

Shmanners 326: Johnny Appleseed

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[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: [sighs heavily] You know.

Travis: Wow!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Wow! That makes it sound like, "What a difficult day." But it's just been, like, a normal exhausting day.

Teresa: A normally exhausting day.

Travis: Just a normal day as a human on Earth, dealing with it all.

Teresa: Let me tell you something.

Travis: Oh boy.

Teresa: I spent the morning with our second-born. And I kept—

Travis: I like how much that sounds like something from *Game of Thrones*. Go on.

Teresa: Second-born.

Travis: Our second-born.

Teresa: I spent all morning trying to get her to go outside. [laughs quietly]

Travis: Yeah. Well, I don't know if you know—

Teresa: She did not wanna go outside.

Travis: Its— uh, that's where the bugs and the sun... and the dirt is.

Teresa: Yeah. But we are— it— the seasons, they are a-changin'.

Travis: Yeah! It's awesome. It's awesome. I like when it gets cold, 'cause then I don't feel bad for not going inside.

Teresa: Well— but it's—

Travis: [chanting] Indoor kids! Indoor kids!

Teresa: It's very nice outside. We're talking low 70's right now, especially in the morning.

Travis: What's the humidity?

Teresa: I'm not a meteorologist.

Travis: Oh...

Teresa: But, um, nice.

Travis: It's nice.

Teresa: Good.

Travis: So, 69, would you say? Nice.

Teresa: It was a very nice morning, and I could not get her outside. But fall is in the air, y'all!

Travis: Fall, y'all. Let me ask you a question, 'cause I was thinking about this. We're talking about Johnny Appleseed.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And one... I'm pretty sure he was real.

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: Pretty sure. But I also, as I was thinking about it, I don't know if Pecos Bill was a real person at any point. I don't think Paul Bunyan was? But is it based on something? I don't know anymore, because I barely know anything. I live—most of my life exists in a fantasy world of my own creation. Um, and sometimes Griffin's creation, and now Justin's creation. So I don't know what's real and what's fake anymore. But... I was thinking about, as we were coming in to record today, I was like, "Why do I feel such a close personal connection to Johnny Appleseed?"

And the reason is... from something was this song. "[singing] Oh, the Lord's been good to me. And so I thank the Lord."

Together: "[singing] For giving me the things I need, the sun and the rain and the apple seed. The Lord's been good to me."

Travis: Right.

Teresa: Yeah. Slightly different, uh— slightly different tunes we had, but yeah. That— we used to sing that as a grace stand-in in Girl Scouts.

Travis: So, my mom would, like, sing that to us as kids. That was, like, one of our lullaby good-night songs.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: What's that from? [laughs]

Teresa: I mean, I remember having it in a campfire songs handbook.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I don't know what exactly it's from, but...

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I mean, we also when we would say it as, quote, "grace," um, we would replace— we would either clap out rain, because we were camping, right? You didn't want the rain. Or we would say, "We're gonna say wind."

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So it's supposed to be rain, but we would often replace it. Um, so yes. We are talking about apple seeds, Johnny Appleseed. And, okay. So, the song. We have that in common. But I wonder, as is often the case—

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: What?

Travis: Okay. "The Lord is Good to Me" is a song sung in the segment "The Legend of Johnny Appleseed," a segment from the 1948 animated Disney film *Melody Time*. There it is.

Teresa: Cool.

Travis: From 1948.

Teresa: So Disney wrote it.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Or stole it.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: As is their custom.

Travis: Sure. But that's probably how my mom knew it, and how I knew it.

Teresa: Yes. Um, I'm gonna ask you.

Travis: Oh boy.

Teresa: Close your eyes.

Travis: Oh no.

Teresa: Tell me about how Johnny Appleseed looks in your mind's eye.

Travis: He's got... I believe a pan on his head. He's got his satchel over his shoulder, of course. In my mind, I'm going with no shoes. I'm going with no shoes. Some, like, simple, you know, sackcloth clothes. He's a simple man who likes the simple pleasures of life, as we've already discussed. The sun and the rain and the apple seed.

