

Local History Cafe

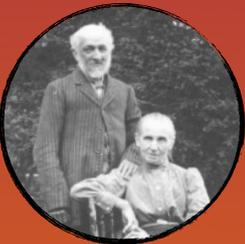


Sir John Moore Foundation, Appleby Magna



Being In Service

Even smaller houses could have 3 or 4 servants



The Bates Family

The first of a two part research project. Page 4



Basil's Bit

Children working as servants. Page 7

Are You Being Served ...

Aubrey Moore recalls servants at the Old Rectory

The rectory was large and required a large staff inside and as we farmed the glebe there was also an outside staff. Of the rectory indoor staff I can just remember the butler, William Savage. For some reason I was reprimanded for calling him Bill. I was very upset at this, went to Bill and said 'I'm not to call you Bill any more but I can still call you Mungo'. That was the name I had called him since I was able to make a noise like talking.

We were never allowed to call the men by their Christian names, always by their surname, except the garden boy. Savage went soon after this to be a caretaker of Kirkstead House, an estate in Lincolnshire, which my father owned. We never had another butler. The first parlourmaid I remember was Emma. She was followed by Lucy Smith, a local girl, and then by a series of others, Annie Hardon from Burton, Annie Sizer from Gainsborough, both called Emma so as not to be confused with Annie Reeves, and finally Lilly Butcher, from Woodhall, the best and most proficient of all. Annie Reeves was cook, a very good one.



The Staff at the Rectory in 1910. Standing (l to r) Tom Gregory (groom), Hook (gardener), Bill Winter (stockman). Sitting (l to r) Annie Reeves (cook), Annie Sizer (housemaid), Nell Guy (governess). In front Fanny Foster (housemaid).

There were various junior maids coming and going. Upstairs, Nell Guy reigned, assisted by nursery maids who came and went which was not to be wondered at. I can hardly remember any except Hetty from Norton who suffered severely from our antics.

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HISTORY MYSTERY

Last month's object is on Page 4

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WASH DAY

A foggy washing day ... Page 8

3

HISTORY CAFE

July's meeting is at 10.00am on 20th

Appearance is everything ...

Marina Sketchley recalls a Sunday hair raising tale ...

On Sunday mornings there was a ritual in our house when I was young. Dad and Grandad always went to the pub to see their pals, have a few drinks and to play dominoes.

Now Dad and Grandad were like chalk and cheese. Dad was an outdoor man at heart but Grandad was always well turned out. Well, on this particular day, Dad first needed to go to his allotment and pick some beans.

Grandad meantime got himself ready.

First, he would air his coat in front of the fire, then put his shoes on newspaper and polish them like mirrors and put on the shirt he had ironed. He put a hankie in his breast pocket, a carnation in his button hole, get his melon bowler and he was finally ready. Just to go to the pub.

Dad, of course, got home late and Grandad had dozed off. While he dozed, I had quietly put a metal curler in the dozen hairs on top of his head. He didn't feel a thing.

Dad came in, flushed and mucky, but he was quickly ready. One thing he was particular about was whether his socks matched.

Grandad quickly grabbed his coat and bowler and they were off, leaving us girls at home as was the way in those days.

I don't quite know how he discovered in the pub he was wearing a curler. He never even told me off. Now that is love.

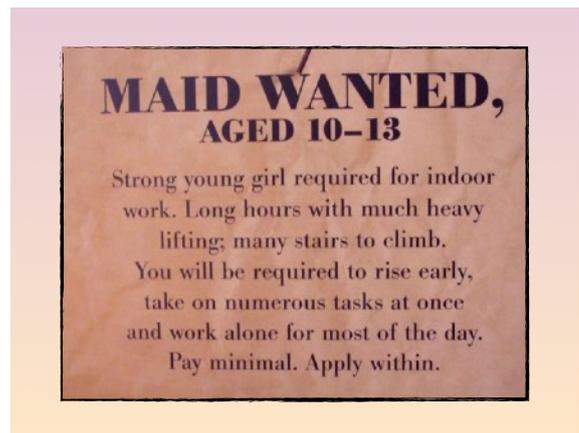
Up at The Hall ...

Jim Marbrow has researched his ancestor who was in service

My Great Great Grandmother Ann Denston was a servant at Appleby Hall. In the 1841 census age 20yrs. She came from Windley Derbyshire and whilst working there met Thomas Bowley from Appleby.



They married and emigrated to America their eldest son John was born there. Two years later they came back to Appleby taking over the tenancy of the Black Horse Inn which they ran for many years after. My Great Grandma Agnes Flora Bowley was born there in 1866.



History mystery ???

