



# THE APPLE CORE

## OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE JOHNNY APPLESEED SOCIETY



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### Field Trip to Exhibit Concepts Inc. (ECI)

ECI generously hosted a tour of their facility for those of us at the museum that wanted to go. Betsy Coffman, President of the Johnny Appleseed Foundation, Mikaela Prescott, Director/Curator of the museum and Robbin Ferriman, Assistant Curator, all went on this fun and exciting tour. ECI is based in Dayton, Ohio, they are experts in the design, production, and management of experiential and virtual environments. Their facility is about 3 football fields in length, so as you can imagine we did a lot of walking! ECI is a great place for creative people to get involved with. They help their clients tell stories in unforgettable ways, always keeping in mind the visitor's experience. ECI has been in business for over 30 years and have become the leading provider of turnkey solutions for interactive, fully immersive education solutions. We are very excited to have them creating the designs for the Johnny Appleseed Museum and making it the best experience for our visitors. Our main tour guide was Aaron Scarlata who is the account executive for ECI. He started working there in 2016. Among all the many magical and cool things, Aaron showed us we were oversized asparagus, magic doors that opened and had

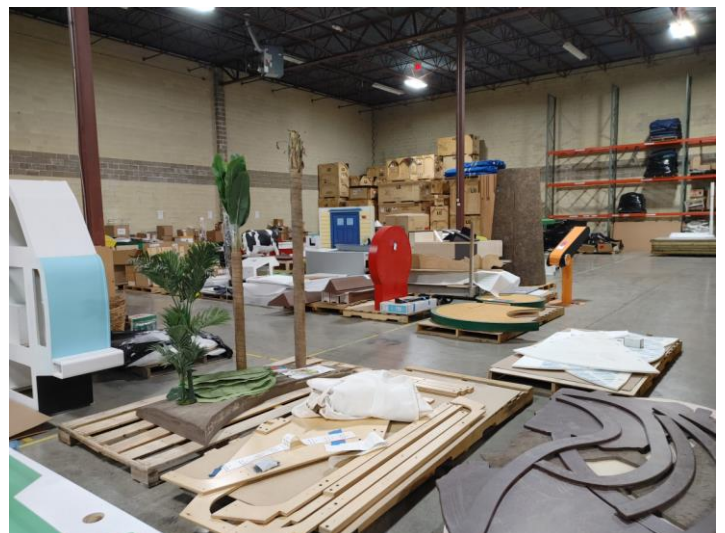
interchanging messages inside. We saw palm trees, and dinosaurs, both dead and alive. Oops! Did I say alive? 😊 Since our tour, ECI has begun installation within the museum, and it is looking great. Things are moving along at warp speed now.



Aaron Scarlata, with asparagus.

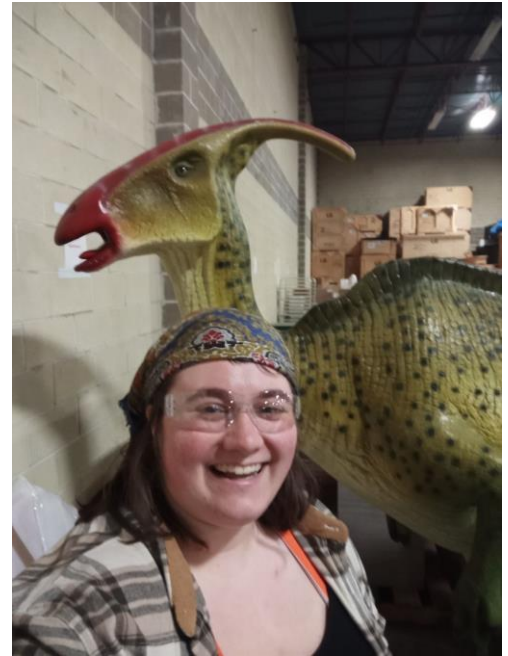


Johnny Appleseed Museum Project Board.



ECI has been great every step of the way, as the foundation members worked with the expert designers to come up with a revitalized and dynamic museum experience. That not only educates the visitor on the man that was John Chapman, but also how he became the legend that was Johnny Appleseed. And now for the best news! We have an opening date! November 28, 2023, the Johnny Appleseed Education Center and Museum will be officially open to the public! Our hours following our opening will be: Tuesday – Friday 10-4pm and Saturdays 10-2pm. Through the holiday season. Hours may change some after that. Will keep you posted! The museum is free to the public thanks to the many donations from people like you!

Submitted by Robbin Ferriman



Mikaela & friend!



Robbin, Mikaela, & Betsy. We love our apples!



### **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](http://www.appleseedsociety.net)

## Second Saturdays, Sept. 2023

This was a hit! Betsy Coffman, our foundation's president manned our booth, along with a few other volunteers. They had many people stop by and were eager to hear of our progress at the museum and anxiously awaiting our opening! It was great to network with the community and remind everyone that the Johnny Appleseed Educational Center and Museum are still here and active! Thank you to everyone who stopped by!



