

The Weird Story of the First Jack O' Lantern

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As I write this short yarn, it's September and Halloween is still almost two months away, but to lots of us anytime is a good time for a story about one of our favorite holidays. With that in mind here's a folk tale about the.....

Origin of "Jack O'Lanterns."



The tradition of cutting faces into pumpkins did originate in America, probably around Boston or New York. But the first carving was actually in Ireland and it was a large turnip, not a pumpkin that was hollowed out, had a face cut into it, and was supplied with a candle to give it a scary glow.

According to the legend a mean, disorderly fellow, named Jack who lived in a shack in Dublin, loved to play tricks on unsuspecting people. His foul antics affected everyone from his own family to the town's upper class.

He took great delight in tripping old ladies, suspending wires across pathways to injure human and horse alike, and tying a thread around a gold piece that he tossed on the ground and then snatching it away from a person who spotted it and went to pick it up.

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