



THE APPLE CORE

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE JOHNNY APPLESEED SOCIETY



Volume 3, Issue 2

July, 2022

Museum Doings

Work continues, both inside and out, at the Johnny Appleseed Education Center and Museum in Urbana, Ohio. And while the museum remains closed, it is now being used for special events.

A handsome new sign now sits on the southeast corner of the property (*shown below*). Our landscaper has improved the floral displays around the outside of the building, and a new security system, along with wireless internet connectivity, is in place inside.



The new Museum sign and logo

In May, the Museum hosted an Arbor Day celebration for the Urbana community. This summer, the Urbana University Alumni Association hosted an outdoor reunion on the property, and they have donated a statue of the Blue Knight, the now-defunct university's mascot. John Chapman was an early promoter of higher education in Ohio, and we are proud to have this reminder of the connection between the Johnny Appleseed Education Center and Museum and the university which for so long promoted his Swedenborgian ideals.

The first phase of re-cataloguing the collection is now complete, and work has begun on cataloguing the extensive collection of documents, in order to make them more accessible to future researchers. The Design Committee has settled on a display plan,

and we are seeking professional assistance to design new display panels.

The new museum will devote two rooms to telling Chapman's story, with a large meeting room for group presentations, a children's room, and an open space for rotating exhibits. The hallway connecting the two Chapman rooms will display a large scale map of his travels from Massachusetts to Indiana, and a timeline linking events in his life to Ohio and U.S. history.

Meanwhile, the Appleseed Society has begun planning its return to the nation's largest Johnny Appleseed festival, in Fort Wayne Indiana, the third weekend in September. For three days, exhibitors dressed in period costumes exhibit pioneer crafts, prepare frontier foods, and generally have a wonderful time.

And Society president Dick Sommer announced at the July membership meeting that an anonymous donation will cover the cost of the first 100 copies of the final book by Ann Corfman and Nancy Sherwood, a sequel to *A is for Appleseed* and *Appleseed Values*.

From the Archives

by Mikaela Prescott, Director of Projects

The one thing every observer of the legacy, legend, and lore of John 'Johnny Appleseed' Chapman will be invested in, is the ideas Johnny's image evokes nearly two centuries later.

You are likely well aware of the way caricatures of Chapman have been adapted and applied for all manner of commercial uses; everything from the obvious apple by-products to the non-sequiturs: matchbooks, playing cards, even gasoline. But it is not in these advertisements that we find the reminders of Chapman's real legacy, but in the humbler domain of public use. Schools, campgrounds, and festivals do more justice to the memory of John Chapman than any company logo.

This fascination with the associations a name can provoke led me into our archives here at the Johnny Appleseed Education Center and Museum,

and to a folder titled simply, 111.34.1934. This is the identification number of a humble object in our collection: a small booklet, with a paper cover colored somewhere between gray, blue, and green with browning, slightly curled edges and a simple yarn knot used for binding together the pages within. The inside cover is stamped with the unmistakable font of a typewriter, in three centered lines (see Figure 1):

Program
JOHNNY APPLESEED GARDEN CLUB
1934

Each following page, which is more stained and frail than the last, lists names, homes, dates, titles of lectures, seminars, and showcases. Seminars on how to properly pot roses and arrange bouquets must have been well attended, because this small gardening club from Mansfield, Ohio continued on until at least 1948 under the Johnny Appleseed name (though they only used his image 1946–1948).

