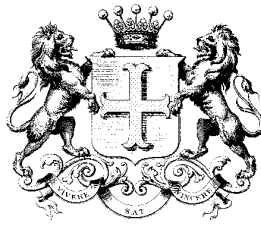


VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS
AT
CROXTETH HALL
• ROLES TO BE PLAYED •



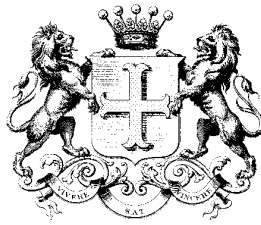


In the aristocratic households in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, servants learned their duties and skills from their superiors. Beginning in service as under housemaids, scullery maids, nursery maids, steward's room boys and under footmen in their early or mid teens, they were taught their place and initiated into the daily routine of work by the servants who ranked immediately above them in the domestic hierarchy. They were supervised by the housekeeper and house steward or butler, who represented the mistress and master.

A large proportion of the population of Britain during these two centuries was employed in domestic service. It was likely, therefore, that young servants parents would have been in service too, and thus were able to help their children in finding their first place. Some would have grown up on a country estate, making brief appearances in the house as children at parties given at Christmas-time and to celebrate the coming of age and marriage of the son and heir, their future employer.

Age, loyalty and hard work eventually brought promotion to the lowest of the lower servants, but sometimes promotion could only be gained by transferring to another household. This required a good 'character', or reference, from an employer whom servants might barely know by sight and who knew them only as a name in the housekeeping accounts.





UNDER-FOOTMEN

Applicants should be tall, fine figured and show a well turned leg - (although padding can be provided if necessary). Only well groomed persons of impeccable manners and graceful deportment need apply.

Under-Footmen act under the instruction of the House Butler (pay £70 per annum). The Under-Butler (£45 per annum) may also direct Under-footmen in their work.

Livery - A jacket of black or blue, white waistcoat, white stockinged legs, white bow or neck tie, white gloves, smart black shoes. (White gloves should be worn at all times on duty whether indoors or out).

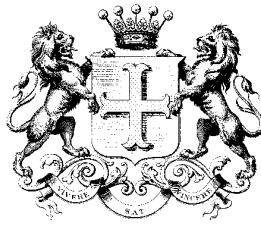
Duties - are multifarious and incessant: *To* clean the cutlery and polish glasses to perfection. Cleaning of the (silver) plate may be required under supervision of the House Butler.

To lay the cloths with precision and care, service the Dining Room table and to wait on his master and mistress's table, serving only from the left.

When required to go out with the carriage, it is the footman's duty to carry messages and letters for his master or mistress.

Pay Allowance - £30 per year and found in livery.





HOUSEMAIDS

Housemaids must be respectable young ladies of strict honesty integrity and cleanly industrious habits, with a willingness to work hard acting under the instruction of the Housekeeper (pay allowance £65 per annum).

No perquisites allowed. An unexceptional character required, but must have acceptable reference. Knowledge of embroidery or stitching an advantage.

Livery - Black dress, white apron and mop cap.

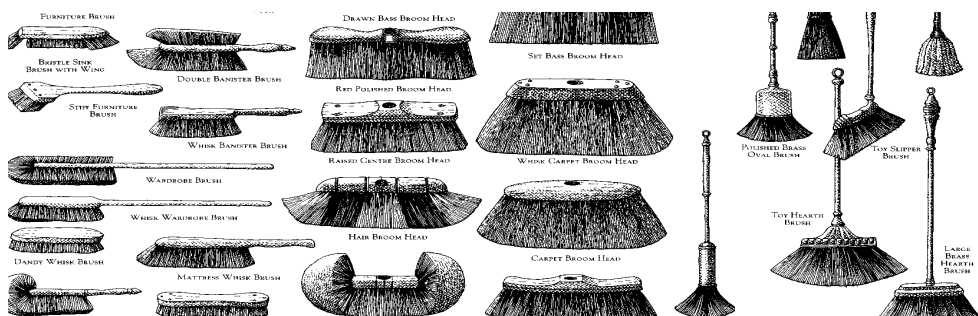
Duties - To rise at 5.30 and accomplish many chores before the family awake so that offence is not caused by the sight and sound of their performance.

