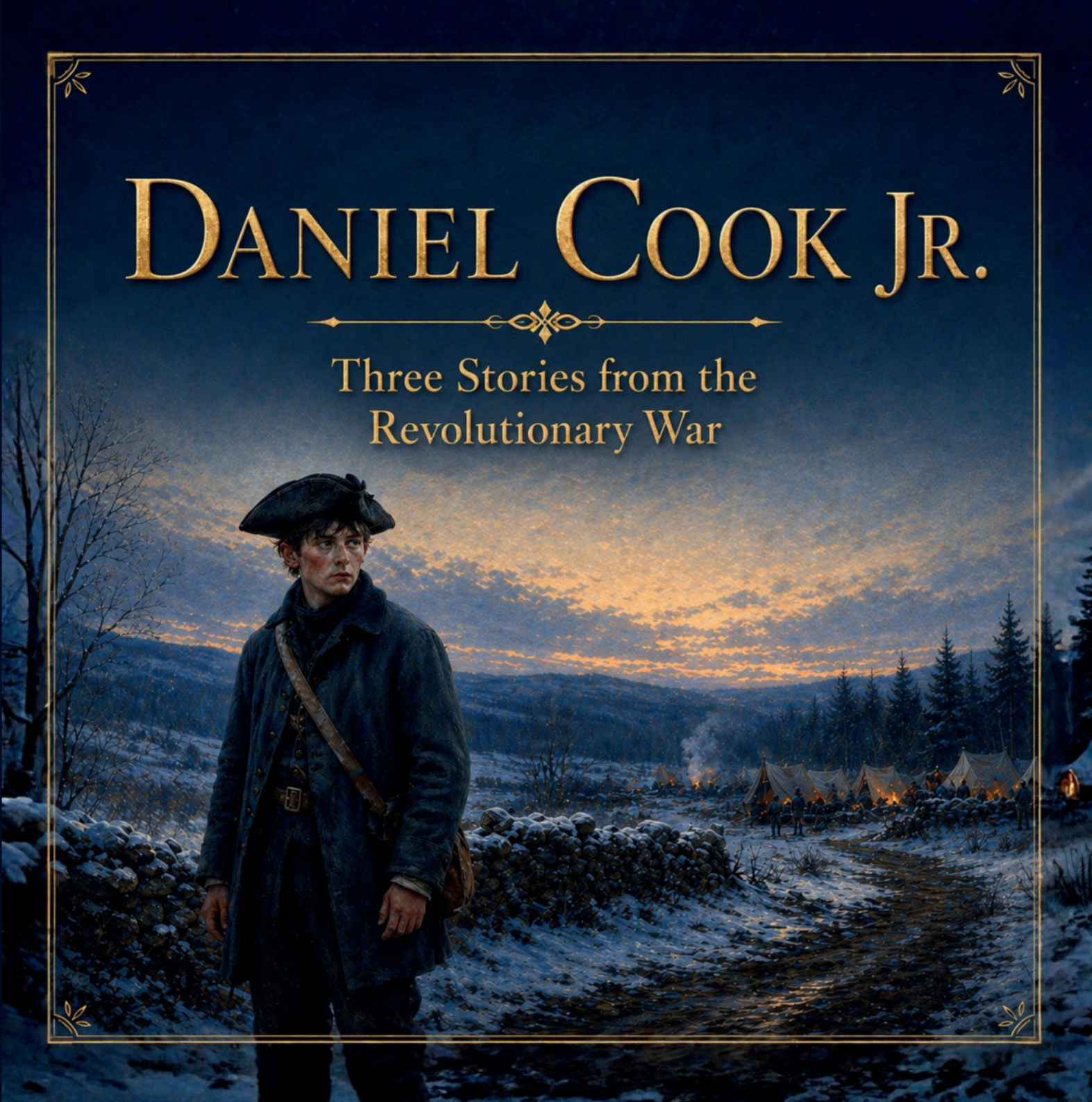
Daniel Cook Jr.

