

**BRIEF ESSAYS ON NEW
FRUITS, ORNAMENTAL
TREES AND PLANTS**

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Brief Essays on New Fruits, Ornamental Trees and Plants by William C. Barry

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— ON —

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— BY —

WILLIAM C. BARRY.

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NEW FRUITS IN 1879.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE WESTERN N. Y. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AT
ROCHESTER, JANUARY 29TH, 1880.

Referring to my report* of last year on New Seedling Peaches, I suppose the question will now be asked whether any of the many varieties then enumerated and described have proved to be acquisitions. You are, of course, aware that in so brief a period it is not possible to obtain much reliable information on matters of this character; but it gives me great pleasure to furnish such facts as have been communicated to me, and I hope that the list may serve in some degree to avert the confusion which must necessarily arise from the introduction of so many new varieties at one time.

New Peaches.

Relative to **Beekwith's Early**, which heads the list, we have nothing new to report, as the tree did not produce any fruit the past season.

Wyandotte Chief failed also to bear any fruit. Its history and description, as given in my last report, was incorrect. Mr. Kroh informs me that it originated on the farm of Mr. Matthew Mudeater, near Wyandotte, Kansas, and he describes it as a dark red free-stone, rich, juicy, and fine flavored. Average specimens have measured eight and a half inches in circumference, and in 1878 it ripened ten days in advance of Amsden.

Bledsoe's Early Cling—The severe winter of '78 injured the fruit buds. Mr. Wood has changed its name to "**Advance**," and he describes it as a delicious peach; superior to Alexander or Amsden, and five to eight days earlier.

Respecting the Seedlings Nos. 1 and 2, raised by Jas. A. Storm, of Missouri, I have not been able to obtain any new facts.

Brice's Early June, according to reliable authority is remarkably early, but Prof. Vandeman, of Geneva, Kansas, says that "**Vandeman's Early**" is destined to excel it in many particulars. As this Seedling has not been before described, I give the following description as sent to me by the Professor:

Vandeman's Early—Originated by H. E. Vandeman, Geneva, Kansas, and named Vandeman's Early by the Kansas State Horticultural Society, bore its first crop in 1878, and ripened June 13th, the fruit measuring seven to eight inches in circumference; color bright purple and crimson on white ground; flesh white, adheres slightly to the stone; in flavor equal to Hale's. Prof. Vandeman says that he has twenty other promising seedlings. In that vicinity there are also the following seedlings, for the description of which I am indebted to Mr. Vandeman:

Nugent's June—Originated by E. J. Nugent, Ottawa, Kansas, very promising.

Towns' Early—Originated by Mrs. Towns, of Garnett, Kansas, and perhaps the largest of these very early peaches.

Emporia—Originated by Mrs. L. Burns, near Emporia; resembles the other very early kinds.

Rev. S. M. Irwin, of Geneva, Kansas, has twelve seedlings, all very early.

Ashby's Early, which in my report was described as having originated in Texas, was raised by G. W. Ashby, at Charrute, Kansas, and is said to be ten days earlier than Amsden, and of better quality.

Simon Bucher, of Emporia, Kansas, is reported to have twenty kinds earlier than Amsden; and Mr. C. C. Kelsey, of Humboldt, Kansas, has some five or six seedlings that ripened ten days in advance of Amsden.

Of **Hynes' Surprise**, the Hon. E. F. Hynes writes me that the late cold weather in spring injured the buds so much that there were but few peaches. He describes his several seedlings as follows:

Hynes' Surprise has fruited four years. In size it is medium to large, very highly colored, flesh white and red, fine flavored, and a free stone when fully ripe. It is an excellent keeper.

Hynes' Nectar—My latest new peach is a freestone, and delicious. In 1878 ripened five days in advance of Surprise.

Early Lydia ripens with Hale's Early. Skin rose-colored, and a free stone. None of these have shown any indications of rot, while the Hale's Early and Early York on the same ground rot badly.

Early Rose, a freestone; **Gov. Phelps**, a large yellow clingstone; **Howard**, **Gen. Gustar** and **La Belle** are all seedlings raised by him.

