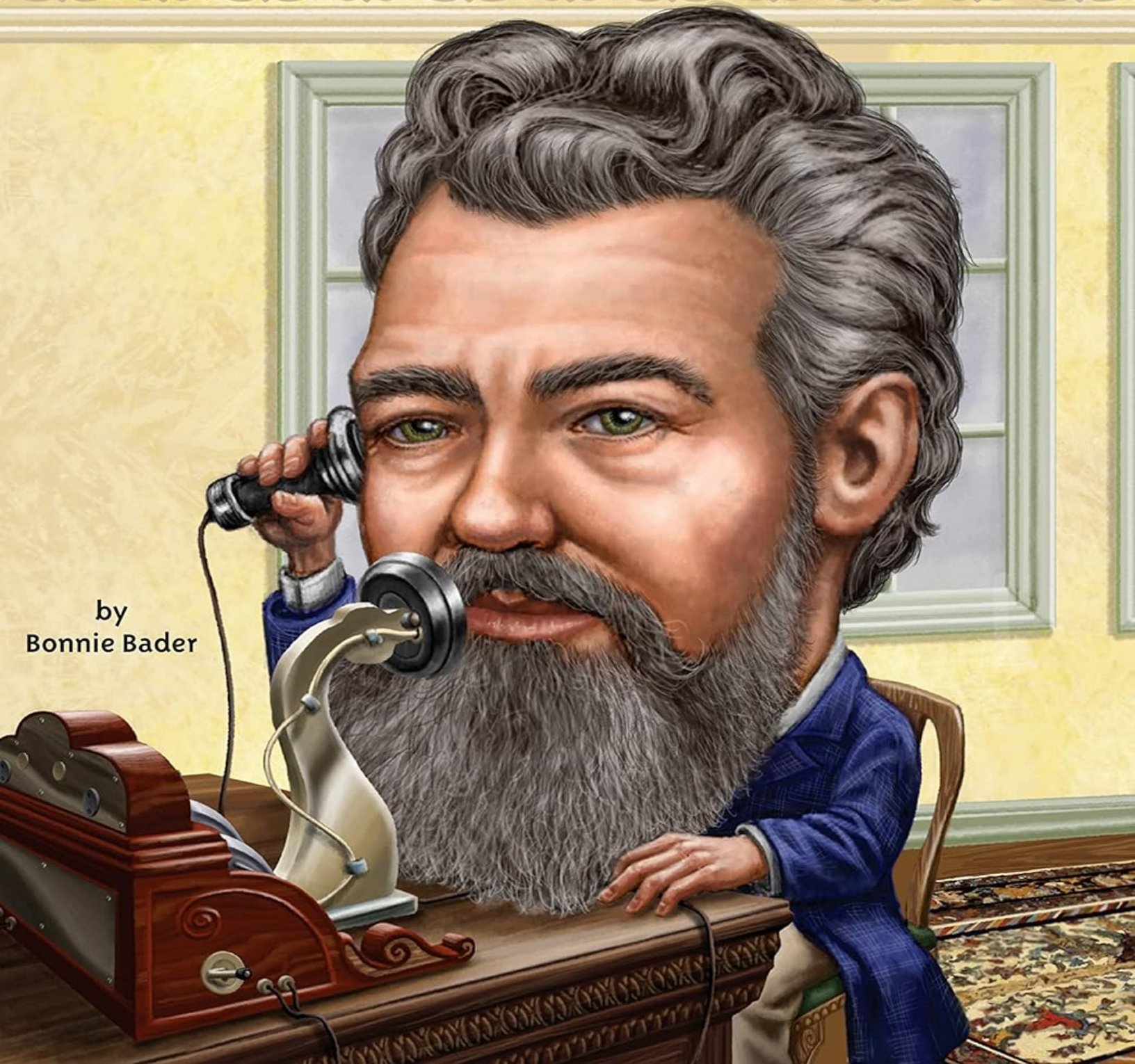


The #1 *New York Times* Best-Selling Series



Who Was Alexander Graham Bell?

by
Bonnie Bader



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By Bonnie Bader
Illustrated by David Groff

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To Lauren and Allie—may you, like Bell, follow your own
interests and see where they take you—BB

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Contents

Who Was Alexander Graham Bell?

