

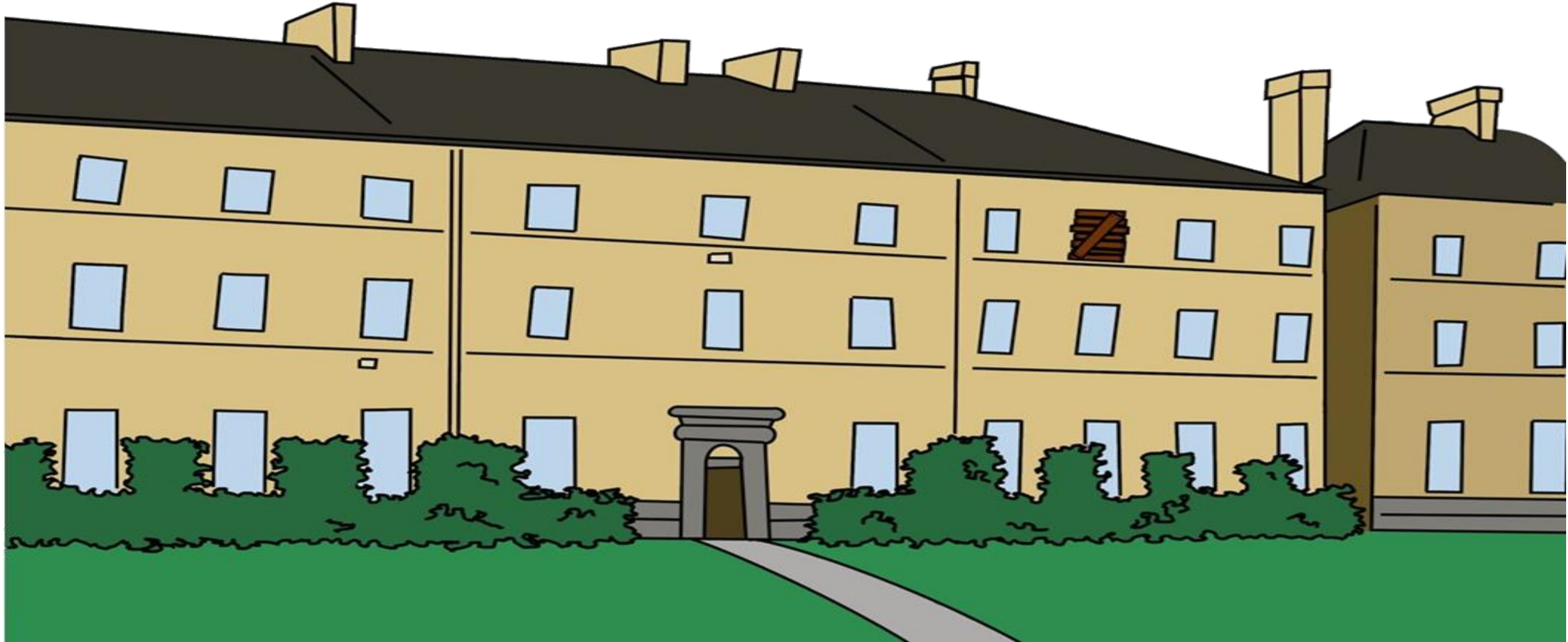
# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# 107 -- VICTORIAN HOUSES -- FEBRUARY, 2022





**WELCOME TO TOPIC # 107... TODAY, WE WILL  
LOOK AT LIFE ON A VICTORIAN FARM DURING THE  
VICTORIAN PERIOD...**



*FARMING WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE IN  
VICTORIAN TIMES.*



**IN 1837 WHEN QUEEN VICTORIA CAME TO THE THRONE, MORE THAN HALF THE POPULATION OF GREAT BRITAIN WORKED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.**



**EACH VILLAGE HAD A HIERARCHY WITH THE SQUIRE BEING THE LOCAL LANDOWNER... THE TENANT FARMER WAS SOCIALLY SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A LABORER AND A LANDOWNER.**



