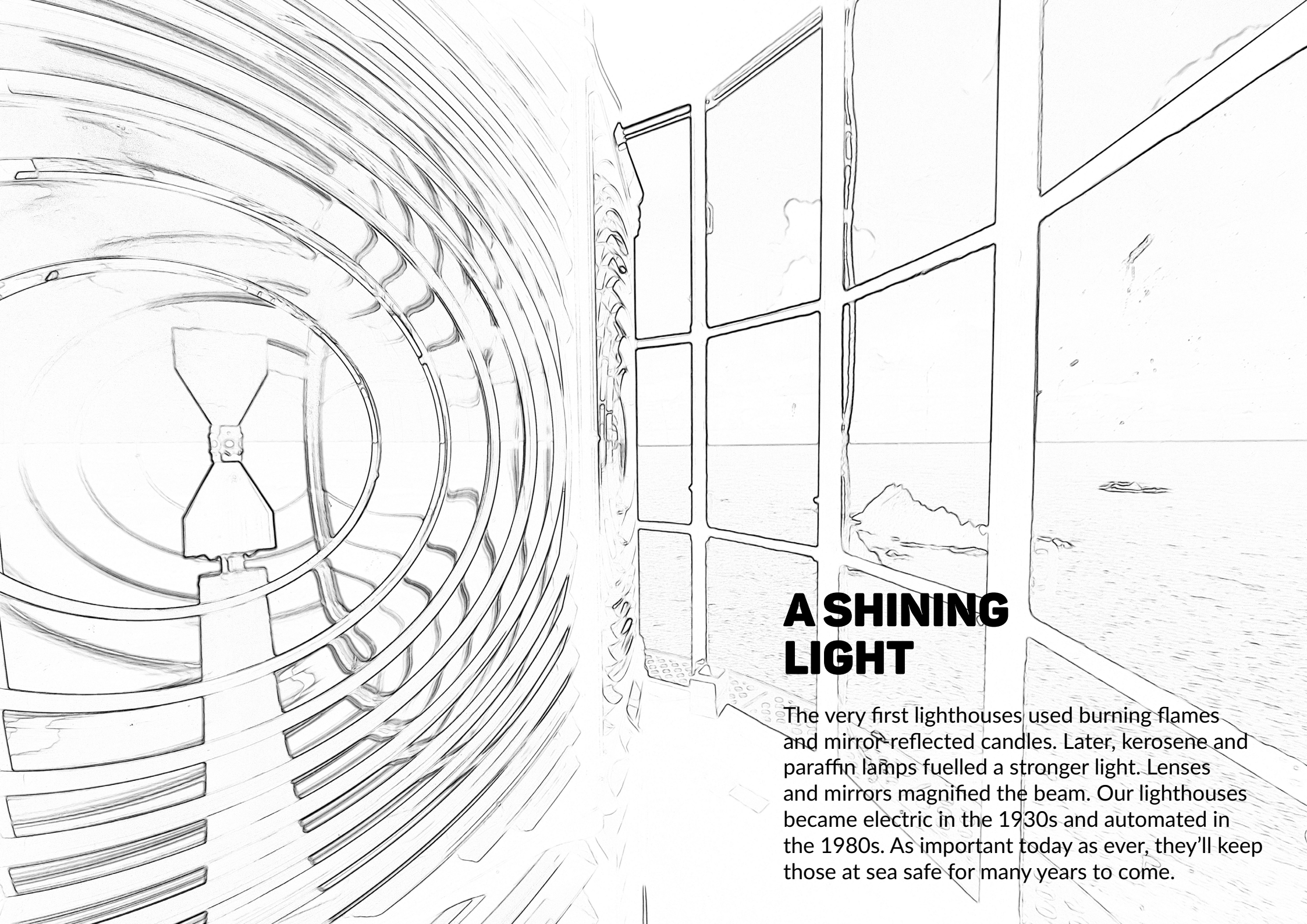
Fastnet is the tallest and widest offshore lighthouse in Ireland and Great Britain. It was known as 'Ireland's Teardrop' as it was the last glimpse of home departing emigrants saw as they sailed to America.



ABOUT A BUOY

A buoy is a colourful beacon or marker that floats in the sea. It can have many purposes, like alerting mariners to danger and helping vessels safely navigate the water. Easy to spot, buoys can be anchored or let drift. There are 150 offshore buoys around the island of Ireland. Have you ever seen one?





A SHINING LIGHT

The very first lighthouses used burning flames and mirror-reflected candles. Later, kerosene and paraffin lamps fuelled a stronger light. Lenses and mirrors magnified the beam. Our lighthouses became electric in the 1930s and automated in the 1980s. As important today as ever, they'll keep those at sea safe for many years to come.

IRISH LIGHTS VESSEL 'GRANUAILE'

An important aid to navigation vessel, the ILV Granuaile places and looks after the 150 offshore buoys floating around our island. Sturdy and strong, it can operate in very difficult sea conditions and is so big a helicopter can land on it!

