

Household Helpers, 1888

Think about all the modern things that help keep home life clean and comfortable today, like vacuum cleaners, dishwashers, hair dryers, and answering machines. These things didn't exist 125 years ago. Running big households took a lot of work and provided jobs for many people. **Domestic** (or household) workers helped with cooking and cleaning, childcare, gardening, and horses and carriages. These are the kinds of servants who worked for wealthy people so long ago:

- **Maids** cleaned the parlor, dining room, and **bedchambers** (or bedrooms). Other maids worked in the **scullery**, a room next to the kitchen with a sink for washing dishes and doing similar messy jobs.
- **Nurses** took care of babies and other preschool age children, while **governesses** taught older children their school lessons at home.
- **Ladies' maids** and **valets** helped the lady and gentleman of the house with their clothes and accessories, or ran errands for them.
- The **coachman** drove the family carriages and the **groom** cared for the horses who pulled the carriages.

Each type of worker had a job title.

For example, the CHEF planned, shopped for and cooked the meals. Can you guess what these other workers did? Using clues from the information above, draw a line from each job to the matching imaginary want ad.

GROOM

LADY'S MAID

VALET

CHAMBERMAID

NURSE

SCULLERY MAID

HELP WANTED

Pot Scrubber Wanted. Willing to roll up your sleeves and get wet and dirty. Experience peeling potatoes a plus.

Rock-a-bye Baby. If you like to care for the littlest family members, this job is for you! Diapers, toys and Mother Goose books supplied.

Transportation Expert. Our horses are waiting to be brushed, watered and fed. If you know it all, from hoof to stall, we want you!

HELP WANTED

Tasteful Assistant. Good eye for fashion, jewelry and hairstyles. Perfect manners and sewing skill important.

Upstairs Help. Make beds, dust dressers, beat carpets. No sleepyheads need apply.

Gentleman's Gentleman. Help me organize my life, from choosing a tie to banking and delivering messages.