



## The Story of Johnny Truffleseed<sup>1</sup>

Creative Confectionaire truffles have their roots deep in the history of the Mississippi River Valley. It was centuries ago that a group of Gnomes from northern Europe crossed the Atlantic Ocean with the Vikings. Few people have learned of these exploits, but the story is told here so the world can now understand.

The gnomes were led by none other than Johnny Truffleseed himself. Johnny Truffleseed realized there were rich and fertile lands available to plant his newly developed tree, the truffle tree. It was his plan to set up great orchards in the newly discovered continent then known as Vineland.

The Truffle Tree was a project the Truffleseed family had worked on for centuries. By combining native Scandinavian trees, a tree with a fruit with very potent flavor essence resulted. The fruit from the tree became the secret ingredient in many Scandinavian family recipes. The trees, however, proved difficult to grow and required special conditions to produce their savory fruit. It was Johnny Truffleseed's vision to try to plant magnificent orchards in the new world so they could grow and the fruit sent back to the home country.

With this dream in his head, Johnny and his fellow Gnomes set out to develop large tracts of truffle trees in Vineland. It was not an easy trip, but in a matter of years, Johnny and his "gnomeys" (hence the phrase "hanging with my gnomeys") eventually planted many orchards in the new land, but unfortunately the Vikings and their secretive companions the Gnomes, stopped the long trips across the North Atlantic. Alas, the truffle tree orchards fell into disuse and many died out and disappeared.

Fortunately, a group of gnomes (the River Valley Gnomes that settled in the Mississippi Valley in Central and Southern Minnesota) discovered some of the original trees when they settled in the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were overjoyed and quickly brought the orchards back into prime health.

They were astounded to find out that the trees, being centuries old now, had developed fruit that was far superior to newer generation trees. They started to refine the fruit of the truffle trees and used it in their new North American family recipes. Their lefse, ost-kaka and other Northern European delicacies had a much more refined and delicious flavor when they added the essence of truffles to them.

As the area in which they had emigrated grew, the foods they ate expanded, and eventually fine chocolates made their way to the valley. As time progressed, the Gnomes added their essence of truffles to their chocolate. The result was an exquisite flavor that was a delight to savor! It became obvious the ancient stand of truffle trees that had survived a millennium had developed superior flavor as they aged.

Today you can enjoy the result of this delightful confluence of events and time in the truffles of Creative Confectionaire. As you have probably guessed, the River Valley Gnomes have worked in anonymity for generations and now are emerging from the shadows, if only slightly. Their truffles are now available through the Creative Confectionaire store and other fine outlets in the Twin Cities.

<sup>1</sup>Many people know of his great, great, great grandson who garnered much more publicity by planting another crop. We will neither mention his name nor his crop.