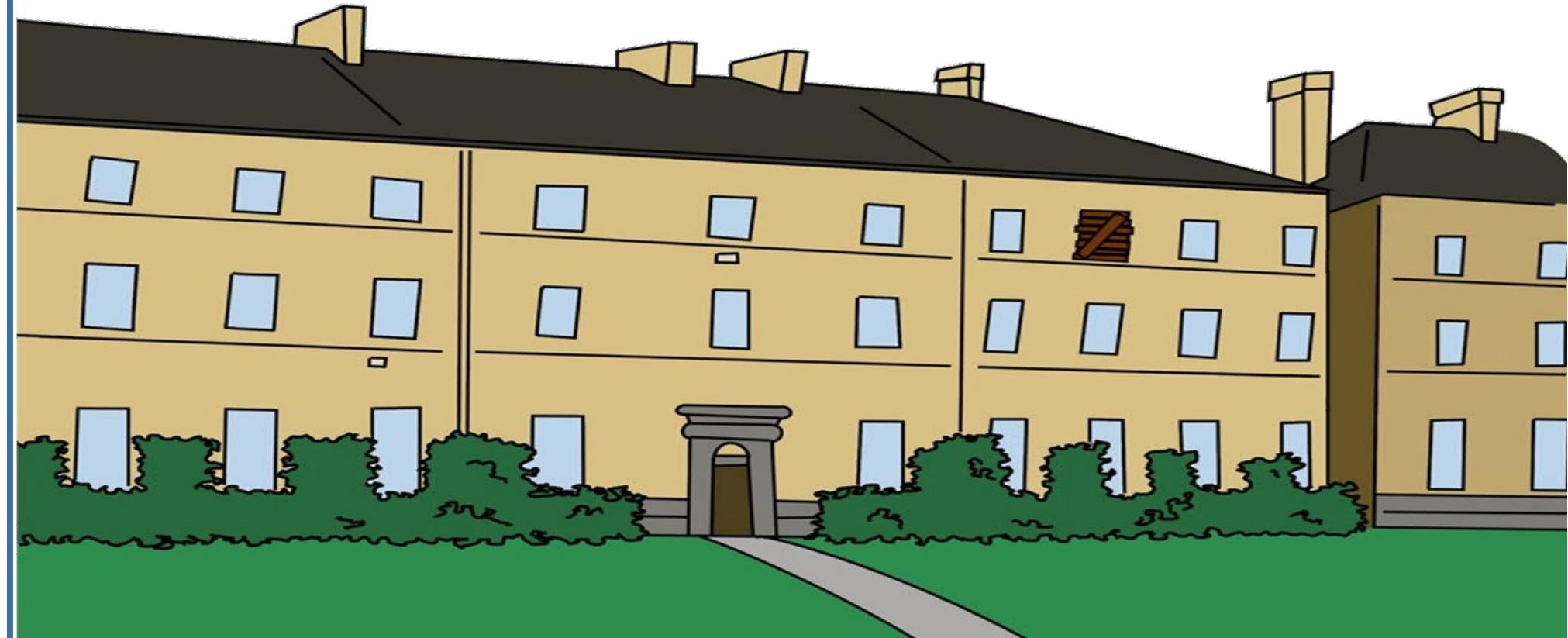


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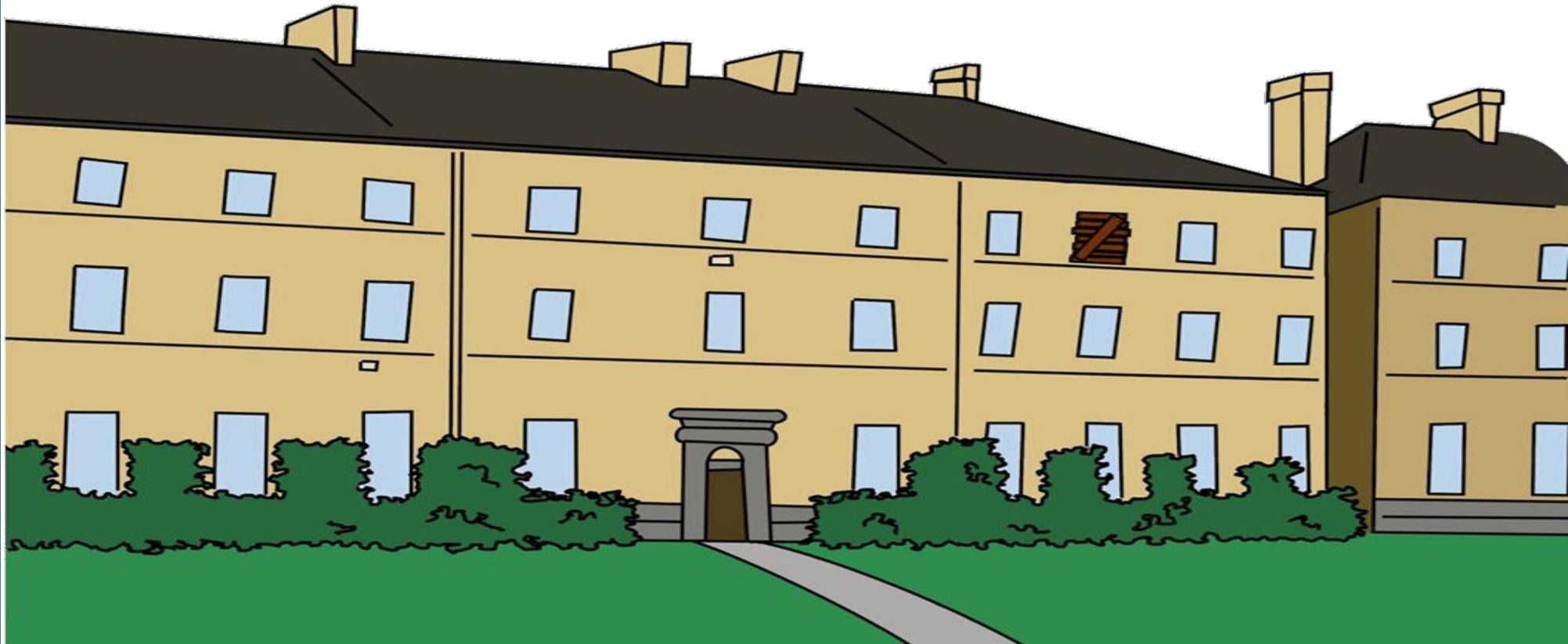
*Presents*

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



# *Baker Street Elementary*

*The Life and Times in Victorian London*  
*# ABOO4 -- Victorian Houses -- February, 2022*





*Welcome to topic # AB014... Today, we will look at life on a Victorian farm during the Victorian period. Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com for use of their summary text for this lesson.*