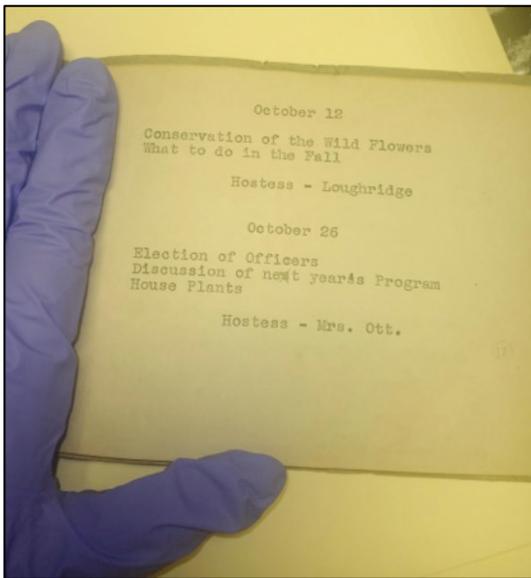


Figure 1: The Garden Club program

The history of gardening clubs in America has a strong feminist background, which is now detailed at length by the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. While the act of gardening itself is not a new phenomenon—ancient empires were famous for their elaborate gardens—gardening for aesthetics in America would be relatively underappreciated until the early 20th century.



Figure 2: John Bartram's house today

Botany clubs were first founded in America prior to independence, with Philadelphian John Bartram, America's first prominent horticulturist promoting public gardens as early as 1728 (Figure 2 shows Bartram's house). Botanical societies and garden spaces such as his, however, were exclusive to men. The first Ladies' Garden Club would not be established until 1891, in Athens, Georgia. This was, however, followed a decade later by the Lowthorpe School in Groton, Massachusetts, specifically founded to educate women in their Landscape Architecture program (Figure 3 shows a 1929 diploma).

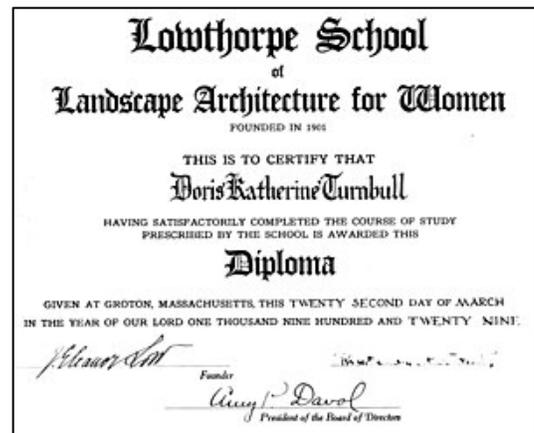


Figure 3: Lowthorpe School Diploma

These gardening clubs and careers were reliant on one very obvious resource, though: a yard where a garden could be kept. Victorian era gardening and the associated gardening clubs were reserved for families of a certain wealth, who had access to significant free space and the funds for home beautification. It was not until the transportation revolution (first electric streetcars, then the automobile) allowed suburbs to flourish that gardening became an activity for the layman—or in this case, the laywoman.

To return to our item 111.34.1934: Garden clubs such as the Johnny Appleseed Garden Club in Mansfield, Ohio provided socialization outlets in

which women also perfected their craft: women could now be seen as horticultural pioneers in their own right. During World War I, the Women's Land Army of America (see Figure 4) was a motivating influence on the achievement of women's suffrage. The USDA formally endorsed it during World War II, and it paved the way for many average women to earn wages gardening and partaking in horticulture outside of the home.



Figure 4: Training Poster for the Women's Land Army of America, 1917

These garden programs, with their flower arranging workshops and perennial planting discussions may seem to us a fun past time to exercise social graces, while obtaining mere tips and tricks. But in an important sense, they borrowed from John Chapman not only his name, but his pioneering spirit. So, here's to you, Johnny Appleseed Garden Club. I am fortunate to be a caretaker for your 1934 program. Your club was a small drop in the watershed of the women's rights movement's great river—which allows me to sit here today, writing this very article.

If you found this article interesting, I encourage all of you to visit the Smithsonian's online archives of garden history in America at gardens.si.edu

Until next time,

Mikaela

Director of Projects, Johnny Appleseed Education Center and Museum

Have a comment or question? Reach out to me at mikaelaprescott@gmail.com

John Chapman's Wars: 2. American Revolution

by Jeff Taylor

John Chapman's lifetime was a period of turmoil, and many of the most fractious events touched him directly—none, perhaps, more than the years from 1775 to 1781, the time of the American Revolution.