**AT THE LOWER END OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LADDER WERE THE FARM LABORERS.**



**LIVING CONDITIONS FOR VICTORIAN FARM WORKERS WERE OFTEN CRAMPED AND BASIC.**





*THEY HAD THEIR OWN SMALL VEGETABLE GARDEN  
AND KEPT A PIG TO FEED THE FAMILY.*



**GLEANINGS OF CORN WERE COLLECTED AFTER THE HARVEST AND USED TO MAKE FLOUR AND BREAD AND THEY WOULD MAKE THEIR OWN CIDER, ALE AND WINE FROM FRUIT SUCH AS ELDERBERRIES.**



***EVEN CHILDREN WORKED HARD ON THE FARM FROM AS YOUNG AS SIX YEARS OLD.***



*BOYS WOULD BE EMPLOYED TO SCARE THE BIRDS  
FROM THE CROPS, GUARD THE LIVESTOCK FROM  
STRAYING,...*



*...PICK HOPS, SOW POTATOES AND BEANS, GATHER MUSHROOMS AND HERD ANIMALS TO MARKET.*



**THEY WOULD ALSO COLLECT FIREWOOD, FILL SACKS WITH GRAIN AND SHRED TURNIPS... WITH AGE, THEY WOULD PROGRESS TO PLOUGHING AND OTHER HARD PHYSICAL TASKS.**



*AT HARVEST TIME EVERYONE LENT A HAND  
MAKING HAY OR HARVESTING CROPS.*



**IN THE 1850S A DORSET FARM LABORER EARNED  
SIX SHILLINGS A WEEK (30 PENCE!).**





**BREAKFAST WAS A POOR PORRIDGE OF FLOUR,  
BUTTER AND WATER.**



*AT MIDDAY, THEY WOULD EAT BREAD AND OCCASIONALLY A PIECE OF CHEESE. SUPPER WAS BREAD OR POTATOES AND SOMETIMES A PIECE OF BACON.*



AT HARVEST TIME HE WAS GIVEN A JUG OF BEER  
BY HIS MASTER.





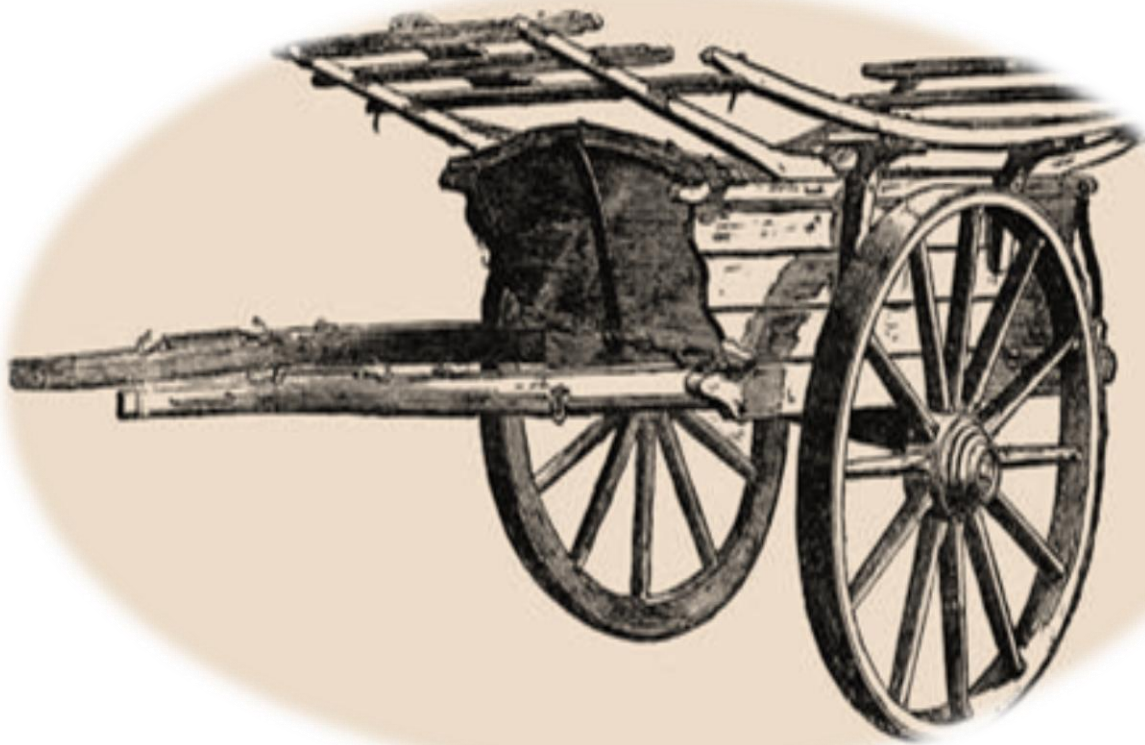
*CRAFTSMEN SUCH AS CARPENTERS, TANNERS AND  
BLACKSMITHS ALL HAD USEFUL TRADES...*