Visitors at Second Saturdays



Second Saturdays volunteer, Mike West.



Visitors at Second Saturdays



## Fun at the Johnny Appleseed Festival

Four members of the Johnny Appleseed Society represented the Society at the Ft. Wayne Johnny Appleseed Festival for the first time in 3 years. Nancy Sherwood, who has co-authored 2 books about Johnny Appleseed and authored one book by herself. Nancy's sister, Rita, Marlen Mathias and husband Virgil, all represented the Johnny Appleseed Society. The Johnny

Appleseed Festival at Ft. Wayne held its 49<sup>th</sup> annual festival with normally over 200,00 people attending in a two-day weekend. The Sunday Morning Home Show on CBS TV even did a story about the festival on the Sunday the festival was being held.

We had very good weather and a lot of interest in our books. We had visitors who had been looking for us as

they used to visit us before the pandemic, which caused us to miss a few festivals. One very interesting lady had purchased a Johnny Appleseed Tree 4-5 years ago and she brought an apple from the tree to share with us. She was a lot of fun telling us about her tree.

A gentleman who grows Heirloom Apple varieties was looking for us as he wanted to purchase an authentic Johnny Appleseed Tree to add to his orchard.

There were many great food vendors, crafts of all types and good music.

Many people who stopped to find out more about Johnny Appleseed and our Museum are regulars to the festival and are even from other countries. Australia for one.

Submitted by Marlen Mathias





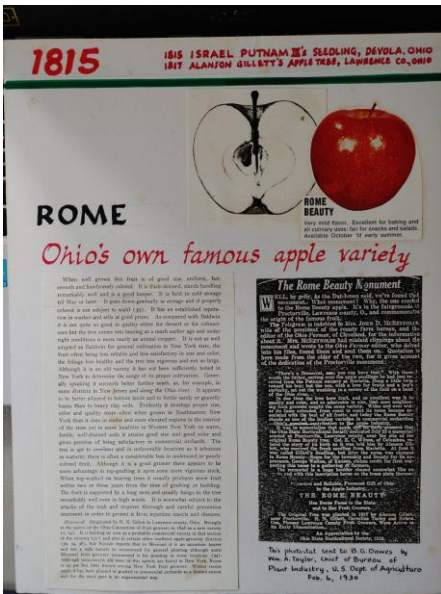
grown in Southeastern New York than it does in cooler and more elevated regions in the interior of the state yet in some localities in Western New York on warm, fertile, well-drained soils it attains good size and good color and gives promise of being satisfactory in commercial orchards. The tree is apt to overbear and in unfavorable locations as it advances in maturity there is often a considerable loss in undersized or poorly colored fruit.

Transcribed & submitted by Robbin Ferriman

**Apple of the Month:**  
**From Dawes Arboretum**  
**Rome Beauty:**

Brought to the notice of the Ohio Convention of fruit growers in 1848 as a new variety. When it is well grown this fruit is of good size, uniform, fair, smooth, and handsomely colored. It is thick skinned, stands handling remarkably well and is a good keeper. It is held in cold storage till May or later. It goes down gradually I storage and if properly colored is not subject to scald (39). It has an established reputation in market and sells at good

prices. As compared with Baldwin it is not quite so good in quality either for dessert or for culinary uses, but the tree comes into bearing at a much earlier age and under right conditions is more nearly an annual cropper. It is not as well adapted as Baldwin for general cultivation in New York state, the fruit often



being less reliable and less satisfactory in size and color, the foliage less healthy and the tree less vigorous and not so large. Although it is an old variety it has not been sufficiently tested in New York to determine the range of its proper cultivation. Generally speaking, it succeeds better farther south, as, for example, in some districts in New Jersey and along the Ohio river. It appears to be better adapted to bottom lands and to fertile sandy or gravelly loams than to heavy clay soils. Evidently it develops proper size, color and quality more often when

**Apple Recipe:**  
**Apple Dumplings with Cinder Caramel:**



**Ingredients:**

- 114.1 oz pkg refrigerated unbacked piecrust (2)
- 47-8oz apples, peeled (Rome or Honeycrisp)
- 1/3 cup packed dark brown sugar.
- 2 Tb. Unsalted butter, softened.
- 2 Tb. Chopped walnuts.
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon, plus 1/8 tsp for sauce
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten.
- 3/4 cup salted caramel sauce
- 2 Tb apple cider

**Directions:**

- Cut each pie crust in half and form each half into a round disk about 1/2 inch thick. Roll out disks into about 8-in. diameter circles. Using an 8-in. plate or cake pan as a template, cut exact circles

from rolled out disks. Cut decorative leaves from while you fill the apples.

