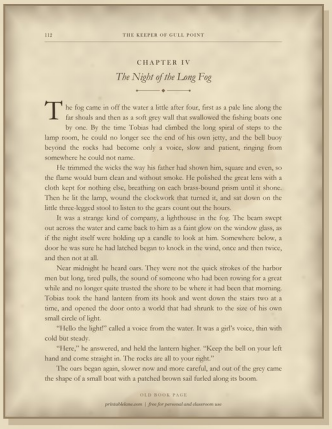
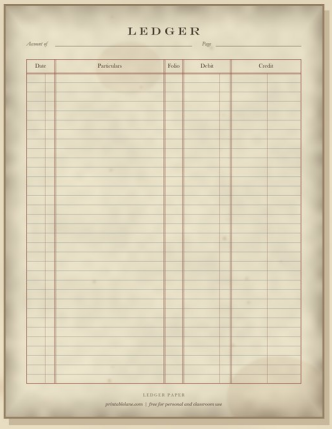
FREE PRINTABLE

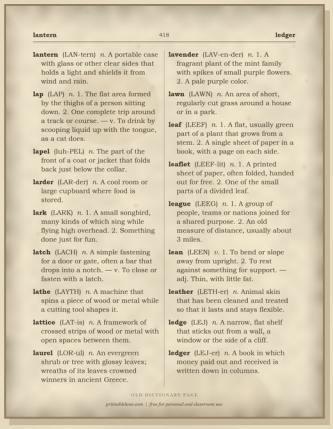
Vintage Paper & Old Book Pages

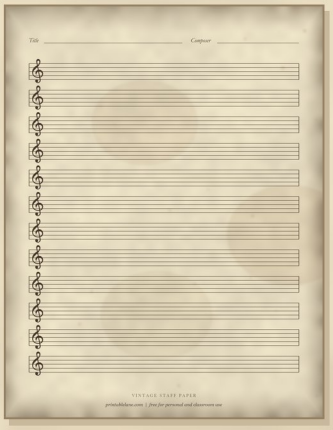
10 printable pages: parchment, book, ledger, dictionary, staff paper, letter, map grid, typewriter, newspaper and tea-stained graph paper

