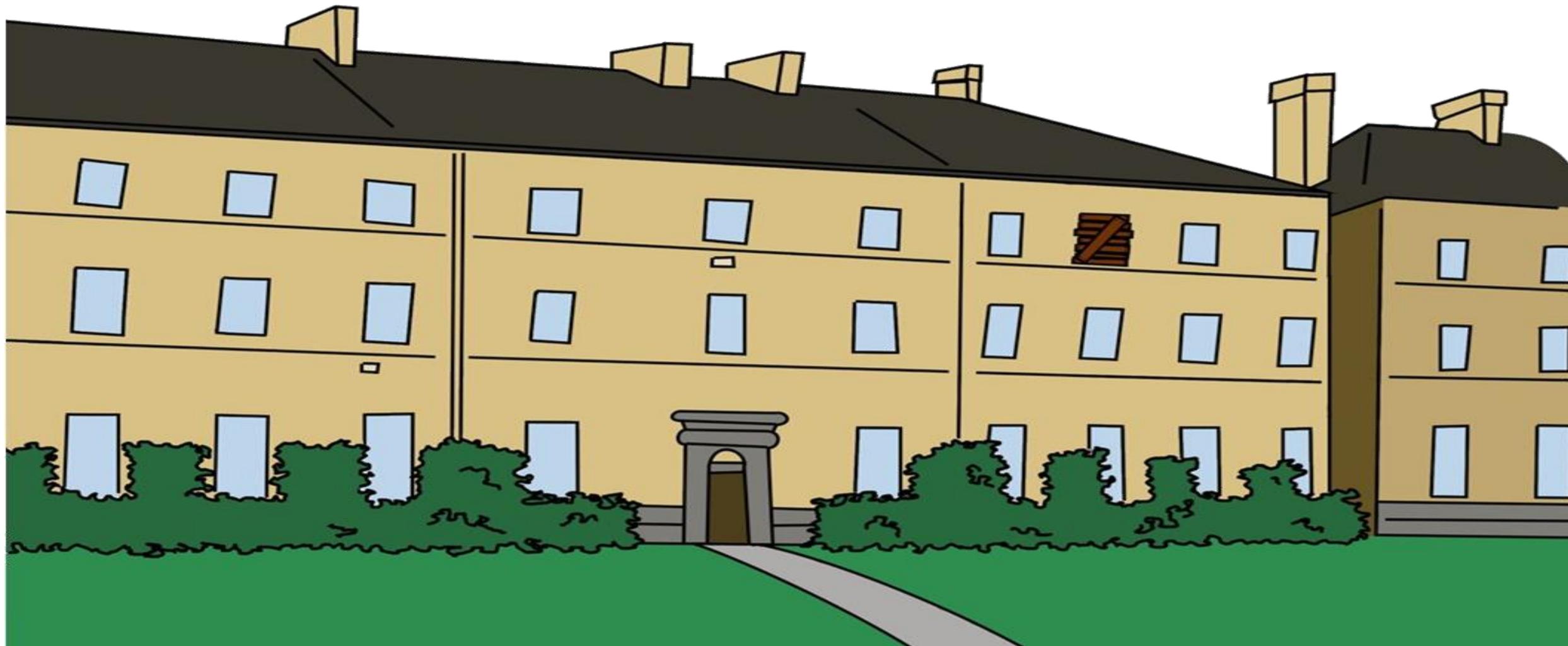


Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street Elementary

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A002 -- LIFE OF A COUNTRY SQUIRE -- JANUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 002... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT 'COUNTRY SQUIRES,' WHO ARE
LANDOWNERS, A POWERFUL POSITION IN BRITAIN.



IN THE SHORT STORY 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE GREEK INTERPRETER,' YOU TOLD ME YOUR ANCESTORS WERE 'COUNTRY SQUIRES.'



