Dr. H. P. Stuckey  
Georgia Experiment Station  
Experiment, Georgia  

Dear Dr. Stuckey:

Yours of November 18 received. Under separate cover I am sending you New Jersey Bulletin 599 which discusses some of our early breeding work and describes the Golden Jubilee peach.

I first used Elberta considerably in peach crosses and Golden Jubilee is a second generation seedling. Elberta was crossed with Greensboro and all of the first generation progeny bore white fleshed fruits. Goldeneast, which is still one of our best mid-season varieties ripening with Hiley, had Elberta as one parent. The other parent was the result of a cross of Elberta and Greensboro. It has a more attractive red color with us than Elberta, is less bitter, and has been very popular in southern New Jersey. However, it is not hardy enough to be recommended north of New Brunswick.

One objection to the Elberta peach as a parent is that it transmits lack of hardiness. The first generation crosses of Greensboro and Elberta were not too hardy. However, Golden Jubilee is hardier than Elberta. It undoubtedly obtains that from Greensboro. The Elberta fruits tend to drop from the tree rather quickly as they ripen which is another fault that is often transmitted. I soon began to use J. H. Hale instead of Elberta in crossing but it also transmitted lack of hardiness.

J. H. Hale is undoubtedly a sport of Elberta. Elberta types of peaches are often obtained when J. H. Hale is used in crossing. Of course, such peaches as Carman, Hiley, and Belle are all closely related to Elberta, since they are of the Chinese cling type, so after all, the history of the Elberta really goes back to the introduction of the Chinese cling at Pensacola, Florida.

Much stress has been placed on the introduction of the Chinese cling to America in 1850 by Charles Downing but I do not think that introduction really resulted in much progress. Judge Campbell, a southern gentleman at Pensacola, received some Chinese cling or Shanghai pits from Dr. William A. Spotswood of the U. S. Navy just before the opening of the Civil War. His place was occupied by Union troops but they did not injure the peach trees. When the man returned, the trees were in bearing. They received such names as Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. Judge Campbell gave a collection of his pits to P. J. Berckmans of Augusta, Georgia, who, of course, introduced many seedlings from these trees.
November 24, 1944

H. P. Stuckey

I have a Robert E. Lee tree and the fruit closely resembles Chinese cling. Buds from these trees were distributed through the South and my opinion, it was from this introduction that most of the Chinese cling peaches developed. It was said that Elberta was probably a ss of a Chinese cling and Crawford. That may have been the case.

Chinese cling is quite self-sterile. However, I have found that flowers will develop fruit even if covered with a tent. Chinese cling is a white fleshed peach but carries a factor for yellow and n selfed, produces both white and yellow fleshed fruits.

I had intended to write my view of the influence of this introduction in peach development but have not yet done so. I hope these brief ails may be of some help to you.

My best wishes,

Very truly yours,

M. A. Blake

Chief in Horticulture