Uh, and he's just going down the line across America, poking his finger in the dirt, putting an apple seed. in there, walking three feet more, doing it again.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: There's no way that that's accurate. But that is who he is in my head.

Teresa: Okay, yeah. No, that's about the same for me, and most of his depictions. Usually, like, baggy clothes and maybe with a stick and a bindle, right?

Travis: Yeah. I think the bindle... includes the s— I think it's the— I don't think it can be a bindle without a stick.

Teresa: Anyway.

Travis: I don't think it's a bi— but now you said it, and I've also always heard bindle sti— oh my god. We're— I don't know. Can I tell you another thing I was thinking about earlier?

Teresa: What?

Travis: [crosstalk] When I was thinking about, is he real? I was thinking about Paul Bunyan, and I was thinking about how funny it would be if it was like, "Who ate all the flapjacks?"

And Paul Bunyan was like, "[loudly] I did, 'cause I'm a giant!"

And they were like, "Paul, you're 6'2". You ate 100 pancakes. Are you okay?"

Go on.

Teresa: [laughs] Are you okay?

Travis: No.

Teresa: [laughs] Alright. Uh, sometimes he is wearing a raccoon-skin cap or a pot on his head.

Travis: That's what I always picture.

Teresa: Yes. Well, you said pan, which I think is a colloquial difference, because—

Travis: Well, a saucepan is... a pot.

Teresa: Again, colloquial difference. Um, he's often depicted as scrawny, quite thin.

Travis: Well, all he eats is apples, man! Probably not.

Teresa: Um, I mean, you're not wrong.

Travis: [gasps]

Teresa: So, that's pretty close. The real Johnny Appleseed was a man named John Chapman.

Travis: Okay, so I'm glad his name was at least John.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: It'd be weird if his name was like, you know, Stephen Chapman and he went by John.

Teresa: And he frequented Western Pennsylvania.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, which is not far from us, which is why we've heard of him specifically, I think.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, described as very lanky and slight. Um, he— because he ate very little, and we will found out he ate very specifically. Um, and he traveled a lot on foot.

Travis: Probably not bare feet though, which is how I'm picturing it.

Teresa: He... he often was barefoot.

Travis: Well, yeah.

Teresa: And did— and did brag about how calloused his feet were. But, um, he was by all accounts very generous, and often gave away his shoes.

Travis: Oh, okay. 'Cause I was gonna say, like, I'm often barefoot too. To, like, get in the shower, or—

Teresa: No. Outside.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, so...

Travis: My RA in college used to brag— like, he used to walk around barefoot. Like, around college. And he— I asked him why. I was like, "Why do you do that?"

And he was like, "Well, I did it at first to see if I could do it. And then after a while my feet were just tough enough that it didn't bother me."

And I'm sitting there thinking, like, and someone put you in charge of kids here?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Okay! Somebody was like, "Yeah, this is a good decision maker."

Teresa: Everybody needs a shtick. You know?

Travis: I guess! Why isn't your shtick, like, the guy who never gets ringworm. You know what I mean? Like...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Oh, me? I've never had ringworm. That's kind of my thing." Anyways.

Teresa: Stories do tell of his somewhat eccentric attire, which was usually a tin can hat, which is a type of tin hat.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, looks—

Travis: Not like a little, like, empty can?

Teresa: Uh, no. Not a tiny empty can.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and he did often wear no shoes, and had kind of a cloak made out of a coffee or flour sack. You know, that was not uncommon to use those as clothing. Um, and he frequently accepted old clothing in exchange for apple seeds, and also would just give apple seeds away to people who needed them.

Travis: So, apple seeds really was his whole deal.

Teresa: Apple seeds was his whole deal. Uh, not, you know... uh, not because he was, like, replanting the Earth or something. You'll— you'll hear.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Now. He was born in 1774—

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: —in Massachusetts.

Travis: Ah, a revolution baby.

Teresa: And left home in the 1790's to settle in Pennsylvania.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, his father actually was a minuteman at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and served as an officer under George Washington.

Travis: I've heard of him.

Teresa: Me too.

Travis: He was in that one musical. Oh, two musicals, actually!