Three Stories from the Revolutionary War





For Penny, Jude, and Finn -Skyler

For Ryker, Adelaide, Parker and Jensen -Becca



Daniel's tales were documented by his grandson, Phineas Wolcott Cook. His writings have been preserved, and from this account, Skyler and Becca adapted them into this children's book.
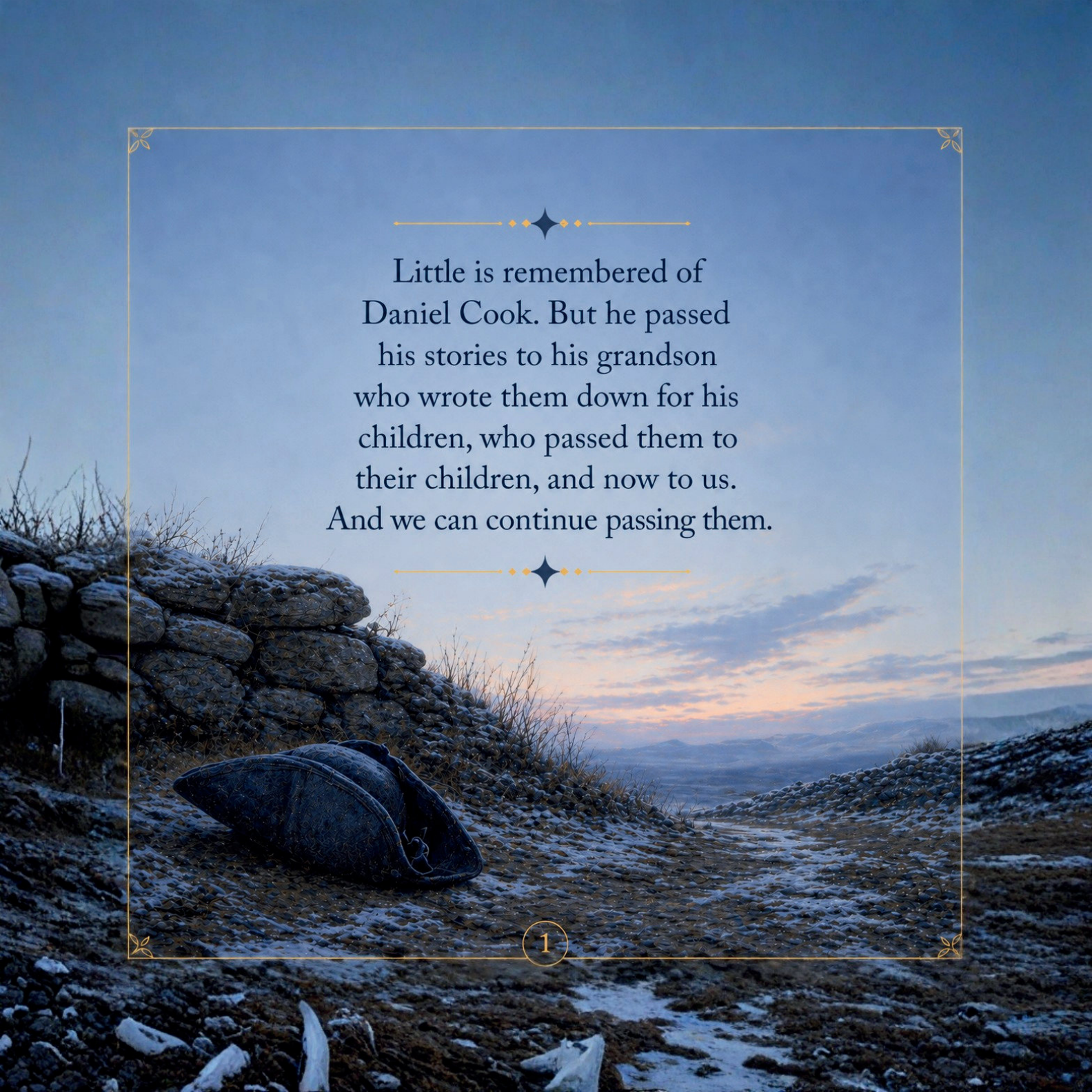


Book published with the help and support of the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization

Daniel Cook Jr.

Three Stories from the Revolutionary War

Written and illustrated by Skyler Smith
and Becca Groberg with the help of AI

Four Holes *and a* Narrow Escape



Little is remembered of
Daniel Cook. But he passed
his stories to his grandson
who wrote them down for his
children, who passed them to
their children, and now to us.
And we can continue passing them.



