

## Contents

Introduction .....	1
Titles and Honorifics .....	3
Knights .....	4
Baronets .....	4
Barons .....	4
Viscounts .....	5
Earls .....	6
Marquises .....	7
Dukes and Duchesses .....	8
Dowagers .....	8
Manners – What every young lady and gentleman knew .....	10
Introductions .....	10
Customs .....	13
Meals .....	13
Other bits and pieces .....	15
Visiting Others .....	15
Servants .....	17
Duties .....	17
Governesses, Tutors, Secretaries, and Companions .....	21

## Introduction

When I critique, read or judge contests, one of the first things I notice is if the titles are correct. Sadly many are not. This is something you'll have to know, because even if you have a big publisher, the chances are they don't.

We'll start with some definitions.

First, the *ton*. Unless the word is at the beginning of a sentence, it is not capitalized and it is always in italics. Ton without italics means 1000 pounds. It is pronounced "tone."

I found this definition, that pretty much explains it:

Members of the *ton* came from the aristocracy, the gentry, and of course, royalty and monarch(s). Jane Austen, for example, was part of the ton.

There are several misconceptions concerning what the gentry consists of, so let's get them cleared up.

### **Gentry**

*Gentry*, in its widest connotation, refers to people of good social position connected to [landed estates](#) (see [manorialism](#)), upper levels of the [clergy](#), and "gentle" families of long descent who never obtained the official right to bear a [coat of arms](#).

This is probably the best time to mention and "lady" and "gentleman" were ranks. They were both of gentle-birth. If they needed to work, suitable occupations for a lady would be governess, and companion. Not a lot of choice. No matter how well your heroine sews, engaging in making gowns was engaging in trade, and not acceptable. Gentlemen, which will not surprise you, had a much larger pool to choose from, including, clergyman, military officer, government work in the Foreign or Home Offices as an example; physician, but not surgeon; barrister, but not solicitor; and writer were the most common.

The next problem I find is misuse of the word "commoner." According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a commoner is any one below the rank of a peer. A peer is the title holder. Not his children. For example, Lady Diana Spencer was a commoner.

## Titles and Honorifics

Now that we've got a few basic definitions out of the way, and if there are no more questions, we'll go on. Titles and forms of address seem to stymie a great many authors. It's not rocket science, but we're going to take this slowly, and start at the bottom.

Beginning with non-title holders and progressing up the rank structure.

I will begin by saying that wanting to use a person's first name is a modern American custom. It doesn't happen in most of the rest of the world. Unless a person is an intimate friend or family member, first names would not be used. Men were more likely to call another man by his last name or title name.

I lived in England for two years, and even today, the English are very class conscious. Even Americans are assigned a class. That way everyone knows everyone's place and all is right with the world.

Married couples are addressed as Mr. and Mrs. i.e., Mr. and Mrs. George Fumblebum. If Mrs. Fumblebum happens to be introduced to another, she would be introduced as Mrs. Fumblebum. In a letter, she'd be addressed as Mrs. George Fumblebum.

Likewise Mr. Fumblebum would not be introduced using his first name.

The Fumblebums have two sons, John and Aubrey, and three daughters, Mary, Louisa, and Susan.

Both sons are addressed as Mr. Fumblebum. However, if the brothers were together when being introduced to someone, they would more likely be introduced as Mr. Fumblebum and Mr. Aubrey Fumblebum.

The same rules do not apply to the daughters.

The eldest, is referred to and introduced as Miss Fumblebum, the two younger daughters as, Miss Louisa Fumblebum and Miss Susan Fumblebum. The short and completely acceptable versions are Miss Fumblebum, Miss Louisa and Miss Susan.

If they never marry, they are addressed in this way their whole lives. However we are endlessly hopeful, so when Mary weds, Louisa will now be referred to as Miss Fumblebum and Susan remains Miss Susan Fumblebum, and so it goes.

## Knights

Knighthoods are awarded for a great deed, or these days being a great artist, and are not hereditary. So, when John Smith is awarded a knighthood he is now addressed as Sir John and his wife as Lady Smith. Their children are addressed as above.

