

VICTORIAN FAMILIES



Victorian family lived during the reign of Queen Victoria in Britain (1837-1901)



An average Victorian family.

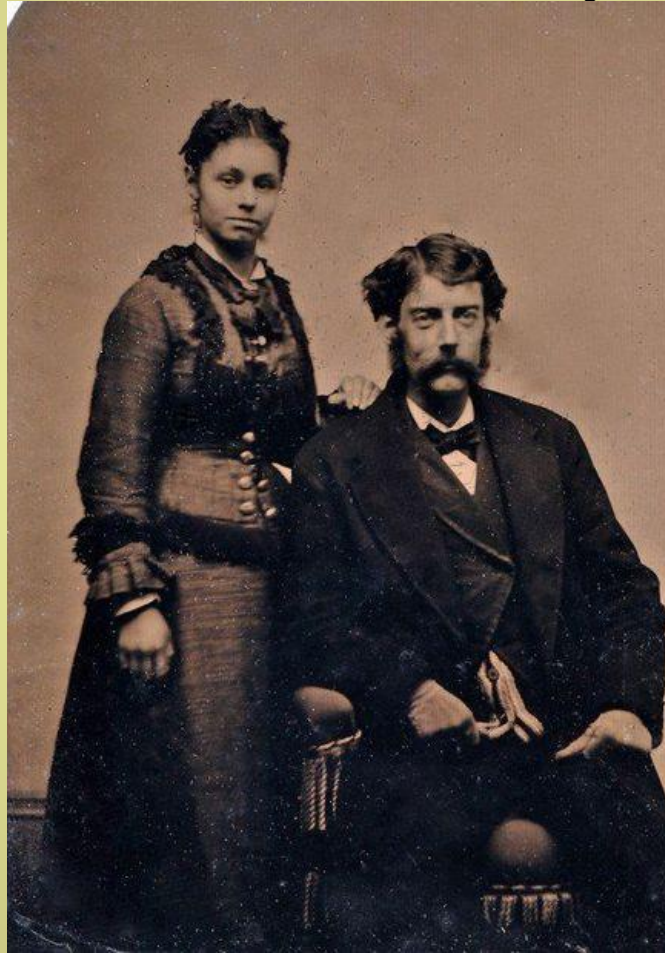


The Victorian family was considered to be a very valuable part of the everyday life throughout the era. Most often families were considered by today's standards to be very large. In 1870 you would find that the average household family contained five or six children.

Victorian Style

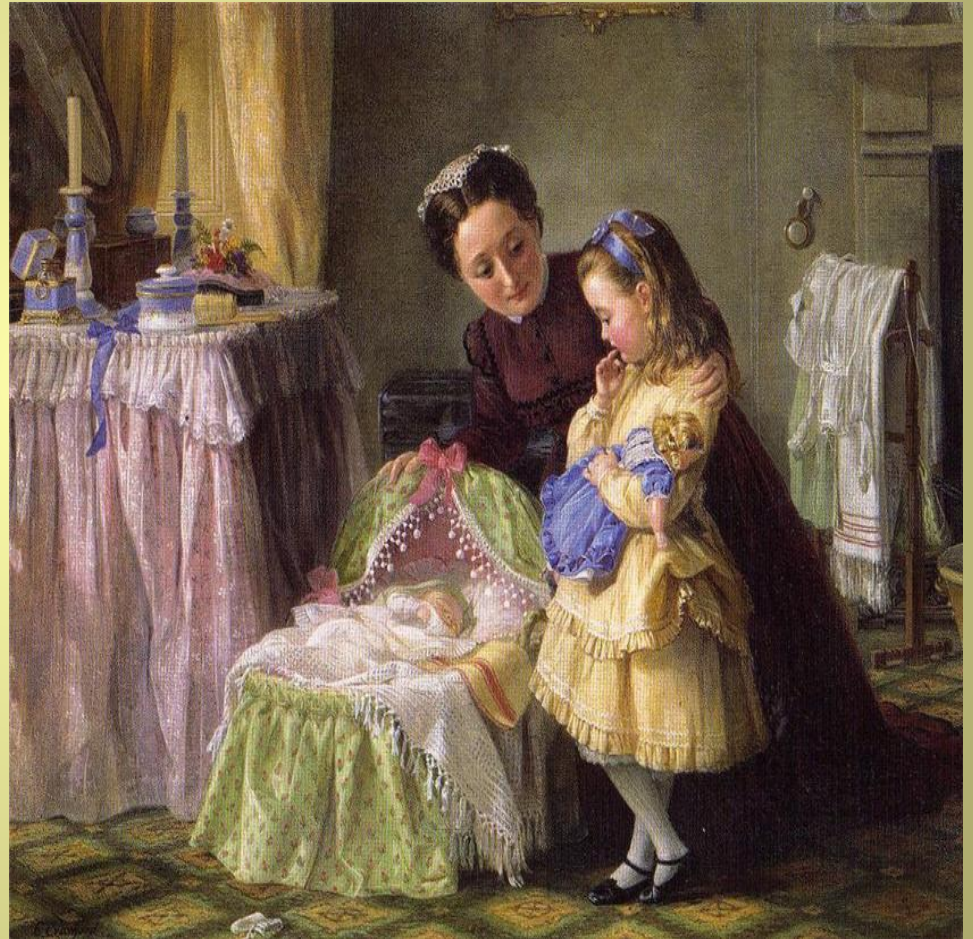


*The head of the family
and his wife.*



In Victorian families, the father himself was the worker of the family. His responsibility was to be the bread winner. He would likely work very long hours. However, when returning to home he frequently had a room so-called the study. The children were frequently not allowed in the study without special permission from the father.

Victorian women



The mother did not carry the same role that women did of the 1950s. Although they rarely worked, they did not spend their time cooking and washing clothes. Instead, they planned the dinner parties and spent a lot of time generally teaching the children of the home core values. The Victorian life put a huge value on ensuring that parents taught their children properly.

Children



Children however did not spend a lot of time with their mother or father. In an average day, most time was probably spent with someone like a nanny which would have also been responsible for teaching them arithmetic and reading. They may only spend an hour or two with both parents in attendance late in the evening and only if they were cleaned up. Children left homes early in life to get married and start their own families.

So the nanny's job was absolutely crucial to the children growing up as they provided amusement, emotional care and physical care as well as contributing to their education.





Entertainment
For entertainment,
families visited
new parks and
museums.



A working class family



It was very common for poor families to have as many as nine or ten children, many of whom didn't go to school.



Most of these families lived in small houses.



Things were very different in case of children born in poor families. In their situation, children as small as three or five year old were employed by industrial units as they were important source of labor to the industries but despite the hard work, they could be paid a very mere sum.

Children from poor families





The children worked for long hours in the factories doing hazardous jobs. Children, especially boys the age of eleven or twelve years were employed to clean chimneys.



The miserable living condition forced these families to take any opportunity to make money. Thus, children were pushed into working to help the parents to earn money and support the budget of the family. Many people justified children's working as an act of helping those in dire need of money.

The head of the poor family.

