Thus began golden age of apples in the South – 1840-1900. During this period, many large nurseries in the South became involved with the propagation and sale of hundreds of different apple cultivars. Fruitlands Nursery in Augusta, Georgia, listed over 200 cultivars in its 1861 catalog, most of Southern origin. By 1905, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed seventeen thousand different apple names. Many of them were versions of the same names: ‘Juniting’, ‘Juniting’, ‘Greneting’, ‘June-Eating’ and ‘Juneating White’ for example, all referred to the same apple cultivar. Even given that nicknames and corrupted names were common, some 14,000 different apple cultivars were listed around the turn of the century.

Lee Cahoun’s book Old Southern Apples describes some 1,800 different apple varieties that either originated in the South or were widely grown here before 1928. Some of the named trees listed are included in our Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. This collection includes seventeen cultivars that originated in Georgia. The collection was donated to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in 2018 by Anthony Cannon for the purposes of continuing his work to propagate and share these old-timey cultivars. Our purpose is to propagate, maintain and spread the genetic material for the Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. If you are interested in more information about the collection, please contact the Heritage Garden curator Gareth Crosby gcrosby@uga.edu.

By 1905, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed seventeen thousand different apple names. In the mid and late 1800s, many large nursery owners began listing hundreds of different apple cultivars. Fruitlands Nursery in Augusta, Georgia, listed over 200 cultivars in its 1861 catalog, most of Southern origin. By 1905, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed seventeen thousand different apple names. Many of them were versions of the same names: ‘Juniting’, ‘Juniting’, ‘Greneting’, ‘June-Eating’ and ‘Juneating White’ for example, all referred to the same apple cultivar. Even given that nicknames and corrupted names were common, some 14,000 different apple cultivars were listed around the turn of the century.

Lee Cahoun’s book Old Southern Apples describes some 1,800 different apple varieties that either originated in the South or were widely grown here before 1928. Some of the named trees listed are included in our Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. This collection includes seventeen cultivars that originated in Georgia. The collection was donated to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in 2018 by Anthony Cannon for the purposes of continuing his work to propagate and share these old-timey cultivars. Our purpose is to propagate, maintain and spread the genetic material for the Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. If you are interested in more information about the collection, please contact the Heritage Garden curator Gareth Crosby gcrosby@uga.edu.

French Jesuits brought the first apple trees to North America in the late sixteenth century for use in cider making. These apples were small and bitter, but when pressed for their juices and fermented, made an excellent alcoholic beverage. Most colonists grew their own apple trees and, due to sanitation concerns, they often served a fermented cider at meals instead of water, including a diluted cider for the children.

From the perspective of an early settler, roughly 6 trees per person were needed to feed a large family. Apples were eaten fresh, fried, stewed and baked — made into preserves and apple juice. These apple varieties were small and bitter, but when pressed for their juices and fermented, made an excellent alcoholic beverage. Most colonists grew their own apple trees and, due to sanitation concerns, they often served a fermented cider at meals instead of water, including a diluted cider for the children.

Interestingly, in 1801, Thomas Jefferson directed government “Indian agents” to distribute apple tree seeds to the Southern Native American tribes to “encourage them to be more agricultural and less warlike.” The native people took up the seeds and planted them to grow apple trees. By 1861, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed thirty-seven thousand different apple names. Many of them were versions of the same names: ‘Juniting’, ‘Juniting’, ‘Greneting’, ‘June-Eating’ and ‘Juneating White’ for example, all referred to the same apple cultivar. Even given that nicknames and corrupted names were common, some 14,000 different apple cultivars were listed around the turn of the century.

Lee Cahoun’s book Old Southern Apples describes some 1,800 different apple varieties that either originated in the South or were widely grown here before 1928. Some of the named trees listed are included in our Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. This collection includes seventeen cultivars that originated in Georgia. The collection was donated to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in 2018 by Anthony Cannon for the purposes of continuing his work to propagate and share these old-timey cultivars. Our purpose is to propagate, maintain and spread the genetic material for the Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. If you are interested in more information about the collection, please contact the Heritage Garden curator Gareth Crosby gcrosby@uga.edu.

By 1905, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed seventeen thousand different apple names. In the mid and late 1800s, many large nursery owners began listing hundreds of different apple cultivars. Fruitlands Nursery in Augusta, Georgia, listed over 200 cultivars in its 1861 catalog, most of Southern origin. By 1905, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed seventeen thousand different apple names. Many of them were versions of the same names: ‘Juniting’, ‘Juniting’, ‘Greneting’, ‘June-Eating’ and ‘Juneating White’ for example, all referred to the same apple cultivar. Even given that nicknames and corrupted names were common, some 14,000 different apple cultivars were listed around the turn of the century.