## Baronets

A baronet is at the bottom of the hereditary title pecking order. The form of address for him, his wife, and children are the same as a knight's.

He is not a peer and, therefore, would not have a seat in the House of Lords, which is the upper house of Parliament.

## Barons

Next up are Barons. They are members of the peerage which came with a whole slew of rights and privileges the average person, even wealthy gentry of an old, distinguished family did not have, which we'll discuss later.

In England, the rank of baron was seldom used in speech. Therefore our baron and his wife are addressed as Lord and Lady Rutherford. In an introduction, he would be introduced as Lord Rutherford and she as Lady Rutherford.

Friends would call him Rutherford. His wife and family might call him Sebastian, but it is just as likely that he would be called Rutherford

Only Lady Rutherford's intimate friends and family would call her Anna.

Ah! But we want our readers to know their first names. In that case, and only if you must, you may have them introduced as Sebastian, Lord Rutherford and Anna, Lady Rutherford. Quite frankly most member of the peerage either knew one another or of one another, and every one had a copy of Debrett's which gave them all the information they could want. The best way to get the rank of baron in is through inner or regular dialogue.

e.g. “Oh, my dear Miss Fumblebum, I must introduce you to the Rutherfords. He is only a baron but she wields a great deal of influence in the *ton*.”

Their children are addressed as above, but in written correspondence the term “Honorable” would be used. i.e. The Honorable Mr. Nathan Rutherford.

Very occasionally you will come across this type of name. Baron Milford of Huntington. That is not common. Barons are never Baron of Placename. Also, based on a review of English baronies, there family names are the same as the title name.

## Viscounts

Viscounts are also not of a place. Although many times the family name is not the same as the title name, that need not worry you until you get to their children. A viscount is never addressed as Robert Duvall, Viscount Mounthall. He would always be Robert Mounthall.

I hope most of you are familiar with Sally, the Countess of Jersey. If you look at older books and other sources, you will see she is always addressed as Sally Jersey. One a gentleman takes the title, that becomes his and his wife’s last name.

As to informal forms of address and what the children are called, it is the same as the barons. If you choose to have a different family name, then the children would be Mr. Duvall, Miss Duvall. They would not be known by the title name.

Since I want to cover dukes separately, today we’re going to focus on earls and marquises, and introduce courtesy titles and precedent.

When men first began receiving titles, some going back several hundred years, they many times were later promoted. For example, a man could have been made Baron Humbold, then later he or a descendent could have been given a viscountcy or maybe an earldom and later still a higher rank. It was also possible for him to have been given a higher title, such as earl first, then be awarded a marquise. When he achieves the higher ranks, the lower ones usually do not go away. Therefore it was normal for all peers, including dukes, to have lesser ranks. So you’d have the situation where a man’s complete name would be something like this in Georgette Heyer’s book “Sylvester.”

the Most Noble Adolphus Gillespie Vernon Ware, Duke of Sale and Marquis of Ormesby; Earl of Sale; Baron Ware of Thame; Baron Ware of Stoven; and Baron Ware of Rufford.

When he had a son, let's call him Benjamin, he would give the baby the courtesy title of Marquis of Ormesby. However you can also imagine a situation where the next title down was earl. In that case, he would be Earl of Sale.

Although the son and, eventually his wife, would be the Marquis and Marchioness of Ormesby. They would be referred to as Lord and Lady Ormesby, and his name would be Benjamin Ormesby. His family might call him Benjamin or Ormesby. He would never be called Benjamin Ware.

This applies to the first born sons of earls and marquises as well.

So what's the difference between a real title and a courtesy title? A courtesy title does not a peer make. There is no seat in the Lords, there is no protection from debtor's prison, and if charged with a crime, he'd be tried in the criminal court, not the Lords. He also can't frank a letter. In other words, he is a commoner.

## Earls

An earl is always of a place name. By place name I mean an actual place, county, town village etc. e.g. the Earl of Huntley. He is addressed as my lord, or Lord Huntley, or by friends as Huntley or his first name.