Hape's Early—Raised in Atlanta, Ga., and of the same season as Alexander and Amsden, is said by Mr. Berckmans to be superior to either in quality, and preferable because it is more of a freestone.

Baker's Early May—Raised by G. W. Mosteller, Girard, Ks., did not produce any fruit in 1879.

Bowers' Early—The original tree did not bear in 1879, but a few specimens were produced on young trees; these ripened two to three days earlier than Amsden and were larger than that variety, and of finer quality. The disseminators, Messrs. Morris & Miller say that it is so much superior to Amsden in flavor, that it would be valuable even if it did not prove any earlier.

The **Rochester Seedlings** may be regarded as still on trial, although one of them ripens with Crawford's Late, and resembles it so closely as not to be worthy of a distinct name. The other is quite promising.

The **Very Large Seedling Peach** raised in New York City, ripens too late to be of value at the North, but would undoubtedly prove desirable at the South.

Gov. Garland is described as a large clingstone peach, resembling Amsden in appearance, but larger, earlier and superior in flavor. The original tree is growing six miles from Bentonville, Arkansas, but the fruit buds

being injured by severe weather last winter, no fruit was obtained this season. Prof. Wm. Hudson of Tehuacana, Texas, who is experimenting with the new peaches, had a young tree which bore a single specimen that ripened five days before the Alexander.

Harper's Early, originated in Wilson Co., Ks., is, according to reliable authority resident in Kansas, not so large nor so early as Amsden.

Kinnaman's Early—Regarding this variety I have not been able to learn anything new.

Burns' Peach—I have not received any new facts relative to this variety.

The Sallie Worrell, raised in Wilson Co., N. C., is described as very large, sometimes measuring 14 inches in circumference; color creamy white shaded with pale red; flesh juicy, vinous and very good; one of the finest peaches; ripens with Stump the World.

Buston's October, Harris' Winter and Albright's Peach are late varieties of value at the South, but too late for cultivation at the North.

Callie Scaff is said to be a seedling of the Early York, one-third larger than Amsden, and adheres slightly to the stone, same as Hale's. In the same orchard with Amsden and Alexander it ripened in 1878 eight to ten days earlier. In '79 the fruit buds were injured by frost, hence no fruit.

The Davidson Seedlings raised in Painsville, Ohio, were carefully compared with other very early sorts by Mr. M. B. Bateham, the well-known horticulturist; and he has reported the following results:

Seedling No. 1, ripened in 1879 two weeks later than it did in 1878. Mr. Bateham, however, believes it to be a few days earlier than Alexander or Amsden.

Seedling No. 2, which last year ('78) ripened a week later than No. 1, was not more than three days later this year ('79). Both are of fair size, brilliant color, and equal in quality to any of this class of peaches. No. 2 ripened with Amsden and Alexander.

Mr. Bateham says that **The Allen Peach**, which ripened very early in 1878, matured ten days later this season ('79), and the fruit was smaller than usual. This variety was raised by A. T. Allen, of Willoughby, Ohio, and in 1878 the first ripe peach was taken from the tree on the 6th of July.

Honeywell, which was supposed to be considerably earlier than Alexander or Amsden, ripened in 1879 at the same time as these varieties, but was inferior to both in size and quality.

Brigg's Early May, which was regarded as very early, ripens with Alexander and Amsden, and is not so large nor of such good quality.

Waterloo.—In 1878 the Waterloo ripened a week before the Alexander or Amsden. In '79 the difference in time of ripening was slight, owing in a considerable measure to the overloaded condition of the tree and its unfavorable location. By actual weight and measurement we found the Waterloo to exceed in size all the very early peaches which we tested.

Wheatland is a seedling raised by D. E. Rogers, of Wheatland, N. Y. Fruit large, flesh yellow, juicy and of excellent flavor; ripens between Early and Late Crawford. Mr. Rogers, who is looked upon as one of our best peach growers, esteems this variety highly.

