

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Wick Hall **The story of a house and a family**

Richard Dudding

Foreword by Professor Robert Evans

This book is about Wick Hall and the Dockar Drysdale family who purchased and then transformed it in the nineteenth century.

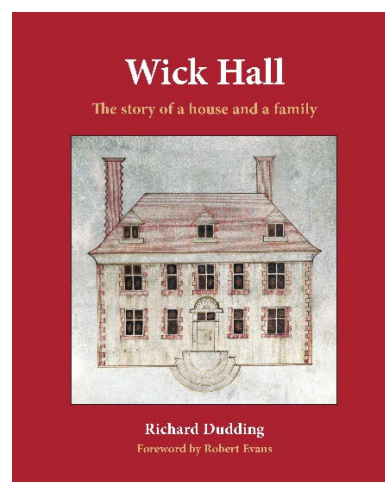
William Dockar moved penniless from northern Scotland to London and built a small fortune from overseas trade and property. After he bought Wick Farm in Radley near Abingdon, his daughter Josephine turned it into Wick Hall, a grand residence and a social statement.

Josephine dominated the village and her own family. She is typically regarded as a controlling tyrant. The book uses contemporary evidence, much of it previously unknown, to build a more balanced account and to recognise her achievement as a woman in an overwhelmingly male world.

The book also takes us wider to a dynamic world where global trade and property could create fortunes, to the impact of Scottish emigrés, to an unlikely friendship with the family of Ramsay MacDonald, and to wider changes in social behaviour and aspiration.

The author is archivist for Wick Hall and for the Radley History Club. He has written about several aspects of the village's history, including manor, church, land and buildings. Before moving to the area he had a career in the Civil Service, after studying history at Jesus College, Cambridge.

All proceeds go to the Radley History Club



108 pages, colour throughout
57 photographs and maps,
paperback original
ISBN 978-1-83688-349-4

£15.00
(plus £3.50 for UK P&P)

Available from 8 September 2025

Email
Richard.dudding@btinternet.com

In person
Radley Village Shop

Online
radleyhistoryclub.org.uk/wick-hall