International Society of

Apple Parer Enthusiasts

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President's Message

I hope everyone had a great holiday and some lucky folks might have gotten new parers under the tree. My wife gave me a lovely split-frame Lockey and Howland. She did have help - I bought it and let her wrap it and give it to me for Christmas.

I was hoping to post the date and time of our first Zoom Apple Parer Enthusiasts meeting. Unfortunately, I can't commit to a day and time until my son's track and field schedule is posted. He is a senior and the number one rated pole vaulter in Florida, so I don't want to schedule a meeting and then back out. Hopefully the schedule will be set in the next week and then we will email everyone the date and time. For those that are not familiar with Zoom, I will email a link that you click on before the meeting and it will take you to a virtual waiting room and I will let you into the meeting. You will probably need to set up a free Zoom account before the meeting. I will set an agenda and demonstrations prior to the meeting. If you have any new pieces you would like to show, please contact me and I will work with you on the best way for presentation at the meeting.

Only a handful of people have submitted dues for 2021. If you have a question as to whether you have paid, please contact John Lambert. A form is provided at the end of this newsletter.

Finally, Mike Viney has been doing a fantastic job of compiling all of the past APES newsletters. We are making an on-line archive available to all members who have paid their dues. Mike still needs the following newsletter issues: 19, 65, 67, 68, 69, 88, 97, and 98.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you virtually. Contact me if you have any questions.

John Evans

X-Patents and Apple Parers

Mike Viney

On December 15, 1836 a fire at Blodgett's Hotel in Washington D. C. consumed the U.S. Patent Office, destroying records dating back to July 31, 1790. The collection included an estimated 10,000 archived patents and several thousand models. The Patent Act of 1837 provided funds to restore the patents, drawings, and models, lost in the flames, which had documented 46 years of American innovation. Inventors who had letters patent were asked to submit originals or certified copies of the originals. New patent documents, furnished under oath by inventors or their witnesses, were also accepted by the patent office (Records of the Patent and Trademark Office). Eventually, 2,845 patents were restored, representing a mere 28% of what was burned in the fire (Dobyns, 2016).

Patents issued before the 1836 fire were organized by the inventor's name and date issued. Starting July 13, 1836 issued patents were designated with a unique number, starting with 1. Restored patents were assigned numbers retroactively, also starting with 1; however, an X was added to distinguish them from the new series. Thus, the very first U.S. patent, issued to Samuel Hopkins on July 31, 1790, was retroactively assigned the number X1, initiating the X-series (Hopkins, 1790). In contrast, the first patent issued in the new series to John Ruggles on July 13, 1836 was assigned the number 1 (Ruggles, 1836; Dobyns, 1994).[1] Patents restored from the 1836 fire were assigned sequential numbers and kept in their chronological order of acceptance. This practice led to the use of fractions, as patents would be discovered that were chronologically between two sequential numbers already assigned.

[1] John Ruggles (1789-1874), a U.S. senator from Maine and Charles M. Keller (1810-1874) a patent office machinist wrote the Patent Act of 1836, signed into law on July 4th of that year. Keller was the first examiner and eventually became a patent lawyer. A commissioner and an examiner would now be able to reject a patent if it lacked novelty; the applicant could appeal the decision with assigned arbitrators. Foreigners would also be allowed to apply for a U.S. patent. The new patent law provided effective protection for an inventor's intellectual property thereby increasing the possibility of profits. The Patent Act of 1836 spurred innovation and became a model for the rest of the world; see Dobyns, pp. 134 & 136.

The first six U.S. patents granted for apple parers were issued between February 1803 and February 1836, making them a part of the X-series. Only two of the six patents destroyed in the fire were restored. Even so, information about the restored and missing patents can be gleaned from several sources.

Moses Coates

(X425)

Moses Coates (1746-1816) was awarded the first U. S. patent for a "Machine for Paring Apples or Other Fruit" on February 14, 1803 (Coates, 1803). A description and engraving of Coates's apple parer appeared in the first American edition of *The Domestic Encyclopedia*, Fig. 1 (Willich & Mease, 1803, pp. 119 & 120).

> A machine for paring apples, has lately been invented by Mr. Moses Coates, of Chester county, which, on account of its simplicity, and the expedition with which it works, will no doubt come into general use. The following cut will give an accurate idea of this instrument.

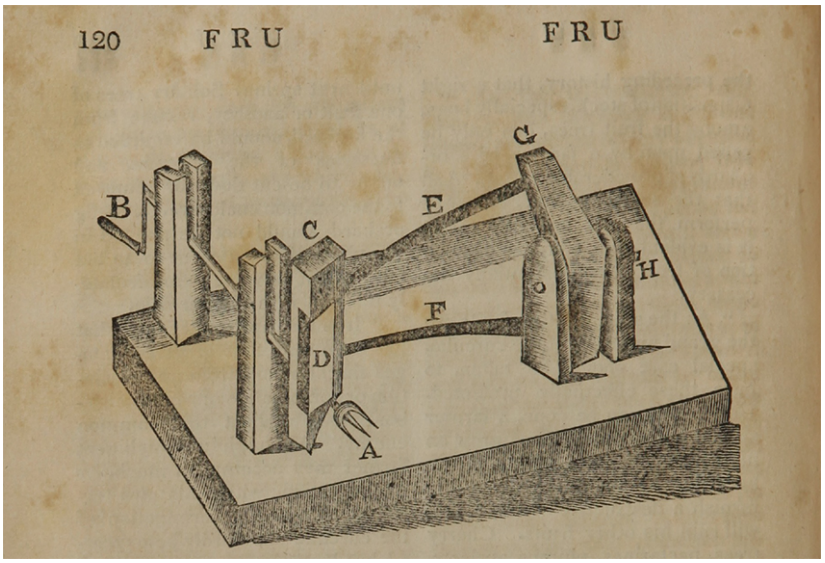


Figure 1. Engraving of Moses Coates Patented Apple Parer (Willich & Mease, 1803).

