

Sequachee Valley News.

VOL. 4.

SEQUACHEE, TENN., THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1896.

NO. 7

Tennessee Apples.

PARAGON.—Synonyms, Twitty's Paragon, Black Twig, Mammoth Black Twig

Specimens sent to the Experiment Station by a number of fruit growers. The history of this apple is very interesting. Several prominent horticulturalists of the country conducted a lively discussion as to its real origin through the columns of "American Gardening," during the early months of this year. The discussion disclosed the following facts: That a very large seedling apple tree now stands in Arkansas which has been propagated and disseminated as Paragon, Mammoth Black Twig and Arkansas; that a seedling has also been originated in Tennessee and disseminated under the same name; that both of these trees are doubtless of the Winesap; that the trees are very similar in habit of growth, that the fruit from each bears a close resemblance, and are considered identical by some; that trees from both sources have been extensively propagated, and that some of the largest orchards in the South, East and West contain a good percentage of the Paragon. The fruit from each source is said to be such a close resemblance that there is no means of determining the proportion of trees that have been grown from stock originally obtained from the two States named. The fact having been firmly established that there are two seedling Paragon apples, we shall confine our remarks to the one of Tennessee origin.

The name Paragon should be generally adopted for the apple of Tennessee origin and all other synonyms dropped. The synonyms Black Twig and Mammoth Black Twig are sometimes applied to the Winesap, which is also a mistake. Some distinct name will very probably be given to the Arkansas apples. In the Third Appendix of "Downings Fruits and Fruit Trees of America" the following is said concerning the "Black Twig." The exact origin of this tree is unknown, but is supposed to be in the northern portion of Lincoln county, Tenn. It is said to be one of the most valuable and profitable apples grown in that section. Tree very vigorous, spreading, rather an open head, not an early bearer but giving good regular crops annually.

Fruit medium, oblate, very little conical, slightly angular; skin bright yellow, shaded with light red (dark crimson in sun), some obscure stripes and splashes on the shaded side, and rather thickly sprinkled with yellowish and brown dots; stalk short, rather stout; cavity medium, rather russet; calyx closed; basin medium, roundish regular; flesh pale yellow, half fine, tender, juicy, mild subacid, rich; very good; core rather small. October to February.

Dr. W. L. Moore, of Cyruston, Lincoln county, Tenn., gives an interesting account of the origin and discovery of the origin and history of the Paragon apple, which was published on page 146 of "American Gardening." The following paragraphs are extracts from this article:

"The discovery and introduction of the Paragon are both unique and interesting. In 1885 I was casting about for varieties of apples better than the old ones, with which to set out a new orchard, and learning that

that P. L. Twitty, a local nursery man, claimed to have a superior Black Twig apple, I procured from him a specimen, which I found to be a very different apple from the Black Twig I had known all my life. (The reader should here bear in mind that the Winesap is sometimes called the Black Twig.) I so wrote Mr. Twitty and asked him for a history of the apple. He wrote that fifteen years previous he was endeavoring to procure the stock of the true Black Twig apple, and being informed by the late Judge Cowan, that he could find it in the orchard of Major Rankin Toole, six miles west of Fayetteville, Lincoln county, Tenn., he visited Major Toole's place, but found him absent. His daughter told him she knew all about the apple trees and could point out the Black Twig trees. Reaching the orchard hard by she remarked: "We have two kinds of Black Twigs, the little and the big." Paying no attention to this information, Mr. Twitty proceeded to cut scions from all the trees indicated and mixed them. There the mistake was made, and mischief that has caused all the subsequent confusion and wrangling among fruit men.

"These mixed scions Mr. Twitty grafted in his nursery, and in due time set a number of the trees in his orchard; he also supplied Mr. Heikes, manager of the large Huntsville nursery, with the mixed scions. "When his trees fruited, he found that all except four of the trees bore apples which he had always known as Winesap. The four trees bore a large, beautiful and finely flavored apple he had never before seen, and being ignorant of the fact that the Winesap apple in this section was known by the name of the Black Twig, he at once concluded that the strange apples on the four trees were the true Black Twig, and so entered it in his catalogue and set the matter right in his nursery row as regarded its mixed condition.