The main outlines of the Revolution are well known to most Americans: After the Boston Tea Party, the British blockaded Boston harbor. When British troops marched on the colonial armory at Concord, Minutemen fired "the shot heard 'round the world," and the shooting war began. George Washington took charge of a Continental Army that seemed at first only to retreat, until the resounding British defeat at Saratoga in 1777 convinced the French to join in the war on the American side. After a bitter winter at Valley Forge, the British were forced out of Philadelphia. The war moved mostly to the South, where Washington and the French fleet forced Cornwallis to surrender in 1781.

But little John Chapman had just been born when the First Continental Congress met in the autumn of 1774, and was not quite 7 months old when his father, Nathaniel, marched off to Concord with Leominster's company of Minutemen on April 19, 1775. To John, the Revolution looked very different.

It is difficult now to piece together the exact sequence of events as John would have experienced them, but we do know many of the highlights, and can make informed guesses at details now lost in records destroyed, or never kept in the first place.

John's Father, Nathaniel Chapman, was a "Minuteman." The First Continental Congress of 1774 made provision for the appointment of a Committee of Safety in each town of Massachusetts. These committees were empowered "to alarm, muster, and cause to be assembled with the utmost expedition, and compleatly armed, accourtied [sic] and supplied with provisions sufficient for their support in their march to the place of Rendezvous," a group of local men ready to leave their work "in a minute" —thus the nickname, Minuteman.

In 1775, Nathaniel's home town of Leominster had roughly 750 inhabitants, living in about 150 households. From that small number, roughly 50 young men (Nathaniel was not quite 29) marched off on the alarm of April 19th toward Concord, roughly 20 miles away. They were too late for the fighting, but continued another 15 miles to Cambridge, across the river from Boston.

Having chased the British back to Boston, some men went home. Military records show that initially, those who stayed were organized outside Boston into regiments: Nathaniel found himself a private in Colonel Asa Whitcomb's 23rd Regiment of Foot, in Captain John Joselin's company. With him was his brother-in-law Zebedee Simonds. Their initial engagement was for just 11 days, until April 29th.

But it was clear to many that the fighting was going to get serious, and a call was put out for 3-month enlistments. Both Nathaniel and Zebedee answered the call on April 26, and found themselves assigned to a new company under Captain David Wilder.

The situation was temporarily a standoff: the British occupied Boston and its harbor, but the militias had the city surrounded. In June, Massachusetts troops began to place artillery on a hill in Charlestown overlooking Boston. At the Battle of Bunker Hill, the British responded by crossing the river and taking the hill, but at a tremendous loss of life. Nathaniel appears to have fought there.

Meanwhile a Second Continental Congress convened in May, and in June they appointed George Washington commander in chief. He started at once for Massachusetts, reaching Cambridge in early July.

While Washington made his way north, Nathaniel returned to Leominster. Church records there show that on Sunday, June 25th, he and his wife Elizabeth were received as members of the Congregational Church, and both children—John, now nine months old, and his older sister Elizabeth, age five—were baptized. This would seem to be the act of a pious man, knowing he was returning to face real danger.

But though the siege continued, there were no further pitched battles in Massachusetts: instead, troops were sent north on the quixotic campaign to take Quebec. In August, his 3 months up, Nathaniel appears to have returned to Leominster, as did Zebedee. Except for his June baptism, little John had not seen his father for four months, but they were together through the winter of 1775-76.

In the spring, the British were finally forced from Boston, but only to regroup and head for New York City. Nathaniel appears to have re-enlisted, although there does not appear to be a military record for his service that year. We have a letter Elizabeth wrote to him June 3, addressed to Nathaniel at "Captain Pollard's Company of Carpenters at New York."

Washington's troops were fortifying positions on Long Island to prevent a British landing. Nathaniel, a carpenter by trade, would have been working on the fortifications. The Captain Pollard mentioned was likely Benjamin Pollard of Pennsylvania, a captain in Massachusetts Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin's regiment of Artillery Artificers—one of two such regiments in the Continental Army, responsible for making and repairing gun carriages, as well as building pallisades.

