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Natural Size
3 1/4 inches
in diameter.

A SIX YEAR OLD MISSING LINK TREE.
Height, 17 feet 4 inches; width of top, 20 feet; circumference at base, 21 1/2 inches

GROWN BY

MISSING LINK APPLE CO.
NURSERYMEN,
CLAYTON, ILLINOIS.

Nursery Established in 1881. Disseminators of Missing Link Apples

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF ADAMS. } ss.

I, HENRY BARTLETT, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that I was present when the above measurements were made, and they are correct.
HENRY BARTLETT, Notary Public.

THE MISSING LINK

Is a vigorous grower, exceeding any apple known to horticulturists for rapid growth, symmetrical form, never needing to be pruned while shaping the head. Branches heavily shouldered, making the tree absolutely wind and storm proof. Fruit large, oblong, flattened at ends, red and green when picked; green turning to rich golden yellow as the fruit comes into season for use. Stem long, thus enabling the fruit to sway with the wind, adhering firmly until picking time. Calyx large, basin open deep furrowed, flesh yellowish marbeled, tender and juicy, improving with age and highly aromatic. Season for use, March to September. Keeps twelve months or more in any cellar.

IMPORTANT:— At each of the Annual Meetings for the years of 1897, 1898 and 1899, the Illinois State Horticultural Society awarded the MISSING LINK APPLE the First Premium as the best New Apple "Worthy to be Recommended." See Report of Committees on Awards, Class "1," in each of the above years and report for the years above named. Readers of this Circular will bear in mind that the State Horticultural Society is composed of the progressive, wide awake, up-to-date Nurserymen, Horticulturists and Fruit Growers of the State. This unqualified endorsement is convincing proof of the superior excellence of the MISSING LINK.

THE MISSING LINK APPLE.

A ROYAL ROAD TO WEALTH.

We call especial attention to the contents of this circular and urge all persons who desire to purchase the *best* apple offered to the American public to carefully read every paragraph.

The apple is commonly and very properly called the King of Fruits. Its history goes back to the hoary days of antiquity. It is first mentioned in the days of Hesperus, Hercules and Plato. Many other ancient writers mention it. It was reserved, however, for the present age and our own land to bring to its present marvelous development this noble fruit. The MISSING LINK Apple is the acme of this development.

American products are rapidly pushing their way in the great markets of the world. This is especially true of the American apple. England, Germany and France are importing our apples in large and increasing quantities yearly, thus opening up an unlimited market for the apple crop of the United States.

The one great cry of our cousins on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean is: "Ship us apples that will keep in good condition during the late spring and early summer months, apples that will keep in good condition without the questionable aid of cold storage." This demand is made because cold storage robs the apple of its flavor, and a cold storage apple soon rots when exposed to the air, and the poor and coarse quality of the Ben Davis and Willow Twig are unsatisfactory to the European public.

If the American apple growers can raise an apple that will meet this imperative, increasing demand, it will be a veritable Klondike in itself. Farmers can then demand and receive a fancy price for their apples, and "low prices," and "hard times," the curse and bugbear of the American Agriculturist, will be a thing of the past.

The Missing Link Apple Co., of Clayton, Ill., offer an apple to the farmers of the United States possessing these qualifications. A careful perusal of this circular will convince the intelligent reader that this is no idle claim. The most critical and even unfriendly investigation into the claims of the Missing Link, has convinced the most skeptical that we have found the perfection apple. The testimonials and diplomas printed in this circular are absolute proof of this.

History of the Missing Link.

Mr. D. Shank, president of the Missing Link Apple Co., of Clayton, Ill., is a practical nurseryman of large experience. For a number of years he has propagated all valuable sorts of apple tree sent him by his friends and customers.

Many years ago a customer gave Mr. Shank a few scions from a chance seedling apple, with the request that he would carefully propagate them. The reason of this request was that the apple had most wonderful keeping and other excellent qualities. The original seedling of this species was brought from Ohio over sixty years ago. Each scion received careful propagation and care. When the trees arrived at bearing age it was proven beyond a doubt that he had found the apple for which fruit growers had been looking for the past fifty years.

In view of the fact that this apple will keep in good condition from year to year (a wonderful quality possessed by no other apple), thus filling a gap in the apple season that has never before been filled. We gave it the unique and significant name of the "MISSING LINK."

