

Ah 12

Hamilton Hume – correspondence, 1810-1867, with associated papers, 1910-1919

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Hamilton Hume – correspondence, 1810-1867, with associated papers, 1910-1919

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Ah 12/1

Letter from Hamilton Hume to William E. Riley, 4 Sept. 1834

Appin 4th Sepr. 1834.

Dear Sir

I beg to enclose your account and if convenient will feel obliged by your remitting me a cheque for the amount.
My Brother J. K. Hume has informed me that he stands indebted to you £12 for Rams which you will have the goodness to deduct.

I remain

Dear Sir

Yours very truly

H. Hume

Wm. E. Riley Esqr

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Ah 12/2

Letter from Hamilton Hume to William E. Riley, 18 Oct. 1834

Appin 18th Ocber. 1834

Dear Sir,

I beg to say that I sent a Mare to Raby a few days ago to receive the services of Skeleton and as you were then from home your Groom refused taking her, stating that he had the full number of Mares that were allowed to be put to Skeleton that Season.
As I imagine there may have been some mistake on the part of

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your servant I have again sent the Mare having seen the Advertisement continued in the "Monitor" of Saturday last.

I remain

Dear Sir

Yours very truly

Haml. Hume

PS.

In reply to your former letter, I beg to say that I intend to select some Rams from your flocks at Caven I go up for that purpose and the Shearing in a few days.

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W. E. Riley Esqr.
Raby

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Ah 12/3
Letter from William Hovell to John Scarr, 1 Mar. 1855 [copy]

My dear Sir,

While in Sydney some days back a pamphlet, not very creditable to the party getting it up, was lent to me by Mr Kinghorn, who on bringing it away with me, told me that you left it in his room. I have learned since that it is the only copy in circulation, that being the case and as I may have occasion to make reference to it, perhaps you will not have any objection to retain it.

The pamphlet to which I allude is called "A brief statement of facts in connection with an Overland Expedition, to Port Phillip in 1824 by Hamilton Hume" - My retaining it will perhaps be of use to me. I would have written to you sooner but I understood that you were to have been here as yesterday.

I remain,
My dear Sir,
Very truly yours,

(Signed) Wm. H. Hovell.

Goulburn. 1st March 1855.

J. Scarr, Esq.

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Ah12/3
Letter from Hamilton Hume to John Scarr, 13 Mar. 1855. [copy]

Cooma, Yass.
13th March 1855.

My dear Scarr,

I was on the eve of writing to you when your letter of the 7th inst. came to hand, and although pleased with the answer you gave Mr Hovell, I cannot but regret you should have circulated the pamphlet after I had written you that it was not for the public, until reprinted, as it was replete with blunders and there were many omissions. I enclose

you a copy of the correspondence between Hovell and myself on the subject &c.

You have no doubt seen Dr Bland's effusion in the Empire of the 27th ultimo and the Herald of the 1st of March. My answer thereto will appear in the Empire of the 10th inst.

If you have received the pamphlet in question from Hovell, I beg you will send it me without delay. I am sorry you did not favour me with a call on your way home as I was anxious to see you. I have sent to Mr Kinghorne to ascertain how Hovell really got possession of my little book. With kind regards to Mrs Scarr and family.

I am, my dear Scarr,
Very sincerely yours
(Signed) Haml. Hume.

I regret to tell you that as yet my poor Bess has found no relief from the Sydney air and on the whole I fear she is not now as strong as she was on leaving home. Dr O'Brien is however attending her and I am in hopes, with the assistance of Providence, he will be able to restore her to me.

Yours, H. H.

Should you not get back the pamphlet in the course of a few days, I hope you will write him again, and insist on having it returned at once. Mine will be in circulation in Sydney by the time you receive this.

John Scarr, Esq.

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Ah 12/3

Letter from William Hovell to Hamilton Hume, 24 Feb. 1855 [copy]

Goulburn, 24th Febry. 1855.

Sir,

A pamphlet was put into my hands in Sydney a few days back, called a brief statement of facts in connection with an overland expedition from Lake George to Port Phillip in 1824, by Hamilton Hume, edited by Rev. William Ross, Goulburn. Without attending to very many of the statements it contains, there is one passage compels me to take immediate notice of. At page 17 and in Angel's statement, at the third paragraph, are these words – "Mr. Hume got into a passion and called both Mr Hovell and Claude cowards" In order that there may be no ambiguity on the subject, I now want Sir, an immediate answer from you whether you did, or not apply the word coward to me.

I remain, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W.H. HOVELL.

Hamilton Hume, Esq.,
Yass.

Reply to Mr Hovell's letter

Copy

Cooma, Yass.
27th Febry. 1855.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 24th inst. I am not a little surprised to find you are in possession of a pamphlet which I was not aware was yet in publication, but as it will be in the course of two or three weeks, with a little extra matter, I shall not fail to forward you one or two copies, as I have been informed you were very solicitous to obtain one from my printer.

