

Growing Orchard Communities

COMMUNITY ORCHARD TOOLKIT



A Wassail Song - Here's to Thee, Old Apple Tree

This has the first line “Here’s to thee, old apple tree...” It is said to be from South Devon, and it is quoted in *Gentleman’s Magazine*, 1791, p. 402-403, which is available on google books. I have found only the words from this version, with only one verse. There is another very similar song, with words only slightly different and music written for it published in *A Book of Christmas Carols* edited by Haig and Regina Shekerjian, but we are not sure how authentic that is.

Version A. from the Gentleman’s Magazine, 1791

Here’s to thee, old apple tree,
Whence thou mayst bud
And whence thou mayst blow!
And whence thou mayst bear apples enow!
Hats full! Caps full!
Bushel--bushel--sacks full,
And my pockets full too! Huzza!

Version B. from the Shekerjian book which has music

Here’s to thee, old apple tree
Here’s to thee, old apple tree

Verse 1.

Well mayest thou bud,
And well mayest thou blow,
And well mayest thou bear
Of apples enow!
Hats full, caps full,
Good bushel sacks full,
My pockets too.
Hurrah! Wassail!

Verse 2.

Give us a crop
Of good apples ripe,
Red and well-rounded
The good juicy type!

Verse 3.

Here is our ale,
Now drink of it well,
And give us good apples
Of which we can tell.

Note on language:
enow is a dialect form of “enough.” It is sometimes misunderstood as “now.” Although the first verse is one of the most widely quoted rhymes, I couldn’t find any performances of it, not even a chant.