He served through the Revolutionary War with England. The war broke his constitution, and his health was always poor. He was in many battles and skirmishes. But still, he was saved.



One night, Daniel was sent out with one other soldier as a scouting party, to see what they could find.


The night was dark.
As they went down a hill,
a stone wall stood on
both sides of the road.



Then, on the other side,
about thirty men rose up
from behind the wall.
Because they were
higher than Daniel was,
he could see them
against the sky.

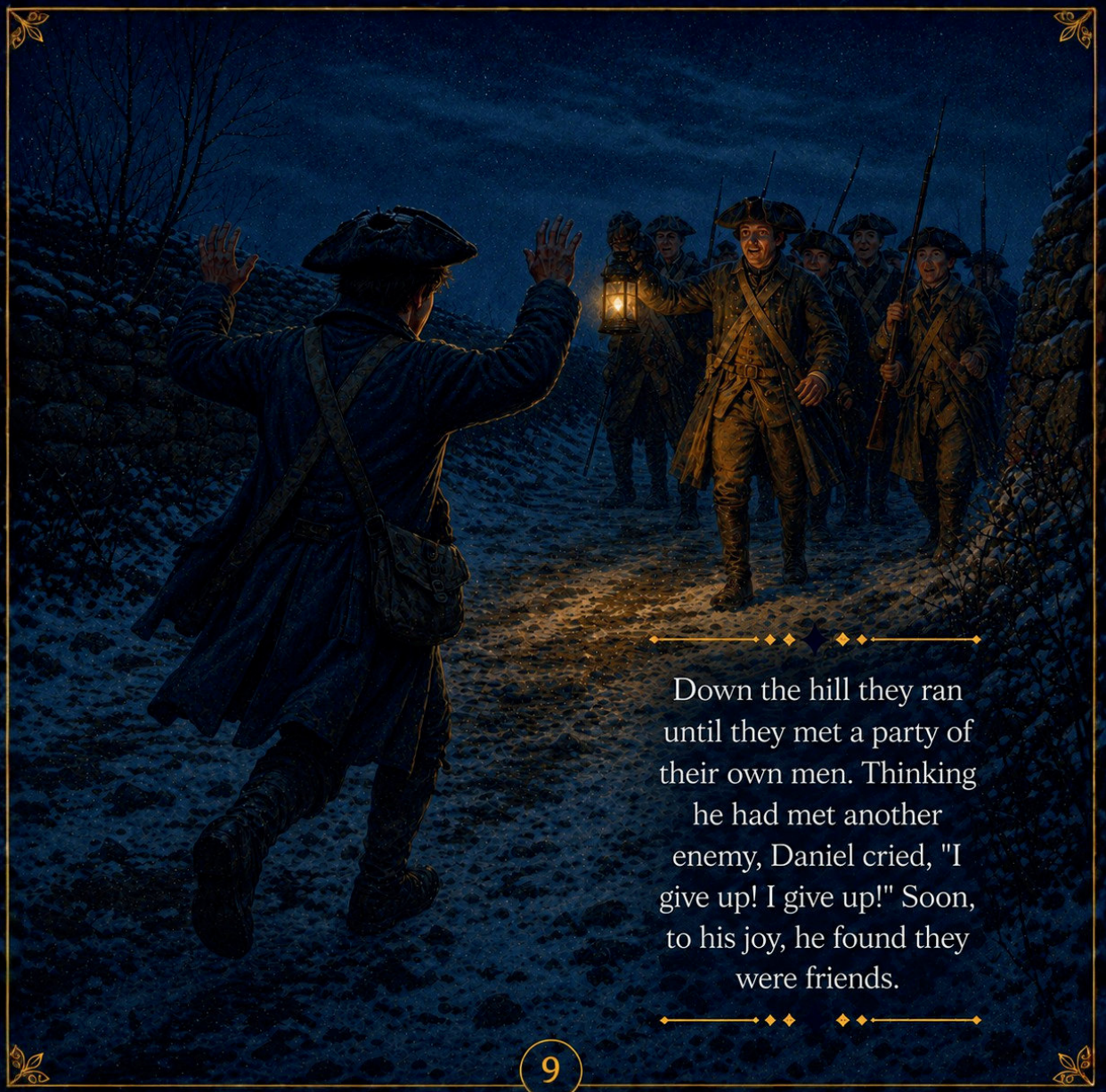


“Who comes there?”
“Friend,” Daniel
answered.
"Friend to who?"
"Friend to the States."
Then the enemy
shouted, “Surrender!"