His wife is the Countess of Huntley. She is addressed as my lady, Lady Huntley, or by friends by her first name.

His eldest son would have a courtesy title. We'll use, Viscount Bibble. Everything you learned about addressing Viscounts, Viscountesses, and their children is the same.

The earl's daughters are all Lady FirstName Family name. Let's say the family name is Vivers, and the eldest daughter is Elizabeth. She is addressed as Lady Elizabeth Vivers, Lady Elizabeth, or my lady.

She'd be introduced as Lady Elizabeth Vivers. The same follows for her younger sisters. **They are never addressed as Lady Vivers.** Using "Lady" with the last name indicates the wife of a title holder.

Let's say she marries Mr. Talbert. She would be Lady Elizabeth Talbert. **Never Lady Talbert,** as, again, that would indicate her husband is a title holder.

If she marries a peer or the eldest son of a peer, she takes his rank and precedence. If she marries a younger son of a marquis or duke, she is formally Lady Hisfirstname Last name. e.g. he is Lord Marcus Finley, she becomes Lady Marcus Finley. **Never Lady Finley.** Close friends and family would call her Elizabeth, everyone else would call her Lady Marcus.

The younger sons of the earl are Mr. Firstname Last name. The rules concerning the use of honorable apply as for viscounts' sons. I know not fair, but there you have it.

## Marquises

A marquis is also always a place name, such as the Marquis of Dumbarton. He is addressed by family and friends as Dumbarton or by his first name. Everyone else calls him my lord, or Lord Dumbarton. His wife is the Marchioness of Dumbarton. Family and close friends would call her by her first name. To everyone else she is my lady, or Lady Dumbarton. This should be familiar to you now.

The same rules apply to their daughters as to an earl's daughter with one important difference. If an earl's daughter marries a marquis's younger son, she gets to keep her first name. e.g. Lady Susan Husband's lastname. Not so if she marries the younger son of a duke. Why? Precedence. She already has a rank equal to a marquis's son, but not a duke's son.

The eldest son will have a courtesy title or earl or below. The difference is that all the younger sons are all Lord Firstname FamilyName.

## Dukes and Duchesses

The main reason I wanted to cover dukes separately is that their forms of address are different from every other peer.

A Duke is still of a place, i.e. the Duke of Devonshire. But dukes are **NEVER** addressed as my lord, his lordship or Lord Devonshire, and a duchess is **NEVER** addressed as my lady, her ladyship, of Lady Devonshire.

The proper form of address is His Grace, Your Grace, and from equals, duke, Devonshire, or if a very close friend or family member by his first name.

A duchess is Her Grace, Your Grace, and from equals, duchess or if a very close friend or family member by her first name.

His Grace etc., are capitalized.

## Dowagers

A dowager is a peeress who is a widow where the new peer is a direct descent of her husband.

Although she technically becomes a dowager when her husband dies, it is not until her son or grandson marries that she is referred to as a dowager. e.g. The Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, or the Dowager Countess of Huntley. Generally, unless the new peeress is present, she would only be the Duchess of Devonshire or the Countess of Huntley.

If there happens to be more than one widow, which would happen if a peer and his successor died, then the senior widow retains the title of dowager, the other widow, would be known by her first name, e.g. Mary, Countess of Huntley until she becomes the senior widow.

## Privileges of the Peerage

I'll only mention the ones that usually trip up most authors.

Neither they nor their wives or widows can be taken off to debtor's prison.

If accused of a crime, they, wives included, must be tried in the House of Lords.

This leads us to precedence.

Naturally, the king, queen, prince, and royal dukes, and their wives and children were first in line. I'll list the rest in order of precedent. The wife has the same precedence as her husband. Daughters have the same precedence as sons.

Dukes

Marquises

Eldest Sons of dukes – No matter what the courtesy title is.

Earls

Eldest sons of marquises – No matter what the courtesy title is.

Younger sons of dukes.

Viscounts

Eldest sons of earls – No matter what the courtesy title is.