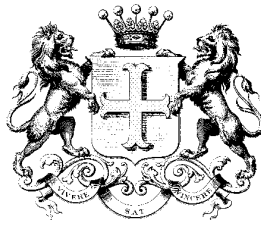
To work diligently under the auspices of the Housekeeper to ensure perfection in all matters relating to the cleanliness of the principal rooms, corridors and bedrooms of the house. In the mornings carry out the black leading of grates. Fire urns to be rubbed with oil and then with emery paper, lay fires. Open shutters of downstairs rooms and attend to each room with care. Bed making with attendance to household linen. Ensure adequate supply of soaps to the dressing rooms. The turning and mending of sheets. The making and marking of household linen, dated, numbered and marked with the mistress's initials. Blinds to be lowered at the appropriate time to prevent sunlight damage. Windows to be cleaned inside with distilled vinegar and cold water once a fortnight. Carpets to be taken up once per year and cleaned with distilled vinegar.

Garret, servant rooms to be cleaned two times per week. The bare boards to be mopped thoroughly. Housemaids should keep to the back stairs at all times when journeying through the house. Be totally in silence in the carrying out of duties.

Pay Allowance - £24 per year and found in livery.

No extra allowance is made for tea, sugar and beer.





KITCHEN MAIDS

Respectable young persons wanted of strict honesty and cleanly industrious habits, must be willing to work hard, acting under the instruction of the Head Cook. No perquisites allowed. An unexceptional character required.

Livery - Black dress, white apron and mop cap.

Duties - The cleanliness of the kitchen is one of the foremost duties therefore all that relates to the cleaning and scouring of cooking utensils, dressers, shelves, larders, passages, kitchen tables and servants hall.

To arise in the early morning to black lead and light the kitchen range. Make dough for household bread and breakfast rolls.

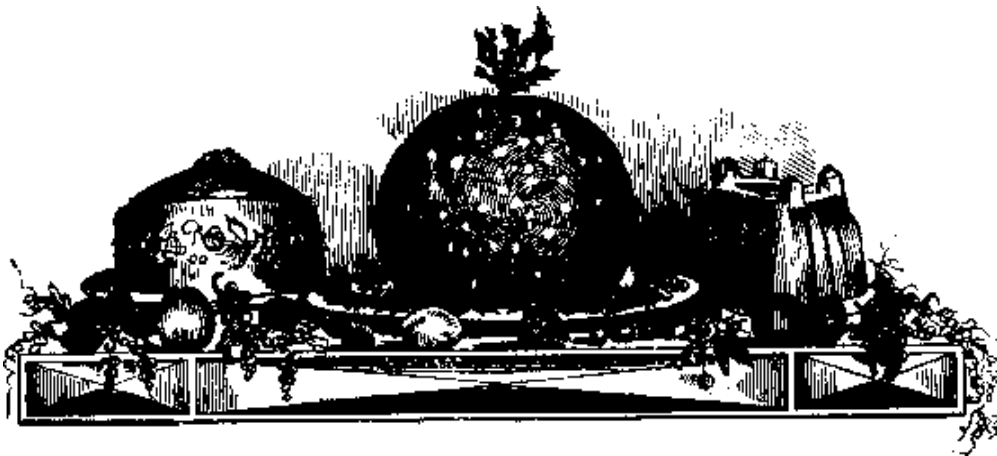
When required - Dress the nursery and servant's hall dinners, prepare all fish, poultry and vegetables, trim meat joints and cutlets, and do all such duties as may be considered to enter the cook's department in a subordinate degree.

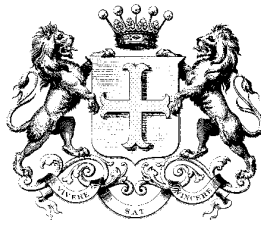
Meals - To be taken in the kitchen with the scullery maids not in the servant's hall.

