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TRACING ANCESTORS—INFORMATION SHEET

Bowhill Estate has a rich history and has employed a large number of local people, including gardeners, cooks, maids, builders, joiners and many more. During the First World War, Bowhill served as a military hospital and was occupied by the Army from 1939-45. In the Second World War it was used as a training base. This makes the Estate very popular with people tracing their ancestors.

Partly due to this background, however, many records were lost or damaged, making it difficult to assist with individual searches. Furthermore, many of the records that are held on the Estate are political or ecclesiastical records and not domestic ones. With this in mind, we have produced this information pack providing advice on researching your ancestors. The pack provides a sheet of useful sources, both online and also in the local region.

TIPS TO HELP TRACE YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY

There are many resources available to research your family's history. However the first port of call ideally is existing family members. While doing this you can also seek out old family letters or records, such as birth certificates or wills to ascertain whether or not the family are local. If the family has been in the same area for generations it could be useful to investigate headstones in local graveyards. Useful information may also be located from local libraries and the internet is another good source.

USEFUL INFORMATION SOURCES

Scottish Borders Archive & Local History Centre, Heritage Hub, Hawick (01450 360699)

The collections at the Heritage Hub include material relating to:

- Families and local communities
- Census, births, marriages and deaths
- Land ownership from the 16th Century
- Local business records including textile, fishing and farming industries
- Government, law and order, and schools
- Famous Borderers, such as Sir Walter Scott, Mungo Park and James Hogg.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.ancestralscotland.com – VisitScotland's advice on researching ancestors

www.archive.scotsman.com – A fully searchable online archive of the newspaper from 1817 until 1950

www.gro-scotland.gov.uk – General Register Office for Scotland

www.nas.gov.uk – National Archives of Scotland

www.scottishdocuments.com – A website created by the Scottish Archive