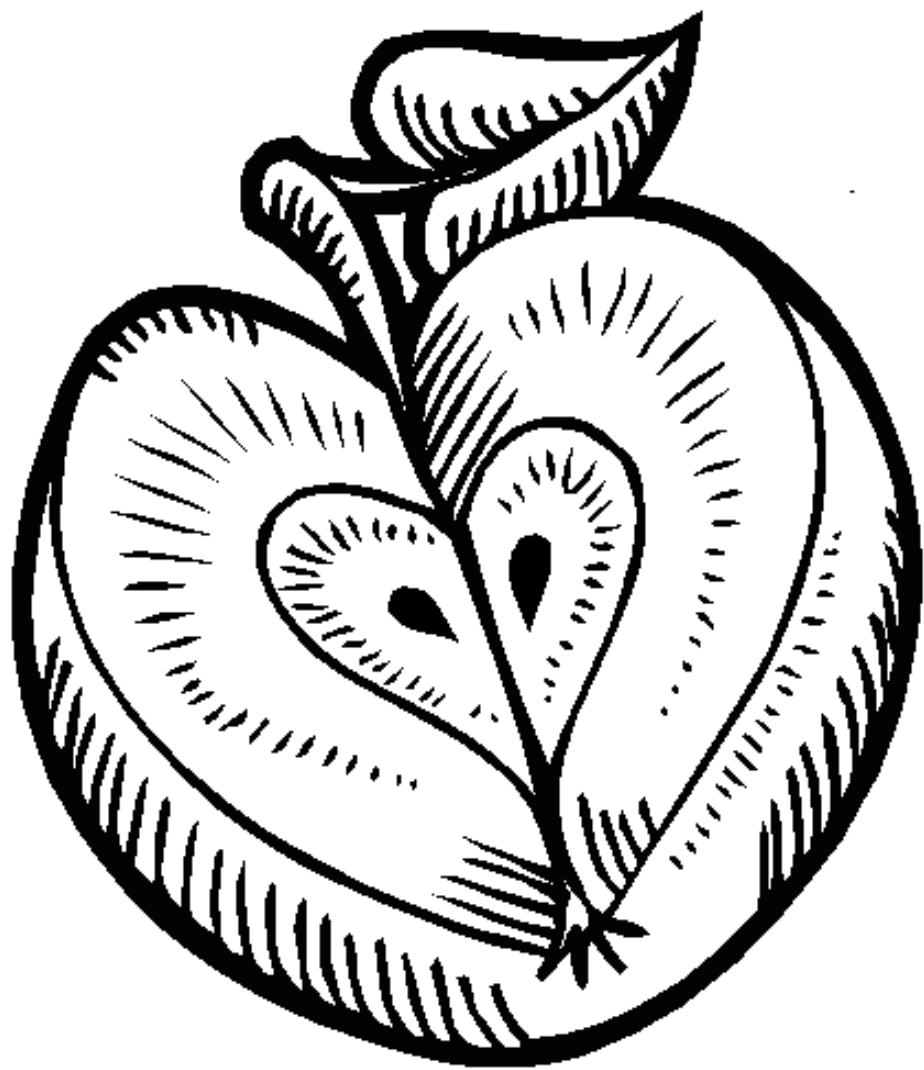


The Appleseed Man



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John Chapman was born in Massachusetts in 1774 to Elizabeth and Nathaniel Chapman just before the start of the Revolutionary War. His father was an orchardist.

