

# DUBIOUS CIDER HISTORY

Selected for interest, not scholarship.  
More research needed.



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“The origin of the word cider comes from Greek *sikera*. In Latin it appears as *sicera* and in Asturian it begins to be pronounced *sizra* and soon finally cider.” [www.sidrasturias.es](http://www.sidrasturias.es)

“The word cider is believed to be a derivation of the Hebrew shekar, which means ‘strong drink’...” *In-cider information*, Marty Nachel 1997

“... in what is now New Jersey and Delaware ... The official instructions given to the Swedish governor ... in 1642 included viticulture among the objects of the colony, but but it was not long before the Jersey farmers turned to apple growing ... and began to produce the cider for which they were famous throughout the colonial period and after ... it was an easy step to make it sparkle and offer it to the public as ‘champagne.’ ... (B)y the 1840’s, the Scottish traveler Alexander Mackay was told ... that most ‘imported champagne’ in America came in fact from Newark. ... Mackay found it ‘excellent as a summer drink.’...”  
Pinney, T.: *A History of Wine in America*, UC Press, 1989 pp. 31&383

‘Apple cider continued in its popularity well into the 1800’s due in part to the efforts of ... Johnny Appleseed ... in the Midwest. ... However, soon ... events ... diminish(ed) consumption of ... cider and ma(de) beer the the most popular alcoholic beverage in America ... As settlers moved further west, it became more difficult to grow apple trees in those arid regions... Later, as more people moved ... to the city, there wasn’t adequate transportation to deliver cider from farms to urban areas. Meanwhile, German beer with its faster fermentation process was introduced to America. German immigrants set up large sophisticated breweries... while cider production remained limited to the small farms.

What ultimately led to the demise in popularity of ... cider ... was the Temperance movement ... many churchgoing farmers gave up ... cider ... (and) even went so far as to chop down (their) apple trees ...

When Prohibition finally became the law, this marked the death knell for apple cider. Although beer staged a quick comeback following the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, cider (making) was effectively destroyed and remained only on a very few family farms for years to come.” [ms.essortment.com/hardapplecider\\_rxvs.htm](http://ms.essortment.com/hardapplecider_rxvs.htm)