

Q70 D

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
DEPARTMENT OF FOLKLORE
NEWFOUNDLAND STORIES and STORYTELLING

1.

You can help us to preserve the folklore of Newfoundland.

This traditional material is part of the unwritten history of the province which the university is attempting to record.

Every community is rich in many areas of folklore, so if you have any information on the subject in which we are interested or can get it from someone else, please find answers for our questions.

General Instructions.

1. Write down the information exactly as you learned it or as it was told to you. Use the exact words and phrasing of the informant. Do not attempt to "correct" the form of the informant.
2. Write in black or blue ink, or type (double-spaced).
3. Write on one side of the paper only.
4. Number pages in the upper right hand corner.
5. Complete the following information requested at the end of each item, as illustrated.

| | | |
|------------------|-----|------------|
| Informant's name | age | occupation |
|------------------|-----|------------|

| | | |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| Home community | Bay | religion |
|----------------|-----|----------|

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Learned from | community | relationship |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|

When

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|---------------|----------------|
| Student's name | age | course number | Home community |
|----------------|-----|---------------|----------------|

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| St. John's address | date |
|--------------------|------|

6. Indicate clearly if you or your informant want any names withheld.

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NEWFOUNDLAND STORIES and STORYTELLING

Part of Newfoundland's heritage is the fund of stories told by Newfoundlanders. Many of these have never been recorded.

Here at Memorial University, we are trying to get examples of every kind of story told in Newfoundland, in the words Newfoundlanders use.

Many of you can probably get your grandparents, parents, relatives or neighbours to tell some of the stories they know.

To make these stories of value as a genuine record of Newfoundland, we need the stories exactly as people tell them -- that is, without 'improving' or 'correcting' the grammar, the phrasing or the choice of words.

The following are some of the topics about which we know stories are told in Newfoundland, but we are interested in any story so long as it is not taken from a printed source such as a magazine, a newspaper or a book. Every community has different subjects about which it tells stories; some of them may be here.

People looking for buried treasure
 Ghost ships
 Strange lights and/or noises
 Wrecking
 Why treasure is supposed to be buried at a certain place
 How places got their names
 The French in Newfoundland
 Haunted persons, places, or things
 Early settlers in Newfoundland
 Unusual animals
 The Devil (the Bad One, Evil One, Old Scratch, Old Nick)
 Strong men
 Jack, Tom and Bill

Pirates
 Dreams of hidden treasure
 Shipwrecks
 Smuggling
 Death tokens or signs
 People returning from the dead
 People hiding treasure
 Why care must be taken when visiting certain locations
 Early days in Newfoundland
 The Royalists in Newfoundland
 Unexplainable happenings
 Fairies
 The characteristics of certain communities
 Smart answers

Please indicate for each story if the teller of the story was personally involved in any way.

Explain if you took the story down word for word, or took notes while it was told and wrote it up later, or if this is a story you remember hearing.

STORYTELLING

Besides the stories themselves, we are also interested in when, where and how stories are told in Newfoundland. Some of you may not remember actual stories, but may be able to tell us about a storytelling session.

These questions are offered as a guide in describing a storytelling session which you remember.

1. When and where were the stories told? (at 'times', dances, wakes, or when visitors came to the house at lunch breaks, at work or after it, or on Sunday afternoons or evenings while working at traps or mending nets, or waiting for birds or seals to appear when a parent wanted to teach a child about things he should or should not do -- disobeying his parents, working on Sunday, etc.)
2. What people were present? (Give age, sex, occupation and relationship to one another.)
3. What started the storytelling?
4. What types of stories were told at this time?
5. Why did the storyteller tell his story? (To prove a point, to go one better than the last storyteller, to give information, etc.)
6. How did each storyteller comment on his story? What remarks would he make or not make?
7. How did the listeners react to each story?
8. Were the stories told one after the other or was there conversation in between? Describe.

Describe IN YOUR OWN WORDS a particular storytelling session of any kind rather than try to make generalizations about several.