Lee Cahoun’s book Old Southern Apples describes some 1,800 different apple varieties that either originated in the South or were widely grown here before 1928. Some of the named trees listed are included in our Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. This collection includes seventeen cultivars that originated in Georgia. The collection was donated to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in 2018 by Anthony Cannon for the purposes of continuing his work to propagate and share these old-timey cultivars. Our purpose is to propagate, maintain and spread the genetic material for the Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. If you are interested in more information about the collection, please contact the Heritage Garden curator Gareth Crosby gcrosby@uga.edu.

French Jesuits brought the first apple trees to North America in the late sixteenth century for use in cider making. These apples were small and bitter, but when pressed for their juices and fermented, made an excellent alcoholic beverage. Most colonists grew their own apple trees and, due to sanitation concerns, they often served a fermented cider at meals instead of water, including a diluted cider for the children.

From the perspective of an early settler, roughly 6 trees per person were needed to feed a large family. Apples were eaten fresh, fried, stewed and baked — made into preserves and apple juice. These apple varieties were small and bitter, but when pressed for their juices and fermented, made an excellent alcoholic beverage. Most colonists grew their own apple trees and, due to sanitation concerns, they often served a fermented cider at meals instead of water, including a diluted cider for the children.

Interestingly, in 1801, Thomas Jefferson directed government “Indian agents” to distribute apple tree seeds to the Southern Native American tribes to “encourage them to be more agricultural and less warlike.” The native people took up the seeds and planted them to grow apple trees. By 1861, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed thirty-seven thousand different apple names. Many of them were versions of the same names: ‘Juniting’, ‘Juniting’, ‘Greneting’, ‘June-Eating’ and ‘Juneating White’ for example, all referred to the same apple cultivar. Even given that nicknames and corrupted names were common, some 14,000 different apple cultivars were listed around the turn of the century.

Lee Cahoun’s book Old Southern Apples describes some 1,800 different apple varieties that either originated in the South or were widely grown here before 1928. Some of the named trees listed are included in our Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. This collection includes seventeen cultivars that originated in Georgia. The collection was donated to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in 2018 by Anthony Cannon for the purposes of continuing his work to propagate and share these old-timey cultivars. Our purpose is to propagate, maintain and spread the genetic material for the Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. If you are interested in more information about the collection, please contact the Heritage Garden curator Gareth Crosby gcrosby@uga.edu.

By 1905, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed seventeen thousand different apple names. In the mid and late 1800s, many large nursery owners began listing hundreds of different apple cultivars. Fruitlands Nursery in Augusta, Georgia, listed over 200 cultivars in its 1861 catalog, most of Southern origin. By 1905, a USDA bulletin by staff pomologist W.H. Ragan listed seventeen thousand different apple names. Many of them were versions of the same names: ‘Juniting’, ‘Juniting’, ‘Greneting’, ‘June-Eating’ and ‘Juneating White’ for example, all referred to the same apple cultivar. Even given that nicknames and corrupted names were common, some 14,000 different apple cultivars were listed around the turn of the century.

Lee Cahoun’s book Old Southern Apples describes some 1,800 different apple varieties that either originated in the South or were widely grown here before 1928. Some of the named trees listed are included in our Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. This collection includes seventeen cultivars that originated in Georgia. The collection was donated to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in 2018 by Anthony Cannon for the purposes of continuing his work to propagate and share these old-timey cultivars. Our purpose is to propagate, maintain and spread the genetic material for the Georgia Heirloom Apple Collection. If you are interested in more information about the collection, please contact the Heritage Garden curator Gareth Crosby gcrosby@uga.edu.

French Jesuits brought the first apple trees to North America in the late sixteenth century for use in cider making. These apples were small and bitter, but when pressed for their juices and fermented, made an excellent alcoholic beverage. Most colonists grew their own apple trees and, due to sanitation concerns, they often served a fermented cider at meals instead of water, including a diluted cider for the children.

From the perspective of an early settler, roughly 6 trees per person were needed to feed a large family. Apples were eaten fresh, fried, stewed and baked — made into cider, vinegar and brandy; dried in the sun or in a heated dryhouse; and made into preserves and apple butter. The worst of the fruit was used as livestock feed so nothing was ever wasted. Even though grafted cultivars of apples were available as the colonists settled in, they were expensive and unavailable to colonists who had moved inland.