

MOON'S LAKE HOUSE RESTAURANT

Kaydeross Road. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Moon's lake house was originally opened on this site in 1853 by Carey Briggs Moon. Soon Moon's Lake House began to displace all other destinations as the goal of the late afternoon carriage parade from Saratoga.

The cooking duties at Moon's were shared by Catherine Weeks, generally known as aunt Kate and her brother-in-law, George Crum. Dark skinned with straight black hair and bony features inherited from his parents - a mulatto jockey and an Indian maid, Crum would frequently boast that he could take anything edible and transform it into a dish fit for a king. Few of his customers disputed this statement. Those who did and sent their food back to the kitchen were rewarded with the most indigestible substitutes Crum could devise. Crum would get great pleasure from peering out of the kitchen door and observing the diners' shocked reaction.

In its second season, Moon's was host to a gentleman who sent back his French fried potatoes, complaining they were soggy, with instructions to slice them thinner and fry them longer. Crum received this request with typical hostility. He sliced some potatoes paper-thin and then dumped them into a kettle of boiling grease. When they were done to a crisp he salted them and sent them back to the table. Peering out from the kitchen door, Crum gleefully awaited the man's shocked reaction. To his surprise the gentleman tasted the potatoes and was so delighted with the new treat that he immediately ordered more. Other diners ordered the crisp potato wafers and were equally delighted. The next day Crum's creation, now called Saratoga chips by Moon's tourist-conscious proprietor, were on every table in the restaurant. Soon they were on menus throughout the country.

Eventually they became a favorite around the world. The French took to them with such enthusiasm that patriotic French chefs declared they were an invention of French cuisine. Today Moon's is continuing the tradition of serving the same fine food and the authentic Saratoga chip, often imitated but never equaled.

This information was taken from a menu used at Moon's.

Moon, D.L., The Descendants of Robert Moone of Boston and Newport, Pg. 420