



A Country House at Work: Three Centuries of Dunham Massey

Pamela Sambrook

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In this fascinating book, Pamela Sambrook focuses on Dunham Massey in Cheshire, and shows how the great house and its estate functioned in the late Georgian period. At the center is the family, the Earl of Stamford. But the various groups that made the household work fan out like ripples in a pool so that we can trace the responsibilities of the house steward, the housekeeper, and the land steward, each with their own teams—the butler and footmen, the housemaids and laundresses, the gardener and the blacksmith. Beyond them are the craftsmen who provided services great and small, from carpentry to sewing, and the tradesmen who supplied food, drink, luxuries, and necessities to a household that was far from self-sufficient. By delving into the minutiae of the household records and accounts, the author has uncovered the stories of individuals that contributed to the life of Dunham Massey, from the doctor who featured in Mrs Gaskell's novels to the hermit who over-indulged at a family wedding and fell down the stairs.



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