*Farming was an  
integral part of life  
in Victorian times.*

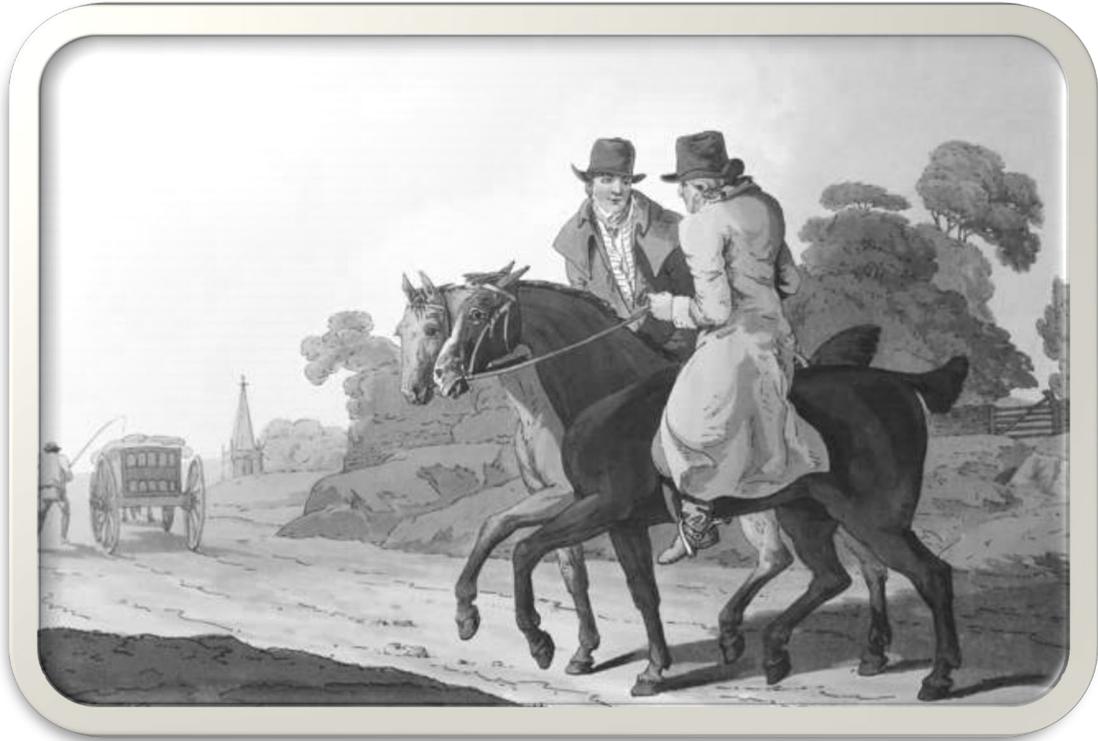




*In 1837 when Queen Victoria came to the throne, more than half the population of Great Britain worked in the countryside.*



*Each village had a hierarchy with the squire being the local landowner. The tenant farmer was socially somewhere between a laborer and a landowner.*



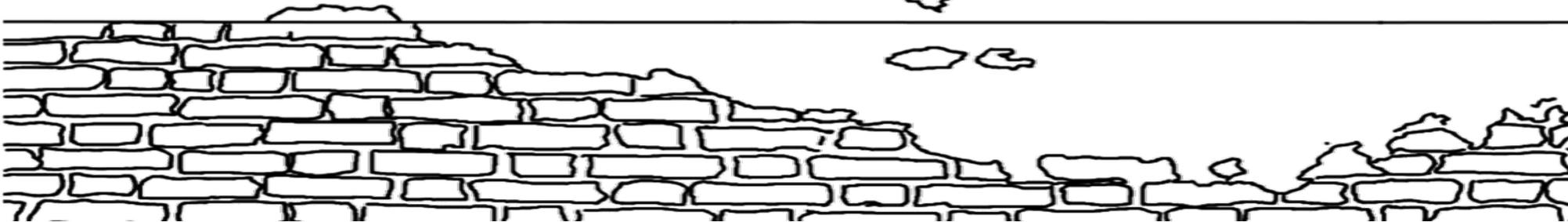
*At the lower end of the social and economic ladder were the farm laborers.*



*Living conditions for Victorian farm workers were often cramped and basic.*



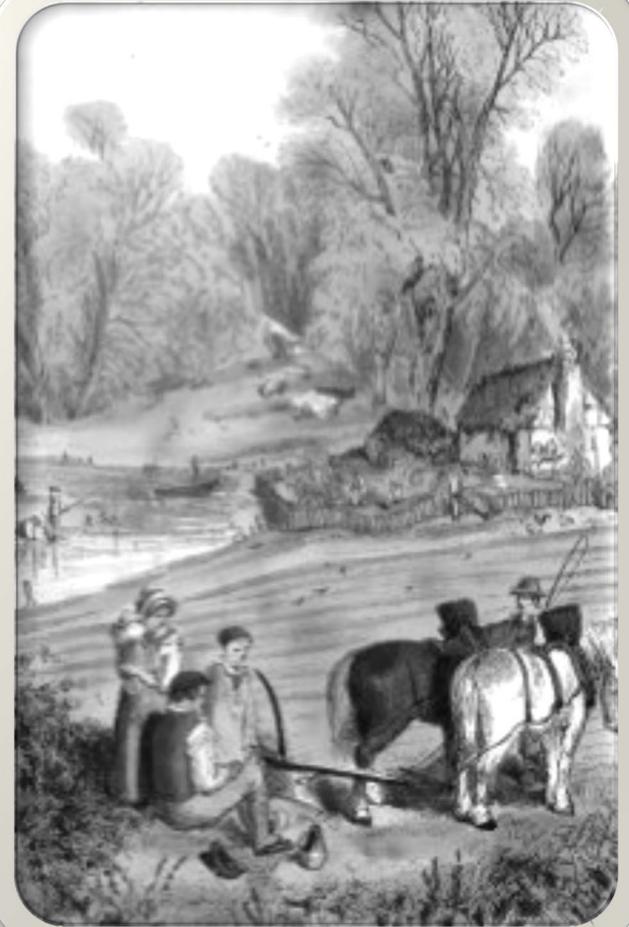
*They had their own small vegetable garden and kept a pig to feed the family.*



