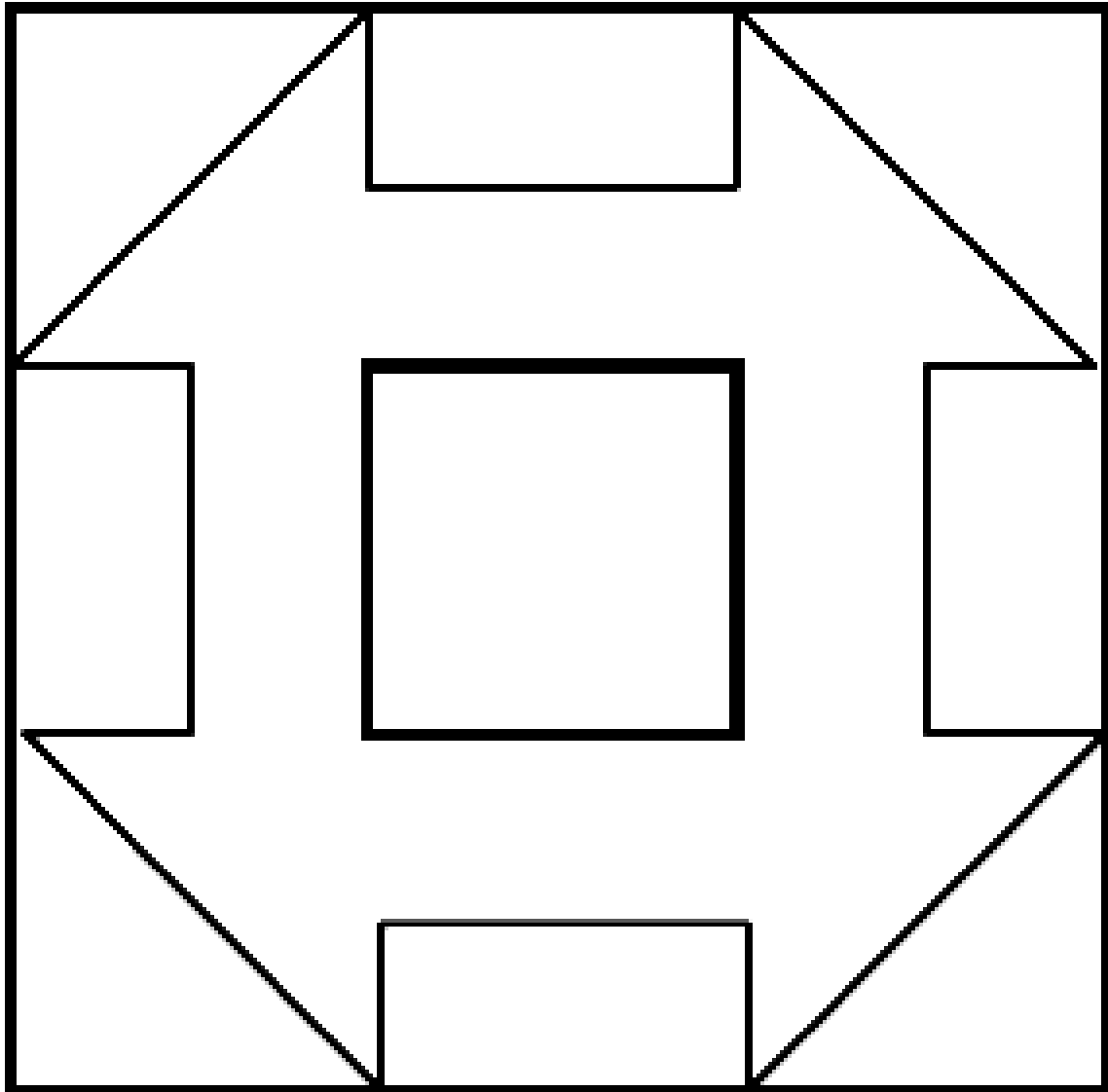
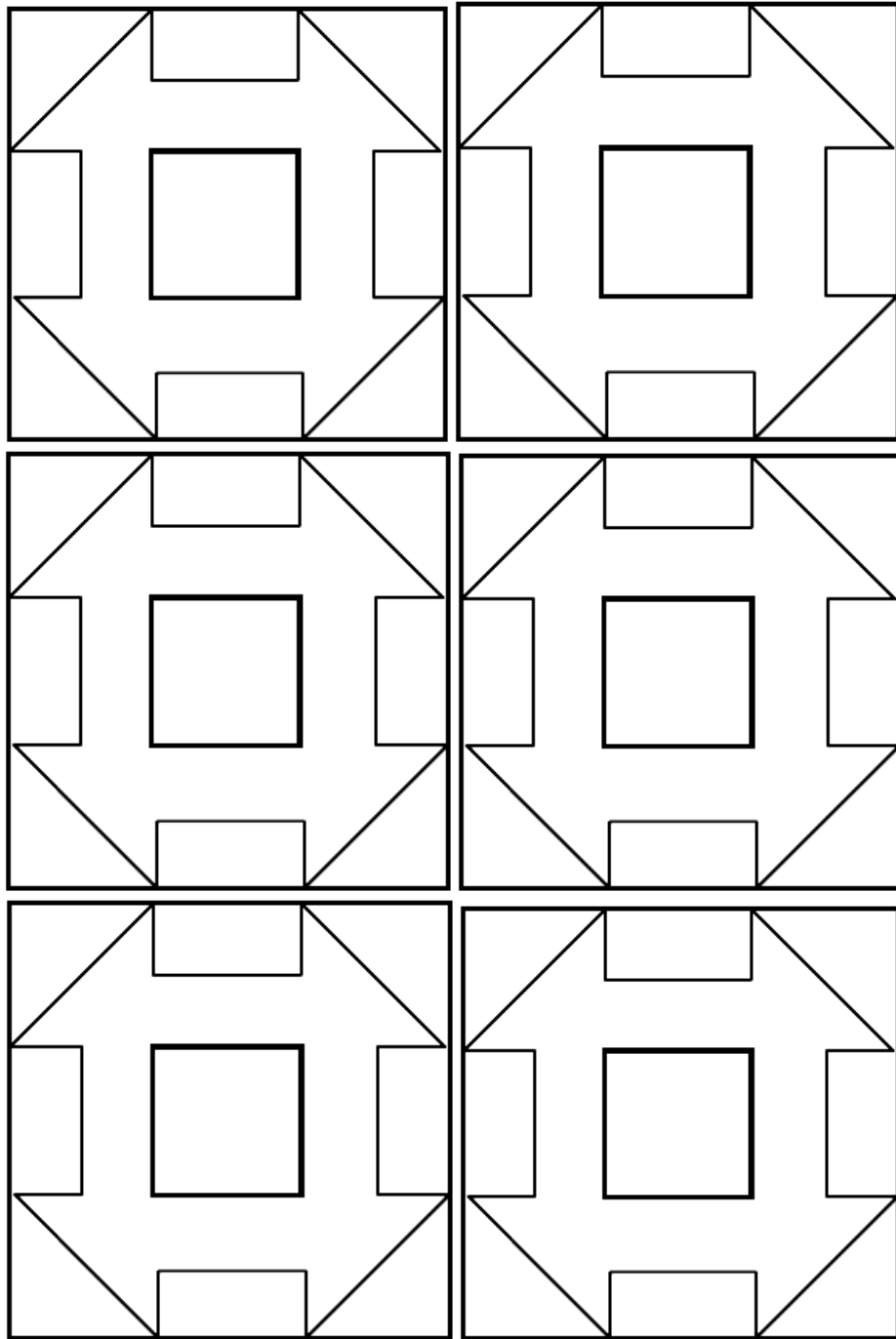


The Monkey Wrench

A quilt made of Monkey Wrench block patterns was the first quilt to be displayed as a signal for slaves to get ready if they were planning to escape to the north. The Monkey Wrench told slaves to gather their 'tools'.