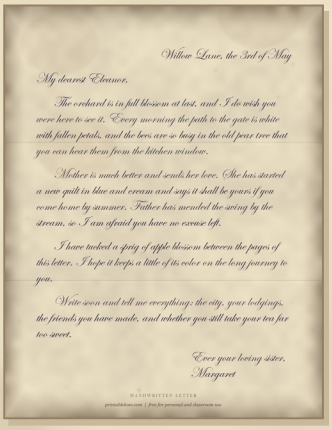


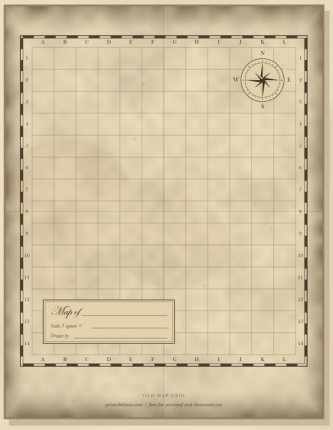


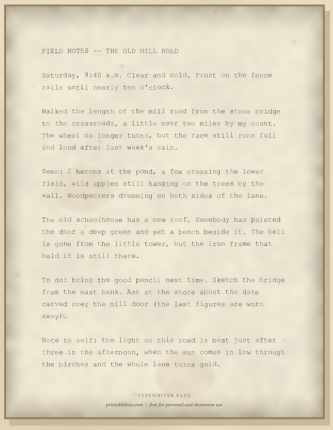


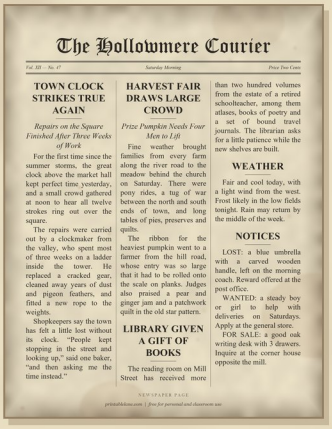


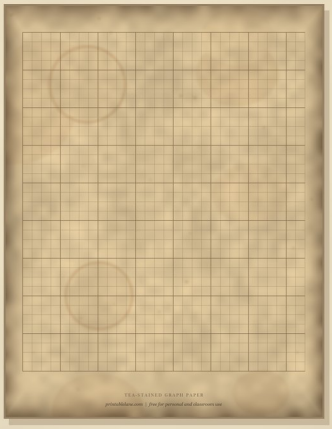












AGED PARCHMENT

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CHAPTER IV

The Night of the Long Fog

The fog came in off the water a little after four, first as a pale line along the far shoals and then as a soft grey wall that swallowed the fishing boats one by one. By the time Tobias had climbed the long spiral of steps to the lamp room, he could no longer see the end of his own jetty, and the bell buoy beyond the rocks had become only a voice, slow and patient, ringing from somewhere he could not name.

He trimmed the wicks the way his father had shown him, square and even, so the flame would burn clean and without smoke. He polished the great lens with a cloth kept for nothing else, breathing on each brass-bound prism until it shone. Then he lit the lamp, wound the clockwork that turned it, and sat down on the little three-legged stool to listen to the gears count out the hours.

It was a strange kind of company, a lighthouse in the fog. The beam swept out across the water and came back to him as a faint glow on the window glass, as if the night itself were holding up a candle to look at him. Somewhere below, a door he was sure he had latched began to knock in the wind, once and then twice, and then not at all.

Near midnight he heard oars. They were not the quick strokes of the harbor men but long, tired pulls, the sound of someone who had been rowing for a great while and no longer quite trusted the shore to be where it had been that morning. Tobias took the hand lantern from its hook and went down the stairs two at a time, and opened the door onto a world that had shrunk to the size of his own small circle of light.

"Hello the light!" called a voice from the water. It was a girl's voice, thin with cold but steady.

"Here," he answered, and held the lantern higher. "Keep the bell on your left hand and come straight in. The rocks are all to your right."

The oars began again, slower now and more careful, and out of the grey came the shape of a small boat with a patched brown sail furled along its boom.

OLD BOOK PAGE

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LEDGER

Account of _____ *Page* _____

Date		Particulars	Folio	Debit		Credit	

lantern (LAN-tern) *n.* A portable case with glass or other clear sides that holds a light and shields it from wind and rain.

lap (LAP) *n.* 1. The flat area formed by the thighs of a person sitting down. 2. One complete trip around a track or course. — v. To drink by scooping liquid up with the tongue, as a cat does.

lapel (luh-PEL) *n.* The part of the front of a coat or jacket that folds back just below the collar.

larder (LAR-der) *n.* A cool room or large cupboard where food is stored.

lark (LARK) *n.* 1. A small songbird, many kinds of which sing while flying high overhead. 2. Something done just for fun.

latch (LACH) *n.* A simple fastening for a door or gate, often a bar that drops into a notch. — v. To close or fasten with a latch.

lathe (LAYTH) *n.* A machine that spins a piece of wood or metal while a cutting tool shapes it.

lattice (LAT-is) *n.* A framework of crossed strips of wood or metal with open spaces between them.

laurel (LOR-ul) *n.* An evergreen shrub or tree with glossy leaves; wreaths of its leaves crowned winners in ancient Greece.

lavender (LAV-en-der) *n.* 1. A fragrant plant of the mint family with spikes of small purple flowers. 2. A pale purple color.

lawn (LAWN) *n.* An area of short, regularly cut grass around a house or in a park.

leaf (LEEF) *n.* 1. A flat, usually green part of a plant that grows from a stem. 2. A single sheet of paper in a book, with a page on each side.

leaflet (LEEF-lit) *n.* 1. A printed sheet of paper, often folded, handed out for free. 2. One of the small parts of a divided leaf.

league (LEEG) *n.* 1. A group of people, teams or nations joined for a shared purpose. 2. An old measure of distance, usually about 3 miles.

lean (LEEN) *v.* 1. To bend or slope away from upright. 2. To rest against something for support. — adj. Thin, with little fat.

