

Food, May 2008 Atlantic
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200805/apples>

*One man's mission to save abandoned (and glorious)
apples by helping people plant for the future*



Beyond the McIntosh

by Corby Kummer

Excerpt:

The millions of seedlings that grew from the seeds colonists brought from England—varieties meant for hard cider, not for eating—gave rise to what Bunker calls the “greatest breeding experiment” in history. Johnny Appleseed, whose real name was John Chapman, did not graft any of the apples he brought with him on his treks westward from New England, because his Swedenborgian Church viewed grafting exactly as many religions today view genetic engineering: only God could create an apple. (He sold them, as seedlings.) But farmers all over the United States did graft and name the apples they liked, sharing them with neighbors and friends and sometimes registering the names in order to sell them. By the end of the 19th century, Bunker says, nurseries offered hundreds of the more than 10,000 named American varieties, some of which became popular exports to Europe (which was doing intense pomology work of its own, particularly France).

From the Bryn Athyn Post, July 3, 2008

ATLANTIC MONTHLY MENTIONS SWEDENBORGIANS

by Don Rose

The May issue of the *ATLANTIC* magazine has an article on apples. I quote from page 111. [above]

The writer is mistaken. Look at the last page of Vera Glenn’s grand book on *The Apple Orchards*. There is an item by Rev. Kurt Asplundh in which he quotes *Divine Providence* 332 [by Emanuel Swedenborg] with a good meaning for grafting.

Johnny would not hurt a fly or crush an ant, and so he did not want to treat trees roughly. We Swedenborgians leave his tin pan hats and idiosyncrasies to himself. We are grateful for the great job he did as a spread of the good news from heaven.

From *The Apple Orchards:
An Historical-Fictional Account
of 300 Years of Powell Orchards Planted
in Pennsylvania and Ohio*
by Vera Powell Glenn
Fountain Publishing, 2007

Page 431

Excerpts from the Resurrection Address
for David Sylvanus Powell
Delivered September 24, 1999, Bryn Athyn Cathedral
by the Reverend Kurt Horigan Asplundh

*“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water;
that brings forth fruit in its season. And all that he does
shall prosper.”* (Psalm 1)

The growth of a tree presents a wonderful parable of human regeneration. In the language of comparison man’s infancy is said to be “like the tender shoot of a tree...and his childhood and youth are like the shoot growing up to a stem with its little branches. Natural truths which everyone first acquires are like the leaves with which the branches are covered...Man’s first steps in the marriage of good and truth [within himself]...are like the flowers which the tree puts forth in the springtime, and spiritual truths are the petals of these flowers...while spiritual goods...are like the fruit...”

Having made this comparison between the growth of trees and the spiritual growth of man, the Writings [of Swedenborg] add that “man, indeed, is a corrupt tree from the seed.” How then can he be saved? As every orchardist knows, the secret is in the grafting of fruitful branches to the old trunk....Such a hopeful and beautiful teaching! It is of the Lord’s Providence that new heavenly life can be engrafted on our corrupt hereditary life. We read: “There is possibly a grafting or budding...by which the sap drawn up from the old root is turned into sap forming good fruit.” (quotations from Swedenborg, *Divine Providence* passage 332)

To live the life of an husbandman puts man in constant touch with the Lord’s creation. To work with the season, the ever-changing weather and fertile soil holds its lessons of patience and trust.... “Husbandmen such as these,” we are told, “rise early in the morning, arrange their work, apply themselves with energy to their labor, are indefatigable in their work, and rejoice in it.... They love their fields and their vineyards, because of their produce; and love the fruits of them because they are blessings, and render thanks to the Lord, and so look to the Lord continually.” (Swedenborg, *Doctrine of Charity* passage 169)