AND OTHER THAN THAT BIT OF INFORMATION, ALONG WITH THE NOTE THAT HIS GRANDMOTHER WAS THE SISTER OF THE FRENCH PORTRAITIST VERNET, SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE PROVIDED LITTLE WITH RESPECT TO HIS MOST FAMOUS CHARACTER'S ORIGINS.



*KNOWING MY PARENTS WERE COUNTRY SQUIRES,
HOWEVER, PROVIDES INSIGHTS INTO MY SOCIAL
LEVEL AND CERTAIN EXPECTATIONS COMMON TO
THOSE OF HIS RANK.*



*A COUNTRY SQUIRE WOULD HAVE OWNED ENOUGH
LAND TO RENT TO TENANTS AND HAVE LIVED IN A
MANOR HOUSE.*



A SQUIRE'S POSITION IN SOCIETY WAS BELOW A NOBLEMAN, SUCH AS A DUKE, EARL, OR COUNT, BUT WAS STILL HIGHLY REGARDED.



IN ADDITION TO RUNNING HIS ESTATE AND ENSURING THE WELFARE OF THOSE UNDER HIS TENANCY, THE COUNTRY SQUIRE ALSO HELD THE POSITION OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.



*IN THIS CAPACITY, THE SQUIRE HAD BOTH CIVIL
AND LEGAL DUTIES.*



WITHIN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE JUSTICES
SUPERVISED PARISH (OR COUNTY) OFFICIALS, IN
PARTICULAR THOSE IN CHARGE OF THE
MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES AND THE
ENFORCEMENT OF THE POOR LAWS.



DAMNATION!
ETERNAL DAMNATION
TO THE FIELD-BEGGARS,
"COARSER FOOD"
NEW POOR LAW.

A Speech

BY RICHARD OASTLER.

The Lord will shew the World and dwellers therein—Devils.
The Poor Law Commissioners are *hardy and determined*.—*Times*.
Minister of Grace is he that removes the beggar from his Landmark.
Amicus.—*Amicus*.
Minister of Grace is he that maketh the Devil to go out of his man.
Amicus.—*Amicus*. The Commission Service.
Then the Poor Law Commissioners are *hardy and determined*.—*Times*.

1837.

LONDON:
R. BENTLEY, 105, STRAND, AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.
—
1837.

AS A LEGAL POSITION, THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SERVED AS A MAGISTRATE DURING THE QUARTER SESSIONS, WHERE THEY AND A JURY HEARD AND DECIDED ON SERIOUS CRIMES SUCH AS THEFT HIGHWAY ROBBERY, ASSAULT, BURGLARY, RIOTING, DRUNKENNESS, PROFANE SWEARING, AND A VARIETY OF CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY (POACHING, CUTTING ESTATE TIMBER AND THE LIKE).



**BETWEEN THESE SESSIONS, THE JUSTICES WOULD
HOLD PETTY SESSIONS WHERE THE LEAST SERIOUS
CRIMES WERE REVIEWED AND DECISIONS MADE
WITHOUT A JURY.**





BECAUSE THE ENGLISH SYSTEM DID NOT (AND STILL DOES NOT) INCLUDE A PROSECUTOR, THE PREPARATION OF A CASE RESTED WITH THE CONSTABLE, FROM COLLECTING EVIDENCE TO PRESENTING IT AT TRIAL.





THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SUPERVISED AND WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE VILLAGE CONSTABLE, ISSUED WARRANTS, AND DETERMINED WHETHER TO MOVE A CASE TO TRIAL AND TO WHICH COURT.



AS A MEMBER OF THE GENTRY, YOU WERE IN A POSITION OF PRIVILEGE.



*WITH A FATHER AS A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, YOU
DEVELOPED A FAMILIARITY WITH THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM AND THE LAW.*



*FOR YOU, THE FOUNDATION FOR INVESTIGATING
AND SOLVING CRIMES CAME NATURALLY.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 002 IN OUR SERIES.

IN TOPIC # 003, WE WILL LOOK AT THE VICTORIAN DOCTOR.



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

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