



Public Record Office  
of Northern Ireland

# **INTRODUCTION**

# **HUME PAPERS**

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# Hume Papers (D2765)

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## **Summary**

c.1000 documents, 1615-1959, comprising the papers of the Hume family of New South Wales, Australia, Liverpool and Castlerock, Co. Londonderry.



## Hamilton Hume

The most well known member of the family was Hamilton Hume, 1797-1873, who was born in Toongabbie, New South Wales. He was the son of Andrew Hamilton Hume, (born 24 June 1762) of Hillsborough, Co. Down, who had set out for New South Wales in 1788. Unfortunately his ship 'Guardian' foundered in Table Bay, South Africa and he did not arrive in Sydney until 3 June 1790 on the ship, 'Lady Juliana'. The son of a Presbyterian Minister from Scotland who had settled at Hillsborough, Co. Down in 1746, Andrew settled happily in New South Wales, married Elizabeth Moore Kennedy from England in September 1796 and their son Hamilton was born on 19 June 1797.

Hamilton Hume was the first native-born Australian explorer. His most notable expedition was that with William Hilton Hovell leaving Lake George, New South Wales, 2 October, 1824 and arriving at Geelong on 16 December, a distance of 400 miles. He was the first white man to see the Australian Alps. Unfortunately he later quarrelled with Hovell who claimed the chief credit for the success of the expedition. Because of his expeditionary exploits, the Hume Highway between Sydney and Melbourne is named after him. There is much correspondence in the archive, 1824-72, pertaining to Hume's pioneering explorations in southern Australia and the potential he saw for that part of the country. In one letter, 16 July, 1836, Hume writes to His Excellency the Governor, Government House, Sydney: '...I do believe there can be little doubt of that part of the Colony ultimately becoming the granary of New South Wales...for in all probability it is not so subject to droughts as the part which we inhabit.' Hume married Elizabeth Dight in November 1825 but they had no children and he died on 19 April 1873 in the town of Yass.



## **Correspondence of Rev. Abraham Hume**

This collection also contains c.50 letters written to the Rev. Abraham Hume, by various correspondents, including the Bishop of Liverpool, 1843-84, relating to his genealogical work and including his activities as vicar of the parish of Vauxhall in Liverpool, together with some private papers and his etymological and genealogical working papers, c.1850-c.1870. The son of Thomas F. Hume of Hillsborough, Co. Down, he was educated in Belfast, Dublin and Glasgow, and was vicar of Vauxhall from 1847 until his death in 1884. He took an active part in the public, educational and ecclesiastical movements in Liverpool and fought for the establishment of an episcopate for Liverpool. Before his death, he had set in motion the plans for the erection of a cathedral in the town, as the later correspondence reveals. A member of several historical and antiquarian societies, he was also author of over 100 books and pamphlets, and contributed articles to the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, the best known of which is 'Origin and Characteristics of the population in the Counties of Down and Antrim'.



## **Papers of Emily Hume**

There are, in addition: personal correspondence and accounts, etc, of Mrs Emily Hume, Castlerock, Co. Londonderry, 1918-c.1930, who was secretary of the North Derry Unionist Association; committee minute books of the Coleraine Division of North Derry Women's Unionist Association, 1911-29; in-letter files, 1947-54, and out-letter files, 1907-59, of North Derry Unionist Association, together with membership cards, etc, 1946, and a notebook containing a list of members of the Coleraine Division of the Association in 1912.

