

Incomes in *Sense and Sensibility* at the start of the novel.

James Haldman in the Jane Austen Society of North America did calculations in 1988 based on the British £ in 1810. I am also indebted to Edward Copeland's "Money" in *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen* (1997).

I redid these calculations basing mine on the worth of the British £ in 1800 and calculated its worth at the end of 2021 in dollars (\$).

In 1800, one £=\$30.62

In 2021, one £=\$70.14.

Note: To make life easier, I will use one £ = \$70.00 to calculate all incomes!

To determine annual income from net income, I assumed a 5% annual draw

From government bond investments

Thus, the below is approximate, not exact. I won't vouch for no errors!

John Dashwood's annual income is between £5,000-£6,000 = **\$350,000-\$420,000 today**

Fanny Ferrars Dashwood' inherited £10,000 from her mother (=\$70,000 today); her annual income = **\$3,500 today**)

The John Dashwood's' family income would be between \$353,500 and \$403,500 annually today.

Mrs. Ferrars—is meant to be quite rich.

Edward Ferrars's income from £2,000 a year is £100 (=\$7,000). Later he will be given a "living" for £200 a year (=\$14,000) = **\$21,000 yearly.**

Robert Ferrars

Mrs. Jennings, widow, has an "ample jointure" (38), probably £1500-£2,000 annually (=**\$105,000 to \$140,000 today**). **Her children are Mrs. Palmer and Lady Middleton.**

Mrs. Palmer--probably had a dowry of £10,000 to £15,000 or \$70,000 to \$1 million (with an annual income between \$35,000 and \$52,500 in today's dollars)

Mr. Palmer—wealthy owner of Cleveland estate and a house in town and a candidate for Parliament

Lady Middleton-- probably had a dowry of £10,000 to £15,000 or \$70,000 to \$1 million (with an annual income between \$35,000 and \$52,500 in today's dollars)

Sir John Middleton—Baronet of Barton Park

Mrs. Dashwood's net worth is £7000; her annual income is £350= **\$24,500 yearly.**

Elinor Dashwood's annual income is £50 = **\$3,500 yearly.**

Marianne Dashwood's annual income is £50 = **\$3,500 yearly.**

Margaret Dashwood's annual income is £50 = **\$3,500 yearly..**

Thus, **the Dashwood family** must live on £500 (= **\$35,000 a year**) if they stay together.

Marianne would like to have £1,800-£2,000 a year = \$126,000- \$140,00. (90)

Elinor would be happy to have £1,000 a year = \$70,000. (90)

Colonel Brandon's annual income is £2,000 = **\$140,000 yearly + his estate, Delaford.**

Willoughby's income from his estate Combe Magna is **£600 yearly (=\$42,000). He is known to have debts.**

Miss Grey is worth £50,000 (or \$3.5 million) (=or an annual income of £2,500 (=**\$175,000**)).

Miss Morton is worth £30,000 (or \$2.1 million)

Miss Lucy Steele

Miss Annie/Nancy Steele

On £300 (or \$21,000) a year, one “can be comfortable as a bachelor”, but it is insufficient to marry on. One can have two servants!

On £400 (or \$28,000) one can live “genteelly” with a cook and housemaid and perhaps a “boy”. (Copeland, 135)

On £500 (or \$35,000), Fanny says “They will have no carriage and no horses, and hardly any servants.”

On £700 (or \$49,000) to £1,000 (\$70,00) a year, one is in the landed gentry but domestic economy still requires work, esp. if there are unmarried daughter—as in P&P’s Bennet family.

£1,000 annually is needed to support a carriage

On or above £4,000 a year (ie. John and Fanny Dashwood), one lives in a world of genteel comforts, including a house in London and in the country, a carriage, and many servants.