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cream, *n.*²

Pronunciation: Brit. /kri:m/, U.S. /krim/

Forms: ME *creym*(e, *creem*, *craym*, ME *creme*, *kreme*, ME–15 *crayme*, 15–16 *creame*, 16– *cream*.

Frequency (in current use):

Etymology: Middle English *creme*, *creem*, *creyme*, < French *crème*, in Old French *creme* ...

1. The oily or butyraceous part of milk, which gathers on the top when the milk is left undisturbed; by churning it is converted into butter.

clotted cream or *clouted cream*, known also locally as *Devonshire cream*, *Somersetshire cream*, *whipped cream*, etc.: see CLOUTED *adj.*²

1332 in J. E. T. Rogers *Hist. Agric. & Prices* (modernized text) I. 404 *Creyme*.

1362 LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* A. VII. 269 A fewe Cruddes and *Craym* [B. VI. 284 *creem*, C. IX. 306 *creyme*].

▶ a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) (1876) VI. 95 Al þe *creem* and fatnesse of þat mylke.

c1440 *Promptorium Parvulorum* 101 *Creme* of mylke, *quaccum*.

a1475 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* (Harl. 4011) in *Babees Bk.* (2002) I. 123 Bewar at eve of *crayme* of ewe.

?1523 J. FITZHERBERT *Bk. Husbandry* f. xxxvi^v If thou haue no hony take swete *creme*.

1542 A. BORDE *Compend. Regyment Helth* xiii. sig. G.iv^v Clowtyd *crayme* and rawe *crayme* put togyther.

1626 BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §314 We see *Cream* is Matured, and made to rise more speedily by putting in cold Water.

1673 DRYDEN *Marriage a-la-Mode* IV. iii. 63 The dull French Poetry..so thin, that it is the very Leaf-gold of Wit, the very Wafers and whip'd *Cream* of sense.

1778 *Love-feast* 33 With wheezing Whistle [He] whisks up his whipt *Cream*.

- 1825 J. C. LOUDON *Encycl. Agric.* 991 *Devonshire cream*, is a term applied in the county of that name, sometimes to sour curd, and sometimes to sour cream.
- 1841–44 R. W. EMERSON *Manners* in *Wks.* (1906) I. 208 A new class finds itself at the top, as certainly as *cream* rises in a bowl of milk.
- 1865 E. BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* viii. 269 That most delectable of luxuries, Devonshire or *clotted cream*.
- 1889 *Boy's Own Paper* 10 Aug. 714/3 Smearing both with *Devonshire cream* and with honey.

figurative.

- c1657 J. BALFOUR *Hist. Wks.* (1824) II. 262 Notwithstanding of all this faire wether and *sweet creame* intendit by the courte.
- 1661 A. WRIGHT in C. H. Spurgeon *Treasury of David* (1878) V. Ps. cxvii 2 This turns all that a man hath to *cream*.

2. transferred.

a. A fancy dish or sweet of which cream is an ingredient, or which has the appearance and consistency of cream, as *almond, chocolate, iced cream*, etc.

- c1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 7 Fride *Creme* of Almaundys.—Take almaundys, an stampe hem, an draw it vp wyth a fyne thykke mylke..gadere alle þe kreme in þe clothe.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* V. 347 From sweet kernels prest She tempers dulcet *creams* .
- 1728 E. CHAMBERS *Cycl.* (at cited word) Almonds give the Denomination to a great Number of Preparations in Confectionry, Cookery, &c. whereof they are the Basis; as Almond Cakes, Almond *Cream*..Almond paste, Almond snow &c.
- 1831 *Cat's Tail* 29 The *creams* were not iced.
- 1836 T. HOOK *Gilbert Gurney* I. vii. 334 The remnants of a devoured feast..*creams* half demolished— jellies in trembling lumps.

b. A substance or liquor of cream-like consistency; *esp.* a decoction (of barley, etc.): cf. CREMOR *n.* *Obsolete.*

- 1540 R. JONAS tr. E. Roesslin *Byrth of Mankynde* II. f. lix^v Skum or *creme* of the eyes.

- 1615 H. CROOKE *Μικροκοσμογραφια* 119 Till the meate bee perfectly chaunged and boyled into a moyst and liquid Creame.
- 1626 BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §49 Indian Maiz..must be thoroughly boyled, and made into a Maiz-Creame like a Barley-Creame.
- 1668 N. CULPEPER & A. COLE tr. T. Bartholin *Anat.* (new ed.) I. xi. 24 To change the acid Cream brought out of the Stomach, forthwith into a brackish Salt.

c. The part of a liquid which gathers on the top like the cream on milk; a 'head' of scum, froth, etc.

