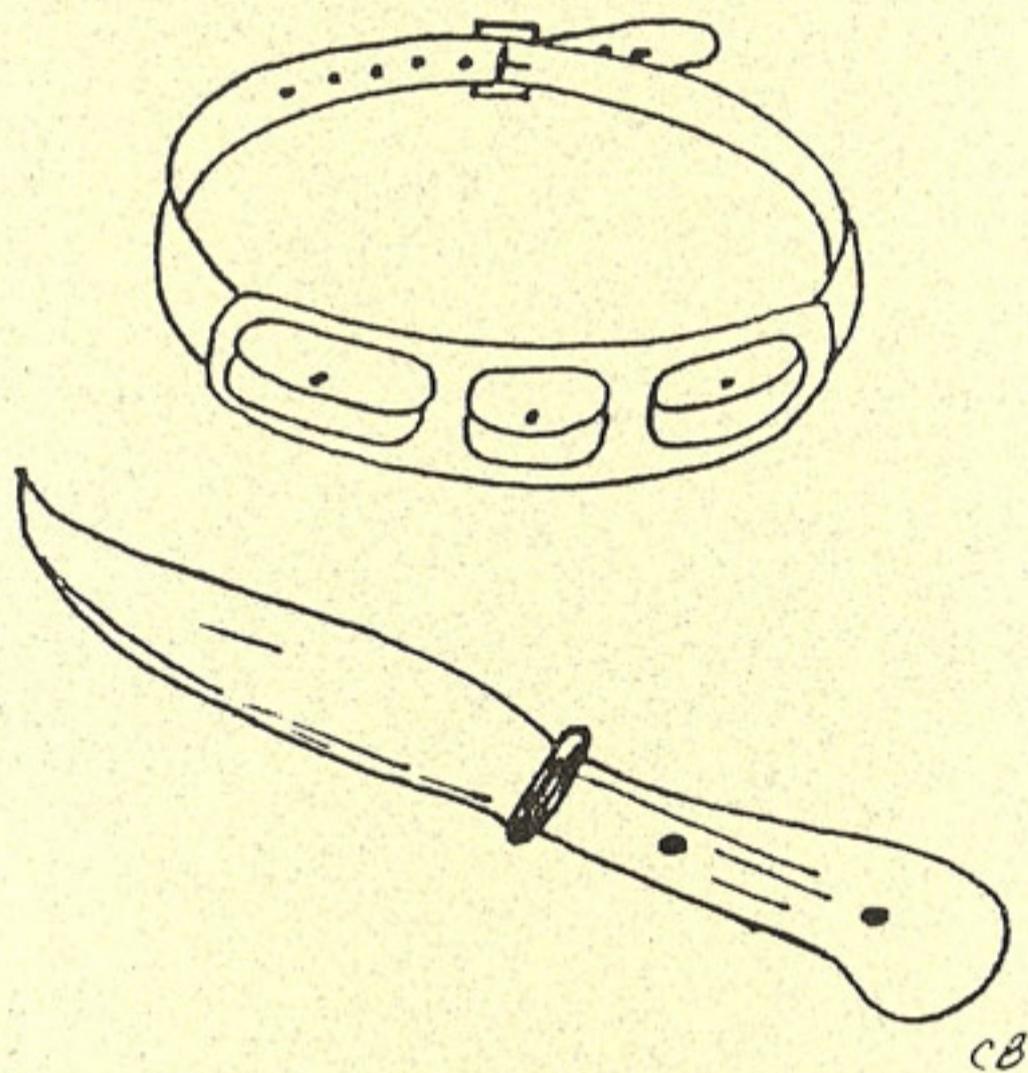


The Dungarvon Whooper



The Dungarvon Whooper

Miramichi Literacy Council - Miramichi Literacy Writers series

This series of booklets are available to anyone who wishes to order them. A single copy is \$3.00, any 3 books would be \$8.00 and a complete set of 24 would be \$60.00. Shipping and handling are extra.

