

# SHACKERSTONE APPLE

A 'Shackerstone Apple' tree has been planted in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard on the northern side of the path near the picnic table.

The Shackerstone Apple is a variety of cooking apple known as *Dumelow's Crab*, *Dumelow's Seedling* or occasionally *Normanton Wonder*. It was first recognised and propagated in 1790 by Richard Dummeller (pronounced Dumelor), a Shackerstone farmer, and became widely grown in the local area. Local pronunciation of Mr Dummeller's name led to the apples being called *Dumelow's* and the name stuck.

Richard Dummeller died in 1816, aged 68, and is buried in Shackerstone churchyard. His headstone is the last but one in a row of Dummeller family graves on the southern side of the path to the church door. There is another row of later Dummeller family graves near to The Rising Sun, and these record that the family were from 'Shackerstone Fields' at that time.



Shackerstone church



Headstone to Richard Dummeller

A Dumelow's Seedling tree was sent from Gopsall Hall to Mr Richard Williams of Turnham Green Nursery, who presented specimens of the fruit to the Horticultural Society in 1820, and who propagated and sold the trees in the London area under the name *Wellington*.

It was one of the most popular cooking apples in Victorian times, and is still widely grown because it is vigorous, very hardy, crops well, and the fruit will keep until March.

It has now been partly superseded by *Bramley's Seedling* which was grown from a pip planted in 1809 by Mary Ann Brailsford, and propagated by Henry Merryweather from 1856. Another popular cooking apple, the large-fruited *Newton Wonder* is a cross between *Dumelow's Seedling* and *Blenheim Orange*, and was raised in 1887.

Chris Peat

Sources: Nursery catalogues, and Hogg R, 1884. *The Fruit Manual: A guide to the fruits and fruit trees of Great Britain*. Journal of Horticulture Office, Fleet Street, London.

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