Teresa: Two— two musicals. [laughs] Um, his father was also very supportive—

Travis: It would be ten cents, but it's weird that it happened twice, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: If I had a nickel.

Teresa: Very supportive of John becoming an orchardist. Uh, and records show that his very first nursery was located in the city of Warren, Pennsylvania. Um, and—

Travis: Oh, nursery like plant nursery.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, he grew up in the time of the American, quote, "frontier." Right?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, where many people were pushing west into territories that were unknown to *them*.

Travis: Sure. Like when someone says "I discovered this great restaurant." It's like, no you didn't!

Teresa: [laughs] You did not.

Travis: Someone knew where that restaurant was before you got there, Doug! Sorry, Doug, if you're listening.

Teresa: [laughs] And many people knew about the lands west of the—

Travis: Yes. They lived there!

Teresa: —the eastern seaberd— seaboard.

Travis: They were from there, you might say!

Teresa: Exactly. Um, but... at the time, governments were encouraging settlers to plant orchards, because they had a grounding effect. It meant people weren't just passing through. Someone had to be there to take care of it, right? And the idea was where you had an orchard, a community could, like, pop up around it, because you had, like, a source of food, right? Um, and so when he was 18 he moved west to Pennsylvania with his half-brother into the city of Warren.

Travis: Johnny Pearseed.

Teresa: Do you— no. Peaches, actually. Anyway—

Travis: Wait, his brother did peaches?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: Peaches were another crop that was encouraged.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: They started an orchard, and the reason why it's so enduring today is because apples are such a perfect choice for the climate in what was, you know, what was then... the west. It's not really the west.

Travis: Pennsylvania.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Way out west!

Teresa: Indeed. Uh, "the frontier," quote-unquote.

Travis: Oh my god. Can you imagine if right now someone was like, "I've got a dream... being on the frontier. Western Pennsylvania!"

Teresa: I know, right? Um, and they had many uses. Not only could you eat apples, obvs—

Travis: You could throw 'em!

Teresa: You could make liquor.

Travis: Oh! Okay.

Teresa: Um, so during the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, there was an uprising of farmers and distillers in this particular area of Pennsylvania to protest the whiskey tax enacted by the federal government. I mean, that's because a lot of the drinking water, people didn't understand about, you know, uh, bacteria in the water. And if you were distilling, you...

Travis: Killed it.

Teresa: ... you killed it. So, a lot of people drank a lot of whiskey.

Travis: Plus, it's good. You ever had whiskey? Top notch.

Teresa: Top— top notch.

Travis: [simultaneously] Love that stuff.

Teresa: Applejack. Um, so the Ohio Company...

Travis: Mm-hmm?

Teresa: Actually promised 100 acres of land to anyone who settled past their first settlement, under the condition that they planted 50 apple trees and 20 peach trees on that land.

Travis: Peach I don't see as doing very well in the north. That seems like a southern fruit to me, right?

Teresa: I mean, I think it's a lot easier to grow peaches in the south.

Travis: Okay. Also you only get the one... you only get the one seed from a peach.

Teresa: From the peach. That's true. Anyway, um, so how did John Chapman become Johnny Appleseed?

Travis: Well, I can't wait to find out. But first, how about some promos for some other Max Fun shows? They're really good. You're gonna love these.

Teresa: Nice.

[theme music plays]

[music plays]

Dave: Oh my gosh, hi! I'm Dave Holmes, host of the pop culture trivia podcast *Troubled Waters*. On *Troubled Waters*, we play games like motivational speeches, and it goes a little like this. Riley, give us an improvised motivational speech on why people should listen and subscribe to *Troubled Waters*.

Riley: I look around this ad and I see a lot of potential to listen to comedians such as Jackie Johnson and Josh Gondelman, and they *need* you to get out there and listen to them attempt to figure out sound-based clues or determine if something is a *Game of Thrones* character or a city in Wales.

Dave: I have chills. I'm gonna give you 15 points.

[chime]

Dave: All that and so much more on *Troubled Waters*. Find it on Maximumfun.org or wherever you choose to listen to podcasts.

[music and ad end]

[music plays]

Tre'vell: Hey there, beautiful people! I'm Tre'vell Anderson.