> The apple is fixed on the three pronged fork A, and is turned by the handle B. To the block C, the knife D is fastened in a manner of a spoke share (*sic*). E and F are springs which fasten the knife to the piece G, turning on a pin at H, while the right hand turns the handle B, the left presses againt (*sic*) the springs E F, and turns the knife in a semicircle over the apple. The Editor has tried the experiment with the machine, and found it to pare apples with great rapidity.

The description and engraving of Coates's parer are similar to specifications and drawings found in letters patent. Mease, the editor, experimented with a Coates parer and gave it a favorable review. The restored letters patent "recorded anew, Sept. 22, 1853, made after Coates's death, consist of a plan for making the parer in the inventor's own words, but lack drawings. A curious addition to Coates's invention appears in his restored patent (Coates, 1803). Coates described a device for cutting and coring the pared fruit. Mease does not mention the cutting and coring device in the article or is it associated with any known examples of Coates's parer. Apple parers based upon the Coates patent do provide evidence that a geared mechanism was added to the original design, Fig. 2 (Thornton, 1997; Levy, 1987).

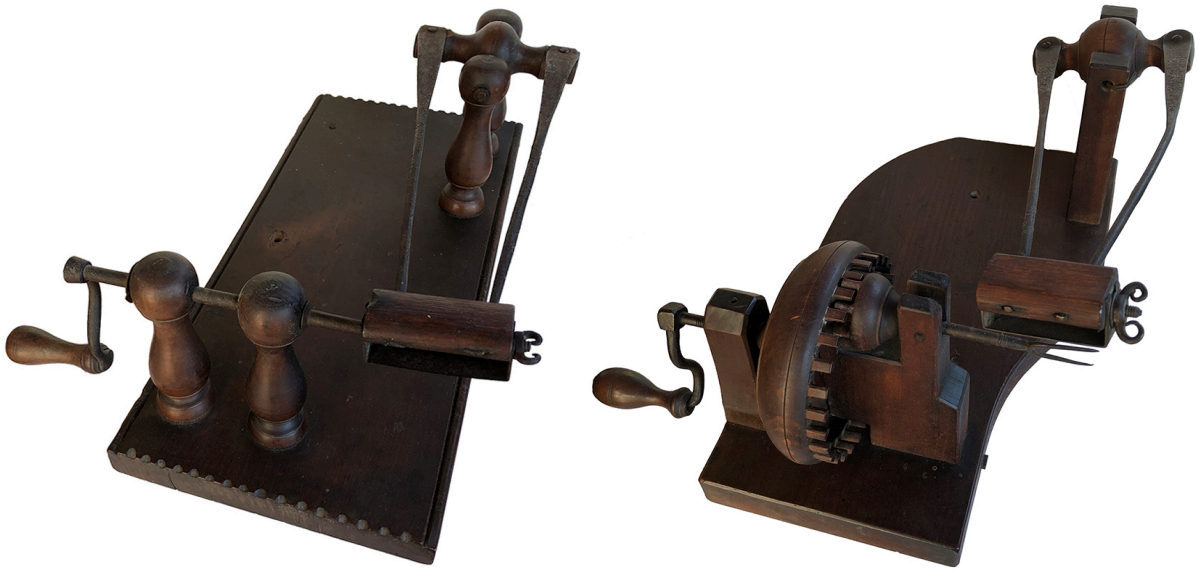


Figure 2. Left: Parer Attributed to Coates Right: Geared Parer Attributed to Coates

Willard Badger (X1003)

The *Subject-Matter Index of Patents Issued from The United States Patent-Office From 1790 to 1873* lists 6 patents for apple parers with no assigned numbers—these are the apple parer X-patents. The list provides the inventor's name, invention, place of residence, patent number, and date of issue (United States Patent-Office, 1874). According to this list W. Badger of Boston, Massachusetts was granted letters patent for a "Machine for Paring, Quartering, and Coring Apples" on February 16, 1809 (Badger, 1809). *A List of Patents Granted by the United States from April 10, 1790 to December 31, 1836* gives Badger's first

name as Willard (United States Patent Office, 1872). Badger's patent was the second U. S. patent issued for an apple parer and was not restored. We know from the patent lists, mentioned above, that the parer was designed to pare, quarter, and core the apple.

Stephen Cruttenden (X1126)

A 'List of Patentees' communicated to the house of representatives on January 14, 1811 includes the third U. S. patent for an apple parer, granted to Stephen Cruttenden of Guilford, New Haven County, Connecticut (*American State Papers*, 1832). Cruttenden received letters patent for his "Machine for Paring and Coring Apples" on August 25, 1809. Cruttenden's apple parer is mentioned in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*; unfortunately a description of the machine is not included (*Journal of the Franklin Institute*, 1830). Cruttenden's letters patent were not restored; even so, we can infer from the 'List of Patentees' that his innovation included both paring and coring the apple.