Quality does not necessitate extravagance or waste.

The kitchens are to be managed with care and economy under the direction of the cook.

Pay allowance - £19 per year and found in livery. No extra allowance is made for tea, sugar and beer.





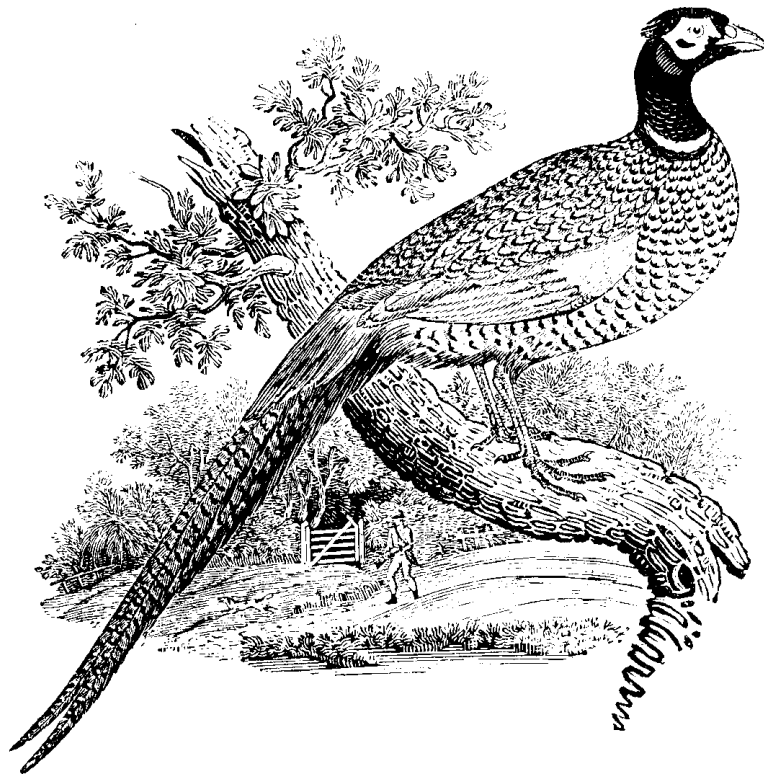
WOOD BOYS

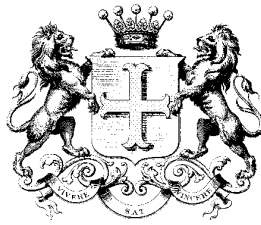
Wood boys should be of a strong and healthy constitution, and able to withstand the rigours of winter weather out of doors. They must be trustworthy and hard working.

Duties: to maintain a good supply of dry wood for use in the Hall and on the estate. Duties will include cutting, chopping and organising wood supplies, collection of decorative bough and bush for use in the Hall, protecting Lord Sefton's game birds from marauders - predators and poachers alike! May be called upon to 'beat' for the shoot at any time.

Livery - will not be provided. Wood boys will require stout weatherproof working boots and warm outdoor clothing, and will work under 'the forester' who will instruct in the ways of maintaining the woodland to Lord Sefton's greatest benefit.

Pay allowance £10 per year - No perquisites allowed.





STABLE BOYS

Stable boys should be fit, strong, reliable and have a confident manner with horses.

Must be hard working and be able to undertake general stable cleaning out and maintenance.

Livery: Short jacket and heavy knee length breeches, waistcoat and cap. Strong boots.

