

Folklore- Part 1: Introduction ^[1]

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Folklore

by Bruce E. Baker and Philip McFee, 2006

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

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Introduction



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

^[17]

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](#) ^[18] 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](#) ^[13]

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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/> ^[17] (accessed May 29, 2012).

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