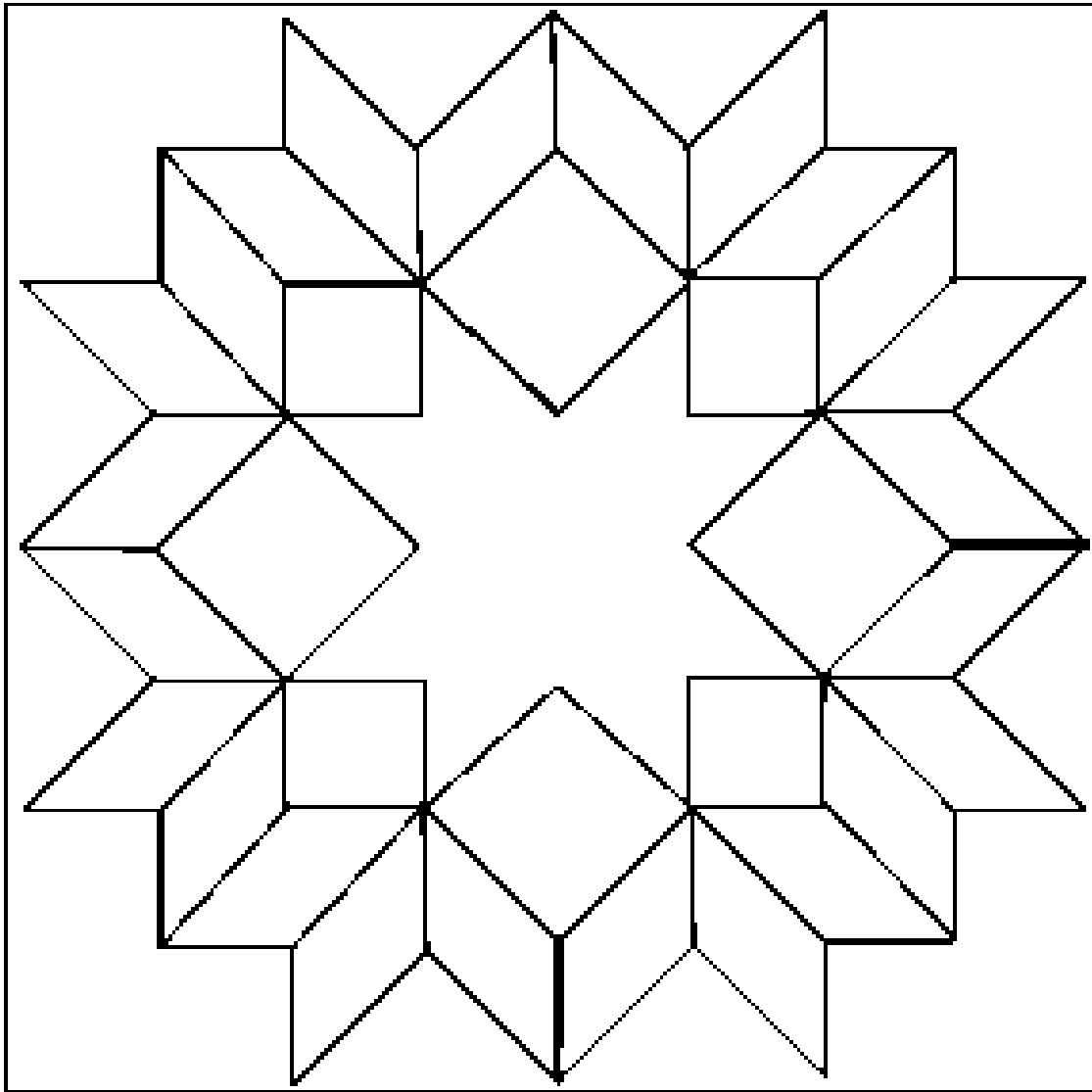


The Monkey Wrench Quilt

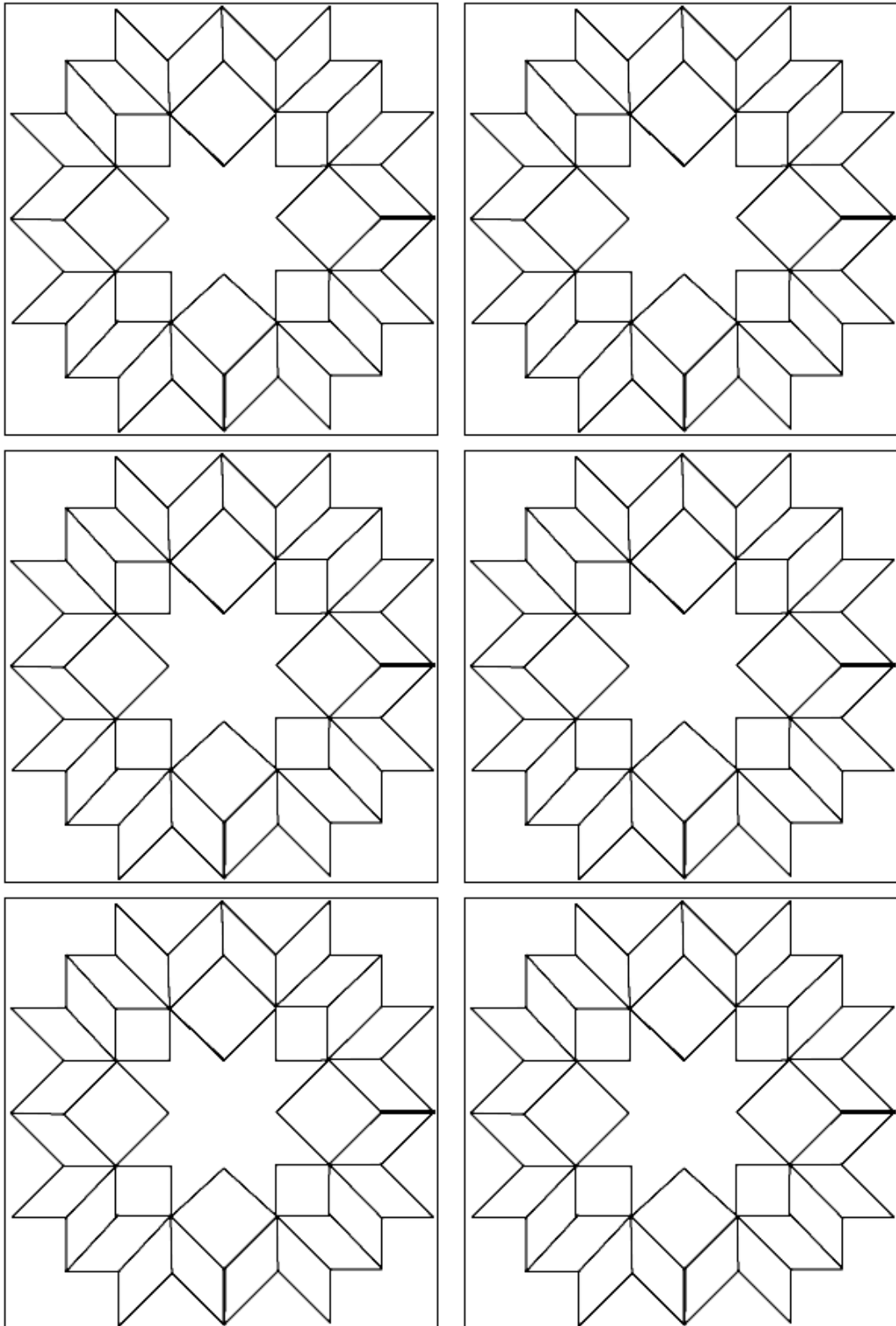


The Wagon Wheel Quilt Block

The second quilt to be displayed on the fence was the wagon wheel pattern. This quilt was as a signal which alerted slaves to pack up the supplies they would need on their journey to survive as if they were packing up a wagon.