*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.*

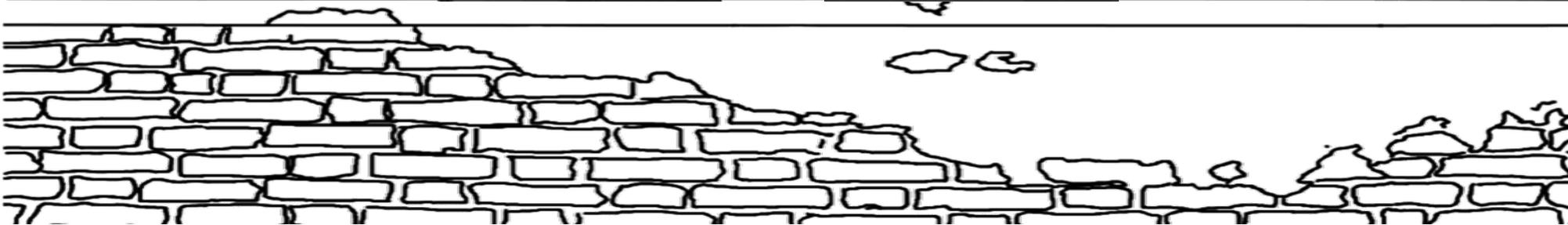


*Even children worked hard on the farm from as young as six years old.*





*Boys would be employed to  
scare the birds from the  
crops, guard the livestock  
from straying,...*