To the second part of your letter, I shall merely say that "Facts are stubborn things" and "Now Sir" in reply to your last paragraph referring to Angel's statement in which he says – that he thinks I called both you and Claude cowards' he may be correct.

I am, Sir, Your obedt. Servt. HAML. HUME.
W.H. Hovell, Esq. Goulburn.

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Ah 12/3

Letter from William Hovell to John Scarr, 17 Mar. 1855. [copy]

Goulburn 17th March 1855.

My dear Sir,

Agreeably to the desire contained in your letter of the 5th inst. I have sent the pamphlet with this reply to it rather cholorick contents. - That Mr Kinghorn lent it to me himself and that he consented to my bringing it away with me on condition that I would forward it to you. I have now done so.

With respect to other remarks about Hume, I think it very likely he may yet have to say "Protect me from my friends" and that the man whom he and "his friends" have maligned will be found in the end to be no otherwise than his friend, but which through the assistance of his friends, must end in pity and contempt, and something else.

I remain,
My dear Sir,
Yours truly

(Signed) Wm. H. Hovell.

The book I have alluded to says Hume was born in 1797 – I count from April 1786.
J. Scarr, Esq.

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Ah 12/4

Presented to the Mitchell by Mr. C.L. Hume
Castlestead,
Burrowa

The Mr. Howe mentioned in the 3rd line was a Mr. John Howe of Singleton.
The Mrs. Dight mentioned at the end of the [letter] was an old resident of Singleton.
She was Hamilton Hume's mother-in-law.
(Initials: F.M.Bladen) 15.7.10

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Letter from Hamilton Hume to an unknown person, 4 Dec. 1828

Wellington Valley
4th December 1828

My dear Sir,

I wrote you last week from Bathurst by a Soldier that was going to Windsor, I directed the letter to the care of Mr Howe, I hope you rec'd. it We got here on Monday last, all safe and shall leave again on Monday next for Mount Harris. We shall then bid goodbye to all whites for some time. We are in hopes of being able to find the Bottles containing some coin buried on top of that Mount by Mr. Oxley.

The drouth [drought?] appears to have been great in this part of the Colony

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So much so, that the Macquarie River here (altho by following its windings upwards of 150 Miles from Bathurst) can be crossed without wetting your foot, so much, for Mr Oxley's River of the first Magnitude, but I must say, that the land and grass around this country is equal to any I ever saw, and upon the flooded lands or the Banks of the River there are great quantities of very large Apple Trees and blue Gums, the former Timber I never before saw growing so far in the Interior. I have seen the spot where Mr Oxley's Boat was built and set afloat, the place is marked upon the Chart Depot.

In my opinion this is not

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the part of the country to look for Rivers, for there is not a drop of water to be found in the back forests at any distance from the main streams, and they are very far and of little magnitude.

Dr. McLeod accompanied us to this place, he is really a pleasant good natured fellow and I was happy to learn from him of poor Dunlop's welfare. McLeod tells me that he has lately rec'd letters from Stirling informing him, that Mr. Dunlop is coming out to New South Wales with a salary of £400 a year, and that the Instrument invented by him has been highly approved of. I am really glad to hear that Dunlop is likely to be rewarded for his labours, if you should see him, make my remembrance to him, and say that should I meet with a falling Star, I will bring it him or some other animal.

The weather here is now cool and pleasant, the Thermometer being on as high as

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115. Deg. Our Journey begins about 50 Miles beyond Mount Harris, so you may judge what cool weather we shall have. – We are now about one deg. and a half North of Sydney. There is near this place a very large and beautiful cave, I have been into it.

It is formed on the side of a hill among lime stone, it extends about one quarter of a mile into the Earth in an angle of 45 Deg. it then terminates in a deep pond of water, the inside of the Cave is beautifully formed, some parts of it being 50 feet in hith [height?] and supported by pillars beautifully carved by Nature. I have got some Specimens from the inside of it. We were obliged to have lights – torches made of tar and hemp.

I will write you again from Mount Harris. There are some Men and a Native of this place going with us so far, to bring back letters. My kind remembrances to Mrs. Dight, and believe me yours very truly

Hamt. Hume

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Ah 12/5

Letter from Hamilton Hume to William Westgarth, 12 June 1867

Cooma, Yass, N.S.W.

12 June 1867

My dear Sir

It was with much pleasure I received your friendly letter of the 28th Ult.