*...WHICH WERE NEEDED ON VICTORIAN FARMS  
AND WOULD USUALLY BE HIRED IN LOCALLY.*



THE BLACKSMITH WOULD FORGE BARS, HOOKS  
AND METALWORK AS WELL AS MAKING  
HORSESHOES AND TOOLS... THE WHEELWRIGHT  
MADE CART WHEELS AND WAGONS.



**WOODWORKERS MADE FURNITURE, FENCE  
POSTS, GATES, PEGS, WOODEN BOWLS AND  
WOODEN CLOGS TO WHICH THE BLACKSMITH  
ADDED METAL TIPS.**



**SADDLERS, COACHMEN AND COOPERS (BARREL-MAKERS) ALL PLAYED THEIR PART IN VICTORIAN FARM LIFE.**

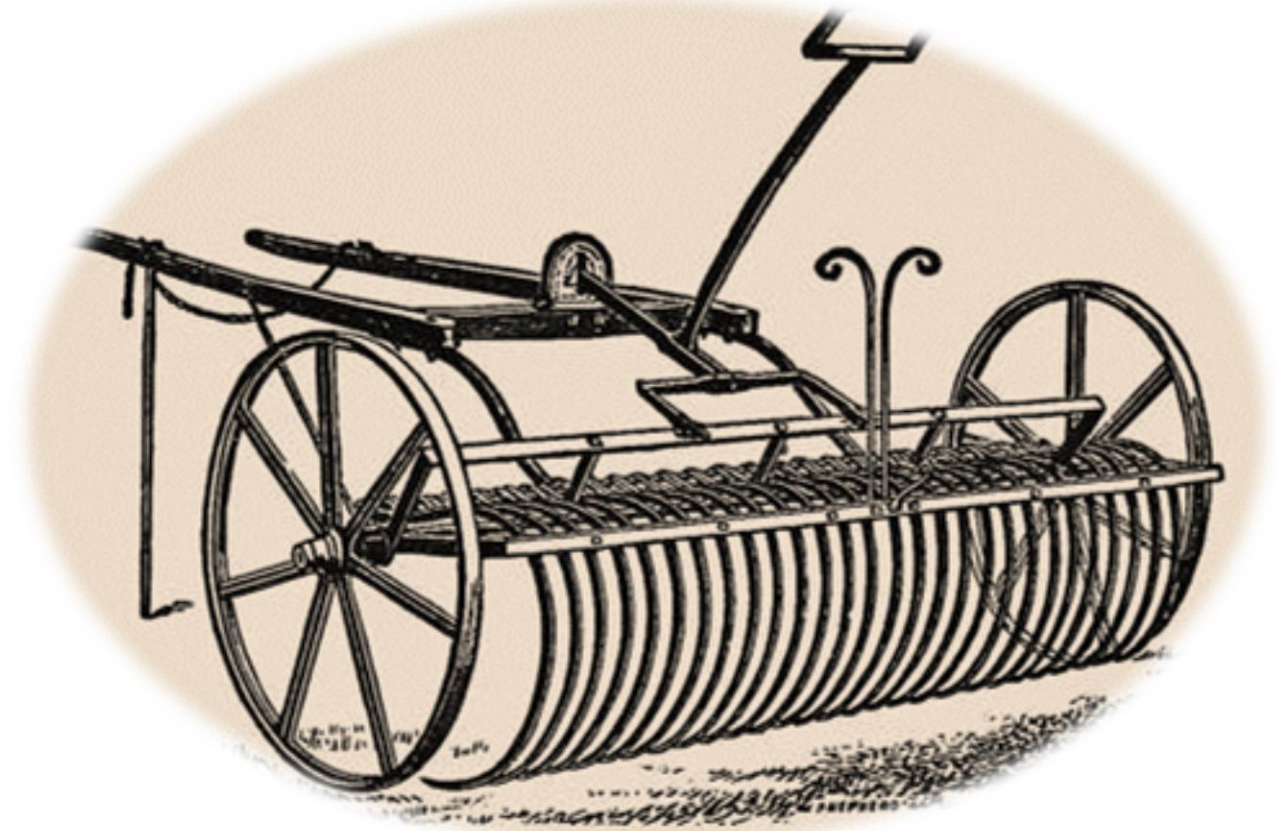




*VICTORIAN FARMERS SAW A GREAT DEAL OF  
CHANGE DURING THE 19TH CENTURY.*



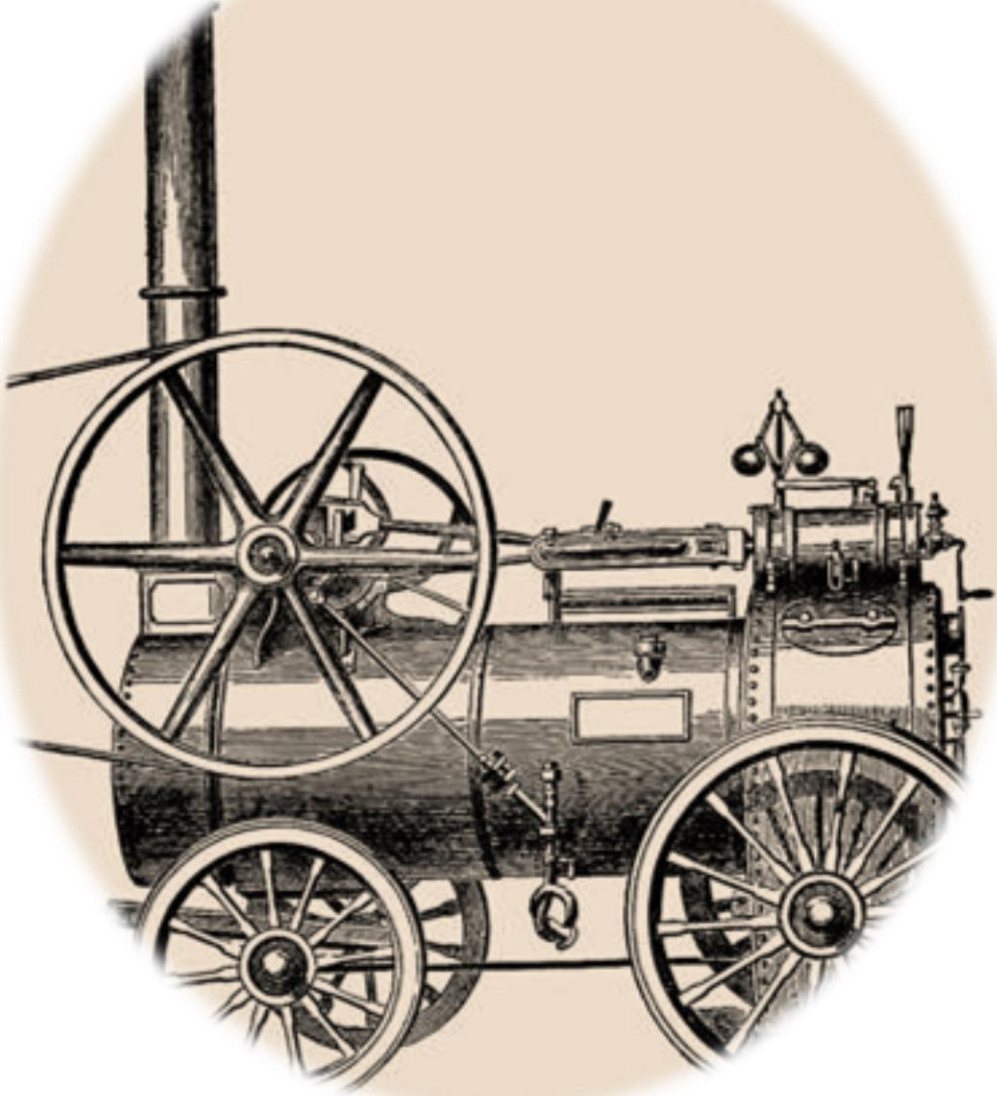
**TOOLS WENT FROM BEING PRIMITIVE  
WOODEN IMPLEMENTS TO STURDY IRON  
TOOLS AND MECHANIZATION DRAMATICALLY  
REDUCED THE WORKFORCE.**