At that moment, Daniel fired his musket at the biggest one and ran for the opposite wall.


The bullets came like hailstones. One went through the top of his hat. One went through his ear. One grazed his side. One went into the heel of his shoe.

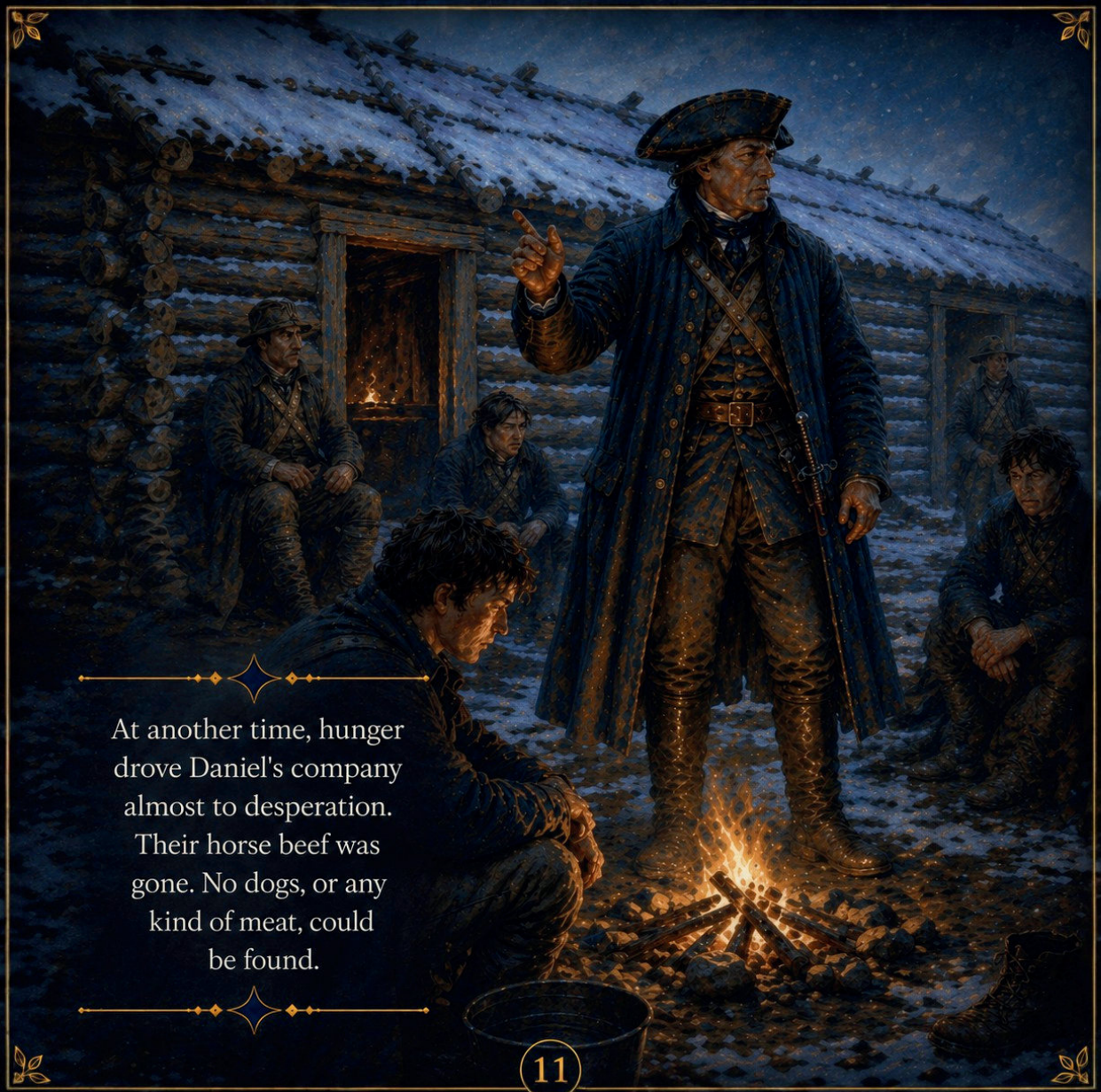


Down the hill they ran until they met a party of their own men. Thinking he had met another enemy, Daniel cried, "I give up! I give up!" Soon, to his joy, he found they were friends.