Younger sons of marquises

Barons

Eldest sons of viscounts – they have no courtesy title

Younger sons of earls

Baronets

Eldest sons of barons – also no courtesy title

Younger sons of viscounts

Knights

Eldest sons of baronets – no courtesy title.

Younger sons of Barons

Landed gentry.

## Manners – What every young lady and gentleman knew

### Introductions

Manners were very important, other than the way a person spoke, they were and are an indicator of one's station. Even a vicar's daughter would have been raised to know everything she must to move in Polite Society.

Because we like to get our hero and heroine together, let's begin with introductions.

In order for a lady to speak, dance, or even acknowledge a gentleman's presence, she must first be introduced to him. Once introduced, it was for the lady to acknowledge the gentleman, not the other way around. For example, Miss Smith is with her mother on Bond Street shopping, when she sees, Lord Huntley. She would give a slight bow, only from the shoulders, only then could he approach her. If she does not acknowledge him, he may not acknowledge her.

So how does one gain an introduction? A gentleman would find someone who knows the lady and request an introduction. Introductions are also made by hostesses at balls and other entertainments, or at a public ball, such as in Bath, the Master of Ceremonies would do the job.

The person making the introduction always asks if the lady (any member of the *ton*) wishes to be introduced to a gentleman. It does not matter if the gentleman out ranks her or not. It is considered her decision.

Therefore the formula for an introduction to a lady goes something like this:

“Miss Smith, allow me to introduce the Marquis of Huntley. My lord, my (pick one, friend, granddaughter, niece, goddaughter etc) Miss Smith.”

Taken from what you already know, Miss Smith is the eldest or only girl in her family. If the introduction is to a younger daughter, then we have:

“Miss Susan, allow me to introduce the Marquis of Huntley, My lord, my niece, Miss Susan Smith.”

If introducing two men or two ladies, rank takes precedence, e.g.

“My lord, allow me to introduce my godson, Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith, the Marquis of Huntley.”

Please note, we used no first names. Even though the person making the introductions would probably call his or her godson by his first name, the marquis is not intimate enough with the other man to do so. It is the height of rudeness to refer to a person by a name which those around them are not privileged to use.

The lady curtseys. How low the lady curtseys depends on the difference in their rank, e.g. if Miss Smith is introduced to a duke her curtsey would be much lower than if Lady Mary (daughter of a duke) is introduced to a duke.

The lady may also hold out her hand. If she does so, the proper gentleman takes it lightly in his fingers and kisses the air above her knuckles as he bows.

Touching was limited, taking a ladies hand in greeting, assisting her with her shawl, or into a coach, having her hand on ones arm while strolling were all acceptable.

Curtseying and bowing is also done at the beginning of a dance and when the set concludes, which leads us to the rest of dancing etiquette.

A lady would have a dance card. This could be filled prior to the ball, or at the ball. For ladies who did not have partners, the hostess was responsible for finding gentlemen to dance with them. In the event a lady's dance card was not full and she turned a gentleman down, she couldn't dance with anyone else the rest of the evening.

Young, unmarried ladies were never left alone. A gentleman fetched her from her chaperone or circle and returned her to her chaperone or circle.

Sets lasted around a half an hour, there was no cutting in. That didn't become common until the 1900's.

An unmarried lady, unless she was betrothed, could dance only twice with the same gentleman.

If drinks were available in a separate room, footmen were on hand to fetch them. A gentleman would also ask if he could fetch a glass of lemonade or wind for a lady. A lady did not go herself.

All punch was alcoholic and usually made with strong spirits, which ladies were not supposed to drink. They were also served warm. So the likelihood of punch being available at a ball was not good, unless it was a Christmas ball where Wassail was served.

As an aside, gentlemen were very particular about their punch and frequently had the ingredients brought to them to make it themselves.

Around midnight a supper would be served. That was a light meal with what we would consider to be finger food: Thin slices of ham, lobster patties etc.

Whoever a lady danced with immediately preceding supper go to escort her to supper.

## Customs

### Meals

Since we're on evening entertainments, let's discuss meals.

Breakfast was usually served around 10 AM. Many ladies took breakfast in their rooms, usually consuming toast and tea or hot chocolate.