Jarrett: And I'm Jarrett Hill. We are the hosts of *FANTI*, the show where we have complex and complicado conversations about the grey areas in our lives; the things that we really, really love sometimes, but also have some problematic feelings about.

Tre'vell: Yes. We get into it all! You wanna know our thoughts about Nicki Minaj and all her foolishness? We got you. You wanna know our thoughts about gentrification? Perhaps some positive, question mark?

Jarrett: Uh-oh.

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Jarrett: [laughs]

Tre'vell: Period.

[music and ad end]

Travis: So, when did John Chapman change his name to Johnny Appleseed legally in a court of law?

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, well, during the height of, like I said, the Whiskey Rebellion, Chapman was living in a cabin on Grant's Hill in Pennsylvania.

Travis: Whiskey Rebellion—

Teresa: Tending his orchard.

Travis: Whiskey Rebellion also sounds like a fun euphemism for, like, "I drank too much and I threw up."

Teresa: [laughs] My body's in a— in a whiskey rebellion?

Travis: Yeah, I'm going through a bit of a whiskey rebellion right now. I can't come into work.

Teresa: Um, but he was struck by the German cider mills south of the city.

Travis: And it hurt really bad!

Teresa: I mean, no, he just wasn't— wasn't keeping up with it.

Travis: Oh, like he was struck by, like saw 'em?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Not like struck, like hit him.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: How does a mill reach up and slap you?

Travis: No, somebody threw it.

Teresa: Oh no.

Travis: Like Paul Bunyan.

Teresa: Ahh.

Travis: Paul Bunyan picked up the mill—

Teresa: That— that's what we call a callback.

Travis: And Pecos Bill rode his tornado in.

Teresa: So he decided to push further west. And according to legend, in 1798 he gathered the leftover apple seeds from the cider mill, left his brother... with some friends? I don't know how old his brother was at this point.

Travis: I mean, his half-brother that started the thing with him?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Probably old enough to be cool.

Teresa: Alright. And headed west to sell seeds to settlers. So, originally this was for selling them, right? Um, and he went to Ohio, and—

Travis: I've heard of that place.

Teresa: —it was— it was so— his timing was so impeccable that it seemed like he could predict exactly where pioneers at the time were headed, and he would be there before they arrived, planting nurseries.

And this has kind of, like... two things, right? At the time, you didn't have to, like, buy land, right?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: There were no deeds or anything. Basically, if you planted something and took care of the land, it was yours, was the idea.

Travis: Okay. Well, that's like homesteaders, right? That's what a homesteader was.

Teresa: Sure, yeah.

Travis: I mean, that— 'cause that's a famous thing in Oklahoma. It's why it's called the Sooner State, because the idea was that a certain point when they had

the land rush where they were like, "Okay. On this day, you go out, you mark off the land, and if you take care of it, it's yours."

And some people left before they were supposed to. The sooner—

Teresa: [simultaneously] So they're the soonerers.

Travis: They went sooner than the others, and that became Oklahoma.

Teresa: Um, but as we know, this land did not, quote, "belong" to him. It already belonged to the indigenous peoples. Anyway— who were stewards of the land, not owners. That's a story for another time.

Travis: [simultaneously] I understand what you mean, yeah.

Teresa: Um, and so he would make these kind of makeshift nurseries and build fences out of, like, natural fallen logs and things like that to kind of, like, mark off where he planted things.

Um, and once his orchard had started to thrive and was being taken care of, he would leave it in the hands of someone else who he was, like— it was kind of like, um...

Travis: Like a foreman, or like a stew— like, did he still own it?

Teresa: He still, quote, "owned" it. Right? So it was not quite sharecropping.

Travis: Mmm, okay.

Teresa: In there.

Travis: But it was like, "Hey. Take care of this for me, and... I'll— I'll pay you, and stuff."

Teresa: Yeah, kind of. "I'll even pay— I'll pay you in food, and also you can live on my land?"

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Kind of.

Travis: Whatever. It was the wild— it was— well, wild west was not this state, but, I mean, it was the wild western of Pennsylvania. Okay.

