

Apple Varieties of Somerset

A Guide to the Origins of
Somerset's Apples

by June Small

Charlton Orchards

Supported by Somerset County Council
Countryside Group

Somerset Apple Varieties

In the past apples were a more significant part of the economy and culture of rural counties such as Somerset, than they are today. Local knowledge about varieties, their uses and stories about them are a part of our heritage which is in danger of being lost in the same way that our orchards are under threat. There are 6,000 varieties recorded in the National Apple Register, but only our more recent commercial orchards are dominated by only a dozen varieties.

This document represents the first attempt to assemble a list of Somerset apple varieties which we hope will form the basis of further research, perhaps pulling together a range of information about Somerset apples which is at present spread across the County in the memories of apple growers and farmers.

As can be seen from the names, many of the 156 varieties have links with particular villages, towns or parts of the County, eg Yarlinton Mill and Chelston piemaker. Other names relate to the particular qualities or characteristics of the apple, eg Morgan Sweet and Burrow Hill Early. In some cases one variety appears to have several names.

We hope to build on this list and if you have any information about particular varieties, when and where they originate, uses for them or stories about them please let us know. (June Small, Chelston Orchards, Creech St Michael or the Countryside Group, County Hall, Taunton).

Thanks to June Small and all others with local and professional knowledge who have contributed to this booklet so far.

Phil Stone
Countryside Group, Somerset County Council

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
1947	ASHTON BITTER	LONG ASHTON	BITTER SWEET CIDER	LATE SEPTEMBER	LONG ASHTON, TN SHEPTON MALLETT
EARLY 20C + 1961	ASHTON BROWN JERSEY	LONG ASHTON	BITTER SWEET CIDER	NOVEMBER	TN
BEFORE 1920	BACKWELL RED (BROWN)	BACKWELL	CIDER		
1872	BAILBROOK SEEDLING	BATH	DESSERT	EARLY	
1893	BARTLETTS GLORY	WELLS	DESSERT	MID	
1831	BATH RUSSET	BATH		MID	
1864	BEAUTY OF BATH	BATH	DESSERT	EARLY	NFT TN
1883	BEAUTY OF WELLS	WELLS	DESSERT	MID	
	BELL APPLE/SHEEPS NOSE (SYN - SWEET SHEEPS NOSE)	SOMERSET/ DEVON BORDER	CIDER & MED SWEET CULINARY	MID	TN
1872	BLACK APPLE OF SOMERSET		DESSERT	VERY LATE	
	BLACK DABINETT		MED SWEET CIDER	LATE	TN
	BLACK VALLIS		BITTER SWEET CIDER		SM
1665	BRIDGWATER PIPPIN	BRIDGWATER	CULINARY	LATE	TN
	BROADLEAF JERSEY		CIDER		
1884	BROCKHEAD		DESSERT	MID/LATE	

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
1884	BROWNSEY		DESSERT CULINARY?		
1980's	BURROW HILL EARLY	KINGSBURY EPISCOPI	FULL BITTER SWEET CIDER	EARLY	TN
1934	CAMELOT		CULINARY CIDER	VERY LATE	NFT TN
BEFORE 1920's	CAP OF LIBERTY	MARTOCK	B/SHARP CIDER	OCTOBER	SM
1916	CHEDDAR CROSS	LONG ASHTON	DESSERT	MID	NFT
1934	CHEDDAR PEARMAIN	PERHAPS LONG ASHTON	PROB DESSERT		
1883	CHELSTON PIE MAKER	WELLINGTON?	CULINARY	MID	
1950's	CHISEL JERSEY	MARTOCK	FULL BIT SWEET CIDER	NOVEMBER	SM TN
	CIDER LADYS FINGER		MED SHARP CIDER	MID	TN
1950	CLARINETTE		CULINARY	EARLY	NFT
1913	CLEVEDON PROLIFIC			VERY LATE	
	COAT JERSEY	COAT NR MARTOCK	BITTER SWEET CIDER	NOVEMBER	SM
1934	COKER SEEDLING	SOUTH SOMERSET?	CULINARY	EARLY	
1820- 1830 1884	COLLEGE APPLE		CULINARY	LATE	