So it is likely Nathaniel re-enlisted in March 1776, as Washington was leaving Massachusetts. In any case, he was somewhere in New York when Elizabeth's letter arrived, and still there in July or early August when the news came to him (how, we don't know) that Elizabeth had died shortly after giving birth to a son, Nathaniel; and that the infant, too, had died.

John was at home for all of this: his father gone another long four months, his mother dying, then his new brother dying. Nathaniel had few living relatives who might have taken his children in, and they were far away, in Tewksbury. It is more likely the children's Simonds relations, most still living in Leominster, would have taken young John and his sister Elizabeth in.

Was Nathaniel able to come home to help re-settle his young family? There is no record of it. Washington's troops were fighting rearguard actions almost constantly as the British pursued them around the lower Hudson Valley and into New Jersey, so troops were hard to spare. Nathaniel would not have received news of the deaths in time to arrive for a funeral anyway; it is likely his Simonds in-laws made whatever arrangements were necessary, and informed him afterwards—if they could figure out how to reach him at all.

If Nathaniel's 1776 enlistment was for the then-usual one year, it would have ended in March 1777. And that is exactly when his military record re-appears, with a three-year enlistment beginning March 19, now as captain of wheelwrights in Major Joseph Eayres' company, in the second regiment of Artillery Artificers, under Colonel Benjamin Flowers. The promotion to captain suggests continuity of service, rather than enlistment after a six-month absence. So it is unlikely that John or Elizabeth saw their father after March of 1776.

The 1777-78 years were rough, for the children as well as the army. But beginning January 1, 1779 there was a change: Colonel Flowers' regiment of Artillery Artificers was re-assigned to the new

armory in Springfield, Massachusetts. Now there was a chance to re-unite the family.

It was of course impossible to have the children at the armory. And it is of course possible that the better course was to leave the children with their Simonds relatives in Leominster, 60 miles away. But there is another possibility. Nathaniel could have looked for a Springfield family in need of some extra funds, willing to take on two young children—John was now four, Elisabeth eight—and allow a father to visit.

A pleasant walk south of the armory lived a family that had also come on hard times. Mabel, aged 53, was newly widowed. Her oldest son Abner had died at 23 in 1776, and her second son, George, had a young family of four children to take care of. At home, Mabel had only three young boys—Jonathan was 14, Noah 13, and Ezekiel 6—and one nearly adult daughter, Lucy, who was 17.

Such a family, without a provider, would be looking to make money in any way possible. Could Nathaniel Chapman have been put in touch with Mabel Cooley in 1779 when he arrived in Springfield? Would that help explain how he came to marry Lucy Cooley so quickly after he left the army (He left July 1, and married Lucy July 24 in 1780)? Had he in fact come to know her, and she to know his children, through an accident of convenience?

We cannot say with any certainty. We can only say that it is plausible. If that is what happened, then John and Elisabeth got to know their future step-mother over a year before she formally assumed that title. And they got to spend time with their long-absent father as much as 18 months before he finished his tour of duty.

As for the Revolution, the war was in the far South in 1780: it was relatively peaceful in Longmeadow, where a new edition of the Chapman family was coming together. Not long after Cornwallis surrendered to Washington in October 1781, a new Nathaniel Chapman came into the world: John's younger step-brother, who would accompany him west not many years later.

Apple of the Month: The Northern Spy



The Northern Spy, from the USDA watercolor collection

If you were raised in New York or New England in the years before man reached the moon, you may recall the pleasure with which this apple was greeted when it arrived in markets just in time for the holiday season.

And you may also have wondered, as many have before you: how can an apple become a spy? Thereby hangs a tale!

A true American apple, the Northern Spy had a rough start in life. A Herman Chapin from Connecticut settled in East Bloomfield, NY (near Rochester) around 1800, and he planted apple seeds to start an orchard. Rabbits, however, gnawed the bark of the young tree before it had a chance to fruit, killing the trunk.

