

## **Folklore- Part 1: Introduction** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Folklore**

by Bruce E. Baker and Philip McFee, 2006

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See also: [Brown Mountain Lights](#) <sup>[2]</sup>; [Conjure](#) <sup>[3]</sup>; [Devil's Horse's Hoofprints](#) <sup>[4]</sup>; [Devil's Tramping Ground](#) <sup>[5]</sup>; [Folk Music](#) <sup>[6]</sup>; [Ghosts](#) <sup>[7]</sup>; [Maco Light](#) <sup>[8]</sup>; [Madstones](#) <sup>[9]</sup>; [Root Doctors](#) <sup>[10]</sup>; [Southern Folklife Collection](#) <sup>[11]</sup>; [Wampus](#) <sup>[12]</sup>.

[Folklore- Part 1: Introduction](#); [Folklore- Part 2: Types of Folklore and the North Carolina Folklore Society](#) <sup>[13]</sup>; [Folklore- Part 3: North Carolina Folktales and Storytellers](#) <sup>[14]</sup>; [Folklore- Part 4: Legends, Animal Tales, and Superstitions](#) <sup>[15]</sup>; [Folklore- Part 5: References](#) <sup>[16]</sup>


### **Introduction**



"Helen's Bridge, supposedly haunted, on the crest of Beaucatcher Mountain." Image courtesy of Flickr user Richard Butner.

<sup>[17]</sup>

In North Carolina, a state that puts great emphasis on oral traditions and family customs, the value of folklore and folktales is impossible to overstate. As the collected narrative culture of a group of people through many generations, North Carolina folklore is remarkably complex, representing a huge array of different narrative, traditional, and cultural styles. It may encompass such disparate forms as [Cherokee](#) <sup>[18]</sup> legends, ballad singing among residents of a remote mountain valley, family ghost stories, religious messages on truck dashboards, or even modern-day jokes transmitted on the Internet. Folklore, unlike other cultural forms, usually circulates among members of a group or community in informal ways often not involving printing or other forms of recording. This informality emphasizes the importance of interpersonal relationships within the community, a key to the importance of folklore in creating and maintaining group identity. Sometimes seen as involving only "old-time" customs or stories, folklore is also the constant cultural interplay in the melting-pot environment of modern North Carolina, continuing to produce new folktales and folk customs that will exist for decades to come.

Keep reading >> [Folklore- Part 2: Types of Folklore and the North Carolina Folklore Society](#)  <sup>[13]</sup>

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"Helen's Bridge, supposedly haunted, on the crest of Beaucatcher Mountain." Image courtesy of Flickr user Richard Butner. Available from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/giantsloth/3547418868/> <sup>[17]</sup> (accessed May 29, 2012).

### **Subjects:**

[Folklore and Legends](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

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