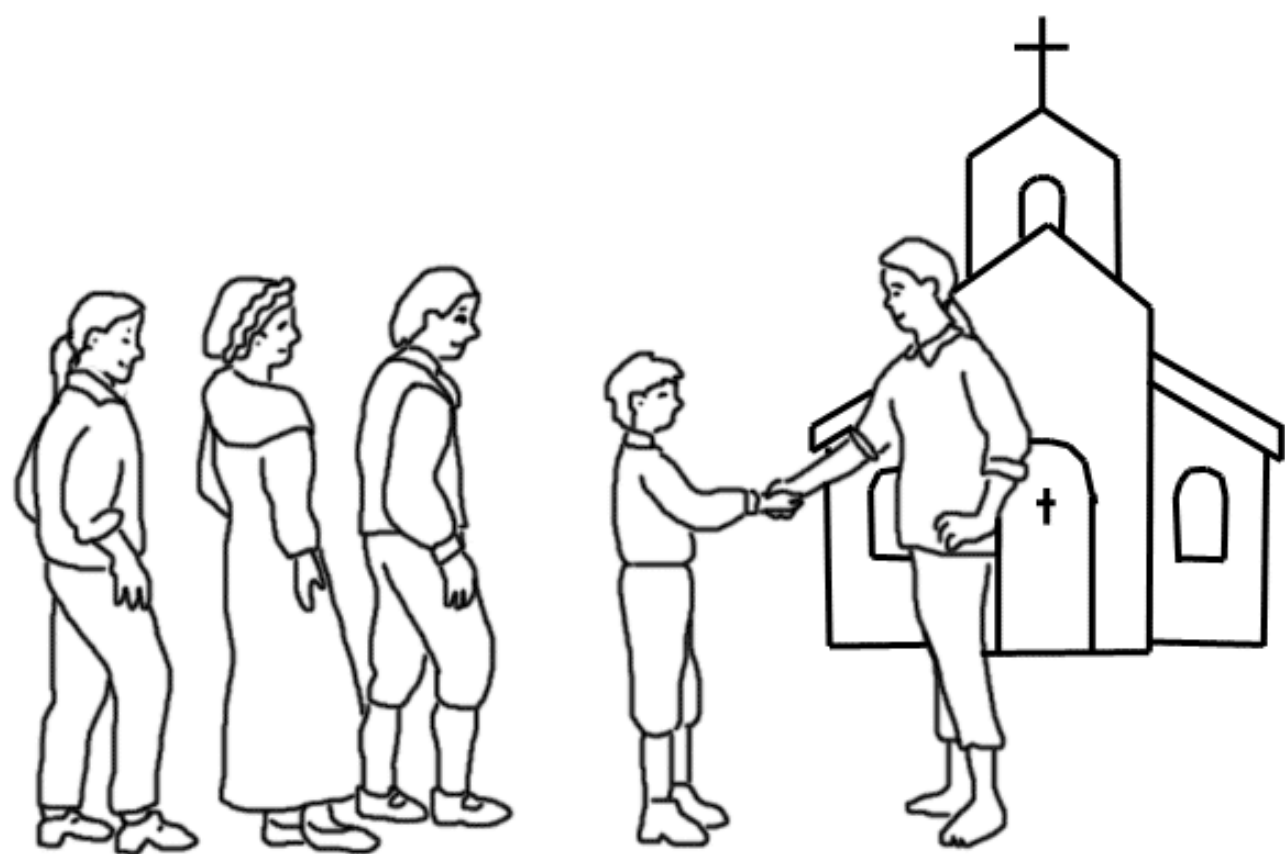
When he was old enough, he began learning his father's trade. When John Chapman was eighteen, he decided to go west. He took his younger brother, Nathaniel, with him. Records show he bought land in what is now Ohio where he planted apple tree nurseries. He sold the young apple trees to settlers and farmers heading west.



When Nathaniel was old enough to marry, he moved away leaving John alone in Ohio. It was at this time that he began his lifelong quest of sharing his apple seeds and trees with others. He became known as the apple tree man, or “Johnny Appleseed” to everyone he met. He waked all over Ohio selling seeds and planting apple tree nurseries. He planted a nursery, built fences around it to protect the trees, and then left it in the care of a neighbor for a share of the profits.



Johnny Appleseed instructed his managers to sell the trees on credit, but he accepted food or clothing as barter. He often wore the worst of the bartered clothes, giving away the best of everything to those in need. He gave up wearing shoes because they were hard to come by, and it was said he carried a tin pot for cooking, which he used for a hat when it wasn't in use. Perhaps this is why some folks thought Johnny looked a bit peculiar.