However, as often happens with apple trees, root sprouts sprang up. Some of the were collected by Chapin's brother-in-law Roswell Humphrey and replanted on his farm nearby.

128. NORTHERN SPY.

A very large, handsome, and excellent, new native fruit, of the Spitzenburgh family, which has lately attracted a good deal of notice. It keeps remarkably well, is in eating from December to May, and commands the highest price. The tree is of rapid and upright growth, and bears well. It originated on the farm of Oliver Chapin, of Bloomfield, near Rochester, and is likely to become a very popular apple.

Fruit large, conical, considerably ribbed. Skin smooth, of a yellow ground in the shade, but nearly covered with rich dark red, marked with crimson or purplish streaks, and sprinkled with prominent yellowish dots. Stalk three quarters of an inch long, rather slender, planted in a very wide, deep cavity. Calyx set in a rather narrow, furrowed basin. Flesh yellowish-white, juicy, with a rich, aromatic, sub-acid flavour.

A. J. Downing's description in 1845

The Northern Spy happens to mature rather slowly for an apple, taking nearly ten years to bear fruit. Assuming Chapin's original tree was seven or eight years along, and Humphrey's root sprouts took the full ten years to mature, the first Northern Spy



apples would have arrived about the same time as the great Panic of 1819.

In another decade, it had gained local fame, and picked up its curious name. By 1845, A. J. Downing listed it in his influential *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America* (see above), and it went on to become a popular commercial apple, especially in the northeast.

But why Northern Spy?

According to Conrad Gemmer, writing in *Pomona* (journal of the North American Fruit Explorers), the explanation comes from an 1853 letter to the editor of an early horticultural magazine:

Rochester, NY

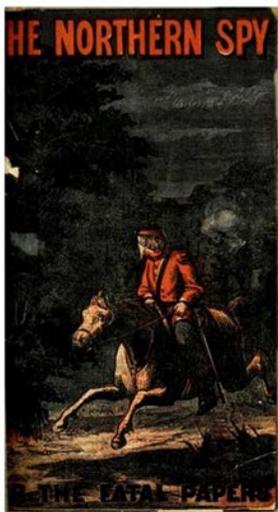
To the Editor,

In reply to Mrs. B who inquired about the naming of the Northern Spy apple, everybody around here knows that the Northern Spy apple was named for the "hero" of that notorious dime store novel **The Northern Spy**, but nobody will come out and admit it.

Yours truly,

JBK

That "dime store" novel, written sometime in the 1830s, featured as hero a young man traveling the South, ostensibly to interview re-captured slaves about their escapes in order to aid slave catchers. In reality, this young man was providing the slaves with information on escape routes and safe houses. A dangerous task for a true northern spy!



The northern spy on his journey

The Rochester region was a hotbed of abolitionism in that period, and the Underground Railroad passed through the Genesee valley. The novel was inflammatory (among other things, it glorified the murder of slave catchers), and some

have ranked it with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* as stirring up the passions that produced the Civil War.

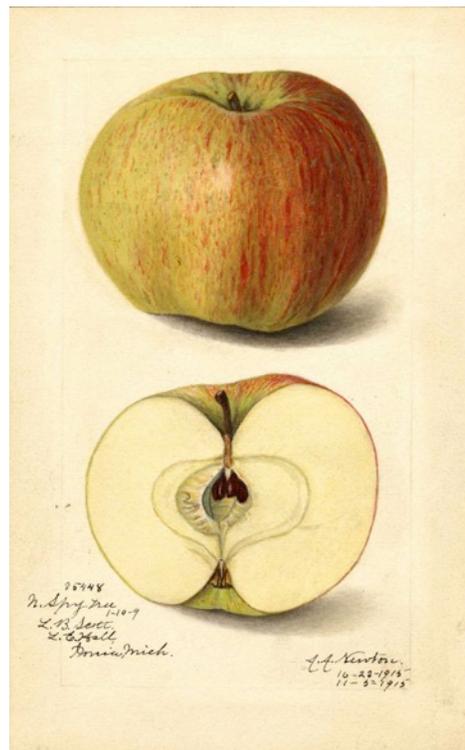
The apple itself is no longer popular with commercial growers: it takes exceptionally long to fruit; has a tendency to produce only every other year as it matures; does well only in colder regions like upstate New York; and is susceptible to several pests. But it has found commercial life as root stock, onto which more popular fruits are grafted.