This month's History Mystery Object is the oldest object we have featured. It's from the Bronze Age ..

The answer will be in our August edition ...



Long hours

The British census of 1891 found that 1.3 million girls and women worked as domestic servants in Victorian England.

They were usually recruited between the ages of 10 and 13, after they had been through some elementary schooling.

Many employers hoped for the servants they hired to have at least some elementary literacy and numeracy. It was difficult to get in the 1850s, but by the '80s and '90s, it was becoming a more realistic expectation.

If you went to work for a middle-class family or an upper-class family, you would usually have to go to live in the house where you were working. If you were working for an upper working-class family, it was more likely that you would live at home and simply migrate over every day to do the work.

Wherever you were a servant, the hours of work were very long.

A tough life ...

Viv Wilson researched life below stairs

The life of a servant in Victorian times was a hard one. They had to rise at 5am to clean and light all the fires and dust and polish the floors, then do a day's work, often not getting to bed much before midnight. No wonder they didn't live to a great age in those days! By the end of the 19th century there were nearly one and a half million servants; most young girls went into domestic service when they left school.

A large house with neither running water nor electricity would need a lot of help to keep things going. There was also the continuous

cooking that needed to be done – for the family above stairs and the servants below. Everyone had meals at different times; the servants would obviously eat before or after they had served the family.

The children and nursery staff would eat at around 5pm and then there were the afternoon teas and full English breakfasts!



Everything had to be made from scratch of course so the cooks must have been cooking something or other from dawn until dusk.

It must have been exhausting!

Most of the live in servants had rooms in the attic of the houses they worked in. Rooms that were freezing in winter and boiling in summer.



(Image: By Dutch – SchoolDetails of artist on Google Art Project/Public domain)

Local family history ...

This month we feature Part Two of the Bates family history, kindly researched by Sandra Bates

William Bates & Mary Plant had nine children between 1817 and 1836 one of whom died aged 7. After William's death from consumption in 1843, Mary was left with three children under 14 – Catherine, William & Charles – the other children were of working age. Henry, 26, was in the army, Edwin, 25, was a tailor, Eliza, 23, was a straw bonnet maker, Jane, 19, was in service, and Valentine John, 16, was either a tailor or had joined the army.

Mary moved to Harlaston for a period after her husband's death and it was there that she made her will in 1846 naming Thomas Kirkland as her executor. She returned to Appleby and in 1851 she was a grocer in Duck Lake. Edwin, Eliza, and Charles were with her. Charles, her youngest child, born in 1836 was an apprentice.

According to Agnes Annie Bates, the wife of Mary's grandson Charles Thomas Bates, Mary was evicted from her home after her husband's death because one of her sons had been caught poaching. She was subsequently rehoused by James Parker.

Mary died in 1859 and by 1861 her son Charles was a grocer & baker in Church Street. His sister Eliza, a milliner, was living with him, and his uncle, Thomas, a tailor, was next door. In 1869 the bankruptcy of "Charles Bates, formerly Charles & Eliza Bates Grocers & Provision Dealers" was announced in the press (this was probably occasioned by Eliza's death), but by 1871 Charles was back in business, probably still in Church Street. In May 1869, shortly after the death of his sister, Charles aged 33 had married 24-year-old Anne Nicklin; Anne had been Charles and Eliza's housemaid!

By the late 1800's Charles' siblings were scattered across the globe. Henry and William were in South Africa where Henry had married into the Cullinan diamond mining

family, Edwin, Jane, and Catherine were in Australia, and Valentine John was probably in the USA.

Charles & Anne went to Australia for about 2 years but had returned to the UK prior to the birth of their daughter Mary Jane in 1880. In 1881 Charles was a grocer again, possibly on Top Street. Their son Charles Thomas was born in 1882, and in 1891 the family was back in Duck Lake. In 1899 Charles announced in the local paper that he was moving his business from Bridge End to Church Street – this was the property facing Bowley's Lane where the family would remain until the 1940's.



Charles Thomas joined the family business and continued to run it after his father's death from natural causes in 1914. In 1911 Charles had married Agnes Annie Rowland (1882) the daughter of a former brewery labourer who had moved to Appleby from Burton upon Trent in about 1883 to become a farmer in Duck Lake.

Charles & Agnes had five children between 1912 and 1929, Charles (known as "son"), Kathleen, Frank, Roger, and John.

Charles Thomas disposed of the business in about 1940; sons Charles & Roger were in the forces, Kathleen was married, Frank was farming and local man George who worked in the shop had also gone to war leaving Charles shorthanded and doing all the work. Charles, Agnes, Frank, and young son John moved to Lower Rectory Farm which Charles had purchased in about 1925 and where Frank was working. The farm was run for Charles by Mr Ashmore until the family moved in. Charles had also owned several cottages in Church Street which were sold shortly after the war.

