Proverbs

To see a magpie was bad luck but to meet a black cat was very lucky.

Anybody born on May day was supposed to be very bad tempered and people never liked to provoke or cross such a person.

It was bad luck to walk under a ladder.

A scattered funeral was a sign of another funeral soon to follow.

It was believed that anyone who broke a mirror would have seven years of bad luck.

Farmers going to the fair always considered it lucky to meet a man first. To meet a woman and particularly a red-haired woman first was regarded as extremely unlucky.

When you enter a house where a churning is in progress you are expected to take a hand, just a few turns and the custom is observed. It is also customary to place a red coal under a churn before the churning has begun. This was to safeguard the butter being stolen.

If there was a baby in the house and if the mother had to do outside chores, she would place the tongs from the fire over the cradle to stop fairies from taking the baby.

Writer: Matthew McNally    Teller: Ilene McNally