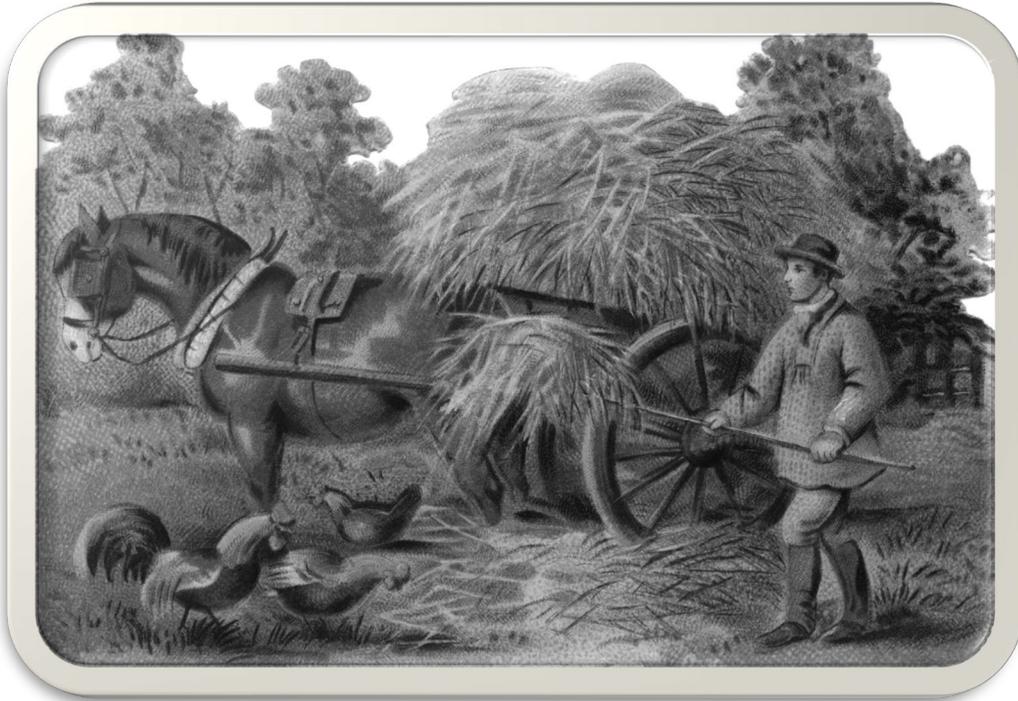




*...pick hops, sow potatoes and  
beans, gather mushrooms and  
herd animals to market.*



*They would also collect firewood, fill sacks with grain and shred turnips. With age, they would progress to ploughing and other hard physical tasks.*



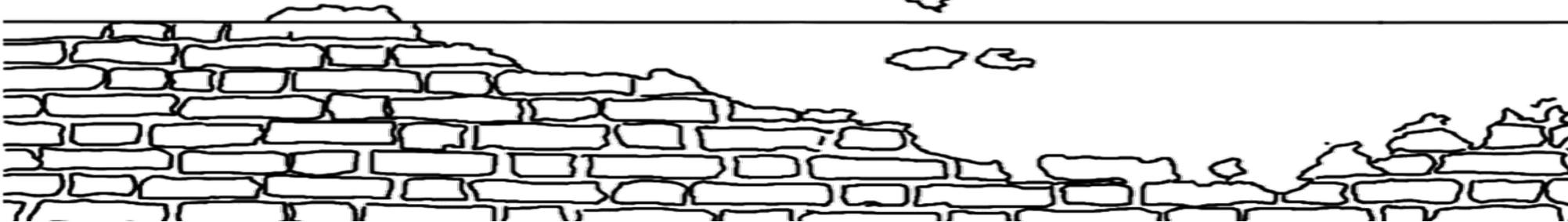
*At harvest time everyone  
lent a hand making hay or  
harvesting crops.*



*In the 1850s a Dorset farm laborer earned six shillings a week (30 pence!).*



*Breakfast was a poor porridge of flour, butter and water.*

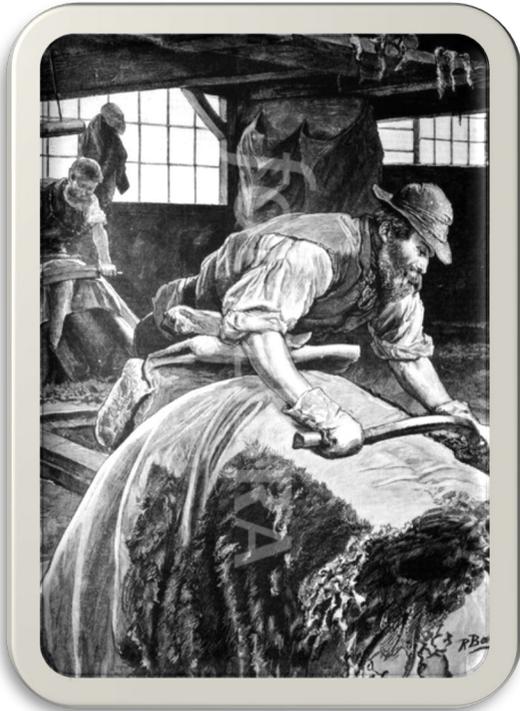


*At midday, they would eat bread and occasionally a piece of cheese. Supper was bread or potatoes and sometimes a piece of bacon.*



*At harvest time he  
was given a jug of  
beer by his master.*





*Craftsmen such as carpenters,  
tanners and blacksmiths all had  
useful trades...*