Before putting this apple before the public we have thoroughly tested it. Trees reared by us in our orchards have been bearing fruit for several years, and have produced a crop each year, fruiting at four years from date of planting. We are thoroughly convinced that we claim nothing for the apple that is incorrect.

We grow a full line of Nursery Stock embracing all Standard Varieties of fruits. We

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF ADAMS, } ss.

I, J. L. Staker, a Notary Public, in and for said county and state, do hereby certify that S. H. Trego and E. T. Curry, both residents of Clayton, Illinois, did this day appear before me and under oath say, that they have fully examined the cellars of the Missing Link Apple Co., and we find the Missing Link apples of crop of 1897 yet in a sound state of preservation, and their quality to be excellent. We further testify that we have seen the apples at various times all through the summer months; and know them to be the same apples as those found in the cellar by us. We further testify that the cellars are just the same as any ordinary stone walled cellar; and that no special process or extra care has been given the apples. Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 19th Day of November, 1898.

J. L. STAKER, N. P. [SEAL.]

S. H. TREGO.
E. T. CURRY.

believe in progression, and ever since the establishment of our nursery, in 1881, it has been our aim to select our scions and buds for propagation from trees showing the highest types of fruits; and in many instances we have the third generation in bearing. Especially is this true of the commercial apples; a test of our trees will prove the fact.

WARSAW, ILL., November 28, 1898.

The undersigned, expert judge on fruits at Illinois State Fair, found on exhibition an apple propagated by the Missing Link Apple Co., of Clayton, Illinois, called the MISSING LINK APPLE, which in keeping quality is deserving of commendation, and gives great promise of value to growers of fruit. Specimens from crops of two seasons were shown together. I have examined the specimens of MISSING LINK apples at the Illinois State Fairs, also at the Illinois State Horticultural Society meetings held at Springfield, Illinois, in December 1897, 1898 and 1899, where it took the first premium as the best new apple in the State of Illinois.

JAMES T. JOHNSON.

To whom it may concern:

We, the undersigned citizens of Clayton, desire to testify to our personal knowledge of the wonderful keeping qualities of the MISSING LINK apple. We believe that the apple is all that the Missing Link Apple Co., claims for it. We further testify to the reliable character and business standing of each member of the Missing Link Apple Co.

JAS. B. COE, of Coe & Curry, Hardware.

S. A. HARDING, Mayor.

W. F. GIVLER, Agent Wabash R. R. Co.

D. A. DAVIS, Druggist

C. H. MOFFETT, Farmer.

FREDONIA, N. Y., September 29, 1897.

Missing Link Apple Co., Clayton, Ill.:

GENTLEMEN—We are in receipt of your letter of the 25th inst. Also the samples of the MISSING LINK apple, which reached us in perfect condition and were greatly enjoyed by ourselves and the members of our office force. They were in a most remarkable condition of preservation for an apple grown in 1896. Both apples were perfectly sound, juicy and fine eating, and the quality we should consider first-class.

Yours truly,

GEO. S. JOSSELYN.

CLAYTON, ILL., March 1, 1900.

To whom it may concern:

We, the undersigned, take pleasure in recommending the well-known Missing Link Apple Co., of this place, and of testifying to the reliable character of the firm and their financial ability to fulfill any contract they are likely to make. Any inquiries in regard to them will be cheerfully answered.

BARTLETT & WALLACE, Bankers

Testimonials Regarding the Missing Link Apple.

We can give but a brief outline of a few of the many testimonials on our files for want of space.

A. W. BOSCOV, Carthage, Ill. Exceeds any apple known to me, as a keeper. Tested it myself.

REV. W. H. SHANK, Claremore, Indian Territory. Never saw an apple equal to it in keeping and good flavor when old. Tested it in my home here.

I. M. LARIMORE, Plainville, Ill. I have tested it in my cellar and never saw its equal as a keeper.

JAMES M. HOUCK, Medora, Ill. I used an apple of crop 1897 for sample apple in my canvass from May 1898 until March 1899.

GEO. D. MAIN, Carthage, Ill. Have handled the MISSING LINK apples for three years, and never saw anything to equal it for keeping or quality.