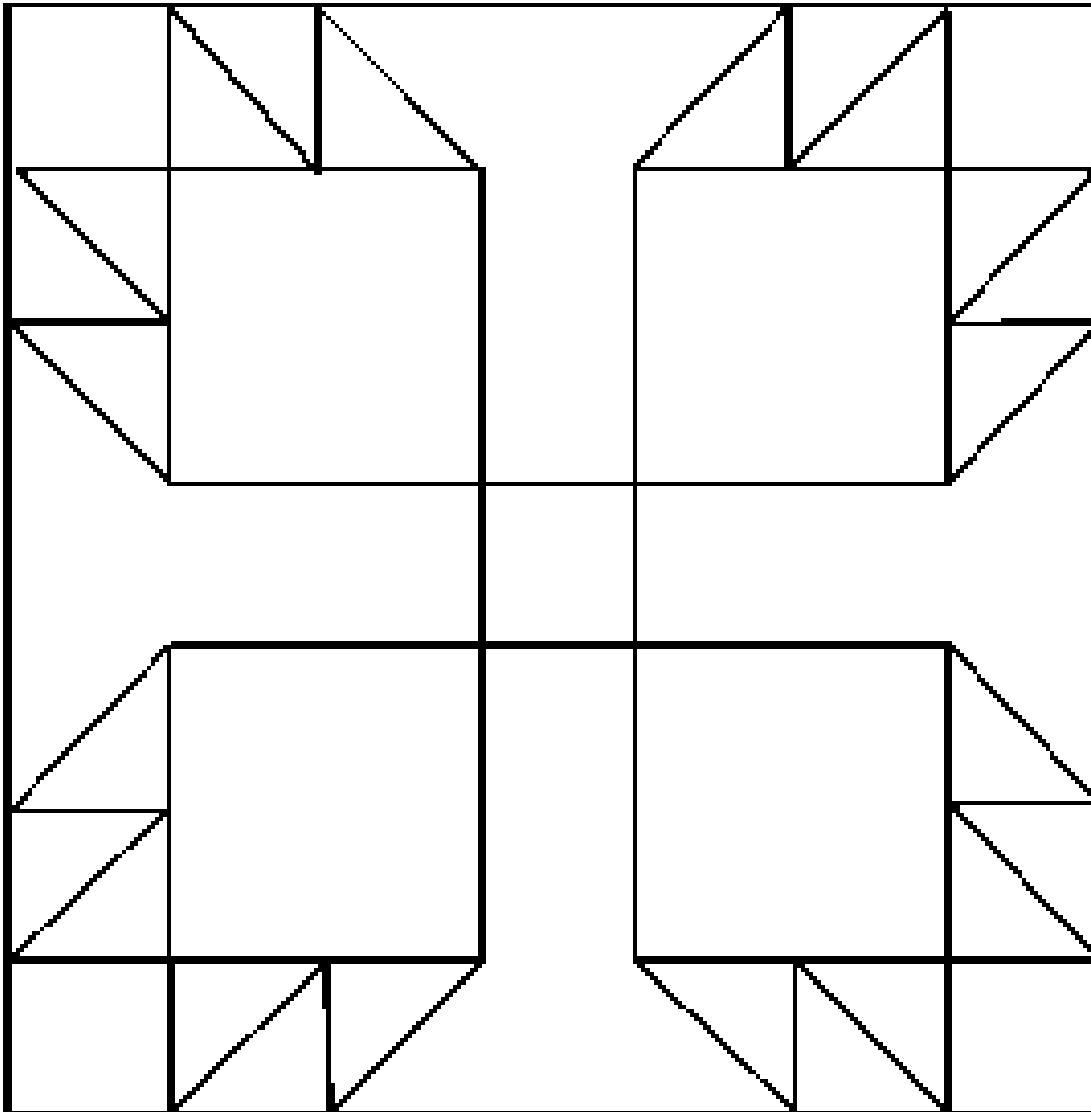


The Wagon Wheel Quilt

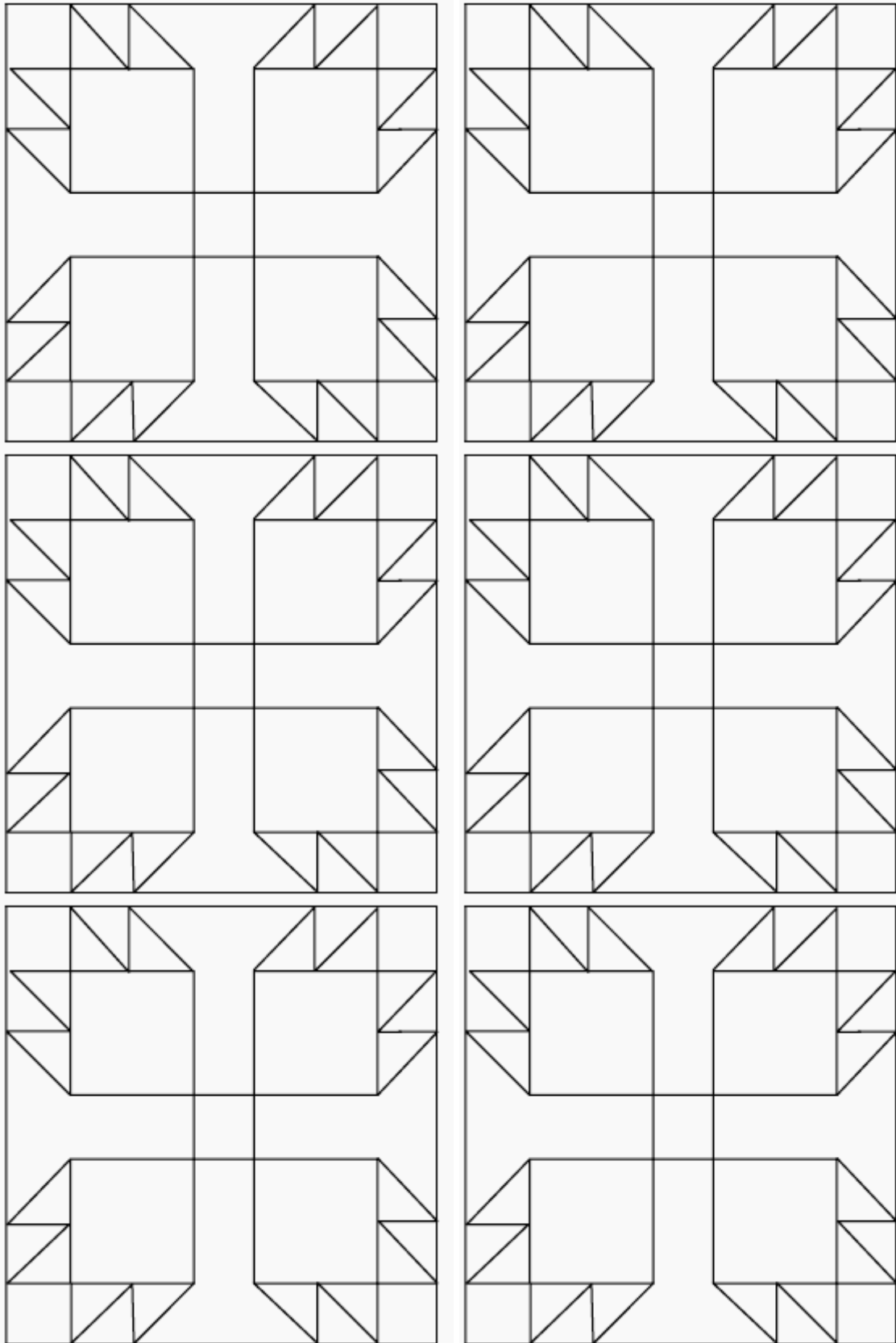


The Bear's Paw Quilt Block

Slaves on their journey to freedom were told to follow the bear's trails over the Appalachian mountain range. Bears knew routes through the mountains and bears knew where to find water and fish for food.

