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William to come home. Her mother had prepared a big feast and all her relatives and neighbours were there. Katherine decided to walk down to the gate so she would be the first to greet him. When he finally arrived, she was so happy she cried. He told her of all his experiences and how at night when the owl hooted he could only think of them at home. He gave her his gold watch and said, "Now I will always watch over you." He told her to run ahead and tell the others he would soon be with them. When she got to the house everyone was crying. William's friend Ben, who had been in the army, had told them William had been killed the week before. He had all (William's) belongings to return to the family. He said the only thing they couldn't find was William's gold watch. That night Katherine cried herself to sleep by the hooting of the owl.

The Uninvited Guest by Stephen Gillis
Mr. Hugh MacDonald was a well-respected blacksmith in Sydney. He was a quiet single man living in the home of his deceased grandfather, Hugh. One day as Hugh was walking home from work he saw a mysterious woman staring at him. He glanced at her and kept on walking but she called to him and said, "Hugh, come here." He walked over and said, "Yes?" The lady then told him she (was) from his past, here to avenge her death. She then disappeared as quickly as she appeared, leaving Hugh trembling with an eerie feeling. Entering his home, in deep thought, he noticed a lamp burning in the pantry. Seeing this, he reached for his rifle, loading it slowly moving toward the light. The winds around the house wailed as the floors creaked and shutters slammed. He approached the corner of the pantry, and there before his eyes stood the mysterious woman with piercing eyes and her uplifted arm revealed a sharp dagger ready to strike. Hugh froze in his boots shouting, "Who are you and what do you want from me?" She replied in a moaning voice, "I want you, Hugh MacDonald, the man who caused my death many years ago." "I am not." He said, "Hugh, the man you are seeking, is dead." When the word "death" was spoken she lashed out, cutting Hugh's forearm. Losing his balance, he crashed into the chairs causing the gun to fire. The bullet struck the oil lamp knocking it to the floor and setting the rug on fire. The flames caught her dress and with a harsh cry she disappeared. Hugh, stomping on the rug, realized he couldn't control the fire. As he dashed to safety on the front lawn, he turned back for one last look and saw the mysterious lady in the upstairs window screaming in pain. Many say she still haunts Hugh MacDonald's grave above the house on the hillside. These ghost stories are the First Prize winners in the Cape Breton's Magazine Local History Contest, 1990. They were produced as part of Sr. Mary Anne Morrison's social studies class at St. Joseph Elementary School, Sydney. Two writers not included in the photos are Jason Dennis and Jamie Dawson. We would like to see stories from other school classes that collect local history and folklore from around Cape Breton.

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