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Grease a 2-qt square baking dish.
- Using a melon baller, core the apples, leaving some of the core intact at the bottom to keep filling inside. For filling, in a small bowl stir together brown sugar, butter, walnuts, and ½ tsp cinnamon. Spoon filling into centers of apples.
- Place one filled apple upright in the center of a pastry circle. Brush the edge of pastry with some of the beaten egg. Wrap pastry up and around the apple, pleating and pinching sides and top to seal. Repeat with remaining apples and pastry circles. Place dumplings in a prepared baking dish. Brush apple dumplings all over with beaten egg. Attach pastry leaves, brush with beaten egg.
- Bake, uncovered, until apples are tender when pierced with a skewer and pastry is golden. 50 to 60 minutes. Let cool for 15 minutes.
- Meanwhile, for sauce, in a small saucepan combine caramel sauce, apple cider, and the 1/8 tsp cinnamon. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, until slightly thickened, 5 minutes.
- Spoon sauce over warm apple dumplings. Serves 4.

## **From the Archives: Romance of the Sower:**

Hollywood handsome and Hallmark hunky! Howdy do, how are you? My name is Mikaela and I am the Director and Curator of the Johnny Appleseed Educational Center and Museum. 'Tis the season to put on your slippers and sip your cocoa while you watch all the most predictable holiday romance movies. Hey, no judgment from me, I'm a sucker for re-kindling romances underneath the mistletoe. It all really does put me in a mood to talk about romance.

While Johnny Appleseed is recognizable as iconography, the fact of the matter is, no two 'Johnny' interpretations ever look the same, because no one knows what he looked like. No photograph of Johnny Appleseed was ever taken. Sources wildly disagree on many details about his physical appearance, some swear he was tall, others say he was short, almost all agree he was gangly, but there is disagreement about his facial hair and how nice his teeth were.

Physical appearance aside, there is also the one matter which all renditions tend to believe: Johnny Appleseed was a strange fellow.

He's a bit off the mark from *People's Sexiest Man Alive*, or Hallmark's single dad-slash-firefighter-slash-Christmas tree farmer.

Today, I'm bringing to you some thoughts on *Johnny Appleseed* aka *Romance of the Sower*, a turn of the century novel by Eleanor Atkinson which takes a crack at 1800s romance that might make Jane Austen blush. Originally published in 1915 and dedicated to 'The American Pioneers' Atkinson follows Johnny Appleseed from young adulthood clear through to death and more specifically, speaks to a winding, will-they-won't-they



between Johnny and Betty, a young woman located somewhere between Ohio and West Virginia.

She was well-published, working under a pseudonym for magazines and writing children's educational materials. Her most well-known book was *Greyfriars Bobby*, a 1912 novel about a real life dog, which was made into two movies after her death, by MGM and Disney,

respectively. Her novel *Greyfriars Bobby* was well enjoyed and apparently, many found her work full of specific details, however, it was noted that the owner of the dog in her novel was nothing like the actual historical man.

So, Johnny was not the first historical figure Atkinson had embellished to her own liking, after all. That's not to say that John Chapman wasn't a likable man, history indicates he was liked enough to have stayed with the families he worked for, but indeed Atkinson made him into something of a 'perfect man.'

Atkinson uses John Chapman as the star of the story, and she writes on his politeness as he brings a chair to a pregnant woman who is exhausted while traveling through his orchard. He muses about being a good listener while the woman spins a yarn of her woes in wanting to find a safe place to raise her children.

Chapman yearns to care for his love interest Betty, fretfully asking if she will be cared for after the death of her caretaker aunt. He stands idly by while Betty marries another man, allowing him to play the titular 'nice guy' role, as he pines after her, but respects her decision. Johnny even goes so far as to return to Betty's homestead every year and plays with her children and eventual grandchildren, we love a family man. He admits internally his longing and begrudging acceptance of his feelings for Betty, but is never anything but gentlemanly, waiting in the wings for her to come to him.

Currently, a copy of Atkinson's *Romance of the Sower* is trying to be sold online for nearly five hundred dollars. We have a number of copies in our library and archives, so instead of paying the premium price, consider visiting us where you can read it for free. Maybe Johnny Appleseed can be your Hallmark hunk this year?

Submitted by Mikaela Prescott

### Upcoming Events:

- **Nov. 28, 2023** – Soft opening of the Johnny Appleseed Educational Center and Museum!  
**Hours:** Tues – Fri.: 10-4pm, Sat.: 10-2pm
- **April, 2024** – Grand opening of the Johnny Appleseed Educational Center and Museum!  
(Date to be decided.)

### Looking for Volunteers:

Looking for people who love to socialize and talk about history. Must be kid friendly and enjoy our local history, legends, and lore. You do not need an invite to volunteer, just simply sign up! It is easy and great fun!

Just call: 937-206-0915

### Accepting Submissions:

Do you love to write about local history? We are accepting articles, poetry, songs, and artwork about Johnny Appleseed. Please keep it family friendly. Please cite your sources and submit your work to [director@johnnyappleseedmuseum.org](mailto:director@johnnyappleseedmuseum.org)

We do reserve the right to deny to publish an article if it is unsuitable.

More fun pictures from our ECI Tour!



Cool magic door!