Reuben Mosher and Amos Mosher (X5764)

Reuben Mosher (1787-1866) and Amos Mosher of Galway, Saratoga County, New York were granted letters patent for a "Machine for Paring Apples" on December 28, 1829 (R. and A Mosher, 1829). While their letters patent were not restored the machine is known from actual examples bearing paper labels and from a description given in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Fig. 3 & 4.

Figure 3. Left: Mosher Apple Parer Right: Mosher Apple Parer Label by E. King

30. For a machine for *Paring Apples;* Reuben Mosher and Amos Mosher, Galway, Saratoga county, New York, December 28.

At least two patents have been previously obtained for the same purpose as that above named. The first was issued to Moses Coates, of Pennsylvania, in February, 1803. In that machine the apple was placed upon a forked spindle, which was turned by a crank, and a knife, with a guard, something like a spoke-shave, was passed over it, its pressure being regulated by a spring.

The machine of the Messrs. Mosher bears a great resemblance to Coates'; the spindle and fork are the same, but a multiplying wheel and band are used, to accelerate the motion. The knife is the same in principle as in the original machine. A minute description of lengths, widths, and thicknesses, is given, extending over seven pages, but no claim is made to any part.

We have not thought it necessary to examine the other patent

granted to S. Curttenden, of Connecticut, which, by the list, we find bears date, August 25, 1809.

Figure 4. Description of R. and A. Mosher's Patent (*Journal of Franklin the Institute*, 1830, p 166 & 167)

Three different types of paper labels found on Mosher parers document the history of its manufacturer Ebenezer King (1780-1852), a farmer and mechanic from Woodstock, Vermont. King's business transitioned through three names: E. King, E. King & Sons, and finally King & Hewitt. According to Thornton (p. 8), complete examples of the label in Fig. 3 read:

MOSHER'S PATENT
PARING APPLE MACHINES
KEPT CONSTANTLY ON HAND AND
FOR SALE BY
E. KING & SON'S
Pleasant Street, a few doors east of the Brick Meeting House
WOODSTOCK, VT.

The article in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* states that "at least two patents" had been given for the same purpose as that awarded to R. and A. Mosher. In fact, the Mosher patent was the fourth U. S. patent granted for an apple paring machine. The editor either overlooked Badger's patent or classified his machine as something different since it was designed to quarter and cut as well as pare. The Mosher machine was compared to that of Moses Coates and while the editor acknowledged Cruttenden's patent his machine was, unfortunately, deemed not worthy of examination.

Cyprian S. Pratt (X7906)

Cyprian S. Pratt (1797-1881) of Paris, Oxford County, Maine was granted letters patent for his "Machine for Paring, Quartering, and Coring Apples" on December 28, 1833 (Pratt, 1833). Pratt's letters patent were not restored. Fortunately, a description of his patent appears in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* (*Journal of the Franklin Institute*, 1834). We know from this description that Pratt claimed a pulley and lever system for activating the coring and quartering mechanism as his invention, Fig 5.

AMERICAN PATENTS.

LIST OF AMERICAN PATENTS WHICH ISSUED IN DECEMBER, 1833.

With Remarks and Exemplifications, by the Editor.

(Continued from p. 405, vol. xiii.)

51. For a *Machine for paring, quartering, and coring apples;* Cyprian C. Pratt, Paris, Oxford county, Maine, December 28.

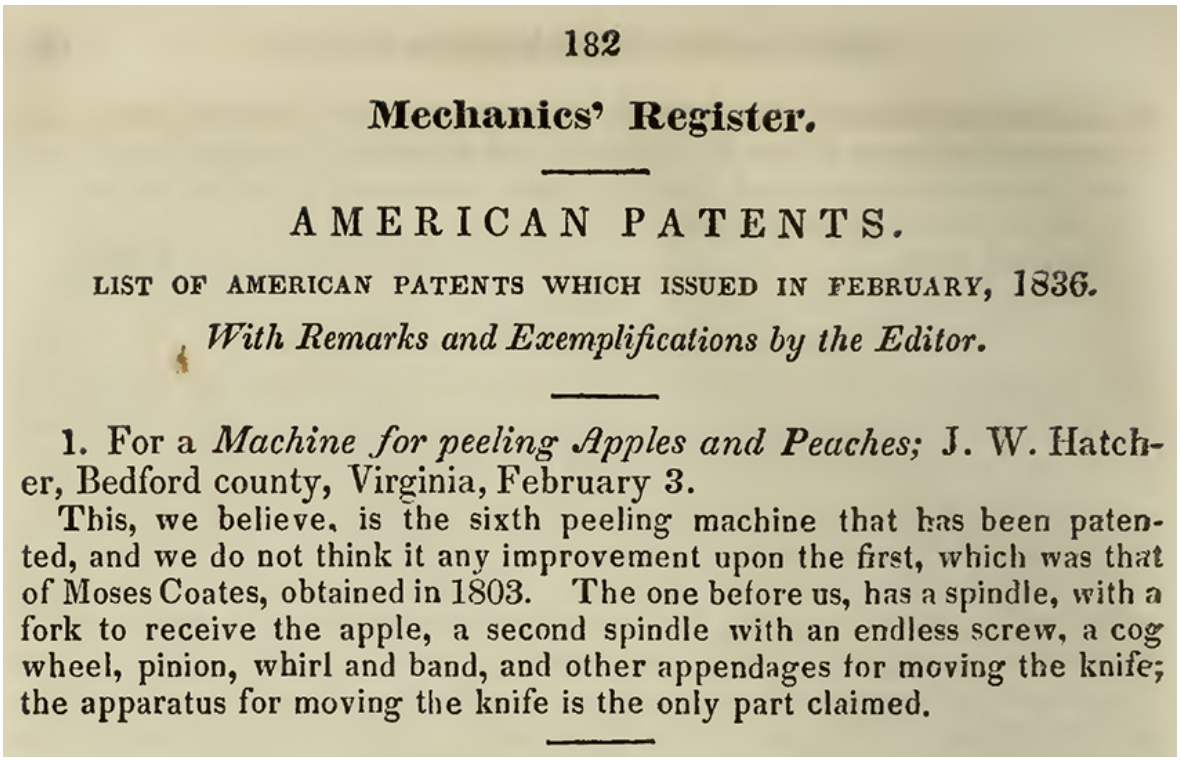
There are two or three existing, or expired, patents for the paring and quartering of apples, and between these and that now presented to us there are several acknowledged points of resemblance; but these, the patentee says, he does not claim; all that is claimed being "the box, knives, tube, slide, and the peculiar manner of applying the power of the pulley and the lever for moving the slide to drive the apple through the knives and tube in coring and quartering it."