- 1669 J. WORLIDGE *Systema Agriculturæ* (1681) vii. §12. 141 Let the Vessel not be quite full, that there may be room for the Cider to gather a Head or Cream.
- 1672 EARL OF SANDWICH tr. A. A. Barba *Art of Metals* (1674) II. xii 38 Let it stand awhile, and if there arise a scum or cream, that is gross, or oily, scum it off.
- 1819 BYRON *Don Juan: Canto II* clxxviii. 208 The cream of your champaigne.

d. A cream-like preparation used cosmetically. See also COLD CREAM *n.*

- 1765 O. GOLDSMITH *Double Transform.* in *Ess.* 233 In vain she tries her pastes and creams, To smooth her skin, or hide its seams.
- 1810 RUSSELL *To a Lady* in *Poet. Reg.* 139 A pot of cold cream to Eliza you send..Whoe'er with this cream shall her countenance smear, All redness and roughness will strait disappear.

e. Used in the names of some cordials and liqueurs, with reference to their viscid character, or acknowledged excellence; **cream of the valley**, **cream of the wilderness**, fancy names applied to gin. *spec.* A full-bodied mellow sherry. In full **cream sherry**. Cf. *Bristol cream n.* at BRISTOL *n.* Compounds 2.

- 1858 A. MAYHEW *Paved with Gold* i. 1 (Farmer) What's up, Jim?..is it cream of the walley or fits as has overcome the lady?
- 1873 *St. Paul's Mag.* II. 10 It's so jolly cold, I shall just buy some Cream of the Wilderness for mother.

- 1964 *Wine & Spirit Trade Record* 19 May 653 (*advt.*) A noble newcomer to the ranks of the famous, Diamond Jubilee Cream, the magnificent sweet cream sherry.
- 1965 *Guardian* 28 Nov. 2/8 A superb cream of considerable age. Bot. 21/6.
- 1969 *Observer* 21 Dec. 4/1 Of the complete range of Sherries on show five..each depicting one of the five main classifications—Fino—Amontillado—Oloroso—Amoroso—Cream.

f. The liquid rich in droplets or particles of the dispersed phase that forms a separate (esp. upper) layer in an emulsion or suspension when it is allowed to stand or is centrifuged; *spec.* the liquid rich in globules of rubber that forms a layer on the surface of latex in the manufacture of india-rubber.

- 1903 J. G. MCINTOSH tr. T. Seeligmann *Indiarubber* 57 The hydrocarbide elements solidify on the surface into a sort of thick cream.
- 1914 H. BROWN *Rubber* 71 The latex is diluted with water and is allowed to stand until the 'cream', consisting of the rubber globules, rises to the surface... The cream is afterwards converted into solid rubber by pressure [etc.].
- 1934 H. N. HOLMES *Introd. Colloid Chem.* viii. 78 Creams rise or sink according to the densities of the two liquids. If the two liquids have the same density they never cream.
- 1950 J. W. MCBAIN *Colloid Sci.* ii. 21 In the cream the droplets are close together, and they may even clump together, but it is important to note that they have not coalesced.
- 1965 *Trans. Inst. Rubber Ind.* XLI. 144 The latex in the creaming tank is then left undisturbed for about three weeks at the end of which separation is as complete as practical and the tank contains 24,000 gallons of cream..and 12,000 gallons of serum.

3. figurative. The most excellent element or part; the best of its kind; the choice part; the quintessence.

- 1581 R. MULCASTER *Positions* xxxix. 198 The gentlemen, which be the creame of the common.

- 1624 R. BURTON *Anat. Melancholy* (ed. 2) I. IV. I. 187 I say of our Melancholy man, hee is the cream of humane adversity.
- 1640 P. MASSINGER *City-Madam* (1658) I. i. 144 The Cream of the market.
- 1688 J. BUNYAN *Good News for Vilest of Men* 11 These therefore must have the Cream of the Gospel, namely, the first offer thereof in his Life-time.
- 1773 O. GOLDSMITH *She stoops to Conquer* IV. 79 The inside of the letter is always the cream of the correspondence.
- 1824 BYRON *Don Juan: Canto XV* xli. 25 An only daughter, Who seem'd the cream of equanimity.
- 1862 G. A. SALA *Seven Sons Mammon* I. iv. 65 Receiving the cream of society, but never returning visits.
- 1890 *Sat. Rev.* 1 Feb. 145/2 Flight-shooting at duck is the very cream of wild-fowl shooting.

