Color surnames are a lot more varied than most people would at first expect. Everyone is aware of the color names BLACK, BROWN, GRAY (and GREY), GREEN and WHITE. Elsdon C. Smith, in his book Treasury of Name Lore (Harper & Row, 1967), suggests derivations of these very common color names. He also mentions some other color names: BLUE, LAVENDER, ORANGE, PINK and PURPLE.

We wondered if there were other such color names, and we decided to start a search for them. We cross-checked color names from Webster’s Third New International Dictionary with surname entries from the 1967 and 1968 London telephone directories. No doubt a similar examination of American telephone directories would reveal many identical names. Our preliminary list of color names has one hundred examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Almond</th>
<th>Clay</th>
<th>Marine</th>
<th>Sable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>Meadow</td>
<td>Saffron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>Copen</td>
<td>Morello</td>
<td>Sage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argent</td>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>Moss</td>
<td>Salmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>Coral</td>
<td>Mulberry</td>
<td>Sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>Murrey</td>
<td>Sapphire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>Scarlet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver</td>
<td>Cream</td>
<td>Negro</td>
<td>Shamrock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bister</td>
<td>Currant</td>
<td>Oak</td>
<td>Shell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blond</td>
<td>Daw</td>
<td>Olive</td>
<td>Sherry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood</td>
<td>Doe</td>
<td>Or</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Orchid</td>
<td>Sky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Eagle</td>
<td>Peach</td>
<td>Smaragd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briar</td>
<td>Fawn</td>
<td>Peacock</td>
<td>Solferino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>Freestone</td>
<td>Pearl</td>
<td>Starling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Garnet</td>
<td>Plum</td>
<td>Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunny</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Poppy</td>
<td>Straw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine</td>
<td>Grain</td>
<td>Port</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castor</td>
<td>Gravel</td>
<td>Primrose</td>
<td>Tan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champagne</td>
<td>Hunter</td>
<td>Roan</td>
<td>Teal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Topaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ching</td>
<td>Ivory</td>
<td>Rosewood</td>
<td>Vert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinnamon</td>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Royal</td>
<td>Violet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citron</td>
<td>Leather</td>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>Wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claret</td>
<td>Lemon</td>
<td>Rust</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The surname BLUE, given in Elsdon Smith’s book, is the only one...
of the three subtractive primary colors (red, yellow, blue) that we have met so far. It is not difficult to track down the name RED in other sources; this is listed in P.H. Reaney's A Dictionary of British Surnames (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1958). However, we must admit that YELLOW has been giving us some trouble. We keep running into the surname YELLOWLEES, but that, unfortunately, is not the same as YELLOW. Perhaps the reader can track down this elusive surname for us. Perhaps, even, one of our readers bears the name YELLOW.

We have no doubts at all that our list of color names can be greatly expanded. Perhaps the reader would like to grab the limelight and supplement our list with a few dozen names of his, or her, own.