It also lives on in heirloom orchards because of its exceptional qualities. Out On a Limb Apples (www.outonalimbapples.com) describes it as "well-balanced, crisp and juicy with the ideal apple taste." It is a winter apple (October-November) that keeps well, makes superb pies, and is a favorite with cider makers.

And it has had its literary moments. Here are some lines from "Conrad Siever," buried beneath an apple tree, in Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* (1916):

... here under the apple tree
I loved and watched and pruned
With gnarled hands
In the long, long years;
Here under the roots of this northern-spy
To move in the chemic change and circle of life,

Into the soil and into the flesh of the tree,
And into the living epitaphs
Of redder apples!



Another USDA watercolor of the Northern Spy

Teacher's Corner

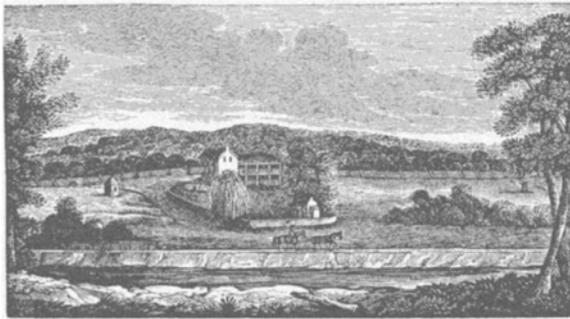
A Great Source for Early Ohio History

Part I

by Judith Maule



There is a remarkable history connected to the John Johnston Farm and Indian Agency in Piqua, OH. It is an Ohio History Connection Site, open to the public, and a fascinating place to visit with the family. The stories in this article come from Johnston's *Recollections of Sixty Years* (you can download a copy at the [Internet Archive](#)) written at his farm in Piqua in 1845, as edited by his great-granddaughter Edith Burt Trout in 1927.



The Johnston farm in Piqua as it appeared in 1846
(www.johnstonfarmohio.com/index.php)

John Johnston was the Indian Agent for the U.S. Government at Piqua from 1806 to 1853 and Indian Agent for the western U.S from 1812-1829. His chief responsibility was to negotiate treaties between the U.S. government and the Ohio Territory tribes: the Miamis, Shawanese (today we spell it Shawnee), Delawares, Ottawa and Wyandots. Treaty negotiations would have included, among other things, trading land for other land, drawing settlement boundaries, solving disputes, and after 1831, organizing the removal of tribes from Ohio to other territories.

During his extensive travels up and down the Miami and Maumee rivers, Johnston met with tribal leaders to negotiate these treaties. Overtime he came to respect these leaders, and as the Indians in turn came to trust him, they shared stories that too frequently told of the atrocities committed against the Indians by the new settlers. Johnston remained loyal to the U.S. government, ably dispatching his duties, while continuing to observe the unfair practices, lack of humane treatment and at times abject cruelty foisted on the Indians by the more powerful U.S. government. He wrote the following in his 1845 *Reflections*:

Seeing that our avarice, over-reaching and encroachments upon their homes have no limits,

nothing can save them but a total change in our policy towards them. I had been officially connected with the Indian service upwards of thirty years and had reflected much upon their deplorable condition. The result was communicated many years ago to the men in power at Washington, through Gen. Joseph Vance, our then, as at present, representative in Congress.

My plan was predicated upon the basis that without a local government, adapted to the condition and wants of the Indians, and for their exclusive use and benefit, their race must perish. Nothing has since occurred to change that opinion, but much to confirm and strengthen it. (p.17)

By the time his tenure as Indian agent ended, all the Indian tribes had been moved out of Ohio or were on small reservations.