Wager was originated by Mr. Wager, of Millers Corners, Ontario Co., N. Y. It is a bright yellow peach shaded with red on the sunny side; flesh juicy and sprightly, and of fair quality. Tree very hardy and productive; ripens about the same time as the Crawford.

Conkling, which is undoubtedly one of the handsomest peaches known at the north did not produce any fruit the past season.

Alpha is a seedling raised by T. V. Munson, of Dennison, Texas, and is thought to be a cross between Early Rivers and Foster. Mr. Munson says it has ripened twelve days before Alexander, and is higher colored and firmer than Early Rivers. Among the many very early sorts this seems to be the first representative of a new type, and we sincerely hope it may prove worthy of dissemination. We have now, far too many seedlings of the Hale's and our efforts should be directed towards originating peaches like the Alpha.

Mr. Munson says that the following seem to be real acquisitions for the south.

Family Favorite, originated by W. H. Locke, Bonham, Texas; a seedling of the Chinese Cling, but ripening two weeks earlier.

Bogy's Leviathan—Raised by Mr. Bogy, of Bonham, Texas, very large; of fine quality, and ripening three weeks later than Crawford's Late.

Miss May, originated by Mr. Carroll, of Dresden, Texas, of large size, first quality and very late.

Infant Wonder—Raised by Capt. Daniel Webster, of Denison, Texas; very large and fine; late.

Mr. Munson, who is making a specialty of peach culture says, that according to his observations, those varieties with reniform and notched glands are the most robust and healthy. Those with globose glands rank next in vigor while such sorts as have serrate or glandless leaves are unreliable as to time of ripening and are disposed to rot and mildew. He has classified the following:

To the first section belong—**Early Beatrice, Early Louise, Early Rivers, Brice's Early, Waterloo** and **Alpha**.

To the next—that is those with globose glands—**Wilder, Musser, Early Canada, Alexander, Amsden, Baker's Early May, Hynes' Surprise, Hynes' Nectar, Bowers Early**.

To the last belong—**Downing, Climax, Cumberland, Saunders, Honeywell, Brigg's Early May** and **Early Lydia**.

I am indebted to Mr. Munson for the following list of new peaches, the names of which are now given for the first time.

Williams—Discovered in Delaware some years ago by Lewis Williams, of Hillsboro, Md., said to be earlier and finer than Alexander.

Larkins' Early—Raised by D. F. Larkin, Hunt's Station, Tenn., is represented to be as fine as Large Early York, and ten days earlier than Alexander.

Eureka—Disseminated by M. W. Samuels, Clinton, Ky., is said to be as good as Alexander and earlier.

Kelley's Early—Raised by H. M. Kelley, Irving, Ill., is said to be very large and to have ripened twenty one days before the Amsden.

Ramsey's Early Cling—Originated by A. M. Ramsey, Mahomet, Tex., is described as an improved Alexander.

Seedlings No. 1, 2 & 3—Raised by Mr. Sharp, of Wooster, Ohio, are all said to excel the Alexander.

Sherfey's Early—Raised by Raphael Sherfey, Gettysburg, Pa., who thinks it will eclipse all others.

Brown's Early—Originated by W. L. Brown, Ashley, Ill., is said to be very early.

Sleeper's Dwarf is the name of a dwarf variety originated by W. M. Sleeper of Oxford, Indiana. It is described as of remarkable dwarf compact growth; the original tree having grown only three feet in eight years. Fruit of medium to large size, greenish white tinged with crimson; flesh juicy, sweet, rich; season, October. In our nursery the tree of this variety has not grown more than two inches in two years, and we have therefore rejected it from the list, as unprofitable to cultivate. It is, however, a curiosity, and will be considered desirable by some as an ornamental tree.

Schumaker is a seedling originated by Michael Shumaker of Fairview Township, Erie Co., Pa. Borne for the first time in '77. Described as large, round, bright yellow splashed with crimson, and is said to ripen three to four weeks earlier than Alexander or Amsden.

Graves' Semi-cling—Originated by Mr. Wm. Graves, Hazelhurst, Miss.; is believed to be a hybrid of the apricot and peach. It is described as one of the largest and finest of the very early peaches, and five to six days earlier than Alexander.