Daniel wished to pursue the enemy, but the officer thought it was not prudent in the night. At camp, Daniel tried to find a hole in his side. His hand was covered with blood, but he found no bullet hole. In the morning, they found blood on the ground.

The Tory and the Stolen Honey



At another time, hunger drove Daniel's company almost to desperation. Their horse beef was gone. No dogs, or any kind of meat, could be found.



Some of the men even roasted their shoes and ate them.
At last, the captain told them to go out and take some Tory's chickens, or anything they could find.

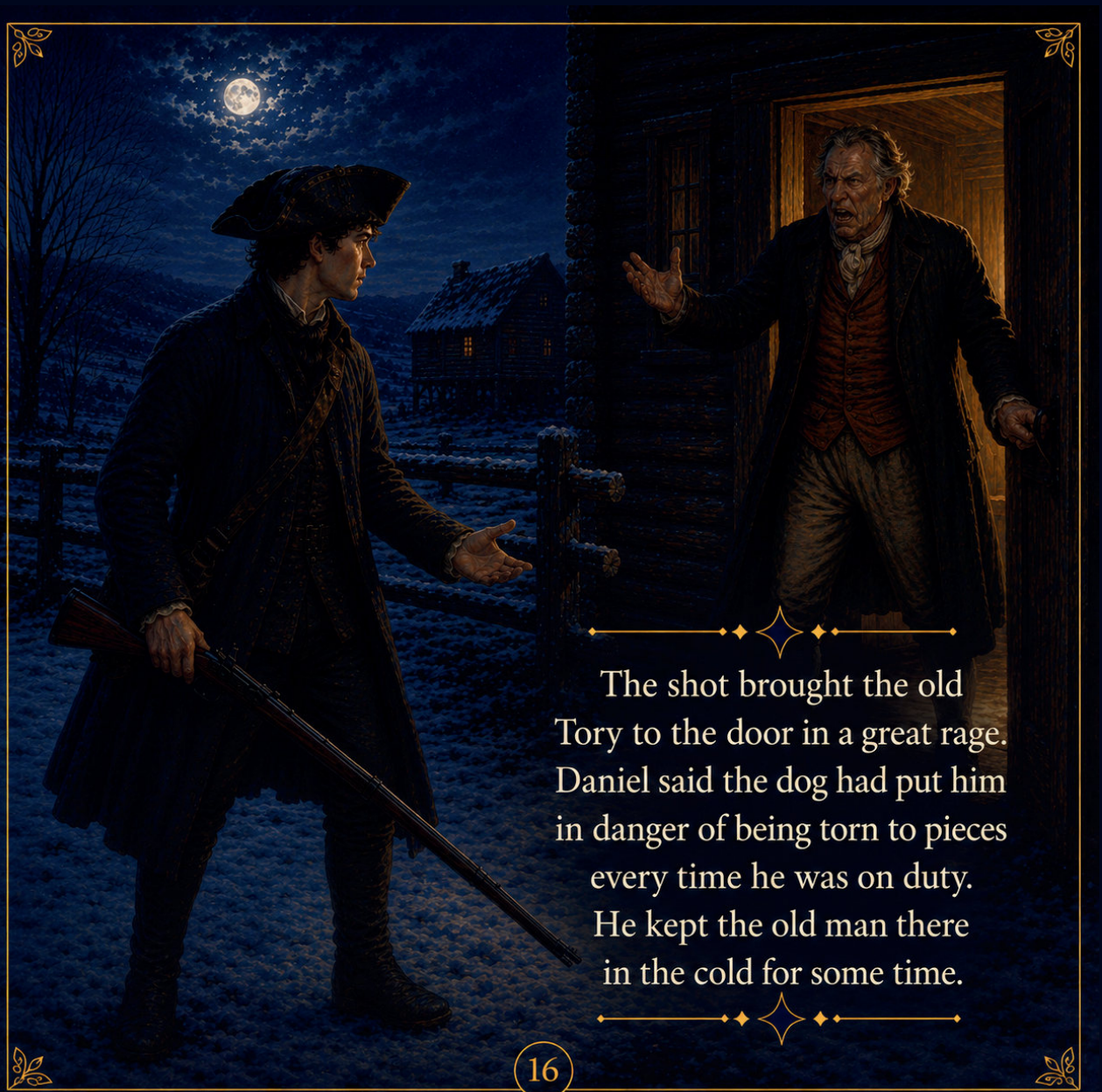