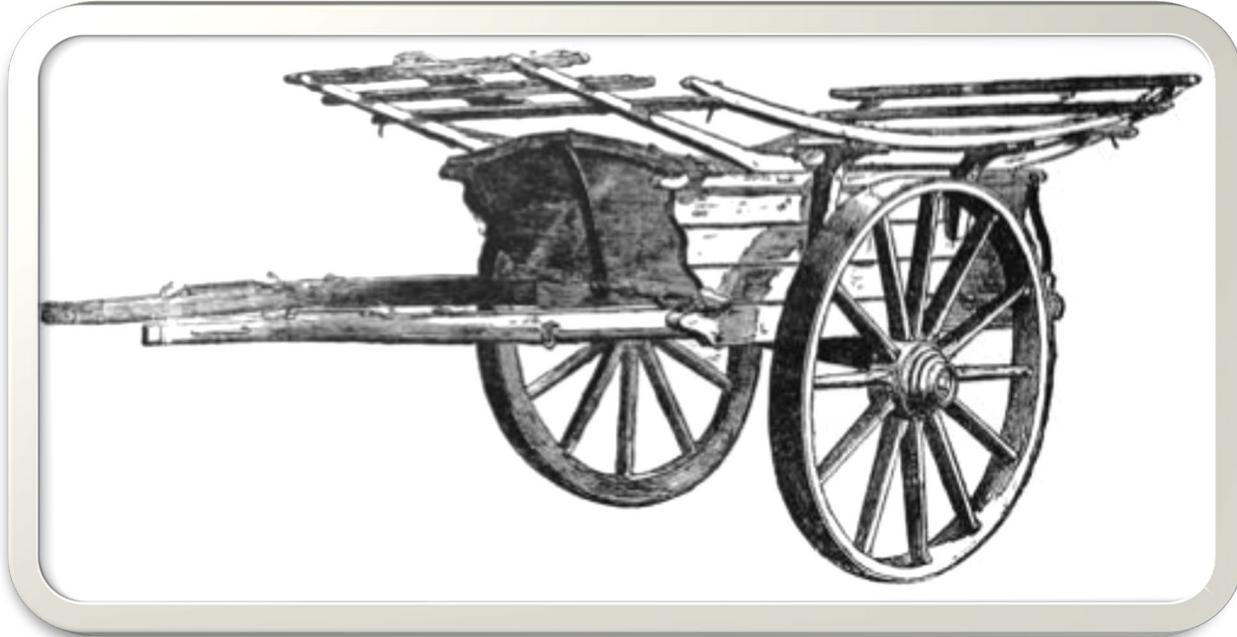




*...which were needed on Victorian farms and would usually be hired in locally.*



*The blacksmith would forge bars, hooks and metalwork as well as making horseshoes and tools. The wheelwright made cart wheels and wagons.*





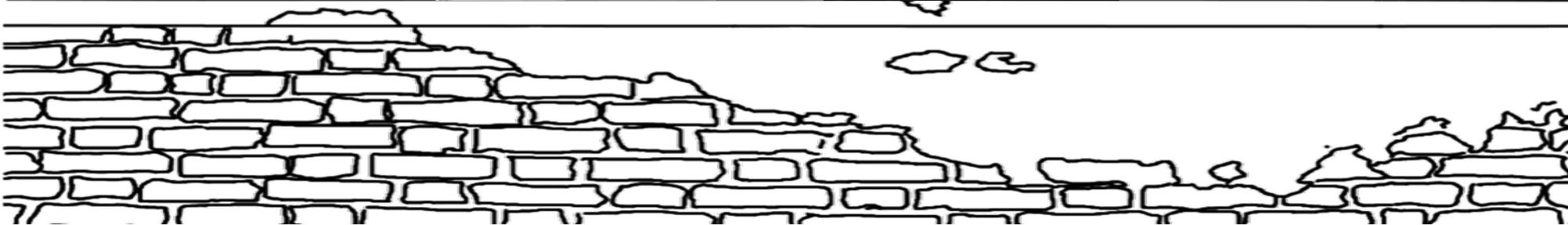
*Woodworkers made furniture, fence posts, gates, pegs, wooden bowls and wooden clogs to which the blacksmith added metal tips.*