We do not think it necessary to give a particular description of the parts claimed, as the machine is only calculated to interest the few persons who make a business of preparing dried fruit.

Figure 5. Description of C. S. Pratt's patent (*Journal of the Franklin Institute*, 1834, p. 21).

John W. Hatcher (X9307)

John W. Hatcher of Bedford County, Virginia was granted letters patent for his "Machine for Peeling Apples and Peaches on February 3, 1836 (*Journal of the Franklin Institute*, May 1836; Hatcher, 1836). In September of that year the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* reviewed Hatcher's patented invention, Fig. 6.



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Mechanics' Register.

AMERICAN PATENTS.

LIST OF AMERICAN PATENTS WHICH ISSUED IN FEBRUARY, 1836.

With Remarks and Exemplifications by the Editor.

1. For a *Machine for peeling Apples and Peaches;* J. W. Hatcher, Bedford county, Virginia, February 3.

This, we believe, is the sixth peeling machine that has been patented, and we do not think it any improvement upon the first, which was that of Moses Coates, obtained in 1803. The one before us, has a spindle, with a fork to receive the apple, a second spindle with an endless screw, a cog wheel, pinion, whirl and band, and other appendages for moving the knife; the apparatus for moving the knife is the only part claimed.

Figure 6. Description of Hatcher's parer (*Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Sept. 1836, p. 182).

The editor compared Hatcher's machine with the first patented apple parer of Moses Coates and concluded it was not an improvement. In December of 1836 the patents of Hatcher, Coates, Badger, Cruttenden, Mosher, and Pratt were consumed by fire along with 10,000 others. Of the six apple parer patents lost, only two were restored, that of Coates and Hatcher. Unlike Coates, Hatcher's restored patent also included a drawing. Hatcher's restored patent confirms that the mechanism for moving the knife was the only inventive claim. Hatcher's patent and the accompanying drawing, Fig. 7, indicate that a spring mechanism and worm gear guided the knife automatically while paring. It is difficult to understand why the editor reviewing the design did not think it an improvement. An automatic knife would seem to be an improvement over a hand-guided design. We do not

know if the editor of the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* had access to one of Hatcher's parers.