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
	COURT ROYAL (SYM IMPROVED POUND)	SOMERSET/DEV ON BORDER	SWEET CIDER	EARLY/MID	TN SM
1883	COVENT NONPARIEIL			LATE	
1883	COOPERS FAVOURITE	BRISTOL			ONLY RECORD NAR
1883	COPMAN THORPE RUSSET				ONLY RECORD NAR
BEFORE 1790	COURT DE WYCK	YATTON	JUICY RICH FLAVOUR DESSERT	VERY LATE	TN
1895	CRIMSON KING	SOMERSET/DEV ON BORDER	CULINARY CIDER	MID/LATE	TN
1883	CURRY CODLIN	CURRY RIVEL NORTH CURRY?	CULINARY	MID	
1961	DABINETT	MARTOCK	BITTER/SWEET CIDER	NOVEMBER	SM TN
1883	DARLINGTON		DESSERT		SCOTTS (EXHIB)
1883	DORCHESTER			LATE	ONLY RECORD NAR
1934	DORSET	LONG ASHTON		EARLY NOVEMBER	ONLY RECORD NAR
1957	DOVE	CADBURY AREA	BITTER SWEET CIDER	EARLY NOVEMBER	TN
1940's	DUNKERTON LATE (SWEET?)	BALTONSBOROUGH	BITTER/SWEET CIDER	LATE	SM TN
1883	DUNNINGS RUSSET	TAUNTON		EARLY	

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
1955	EARLY BLENHEIM		CULINARY/ DESSERT	EARLY	RECORDED RHIS YEAR BOOK 1955/TN
(1831) 1872	EARLY POMEROY		DESSERT	MID/LATE	
1883	EVEN PERMAIN	TAUNTON		MID	ONLY RECORD NAR (POYNTER OF TAUNTON) 1924
1924	EXETER CROSS	RAISED LONG ASHTON	DESSERT	EARLY	SC NFT
1831	FAIRMAID OF TAUNTON	TAUNTON	SHARP DESSERT CIDER	MID SEASON	TN NFT
1883	FALL WINE		ACID CIDER		ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1957	FILL BARRELL	WINCANTON	BITTER SWEET CIDER	OCTOBER	TN SM
1883	FORDS PIPPIN	BRISTOL			ONLY RECORD NAR
1934	GALAND LONG KEEPER		DESSERT	VERY LATE	
1920's	GATCOMBE	LONG ASHTON	SHARP CIDER	OCTOBER	
1816	GLORY OF THE WEST	BRIDGWATER	DESSERT CULINARY	MID/LATE	
1913	GLOUCESTER CROSS	RAISED LONG ASHTON	DESSERT CULINARY	MID	NFT
1883	GOLDEN FARMER	MERRIOTT	DESSERT	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1700's	GOLDEN KNOB	BRIDGWATER	SWEET NUTTY DESSERT	LATE	TN

