

## Butler

The butler was the most important male servant in a wealthy household. He supervised the other male servants, arranged and announced dinner, carved joints of meat and served wine. The butler looked after the wine cellars and pantries, and generally attended to the needs of the family and guests in the dining and drawing room. Wearing a distinctive uniform, the butler had to be immaculately groomed at all times.

## Housekeeper

The housekeeper was the most important female servant in a wealthy home and supervised the other female servants. She was in charge of the orderly running of the house and made sure it was clean. The housekeeper managed all household accounts and tradesmen's bills. She was also in charge of the servants' accommodation.

## Lady's maid

The lady's maid looked after the lady of the house. Each day, she would bathe and dress her mistress and arrange her hair. A lady's maid needed excellent needlework skills and had to be able to read and write. She was no normal maid – her role was much more prestigious.

## Housemaid

A housemaid's day was long and busy. She would wake early to clean and light the fires and empty the chamber pots. She then went from room to room, cleaning, dusting and tidying. Housemaids also changed bed linen and ran errands. It was hard work with long hours.

## Laundry maid

The laundry maid washed the entire family's linen and hung it out to dry. She then ironed it all by hand. Washing was back-breaking work, as there were no machines or dryers. Laundry maids used a large metal tub and a washboard with soap to scrub dirty clothes.

## Cook

The cook had a vital role in a wealthy house. She was often very skilled, developing lavish dishes for the family and their guests. However, many cooks did not see it as their job to cook for fellow servants. They were often helped by scullery and kitchen maids, who did menial tasks, such as preparing food and washing up.

## Valet

The valet had a similar role to the lady's maid, but for the master of the house. He would help bathe, dress and groom the master, as well as set up his shaving equipment. The valet would assist the master throughout the day and night. He answered to the butler and had a higher role than other male servants, such as the footmen.

## Footman

The footman began his duties early in the morning, cleaning and polishing the boots and shoes of the household. He also polished the silverware and brass and helped the butler set the table for meals. A footman had to be smart and polite, always be on hand to answer the door and carry out various other tasks in the house.

## Grooms

Grooms would start work early in the morning, cleaning out the horse dung from the stables. They then brushed, fed and exercised the horses. Afterwards, the groom would clean each horse, checking their bodies and hooves for any problems. Grooms also looked after the household carriages. Sometimes, a groom would have to stay awake late at night until the master returned on horseback from an evening engagement.