I had noticed the letter you allude to as published in the Australasian. It was copied by our local paper the "Courier", and with one or two little mistakes is very correct. I regret to state that it is not in my power to state positively who was the first gentleman to settle at Hobsons Bay, but circumstances as far as I know point to honest John Batman as the real founder of Victoria. I am well aware that my old friend after my publication of my letters in the Sydney Morn'g Herald in 1833 was for a length of time very desirous to cross Bass' Straits and visit the fine country I described to him around Geelong and he ultimately did so, and found my statement correct. I think I may safely say without contradiction that John Batman was the first European after your humble servant and Hovell to visit Geelong. For instance, the man Wm. Buckley coming to Mr Batman

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on his arrival there is I think sufficient proof to warrant the Laurel Crown being given to poor Batman as the founder of Victoria. Is it not more than probable that had Falkner been the first to enter Hobson's Bay in 1835 the man Buckley would have gone to him. At all events had Falkner been first, Batman would have certainly have heard of his arrival from this man: I know for a fact that Buckley followed our tracks from Station Peak to the Meariby Rivulet but did not overtake us – I was by that time as far as "Big Hill", or rather the Dividing Range on my return to New South Wales.

I regret to say I never had the pleasure to meet my old acquaintance the late Mr. Batman after he left Paramatta and settled in Van D.Land. I wished much to see him after he had been over to Geelong. I heard from shortly after his trip across the Straits by a gentleman who came from Van D.Land to Sydney I think in the year 1836 who stated that Mr. Batman had told him to inform me he had found the country around Geelong just as I had described it. Also the Arndle or Meariby and Esc Rivulets.

From all I have heard from years past I do believe that Mr. Falkner knowing that Batman was about to cross over to Port Phillip, followed in his wake, but unfortunately I cannot prove this. If

any of the parties who accompanied Batman are living they could speak to the point. My own belief is that Falkner must be content to come in for second or third stakes.

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and the palm given to the memory of Batman. I may add that I knew Batman and his family from childhood. We were both born at Paramatta very near each other. My friend John grew up a steady active and persevering young man. I do not remember which was the older he or I.

Falkner must be a vindictive vain-glorious and a low bred fellow. His accusations against poor Batman prove him such.

Some years back I purchased in Sydney 4 Copies of your pamphlet "Bonwicks Port Phillip" and I now beg to tender you my acknowledgment for your good will in my behalf. I forwarded three Copies to my friends in England, one to my cousin the Revd. Dr. Hume of Liverpool with which he was very much pleased.

Was the book you mention as having forwarded to my address a treatise on the Culture of the Vine? If so it is to hand, and I beg to offer you my thanks. Believe me to remain

My dear Sir
Yours faithfully
Hamilton Hume

P.S. I shall complete my 70th year on the 18th inst. and I am sorry to tell you that my memory is very bad. I may add that am all but totally deaf.

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Ah 12/6
Letter from J.F.H. Mitchell to Dr. Andrews, 1 Aug. 1914

"Ravenshoe"
Ravenswood, Victoria
1st August 1914.

Dear Dr. Andrews,

In reply to your letter of the 30th Ult., in respect to Mr. Hamilton Hume's first crossing of the Hume river, I give you, from memory, a rough chart of the river from Albury upward, which I hope will be a sufficient guide to the spot, to enable the Bethanga people to carry out their laudable intention to mark, in some appreciative manner, Hume's first crossing place. When on a visit to Mr. Hume, at his residence "Cooma", Yass, in 1860, and, speaking of his crossing of the river in 1824, he said, "You living near the place should know where rocks run brokenly across the river, a short distance above the junction of the Mitta-mitta, where the hills tail off to the river flats; there is where I first crossed the river, which I named "The Hume". I know of no other mark, but trust these rocks, now the river is low, will be a sufficient evidence. I am, happily, able to say, in reply to your kind enquiry after my health, that I am very well for one of my Age, & reciprocate your good wishes. I remain,
Yours sincerely
J.F.H. Mitchell.

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Ah 12/7

Letter from J. Kennedy to Hamilton Hume, 18 Nov. 1810

Picton, Nov. 18th. 1810

My very Dear Hamilton

You cannot imagine how very sensibly we feel you very kind intentions respecting the Muff for Mrs. Kennedy – which she will be so happy to receive - will be worn with great pleasure. We had very nearly [...?..] your Cousin Simpsons kind [..?..] of Curiosities – It is so difficult to get anything from the Ships – so if you can - it will be best to get some one who is coming to England, to put a parcel in their Box or Luggage – we were some Months in recovering them and should not have accomplished it at last, if a

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Commissioner of the Navy had not interfered - the person to whose care they were entrusted, totally neglected his charge, & left the Ship without taking any account of them. I mention this as a caution & guide.

We felt very deeply your Calamities – we had heard of the [..?..] but nothing of the [P..?] The [ship] will sail so speedily after the [Messages ?] in the Letters – that I am afraid but little can be put on board them, of that little we possess the power to send – but if Mr Mason returns to New South Wales a Box may be put under his Care. I think before this reaches you some of you will have heard from your

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Cousin John Dixon. He was here when I was writing some Letters, & said he should add one.

