Call for submissions:
The Hermit as Hero: Mythologizing the Northeast's Outlaws, Rascals, and Recluses

A special edition of Northeast Folklore (http://umaine.edu/folklife/publications/northeast-folklore/)

The North Woods—and other wild spaces such as islands and wetlands—are sometimes viewed as separate from the rest of the Northeast, with their own traditions, sensibilities and priorities. Perhaps nowhere is this more apparent than in the long tradition of stories and songs about hermits, outlaws, and recluses who take up homes in such “wild places.” People who choose to live apart from others have been a phenomenon in the Northeast (broadly understood in this volume as the Northeastern United States and Canada) for centuries. In many ways, regional communities look to hermits, recluses, outlaws, and even back-to-the-landers as heroic exemplars of the “purest” distillation of an old way of life. In their perceived ability to make do, their connection to nature, their mistrust of human change and impact, their idiosyncratic philosophies, and even in their deaths, hermit-types perform—or are made to perform—Northeastern identity in unique and indispensable ways.

This edited volume will offer studies of some of the most talked about hermits and other “wild” men and women in Northeastern history and folklore, as contributors sort through oral histories, stories, songs, and pictures to explore the complex and ever evolving relationship between “normal” Northeasterners and the hermits and outlaw heroes they talk about. We hope to discover ways in which hermits, recluses, outlaws, and back-to-the-landers provide a forum for reification of community values—i.e. distrust of disruptive innovation and rapid environmental change and the reinforcement of sense of traditional community and the possibility of dignified poverty, among other things—and rural identity.

The editors of this special volume of Northeast Folklore are looking for 500-word abstract submissions detailing scholarly and creative work related to the phenomenon of hermits, recluses, outlaws in the Northeast. Ethnographic, folkloristic, historical, literary, or anthropological studies, photo- or video-essays, and personal essays are all welcome—in all media formats. Contributors are especially encouraged to make use of regional archival resources.

Anyone is welcome to contribute, from community members, to undergraduate and graduate students, to faculty. Abstract submissions are due by Friday January 6, 2017, and final submissions will be due on March 20, 2017. Potential contributors are encouraged to contact Dr. Sarah Harlan-Haughey at sarah.harlanhaughey@maine.edu to discuss a possible contribution or to request more details or clarification.

About Northeast Folklore:

Northeast Folklore is an academic journal published continuously since 1958 by the Maine Folklife Center (formerly the Northeast Folklore Society). The journal, founded by former University of Maine professor Edward “Sandy” Ives, covers the legends, lore, folklife, ethnography, oral history and life stories of Maine, New England and eastern Canada. The journal publishes collections of articles, including theme issues, as well as occasional monographs. The number of issues published annually has varied, but in 2017 we plan to resume a two-issue per year schedule.
Call for submissions. Please respond via email to sarah.harlanhuaghey@maine.edu

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts electronically directly to the Editor, or to the issue editor if responding to a call for papers for a special issue. Submitted manuscripts should not have been published or be under review for publication elsewhere. Guidelines on article length, content, style and format are available on the journal page at the Maine Folklife Center website. Manuscripts are evaluated by one or more editors, and if deemed appropriate for the journal, are sent to two qualified reviewers. Reviewers’ comments and the Editor’s decision to accept, reject or resubmit are usually sent within three months, but can take longer. Accepted articles are often published within six months, although editors may hold articles for publication in a later issue for reasons of space or alignment with content.

Annual subscriptions to *Northeast Folklore* are a benefit of membership in the Maine Folklife Center; information is available on the membership page. Many back issues of the journal are available in our Marketplace. For all other enquiries, including proposals for theme issues, please contact the Editor.

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