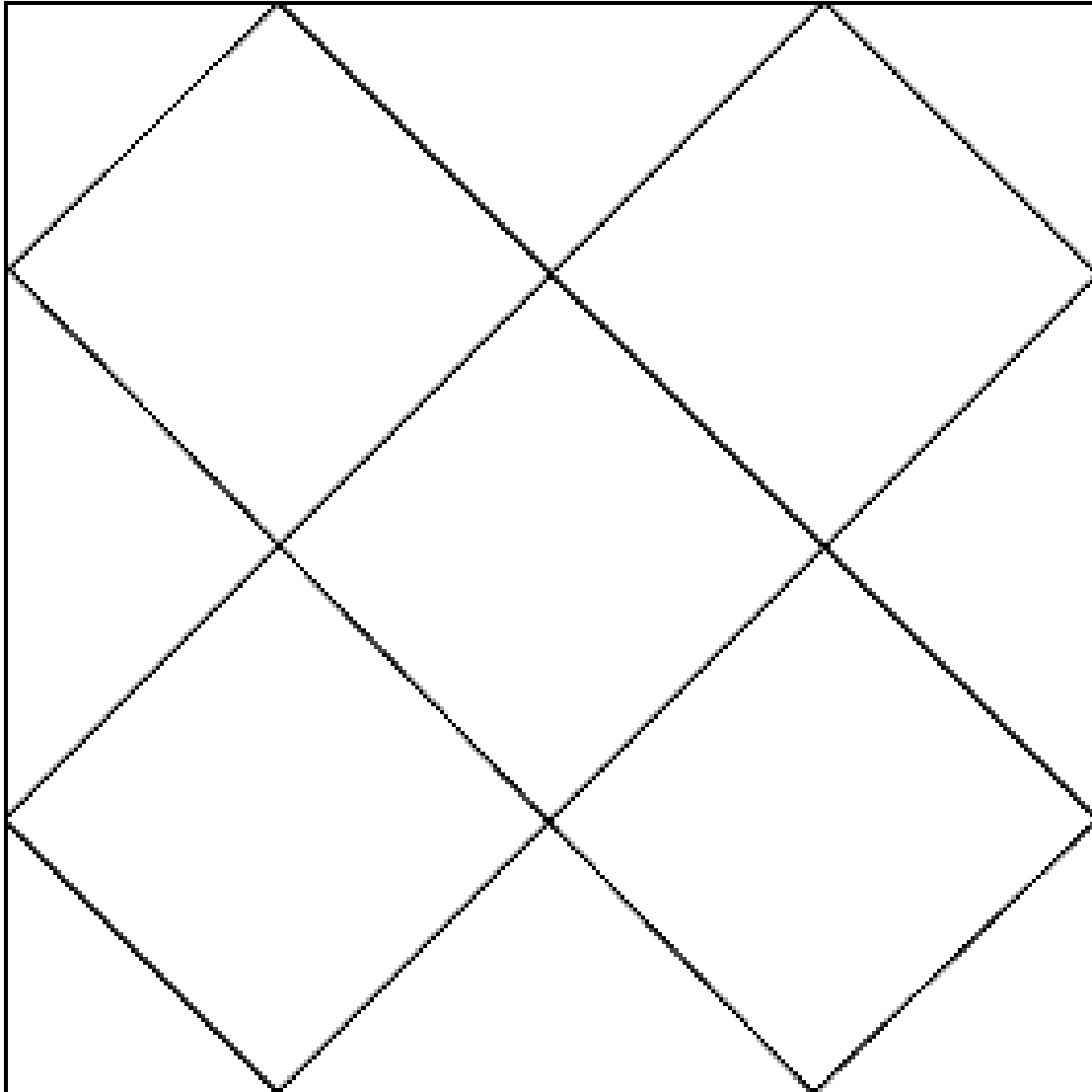


The Bear's Paw Quilt

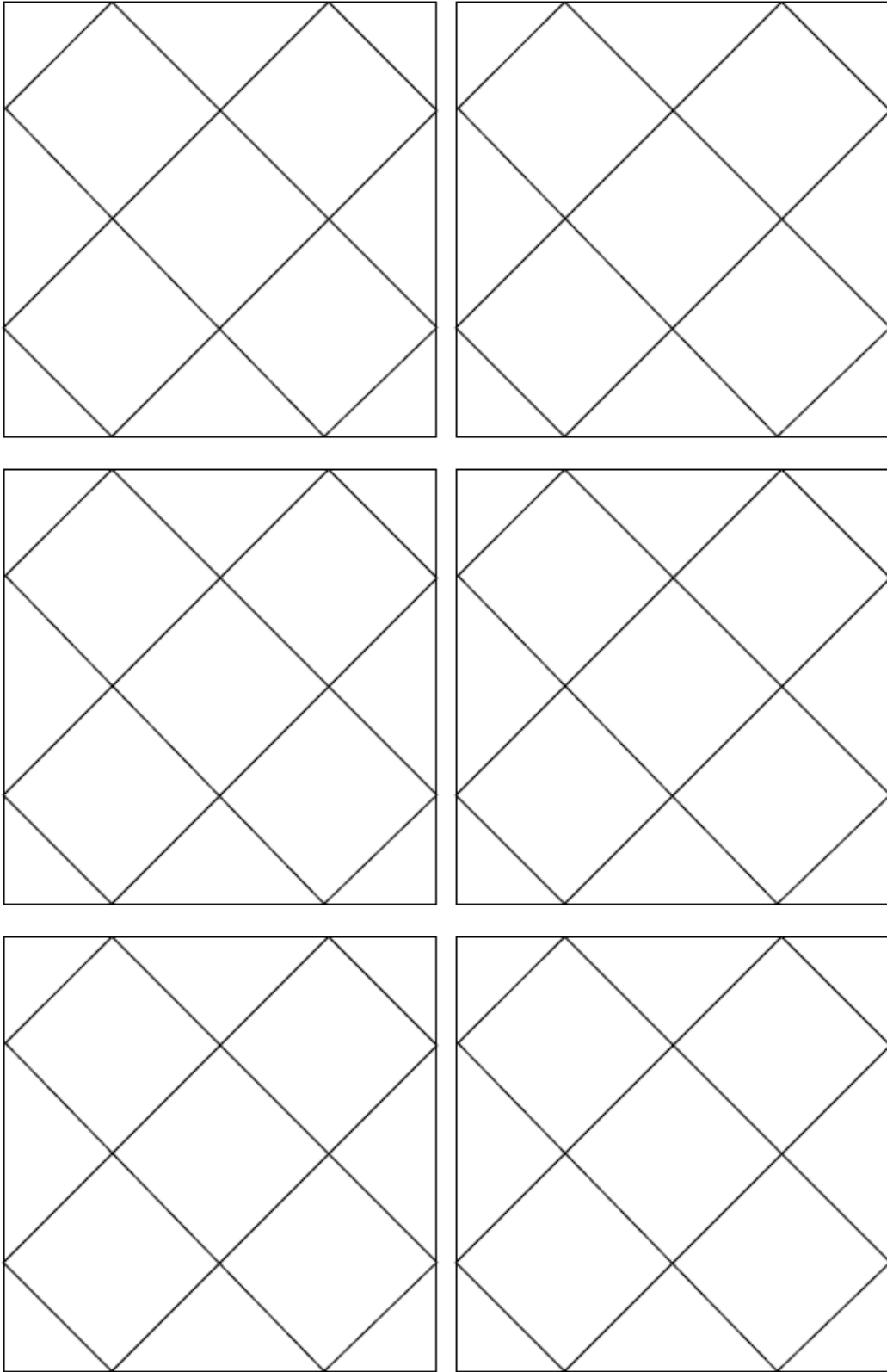


The Cross Roads Quilt Block

In the code, the crossroads was Cleveland, in the free state of Ohio. Cleveland was the place where many overland trails began, from here travelers could chose from 4 or 5 different paths to Canada. Special preparations may have been needed to be made before the next part of the journey to Canada began.

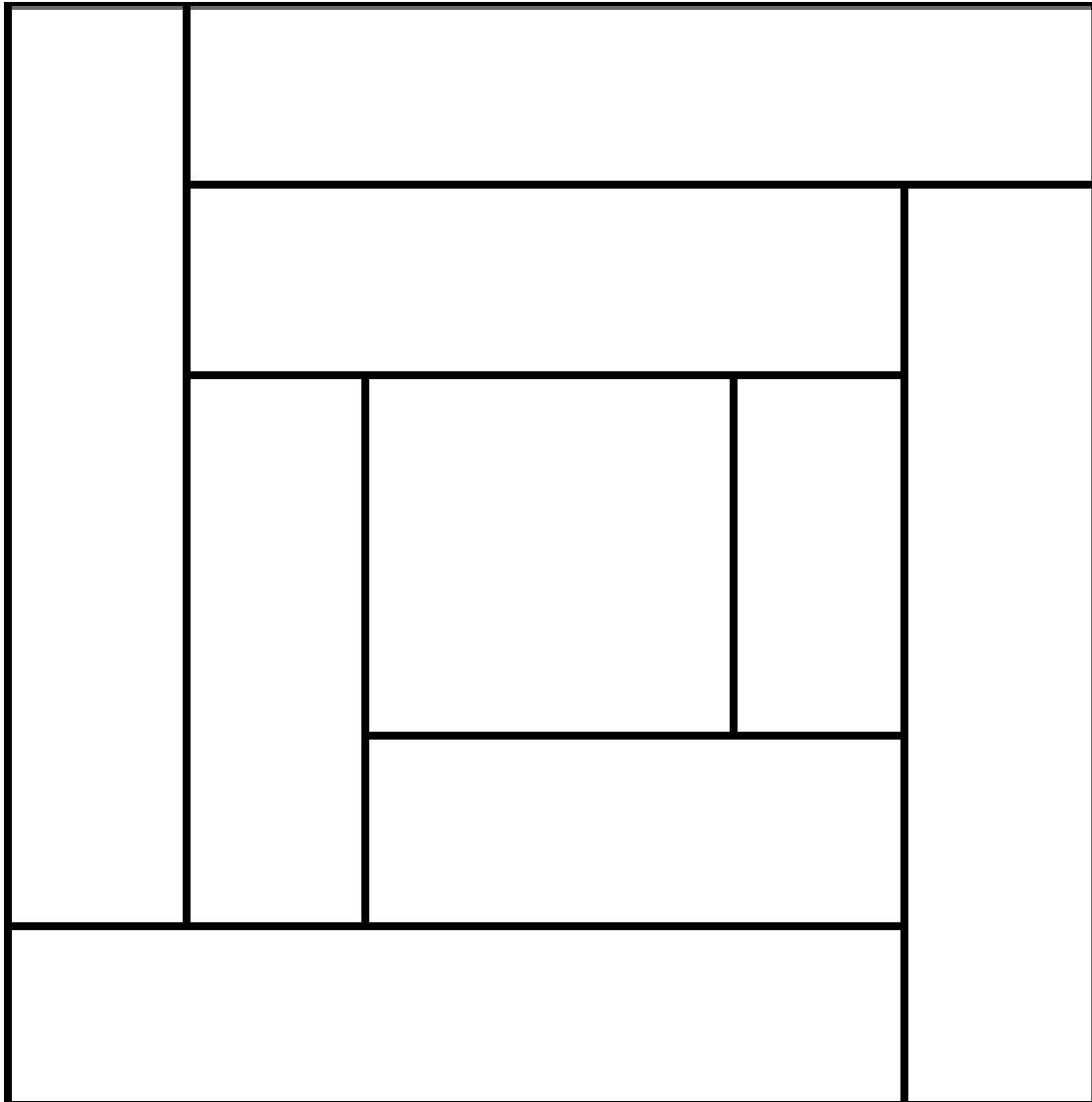


The Cross Roads Quilt

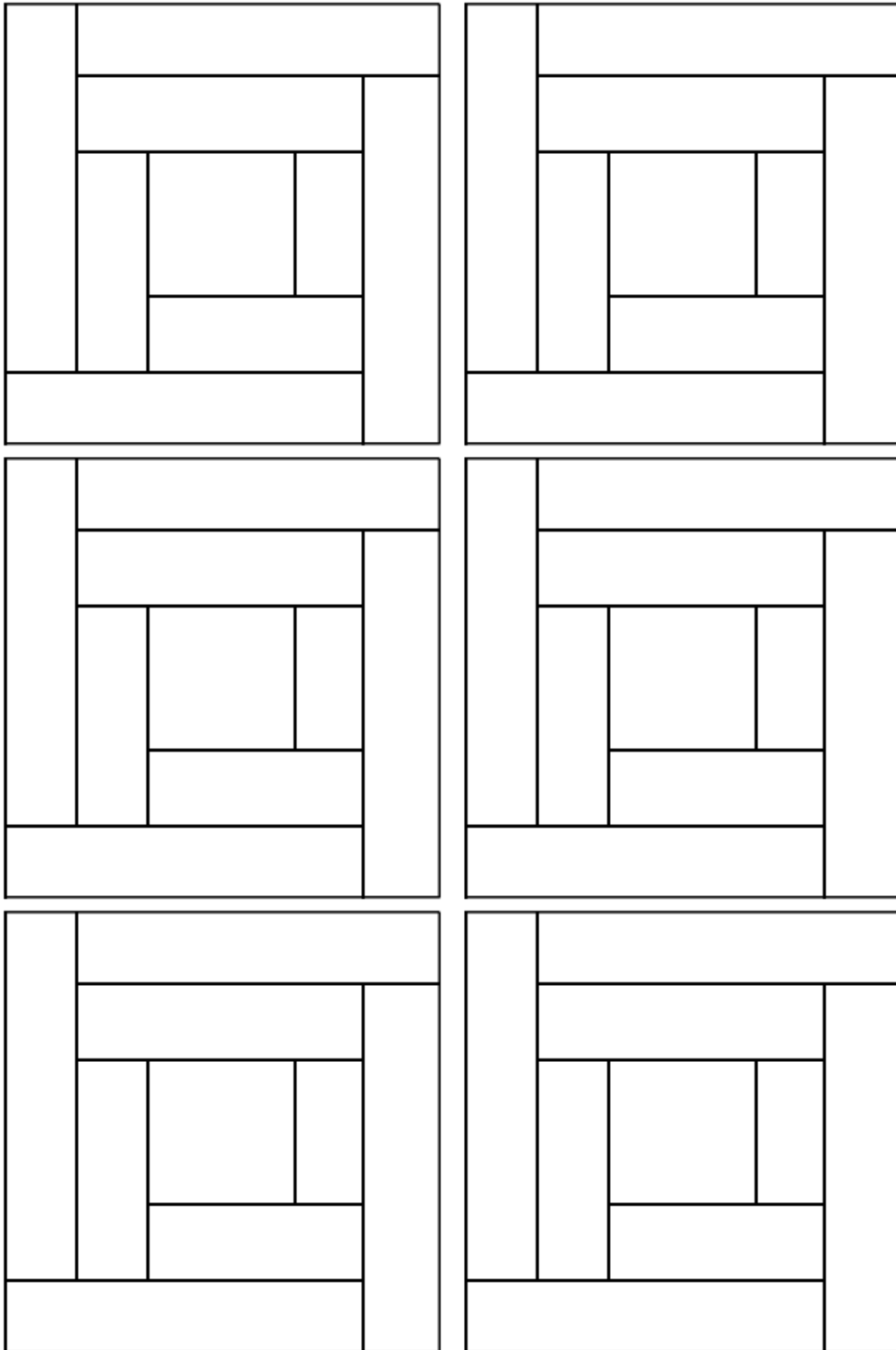


The Log Cabin Quilt Block

This part of the code may be telling the traveler to draw a picture in the dirt for a ‘Conductor’ to see, or to look for a cabin displaying a quilt with this pattern. By this point in their journey, the slaves would have been tired, cold and hungry.

