

Rumsey Road Wassail

Old Apple Tree Wassail

trad. English (Somerset)

with a swing ♩. = 96



1. Old ap - - ple tree, ___ we was - sail thee, ___ And hope that thou will
2. The mor - - ris dan ___ cers come each year ___ to sing be - neath your
3. The Mam - mal Roast ___ brings ma - - ny friends ___ to eat and drink and
4. The King - ston Black ___ bleeds bit - - ter sharp, ___ Brown Snout is bit - - ter -



bear. _____ The Lord doth know _____ where
 boughs. _____ They drink your ci - - - der
 play. _____ They see your swel - - - ling
 - sweet. _____ The ap - - - ples grown _____ at



we shall be _____ when ap _____ ples come next year. _____
 by the fire _____ and hap _____ pi - - ly ca - - rouse. _____
 fruit, and toast to the com - - - ing har - - vest day. _____
 Stone Fence Farm make a har - - - mo - - ny com - - plete. _____



CHORUS

For it's stand well, trunk, ___ and bear well, branch, ___ so mer - - ry let us



be; _____ Let all of us ___ take off our hats and shout out to the old ap - ple tree! ___
 - - [last time] Take off your hat ___ and shout Hoo - ray! ___ for Pe - - ter's ap - - ple trees! ___

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

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.