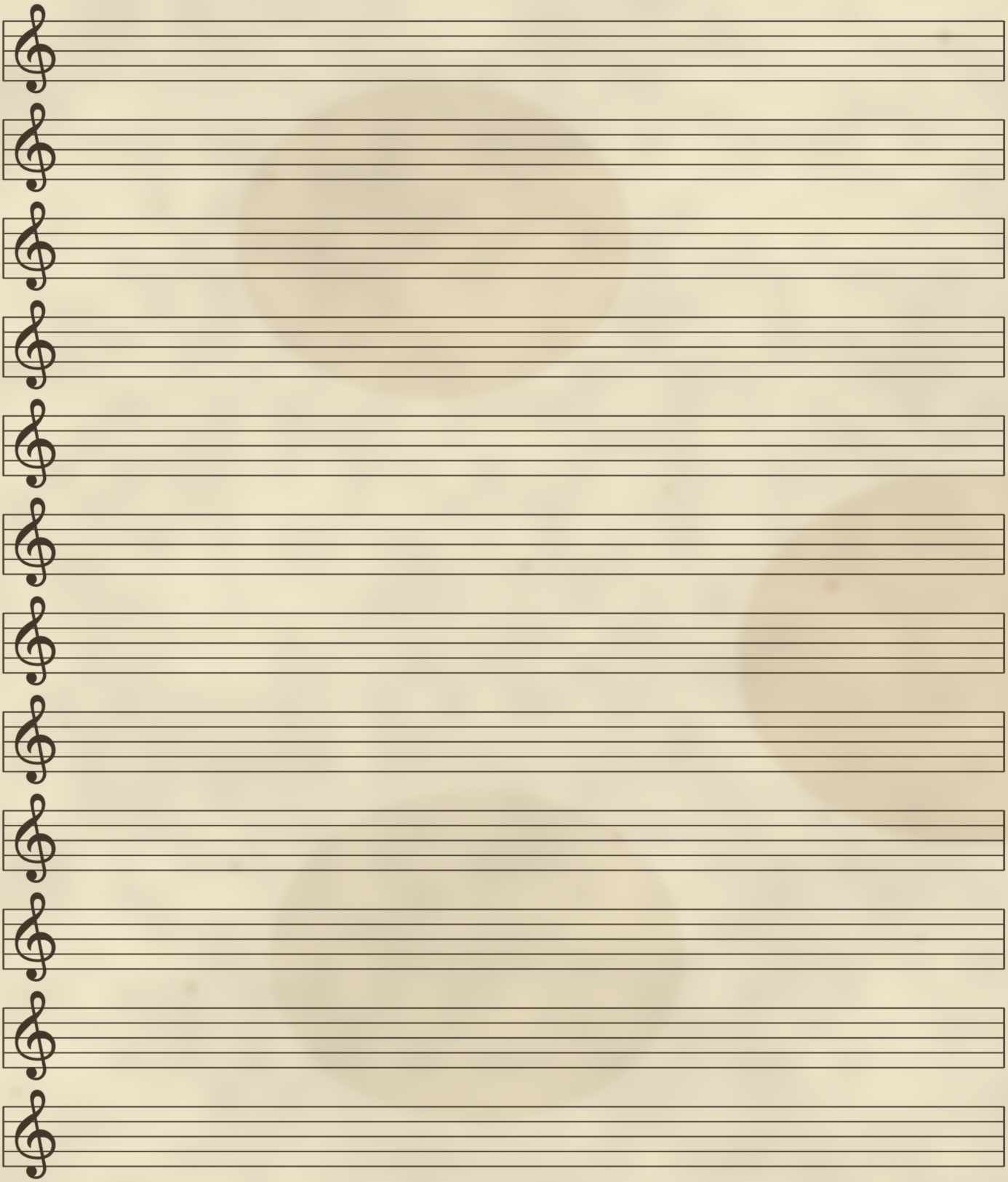
leather (LETH-er) *n.* Animal skin that has been cleaned and treated so that it lasts and stays flexible.

ledge (LEJ) *n.* A narrow, flat shelf that sticks out from a wall, a window or the side of a cliff.

ledger (LEJ-er) *n.* A book in which money paid out and received is written down in columns.