They knew of a Tory (someone still loyal to the king) nearby who had plenty, but would sell none, He had a large bulldog that guarded the house, so there was no coming near in the night.



At length, a plan was made. Daniel was selected as guard. He went near the house.


Out came the dog
in a great fury.
Daniel saw that he
must defend himself.
He drew his musket
and fired.



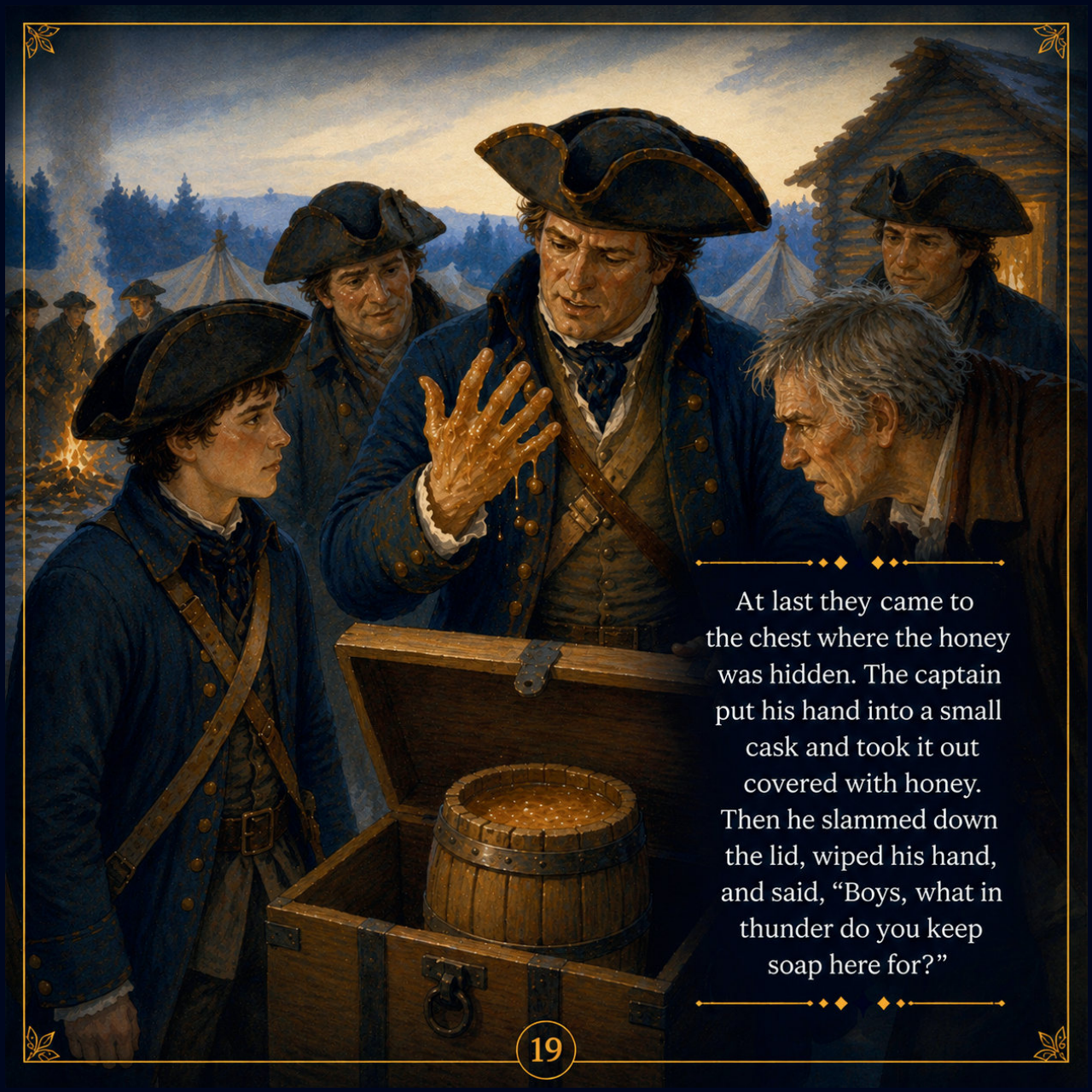
The shot brought the old
Tory to the door in a great rage.
Daniel said the dog had put him
in danger of being torn to pieces
every time he was on duty.
He kept the old man there
in the cold for some time.