Thus you see how extended has become the list of New Peaches. It is to be regretted that so many sorts ripening almost at the same time, and so closely resembling each other should have been named and offered for sale. We trust that in the future no one will attempt to introduce a new peach until they are perfectly satisfied that it has superior qualities not common to any other variety. At the North, generally, and in Western New York, in particular, the past season was remarkably favorable for the peach. We had ripe specimens of the Waterloo sent to us August 2d, and on the 1st of November we gathered from our own orchard, ripe fruit of Comet, one of Mr. Rivers' Seedlings. At the West, however, the severe winter of '78-'79, and late spring frosts at the south ruined the peach crop in many localities; otherwise I should have been able to submit a much more complete and interesting report. Another favorable season will, I hope, enable us to fix definitely the value of many of these novelties, and then the list will undoubtedly be greatly reduced. I will add that the following varieties of Mr. Rivers' seedlings ripen at the same time with Mountain Rose and Crawford's early, and being only of medium size and fair quality are hardly worth retaining. They are Dagmar, Dr. Hogg, Early Albert, Early Alfred. Early Beatrice is superseded by Alexander.

New Apples.

Novelties in this class of fruits are remarkably scarce.

Highland Beauty, a seedling apple of medium size, good quality and a long keeper has been brought to notice by Mr. E. P. Roe.

Kirkland is the name of another handsome seedling apple, resembling the Yellow Bellflower; of large size, good quality and a late keeper. Both have been described in our horticultural journals, and it is not necessary to refer to them here.

New Pears.

The "**Hoosic**"—Some nine or ten years ago, we received from the Hon. A. Foote, of Williamstown, Mass., several varieties of seedling pears. Among them were seedlings of Hacon's Incomparable, Seckel, Marie Louise, Washington, etc. They all possessed a certain degree of merit, but up to this time only one of them developed sufficient character and quality to be worthy of dissemination. This is a seedling of Hacon's Incomparable, which Mr. Foote first sent us as "Hacon's No. 3," and subsequently named "Hoosic." This variety we have fruited several years, and we believe that its many good qualities fully justify us in calling particular attention to it. Fruit large, obovate, having considerable exterior resemblance to Beurre Diel. Stalk $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, moderately stout, and set obliquely in a slight depression; calyx large, open, in a shallow basin; skin, greenish yellow, dotted and marbled with russet; flesh fine grained, melting with a rich almond flavor like that of the Edmunds; in quality ranking as best; season October. Tree an erect, free grower, very hardy, and remarkably prolific.

Herr's Late Winter is the name of a new seedling pear raised by A. G. Herr, of Louisville, Ky., and brought to public attention by Messrs. Nanz & Neuner. It is described as of medium to large size, good quality and a long keeper; specimens having been kept in perfect condition until May and June of the following year.

New Cherries.

Mr. D. B. Wier, of Lacon, Ill., who has been experimenting with seedling cherries for several years, offered for the first time last autumn 45 new varieties of the Early Richmond type. We have several of them on trial. We have also in our collection a fine seedling resembling the Elkhorn or Tradescant's Black Heart. It equals that variety in flavor and firmness of flesh, ripens a week later, and shows no disposition to decay. For home use and market it must prove valuable on account of its good quality and lateness. I cannot permit the occasion to pass without referring to the choice sorts of **Montmorency**, now in cultivation; one of them in particular deserves special mention. This variety came to us under the name of "Montmorency Longue Queue," but did not prove true. We have called it "**Montmorency Large Fruited**," as the fruit is of large size and for one of that class of very fine quality; preferred by many to the sweet cherries.

Dyehouse Cherry—Figured and described some years ago in the American Agriculturist, has proved to be a valuable addition to the list of hardy cherries. It was found some thirty years ago growing wild among some Morello cherries, by a Mr. Dyehouse, in Lincoln Co., Ky. The fruit is of medium size, bright scarlet, with a very small stone and is produced in great abundance at the strawberry season. The tree is of dwarf compact growth, and very hardy surpassing in this respect the Early Richmond.