"After receiving this statement, I at once at once rode over to the Toole place. Again the Major was absent, but his daughter pointed out the row of so-called Black Twig trees and the one Big Black Twig tree, as she did to Mr. Twitty fifteen years before. The Big Black Twig tree was standing on a miniature clay knoll, formed by the washing away of the soil from around the tree, leaving the roots bare. It had suffered much from the ravages of time and storm, but showed a vigorous growth despite the poverty of the soil, by throwing out numerous thrifty and very black twigs from body and main limbs. In answer to my question Miss Toole said that was the only tree of the kind they had ever had. The tree was thought to be fifty years old, and had been a sure bearer, and it was the carrying of the large and beautiful apples in his pocket by the old Major in order to exhibit them to his neighbors that brought them to the attention of Judge Cowan. The Major called them the Black Twig.

"I cut off a few twigs and rode away, still much puzzled, but had not gone a mile when it flashed upon my understanding as if by inspiration, the old tree is a seedling! It had doubtless been set as a Black Twig, and been broken off at the grafted point, and sent up a sprout that had made the future tree from the root grown from a seed taken from a Winesap apple that had been pollen-

ized by the bloom of a Limber Twig, or vice versa; as the apple is evidently a cross of these two varieties.

"I at once wrote Mr. Twitty again stating that I had investigated the matter, and was sure he had a new apple, and he was doing it and the public an injustice in calling it the Black Twig. I suggested the name "Paragon," which after some hesitation he accepted. Feeling that the merits of this new apple now christened Paragon should be advertised over a wider section, I published in a Louisville, Ky., journal of agriculture an article describing it and giving its unique history. This article served in a great measure to pave the way to the immense popularity the Paragon has attained—a popularity beyond the wildest dream of its introducer."

Wm. H. Smith, of Leiper's Fork, Tenn., who has had a very great amount of experience with the Paragon, writes: "I regard this as our most valuable sort. I thought this from my first acquaintance with it in the winter of 1895-6, but did not feel so confident of it as now. All who have fruited the Paragon are delighted with it. There are many strong points. It is a vigorous, stately grower, making twice the root growth of its parent, the Winesap. The leaf is double the size of that of the Winesap, is much thicker, and remains fresh later in the season, which is a valuable feature, as such a heavy and dense foliage affords an excellent protection for the fruit from the rays of the sun. This protection causes the fruit to ripen more gradually in our climate, thus making the Paragon a better keeper than the Winesap. But the most important point is that the trees of this variety make their own roots above the union of scion and stock. I am certain that nine tenths of my Paragon trees in the nursery are on their own roots. This fact is generally conceded by practical fruit growers to be a matter of the greatest importance. In harmony with the superior excellence of the trees, we have an apple better than the Winesap in every respect except one, namely, that it is not more highly flavored, but is fully equal and practically the same. I am fully convinced that it will retain its flavor longer."

W. W. Twitty, Lincoln county, Tenn., says concerning it: "This is one of the most valuable and profitable winter apples grown. Keeps well until May. Specimens have been kept in this southern climate until June in a perfect state of preservation. Tree an upright grower with spreading head, and succeeds well on all soils, making a growth over other varieties equal to the LeConte pear over other varieties of pears. Bears heavy crops every year. Fruit large and handsome in appearance. Color dark red when exposed to the sun, slightly striped in shades; flesh yellowish, crisp and juicy; flavor equal to or better than the Winesap." The Paragon is quite extensively grown in our State. It is gaining popularity every year.—Agricultural Bulletin.

Col. Hill, of the Sequachee News, was in Jasper Monday, and says his town will have an exhibit at the Nashville centennial whether the county court makes an appropriation or not.—Marion Democrat.

Subscribe for the News.

LOCAL.

Circuit Court met this week.

See that play Saturday night.

Edgar Pryor was in Jasper Tuesday.

Tom Richards is sick with the fever.

Henry Rutherford spent Monday in Whitwell.

Mark Martin shipped a car load of lumber this week.

Miss Kate Lewis and Hop Kelley were in town Sunday.

Job printing done neatly, nicely and quickly at this office.

