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Broken Turf Birth

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Katie Snow

Logan Utah

12/6/2018

Broken Turf Birth

Belief: Superstition

Informant Bio

Katie was born in Galway, Ireland and lived there until she was 5 years old. After that she moved to American Fork, Utah. She has one sibling. Her Irish side of the family is very superstitious, which she says is a cultural thing. Her family is mainly from Kilrush originally. She grew up hearing stories and the superstitions and traditions that she doesn't necessarily believe but picked up on them just by nature of habit. I met/knew Katie from my public speaking class recitation. Katie is a bubbly personality and she gets really passionate about what she cares about. Katie works as an RA and loves socializing with her residents.

Context

I first heard that Katie was superstitious in our public speaking class. The first speech had to be about someone in the class, and the individual who presented on Katie told everyone about her Irish upbringing and the superstitions thereafter. The initial time that this was told wasn't natural at all because it was someone telling another person's story. So to collect this piece I decided to go straight to the source and ask Katie about it. However, I wasn't able to generate a conversation that would have this story told in its natural environment which would likely be just friends sitting around talking about beliefs. I had to interview Katie on the very last day of class with a potluck going on behind us. So the context was not natural at all. But all is well and good, I had asked her to interview the week prior so she had a short quick condensed version ready to go so that I wasn't taking up her whole class period. So it was a bit rushed. This was also the second piece of folk lore she gave me from that interview. The first of which is filed under the name, "Banshee: An Irish Superstition" This story followed that piece.

Text

And then there's one where if you throw a piece of turf at a pregnant woman and it hits her and falls and breaks then her waters will break and that actually happened to my mom. She went on a walk when she was pregnant with me and her brother threw a piece of turf at her and it hit her and it fell to the ground and it broke and she finished like the loop and walked back home and she was at home for a couple of minutes and then she stood up and her waters broke.

Texture

Katie is really nice and bubbly, but while she was telling me about her superstitions she looked me in the eye and talked about them with all seriousness. Almost as if to say, yeah, try me, this is what I believe and I know its weird but its mine and you cant take it away from me. She wasn't very animated and presented it quite matter-of-fact like. There was no doubt that she believed them, or at the very least believed the people who had recounted the stories to her. Katie took more time in the interview with this story and paused more, she showed a bit more emotion when she was talking about it being her birth that this happened on.

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Introduction to Folklore/ ENGL 2210

Dr. Lynne McNeill

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