

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
 DEPARTMENT OF FOLKLORE
 NIGHTMARE/HAG/OLD HAG

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 subjects 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 information.
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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Recently, a Folklore student at MUN brought to light an interesting body of material from Newfoundland and elsewhere concerning nightmare/hag/old hag. We are anxious to learn more about this subject. If you know about this yourself or can get information from other people (especially older persons), would you help us by writing it down.

Please write down the descriptions exactly as you know them or have heard them. Detailed descriptions would be best but if you cannot give them, we would be glad to have you answer as many of the following questions as you can.

These questions suggest some points about which we need information. Please feel free, however, to write about any aspect of nightmare or hag even though it may not be covered by the questions.

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In the following questions the word hag is used throughout. When writing your information please use the word which is known in your community.

Please write details rather than give straight yes or no answers.

1. In your community, do people speak of having nightmares? If not, what other word do they use (e.g., hag, old hag, etc.)? Whatever they call it, is it thought to be the same as a bad dream? If not, how is it different?
2. Describe the weather conditions under which the hag was experienced (e.g., when the temperature was hot and humid, etc.). Was the hag experienced most often by night or by day or at any special season? Was it generally experienced in one's home, on a boat or elsewhere?
3. What form does the hag take (e.g., human, animal, spirit, witch, object, etc.)? Can the hag be heard/seen approaching? Describe its approach. Please describe what the hag looks like giving a specific example if possible. What is the sex of the hag, if any? What is its age (e.g., always older/younger than the person beset, etc.)?

4. Who experienced the hag most often--men or women? Did a female hag always attack a male, a male always attack a female? Did children experience the hag? How could a person tell if an animal experienced the hag?
5. Would the person beset by the hag be asleep, half-asleep, sleepwalking, etc.? Was a person lying in a certain position when the hag came (e.g., lying on back, on side, sitting in a chair, etc.)? What was the physical and mental condition of the person beset (e.g., tired, under stress, etc.)? What did people say caused a person/animal to experience the hag (e.g., bad blood, going down the forecandle ladder of a boat the wrong way, etc.)? Was it sometimes brought by some outside power (e.g., magic, witching, curse, etc.)?
6. Describe what the hag would do to a person/animal whom it attacked. What parts of the body were most affected? Did the hag sometimes injure, inflict pain, take breath, etc.? Were there any other physical or mental reactions to the hag? Did it sometimes kill people?
7. How did people react to a person who had experienced the hag (e.g., teasing, fear, worry, etc.)? Was the person himself worried about his experience? Does he (or she) talk freely about it?
8. What were ways of gaining release from the hag (e.g., say name backwards, move forefinger, draw blood, etc.)? What information can you give about ways of preventing the hag from coming (e.g., block all openings in the house/on the boat, use of magic, use of mirror, word of God, salt, etc.)?

REMEMBER THAT A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A SINGLE EXPERIENCE WOULD BE BEST. REMEMBER TOO, TO SAY WHERE, WHEN, AND TO WHOM IT HAPPENED.