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THE DUNGARVON WHOOPER

CHAPTER I

There are many stories told on the Miramichi. The one that is best known is of the Dungarvon Whooper.

The story takes place in a lumber camp on the Dungarvon River. The Dungarvon is a part of the Renous River that runs into the Miramichi River. It is twenty miles from Newcastle.

The lumbermen tell of a story of a young Irishman named Ryan. He was the cook at the Dungarvon lumber camp. All the men in his crew liked him. As well as being nice-looking, he was fun-loving and hard-working. The thing they liked best was that he could whoop and yell. He could do it better than anyone in the camp. Someone who could whoop was looked up to by the lumbermen.



Ryan was known to keep his money with him at all times. No one knew where the money had come from. They only knew that there was a lot of it.

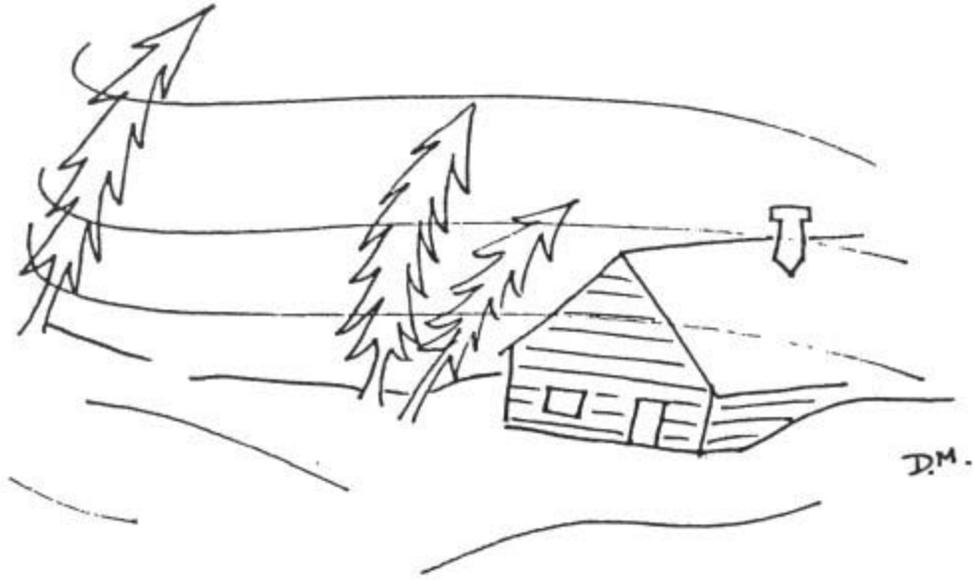
Each morning Ryan woke early in order to cook breakfast. When it was cooked, he would give a loud whoop. This would tell the men to come to eat. Ryan was then left alone for the day. The lumber crew and the camp boss went to work.

CHAPTER II

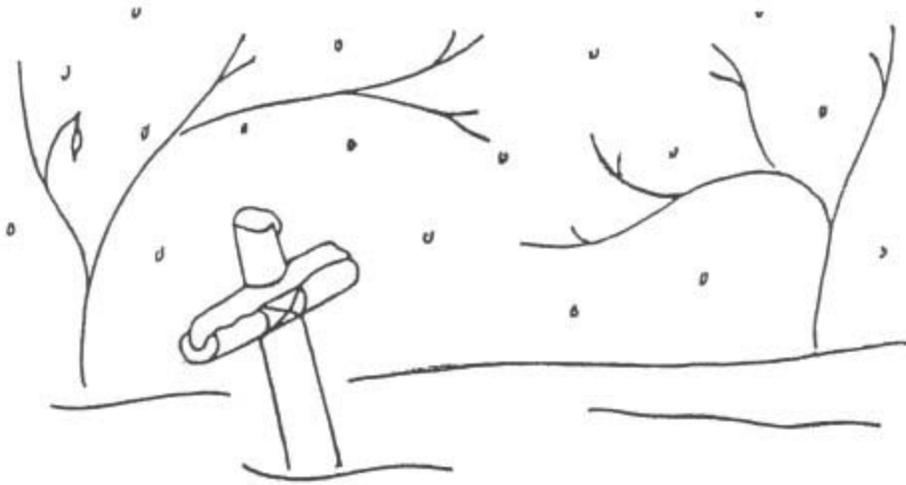
One day the camp boss stayed behind. When the lumber crew came back that day, the cook was dead. His money was gone. Some say that Ryan died from a sickness that came on him quickly. A second story tells us that the boss killed him by cutting his throat.