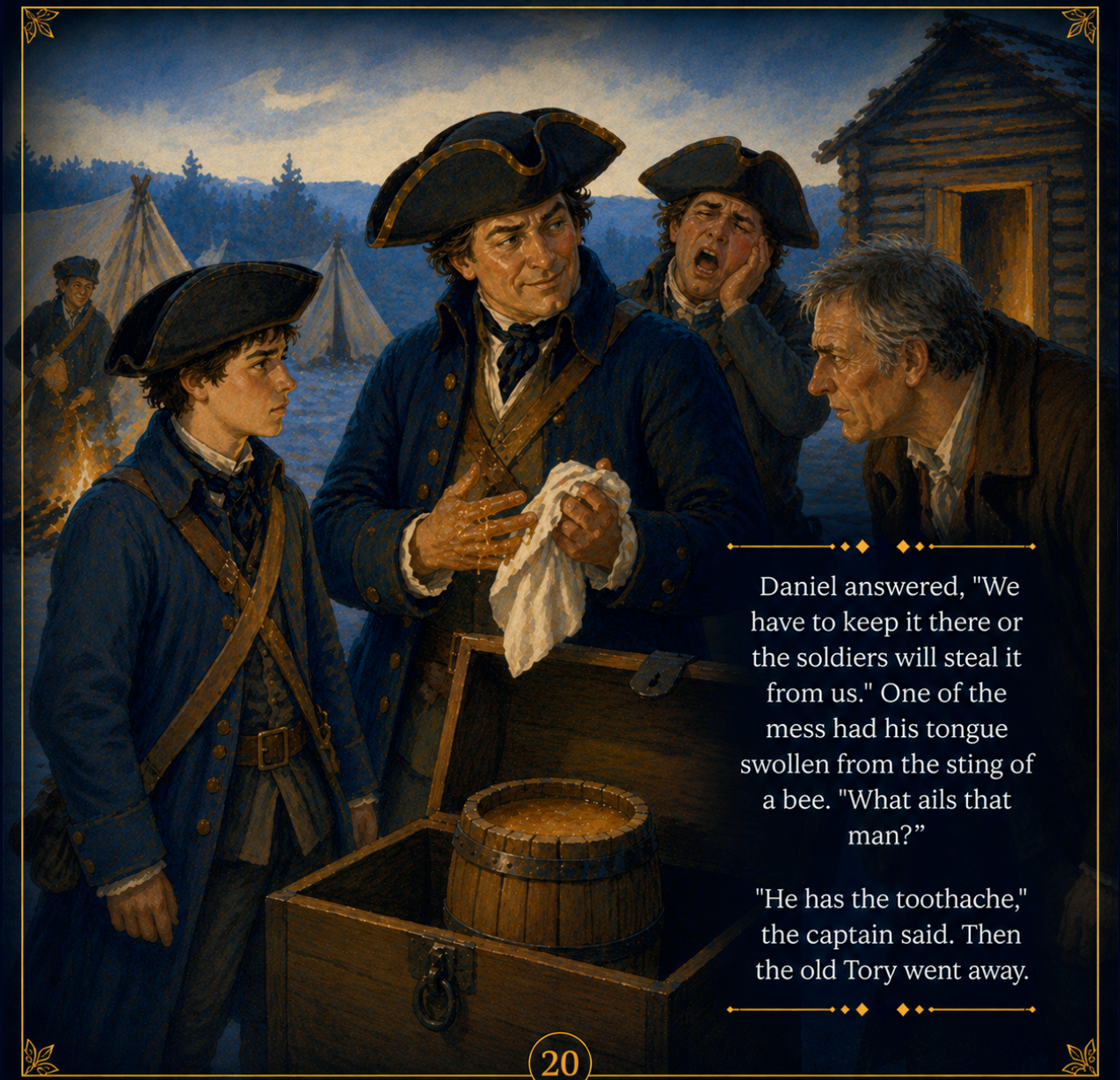
When Daniel returned to camp, the boys had got some honey. They had taken it from the old Tory's bee house while the Tory was scolding about the dog.