An Inventor Is Born

A Turning Point

An Ear for Sound

Endings and Beginnings

A New Direction

A Sound Is Heard

Race to the Finish

Famous Words

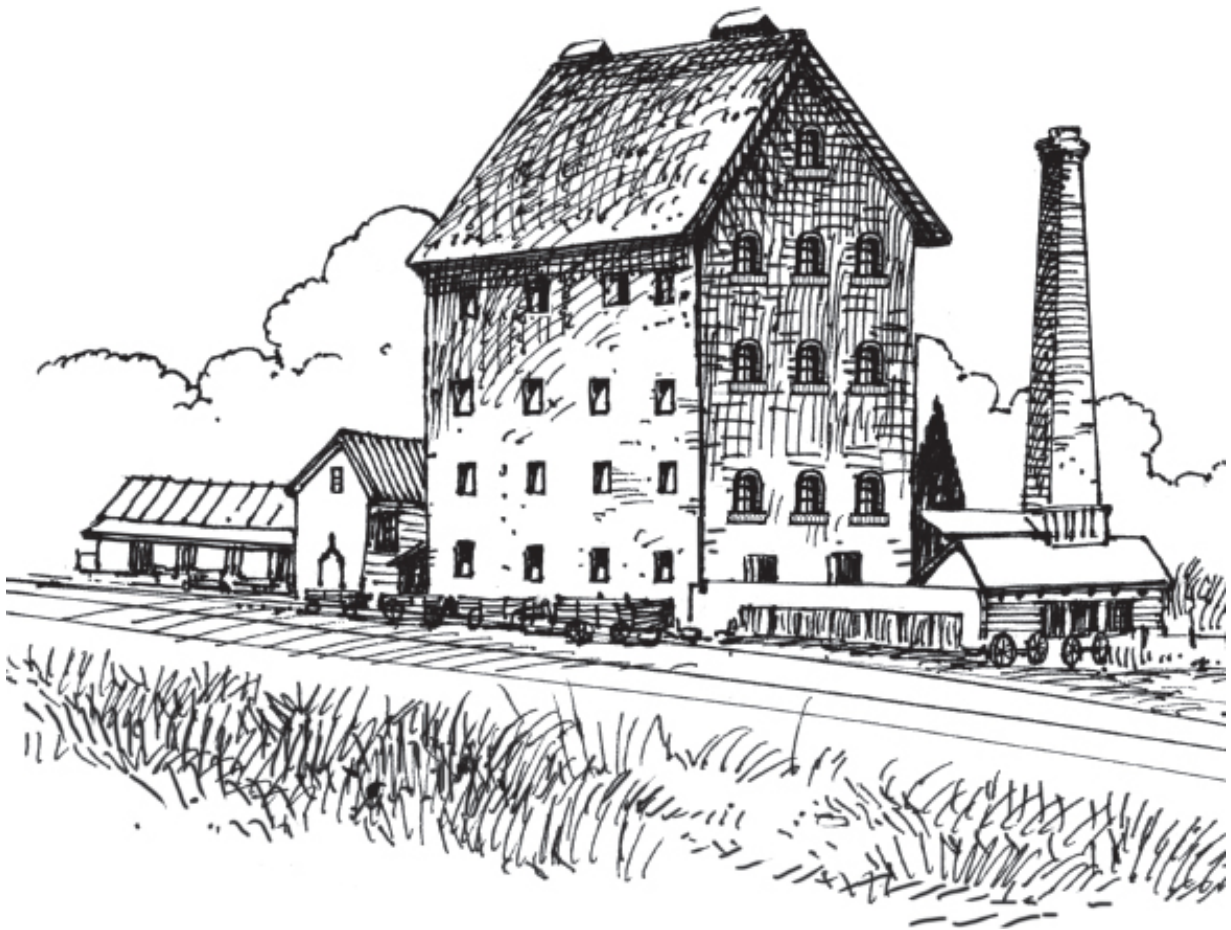
Victory!

An Inventor to the End

Timelines

Bibliography

Who Was Alexander Graham Bell?