Teresa: So then, um, once the pioneers arrived he would return to his nursery and sell the apple seedlings for six and a quarter cents.

Travis: I bet that was good money back then.

Teresa: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. But if you didn't have money, he was willing to barter, or he started extending lines of credit, which is another way that he seemed generous, but maybe was not so. [laughs quietly]

Travis: Well, it's interesting, because I wonder if there was some sort of, like, self-fulfilling prophecy kind of thing, because you say, like, "It was like he had a sixth sense of where they were gonna be," right? But if you were like, "I wanna look for a new, like, land to homestead on," and it was like, well, there's already, like, an orchard of apples growing there, so it's really easy to, like, transplant those to your place and be like, well, then that seems like a really good place... to go. So, like, if you could pick a land that had, like, good running— you know, like a fresh running stream or whatever and good land and you plant it, and then it's like, well, that makes it that much more likely for people to want to homestead there.

Teresa: Right. Well, and so he gets this oppor— he gets this kind of, like, uh, generous spirit placed upon him. But, like, he was a pretty rich guy. He practically, like— he was a landowner because he cultivated the land, right? And so, like, he— when he died he had almost 1000 acres in his possession.

Travis: Oh, wow.

Teresa: So I always thought about him kind of like—

Travis: That's 10 times more than Winnie the Pooh!

Teresa: Yep. [laughs] I always thought of him kind of like, just, like, moseying down a dirt road just throwing seeds everywhere.

Travis: Yeah, right?

Teresa: Right? Because that's not— that wasn't it.

Travis: I really did picture him as, like, this almost, like, zen-like character of like, "I possess nothing, and nothing possesses me! And I live on the— I've got the sun and the rain and the apple seed, and that's all I need."

Teresa: Well, I mean, that's not entirely untrue. He was a member of a Christian denomination known as the Church of New Jerusalem, and one of the things that it taught was a man could most experience God through nature, and that a good life was one lived simply. So a kinda zen experience.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, and so here is the other thing is, uncommon for the time, he was a devoted vegetarian.

Travis: Interesting.

Teresa: And he was an advocate for the protection of nature and of animals. Um, and I mean, so nowadays we know lots of people, like conservationists and— and vegans who abstain from meat-eating for some sort of, like, spiritual fulfillment or value or something like that.

Travis: I mean, there's all kinds. Moral, health...

Teresa: Exactly. Um, but this made Johnny eccentric in his time. Um, so that a lot of the stories about his food choices and his care for animals were left out of legend. But there are a few. Where he would be— he is said to have bought sick horses who were going to be put down and eaten, and would release them on his— his orchards.

Travis: And those guys love apples!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Do you think that was ever a problem for him? He was like, "Ugh. How do I— how do I marry my— my love of horses, but also I don't like when they eat my apples. What a bummer."

Teresa: I mean, I think a horse would most likely want to eat the apples that fall on the ground.

Travis: That's pretty true. They're really lazy. They don't like climbing up trees.

Teresa: Right. So if you pick the apples that are still on the trees and the horses eat the ones that are on the ground, it probably doesn't matter that much.

Travis: Do you think— like, how much of this eccentricity stuff... we talk about, like, him wearing cloaks made out of, like, flour sacks and stuff, but he had money. And him being, like, shoeless, right? Even though he had money, right? How much of this do you think was, like, part of the sales pitch, right? Of just like, "Ah, the frontier! Oh, you're a real homesteader if you buy from this guy, 'cause he's, like, of the land, and he's like this wandering mysterious figure. He's Johnny Appleseed, you know?"

It's almost like when you have a used car salesman and they're like, "I'm Crazy Eddie! My pri—" right? Where it's just like that.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: This kind of seems like that kind of deal. Where it's like, oh, well, he's literally made a name for himself out of being this eccentric, notable character.

Teresa: Sure doesn't hurt.

Travis: Right?

Teresa: Yeah. Um, he's often depicted with a dog, and that is because there's a story about him where he, um—

Travis: Turned into a dog.

Teresa: [sighs] No.

Travis: Oh, because of a ring he found, and he was a lawyer.

