Some Atlantic Canadian Folktale Collections
by Sarah Davis MacMillan

Bluenose Ghosts and Bluenose Magic
Helen Creighton

These are Nova Scotia folklorist Helen Creighton’s two classic regional folklore collections. Bluenose Ghosts is a collection of ghost stories (and other tales of supernatural beings, including angels and demons), divided into eleven categories according to common regional themes. Bluenose Magic is a collection of Nova Scotia superstitions and traditional beliefs, including witch lore, pirate stories, magical places and creatures, and even more ghostly apparitions. Creighton, who collected these stories from primary sources in the 1950s and 1960s, is one of Canada’s best known folklore researchers.


Stories from the Six Worlds
Ruth Holmes Whitehead

This collection of traditional Mi’kmaw legends, retold by Nova Scotia ethnologist and First Nations storyteller Ruth Holmes Whitehead, collects, documents and retells traditional Mi’kmaw stories, many of which are connected to very specific geographic areas in the region. These stories are collected from both oral tradition and from print sources. In addition to the
tales themselves, Whitehead includes a detailed introduction describing aspects of the stories' cultural context and symbolism, as well as notes about the Mi'kmaq language and alphabet.


**Folklore from Nova Scotia** and **Studio Black!**

_Arthur Huff Fauset_

African American anthropologist Arthur Huff Fauset collected Afro-Nova Scotian folktales during a trip to the province in 1923, and published this collection in 1931. In 2014 and 2016, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia-based Picture Plant productions created and produced *Studio Black!,* a series of short films based on stories from Fauset’s collection, for CBC television. Standout episodes include “The Grateful Spirits”, a story of robbers and protective ghosts, and “The Tablecloth, the Donkey and the Knobby Stick”, which features a very familiar trickster figure. (Note: The TV series contains some “mature” comedy, and may not be suitable for younger teens.)


Haunted Shores and Wonderful Strange

Dale Jarvis

These two eerie collections by Newfoundland folklorist and storyteller Dale Jarvis feature tales of hauntings, strange happenings and supernatural sightings from all over the province. Haunted Shores collects regional ghost tales and sightings, while Wonderful Strange presents a wide variety of wonder tales featuring the spirits, witches, faeries, monsters and other unusual characters that appear in Newfoundland folklore.


Witchcraft: Tales, Beliefs and Superstitions from the Maritimes

Clary Croft

Nova Scotia folklorist, musician, and archivist Clary Croft presents this detailed overview of Atlantic Canadian folk tales and folk beliefs pertaining to witches and witchcraft. The author provides abundant, multicultural and historical context for these folk tales and traditional beliefs, and includes fascinating descriptions of the artifacts, talismans and rituals that were traditionally used in the Maritimes as protection against the influence of witches.