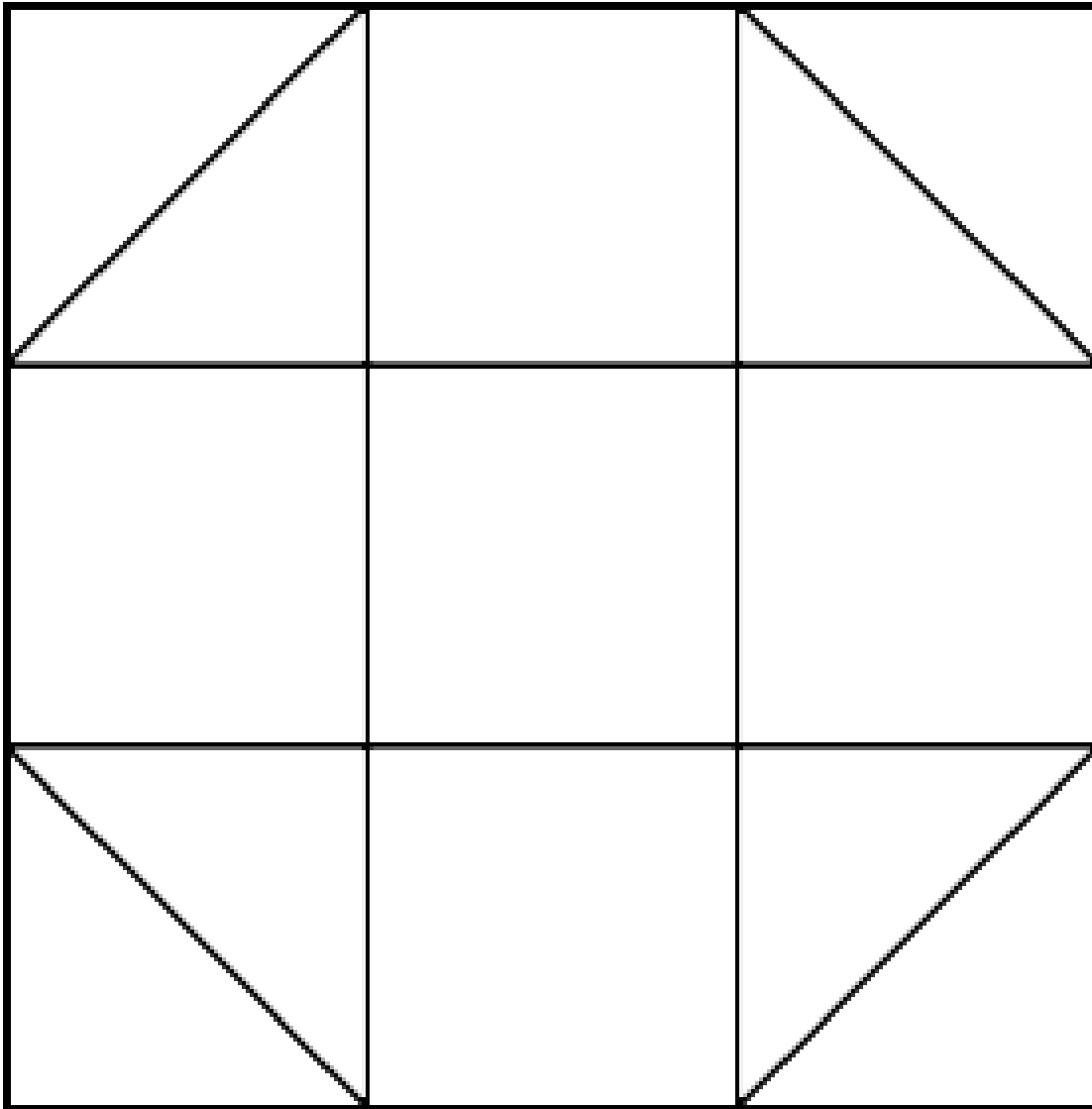


The Log Cabin Quilt

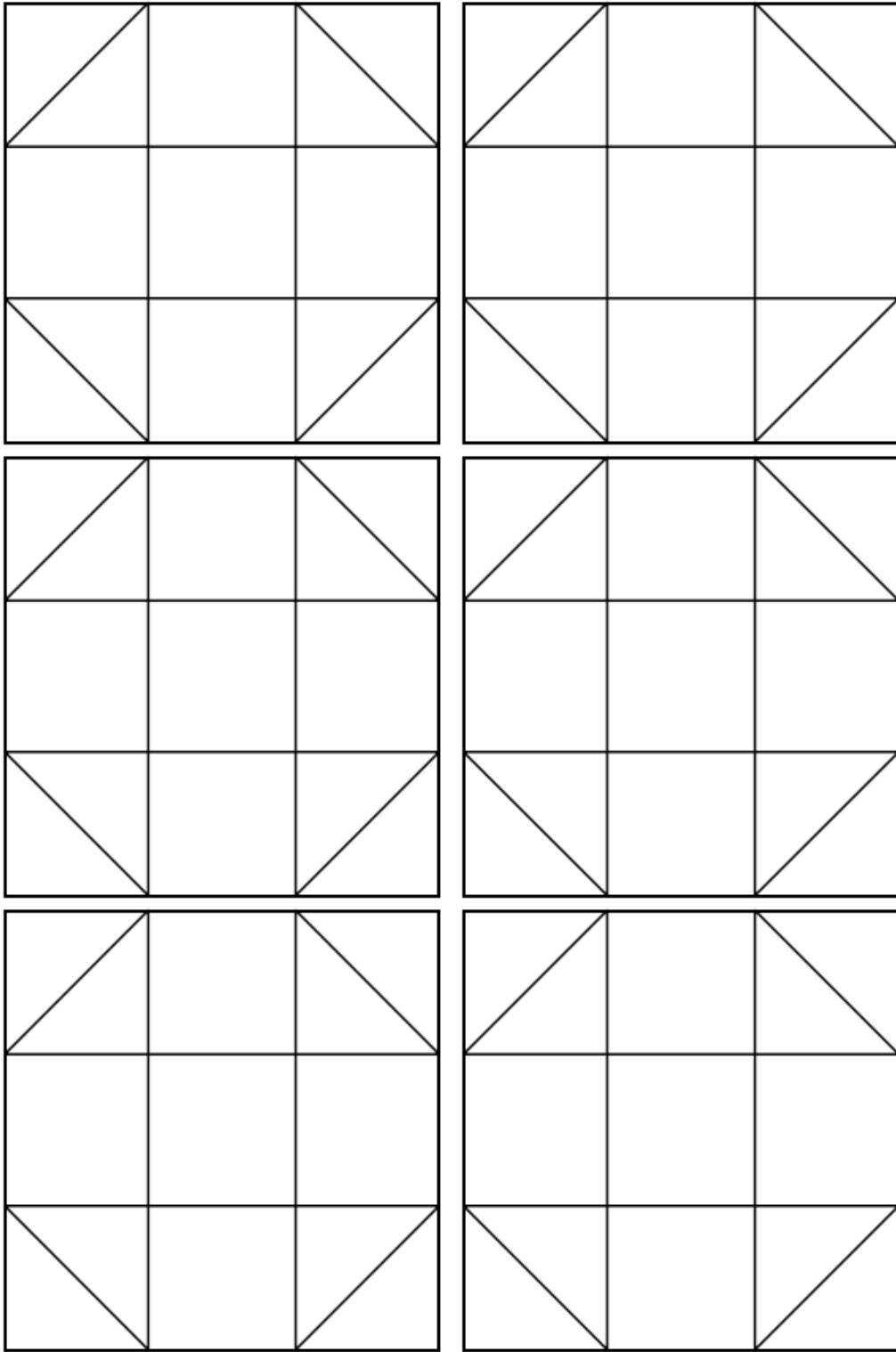


The Shoofly Quilt Block

It is believed this part of the code was telling people to look for free blacks who knew about the Underground Railroad. Shoofly may have been a special person who would help the travelers to get rid of their dirty, torn and tattered old clothes.