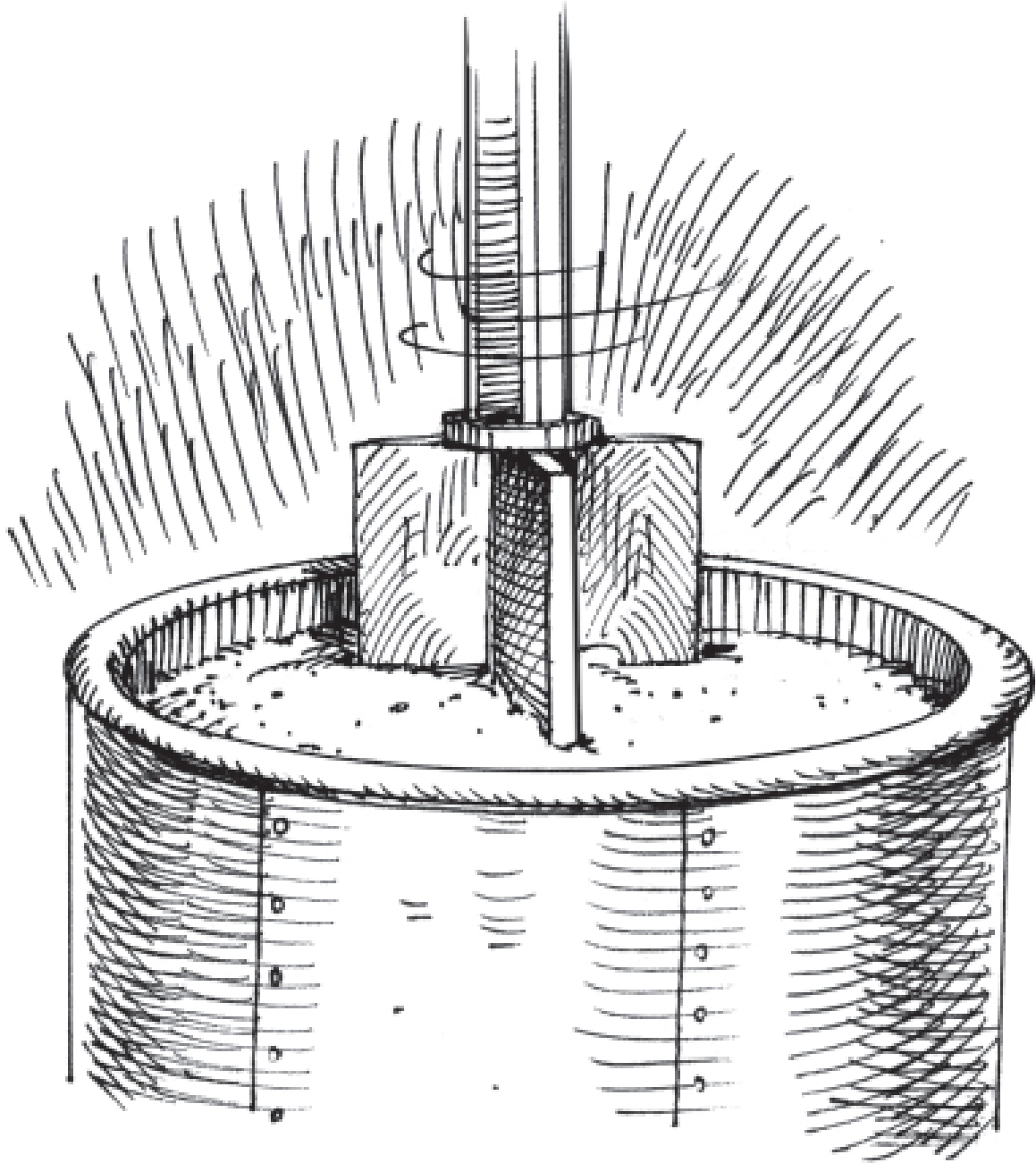
One day in 1858, two young boys named Aleck and Ben were horsing around in a flour mill owned by Ben's father. The boys leaped over bags of flour and ran past machines that ground up wheat. They were having fun. But they were bothering the mill workers who needed to do their work. Finally, Ben's father called the boys into his office. He told them to find something useful to do. What exactly would that be? Aleck wanted to know. Ben's father picked up a handful of grain. Each piece of grain was covered

in a thick husk. It would be useful if they could figure out a good way to get the husks off the wheat grain.



The boys accepted the challenge. First, they scraped the husks off with a nailbrush. It worked, but it took too long. They needed a faster way. Aleck thought about the problem some more. He was good at solving problems. He remembered seeing a large vat with spinning paddles at the mill. The boys went and watched the vat at work. At last, Aleck had an idea. What if stiff brushes, like big nailbrushes, were attached to the vat's paddles? When the paddle-brushes began spinning, the husks would be scraped off the wheat—fast!





Aleck presented his idea to Ben's father. The mill owner liked what he heard and put it to the test. Aleck's idea worked! Maybe it's not so surprising that this eleven-year-old boy grew up to become a world-famous inventor—the man who invented the telephone.