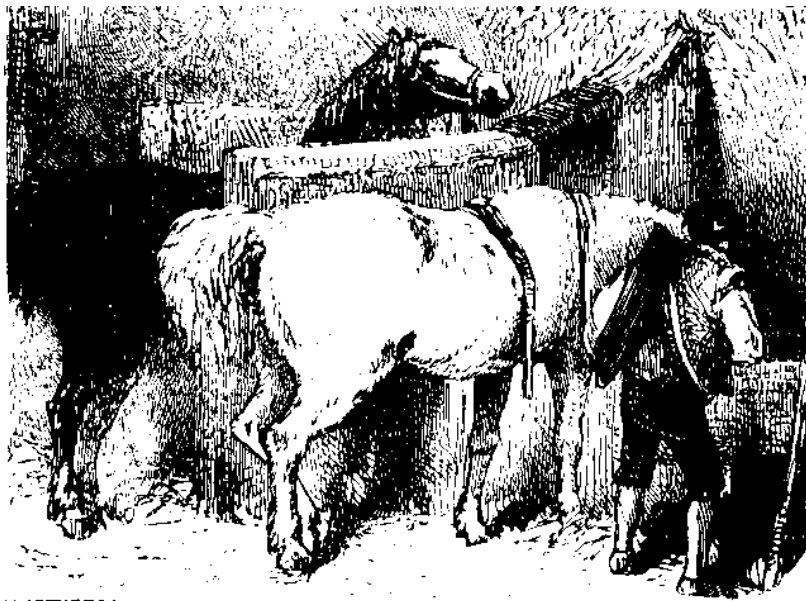
Take instruction in their duties from the Coachman (pay allowance £40 per annum) or the Groom (£20 per annum).

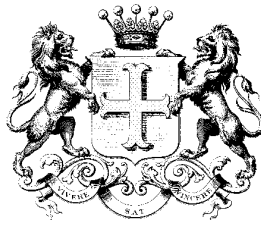
Duties: To assist the coachman and groom in the running of the stables - to clean out bedding, feed and water horses, to clean tack - harnesses and saddlery.

Punctuality in all the daily operations appertaining to the stable should be strictly observed. Stable operations ought to begin at the latest by 6 o'clock am. In fine weather the stable door to be opened upon the first entrance of the groom or stable-keeper, and left open to admit fresh air; then each animal should receive an inspection in turn.

Accommodation will be provided over the stables - to be kept clean at all times.

Pay allowance £8 - £10 per year - No other perquisites allowed.





GARDENERS

*E*state workers should be fit, strong and reliable.

*M*ust be hard working and be able to undertake general estate duties and carry out tasks as required by the Foreman.

*L*ivery - will not be provided. Gardeners will require stout weatherproof working boots and warm outdoor clothing. Aprons will be provided where necessary.

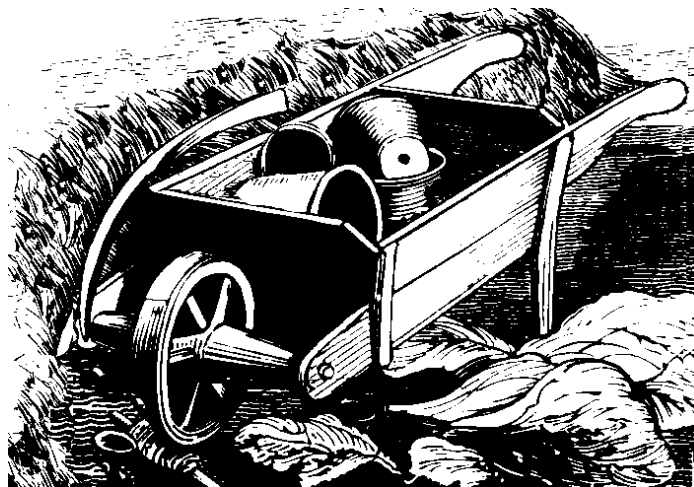
*D*uties; to assist the Head Gardener in all his work in the Walled Garden, according to the season. An ability to learn and observe the phenomena continually occurring in the Walled Garden.

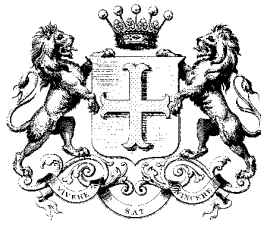
*P*unctuality will be strictly observed. Work will begin for all staff at 6 am. The garden in the winter season requires tidying, including the general cleaning and refurbishment of the glasshouses. Seasonal dressings are made in good time to be taken up to the Hall before the Christmas festivities. Greenery will be harvested (for decorating seasonal fare) for Chef or Cook.