Charles Thomas died in 1961; Agnes, son Frank and his family moved to Lyddington where she died in 1966. There are no known members of the direct family still in the village although Leicestershire is still the Bates "home".

School Memories ...

Our FaceBook followers have vivid memories of School Playtimes ...

Snobs, skipping, double ball and tissing up against the wall, all in Summer of course. Hated being sent out to 'play' in the freezing cold of Winter.

Hilary Walton

Playtimes at infants school were a nightmare for me, moved into area so was a newby and got horribly bullied so I always wanted to stay in and read books! Miss Parker was the head but the village kids at Poltimore near Exeter were really cruel. I remember some names but where are they now? 2 brothers especially cruel were called Richards a girl surname Dunlop and another called Turton just prior to 1944! However as I grew older and moved to Torquay had many happy school years, totally different and determined never to be bullied again!

At my school we had no health and safety we had Boxing cricket with hard balls Balls foot Ball with heavy balls a specially when they got wet we used to fight each other but never used a knife and most us had pocket knives if the head master saw you he'd probably give you some Boxing gloves a great chap but we never held a grudge the next day we'd be friends again back in the fifties.

Richard Glover



I remember as girls playing skipping games, also many games played in groups like 'Oranges and Lemons', 'Who stole the watch and chain', 'Poor Jenny is a weeping', 'Farmers in his den' and 'What's the time Mr. Wolf'.

Janet Wall

Two ball, followed by handstands. To the extent that seven years ago, at well over the age of 60, I was dared by my granddaughters to do one.... and I did!!

Lindsey Radcliffe

Hopscotch, though the teachers never happy with you chalking the grids in the playground. Something we called "kingfisher" that involved throwing a tennis ball at each other to get hits, if I recall right.

Stephen Nugent

I remember playing marbles in the school playground and especially one day when I lost my best one down the drain just outside the toilets!

Justin Smythe

Clothes maketh man

Taken from Aubrey Moore's "A Son of the Rectory"

The clothing people wore also gave an indication of their status.

I suppose it is fair to say the style of clothing did not alter much from the time I was born to 1914. People dressed very correctly, there was no such use as casual wear. The manual workers always put on a respectable suit at weekends, some had on a collar and tie, many a scarf or even a handkerchief knotted round the neck and certainly clean boots. Ladies wore ankle length skirts or dresses. Many of the older wives might wear a shawl and certainly a head dress of some sort.

Middle and upper classes wore more or less the same style, very dressed up on Sundays. Many in the village came to Church in frock coat and top hat, the ladies in costumes, the show piece being the hat. Habit has not altered very much. I well remember hearing "Did you see Mrs. So and So's hat...?"

Father's clothes did not alter from the turn of the century until he died. He had a new rig out for my sister Sylvia's wedding, frock coat and trousers,



The Rev. C. T. Moore

which was the last suit he bought. This he wore on Sundays, to go to London and Ascot. In the week he wore a dark suit, wing collar and dark tie. A clean collar every day was the order.

I cannot describe the ladies' clothes except that mother, as was the custom, always wore a hat for luncheon. Fashion was always changing, but father never changed the weight or style winter or summer. On the hottest day he would wear what he would on the coldest day in winter. He had an amazing amount of riding clothes. He had numerous white cord breeches and a few buckskin. Several coats, waistcoats stocks etc. Many pairs of top boots and jack boots and two or three top hats. Being a short man, none of his clothes fitted me so I had to hunt in 'rat catcher', as did Tim and George.

Father never wore the conventional clothes of a parson beyond frock coat and white bow tie on Sunday and for other services, weddings, funerals. He never wore a 'dog collar'. When he decided to go into the Church his father said to him 'If you must go into the Church Charlie, for God's sake dress like a gentlemen'.

History Mystery revealed ...

Victorian Invalid Cup



When you are ill and lying flat in bed, drinking from a cup can be a messy business. This invalid feeder or (as it was

also called) invalid feeding cup was used to feed invalids who were too weak or ill to sit up.

In Victorian times, wealthy families used to nurse sick children, parents and grandparents at home.

