

Johnny Appleseed



CRUNCH! ... such is the satisfying sound when you sink your teeth into a firm, crisp, tasty apple. There are countless crackling crunches produced each year from the two billion bushels of apples grown worldwide, including about 200 million bushels in the United States.

Apples, like the first colonists, immigrated from Europe, and when the early settlers explored westward across the American continent, the apple went with them. The most famous apple planters of the early 1800's was John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, who conducted a one-man crusade to produce as many apple trees as possible. Also known as a missionary, he carried his Bible as well as seedlings and a sack of seeds on his travels through

several Eastern and Midwestern states. Johnny Appleseed is reported to have planted hundreds of orchards in his lifetime, while also preaching from the Bible to the early settlers and Indians.

What Johnny Appleseed was to the apple should be an example for the Christian today. At apparent great hardship, traveling mostly on foot with no shoes, he provided nutritious food for many people for generations to come. We too, as Christians, should thus carry with us the Good Seed, which is the Word of God, and plant it freely everywhere we go. "Brethren, ... we should bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4). Then souls will have something satisfying to sink their teeth into rather than the pithy, crunchless, empty things of the world.

by T.D.J.

Judge each day,
not by the harvest,
but by the seeds you plant.

Remember

Anyone can
count the seeds in one apple,
but only God can count the
apples in one seed.

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The Old Planter



One early morn' I saw a man of
eighty years or so,
Setting out a little tree, I hardly
thought 'twould grow,
To furnish fruit for such a one, in
years so far advanced,
But all the same he took great care,
to give it every chance.

I said, "My friend, why do you thus,
setting out this tree,
Since, like as not the fruit it bears,
you'll never live to see?"
He said, "the fruit that I have had,
and did so much enjoy,
Was started by someone else, when
I was just a boy."

"So, even though I'll not partake
from what I plant this morn',
'Tis likely fruit will be enjoyed by
someone yet unborn.
I cannot shun to do my part, and
plan for those to be,
When others all along the line,
have planned so much for me."

by L.E.B.