4.

a. cream of tartar *n.* the purified and crystallized bitartrate of potassium, used in medicine and for various technical purposes.

- 1662 R. MATHEWS *Unlearned Alchymist* (new ed.) §101 The Cream of Tartar is..to be had at any Druggist.
- 1706 *Phillips's New World of Words* (new ed.) Cream of Tartar, is made of Tartar, or dry Wine-lees.
- 1807 T. THOMSON *Syst. Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 287 Tartar, or Cream of Tartar as it is commonly called when pure.
- 1882 *New Sydenham Soc. Lexicon* Cream of tartar whey, two drachms of bitartrate of potash are added to a pint of milk. The whey, diluted with water, is used as a diuretic in dropsy.

b. cream of tartar tree: a tree of Northern Australia, *Adansonia Gregorii*: see quot. 1866. The name is also given to the allied Baobab, whence **cream of tartar fruit**, the fruit of the Baobab.

- 1866 J. LINDLEY & T. MOORE *Treasury Bot.* I. 18/1 *Adansonia Gregorii*..is a native of the sandy plains of N. Australia, and is known as Sour gourd and Cream of

tartar tree..The pulp of its fruit has an agreeable acid taste, like cream of tartar, and is peculiarly refreshing in the sultry climates where the tree is found.

5. cream of lime *n.* pure slaked lime.

1770–4 A. HUNTER *Georgical Ess.* (1803) IV. 154 Earth convertable, by a second calcination, into quick-lime, is called the cream of lime.

1828 WEBSTER *Amer. Dict. Eng. Lang.* Cream of lime, the scum of lime water. *Encycl.*

1871 J. TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* xi. 341 Reservoirs..containing pure slaked lime—the so-called 'cream of lime'.

6.

a. simple attributive or *adj.* Cream-coloured, yellowish white.

1861 *Windsor Express* 5 Oct. A cream mare..fetched 50 guineas.

1887 *The Lady* 20 Jan. 38/1 Trimmed with cream lace.

b. *elliptical.* Cream colour; also, a cream-coloured horse, rabbit, or the like.

1788 R. TWINING *Let.* 15 Aug. in *Sel. Papers Twining Family* (1887) 154 She was drawn by a pair of prancing, long-tailed 'creams'.

1872 W. BLACK *Strange Adventures Phaeton* vii. 96 Barges in cream and gold.

1885 *Bazaar, Exchange & Mart* 30 Mar. 1269/2 A grand pair of creams, with their litter of young.

1892 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 29 Feb. 3/2 The Queen's horses..The creams are eleven in number.

COMPOUNDS

C1.

a. General *attributive*.

(a)

cream-bowl *n.*

1590 *Tarltons Newes out of Purgatorie* 2 As merry..as euer Robin Goodfellow made the country wenches at their Creame boules.

1637 B. JONSON *Timber* 717 in *Wks.* (1640) III They write a verse, as smooth, as soft, as creame..You may sound these wits..They are Cream-bowle, or but puddle deepe.

cream-fat *n.***cream-freezer** *n.***cream-pail** *n.*

1752 M. DELANY *Autobiogr. & Corr.* (1861) III. 131 My cream-pail is now before me in my china case, and makes a very considerable figure.

cream-pancake *n.*

1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 161/2 Cream Pancakes.

(b)**cream-can** *n.*

1959 M. SHADBOLT *New Zealanders* 16 Father mounted me..on the konaki beside the cream-cans.

cream-cheque *n.*

1921 *Daily Colonist* (Victoria, Brit. Columbia) 30 Mar. 11/6 (*adv.*) Small farm for sale... Cream cheque about \$100 per month.