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
1831	GOOSEBERRY APPLE		CULINARY	MID/LATE	SC (1958)
1934	GREASY PIPPIN	SOMERSET/ DEVON BORDER	SHARP CIDER	LATE OCTOBER	NFT (DEBATABLE)
1883	GREEN GRIBBLE		DESSERT	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR
1883	GREEN PEARMAIN	TAUNTON	CULINARY	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR
1883	HAGLOE PIPPIN	MERRIOTT	DESSERT	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1883	HAIGH PIPPIN				ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1964	HANGDOWN (SYN HORNERS)	PROBABLY GLASTONBURY?	BITTER SWEET CIDER	OCTOBER	TN SM
1910	HARRY MASTERS JERSEY	YARLINGTON	BITTER SWEET CIDER	EARLY NOVEMBER	TN
1913	HEREFORD CROSS	LONG ASHTON	DESSERT	EARLY	SC NFT
1872	HERMANS PIPPIN (1)		DESSERT	LATE	
1883	HERMANS PIPPIN (2)		CULINARY	LATE	ONLY RECORD NAR
1819	HOARY MORNING		DESSERT & CULINARY	MID/LATE	TN NFT
1883	HOLBERTS PRINCE ALBERT				ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1883	HOOK ST PIPPIN	BRISTOL			ONLY RECORD NAR
1883	HUSSEYS PEARMAIN		CULINARY	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
EARLY 1800's	KINGSTON BLACK	TAUNTON	BITTER SHARP CIDER	MID OCTOBER	SM TN
	IMPROVED DOVE	STEMBRIDGE	CIDER BITTER/SWEET		SM
1934	LAMBROOK PIPPIN	LAMBROOK	CIDER	LATE	
1934	LAMBROOK SEEDLING	LAMBROOK	DESSERT	LATE	
	LANGWORTHY	SOMERSET/DEV ON BORDER	SHARP CIDER	OCTOBER	TN
1883	LIDDONS PROLIFIC		CULINARY	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR
1872	LORD SUFFOLK		DESSERT CIDER?	LATE	
1883	MADELINE		DESSERT	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR
1928	MAGGIE GREIVE	RAISED LONG ASHTON	DESSERT	MID	NFT
1920's	MAJOR		FULL BITTER SWEET CIDER	EARLY OCTOBER	TN
1883	MEALY LATE BLOSSOM	TAUNTON	CULINARY	LATE	ONLY RECORD NAR
1948	MELMOTH	YEOVIL	DESSERT	MID/LATE	NFT
1872	MERCHANT APPLE	ILMINSTER	CULINARY DESSERT	MID	TN NFT
1876	MORGAN SWEET		DESSERT & CIDER	MID/LATE	SM TN
1884	KNOTTED KERNEL				
1883	MORNING THORPE PIPPIN (1)			EARLY	ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
1883	MORNING THORPE PIPPIN (2)	?	?	EARLY	?
1946	MURIEL	YEOVIL		MID	ONLY RECORD NAR
1934	NAILSEA WHITE	NORTH SOM	CULINARY	MID/LATE	(RECORDED 1946)
1894	NELDS DROPPER	LONG ASHTON		EARLY	
1920	NELSONS GLORY	BRISTOL	CULINARY	VERY LATE	
1920	NEWPORT CROSS	LONG ASHTON		EARLY	NFT (1930-48)
1824	NINE SQUARE	SOMERTON	SWEET DESSERT	VERY LATE	TN
1800's	OLD SOMERSET RUSSET		DESSERT	LATE	TN NFT
1872	PARKERS GLORY PIPPIN	MERRIOTT?	SWEET DESSERT	VERY LATE	TN (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1883	PAWN APPLE		DESSERT	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
	PENNARD BITTER	PENNARD	BITTER SWEET CIDER	LATE SEPT/ OCTOBER	SM
1916	PLYMOUTH CROSS	RAISED LONG ASHTON	CULINARY	EARLY	NFT
1851	POMEROY OF SOMERSET	TAUNTON?	DESSERT	MID/LATE	TN NFT
1824	POORMANS PROFIT		DESSERT?	LATE	
1962	PORTERS PERFECTION	EAST LAMBROOK	BIT/SHARP CIDER	MID/LATE	SM TN
1888	POUND APPLE		DESSERT		(WHITTLES DUMPLING?)
1700's	POWELLS RUSSET		DESSERT	MID/LATE	NFT
1883	PUFFIN		DESSERT	MID	NFT
1934	PYLEIGH	LONG ASHTON			ONLY RECORD NAR
1842	QUEEN ANNE			MID/LATE	(KNOWN 1946)

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
1934	RADCLIFFE NONPARIEL	LONG ASHTON	DESSERT	MID/LATE	ONLY RECORD NAR
	RED JERSEY		CIDER		
	RED WORTHY	MARTOCK	CIDER		
1903	RICH'S FAVOURITE	CHURCHILL		EARLY	
1880	ROUGH PIPPIN		DESSERT	MID/LATE	TN ONLY RECORD NAR
1883	ROYAL GEORGE	TAUNTON	CULINARY	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR
	ROYAL JERSEY (1)				
	ROYAL JERSEY (2)				
1818	ROYAL SOMERSET	SOMERSET/DEV ON BORDER	CIDER SHARP CULINARY	LATE	SM TN
1818	SACK & SUGAR	SOMERSET/DEV ON BORDER	DESSERT	EARLY	RECORDED 1934
1919	ST IVEL PIPPIN	YEOVIL		MID	ONLY RECORD NAR
1950	SANDEW		CIDER? CULINARY	MID	NFT (GRAFTS FROM VERY OLD TREE)
1883	SHEEPS NOSE (1)		MIDL CIDER	MID	SM
1872	SHEEPS NOSE (2)		CULINARY	MID	
1884	SHOREDITCH WHITE	TAUNTON?	CULINARY	EARLY/MID	NFT
	SILVER CUP		CIDER	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR AS SILVER TANKARD?
1883	SLACK ME GIRDLE	SOUTH SOMERSET	SWEET CIDER	MID LATE	TN
1883	SMALL CATSHEAD	TAUNTON	CULINARY	LATE	ONLY RECORD NAR?

