

Middlesex canal, discovered the Pecker apple tree, later named the Baldwin."

The apple trees that were grown from seed planted by the early settlers and cultivated by the pioneers, in many instances proved long lived, some reaching the age of 200 years, or more. These trees attained great size and bore immense crops of what was termed natural fruit. Even now we find in the older portions of the province isolated individuals and remnants of these early plantings ; among them, fruits possibly not always of high flavour but frequently surpassing in keeping properties any of the propagated varieties now common to the district.

Mr. Hadwen, an eminent pomologist of Massachutts, says : "The process of degeneration or decay of the apple seems to be less rapid than that of the pear. Out of 60 varieties mostly of American origin, grown fifty years ago, more than 40 are still cultivated and esteemed. There is little doubt that the now almost universal practice of propagating by grafting and budding has more directly affected the longevity of our large fruits than any other factor, though the change is less marked, as already stated, in the case of the apple than with the pear and peach." At the same time we have all had reason to notice how much disappointment frequently arises in our attempts to multiply the individuals of a seedling of special merit by the usual methods, grafting and budding. However healthy, vigorous and prolific the original tree may be there is no absolute assurance that when grafted either upon the root or top of another individual, it will maintain all its original and desirable characteristics. As some trees are sensitive in this direction, so again others are apparently entirely oblivious to congeniality of stock and root, sustaining their own strong individuality through life despite varying soil and climatic conditions. The Duchess of Oldenburg, a Russian apple, is an excellent example of this class, bearing freely and regularly wherever planted.