In the breakfast room, dishes would be set on a sideboard. Offerings included meats, eggs, kippers, toast and tea. In some households coffee might be served. Coffee was not a mainstream drink. Many ladies objected to the scent.

I don't want to turn this into a discussion about food, but it's worth noting that scones are not a breakfast food. They are served in the afternoon. What we call a muffin was not known at the time, they are relatively new in England.

Luncheon, if it was served, was usually at 1 PM and might consist of meats and fruit or other light fare.

Tea was served all the time such as when visitors came (not morning visitors) or in the late afternoon. It was not the large high tea, that didn't appear until later in the century. What was served depended on what one liked. There could be jam tarts, biscuits (cookies), small cakes, scones and things like that.

Dinner was the evening meal. When in the country, it was held at 6 or 7 PM, but in Town it would be much later, 8 or 9 PM. Supper was always a late night meal, such as midnight at a ball or after the theater.

Everyone met in the drawing room before dinner for a sort of cocktail hour. Sherry was a common drink before dinner. Wine would also be served. Stronger spirits, such as brandy and port were for later. Everyone remained in the drawing room until the butler announced dinner was served.

Now it's time to remember your precedence. There was no assigned seating, BUT all gentlemen knew who they were escorting to dinner. The hostess was always escorted by the highest ranking male guest, who would then sit on her right. The host escorted the highest ranking female guest, who would sit on his right. The next highest ranking gentleman would sit on the hostess's left, and the lady he escorted sat next to him. As long as the numbers of men and

women were even, they sat lady-gentleman-lady-gentleman. You see now why hostesses were so concerned about their numbers.

A lady was supposed to divide her time between the gentlemen seated next to her. The gentleman had the same duty with the ladies seated next to him.

Dinner was a much larger meal with several courses. Ladies did not serve themselves. Either the footman or one of the gentlemen next to her would serve her. A lady also had to make sure they did not drink too much.

The hostess began the meal by taking the first sip of soup.

Once the meal was finished, the hostess would rise. The rest of the ladies would follow, and they'd all return to the drawing room.

Generally the gentlemen remained in the dining room to discuss all the topic they could not around the ladies, including sports, and partake in port or brandy. The butler would bring the bottles or decanters and they'd be passed around the table.

This is important – **THERE WERE NO CIGARS.**

Cigar smoking was brought back to England by soldiers that had served in Portugal. It was considered by the rest of Polite Society to be a nasty habit and was not allowed inside the house. It was also not allowed in the gentlemen's clubs such as Whites, Brook's and Boodle's until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. If a gentleman wished to "blow a cloud" he took it outside, and he would never smoke around a lady.

If you think about it, this makes a lot of sense. Smoking remains in fabrics and fabric was expensive. At the time, walls were covered with silk, cushions were on chairs, drapes on windows, and there was no way to get the smell out.

Afterward, the gentlemen joined the ladies. At the end of the evening, tea was served. Shortly after that, the party broke up.

A formal dinner also preceded a ball. The most important guests, or the closest friends would be invited. Dinner would last until it was time for the host and hostess to take their places to greet the other guests as they arrived.

## Other bits and pieces

When in Town, ladies did not walk alone. Particularly young, unmarried ladies. They always had a maid or footman with them even if they were walking in the park or going shopping with a friend. Married ladies could stroll the park or go shopping with a friend without other escort. Though I think bringing a footman along to carry packages is a good idea.

A lady could drive alone with a gentleman in an open carriage, such as a curricle or phaeton. Unless she was married, betrothed, or closely related to a gentleman, she could not drive in a closed carriage with one. There is an unresolved debate over whether a widow could drive in a closed carriage with a gentleman. I tend to think that if she cared about her reputation, she would not.

Ladies did not ride alone. She always took her groom or an escort with her.

## Visiting Others

Despite the name, morning visits took place in the early afternoon. One remained 15 minutes. Each lady had her “at home” day.

Gentlemen also made morning visits, particularly to the houses of ladies they were interested in.