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Title _____ *Composer* _____



VINTAGE STAFF PAPER

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Willow Lane, the 3rd of May

My dearest Eleanor,

The orchard is in full blossom at last, and I do wish you were here to see it. Every morning the path to the gate is white with fallen petals, and the bees are so busy in the old pear tree that you can hear them from the kitchen window.

Mother is much better and sends her love. She has started a new quilt in blue and cream and says it shall be yours if you come home by summer. Father has mended the swing by the stream, so I am afraid you have no excuse left.

I have tucked a sprig of apple blossom between the pages of this letter. I hope it keeps a little of its color on the long journey to you.

Write soon and tell me everything: the city, your lodgings, the friends you have made, and whether you still take your tea far too sweet.

Ever your loving sister,
Margaret

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A B C D E F G H I J K L

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14



Map of _____

Scale: 1 square = _____

Drawn by _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L

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FIELD NOTES -- THE OLD MILL ROAD

Saturday, 9:40 a.m. Clear and cold. Frost on the fence rails until nearly ten o'clock.

Walked the length of the mill road from the stone bridge to the crossroads, a little over two miles by my count. The wheel no longer turns, but the race still runs full and loud after last week's rain.

Seen: 2 herons at the pond, a fox crossing the lower field, wild apples still hanging on the trees by the wall. Woodpeckers drumming on both sides of the lane.

The old schoolhouse has a new roof. Somebody has painted the door a deep green and set a bench beside it. The bell is gone from the little tower, but the iron frame that held it is still there.

To do: bring the good pencil next time. Sketch the bridge from the east bank. Ask at the store about the date carved over the mill door (the last figures are worn away).

Note to self: the light on this road is best just after three in the afternoon, when the sun comes in low through the birches and the whole lane turns gold.

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The Hollowmere Courier

Vol. XII — No. 47 *Saturday Morning* *Price Two Cents*

TOWN CLOCK STRIKES TRUE AGAIN

Repairs on the Square Finished After Three Weeks of Work

For the first time since the summer storms, the great clock above the market hall kept perfect time yesterday, and a small crowd gathered at noon to hear all twelve strokes ring out over the square.

The repairs were carried out by a clockmaker from the valley, who spent most of three weeks on a ladder inside the tower. He replaced a cracked gear, cleaned away years of dust and pigeon feathers, and fitted a new rope to the weights.

Shopkeepers say the town has felt a little lost without its clock. “People kept stopping in the street and looking up,” said one baker, “and then asking me the time instead.”

HARVEST FAIR DRAWS LARGE CROWD

Prize Pumpkin Needs Four Men to Lift

Fine weather brought families from every farm along the river road to the meadow behind the church on Saturday. There were pony rides, a tug of war between the north and south ends of town, and long tables of pies, preserves and quilts.

The ribbon for the heaviest pumpkin went to a farmer from the hill road, whose entry was so large that it had to be rolled onto the scale on planks. Judges also praised a pear and ginger jam and a patchwork quilt in the old star pattern.

LIBRARY GIVEN A GIFT OF BOOKS

The reading room on Mill Street has received more than two hundred volumes from the estate of a retired schoolteacher, among them atlases, books of poetry and a set of bound travel journals. The librarian asks for a little patience while the new shelves are built.

WEATHER

Fair and cool today, with a light wind from the west. Frost likely in the low fields tonight. Rain may return by the middle of the week.

