

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART



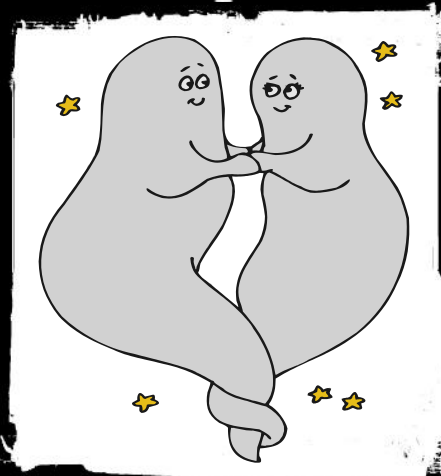
An elderly railroad break operator stands in the hot afternoon sun, beads of sweat gathering on his forehead, as he considers the coupling of two train cars. His wife Helen is at home preparing for their evening meal. While he moves to assist with the tightening of the links between cars, his wife is in the kitchen placing a pan of white rolls into the oven. As he finishes his work for the evening, heading home to enjoy dinner with Helen, she suffers a fatal heart attack and her body falls to the floor. When he arrives home, though the rolls remain hot in the oven, he finds his wife's cold dead body on the kitchen floor.

A group of children play marbles near the Cobequid Road railway crossing; one of the young boys breaks away from the game to glance at the railway tracks. His gaze lands on an elderly woman dressed in a plain dress and wearing an apron. She is a ghostly figure who is slow in her approach, as she places one heavy foot in front of the other.

The boy responded to her appearance with a gasp, quickly shutting his eyes in fear, and when his eyes reopen the eerie presence is gone.

The child recalls a story told to him by his father about Helen, an elderly neighbor who died in her kitchen many years before while her husband Thomas was away at work. He has just witnessed her spirit's reappearance at the location where her husband was the day she died, the Cobequid Road railway crossing.

Helen's ghostly presence remains in the surrounding area around Sackville as she continues to search the area for her husband, hoping to one day reunite with the man she loved both in life and death.



GHOSTLY GOINGS-ON

The Lady in White
& Until Death
Do Us Part



FULTZ
HOUSE
MUSEUM

SACKVILLE GHOST STORIES

Sackville and the surrounding area has had its share of reports of sad souls still said to be roaming and re-visiting the places of their death. It is believed the dead revisit the places that they were most attached to in life.

Perhaps the most terrifying part of all ghost stories are the terrible sounds that have been reported of the agony and torture of the lost to the screams of the panic-stricken men and women who have been left shocked to see an encounter with a presence from the unknown.

There have been tales of encounters with spirits trying to rekindle their romance in search of their lost love, as with the story entitled "Until Death Do Us Part."

Over the centuries, our community has born witness to human suffering, with numerous incidences of incarceration, illness, and untimely deaths at the hands of others. Perhaps it is, therefore, not at all surprising that there would be ghostly occurrences throughout our community. One story involves the sighting of a young woman wearing a white dress.



THE LADY IN WHITE

The horse's hooves pounded against the dry dirt, and their sound sent an urgent cry through the landscape as the man on horseback rushed to save his once betrothed. Ebenezer's heart was filled with regret, while it beat rapidly in fear of the consequences of his cruel conduct towards his prospective bride. He knew that Alice would never forgive him for his failure to arrive at the altar. Ebenezer could only hope that he would arrive in time to save her life, for he had heard how distraught she was and her unwillingness to live, to breathe new life into each day, was but a faint memory. He directed his horse towards Sackville, leaving in his wake a trail of dust.

Ebenezer had spent months courting the young woman, but it was not her love that he wanted, it was her money. He pursued Alice after he learned from her father that he would receive a large dowry through marriage. Soon after the two were engaged, it became clear to Ebenezer that her father had misled him. The man had gambled away his wealth and was hoping to profit from the union between Alice and Ebenezer. Both men had plotted to advance their wealth, and the result of both men's treachery and greed was Alice's ruin.

Alice was preparing for her execution, and the thin strands of rope cut into her skin as she tied the slipknot. She gazed down at the loop that she held between her hands, a noose. Her thoughts shifted away from the noose and centered on Ebenezer. She did not understand why he had left her at the altar. She loved him, and he had repaid this love with cruelty.

She was so overcome with pain and humiliation that one thought occupied her thoughts - vengeance! She would not become a spinster or an outcast in her community! She would make him pay for his actions.



Alice climbed a large oak tree and tied the rope to one of its strongest braches. She wrapped the noose around her neck, inhaled deeply, and dove from the tree branch towards the ground. The rope snapped, and Alice's body swayed in the wind. She struggled to breathe as the noose tightened around her neck. She had no fear, as she was so consumed by her rage. Black spots invaded the periphery of her vision, and one last image greeted Alice before she slipped into unconsciousness. There was the cry of hooves as a shadowy figure on horseback came galloping into view along the road coming from Halifax, and then the image was consumed by darkness as the life slowly left her body.

When Ebenezer arrived at the property, he was greeted with a horrifying sight - Alice hanging from a tree branch, her face purple, and her eyes red and bulging from her face. Her body swayed in the wind while the branches creaked in discomfort from her weight. The branch could no longer support Alice's body and it snapped. Alice's still warm body thumped to the ground, and the horse reared up in fear, kicking its legs into the air. Ebenezer could not keep his hold on the horse, he fell to the earth, and a large crack echoed through the chaos as his neck broke on the impact.

Alice's spirit looked down at Ebenezer's broken body. His skin was white and his neck was bent at an awkward angle. She finally had her revenge against the man she once loved, and now she waited for his spirit to rise from his body so that they could suffer together for all of eternity.