

Rumsey Road Wassail

Old Apple Tree Wassail

trad. English (Somerset)

with a swing ♩ = 96

1. Old ap - - ple tree, we was - - sail thee, And
 2. The mor - - ris dan cers come each year to
 3. The Mam - - mal Roast brings ma - - ny friends to
 4. The King - - ston Black bleeds bit - - ter sharp, Brown

hope that thou will bear. The Lord doth know where
 sing be - neath your boughs. They drink your ci - - der
 eat and drink and play. They see your swel - - ling
 Snout is bit - - ter - - 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.

8 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
 - - - [last time] Take off your hat and shout Hoo - ray! for
 out to the old ap - ple tree!
 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.