The next morning, the old Tory came to camp in pursuit. The captain told him, “I do not think my boys have it. But we will search.”



At last they came to the chest where the honey was hidden. The captain put his hand into a small cask and took it out covered with honey. Then he slammed down the lid, wiped his hand, and said, “Boys, what in thunder do you keep soap here for?”



Daniel answered, "We have to keep it there or the soldiers will steal it from us." One of the mess had his tongue swollen from the sting of a bee. "What ails that man?”

"He has the toothache," the captain said. Then the old Tory went away.

No More Leather Shoes for Dinner



Just before Lafayette came, the men were almost starved. Daniel heard news from home that there was pork there. He asked the captain to let him go home and get some. The captain said he could not spare him. But Daniel resolved to go.



That night, Daniel started. He was gone eight or ten days. Then he came back with a load of pork on his back. But he had left without permission. Daniel was taken for deserting, court-martialed, and found guilty.



Asked why the sentence of death should not be passed, Daniel said he had suffered enough to die a thousand deaths. If they wished to kill him for what he had done, they might try it. But he would fight his way through, or lose his life. The officers consulted. Finally, Daniel was liberated. He divided the pork all around, and they had a good feast.

Daniel Cook Jr.

Revolutionary War Soldier • Captain • Early Settler



Born in 1761

Daniel Cook Jr. was born in Goshen, Connecticut, to Daniel Cook Sr. and Elizabeth Pond.

A Young Soldier

He joined the army when he was only about 15 or 16 years old.

Seven Years of Service

Daniel served for about seven years during the Revolutionary War.

Likely Battles and Service

Long Island — 1776

Daniel likely helped defend New York and may have been part of the American retreat from Long Island.

Harlem Heights — 1776

He most likely fought with Connecticut soldiers in this important early battle.

Westchester / Horseneck — 1780

Daniel served in dangerous skirmishes in the 'Neutral Ground' between British and American forces.

New Haven / Thimble Islands — 1781

Daniel later helped guard the Connecticut coast and escaped capture during a British attack.

Life After the War

Family • Leadership • Remembrance



Home in Goshen

After the war, Daniel returned to Goshen, Connecticut, where he bought land and became an early settler in the community.



Husband and Father

Daniel married Elizabeth Porter. Together they raised a family, including sons Amasa and Phineas.



Known as Captain Cook

Daniel became a respected local leader and served as a captain in the Litchfield County militia.



Grandfather of Phineas Wolcott Cook

Daniel's grandson, Phineas Wolcott Cook, later helped preserve stories about his brave grandfather.



Death and Remembrance

Daniel died in 1809 and was buried in Milton Cemetery in Connecticut. Each Fourth of July, an American flag is placed on his grave to honor his Revolutionary War service.



Why We Remember Him

Daniel Cook Jr. was not famous like George Washington, but his courage, sacrifice, and service were part of the great story of American freedom.



A comprehensive biography of Daniel Cook Jr. has been authored by Bryson Cook. For further details, please visit Cookfamily.org.



When Daniel Cook Jr. joined the Revolutionary War, he was only fifteen years old.

These three true family stories follow young Daniel through danger, hunger, and daring escapes—from a midnight encounter with enemy soldiers to a desperate journey to feed starving men.

Preserved by his grandson, Phineas Wolcott Cook, Daniel's experiences remind us that history is made not only by famous leaders, but also by brave young soldiers whose stories deserve to be remembered.