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
1831	SOMERSET LASTING	DEVON/SOMERSET BORDER	CULINARY	MID/LATE	TN NFT
LATE 1800's	SOMERSET REDSTREAK		BITTER SWEET CIDER	OCTOBER	TN SM
1905	SOPS IN WINE	DEVON/SOMERSET BORDER	CULINARY/CIDER	EARLY MID	TN SM
	STABLE JERSEY	SHEPTON MALLET	CIDER MID/B/S		SM
	STEMBRIDGE CLUSTER	STEMBRIDGE	MEDIUM BITTER SWEET CIDER	OCTOBER	SM
	STEMBRIDGE JERSEY	STEMBRIDGE	CIDER	LATE NOVEMBER	SM
1800's	STOKE RED (SYN NEVER BLIGHT)		BITTER SHARP CIDER		TN
1950	STOKE ALLOW		MED/BITTER/ SWEET CIDER	MID	NFT
1934	SQUIRES CODLIN	MERRIOTT?	DESSERT		ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1831	SUMMER STIBBERT		DESSERT	EARLY	TN NFT
1883	SWEET ACHAN	MERRIOTT	DESSERT		ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
	SWEET BLENHEIM (SYN COURT ROYAL)		CIDER		
1883	SWEET RUSSETT COAT	TAUNTON	CIDER? DESSERT		ONLY RECORD NAR

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
1919	TAUNTON CROSS	RAISED LONG ASHTON TAUNTON	DESSERT	EARLY	SC NFT
1851	TAUNTON GOLDEN PIPPIN	TAUNTON	DESSERT	VERY LATE	
1872	TAUNTON NONPAREIL	TAUNTON			(THOUGHT 1931 EXIST)
	TAYLOS SWEET	NORTH CADBURY	SWEET CIDER	EARLY OCTOBER	SM
1883	THOMAGE SEEDLING	MERRIOTT		LATE	ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1700's	TOM PUTT	TRENT	CULINARY MED SHARP CIDER	EARLY/MID	TN SM NFT
	TREMLETTS BITTER	EXE VALE?	BITTER SWEET CIDER	EARLY OCTOBER	TN
1967	UNDERLEAF	LONG ASHTON		LATE	NFT (4 RECORDED)
1883	WATERLOO PIPPIN			LATE	ONLY RECOD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1930	WHITE CLOSE PIPPIN	NORTH CADBURY	BITTER/SWEET CIDER	EARLY OCTOBER	TN
1883	WHITE JERSEY		BITTER SWEET CIDER	SEPTEMBER	SM
1883	WHITTLES DUMPLING	TAUNTON	CULINARY	MID	(POUND APPLE?) ONY RECORD NAR
1883	WILDINGS RED STREAK	MERRIOTT	CIDER? CULINARY	MID	ONLY RECORD NAR (EXHIB BY SCOTTS)
1899	WINTER HILARY			MID	ONLY RECORD NAR

DATE	NAME	ORIGIN	TYPE	SEASON	STOCKIST - PRESENT LOCATION
	WOODBINE (SEVERAL VARIETIES)				TN
1920	WORCESTER CROSS	RAISED LONG ASHTON		MID	NFT (ON TRIAL 1934-48)
1900's	YARLINGTON MILL	YARLINGTON	BITTER SWEET CIDER	EARLY OCTOBER NOVEMBER	SM
	YEOVIL SOUR	YEOVIL			

KEY

SM	SHEPTON MALLET - MATTHEW CLARK'S ORCHARD
NFT	NATIONAL FRUIT TRIALS (BROGDALE)
NAR	NATIONAL APPLE REGISTER
TN	THORNHAYES NURSERY CULLOMPTON
SC	SCOTTS NURSERY, MERRIOTT
RHS	ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Notes

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Many Somerset varieties were introduced from Long Ashton Research Station. Many of these originated in the County, but were distributed to cider makers to extend varieties in orchards. Others were recorded as coming from the West Country and those I have heard mentioned or seen in connection with Somerset I have recorded also. Thanks to Liz Copas (Long Ashton Research Station) for her help.

In the Apple Register of 1971, many cider varieties are not recorded, but I have included them as they are important to any study of Somerset Apples.

In 1883 apples were exhibited (usually at RHS) and these are often the only records of these varieties. Scotts of Merriott exhibited several kinds and I have recorded these to.

June Small

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