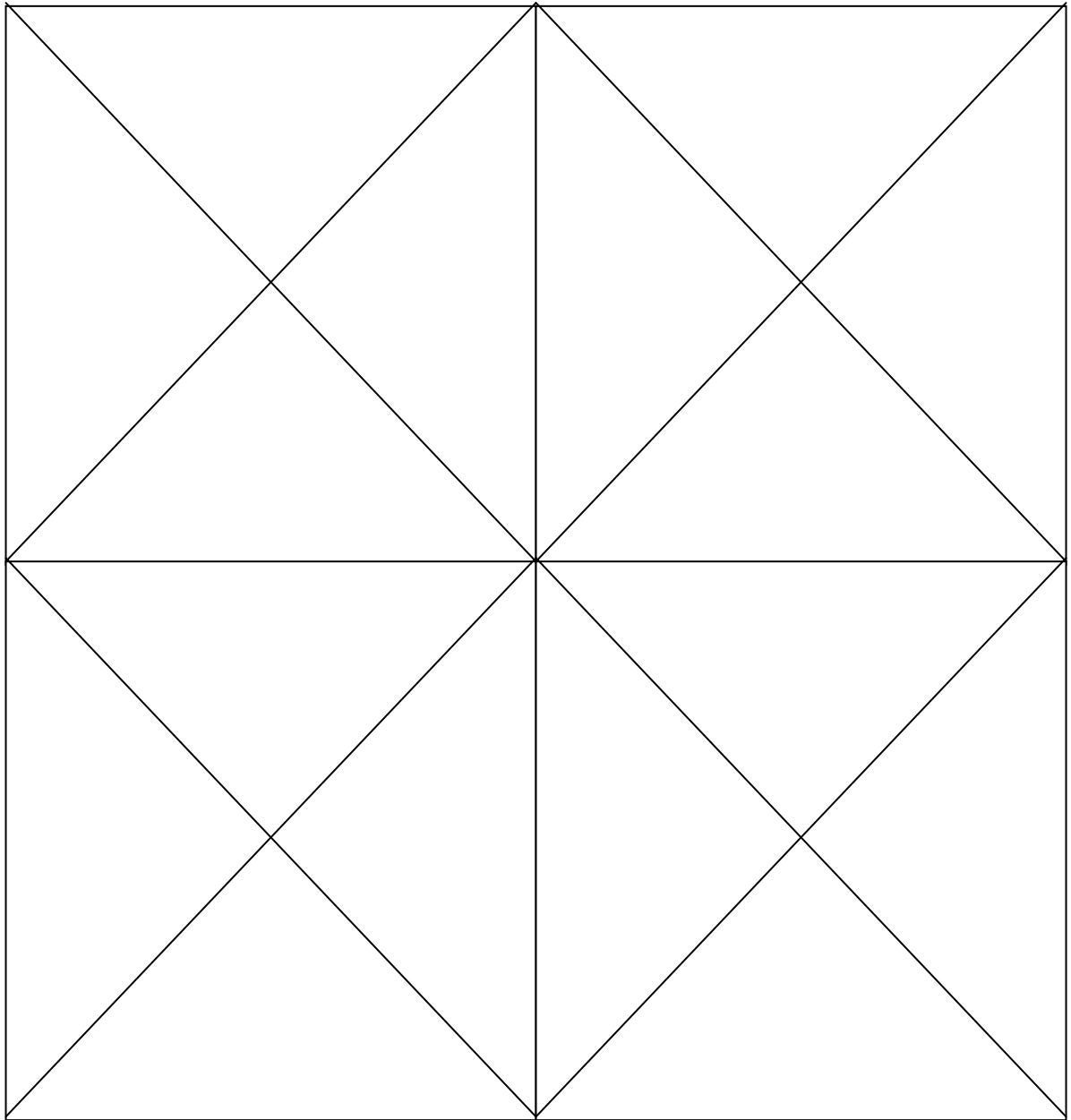


The Shoofly Quilt

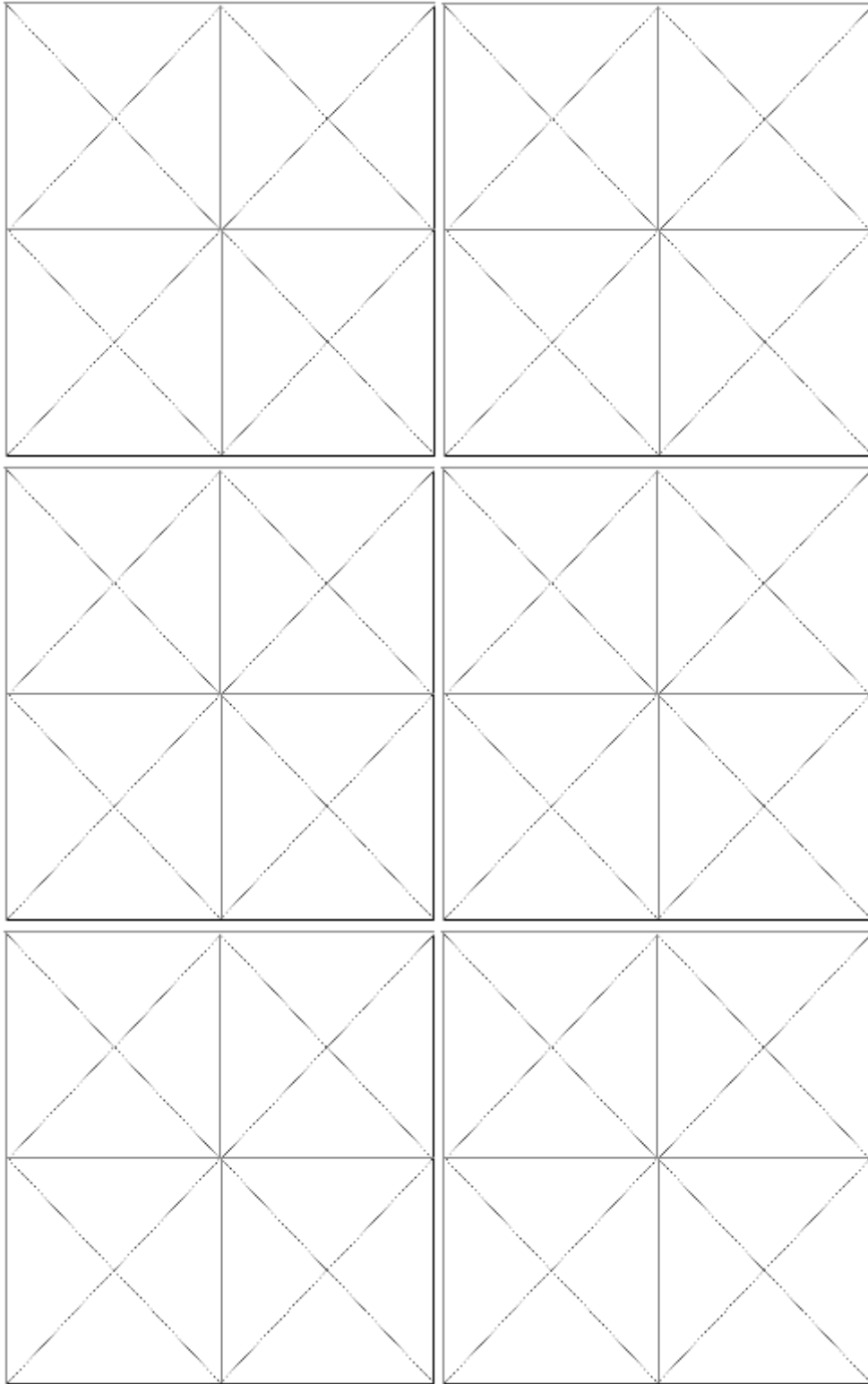


The Bow Tie Quilt Block

This was a signal to dress in a disguise, or put on a change of clothes. The Bow Tie Quilt advised an enslaved Black person to rid himself of his obvious slave clothing and disguise himself with new clothing. “Bow tie” pattern could also mean that once the “Shoo Fly” meets you, you would be given new clothes. Runaways generally had so few clothes that they were more ragged than those living in Cincinnati and they needed to blend in better because they could be turned over to the authorities.

