

a place on the local market. Fruits are very crisp and juicy, with a rich creamy-yellow flesh.

Golden Russet: An old-time cider variety, it does quite well, but is of interest mainly as a novelty for the old-timers, who like russet apples and remember them from their childhood days. Maybe some of the new russet strains of Golden Delicious, with the flavor of the Golden Russet, will be better.

Calville Blanc: Medium large, ivory green, oblate apple which is quite ribbed, especially around the calyx end. Flesh is firm, juicy and delicious. A prize connoisseur's favorite in France. The author prefers Grimes Golden, Delicious and Spy. Trees are medium, vigorous and only medium productive. Resistant to disease and firm, to be adapted to a wide variety of soil and climatic conditions. It grows well in Missouri, British Columbia, Canada, France and South Africa.

Tasmanian Democrat: Late ripening apple and resembles our Winesap in size and color but it is more flat in shape. Quality is intermediate be-

tween Winesap and Arkansas Black which it also resembles. Trees are very productive under Tasmanian conditions and seem to do quite well in the San Joaquin Valley. The variety will never find a place on our fresh market but might be of value where the fruit is to go 100% processor. Interesting enough, the variety is a hybrid of the old Hoover apple in Tasmania—at least that is what the Tasmanians told the author.

Northern Spy: This variety is absolutely worthless in the San Joaquin Valley. No quality, no firmness, no appearance. The Northern Spy will be relegated to its place of origin in the Northeast and possibly Michigan and Canada.

Spartan: If you are going to grow McIntosh type apples in a warm area, this is the variety to produce. It combines the best of McIntosh and Yellow Newtown. Fruits are medium sized, firm and better flavor than McIntosh. They ripen later and hang on the tree better. The color is bright red, and the variety often outsells McIntosh in Canadian McIntosh country.

History of the "Fort Vancouver" Apple, and Tree

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Probably the oldest living apple tree in North America, possibly of the Western Hemisphere, grows near the site of the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Vancouver (now Vancouver, Washington). This Canadian apple seedling is the one remainder of the first orchard of the Oregon Country, the seeds of which were planted by Dr. John McLoughlin, then chief of the Hudson Bay Company operations.

Accounts of the orchard's beginning are reported by Dr. J. R. Cardwell

(1), first president of the Oregon Horticultural Society, David McLoughlin, son of Dr. John McLoughlin, Mrs. Marcus Whitman and others. The introduction of the first cultivated fruits to the Oregon Country in 1824 by employees of the Hudson Bay Company is a pretty story with a touch of romance. A young lady at a London dinner party carefully wrapped apple seeds in a paper and placed them in the vest pocket of a young gentleman who was headed for the

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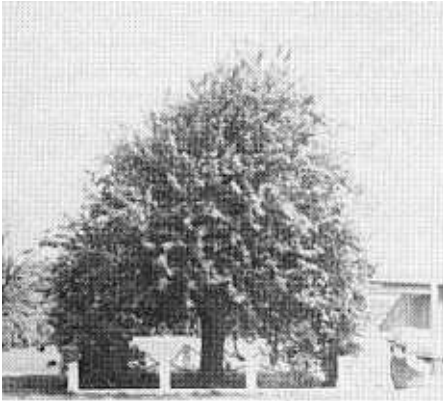


Fig. 1. Canadian apple seedling and plaque commemorating one of the oldest living apple trees in North America growing at Vancouver, Washington.

distant Pacific Coast, with the request that he should plant them in that region. In a spirit of merriment other ladies added seeds of pears, peaches, and grapes. The apple and the pear trees, and the grapevines from these seeds are yet annually bearing fruits on the grounds of the government barracks at Vancouver.

The story of the identification of the Vancouver tree (2) as it appeared in *The Morning Oregonian* includes: "Vancouver Barracks, Wash. Jan. 27, 1911.—The discovery this week of the oldest apple tree in the Northwest, which has borne fruit for more than eighty years, has aroused much interest. The commander gave orders to have it preserved. A suitable fence around the base of the tree will be built, and a stone monument, with a short history of its remarkable record, will be placed in the enclosure. Relic hunters who desire a piece of the tree will be severely punished if caught marring the oldest inhabitant of any apple orchard in the Northwest. The fact that this tree, after eighty years of bearing, should bear fruit each year, is regarded as of utmost importance to the apple-raising industry in the Northwest."

J. K. Townsend, an American na-

turalist who arrived at Fort Vancouver in 1834, reported (3):

"The greatest curiosity, however, is the apple, which grows on small trees, the branches of which would be broken without the support of props. So profuse is the quantity of fruit that the limbs are covered with it, and it is actually packed together precisely in the same manner that onions are attached to ropes, when they are exposed for sale in our market."

Half a mile north of Milwaukie, Oregon, Henderson Luelling and his son Alfred (2) planted seven hundred grafted fruit trees known as the "Traveling Nursery," which they had brought across the plains from Henry County, Iowa.

In 1970, Vancouver officially retained the care and feeding of the state's oldest apple tree when the City Council approved a lease agreement with the U. S. Government (4).

Two Vancouver men had in 1917 found a reference to the planting in an old diary in a London museum and located the original tree as described in the diary. The tree bore fruit as usual in the fall of 1969.

"The variety of apple tree which is represented by the aged tree standing near the site of old Fort Van-

couver is to be included in a pioneer orchard being developed at Sauvie Island, under the sponsorship of the Oregon Historical Society" (6).

The author believes that the tree still surviving at Vancouver may be the oldest apple tree in North America. (Search for older varieties has been conducted for several years with no response. Fruit trees in the Northeast were planted earlier than the Fort Vancouver tree, but at this time no living trees of an older age have been substantiated.) He is also of the opinion that the Fort Vancouver apple variety may have come from either "Yellow Belle Fleur" or "Calville blanc d'hiver" (7, 8).

Since this variety was the first in the Oregon Country, it is the number one tree in the Pioneer Orchard of

the Oregon Country located at Sauvie Island in the Howell Territorial Park under the sponsorship of Multnomah County and the Oregon Historical Society.

References

1. Dr. J. R. Cardwell, Portland, "The First Fruits of the Land," The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society, Volume 7, March 1906 #1. pp. 28, 29, 30.
2. Excerpts and Notes of the Oregon Horticultural Society, pp. 120, 121.
3. Geo. H. Himes, Portland, "Encyclopedia of Practical Horticulture," by Granville Lowther, William Worthington. Vol. 1. 1914.
4. The Oregonian, January 7, 1970.
5. The Oregon Journal, Monday, February 1, 1971.
6. The Columbian, Vancouver, Washington, February 10, 1970.
7. The Apples of New York, Vol. 1, p. 381. 1903.
8. Downing's Fruits and Fruit Trees of America. p. 209. 1869.

EMLA Fruit Trees*

The trade description "EMLA" is now restricted to a new issue of improved clones and rootstocks of fruit trees, released jointly by the East Malling and Long Ashton Research Stations in England. This new material is free of all known viruses, is true-to-name, and is propagated in special isolated nurseries to avoid the risk of re-infection.

The two Research Stations have released the rootstocks and mother-trees exclusively to the Nuclear Stock Association (Tree Fruits) Ltd., of Great Britain for propagation under government specified and government inspected conditions. Rootstocks and

trees sold by this organization with the official "Special stock" certificate of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Food, at present form the only commercial source of this improved plant material. Some surplus EMLA material was probably made available to members of the two Research Station Associations in Great Britain toward the end of 1971.

Overseas members of the Associations should be able to obtain EMLA material from the Research Stations in 1972.

*Taken from a news release of the East Malling Research Station.