Teresa: Where he freed a trapped wolf and nursed it back to health.

Travis: Wait—

Teresa: Uh, and that followed him around.

Travis: Okay. I definitely have been influenced by this in real life.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I definitely knew that. Like, this is thing, you said that and it rang so many bells because this was, like, a dream. This, and there's a book called *My Side of the Mountain* about a kid who, like, runs away from home, or gets lost in the woods or something and, like, lives in a hollowed-out tree and, like, raises a baby hawk to, like, be his pet. And it's based on a true story, from what I remember.

Teresa: Well, the first thing I thought of was *The Legend of Natty Gann*, right?

Travis: Oh, I don't know that.

Teresa: [whispering] What?!

Travis: Sorry!

Teresa: Look it up right now. You must know.

Travis: I— can I tell you what's weird? In my mind, I'm conflating with *The Secret of NIMH*.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] And, like, I know— I know that those are two different things.

Teresa: She's an orphan who had a wolf for a pet.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, you know, and was generally awesome through all of her lil scrapes.

Travis: [snorts]

Teresa: Well, okay, not lil scrapes.

Travis: I just love— I just love how you and I are like— "Yeah, no, but mine was like a kid who lived in the woods." Like, "*Mine* was a kid in the woods." Like, "Yeah, but mine was a hawk!" "Well, mine went through lil scrapes." [laughs] I just like it.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, wait! I definitely know this. Yeah, I definitely know about this.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: There was also, like, *Iron Will*, which was another one of, like, there's a boy and his sled dog. I think it's just like, at some point, especially Disney was like, "You know what people like?"

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: "People and dogs. Let's do it."

Teresa: They like— they like some un— you know, unforeseen people-animal pairings.

Travis: Ah, John Cusack was in it.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, so, I mean... there... there are obviously a lot of kind of, like... [sighs heavily] I don't wanna—

Travis: Oh, the star of *The Legend of Natty Gann* is married to Patton Oswald now!

Teresa: Wow!

Travis: Yeah! Okay. I knew she looked familiar in the poster I saw.

Teresa: Anyway. Uh, the things that are like—

Travis: Welcome to our podcast—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: *Who's Married to Patton Oswald.*

Teresa: They're kind of eccentric about him, right? We've talked about that.

Travis: Patton Oswald?

Teresa: No!

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: Johnny Appleseed! Come back, come back, come back.

Travis: Okay, I'm back. Reel me in, reel me in!

Teresa: He was a devout missionary for his faith.

Travis: Sure. The Lord's been good to him!

Teresa: Which would explain the song, right? And it's—

Travis: I— I— it will surprise our listeners not at all to know that I am not a devout follower of a faith. But there is a part of me that is, like, satisfied that having that in the song isn't just, like, hokum, that it wasn't just like, "How do we use Johnny Appleseed to talk about Jesus?"

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: And it's like, no! There's a historical basis for that, is actually like, oh, okay. That actually makes me feel better.

Teresa: And he, you know, as such a— if not wealthy, prolific landowner... um, he was asked more than once why he never settled down to have a wife and a family and all this kind of stuff. And it's reported that he said that no woman was, quote, "pure enough" to compare to his love of nature.

Travis: Hmm. "I only wanna marry an apple!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Wait, what, Johnny? What did you say?"

"You heard me!"

Teresa: He never did find a wife. He said that—

Travis: Hey, can I also just say, uh, Johnny... [pained noise] not great. Not great!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: No woman pure enough! Why not just say like, uh...

Teresa: "I don't wanna."

Travis: "I like walkin' arou— I— I don't want to."

Teresa: He always said he would, quote, "Find a wife later in Heaven."

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Anyway—

Travis: By then I think everyone's gonna be pretty settled, Johnny!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I don't think anyone's up in Heaven like, "Finally! Time to date." Come on, Johnny.

Teresa: The barefoot thing you mentioned earlier, like I said, he was— he's often pictured barefoot. He did occasionally wear shoes. Um, but he liked to brag about how his feet were so rough and calloused that he could step on a needle with no pain, or walk on hot coals without being burned. I bet he also used that as kind of his missionary tactic.

