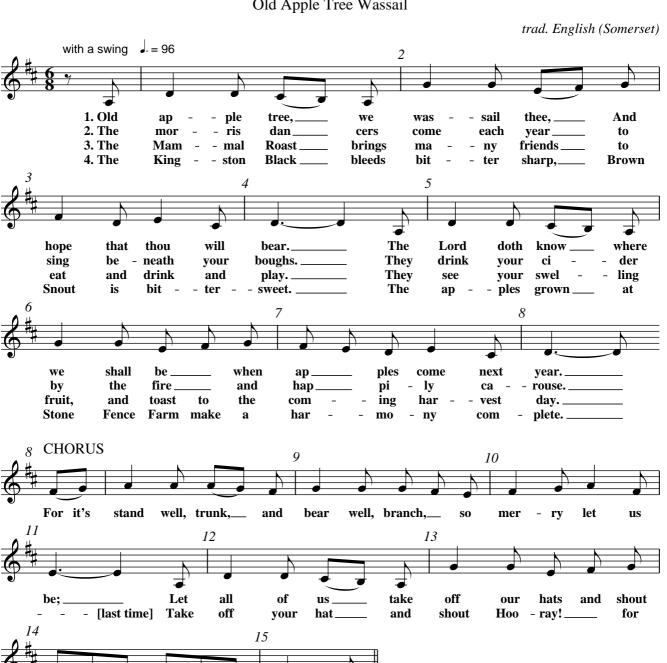
Rumsey Road Wassail Old Apple Tree Wassail



Shouted:

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Pe

Hatfuls, capfuls, three bushel bagfuls And a little heap under the stairs Hip! Hip! Hurray!

old

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tree!

trees!

The tune and (with minor differences) first verse and chorus are traditional. Verses 2-4 and final chorus were written by Susan Galbraith, 2019, in honor of Peter Hoover and his Stone Fence Farm cider orchard in Trumansburg, NY.

From "The Christmas Revels Songbook": This wassail ritual, performed at night by firelight, ensured new growth in the fruit trees. Bits of lambs' wool, dipped in old cider, were affixed to the branches of the trees. The singing and dancing was punctuated with loud banging noises and shouts to drive away evil spirits. This variant from Somerset reflects the early origins of the carol, which involved taking hands and singing while dancing in a ring or around a bush or May tree.