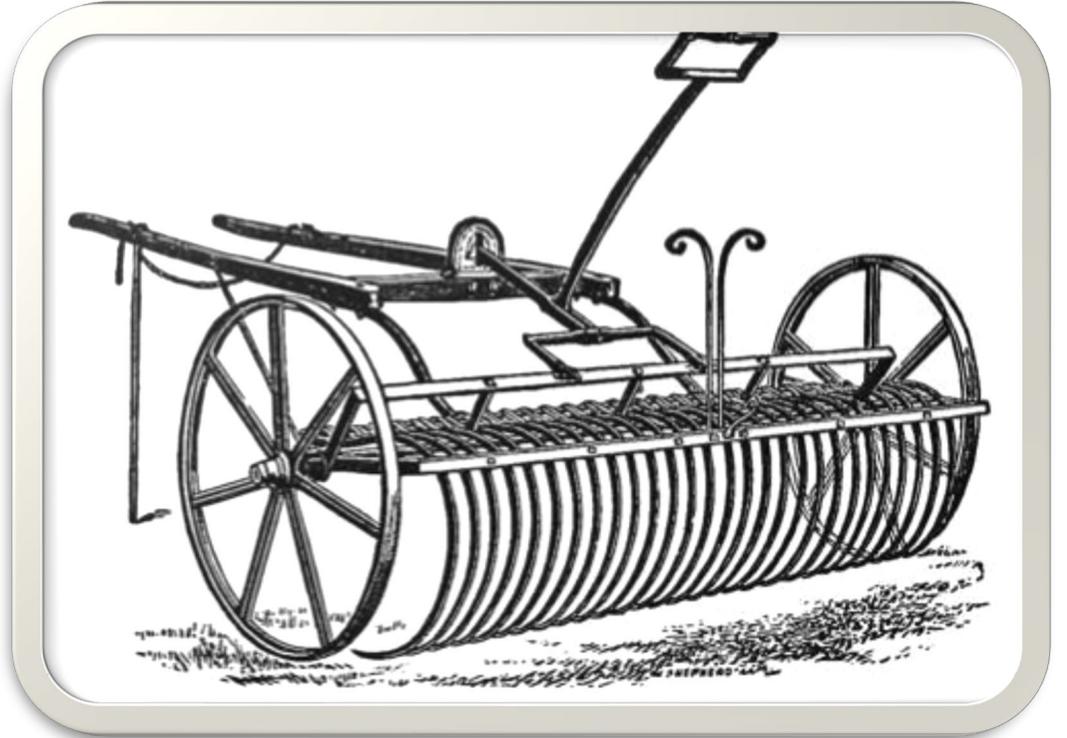
*Saddlers, coachmen and  
coopers (barrel-makers) all  
played their part in  
Victorian farm life.*



*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.*

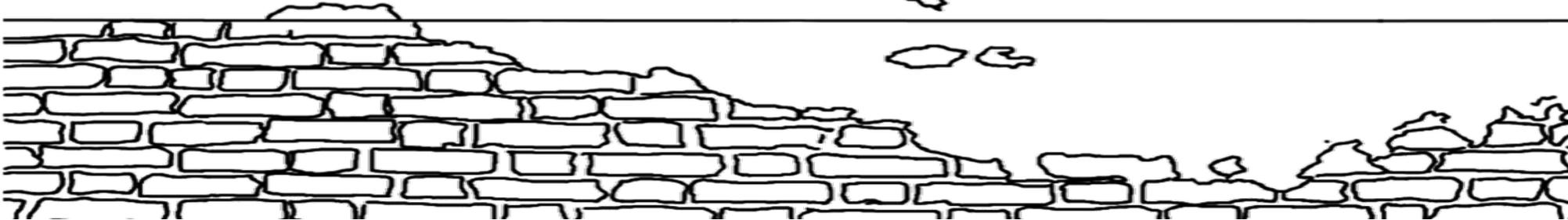


*Improved strains of seeds increased the harvest. The enclosure of land led to bigger fields and crop rotation was used to increase the yields.*