The men didn't know the boss very well. They could not say if he had killed Ryan or not. No one knows what had taken place that day. The cook and the boss had been alone. There was no one to tell Ryan's or the boss's story. What mattered most to the men was that their friend was dead. This made them very sad. That night it snowed very hard. It snowed so much that the men could not take Ryan



far to buried. They had to bury him by the Dungarvon Spring near the camp. After they buried him, they sadly made their way back to the camp. From the trees they heard wild yelling and whooping. This sound was not like Ryan's happy whoops. The yells were the ones of someone being killed. It sounded like it was coming from where they had buried Ryan.

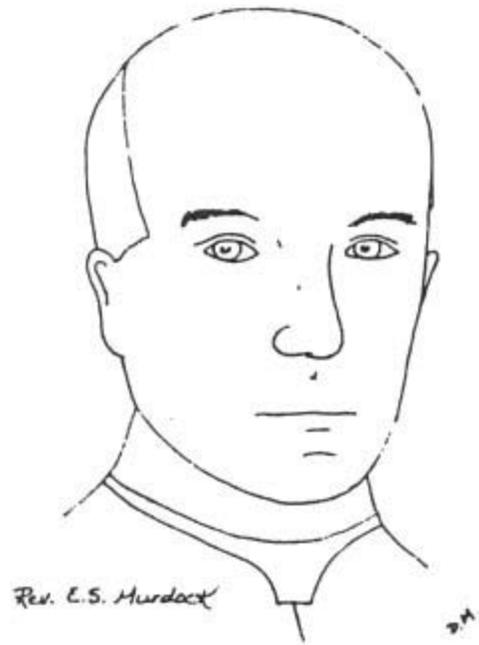


The men were driven from the lumber camp by the ghostly cries. More crews came to take their place. They were again driven away by the loud whoops. Lumber crews came and went for years at the Dungarvon Camp.



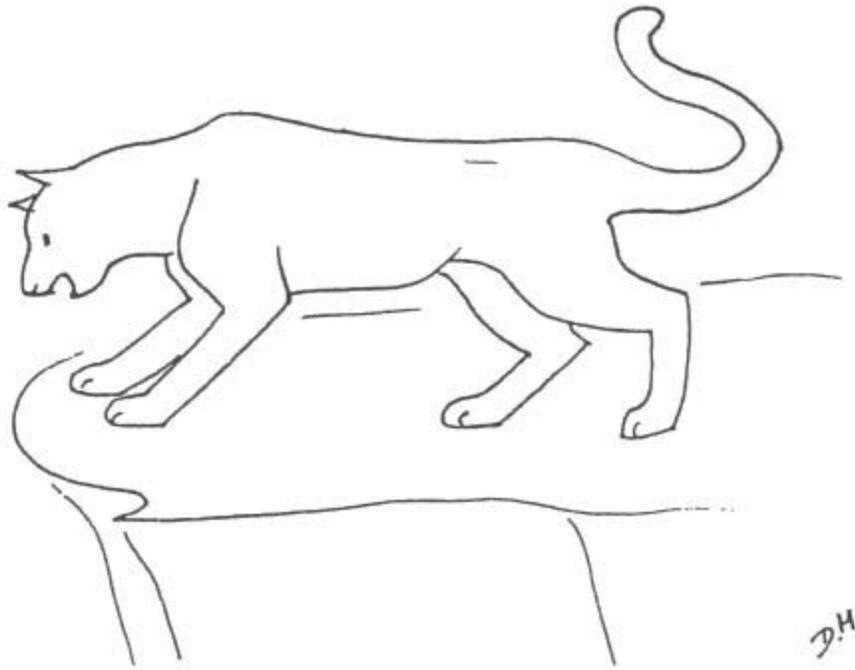
It is said that if a man answered the ghost, the sound would come closer. It would get louder as it came closer. When it was overhead, it was so loud it could deafen a man.