J. W. Graham spent Friday and Saturday in South Pittsburg.

Rev. Mr. Byrum, of Victoria, has moved into one of the brown houses.

W. H. Hutton is reported as about to close out his store at Victoria.

John Lay, who is teaching in the Dame Settlement was in town Saturday.

Job printing that is job printing done at this office. Nothing shoddy with us.

H. E. Tate arrived here Saturday night to take charge of the Secondary school.

Discuss the fruit question. If we can't have coal mining let us have grape raising.

All hands should turn out to see the play Saturday night. Come along everybody.

Miss Lydia Gustafson has recovered from her late sickness which we are glad to hear.

Miss Gertrude Graham and escort of Whitwell, were in town Sunday visiting our Spring.

Remember that we always have stationery on hand, writing paper, tablets and envelopes.

Luther Dent and Miss Addie Myers were married Sunday, Rev. Jacob Houts officiating.

It rained Sunday morning very heavily and the farmers are going about with the broadest of smiles.

Mr. Pitner, salesman for the Peoples & Pitner tobacco concern of Chattanooga was in town Monday.

B. F. Cowan, of Whitwell, and Joe Cowan, of Dayton, spent Sunday with Mrs. P. M. Pryor and family.

Sam Pryor took charge of the school at Hayron's Chapel, while his brother attended Court this week.

Mrs. J. C. Norris and children arrived here from Fayetteville Tuesday, to visit the mother of J. C. Norris.

A Poplar Block apple, 13 ounces Aug. 14th. The dry weather has prevented the development of these apples this year.

Raport & Paletz have discontinued their clothing store at Whitwell and will soon dissolve partnership at South Pittsburg.

The welcome shower of Friday was not only enjoyed but appreciated, and we want the rain like that the old farmer prayed for, "not a rearing tearing rain but a drizzle drizzle which lasts all day and most of the night."

Reports from Texas say that everything is about burnt up there. The wheat harvest, however was good, seventeen bushels to the acre.

Reports from Arizona say that J. M. Curnutt, formerly of this county has left off school teaching and gone back to his old love firing a steam engine.

H. Kent was down from Whitwell this week. He has just finished Tobe Holloway's house and has considerable other work to do before he gets through there.

Next week we will publish Blaine's speech on silver, by special request. While the News is strictly neutral, we wish to accommodate all requests made in good faith.

The Laconia (N. H.) Democrat also published a part of that article on grapes which appeared in the News three weeks ago. Sequachee grapes are taking the lead.

We trust everybody had the good sense to send their children to school. It is pretty hot weather we'll admit, but by no means permit them to lose any chance for an education.

About all the girls and boys went up to the wedding. They were anxious to see how it was done, so as to be less awkward when matters were arranged for their own nuptials.

Newton Fultz and Nick Fulfer have been probing the mountain for coal again. They report the finding of traces of Battle Creek vein of coal somewhere below the Chalybeate Spring.

Everybody is cordially invited to turn out Saturday night to see the play, "Better than Gold." It will cost you nothing and it will be your last chance to see it as it will not be given again.

R. J. Brown and C. H. Pearson have fenced their lots on Alabama jointly and yet severally which means that Jeff put up the rear and side fences, while Mr. Pearson builds the front one.

A considerable crowd of people were at the spring Sunday in the hopes of learning Rev. Mr. Byrum, who has lately moved here, preach a sermon but they disappointed as he did not turn up.

W. C. Hill went to Victoria Monday and found the People's Store just booming up trade. The general manager, Mr. W. A. Turner, swears it pays to patronize the News office, and looking over his big stock and the crowds of customers we judge it does.

Mr. G. Sherman, of Sequachee, has made a very large "hit" on his vineyard this season at that place. They are known as the Niagara grape. Mr. Sherman realized a pretty good sum from the lot. He sold a considerable quantity at this place and shipped a much larger quantity.—Marion Democrat.

Mr. J. R. Hunter, Principal of the Pryor Institute and Training School, made us a visit Friday. His school will open on Wednesday Sept. 2, and he expects a good attendance and support from the people in the Sequachee Valley as well as from neighboring States. Mr. Hunter has a good reputation as a successful teacher and the new departure in the system of the Pryor Institute will, we think, be availed of and appreciated.