A SERVANT'S GRIEVANCE. GIRLS ASK FOR PROTECTION AGAINST TYRANNOUS MISTRESSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "WESTERN MAIL."
SIR,—Will you insert a servant's complaints of the way in which the majority of that much-abused class are treated? No one seems to heed our long hours or our holidays, which are (like angels' visits) few and far between. There seems no other class working at a greater disadvantage. For instance, no servant can expect a situation who has not got a good reference and a long one from where she last lived. It often happens she has been living with unprincipled people, who think not half so much of their servants as they do of their dumb animals. What is it to them if the girl does not get a situation? She has offended them in some way or other. Perhaps she had had more than her share of work, bad food, and other things too numerous to mention, and she has spoken too plainly to please them. That, of course, is considered impertinent, for, according to many mistresses' opinion, a servant is a being made expressly for them, and she has no rights whatever, and she is told she need not expect a character. What are servants to do under these circumstances? They may be out of a situation for months—perhaps something worse. Do the mistresses think we have no spirit, and that we must bear quietly the petty tyranny they have it in their power to use in a hundred ways? My two last situations have happened to be places where it is impossible for servants to live, I being the sixth servant in three months, and yet we have nothing and no one to warn us of places of this sort. I think it is a serious matter that our character (I may say our livelihood) is at the mercy of such people. Why cannot something be done to benefit servants, as well as other working classes? Servants ought to know what kind of places they are going into, as well as the character of the people they are to live with.—Hoping some abler pen will take this up, I am, &c.,
A SERVANT.

Rules is rules ...

The strict rules some Edwardian servants had to adhere to



- Never let your voice be heard by the ladies and gentlemen of the house
- Always 'give room' if you meet one of your employers or betters on the stairs.
- Always stand still when being spoken to by a lady and look at the person speaking to you.
- Servants should never offer any opinion to their employers, nor even to say good night.
- Never talk to another servant in the presence of your mistress.
- Never call from one room to another.
- Always answer when you have received an order.
- Always keep outer doors fastened. Only the Butler may answer the bell.
- No servant is to take any knives or forks or other article, nor on any account to remove any provisions, nor ale or beer out of the Hall.
- The female staff are forbidden from smoking.
- No servant is to receive any Visitor, Friend or Relative into the house.
- Any maid found fraternising with a member of the opposite sex will be dismissed without a hearing.
- The Hall door is to be finally closed at Half-past Ten o'clock every night.
- Any breakages or damage to the house will be deducted from wages.

Basil's bit ...

Hello everyone. Do you get fed up when your parents telling you to tidy your bedroom up or do your chores? Imagine if that was your job. All day. Everyday! That's what being a child servant in Victorian and Edwardian life was like.

My great Uncle George used to live in the Old Rectory in Appleby. He remembers girls as young as 7 or 8 working as scullery maids. That meant being at the house by 6.00 o'clock in the morning to start lighting the fires to warm the rooms. They also had to scrub the stone tiled floors before the other servants came down to start on breakfast.

Boys started at the age of 8 as hall boys. They were paid as little as possible and often had to work through the night. One of their main jobs was cleaning the boots and shoes of the people who lived in the house. They were often beaten if they did a poor job and left marks on the shoes. When they were not wanted they would be made to stay in their rooms all by themselves with nothing to do.

Next month I'm going to tell you about going on our holidays



List Checking

Alan Roberts
researches 18th
Century
inventories

The inventory belonging to the village blacksmith, Edward Cuthbert of Little Appleby was a great stock of ironmongery in his workshop and had "lodging rooms", which suggests that he was well provided for in the family home and that he passed on a well equipped workshop to his successor.

In contrast Richard Oldakers, one of the poorer villagers, described simply as a labourer, had only "small nessesares" - lodging tools and a few pots and pans among his worldly goods.

A lot of inventories belonged to farmers. One of the most interesting is that of Thomas Parker whose appraisers in 1735 individually named each of his beasts, including "a mare called Whitefoot", a red cow called "Parson", and a cow called "Young Jerimmy" - touching evidence of Thomas' affection for his farm animals.

Carry On Listening

Our latest podcast is now available ...

Just published on all the popular download sites is our latest podcast. It's a drive around Appleby Magna in a 1932 vintage Lanchester car. Andrew Moore is in conversation with the vehicle's owner, Duncan Saunders. Find out exactly what does go in to a Mickey Finn

Click on the link below to hear the podcast ...

<https://anchor.fm/sjmf-oralhistorypodcast/episodes/Driving-the-walk-e10m6p3>



Quote ... Unquote

Quotes from our FaceBook stream ...

The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson."

Tom Bodnett

Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve."

Roger Lewin



In this month

1923 ... The British parliament passes a law banning the sale of alcohol to under-18's.

1966 ... England win the Jules Rimet trophy World Cup, at Wembley Stadium, after beating Germany 4-2 in extra time

Wash Day ...