Johnston's story began in 1791 when he was working for Colonel Craig in Carlisle, Pennsylvania (then a frontier outpost) as the survivors of the battle led by St. Clair arrived from their great defeat by the Shawanese near what is now Defiance, Ohio.

I thus early became familiar with persons who had been in the West, heard the beauty and extent of the country described, its large lakes and rivers, boundless forests, extensive prairies; I was determined to behold with my eyes what had been so often described in my hearing.



This portrait of John Johnston is on the wall of his house in Piqua, Ohio.

By January 1793, he had set out for Ohio with the son of his patron, Judge Creigh. Johnston hiked from Carlisle over the Appalachians on foot in the middle of winter, with oxen-pulled wagons loaded with goods, about the same time a young John Chapman was also crossing into the West. At Pittsburgh he joined young Creigh, who had gone ahead on horse-back to arrange river transport to

Fort Washington, at the new village of Cincinnati. The pair arrived at Fort Washington at the same time that General "Mad" Anthony Wayne was training troops there for a new campaign against the Shawanese and Miami.

During the two years following St. Clair's 1791 defeat, Wayne gathered, trained and equipped an army of proper soldiers, unlike his predecessor's untrained militiamen. Wayne barracked his group at Fort Washington. In 1793 his troops began to move north, methodically building resupply forts along the Miami River. Wayne was determined to be successful in the next battle against the Shawanese, and despite impatience from President Washington, he would not be rushed into an encounter before his army and his route north were prepared.

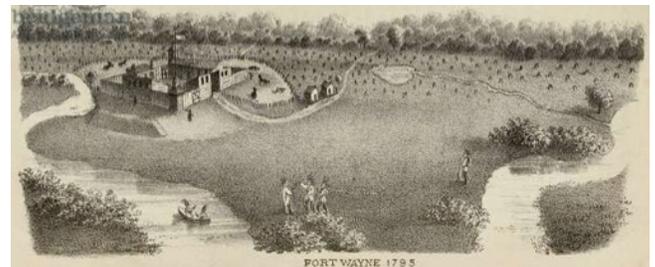
In late 1794 General Wayne and his troops finally met the Shawanese at Fallen Timbers, southwest of what is now the city of Toledo. The Indians were badly defeated, in part because their supposed allies, the British, who had a fort near there, had locked the Indians out, leaving them exposed with nowhere to hide.



After the Indians' defeat, the government negotiated the Greenville Treaty, drawing an imaginary line across Ohio, beginning at the Cuyahoga River south to Fort Laurens (near present day Bolivar), then westward across the state to Fort Loramie, and finally southward to the Ohio River,

about 50 miles west of Cincinnati. The land north of the line was recognized as belonging to the Indians, while the land south of the line was to be open to pioneer settlement (*see map*). This Treaty lasted from 1794 to 1808, but as Johnston told the Indians, "the white people loved land; it was their food; that they in the course of time might be called on in the West to sell the lands."

Within the newly-recognized Indian Territory, the government established Fort Wayne (named for the general) at the source of the Maumee River, on the site of an old French trading post. Fort Wayne was to serve as a contact point between the Indians and the government: a meeting place, a trading post, and a military base inside Indian territory. It was also to serve as the location where John Johnston's western adventure began.



Fort Wayne at the head of the Maumee River in 1795

Next time: Johnston elopes with his bride, helps French settlers, and becomes an Indian Agent.

About the Apple Core

The Apple Core is the official newsletter of the Johnny Appleseed Society, published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December, to members of the Johnny Appleseed Society.

About the Johnny Appleseed Society

The *Johnny Appleseed Society* is a nonprofit educational organization which seeks "to preserve and promote the legacy of John 'Johnny Appleseed' Chapman (1774 - 1845) through both educational activities, and the wide dissemination of educational materials that relate John Chapman's work and values to the world in which we live."

Membership is open to all who share our purpose. Annual dues are \$25 for voting members, \$10 for student members, and \$250 for Life membership. For more information, visit:

www.appleseedsociety.net

