



## Notice Board

### ➤ Looking at Other Records

Sometimes it's easy to get carried away with looking at the births, deaths and marriages to even think about other existing records. Some examples are the medal index cards and medical records that you can view on ancestry which can give you other information such as personal descriptions, their health state at the time, regimental and unit details, any injuries they might have had. Other records will always give you other clues and facts of the lives of your ancestors.

### ➤ Nation Archives Of Australia

Maybe you have ancestors that travelled to Australia and need to find out what records are available to you. Searchable records include documents, photographs, posters, maps, films and sound recordings.

<http://naa.gov.au>

### ➤ Lost Cousins

Have a look at this website which is free to sign up and free to search. Covers genealogy and tracing your family tree. It matches you with cousins looking at the same ancestors.

[www.lostcousins.com](http://www.lostcousins.com)

### ➤ Victorian Halloween

An interesting website that's worth a look with Victorian Halloween poetry, articles, recipes and Halloween tales...

[www.victorianhalloween.com](http://www.victorianhalloween.com)

### ➤ Our Website

James is currently updating our website, so if there are any new ancestors or surnames that you are researching and you would like them to be added to the website please let him know.

[www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk](http://www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk)

## A Servants Life



Genealogy is like an opening to another world to us today, it reveals the answers to who our ancestors were as people and gives us an insight to their trades, lifestyles and where they came from. The census records show us today how many working class girls in Britain were servants; most of these lived far away from their own homes and families to a completely different environment with different people of different classes.

A servant is one who works, and often also lives, within the employer's household. They are distinguishable from slaves, because they must receive payment for their duties and work. Unlike a slave they they are also free to leave their employment at any time. However being a servant to a household in the days of our ancestors seems far less unpleasant and less appealing as an occupation that it probably would today. Back then It was the way of survival for most young women of the working class who had no money, no education and no where else to turn to survive. It is hard to think that some of these girls in some cases were barely thirteen, fourteen years of age, taking on such a responsibility and a job at such a young age, where they would not see their families and friends for weeks, months and even years. If the lonely lifestyle wasn't enough, to take on the job itself was very hard going and physically and mentally tiring.

So what were the expectations of a servant and what was it likes to be one?

Firstly a servant had to obey rules and this mainly depending where they were and the sort of people that the employers were

. Here below are just a few examples of rules that had to be obeyed

- Never talk to any ladies or gentleman unless being asked a question or passing on a message or unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Never express your own opinion to your employer
- Any fraternizing or followers will be a immediate dismissal
- Be punctual at all times
- Always make sure that you make yourself as invisible as possible and make room for the better classes in the house.

In some households servants usually slept under the stairs, in a cupboards or in the kitchen. If they had their own room they were allowed to have little furnishings and belongings.

As for the social life of a servant it was very little in some cases unless there were other servants, cooks, delivery men, or if they were able to make friends when they went out to get .

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### **Contribute to the Newsletter**

Tell us how your getting on with your research so far and have you discovered any hidden skeletons you want share with us. Have you come across some unexpected Ancestors, lost relatives, a famous Ancestor? Or do you have any old photos and stories you would like to share in the newsletter, it's all history and we'd be happy to hear it.

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