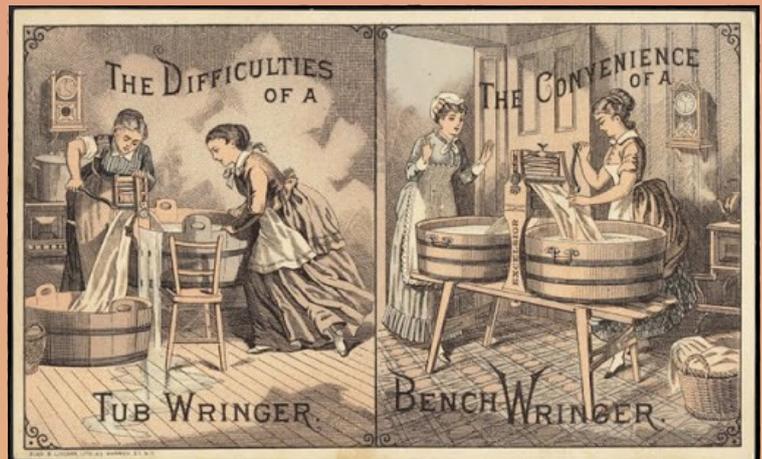
From 'A Son of the Rectory' by Aubrey Moore

The pony cart was used to carry the weekly washing down to the laundry at the bottom of Jobs field. As a small boy I took part in this operation. The dirty linen was taken on Monday morning and the clean collected on Saturday. This was the job of the garden boy. When we were loaded we set off across Little Jobs field, through the big gate, which had to be unlocked, then along the path to the corner. We generally had to walk, as

wore on I grew older, so did the pony and she retired. The same small cart was man-handled.

The time came when the garden boy went. A Londoner named Hook took over, acting as clerk of the church also. He took the laundry on the Monday morning but forgot to fetch it on Saturday until night, when it was very foggy. He found the laundry all right but got hopelessly lost returning, and had to abandon the cart.

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there was no room to ride.

The pony went to the same place near the small gate into the laundry garden and waited without being tied. The laundry was taken into the wash-house and the baskets checked with the book. The return journey was at full gallop, round the bend on one wheel – it was a wonder we never overturned – and a very sedate amble across the little field. The reverse was the order on Saturday. As the years

After a long walk he found the rectory and reported the situation. He had no idea where the cart was, so we set off to find it. If anyone has ever tried to find a pony cart, without a pony, in a seventeen-acre field on a foggy night they will know the difficulty.

After a long time it was found and brought safely in. Hook could not stand the country so he returned to London. Fred Booton was installed in his place, becoming our first and only chauffeur after the war.

Peelings ...

From as early as 1679, sums of money were bequeathed to the parish to be invested so that the annual interest could be 'distributed in bread or otherwise among the poor of Appleby'.

The village is also very lucky to have within its boundaries The Almshouses by the gift of the Misses Moore of the White House:

... "five cottages with suitable buildings and gardens attached erected in AD 1839 for the purpose of being let for all future years (at low rents to be determined upon by the trustees for the time being) to poor persons belonging to or residing in the parish of Appleby, the same being persons of good character and repair, and members of the Established Church."



Live in servants ...

Richard Dunmore researched the booming employment of servants in Appleby Magna

Domestic service as a widespread occupation developed from the mid-18th century. This service industry was a by-product of the growth of successful towns which became social centres for the gentry. Servants also became an essential requirement in the running of country house estates developed in the wake of parliamentary enclosures. The Moore family built luxurious mansions for themselves on their newly consolidated agricultural estate at Appleby. The upheaval in employment resulting from the enclosures meant that workmen had to adapt to new work patterns. Many new opportunities arose for women, especially young women, too.

Appleby parish registers record modest numbers of servants in the years before the national censuses: five servants recorded in 1698-1707 and five again in 1813-21. Even though these counts are thought to be underestimates (because many servants were young and single and therefore less likely to appear in the register entries), the numbers of servants recorded in the 1841 census is quite astonishing: 71 female and 56 male servants were recorded.

Take the day off ???

That's unthinkable ...

In the early years of the 18th century, the servants used to sleep in the kitchen or at times in the cupboards. But as the time went by, they were accommodated in a room which was small, cold and had insufficient lights. The rooms had limited but basic furniture like chair, bed, and wooden dresser. Initially, there were no holidays for the servants and they had to obtain the consent of their masters if they needed a holiday.

However, the permission could be taken back by the masters anytime they wanted servants. Around 1880, the servants were given half-day off on Sundays and at times they were given an entire day off in a month. A change came in the 1900s when there was a fashion to give servants a break in the evenings which later on transpired to an entire day off per week.



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NEXT ISSUE

Summer
Holidays
Seaside Trips

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