Travis: Also, sales pitch! This is what I'm saying!

Teresa: Yeah. So all in all I think that the good probably outweighs the bad, right?

Travis: I mean, yeah. We haven't hit on anything, you know— whenever we do a bio— whenever you read or listen to or do a biography on someone, you always are like, "Ooh, are we gonna hit that point where it's like, 'Well, but here's the catch.'" Right? This just seems like he was eccentric, and maybe a little bit more, uh... like, business-minded than you would expect. But he doesn't seem cutthroat about it. He doesn't seem like he was tricking anybody or anything. It's not like he sold them apple seeds that were actually pebbles or something, you know what I mean?

Teresa: Right. Um, the apples that he planted, the apple seeds he planted were not the kind of apples that we think of today. They were called splitters.

Travis: Were they like the little kind of sour ones?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So they were the small, hard apples.

Travis: You get better cider out of those.

Teresa: That's it. And, I mean, I think that it was great for the economy as it stood then, because since you get all of the cider out of it, it's a great, like, revenue stream, right? And like I said earlier, drinking water was often unsanitary, so much to the point that the average—[laughs] the average pioneer was drinking 35 gallons of hard cider a year.

Travis: Is that a lot? Once again, this is a thing of like, there are certain— do you ever run into this where there are certain, like, numbers— like if somebody said, you know, the average human being generates... like, 400 pounds of trash a year, right? You're like, okay, I picture that. Right? I get that. But then there are certain things where someone's like, "35 gallons a year." And I'm like, "I don't know!" If I divide it— like, if somebody said you drank 35 gallons of milk a year I'd be like, "That seems like a lot."

But that's also, like, what, 3 gallons a month? That's a lot— I guess that's a lot.

Teresa: It's a lot.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and, you know, you could also drink beer. You could also drink wine. You could also drink tea, right? Because you boiled the water.

Travis: Well, yeah, but I don't think people were doing tea at this time, 'cause we were just coming off that British Revolution. We threw it into the—

Teresa: You could drink coffee.

Travis: Yeah, but coffee's a diuretic. You shouldn't drink coffee if you want to get hydrated.

Teresa: [laughs] Anyway.

Travis: I think tea is, too.

Teresa: Um, also apple cider vinegar comes from this time of apple as well, which is great for preserving food, you know, if you're a settler.

Um, and then he accidentally, Johnny Appleseed, contributed to the adaptation of the apple tree, because he did not believe in grafting.

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: Which is something that a lot of our current produce is made from. Because we don't want it to change, right? So if you want— if I say I want an avocado, I always want the avocado to look like the avocado I know it looks like. But when you have cross pollinating plants, that doesn't happen, right? Because they mutate and they change. And over time, it could turn into something else, because that's what the tree gives you, not what you're asking for.

Travis: And it makes it more resilient and makes it a stronger crop, right? Because then it's growing one that survives. I've told you this about bananas, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: So for anyone at home, this is just an interesting fact that you can impress people with at parties. Um, so the bananas we have, I believe they're Cavendish is the, like, strain of them, for lack of a better word. And they do not, like, have seeds, right? That are viable to plant new plants. So the only way to grow more banana plants is to graft them from cuttings, to take cuttings from banana plants.

Teresa: Same thing with Hass avocados.

Travis: Yeah. So, like, every banana tree that is grown commercially is all from, like, the— is genetically identical, because they're all just cuttings from the same trees over and over again. So if there was a disease that affected one of our commercial banana trees, it would hit all of them. And, like, the banana supply would be wiped out. So they're trying to, like, grow new forms of bananas and stuff, and figure out a way to be able to grow them from, like, seeds, so that they can be that resilient, healthy thing.

Teresa: Right. Um, we have golden delicious and red delicious apple because of his refusal to graft. Um—[laughs quietly]

Travis: I have to admit, though, two of my least favorite ones. They tend towards a little bit too soft for me. The bigger apples tend to be too soft. Give me a honeycrisp. Give me a pink lady. Give me a Fuji, any day of the week. The smaller, crunchier, a little bit sour... that's what I want in my apple.