GEO. I. FIELDS (Editor Versailles Enterprise) Versailles, Ill. I have tested the MISSING LINK apple, and found it a wonderful keeper.

S. M. HAM, (Orchardist) Barry, Ill. Have tested the MISSING LINK apple, and am satisfied it is all you claim for it.

D. H. SHANK, (director of the 19th District Farmer's Institute) Paris, Ill. Saw samples of the MISSING LINK apples of crop of 1897 on exhibition at the State meeting of the Farmer's Institute held at Princeton, Illinois, in February, 1899.

S. N. BLACK (President of the Adams County Farmer's Institute) Clayton, Ill. I know to my personal knowledge the MISSING LINK apples shown at the State Meeting of the Farmer's Institute held at Princeton, Illinois, in Feb. 1899, was of the crop of 1897.

...DIPLOMAS...

Awarded by ILLINOIS VALLEY FAIR ASSOCIATION,

of Griggsville, Pike County, Illinois, to the Missing Apple Co., D. Shank, President, for the merits of the Missing Link Apple. Griggsville, Ills., August 6, 1897.
C. M. SIMMONS, President. J. T. HATCH, Secretary.

Awarded by THE BROWN COUNTY FAIR,

To Missing Link Apple Co., Clayton, Illinois, for Longest Keeping Winter Apple. Mt. Sterling, Ill., August 27, 1897.
GEO. R. MCDANNALD, President. W. M. REID, Secretary.

ADAMS COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION.

CAMP POINT, ADAMS COUNTY, ILL., Sept. 4, 1897.

The Missing Link Apple Co., Nurserymen, of Clayton, Ill., had an exhibition at Adams County Fair, on above date, specimens of Missing Link Apples of crops of 1896 and 1897. After thorough and critical investigation, a Diploma of Merit is awarded for longest keeping winter apple; quality and condition unsurpassed.

E. E. B. SAWYER, Secretary.

GEO. W. FRANCIS, President.

REASONS FOR PLANTING MISSING LINK.

1st—Because the tree is *vigorous*, hardy and of *rapid growth*, bearing early and regularly.

2d—Because its branches are so well shouldered it can not break down or split from wind, sleet or overbearing.

3d—Because the fruit will keep longer than any other variety, and by careful handling will keep in first-class condition more than one year, in any ordinary cellar.

4th—Because the fruit is of the finest quality, either for cooking purposes or dessert. Its season for use begins in March and it will increase in flavor with age.

5th—Because it does not rot like other apples, and should one decay, it remains hard and does not rot the one next to it; therefore never assort MISSING LINK apples only as you take them out to use them.

6th—Because the good housewife will be saved all the work and expense of canning and preserving the apple, *as the apple will keep in excellent condition until apples come again.*

7th—Because the trees are sold under a *positive guarantee* of \$5.00 each, that every tree sold is true to name.

8th—Because of its strong healthy foliage and the closed calyx and compactness of flesh around the seed cavities (see drawings), it is not subject to Fungi, Apple Scab, or Bacillarial Diseases, and will produce good crops without the aid of spraying. No home is complete without this apple, and it requires but one investment in a life-time to have it, then you and your children and grand-children will enjoy its blessings annually.

We hold certificate from State Entomologist as to healthy condition of our stock, which will accompany each shipment of trees.

We hold United States Trade Mark, No. 31,993, on the Words "MISSING LINK" as applied to plants and trees. All rights reserved.

Agents wanted in every locality. None but responsible people need apply.

We have tried in this circular to truthfully set forth the excellencies of the MISSING LINK Apple. We invite investigation as to the apple and our financial and business standing. We expect as soon as possible, to canvass the whole apple-bearing belt of the United States through our salesmen. We confidently present this apple to the public, knowing that it will speedily win its way to universal favor.

PRICES:—\$1 each; six trees for \$5; twelve trees for \$9; twenty-five trees, \$17.50; fifty trees, \$32.50; 100 trees, \$60; 200 trees \$100; 1000 trees, \$300.

Small trees sent by mail, securely packed, post-paid, on receipt of price, to any part of the United States.

THE MISSING LINK APPLE CO., CLAYTON, ILLINOIS.

Every person authorized to solicit orders to be filled by us will have a certificate of agency signed by D. Shank, President of Missing Link Apple Co. No other will be recognized.