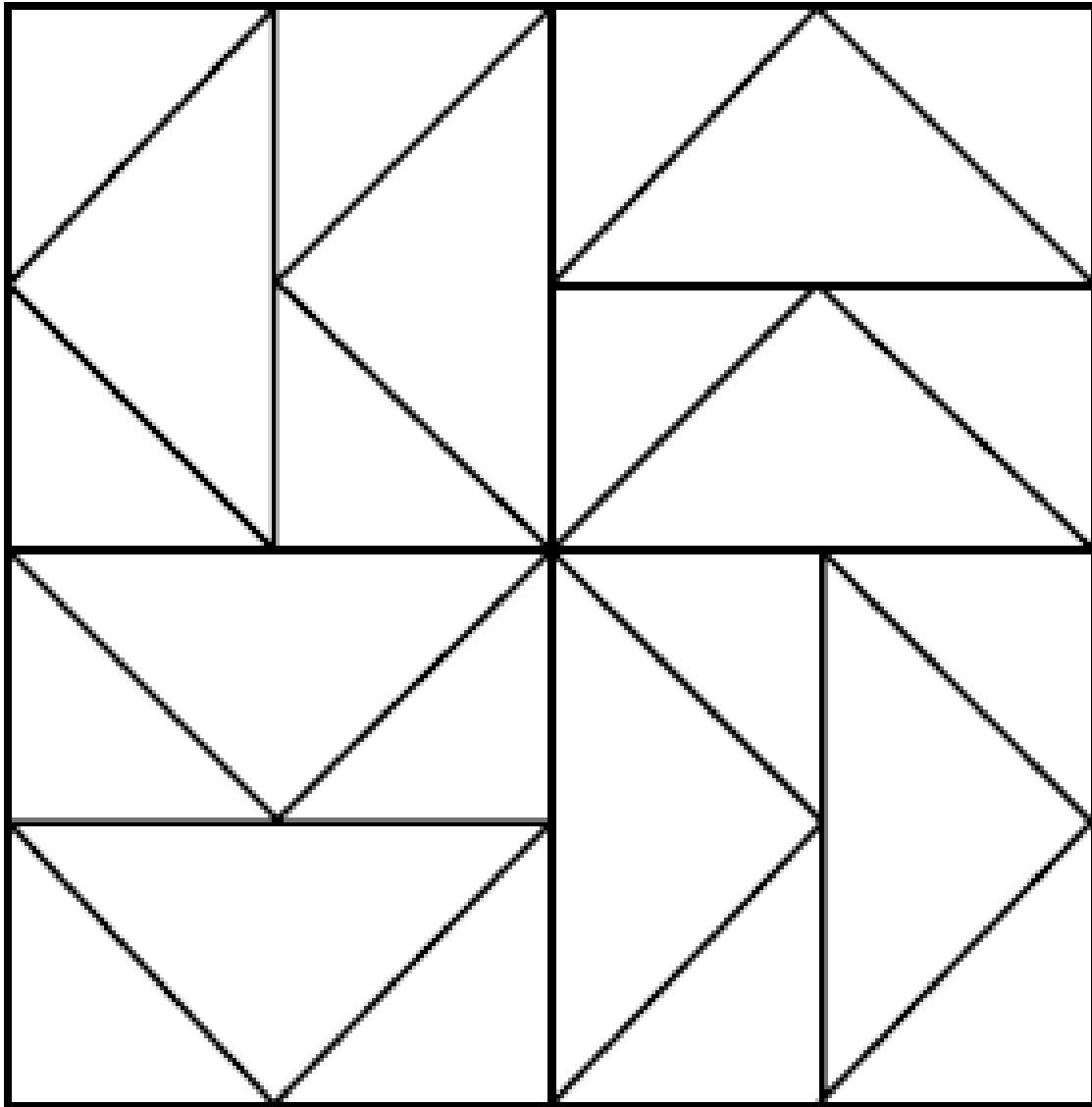


The Bow Tie Quilt

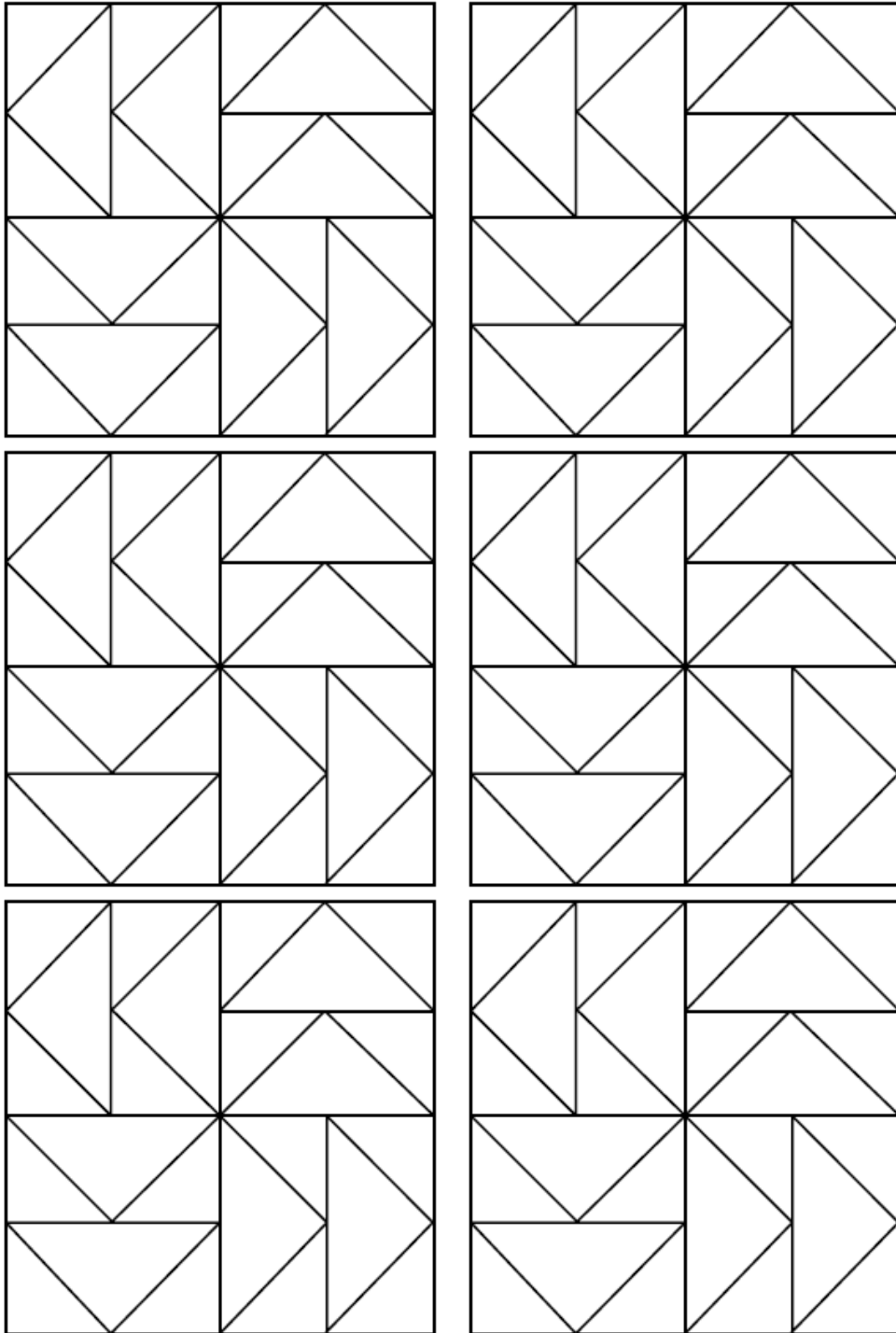


The Flying Geese Quilt Block

Geese fly north in the springtime and their flight path could tell travelers which direction they were heading.