*P*roduce harvested will be treated with care and respect, and presented to the Hall in pristine condition.

*A*ccommodation will be provided in the Bothy adjacent to the Walled Garden - to be kept clean at all times.

*P*ay allowance £15 per year - No other perquisites allowed.





DAIRY MAIDS

Dairy maids are required to be fit, strong and healthy. They must be punctilious and diligent in their duties, clean in their ways, and generally hardworking.

Maids will churn butter either in the Dairy on Home Farm or in the kitchens at the Hall, depending on instruction from the Head Maid.

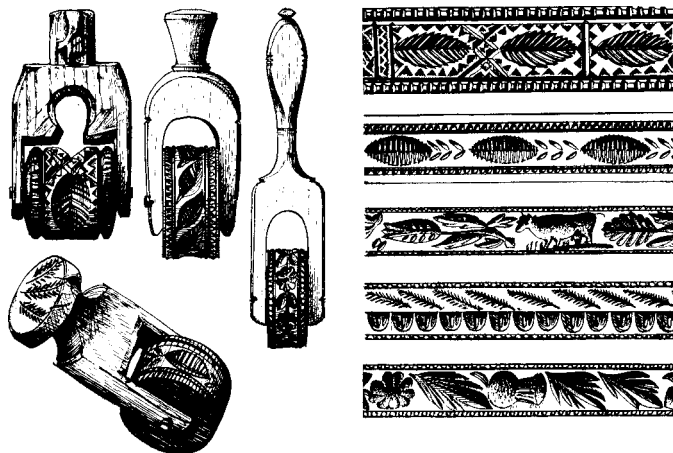
Duties; The Maid's main duty is to churn and present butter for use in the Hall. Eggs to be collected from the farm and milk and cream to be collected for use in the Dairy or kitchen for butter making. Poultry to be fed and looked after.

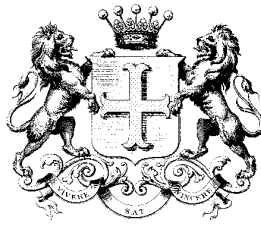
At busy times, Dairy Maids may be required to assist Kitchen maids in their duties.

Pay Allowance - £12 per year. Accommodation will be provided near the Home Farm – to be kept clean at all times. No other perquisites allowed.

Livery will not be provided. Dairy Maids will require stout weatherproof working boots and warm outdoor clothing, and will be expected to wear clean garments when working the butter.

No theft of his Lordship's produce will be tolerated.





SERVANTS ORDER OF PRECEDENCE & WAGES PAID PER ANNUM (1887)

THE HOUSE STEWARD	<i>from</i> £,80
THE VALET	<i>from</i> £,55
THE BUTLER	<i>from</i> £,60 - 70
THE COOK	<i>from</i> £,20 - £,40
THE GARDENER	<i>from</i> £,20 - £,40
THE FOOTMAN	<i>from</i> £,32
THE UNDER-BUTLER	<i>from</i> £,38
THE COACHMAN	<i>from</i> £,35
THE GROOM	<i>from</i> £,20
THE UNDER FOOTMAN	<i>from</i> £,28
THE PAGE <i>or</i> FOOTBOY	<i>from</i> £,8 - £,18
THE STABLEBOY	<i>from</i> £,6 - £,12
THE HOUSEKEEPER	<i>from</i> £,50 - £,60
THE LADY'S MAID	<i>from</i> £,30
THE HEAD NURSE	<i>from</i> £,20
THE UPPER HOUSEMAID	<i>from</i> £,22
THE UPPER LAUNDRY MAID	<i>from</i> £,12 - £,18
THE MAID-of-all-work	<i>from</i> £,9 - £,14
THE UNDER HOUSEMAID	<i>from</i> £,8 - £,12
THE DAIRY MAID	<i>from</i> £,9 - £,14
THE NURSEMAID	<i>from</i> £,12
THE UNDER LAUNDRY MAID	<i>from</i> £,9 - £,14
THE KITCHEN MAID	<i>from</i> £,19
THE SCULLERY MAID	<i>from</i> £,10