**IMPROVED STRAINS OF SEEDS INCREASED THE HARVEST... THE ENCLOSURE OF LAND LED TO BIGGER FIELDS AND CROP ROTATION WAS USED TO INCREASE THE YIELDS.**



**THE USE OF STEAM POWER LED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF FARM MACHINERY WHICH WAS FAR MORE EFFICIENT AND EASIER TO USE THAN HORSES AND HAND TOOLS.**

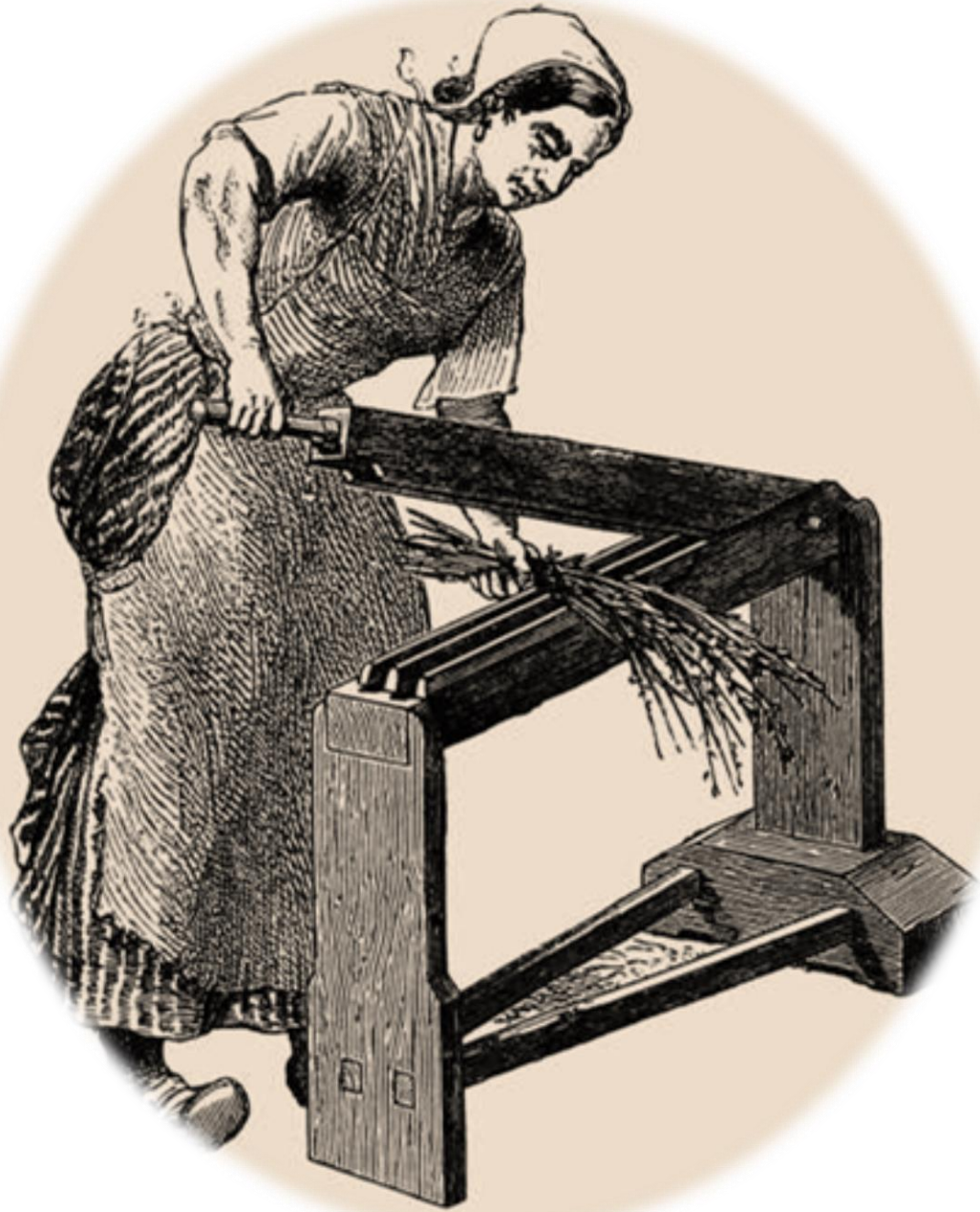


**THIS LED TO LESS MANUAL FARM LABOR BEING REQUIRED, ALTHOUGH LARGE ESTATES HIRED ADDITIONAL SEASONAL LABOR IN ADDITION TO THE WORKERS WHO LIVED ON THE ESTATE.**



