

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

### **Folklore**

by Bruce E. Baker and Philip McFee, 2006

Additional research provided by Douglas J. McMillan and Shannon L. Reavis.

**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>.

[Part i: Introduction](#); [Part ii: Types of Folklore and the North Carolina Folklore Society](#) <sup>[13]</sup>; [Part iii: North Carolina Folktales and Storytellers](#) <sup>[14]</sup>; [Part iv: Legends, Animal Tales, and Superstitions](#) <sup>[15]</sup>; [Part v: References](#) <sup>[16]</sup>


#### **Part I: 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 > [Part II: Types of Folklore and the North Carolina Folklore Society](#)  <sup>[13]</sup>

#### **Image Credit:**

"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>

#### **Authors:**

[Baker, Bruce E.](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

[McFee, Philip](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

[McMillan, Douglas J.](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

[Reavis, Shannon L.](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

#### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

**Source URL:**<https://ncpedia.org/folklore>

**Links**

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/folklore> [2] <https://ncpedia.org/brown-mountain-lights> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/conjure> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/devils-horses-hoof-prints> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/devils-tramping-ground> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/folk-music> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/culture/legends/ghosts> [8] <https://ncpedia.org/maco-light> [9] <https://ncpedia.org/madstones> [10] <https://ncpedia.org/root-doctors> [11] <https://ncpedia.org/southern-folklife-collection> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/wampus> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/folklore-part-2types-folklore-and-n> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/folklore-part-3-north-carolina-folk> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/folklore-part-4-legends-animal-tale> [16] <https://ncpedia.org/folklore-part-5-references> [17] <https://www.flickr.com/photos/giantsloth/3547418868/> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/cherokee/overview> [19] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/folklore> [20] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/baker-bruce-e> [21] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/mcfee-philip> [22] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/mcmillan-douglas-j> [23] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/reavis-shannon-l> [24] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia>