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Relive Georgian Life – Olney



Image credit: Olney & District Historical Society

The Bull around 1900. The larger building is The Bull, a coaching inn where travellers could stay or rest. The smaller building to the right is the Saracen's Head for the ostlers or servants.

The work women undertook in the Georgian period was also varied. For example, the **'Licensed Victuallers Registers, 1753-1828'** show that many women were either owners of pubs and inns or landladies.

When the poet, William Cowper lived at Orchard Side (1768-86), there were around 1,200 lacemakers in the town of a population of around 2,500.

Jane Johnson (1706-59) was the wife of Woolsey Johnson, Vicar of Olney. To help teach reading to her four children she wrote what is considered to be one of the earliest English fairy stories for children along with other teaching materials.

Mrs Sample ran her **Boarding School for Girls** from around 1790 – c.1809. And Miss Mary Mabley began her boarding school for girls around 1811.

Many Georgian households, including farm households, shops or inns, employed female servants to help with the cooking, cleaning and washing.



© Cowper & Newton Museum

A lace class in Olney 1918. Image from Thomas Wright's book 'The Romance of the Lace Pillow', 1919

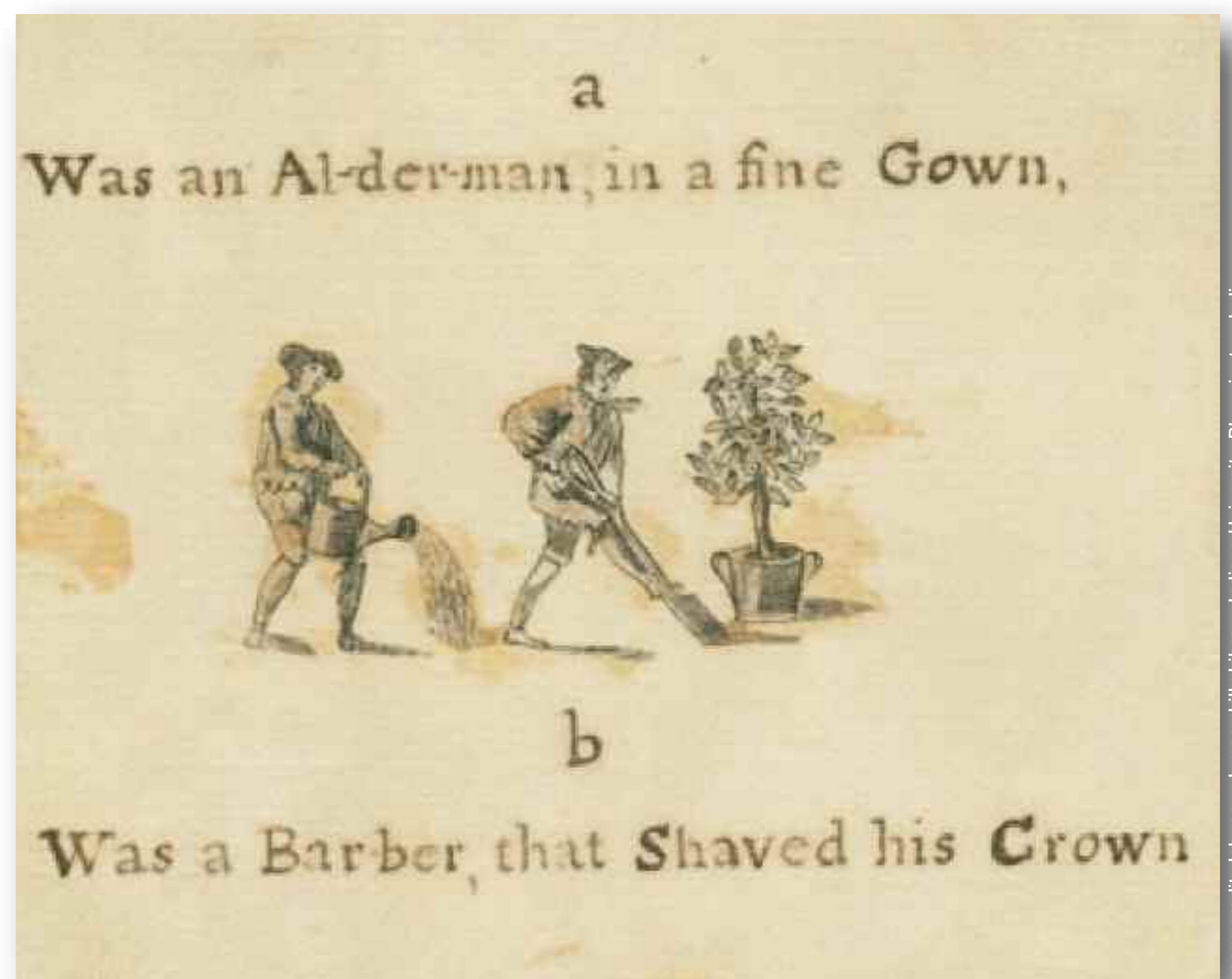


Image credit: Johnson, J. mss., Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Jane Johnson's teaching materials include alphabet cards, lesson cards and a story. They are available to view online from 'Archives Online at Indiana University'.



Image credit: Olney & District Historical Society

Location of Miss Mabley's & Mrs Beesley's Boarding School in a photograph of the South side of the Market Place Olney around 1900