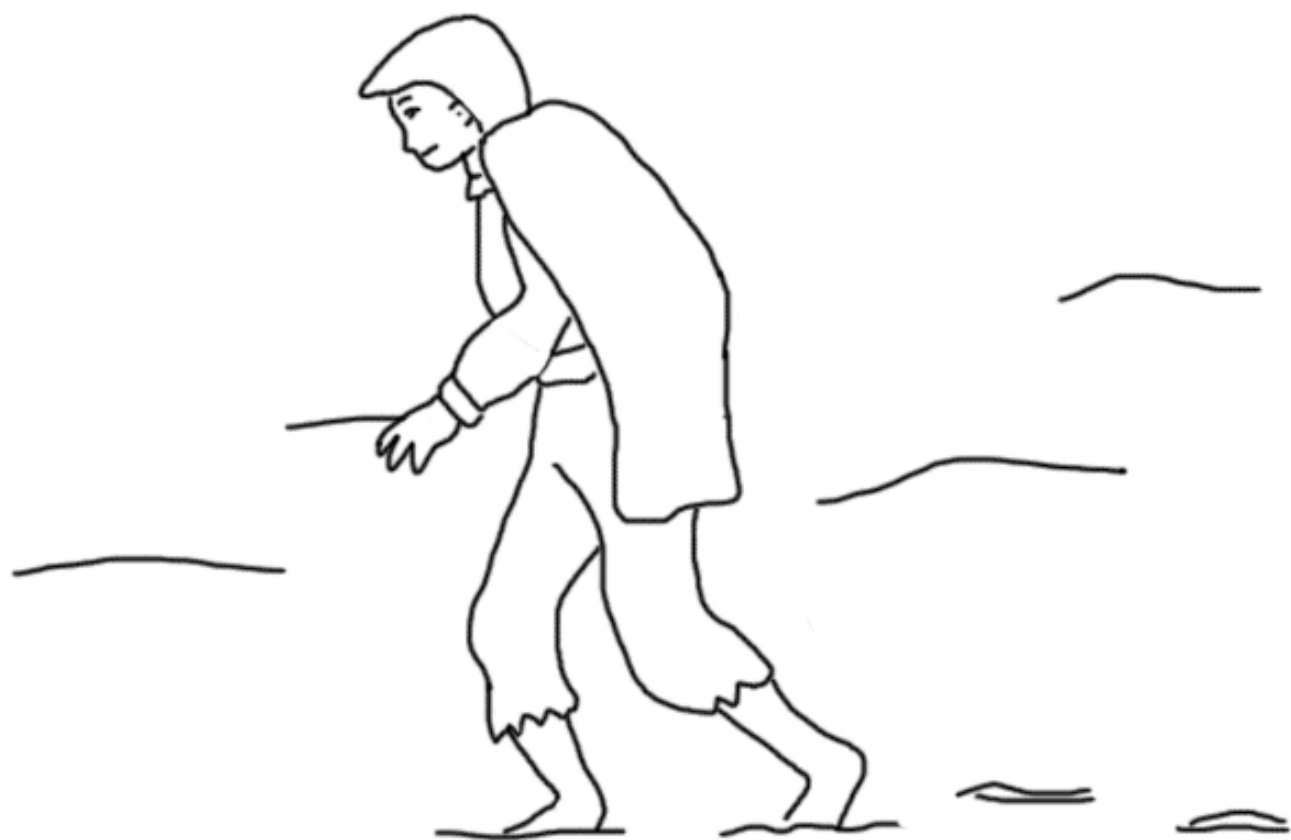
Because he was a religious man, Johnny was always giving away anything he had to those in need. He actually traded 160 acres of his own land for tracts of land belonging to a church, which he then gave away to people who had shown him kindness along the way. Johnny Appleseed traveled across the area that is now Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. He cleared the land, planted his seeds, built a fence to protect the trees, and moved on. He always traveled alone.



His religious beliefs directed each step of his way along his many journeys. He cared deeply for animals and even insects. One story has been told that he put out his campfire in a hollow log in winter because a mother bear and her cubs were sleeping inside. Instead of sleeping beside a warm fire, he slept outside on the snow so as not to disturb the bears. Johnny Appleseed traveled constantly, and everywhere he stopped, he shared his traveling adventures. Many of his stories were re-told and stretched a bit as well.



Johnny Appleseed walked to Pennsylvania each fall to get his seeds. He spent the rest of the year walking all over the Northwest Territory spreading his gentle faith and apple seeds. His fame spread throughout the United States and eventually in other parts of the world. He spent the last days of his life in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



In early spring, he got word that cattle had broken down one of his nursery fences. He set out to repair the damages and walked several miles in the cold March weather. This venture caused him to fall ill, and he died on March 18, 1845, just short of his seventy-first birthday. He had been traveling the country planting apple trees for more than fifty years.



Only a few people ever knew Johnny Appleseed's real name. A simple and religious man who cared for animals, trees, and people more than personal wealth, he is said to have left an estate worth millions. He is buried in Fort Wayne, but the actual site of his grave is unconfirmed.



There is a Johnny Appleseed Park in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and John Chapman is the official “folk hero” of his home state of Massachusetts. There are memorials, carvings, statues, and festivals held in his honor all across the United States. Many films and even more books have been made based on the life of Johnny Appleseed. John Chapman or Johnny Appleseed was truly a pioneer hero.

1. In what state was Johnny Appleseed born?
 - a. Connecticut
 - b. Massachusetts
 - c. Vermont
 - d. Kentucky

Answer: _____

2. John Chapman headed west to which state?
 - a. Kentucky
 - b. Illinois
 - c. Ohio
 - d. Nebraska

Answer: _____

3. What did John Chapman do with his earnings while he was living?
 - a. built a big house
 - b. founded a town
 - c. gave it away
 - d. buried it in the ground

Answer: _____

4. Why was John Chapman given the name "Johnny Appleseed"?
 - a. He was always planting and giving away apple seeds.
 - b. He ate lots of apples.
 - c. Johnny owned the biggest apple orchard in the world.
 - d. He was a famous movie star.

Answer: _____

5. Why did Johnny Appleseed build fences around his orchards?
- a. to show everyone the orchard belonged to him
 - b. to make it look better
 - c. to keep people away from his apples
 - d. to keep animals from destroying his trees

Answer: _____

6. In what state has Johnny Appleseed been declared an official "folk hero"?
- a. Indiana
 - b. Pennsylvania
 - c. Connecticut
 - d. Massachusetts

Answer: _____