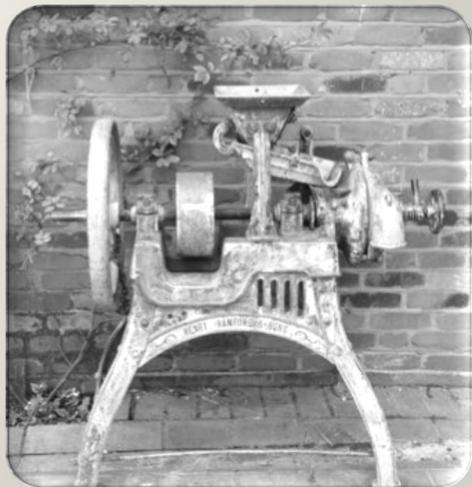




*The use of steam power led to the introduction of farm machinery which was far more efficient and easier to use than horses and hand tools.*



*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.*



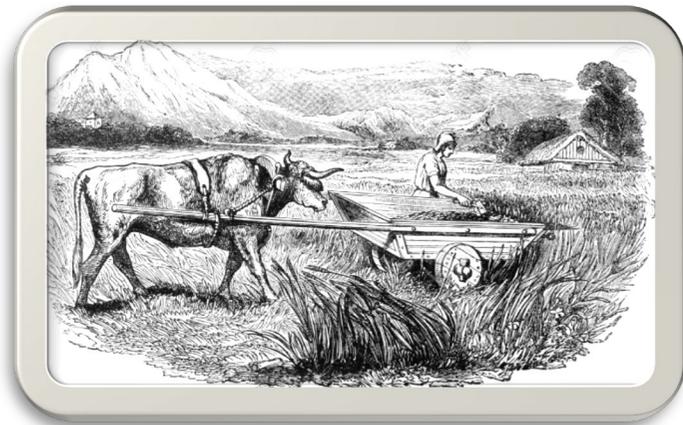
*Victorian farmers were considered an essential part of the economy and workforce, particularly in rural communities.*



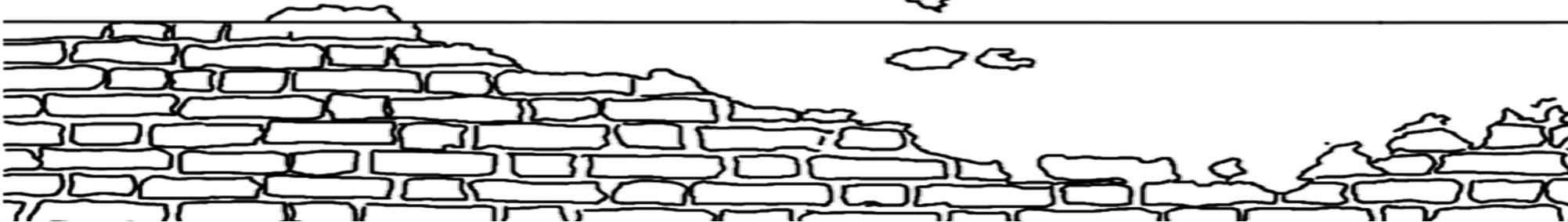
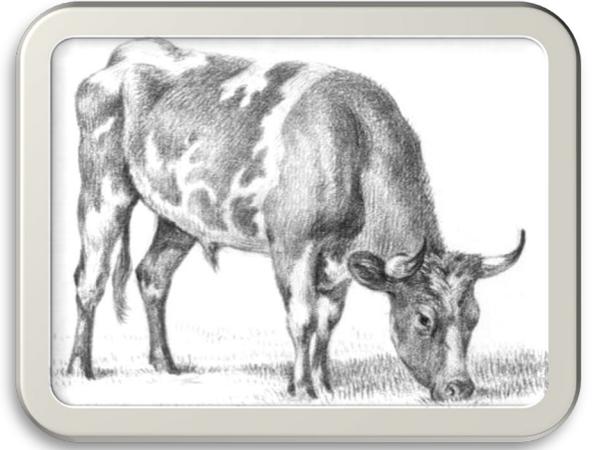
*The farmers paid rent to the landlord, paid tithes and employed many laborers who otherwise would have been unemployed.*



*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 that farming began to prosper again.*



*Again, thanks to  
AboutBritain.com for their help...  
So we have completed topic #  
AB014 in our series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back  
with another topic  
soon...*





**Original Source Material for this topic:**

1) <https://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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