

Untitled Document

## **Eric Bolsmann**

James I, King of England (1566–1625), was a keen gardener. When encouraging silkworm production in

His adviser, William Stallinge, was paid £935 to set up a mulberry garden, and seeds were distributed

Christ's College in Cambridge bought three hundred of the black mulberry trees for 18 shillings each



The earliest illustration of Milton's mulberry tree is an unsigned, undated copper engraving from about 1825

*Source: Dawn to Dusk*

Milton

According to college legend, it was John Milton, the famed English poet and author of 'Paradise Lost'

Another tradition has it that the tree grew from a cutting of a tree planted in 1609, the year Milton was born.

In 1810 a historical description of Cambridgeshire stated: "In the garden is a large mulberry tree the size of a chestnut tree."

The earliest illustration of Milton's mulberry tree is an unsigned, undated copper engraving from about 1750.



John Milton

Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica*

### Smuts

The next, and for South Africans perhaps the most important note on the historic tree, dates to 1931.

In 1931 Smuts returned to Christ's College to attend a celebratory dinner. The head gardener was

Smuts planted the tree in his garden at Doornkloof in Irene. Alas, it was forgotten as time passed

On a recent visit to the museum the subject of the mulberry tree came up. Denis Bredenkamp, an



The Jan Smuts Milton mulberry tree

*Photo: Eric Bolsmann*

### Discover

It grew not far from the house when he was a young man, and there it stood, not more than 30 m

The strange sensation to find the forgotten mulberry tree is difficult to describe. The first reaction w



With the care provided that this tree deserves, it will surely show its gratitude by bringing forth the s



Milton's Mulberry Tree. Christ's College, Cambridge, by George Washington Wilson, ca 1890s  
*Source: Etsy*

## Jam

Every year mulberry jam is produced from the fruit the Milton mulberry tree produces, and the sm

It does not need much foresight to imagine that a jar of mulberry jam of the Jan Smuts Milton mulb

It may take a while to harvest the first crop of the rediscovered tree, but is it not worth one's while to v



Milton's mulberry tree in the Fellows' Garden, Christ's College. Milton was admitted to this college in 1625

*Source: Project Gutenberg*