

**ACCOUCHER** A midwife



**ALCHEMIST** A chemist.

**APPRENTICE** A trainee who is bound to a skilled master for a specified period of time to learn the trade

**BOTTLE BOY** A pharmacist's assistant

**CARTOGRAPHER** A mapmaker

**COBBLER** A shoemaker and repairer

**DORCAS** A seamstress

**DOWSER or DIVINER** A person who finds water using a rod or witching stick

**DRUGGER** A pharmacist

**FAKER** A photographer's assistant who hand-colored monochromatic photographs

**FARRIER** A blacksmith who shod horses; horse doctor; cavalry NCO in charge of horses



**FLAGGER** A person who laid paving stones

**FREEDMAN** A freed slave.

**FREEHOLDER** A land owner.

**FREEMAN** A man who had served his apprenticeship and could work at his trade on his own.

**HABERDASHER** The seller of clothing

**HOSIER** Retailer of hosiery such as socks, stockings, and gloves

**HOSTELLER or HOSTELIER** An innkeeper

**HUSBANDMAN** Tenant farmer or a shepherd.

**INDENTURED SERVANT** A person who committed for a set number of years to pay off a financial obligation such as ship passage to America

**JOURNEYMAN** A tradesman who has served his apprenticeship and mastered his craft but not bound to serve a master

**LAMPLIGHTER** A person who usually was employed by the town to light gas street lamps

**LAVENDER** A washerwoman

**LEECH** A physician



# OCCUPATIONS OF LONG AGO

**Franklin County Library**  
**355 Franklin St.**  
**Rocky Mount, VA 24151**  
**(540) 483-3098 option 0**

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<http://library.franklincountyva.gov>

**MILLINER** A person who made and sold ladies' hats

**MULESKINNER** A teamster; driver

**NECESSARY WOMAN** Female servant who emptied and cleaned chamber pots.

**NURSE CHILD** A child being looked after by another family for payment.

**OSTLER or HOSTLER** Originally an innkeeper; later stablehand who looked after visitors' horses.

**OVERLOOKER** An overseer or foreman

**SAWBONES** A physician

**SCRIBE** A clerk; a writer

**SCULLERY MAID** Female servant assigned to perform menial tasks.

**SCULLION** Male servant assigned to perform menial tasks.

**SEXTON** A church caretaker who sometimes dug graves or rang the church bells

**SHARECROPPER** A tenant farmer who received a fixed portion of the crop as pay.

**SQUIRE or ESQUIRE** 1) Country landed gentleman. 2) Magistrate or justice of the peace. 3) A professional man.

**STOKER** A person who tended and fed coal to boilers

**TAVERNER** An innkeeper.

**TEAMSTER** Driver of a team of horses or mules

**TURNKEY** A jailer

**WHIPPING BOY** Servant who was whipped in place of royal miscreants

**YARDMAN** Worker in railroad engine yards.

This information taken from the following websites:

<http://iagenweb.org/ringgold/history/misc/hist-occupations.html>

<http://www.onealwebsite.com/oldoccs.htm>

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~u\\_sgwkidz/oldjobs.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~u_sgwkidz/oldjobs.htm)