

SCHOOL RESOURCE PACK



INTRODUCTION

AT A GLANCE

Suitable for: KS2 and KS3
English

Curriculum Link:

- Creative writing

Learning Objectives:

- To create a piece of original writing based on the changing experiences of one house and family over the course of the 20th century.

BACKGROUND

Heslington Hall is a historic manor house in the village of Heslington on the outskirts of York. It is a two-story, red-brick building, comprising of two large wings and a central block. The original manor house was built in 1568 for Sir Thomas Eynns, clerk to the Council of the North. The estate passed through the hands of various families, before being inherited by Yarburgh Yarburgh in 1852. Two years later he had the hall largely rebuilt in a Victorian style.

Robert Wilfrid de Yarburgh-Bateson inherited both Heslington Hall and the title Baron Deramore in 1893. He and his wife, Lady Violet Deramore, made Heslington Hall their family home. They had many of the interiors re-styled and modernized in 1903, by the famous York architect Walter Brierley.

Lady Violet was a supporter of the Red Cross and when the First World War broke out, she offered up Heslington Hall as a Convalescent Home for injured soldiers. During the Second World War, Heslington Hall was converted into an RAF base, and the family moved out completely.

After the war, the family did not return to live in Heslington Hall. The house and land were sold to the Joseph Rowntree Social Services Trust in 1955, who wished it to be part of a proposed university. In 1963, the University of York was opened to students, and Heslington Hall continues to serve as its administrative base.

HESLINGTON HALL

SOURCES

Sources 1 and 2

JHOR/4/2/6 and JHOR/4/2/4 - Photos of Heslington Hall, from the collection of James Hornby

James Hornby was born in 1840 and became the Head Gardener at Heslington Hall in 1870. During his time working at the hall he grew, among other things, an eight meter *Agave Americana Variegata* (a type of cactus) and prize-winning pears. He died in 1902, after 32 years working at Heslington Hall. Found among his collection are a series of photos of Heslington Hall and its gardens.





Source 3

VDER 7/1/4 – Family photo albums of Lady Violet Deramore

Lady Violet Deramore and her husband lived at Heslington Hall for many years. It was their family home. They kept photo albums showing photos of family and friends who came to visit.



Source 4

VDER 8/1/4/1 (ii) – War Use of Heslington Hall

Lady Violet was an active member of the Red Cross. When the First World War broke out in 1914, she suggested that the Red Cross use Heslington Hall as a nursing home for injured soldiers. The soldiers were allowed to make use of the gardens and grounds, and activities were organized for them. This photo shows a game of bowls being played on the Heslington estate.



Source 5

VDER 3/1/2 – Yorkshire Post article dated July 6th 1970. Reproduced by kind permission of the Yorkshire Post

Heslington Hall was converted into an RAF base during the Second World War, after which the family never returned to live in it. It was sold in 1955, and eventually became part of the University of York. In 1970, Lady Violet returned to Heslington Hall for the first time in 34 years and was invited to take a tour of the building. This newspaper report tells us about her trip.

**34-year
memory
rests
in peace**

FOR a moment yesterday, Violet, Lady Deramore, 86, paused on the steps of Heslington Hall, near York, her former home which she has not seen for 34 years.

Then she turned her back on the hall, which was built in 1568, in the shape of a letter E in honour of Queen Elizabeth I and it is now the administrative centre of York University.

"I don't really want to go in after all," she said. "I would like to remember it as I knew it — it was such a lovely old hall. I hear they have changed it quite a lot."

ENTERTAINED

"Although the ivy has gone from the walls outside, the clock and sundial are still there. And they have named a road Deramore Drive on a new estate not far away."

Lady Deramore went to live in Heslington Hall after her marriage in 1907. When her husband, the third Baron Deramore and former Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding, died 29 years later, she moved to the South.

While at Heslington Hall the couple entertained Queen Mary and the Duke and Duchess of York, later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Yesterday was the first time Lady Deramore had returned to Yorkshire. Her sentimental journey to Heslington was planned while visiting her brother, Capt. Philip Saltmarsh, of Saltmarsh, near Howden, who is in hospital at York.

Today she is to visit her childhood home, the Hall, Saltmarsh, before returning to her cottage at Newbury, Berkshire.

Lady Deramore had driven to York on Saturday night with her god-daughter, Miss Lisa Gray, with whom she lives.

MEMORY

Miss Gray is writing a history of the Saltmarsh family and she hopes to follow with one on the Deramores.

She said: "Both are very old families — the Saltmarsh's go back about 900 years."

"I am getting all the information I can from Lady Deramore. She has a marvellous memory and can remember most of the people who came to her wedding."

"During World War I many famous soldiers came to Heslington Hall. The visitors' book is like a page of history."



● Lady Deramore with her Pekingese, Deepnell Magnolia, in the grounds of Heslington Hall, York, yesterday.

— YORKSHIRE POST —
LEEDS MONDAY JULY 6 1970

SUGGESTED TASKS

- 1) Write a story from the point of view of one of the characters in this pack describing their time at Heslington Hall. This could be someone who lived at the house, like James Hornby or Lady Violet Deramore, one of the soldiers who stayed there, or a visiting friend or family member who appears in the photo album.
- 2) Imagine a conversation between Thomas Eynns, who first had the house built in 1568, and Lady Violet Deramore, the last person to live there in the 20th century. What do you think they would have in common? What would be different about them? What would be different about Heslington Hall?
- 3) Write the history of Heslington Hall from the hall's point of view. What do you think was the proudest or most memorable part of its history? When were times toughest?
- 4) In the last source, Lady Violet chooses not to return to Heslington Hall. Why do think this was? Write a story about this event from her point of view.
- 5) Imagine you are a new student at the University of York. On your first day, you go to Heslington Hall. As you walk through the main doors, you slip back in time. Which time period do you end up in? Who do you meet? What sort of things do you do? How are things different to the present day?