1959 M. SHADBOLT *New Zealanders* 12 The cream-cheques were never large; money was always short.

cream-lorry *n.*

1936 M. E. C. SCOTT *Barbara & N.Z. Backblocks* 14 Send us bread by the cream-lorry.

1960 B. CRUMP *Good Keen Man* 103 I missed the cream lorry this morning.

cream-stand *n.*

1963 M. DUGGAN in C. K. Stead *N.Z. Short Stories* (1966) 2nd Ser. 116 I..sat by the cream stand out on the main road.

cream-truck *n.* (chiefly *Australian* and *New Zealand*)

1960 N. HILLIARD *Maori Girl* I. i. 9 A wooden bridge..stands, its stringers creaking beneath every cream-truck.

(c)**cream-blanched** *adj.*

1818 H. H. MILMAN *Samor* 335* Hath the cream-blanch'd steed..borne away His master?

cream-hued *adj.***cream-white** *adj.*

1842 TENNYSON *Sir Launcelot & Queen Guinevere* in *Poems* (new ed.) II. 207 Her cream white mule.

1882 *Garden* 5 Aug. 110/1 A little Hollyhock with cream-white flowers.

b. Also CREAM-CHEESE *n.*, etc.

cream-cake *n.* a cake filled with a custard made of cream, eggs, etc.

1855 E. ACTON *Mod. Cookery* (rev. ed.) xxvi. 554 (*heading*) A delicious cream-cake.

1884 *Girl's Own Paper* Nov. 4/2 Work up the milk into..cream-cake.

cream colour *n.* the colour of cream, a yellowish white; also *attributive*; *absol.* a cream-coloured horse.

- 1694 R. MOLESWORTH *Acct. Denmark in 1692* (ed. 3) 35 A good Breed of Horses..of a yellowish Cream Colour.
- 1769 *Stratford Jubilee* I. i. 10 An..ass set up his horrid bray, started my cream colours.
- 1882 *Garden* 16 Dec. 533/3 Chrysanthemums..cream colour, full flower.

cream cracker *n.* a crisp, unsweetened biscuit.

- 1906 *Mrs. Beeton's Bk. Househ. Managem.* (rev. ed.) v. 93 Biscuits..Cream Cracker 6d. per lb.
- 1937 'G. ORWELL' *Road to Wigan Pier* i. 15 You'll like a cream cracker with your cheese.
- 1962 E. O'BRIEN *Lonely Girl* vi. 67 We ate cold turkey and cream crackers.

cream-cups *n.* a Californian papaveraceous plant, *Platystemon californicus*, with cream-coloured flowers.

cream-faced *adj.* having a face of the colour of cream (from fear).

- α1616 SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) v. iii. 11 Thou cream-fac'd Loone.
- 1793–7 *Polit. Ecl. in Spirit of Public Jrnls.* (1799) I. 437 Great Marat..Sees cream-fac'd Stanley turn on Fox his heels.

cream horn *n.* a pastry case shaped like a horn and filled with cream and jam; also *attributive*.

- 1908 J. KIRKLAND *Mod. Baker* III. lxii. 349 Cream Horns. Roll out some puff-paste..and cut up in long strips... Wind each of these pieces of paste round a tin mould shaped like a cornucopia... Fill with..whipped cream.
- 1908 J. KIRKLAND *Mod. Baker* III. lxii. 349 (*caption*) Cream horn or cornucopia tin.
- 1960 E. W. HILDICK *Boy at Window* xiii. 99 Daintily nibbling a cream horn.

cream ice *n.* an ice-cream.

- 1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* (1850) I. xxvii. 263 What ice will you have—water ice or cream ice?
- 1854 in W. James *Order of Release* (1948) xv. 233 Gentlemen..placidly imbibing a cream ice.
- 1909 J. R. WARE *Passing Eng. Victorian Era* 97/2 Cream Ice Jacks, street-sellers of ½d. ices.

† **cream-joy** *n.* *Obsolete* a kind of sweet-meat.

- 1707 in H. Playford *Wit & Mirth* (new ed.) III. 37 I have..Ruscan and Cream joy, wherewith you may slabber you.

cream-jug *n.* a small jug for holding cream at table.

- 1773 *London Chron.* 7 Sept. 248/3 The following articles..were assayed and marked..castors, ice pails, cream jugs.
- 1841 DICKENS *Barnaby Rudge* xv. 18 I observe another fly in the cream-jug.

† **cream-kitte** *n.* *Obsolete* (see quot.).

- a1642 H. BEST *Farming & Memorandum Bks.* (1984) 98 This feast [sc. harvest-home] is called the Creame potte or Creame-kitte..the workefolkes will aske theire dames if they have good store of Creame, and say that they must have the Creame kitte anon.

cream-laid *adj.* applied to laid paper of a cream colour.