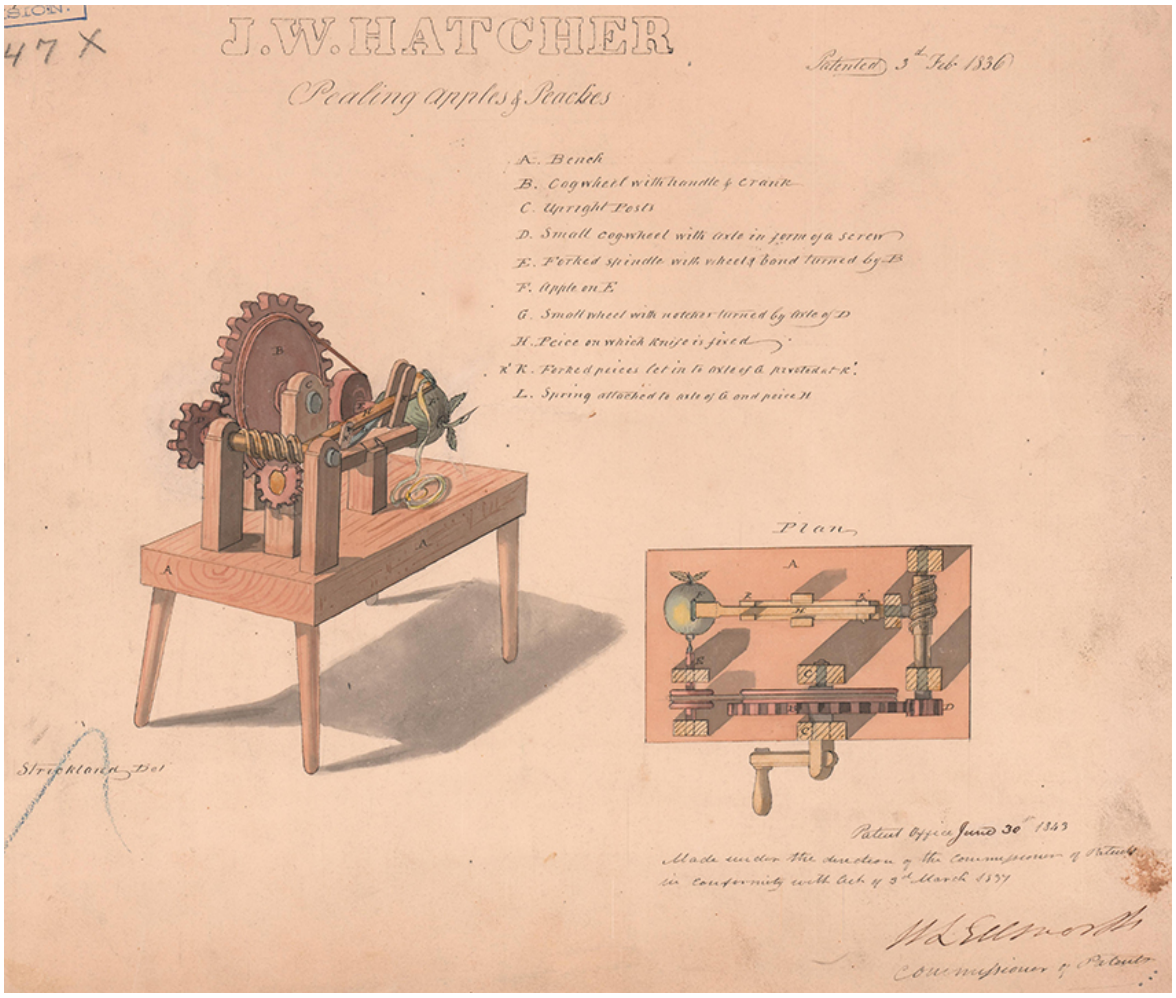

Figure 7. Drawing of Hatcher's machine for peeling apples and peaches restored through the act of March 3, 1837 (National Archives at College Park, Cartographic Branch, 241-PATENTUT-X9347).

Thornton speculates that a parer marked, "Manufactured by Border & Hartley Bedford Patent J. Barnhill's Premium Apple Parer" is based upon Hatcher's patent (Thornton, p. 10). However, Barnhill's apple parer utilizes a pulley system to rotate the knife during paring and a weight activated mechanism to return the knife after paring. In contrast, Hatcher's inventive claim was for giving the knife motion by using a worm gear driven by cogged wheels; furthermore, it is not clear if Hatcher's design had a mechanism for automatically returning the knife to starting position after paring was completed. Jacob Barnhill received a premium for his apple parer at the Ohio State Agricultural Fair of 1850 (Bateham, 1850).

Scientific American praised the Circleville, Ohio resident's invention in 1851 ('Barnhill's Premium Apple-Paring Machine', 1851). Barnhill was receiving recognition for his parer 14 years after Hatcher's patent was granted.

Recently, I discovered an image of an apple parer on-line, similar to Hatcher's design, displayed in the Fruit Preservation Room at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Fig. 8. The apple parer, assigned accession number 01570, was donated to Henry Mercer by Hannah Twining of Carversville, Pennsylvania in December of 1889. Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930) an American archeologist was collecting artifacts that would eventually be housed in the Mercer Museum, constructed over a three-year period from 1913 to 1916. According to museum records the apple parer was used in a Carversville school until 1879. The parer was purchased by Isaac Twining in Wrightstown, PA. It is unknown if Twining's purchase occurred before it was used at the school or if he obtained it specifically for the school (Jay, personal communication, 2020 Aug. 8).

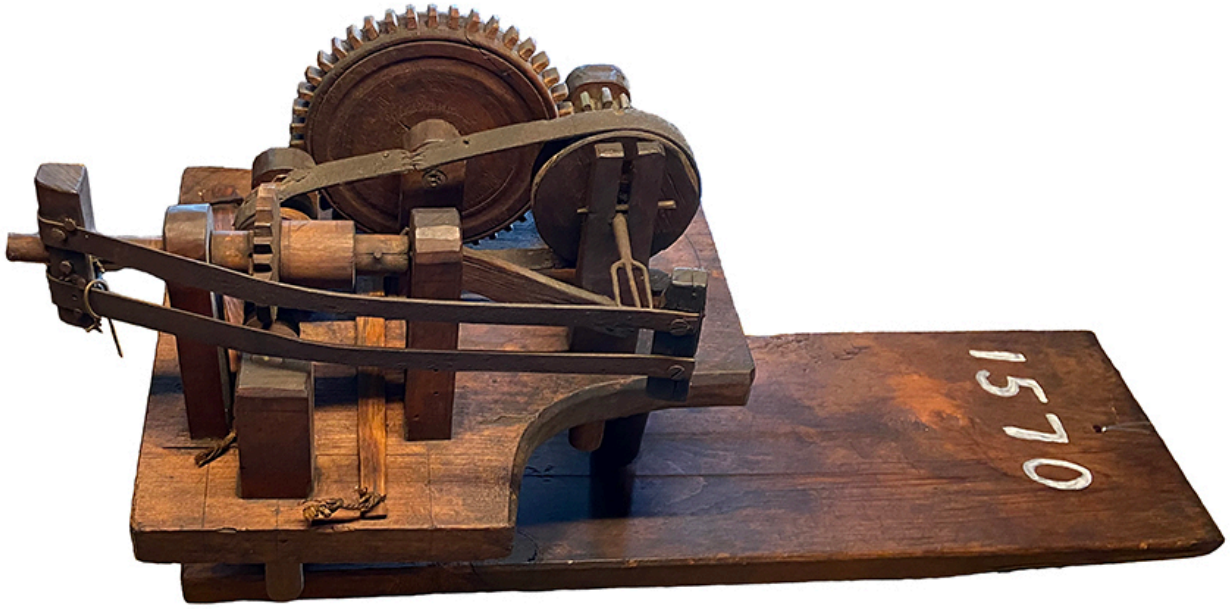

Figure 8. Apple parer design equivalent to Hatcher's 1836 patent *from the Collection of the Mercer Museum of Bucks County Historical Society, Accession number 01570*.