After a while the men could no longer put up with the ghost. They went to Reverend Murdock to see what he could do. He went to the grave to say a mass. Some say that the ghost was not heard after Reverend Murdoch said the mass. Others say that the ghostly whoops were heard long after.



CHAPTER III

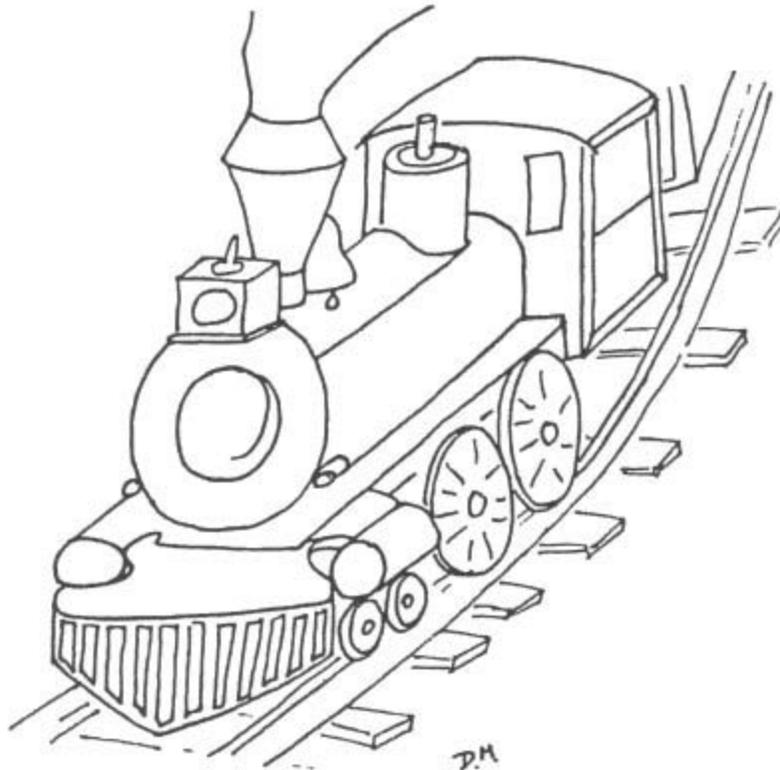
There seem to be many sides to the story. There are also a number of answers to the question of why the sound was heard. Was it an angry ghost? Some say it could have been the cries of an eastern panther. The eastern panther, a big cat, was said to have died out long ago. This was not right. The cries of the eastern panther have been heard many times over the years. It is hard to say if the eastern panther's cries were like the cries of the ghost. Some would tell you that the cries of the ghost were far more deafening.



A second story says that there was an old man seen near the Dungarvon Camp. He was there at the time the ghost's cries were heard. But, was he there all the time? The Dungarvon Whooper was heard for many years. The old man may not have lived that long.

CHAPTER IV

Many people do think that there was a ghost. This ghost was so well known that a train was later named for him. The train ran from Quarryville to Newcastle. On one of the train's first runs, it was bringing men from the lumber camps. Each time the train's whistle sounded, the men would whoop and yell. When the train got to Newcastle, Conductor Vye was asked the name of the train. He gave it the name, "The Dungarvon Whooper."



Dungarvon Whooper

What do you think? Was there really a ghost? Maybe if you stand up by the Dungarvon Spring, you'll make up your own mind. You may hear the wild whoops of the Dungarvon Whooper.

WORD LIST

lumber	ghost
crew	could
whoop	would
cook	mass
boss	eastern
bury	panther

Acknowledgement:

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