Teresa: Alright. So, um, in 1845, it is said he took a 15 mile walk to lead an ox to repair an orchard fence. He... got pneumonia.

Travis: Yeah. He was 71!

Teresa: And that night, he came to a friend's cabin, where he ate a simple meal, read his bible, and laid down to sleep on the floor. Never woke up.

Travis: Put him in a bed!

Teresa: Well...

Travis: He's 71!

Teresa: He doesn't want a bed. He wants to sleep on the floor.

Travis: Ah.

Teresa: So, March 11th.

Travis: So he's dead.

Teresa: Uh, yes.

Travis: Oh, man.

Teresa: March 11th, 1845.

Travis: I hate that this is how I find out. That happens all the time on this show.

Teresa: Okay. So... by all accounts, he owned more than 1200 acres of land during his lifetime, and probably much more that he lost track of. Because, you know, somebody who wanders around like that probably isn't a good bookkeeper? [laughs quietly] Um, but he left everything to his sister, and it is believed that he lies in an unmarked grave in a town just north of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Travis: I'm gonna find it.

Teresa: Um, and by unmarked, there is a stone, a simple stone that reads "He lived for others."

Travis: Oh, okay. Is there an apple tree growing out of the middle of the grave?

Teresa: No.

Travis: 'Cause— oh.

Teresa: No, there isn't. Um, but there is one apple tree that he planted that is still alive. In Nova, Ohio, there is a 176-year-old apple tree, which is one of the last known apple trees planted by him.

Travis: Wow.

Teresa: Um, most fruit trees live about only 45 years, because disease, and—you know, it takes a lot of energy to make fruit for a tree.

Travis: So how did this one grow, like, 170-some years?

Teresa: [amused] Grafting.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Yeah, he hated it, but this one I guess is fine.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, so you can—you can visit that, quote, "unmarked grave." You can also see in Massachusetts there is a recreation of his childhood home, and there is a festival—

Travis: I bet they leaned a little harder into apple decor than was probably there originally.

Teresa: Probably.

Travis: You know they were like, "[mumbling quietly] Well, we should put some apples."

Teresa: "[mumbling quietly] We should put some apples."

Travis: "We should put some apples around."

Teresa: Uh, there's also a pioneer festival in Fort Wayne, Indiana that they hold in Chapman's honor. You know, demonstrations, games, farmer's market and, you know, apples.

Travis: Sure. Well, that's great. I'm glad he wasn't a piece of crap. Yay!

Teresa: [laughs] So often we do a little bit of these, like, kind of icons of especially US history and we find out that it's not super awesome.

Travis: And especially white folks. Usually with the white folks it's like, "Oh, no!"

Teresa: [groans]

Travis: Um, but he doesn't seem to be a piece of crap, so that's great. Yay!

Teresa: Hooray!

Travis: Uh, thank you so much for listening. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to our writer and researcher, Alex, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to you for listening. We could make this show without you, but why? Why?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, I also want to say thank you to our Max Fun home. Check out all the other amazing shows there. If you want—

Teresa: Some new ones comin' up!

Travis: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah!

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Go check it out if you haven't in a while. Maximumfun.org, see all the new shows there. Pick a new favorite. A new, old favorite.

Teresa: But keep listening to us.

Travis: Yeah, don't— yeah. That goes without saying. Um, and if you want to check out the other McElroy projects, you can go to mcelroy.family. Check out all the great McElroy merch at mcelroymerch.com. That should be easy to remember.

Teresa: And tour's comin' up!

Travis: Yeah! Check out those live shows at bit.ly/mcelroytours. We got... let's see. When will you— I think you're gonna listen to this... uh, yeah. We're doing San Jose and Denver next week, so make sure you go check that out. Bit.ly/mcelroytours. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: Well, we always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. That's @shmannerstcast, where we get listener-submitted questions when we call for those on our topics. Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook Group, *Shmanners* Fanners. If you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today.

Um, also, please continue to submit your topic suggestions. We've gotten a lot of great ones in. Also, your idioms. I'm looking forward to our next idiom episode. I love those episodes. And say hi to Alex, 'cause she reads every one.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to *Shmanners*...

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it?

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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