The Mercer Museum apple parer is very similar in design to the one illustrated in Hatcher's restored patent drawing although; there are some differences, Fig. 7, 8 & 9.

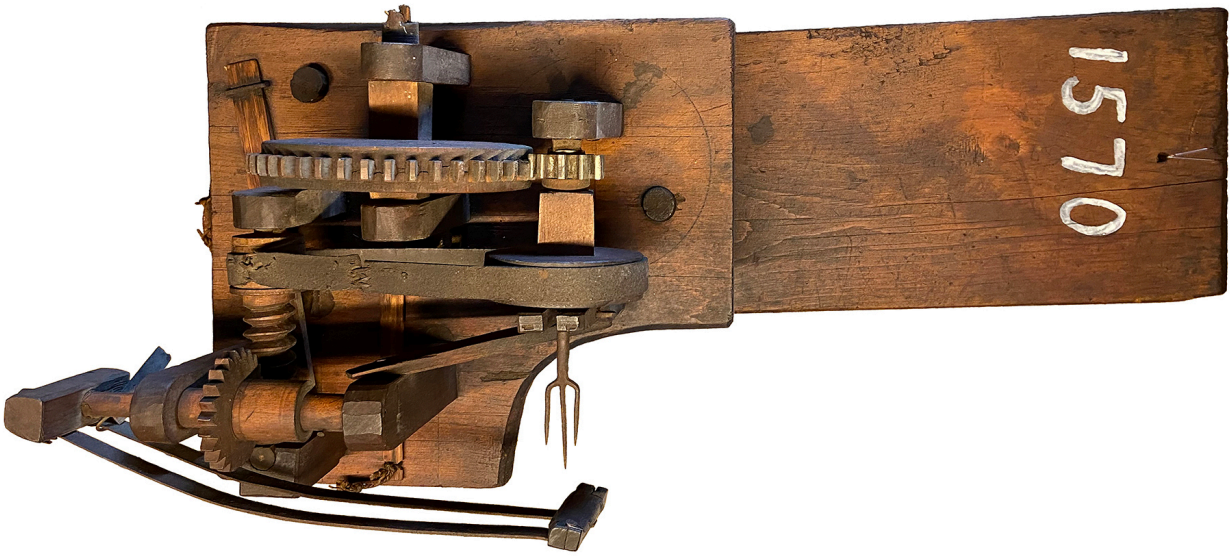

Figure 9. A user of this Hatcher type apple parer would sit behind the machine, rotating a crank (broken and missing) on the large cogged drive wheel with their right hand while using the left hand to apply pressure to the paring arm. The paring arm was guided by the screw gear and in Hatcher's patent did not require the left hand. *From the Collection of the Mercer Museum of Bucks County Historical Society, Accession number 01570*.

The pulley on the Mercer Museum example rotates both the spindles for the fork and worm gear eliminating the need for cogwheel D. The paring arm differs from the patent drawing in that it is placed above the worm gear and equipped with metal springs that would require the user to apply pressure, similar to the design of Moses Coates. Even so, examiners at the patent office would most likely find the worm gear paring arm mechanism equivalent to the patented design of Hatcher. At the time of this writing, it is the only known example of an apple parer that appears to be based upon the Hatcher patent.

Conclusion

The December 15, 1836 fire at Blodgett's Hotel in Washington D. C. was disastrous, consuming archives and models that represented records of our nation's inventive history. Over 10,000 letters patent were lost. The congressional act of March 3, 1837 provided funds for restoring lost patents, drawings, and models. Approximately 28% of the records were restored. Two out of six patents issued for apple parer inventions were restored—one included a drawing. Historians must find independent lines of evidence to restore a memory of these innovators and their inventions. Reports made by the patent office and

for Congress help identify inventors' names, residences, inventions, and patent issue dates. Publications designed to update the populace on new inventions can also be a valuable source for recovering information that was contained in destroyed letters patent. Physical examples of patented apple parers are invaluable in understanding the inventor's design and paper labels may reveal the name used to promote the machine as well as the manufacturer. In addition to these resources there is always hope for finding the original letters patent. The descendants of inventors sometimes donate letters patent or copies of letters patent to museums or libraries. In 2004 two lawyers found 14 letters patent dating back to the 1790's archived in the Dartmouth College library (Chartrand, 2004). Historical documents and images scanned for on-line use provide the populace with an increasingly powerful digital archive that can be accessed remotely. The existence of the Mercer Museum apple parer as well as the majority of documents used to research the six apple parer X-patents explored in this article were accessed via the Internet. We know with certainty what three of the six X-patent apple parers look like. History is a living, dynamic discipline; hopefully, missing X-patents of the past will be discovered in the future.