- 1858 TROLLOPE *Three Clerks* II. xi. 239 An elegant little chamber..supplied with cream laid note paper, new pens, and the ‘Times’ newspaper.
- 1863 R. HERRING *Paper* (ed. 3) 123 With reference to the writing qualities..there are five kinds—cream wove, yellow wove, blue wove, cream laid, and blue laid.
- 1939 ‘J. STRUTHER’ *Mrs. Miniver* 27 An invitation written..on lavishly stout cream-laid.

cream-nut *n.* = *Brazil-nut n.* at BRAZIL *n.*¹ Compounds.

cream-pan *n.* = *creaming-pan* at CREAMING *n.* b.

cream-pitcher *n.* (U.S.) a cream-jug.

cream-pot *n.* a vessel for holding milk while the cream is forming; a vessel for keeping cream; *figurative* a dairy maid; see also quot. 1877 and cf. *cream-kitte n.*

- 1580 C. HOLLYBAND *Treasurie French Tong* *Esburrer*, to fleet the cream potte.
 a1625 J. FLETCHER *Wit without Money* (1639) II. sig. D3^v To carry any durty dairy
 creame pot, or any gentle Lady of the Laundry..behinde my gelding.
 1684 T. OTWAY *Atheist* II. 13 What would your Cream-pot in the Country give for that
 Title, think you?
 1877 F. ROSS et al. *Gloss. Words Holderness* *Cream-pot*, a harvest supper of cakes
 and cream.

cream puff *n.* a shell of puff pastry with a cream filling; also *figurative* and *transferred*, as (a) see quot. 1919; (b) something of small consequence; (c) an effeminate person.

- 1851 *International Mag. Literature, Art, & Sci.* 2 514/1 We have read with what
 delight he sings the praises of a pastry-cook established at Caunterets, famous for
 his millet-cakes and cream-puffs.
 1902 A. BENNETT *Grand Babylon Hotel* viii. 86 A cream puff was served..by way of
 sweets.
 1919 W. H. DOWNING *Digger Dial.* 18 *Cream puff*, a shell-burst.
 1923 T. E. LAWRENCE *Lett.* (1938) 399 Chocolate éclairs or cream puffs.
 1938 *Time* 28 Feb. 64/3 His saccharine cinema roles and cream-puff publicity have
 all too closely linked the word 'beauty' with the name 'Taylor'.
 1945 L. SHELLY *Hepcats Jive Talk Dict.* 23 *Cream puff*, weakling.
 1958 *Spectator* 1 Aug. 165/1 Hamlet can be acted by old and young, fat and thin,
 beef~cake and cream-puff, amateur and professional.

1970 'R. CRAWFORD' *Kiss Boss Goodbye* II. viii. 112 You don't scare me... What do you think I am, a cream-puff or something?

cream-separator *n.* a machine for separating the cream from milk.

1884 *Pall Mall Gazette Extra* 24 July 3/1 There are three cream separators.

1887 *Spectator* 1 Oct. 1305 Milk from which the cream has been taken by the centrifugal cream-separator.

cream-slice *n.* a knife-like instrument for skimming milk, or for serving frozen cream.

1789 W. MARSHALL *Rural Econ. Gloucestershire* I. 269 Cream-slice, a wooden knife, somewhat in the shape of a table-knife; length 12 or 14 inches.

cream soda *n.* orig. *U.S.* a carbonated drink of soda water.

1854 *Amer. Agriculturist* 20 Dec. 233/3 A recipe has been sold all over the country for making 'cream-soda'.

1935 L. MACNEICE *Poems* 31 Drunk with steam-organs, thigh-rub and cream-soda.

cream tea *n.* afternoon tea which includes bread or scones with jam and clotted cream.

1964 P. M. HUBBARD *Pict. Millie* viii. 74 We just bathe and moon about and eat cream teas.

cream-ware *n.* cream-coloured pottery ware.

1780 in D. C. Towner *Eng. Cream-Coloured Earthenware* (1957) iii. 10 (*advt.*) To be sold..At the Derby Pot Manufactory, A large quantity of Earthenware..consisting of..Enamelled Cream Ware, and plain Cream tentable ware.

1865 E. METEYARD *Life J. Wedgwood* I. vii. 285 By the close of the year 1761 Mr. Wedgwood has brought his cream-ware to a considerable degree of perfection.

1962 *3rd Internat. Art Treasures Exhib.* (Victoria & Albert Mus.) 62/2 Two Astbury figures in creamware splashed with manganese.

† **cream-water** *n.* *Obsolete* (see quot.).

1704 *Dict. Rusticum* (at cited word) Cream-water; is such Water, as hath a kind of Oyl upon it, or fat Scum, which being boyl'd, turneth into several Medicaments.

cream-wove *n.* wove paper of cream colour.