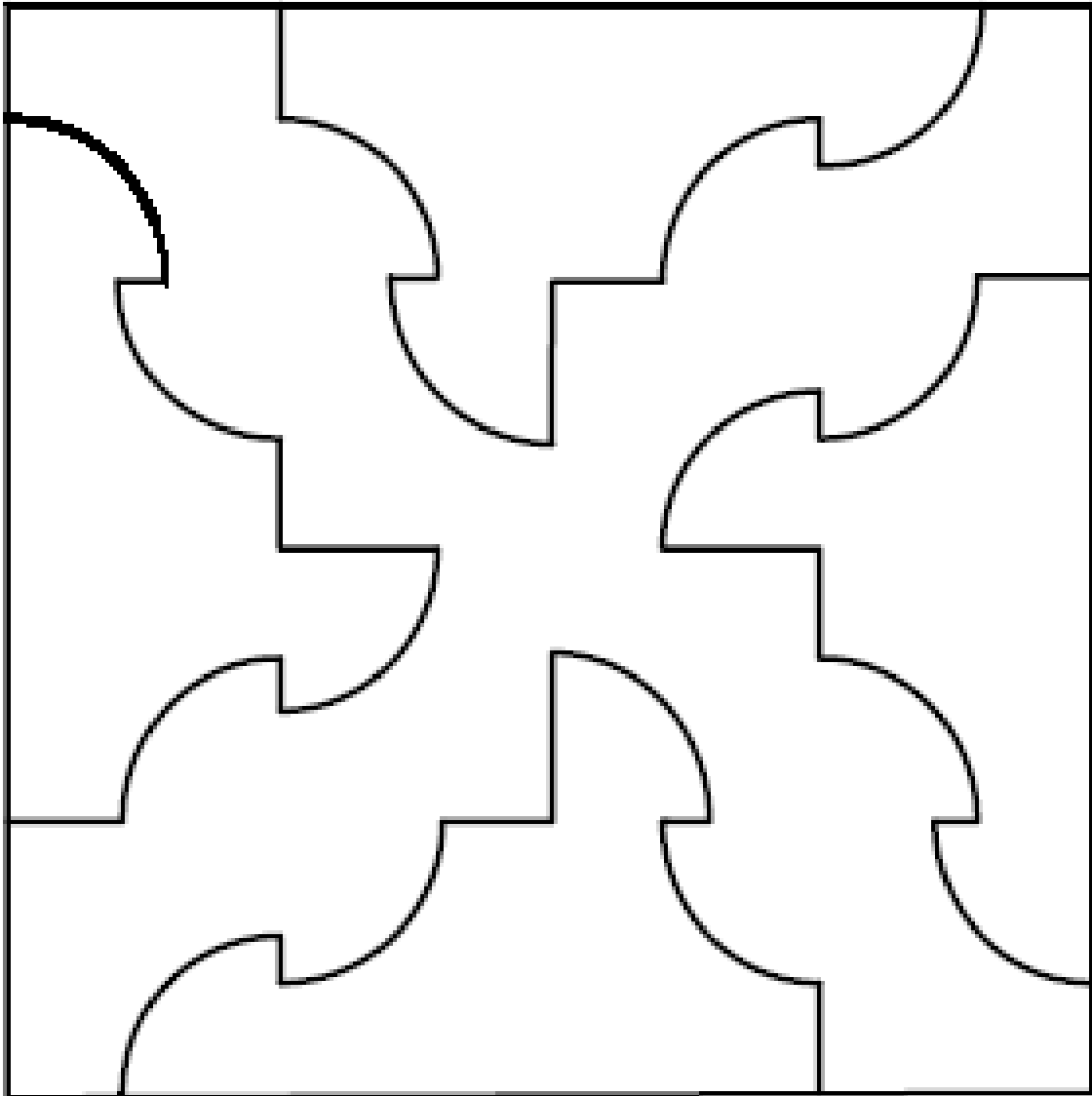


The Flying Geese Quilt

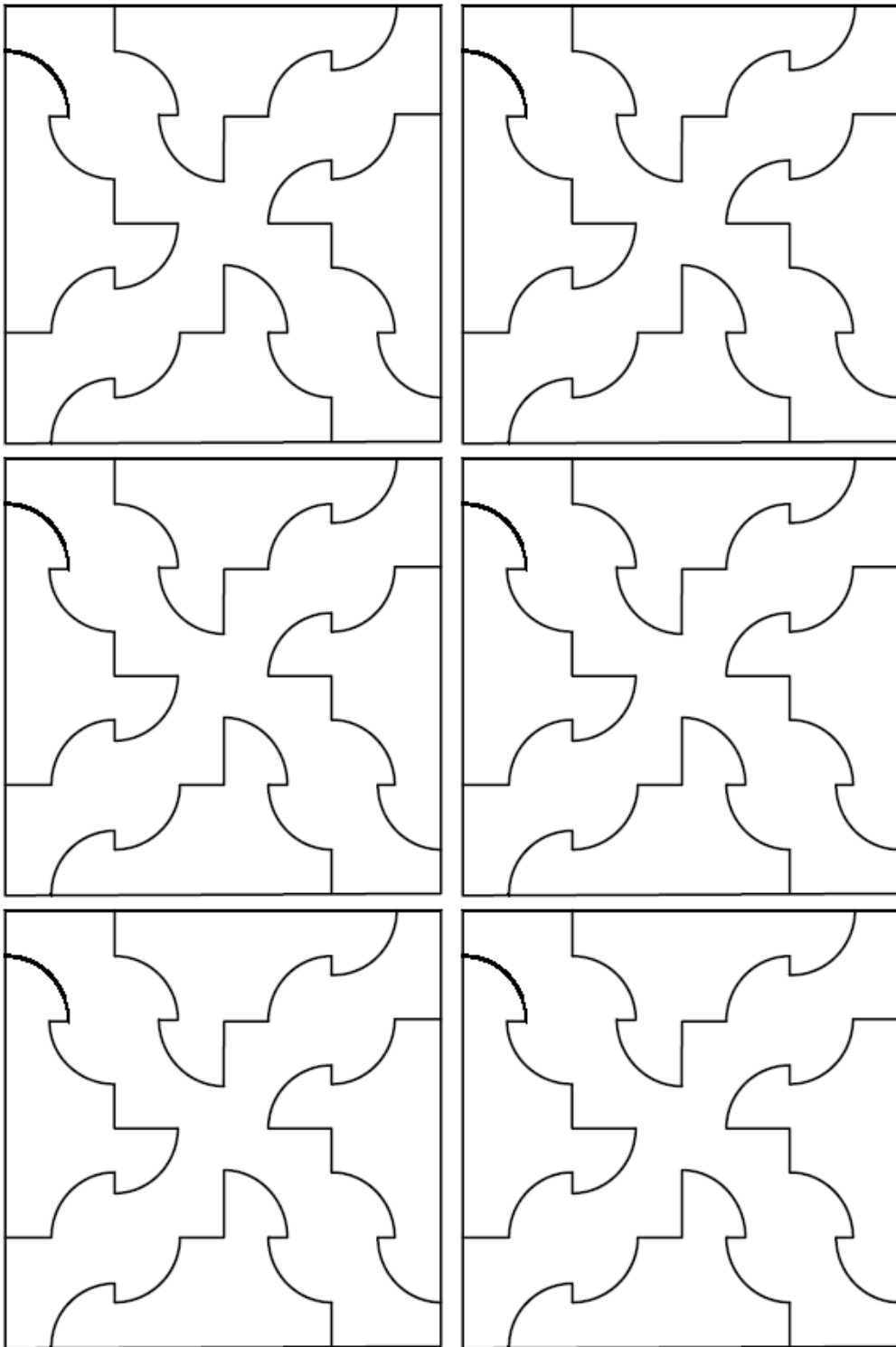


The Drunkard's Path Quilt Block

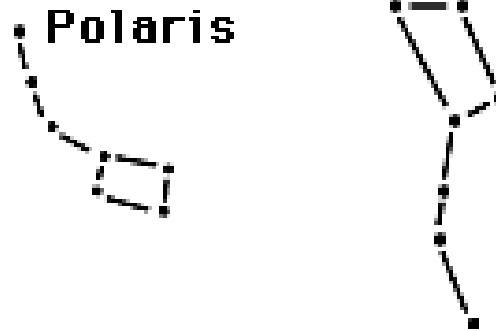
Slave catchers from the south hunted for runaways with tracking dogs. Drunkards walk in a crooked line, back and forth, never in a straight line. This pattern told the runaway slaves to zigzag on their journey to confuse the dogs.



The Drunkard's Path Quilt



The North Star Quilt Block



The North Star quilt was a signal to escaping slaves to seek out Polaris — the North Star. The North Star became a symbol of freedom to slaves as well as a guide star.

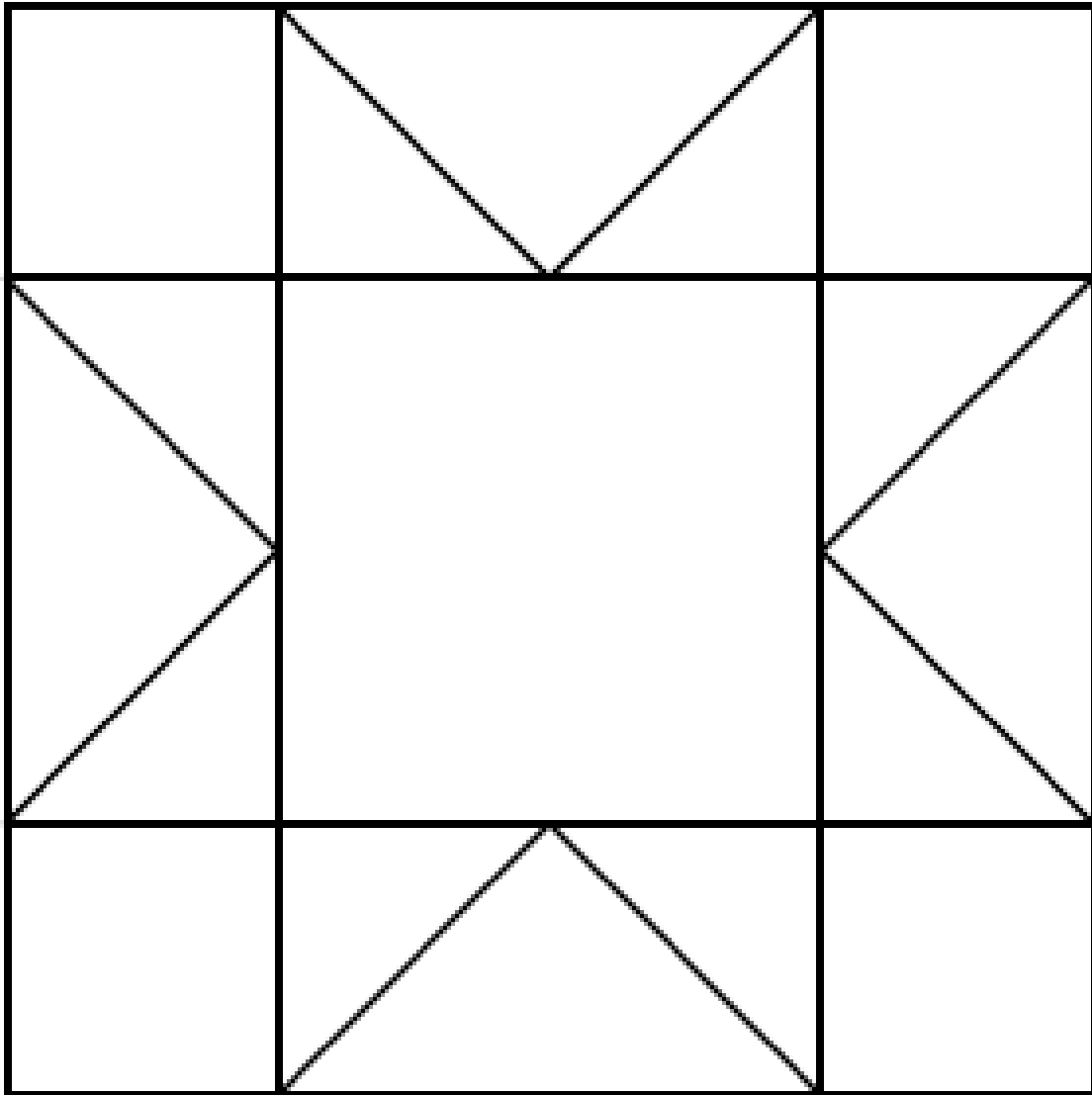
As soon as they were old enough to understand, slave children were taught to locate Polaris by using the stars of the Big Dipper. (The two stars



at the end of the bowl of the Big Dipper point over to Polaris, the North Star, which is the end of the handle of the Little Dipper.)

Instead of a fancy metal dipper, slaves used a hollowed-out gourd to scoop water out of a bucket to get a drink. So they referred to the Big Dipper as the Drinking Gourd

The North Star



The North Star Quilt