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Two Double Dates on S. S. Hersey's Double Action Apple Parers

Mike Viney

Samuel S. Hersey (1831-1912) of Farmington, Maine was granted letters patent for his Improved Apple-Parer on August 30, 1864. Hersey's slow return parer, sold as Hersey's Double Action Apple Parer, was the first parer to be patented that could pare an apple in both the forward and reverse directions of the knife. The parer typically carries two patent dates, one for Hersey's earlier quick return parer and the second for his slow return parer—there are also unmarked examples (Hersey, 1861 & 1864).

I recently noticed an early version of Hersey's Double Action Apple Parer that is embossed with his first patent of June 18, 1861 and a second date of June 17, 1864, which was a Friday, Fig. 1. Today, U.S. patents are issued exclusively on Tuesdays. The practice of publishing issued letters patent on Tuesdays started with Starr Fairchild's patent of January 18, 1848 for an Improvement in Hanging Carriage-Bodies (Fairchild, 1848). Before Fairchild's patent issued letters patent could be published on any day.

Figure 1. S. S. HERSEY PAT^{D} JUNE 18 '61 & JUNE 17 '64

An examination of the patent file for Hersey's slow return parer reveals that his patent was approved for issue on June 17, 1864 (Patent File 43,990). The patent date is when the issued letters patent is published, in this case August 30, 1864. It is unknown if Hersey's approval date was used on purpose before publication of the letters patent or if it was a mistake. In any event, the embossing on Hersey's parer was changed to the correct patent date of Tuesday August 30, 1864, Fig. 2.

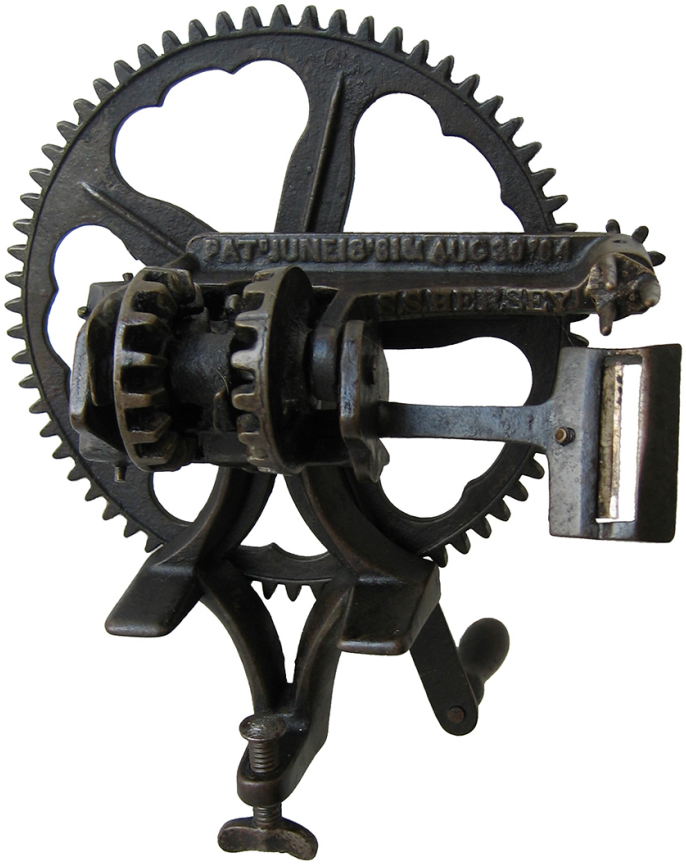

Figure 2. S. S. HERSEY PAT^{D} JUNE 18 '61 & AUG 30 ' 64

The early version with Hersey's first patent date and the approval date for his second patent is fitted with an early thumbscrew consistent with what was used on his earlier quick return parers. It is possible these early Double Action Apple Parers were made between June 17 and August 30 1864. Next time you see a Double Action Apple Parer take the time to examine the embossed dates, you just might find an example with the June 17, '64 approval date to add to your collection.

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Patent File 43,990, Hersey 30 Aug. 1864, National Archives Kansas City, Missouri.

For Sale:

Jim Choplick has the following parers for sale and will negotiate:

Lightning Apple Parer (Fig 6-10) $125

Lightning (horizontal) with push-off (6-19) $350

Lightning (Vertical) with push-off (6-21) $150

Hudson 78 (Fig 3-88) $125

John Lambert has the following parers for sale:

Centennial (Fig 3-70) 2-piece frame. 2 miniscule hairlines on drive gear. Solid and pretty, great finish. Great skip-a-beat action. Very clever design to pause turntable to pare around forks $250 free shipping.

Oriole Very Scarce 2-fork model that splits core as the next apple is pushed on the forks. As nice a finish as I have seen. $475, free shipping.

Mike Viney at has the following parers for sale:

Monroe Brothers (Fig 5-51), half of one prong is broke off, one 2mm hole in handle (natural from casting process), best embossing of dates ever and super smooth action $90