1863 Cream-wove [see *cream-laid adj.*].

1891 *Haymarket Stores Catal.* 387 Foreign note paper. Strong cream wove.

C2. Also (as in *cream-cake*) used to designate many other confections cooked with cream, or filled with whipped cream or Devonshire cream, as **cream bun**, **cream scone**, **cream slice**, etc.

1723 J. NOTT *Cook's & Confectioner's Dict.* sig. L6 Cream Tarts..Eggs..Flour..Milk..Butter..Salt... Make your Tarts of Puff-paste..pour in your Cream.

1723 J. NOTT *Cook's & Confectioner's Dict.* sig. L6^v (*heading*) Cream-Toasts, or Pain Perdu.

1747 H. GLASSE *Art of Cookery* ix. 112 A Cream Pudding..Cream. Mace..Nutmeg..Eggs..Flour..Almonds..Rose-water.

1847 THACKERAY *Vanity Fair* (1848) iii. 20 I ought to have remembered the pepper which the Princess of Persia puts in the cream-tarts in the Arabian Nights.

1861 I. M. BEETON *Bk. Househ. Managem.* x. 191 (*heading*) Cream Sauce For Fish Or White Dishes.

1869 E. EGGLESTON *Mr. Blake's Walking-stick* i. 15 [He] rolled his soft lips about, as though he had a cream tart in his mouth.

1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 160/2 Cream Biscuits..Cream Fritters.

1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 161/2 Cream Pancakes..Cream Pudding.

1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 162/1 Cream Sauce.

1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 162/2 Cream Toasts.

- 1888 L. HARGIS *Graded Cook Bk.* 13 Amber Cream Soup... One pint cream, one pint milk, pinch of salt, pinch of cinnamon, three eggs.
- 1892 T. F. GARRETT & W. A. RAWSON *Encycl. Pract. Cookery* I. 469/2 Cream Scones..will take from ten to twelve minutes to cook.
- 1894 Cream bun [sold in London].
- 1897 *Hearth & Home* 2 Dec. 171/2 Devonshire Cream Buns.
- 1906 *Mrs. Beeton's Bk. Househ. Managem.* (rev. ed.) xxxi. 906 Cream Buns.
- 1915 M. BYRON *Cake Bk.* 71–2 Cream Scones.
- 1951 *Good Housek. Home Encycl.* 360/1 A purée or cream soup garnished with lettuce.
- 1962 *Which?* Jan. 17/1 Cream soups are different from plain soups in that they contain a certain minimum of fat.
- 1963 *Times* 14 May 4/1 Milburn, whose zestful run up suggested a Bunter in quest of a cream bun.

DRAFT ADDITIONS AUGUST 2007

cream-crowdie *n.* *Scottish* = CRANACHAN *n.* (cf. CROWDIE *n.* 2).

- 1929 F. M. MCNEILL *Scots Kitchen* 200 Cream-crowdie. An indispensable dish at the Kirn, or Harvest Home. Oatmeal, cream, sugar and flavouring to taste.
- 1996 *BBC Good Food* Oct. 38/4 Bramble and bilberry cream crowdie. The coarse oatmeal used here, often called pinhead oatmeal, is available from health food shops and large supermarkets.

DRAFT ADDITIONS JUNE 2015

cream of the crop *n.* (originally) the best produce from a harvest; (now chiefly in extended use) the best of a group of people or things; cf. sense 3.

- 1851 *Boston Daily Atlas* 6 Mar. 2/4 Their customers require goods made of the best cotton, the cream of the crop.
- 1876 *Times of India* 14 Mar. 1/2 (*adv.*) Tobaccos, finest Virginia Golden Leaf and Honeydew, 'Cream of the Crop'.
- 1915 *Independent* 27 Dec. 532 The war has taught us that the blood of nations..is to be entrusted only to the freshest, the most elastic, the most gifted of military spirits, the very cream of the crop.
- 1919 U. P. HEDRICK *Man. Amer. Grape-growing* xiv. 263 With tree-fruits, the cream of the crop goes to the fresh fruit market.
- 1950 *Gaz. & Bull. (Williamsport, Pa.)* 7 Jan. 12/3 (*adv.*) Automobiles for sale. Cream of the crop at prices that will pleasantly surprise.
- 2007 E. CLAPTON & C. S. SYKES *Autobiogr.* 77 In all our minds we were the cream of the crop, the elite in our respective domains.
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