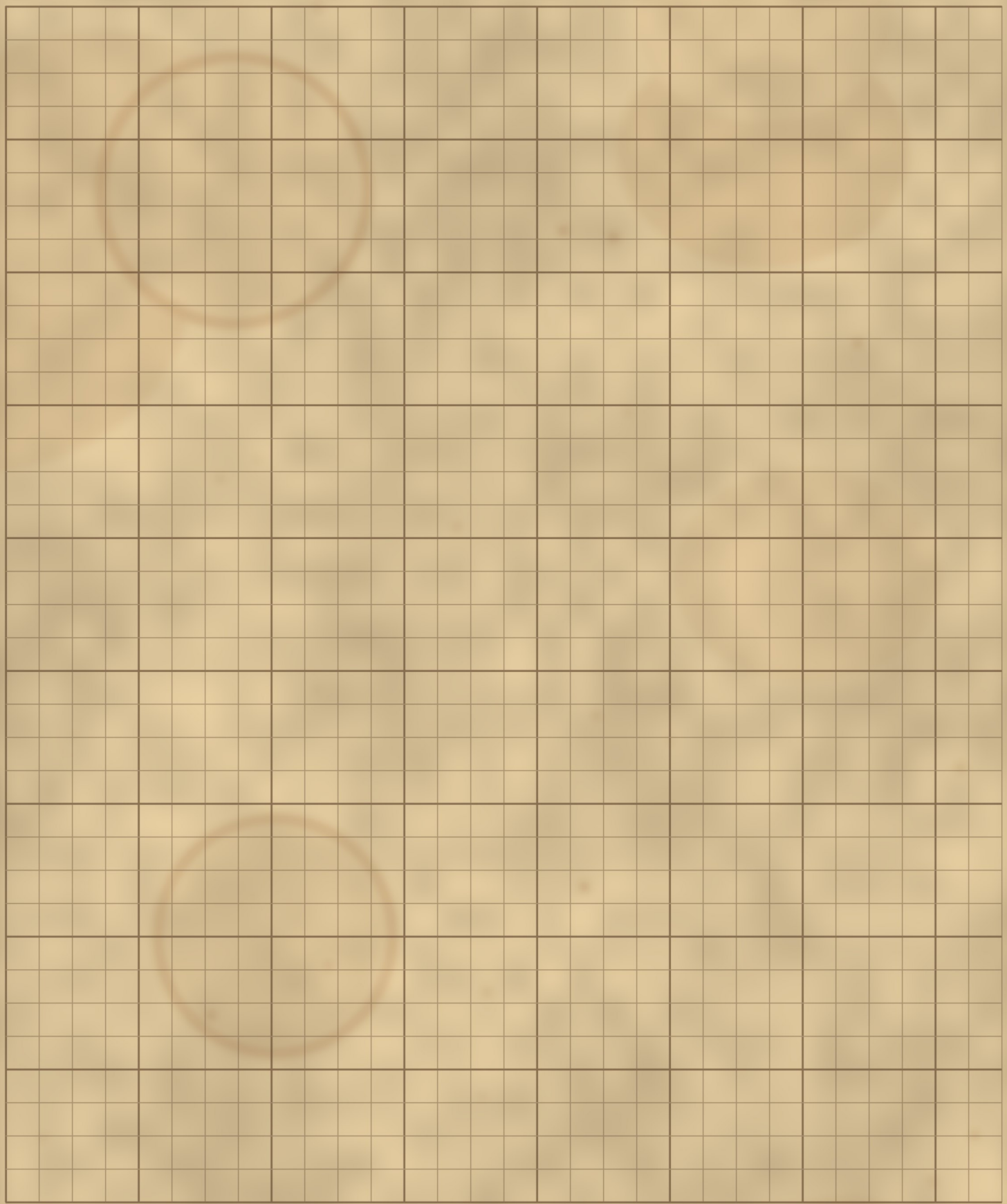
NOTICES

LOST: a blue umbrella with a carved wooden handle, left on the morning coach. Reward offered at the post office.

WANTED: a steady boy or girl to help with deliveries on Saturdays. Apply at the general store.

FOR SALE: a good oak writing desk with 3 drawers. Inquire at the corner house opposite the mill.

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TEA-STAINED GRAPH PAPER

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