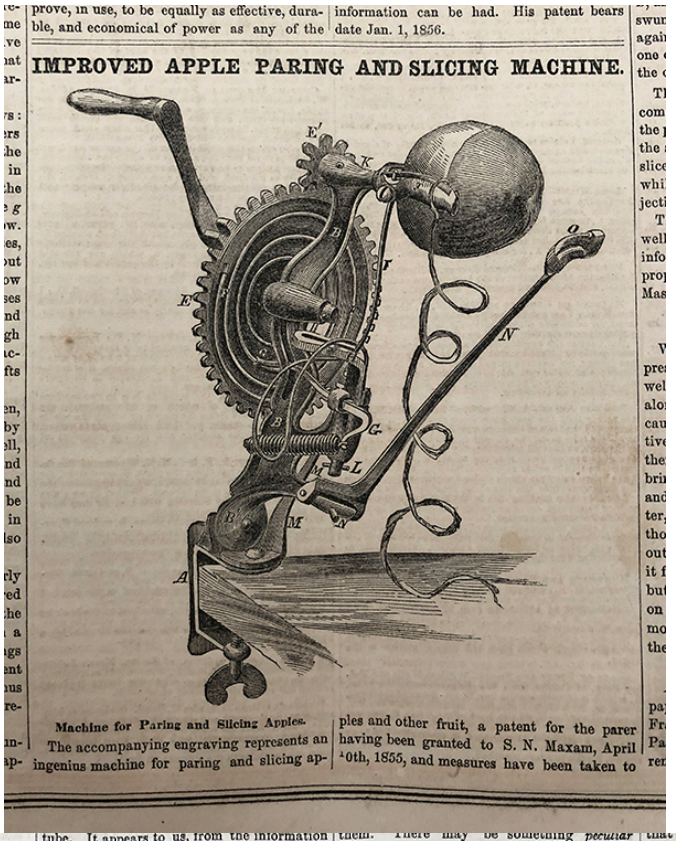
Lockey & Howland Split-Frame (Fig 3-10), the return part of the frame has an amazing repair that is difficult to see, $130.

Advance (Fig 2-12), great specimen $70

Whittemore Lathe (Fig 2-21), board not original, paring arm needs repair $50

Union (Fig 5-84) Complete but gets stuck after returning to start position, spur gear maybe replaced otherwise original and displays well, could be used for replacement parts I suppose. $50

Scientific American Sept. 1855 to August 1856: 16 x 11 inches with 414 pages—richly illustrated. Original ½ leather binding with cloth pads. The spine is repaired with archival tape. The March 22, 1856 issue has an article about an "Improved Apple Paring and Slicing Machine" and includes a beautiful engraving of the 2-arm Maxam Apple Parer and Slicer. The May 10, 1856 issue has an article on a, "Machine for Paring, Coring and Slicing Apples" invented by Charles P. Carter for which, "Application has been made for patent." This article also includes a beautiful engraving, $100.00



prove, in use, to be equally as effective, durable, and economical of power as any of the information can be had. His patent bears date Jan. 1, 1856.

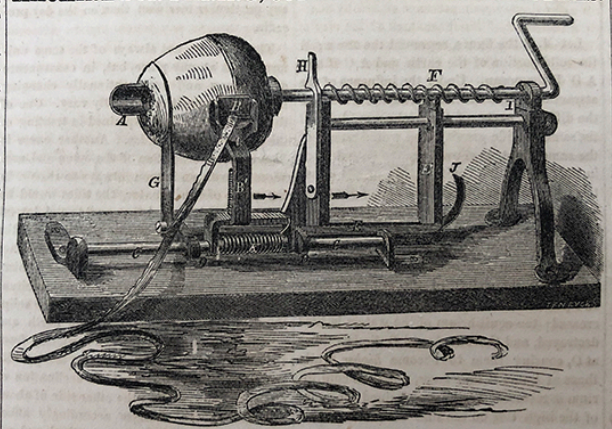
IMPROVED APPLE PARING AND SLICING MACHINE.

Machine for Paring and Slicing Apples.

The accompanying engraving represents an ingenius machine for paring and slicing apples and other fruit, a patent for the parer having been granted to S. N. Maxam, April 10th, 1855, and measures have been taken to

tube. It appears to us, from the information we have had of these two inventions, that while Mr. Cochrane is the first inventor of the them. There may be something *peculiar* connected with these two inventions not yet brought before the public.

MACHINE FOR PARING, CORING AND SLICING APPLES.



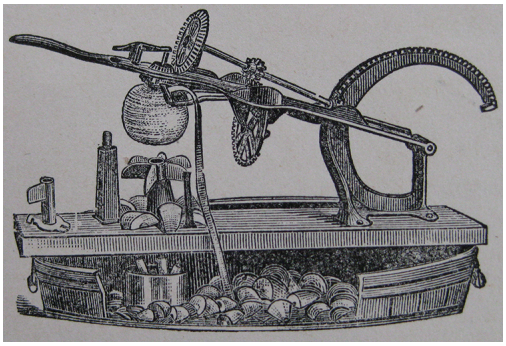
Apple Parer, Corer, and Slicer.

The apple is placed upon a gouge shaped holder, A, and revolved by means of the crank. The paring knife, B, is mounted on a standard, rise backwards on its hinge at I, so as to clear the screw, F, from the fork at the top of E; the force of spring J is now sufficient to push E' and its appurtenances—slide, E, standard, B,

International Society of Apple Parer Enthusiasts

Renewal Form for 2021

(please type or print)



Full Name_____ Spouse's Name_____

Mailing Address: _____ E-mail Address_____

_____

Telephone: Home_____ Cellphone: _____

Membership dues include a quarterly newsletter sent via e-mail.

Number of apple parers in our collection: _____

Describe your collection in general terms:

_____

_____

If you are not a collector, describe the nature of your interest:

_____

_____

Please enroll me as a member of the ISAPE. Enclosed is my $20 payment to cover my dues for the current year. We ask for an additional $10 donation if you would like hardcopies of the newsletter sent through the mail.

Signature_____

John Lambert
3911 Morgan Center Rd.
Utica, OH 43080