Upon arrival, you handed your card to the butler who would then tell you if the lady of the house was receiving. Cards were kept by the butler. If the lady was receiving, you’d be escorted to the room she was in and announced.

Ladies never called on unmarried gentlemen, only another gentleman could call.

If, for example, an unmarried man happened to move into your area of the country, a lady would prevail upon her husband or son (if he was of age and the man of the house) to greet the newcomer and invite him for dinner.

In the country the rules concerning walking and riding were relaxed, but not done away with all together. A lady could walk or ride around her property pretty freely, unless there was a

reason she should not, such as if a known rake lived nearby or other danger existed. Taking a groom was generally a good idea in the event of a fall.

I'll cover servants in the next lesson.

Please ask any questions you have regarding what we've covered. If you don't wish to post the question on the loop, though I encourage you to do so, you may email me at [ella Quinn author at hot mail dot com](mailto:ella.quinn@hotmail.com).

## Servants

If you have an image of all the maids in a household all dressed alike in dark dresses with aprons, get rid of it now. That was during the Victorian era. The Regency was very different. Except for footmen, who wore livery, and possibly a tiger, who dressed the way his master wanted him to, everyone wore their own clothes.

Servants, just like everyone else had rankings and precedence.

Senior servants in the household (by which I mean inside servants), included the steward, butler, housekeeper, cook, lady's maid, valet, and, if there was one, the nanny.

Lower servants were footmen, maids, and tweenies (a sort of maid of all work) kitchen staff, and laundresses. Male servants were ranked higher than female servants, and therefore paid more. There was a tax on male servants as well.

All servants were paid on quarter days.

Almost all senior servants came up from the ranks, as it were, and may have served the family all their lives. It would not be at all unusual for the butler and housekeeper to have served two or even three generations of masters. The relationship between master and servant depended a great deal on how long the servant had been working in the household. For example, a housekeeper who'd seen the children grow up and had scolded them for dragging dirt through the house or other things, would not be as reserved in private as one who was newly hired. It's important to remember that any informality would not take place in public. A lady's maid who had begun as a nursery maid to a young lady, would have a different relationship than one hired as the young lady was making her come out. Many times, servants, especially those on the estates, would be from families who also served the master's family.

## Duties

**Steward:** If a house had a steward (this depended on the wealth of the family), he was in charge of making sure everyone got paid, and that the household ran smoothly. He was ranked above the butler and reported to the master of the house. He was addressed by the family by his last name, and by the staff as Mr. Lastname.

**Butler:** Known for their reserve, the butler was in charge of all footmen, the silver (including seeing it was polished) and china, the wine cellar, and serving the master and mistress, as well as seeing that no one got past the front door who wasn't supposed to. He also served tea and was in charge of the dining room meal service. He was always called by his last name by members of the family or visitors. The staff would address him as Mr. Lastname.

**Housekeeper:** She was in charge all the female staff, with the exception of the lady's maid, cook, and nanny. She saw to the housecleaning, linens, other general housekeeping issues. She was addressed as Mrs. Lastname by just about everyone. An exception would be if the children had given her a fond nickname. The housekeeper answered to the mistress of the house and worked alongside of the butler.

**Lady's maid or dresser:** The mistress's personal servant and answered only to her. She was responsible not only for dressing the lady, and arranging her hair, but keeping the mistresses jewels secure and cleaned, cleaning, and repairing the mistresses clothing (the only clothing that would be sent to the laundry were shifts and other items that could be washed in hot water with lye soap), supervising the cleaning of the mistresses chambers, and accompanying the mistress when she went out if need be. She also remained up until the lady returned from an evening event, and would awaken the lady the next morning. The lady's maid also assisted her mistress in the bath.

When traveling, a maid would prepare her lady's room to make it more comfortable.

If there were other lady's maids in the house, the mistress's lady's maid would oversee them. She was normally addressed by her last name by the mistress, but if she'd been with the lady since the lady was very young, she might be called by her first name. The household would address her as Miss Lastname.

