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Vol. 1, No. 3

October-December 2017

## A Harvest of Pumpkins at Country House

As you approach the entrance of Country House, you probably noticed the large bins of pumpkins. These pumpkins were grown and provided by the Smits family, owners of The Farm. They also provide us with sweet corn and fresh tomatoes during the summer months. Illinois is one of the top pumpkin producing states, providing around 90% of the nation's supply and the Smits' farm is near two of the top yielding counties —Kane and Will—in the state. In 2016, Illinois yielded 6.76 million tons of pumpkins, most of which was made into puree for use in pumpkin lattes, seasonal ales, and of course, pumpkin pie.


These cucurbits that we mix with milk, eggs, sugar, and spices and pour into a flour crust at one time served as an ingredient in the crust, not the custard. In fact, in colonial times, people would just cut the top off the pumpkin, scoop out the seeds, and put all of the above ingredients inside of it to bake in hot ashes. Native Americans introduced the large gourd to the colonists and had their own ways of preparing it over a fire. They roasted it in long strips and ate it, used it to make mats, and ate the seeds for food and medicine. They did not have any special traditions or tales related to pumpkins. The most famous tale came from the Irish, Scottish, and English immigrants who arrived in America.



*Pumpkin patch at Geneva Restaurant*

The tradition of the Jack-o-Lantern comes from an old folk tale about a man named Stingy Jack. One version of the story says that Jack invited the devil to drink with him and tricked the devil into turning himself into a coin to pay for the drinks. Jack kept the devil coin instead and the devil could not change back because the coin jingled around in Jack's pocket next to a silver cross. After a while, Jack set him free on condition that he not bother Jack for a year and that he would not claim his soul. When the devil came back, Jack tricked him again. By and by, Jack died and God would not let such a character into heaven and the devil had promised not to claim his soul. So, the devil sent him off into the dark night with only a single burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a large turnip and it is said that he still roams the earth. The Irish called him "Jack of the Lantern" which soon became "Jack o' Lantern."

As part of the Halloween tradition, people carved scary faces into pumpkins to scare away Jack and other roaming spirits. Many people no longer believe these superstitions, but they still carve pumpkins. You can get your pumpkin for \$3 if you are a House Rewards member or for \$5 if you are not. One pumpkin per person, per visit, please. Come back often for other specials throughout the month of October at any of our restaurants.



**DON'T FORGET!**

*All Locations*

Get Your Pumpkin Before They Run Out! \$3 each for House Rewards Members. \$5 each for everyone else.

One per person, per visit so come back often!

## Resident Ghost at Country House

At Country House, we don't need to dress up in ghostly costumes and visit haunted houses. We have our very own resident ghost at the Clarendon Hills restaurant. Since we opened in 1974, various employees and customers have witnessed her activities whether they be in the ladies' bathroom, upstairs in the offices, or near the bar.

Frank Waidzulis, a regular customer and a contracted repairman for Country House, has had multiple encounters with the ghost.

"I was remodeling and I worked through



the night. At about 3am, I heard sounds coming from the second floor. It sounded like pounding for about five



*Haunted Clarendon Hills Country House*

minutes. When I started to go up there, it stopped. That happened a few times. Then the jukebox went on by itself and played the same song over and over. (We later found that the jukebox was not loaded with that song.) I'd walk in there, and it stopped. The last time I walked into the bar area, I saw an image of a lady in a blue dress standing in front of the jukebox. She appeared to be staring in my direction but not at me. I walked a bit closer and all I could see was from her head to her knees and then nothing. Then the image disappeared and everything else stopped. I've tried to come up with alternative explanations but there really aren't any."

Rumor has it that in 1956, the ghostly lady fell in love with a bartender who worked in the restaurant prior to Country House. She went there one night and they had an argument. The lady in blue stormed out and drove off, but her life ended in tragedy that day. She died in a car accident not far from the restaurant.

Researchers from Paranormal Research confirmed this one night, using flashlights in much the same way as a Ouija board—on for yes, off for no. Lynn Banks, a manager at the Clarendon Hills Country House for thirty-five years, was there.

## EVENTS AT OUR LISLE LOCATION

*Baby Boomer Rock 'n Roll*  
October 6 @ 7:30-10:30pm

*Classic Car Show*  
October 8 @ 1:30-5:30pm

*Join us on Thursdays @ 7:30pm*  
*for Line Dancing*  
only \$6 per person



"My husband and I and a reporter were there with the investigative team. They had some other paraphernalia, too, but the most remarkable thing was the flashlight question and answer session. The reporter straight out asked, 'Are you the one who died in a car accident?' and the flashlight blinked for 'yes.' We wanted to test to see if we could get the same thing to happen again without investigators there. So, me, my neighbor, her daughter, and a few other people went back a few days later. We sat upstairs in the conference room asking and asking. No response. Then, at about 3:45am, we started getting responses and it was the same thing."

Thankfully, the mysterious lady isn't interested in scaring people, just playing jokes. She even seems to know when

enough is enough.

Lynn shares, "Upstairs in the office, there are three desks with calculators and all that kind of stuff. I was up there with one of the waitresses and one of the calculators starts blipping and shooting out paper. The machine has no power. It stops and then, it starts up again. I turned toward the desk and yelled, 'Knock it off!' and it stopped. It didn't do it again, at least not while I was there."

The ghost had the last laugh, though. Two days later, another employee found a long paper coming out of the calculator.

### JOIN US FOR MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Come out on these days for FREE samples and prizes from Miller beer.

Clarendon Hills: Oct. 9 and Dec. 24

Geneva: Dec. 10

Lisle: Dec. 21

**\*\*Miller Beer \$2.75\*\***

**\*\*Brat Stop Brats & Our Famous Chili \$3\*\***

**\*\*and chances to win prizes!\*\***

**Through month of October**

**Spaten Oktoberfest pints \$5.50 each**

**Enter to win a 2-Liter Spaten boot (with purchase)**



### Hours And Locations

*Clarendon Hills*  
(630) 325-1444

Monday-Thursday  
11am-11pm, bar open until

*Geneva*  
(630) 208-8181

Sunday-Thursday  
11am-10pm, bar open until

*Lisle*  
(630) 983-0545

Monday-Thursday  
11:30am-10pm, bar open until

<p>midnight</p> <p>Friday-Saturday 11am-1am, bar open until 2am</p> <p>Sunday 11:30am-11pm, bar open until midnight</p>	<p>midnight</p> <p>Friday-Saturday 11am-11pm, bar open until 1am</p>	<p>midnight</p> <p>Friday-Saturday 11:30am-11pm, bar open until 1am</p> <p>Sunday 11am-10pm, bar open until midnight</p>
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**CLARENDON HILLS**  
 241 W 55th St.  
 Clarendon Hills, IL 60514  
 (630) 325-1444



**GENEVA**  
 2095 S Kirk Rd.  
 Geneva, IL 60134  
 (630) 208-8181



**LISLE**  
 2799 Maple Ave.  
 Lisle, IL 60532  
 (630) 983-0545



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