**VICTORIAN FARMERS WERE CONSIDERED AN  
ESSENTIAL PART OF THE ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE,  
PARTICULARLY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

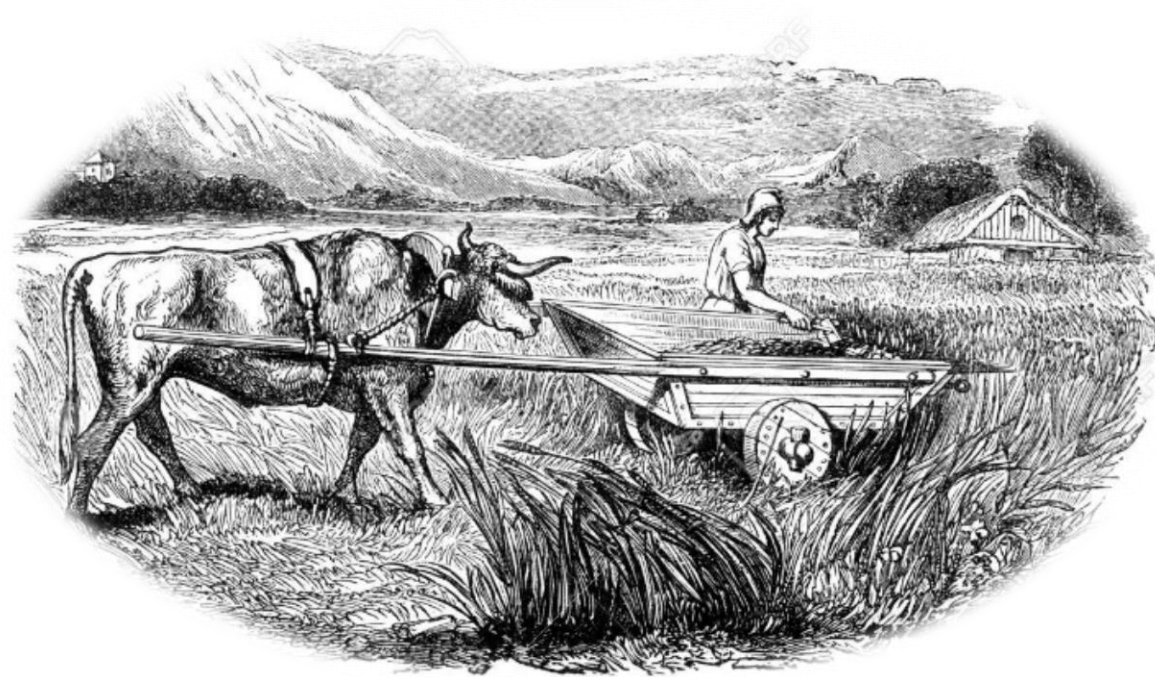




THE FARMERS PAID RENT TO THE LANDLORD, PAID TITHES AND EMPLOYED MANY LABORERS WHO OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNEMPLOYED.



*THEY, IN TURN, KEPT LOCAL SHOPS AND  
TRADESMEN IN BUSINESS.*





VICTORIAN FARMS PROSPERED UNTIL THE EARLY 1880s AND THEN CAME A SERIES OF BAD HARVESTS AND OUTBREAKS OF DISEASE IN THEIR ANIMALS.



**MANY FARMS THAT HAD BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR GENERATIONS WENT BANKRUPT AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE END OF THE 1880s FARMING BEGAN TO PROSPER AGAIN.**



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 107 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 108, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW TO DECORATE A HOUSE IN THE  
VICTORIAN PERIOD.



# AboutBritain.com

## ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTP://WWW.ABOUTBRITAIN.COM/ARTICLES/LIFE-ON-A-VICTORIAN-FARM.ASP](http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/life-on-a-victorian-farm.asp)



# Baker Street Elementary

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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