**Valet:** He was the personal servant of the master and answered only to him. His duties were the same as that of the lady's maid when it came to ensuring the master's clothing was cleaned and in good repair, and their chambers cleaned. Most valets had their own recipes for shining boots and evening pumps. He would also arrange his master's hair, and he might shave

his master. The one thing he would never do, or admit to doing is tying the master's cravat. That was a talent a gentleman was to cultivate.

When traveling, the valet would supervise the chamber's set up and the private parlor, if there was one.

He was always called by his last name by the master and mistress. The staff would call him Mr. Lastname.

**Nanny:** She had full control of the nursery.

**Cook:** She had full control of the kitchen. She'd send proposed menus to the mistress for approval.

**Footmen:** The only members of the staff to dress in livery. They were the gofers of the household. They ran messages, opened doors, served tea when the butler was unavailable, served at meals, polished silver, escorted ladies when shopping, ride on the back of a coach, and whatever else the butler had for them to do. They were addressed by either the first or last name.

**Maids:** I think this is pretty self-explanatory. What I would like to stress here is that, with the possible exception of the head-maid, they would most likely share a room. They were also supposed to be moral. There was no quicker way for a maid to be fired than to engage in affairs. They were addressed by either their first or last name.

The most important outside servants for you to be aware of are grooms and coachmen. Many ladies and gentlemen would have grooms who taught them how to ride, so they would have known them since they were very small and their relationships tended to be close.

There were head grooms, in charge of an entire stable, and personal grooms, who took care of a particular gentleman's or lady's horse(s) and sporting carriage. A lady's groom was expected to accompany her when she rode or toiled her carriage around. Grooms were called by either their first or last names.

A coachman was in charge of all the other coaches and carriages. He'd also drive a traveling coach, a town coach, or a large open carriage such as a landau.

Many times a coachman would be called by his first name with coachman added on to it. i.e. John Coachman.

**Interaction between master and servant:** In public servants were always perfectly correct. To do otherwise would be to lower the master's or mistress's consequence and therefore their own. In private, depending on the length of time they'd been together and their personalities, it was not unusual for a personal servant to treat the master or mistress as if they were still young. The same could be applied to a housekeeper, cook, and nanny. I can't imagine a butler unbending enough for that. They were trained to be stoic and completely proper at all times.

No matter how long the master and servant had been together, there was always a difference in social status that was present. One would never say they were friends with their servants. Friendship assumes an equal status, which was never present.

## Governesses, Tutors, Secretaries, and Companions

The first thing I want to stress is that governesses, tutors, secretaries, and companions were not servants. By that I mean they were not considered to be “in service.” The household servants would always treat them with the deference due their status.

All of the above were gently-bred, i.e. members of the ton. The difference was they had no personal fortune, and had to seek employment. A great many governesses, tutors, and secretaries were children of clergymen. Companions were usually impoverished relatives, but they could also be other women of good-birth.

How they were treated depended on the family. A wonderful resource for governesses, but could apply to tutors and secretaries as well is “A Governess in the Age of Jane Austen” edited by Joanna Martin. This book is based on letters written by Agnes Porter. According to the book, her family called her Agnes, everyone else, but her pupils who called her Po, addressed her as Miss Porter.

There was no rule as to whether they took meals, attended entertainments or other events with the family. They did not, however, take them with the servants. If not dining with the family, they’d eat alone or possibly with their students.

Companions, on the other hand, would dine with her employer and attend other events with her.

So who needed governesses and tutors? Anyone with children of an age to begin lessons. A governess taught girls, and might instruct young boys reading and basic maths, but as soon as he was old enough for higher learning, Latin for example, he had a tutor.

Busy gentlemen or ladies, would often hire secretaries. Generally it was the master of the house who’d hire a male secretary, however I can see a situation where a lady active in charities, or politics would hire a female secretary. The secretary took care of all private and other relevant correspondence.

In a society where women did not live alone, companions were a necessary part of life. Who had them? Widows, wealthy unmarried ladies who had set up their own household, an younger unmarried lady who no longer had a governess, but whose mother was deceased, and no other close female relative (such as an aunt or grandmother) who could reside in the house. Even if her father was alive, she would have a companion.