The Letters of this Day are the first intimation of any of three [?] having reached you - & we are at a Loss to know which of them you may have received . It is between two & three Years since the first was sent. If you was to particularize them we should be able to know, if any have by any means been lost. In one of them there was Nankeen suits for Brother John & Cousin Simpson – the [..?..] as sent formerly to our dear Hamilton. I write with my Arm in a sling, the consequence of a sad fall – so that at present I am a cripple in both Arms, & fear I can

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hardly be read.

With Love to You All

I remain

My dear Hamilton's affectionate Grandfather

J. Kennedy.

Master Hamilton Hume

Picton

Nov. 21st.

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Ah 12/9

Letter from Hamilton Hume to William Hovell, 24 Jan. 1854

Yass 24th Jany. 1854

Dear Hovell

I duly received your favor of 18th inst. I have also had several of the Melbourne & Geelong papers sent to me lately by some friends, which have informed me of what has been going on there. All I now care to say is, that I have not felt much gratified with the Share assigned to me, and do feel inclined to have anything to do with the movement.

Yours very truly
Hamilton Hume.

W.H. Hovell Esqr.

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Ah 12/11

Letter from Rev. S. M. Johnstone to Miss G. Hendy-Pooley, 9 June 1919

The Rev. S.M. Johnstone presents his compliments to Miss G. Hendy-Pooley and in reply to her letter of the 7th inst. begs to say that the entry of the baptism of Hume the Explorer in the records of St Johns Parramatta gives his Christian name as "Hamilton" only, and not "Alexander Hamilton" or "Andrew Hamilton"

Parramatta June 9th 1919

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Ah 12/12

Letter from Hamilton Hume to C. Throsby Smith, 21 Apr. 1855

Cooma, Yass
21st. April 1855.

My dear Smith,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst, and am much pleased with your friendly remarks, for although we have not corresponded for nearly a quarter of a century, I am glad to find this same good feeling exists between us as formerly.

I well remember the treatment you received from your Uncle, as well as his conduct towards myself, but as you justly remark, it is now of little consequence, we are both as independent as those upon whom he lavished his riches.

I also recollect your journey with Wild and Vaughan in quest of a River, supposed by your Uncle to exist, and know the place you speak of well, where you could not get across for "want of a

tarpauling”, but it was at Queanbeyan and not Yass, for the plain you mention retains the name of Limestone plains to this day.

If you

C.T. Smith Esqr.
Woolongong

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If you should meet with my old servant Ham Angel I would thank you to ask him whether he has received the pamphlet I forwarded, if not I will send another to your care for him.

I was glad to hear you have had such a fine fall of rain at Woolongong – we are still sadly in want of that necessary element here – in fact the country is in a most deplorable state, the Stock starving for want of grass and we almost in the same predicament for want of meat.

Please present my kind regards to Mrs. Smith and believe me, to be,

My dear Smith,
Faithfully yours

Hamilton Hume.

Note.

Angel living either at his farm at Dapto or near Shell Harbour.

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P.S. I shall feel much pleasure hearing from you whenever you feel disposed to write – I did intend to visit Woolongong, but something has always happened to prevent me, but I still hope to visit that locality ere long.

H.H.

[Obituary Notice – cutting from Daily Telegraph, 13 Mar. 1911]

Mr. Andrew Hamilton Hume, one of the pioneers of the Yass and Burrowa districts, died at his residence, “The Cedars” Epping, at the age of 79. For many years he managed “Humewood” for his uncle (Hamilton Hume, the explorer). Subsequently he lived at “Everton” Rye Park, and owned “Wandamah” station, on the Bland. He was the first man to introduce fine-wool merino sheep into the Yass and Burrowa districts, and did much towards the settlement of the same.

Jas. Steele

Forward to Curiosity Shop
Browns River
Hobart Tas.

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C.T. Smith Esqr. JP.
Woolongong.

H. Hume
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Ah 12/13
Letter from Rev. J. Steele to Curiosity Shop, Hobart, Tas., 16 March 1911

Hamilton Hume F.R.G.S. Explorer
Born Paramatta N.S.W. 18 June 1797
Died at Yass N.S.W. 19 April 1873 – aged 76

Made overland Journey to Port Philip with Capt Hovel started 2 Oct 1824 Reached Geelong
16/17 Dec 1824 Returned to Yass 18 Jan 1825

Mr –
Curiosity Shop, Brown's River

This is the letter I agreed to send you in return for Sir J Franklins signature.
I am very sorry to part with it & hope it will be as well taken care of by your
successors as it will be by yourself.

Jas. Steele
16 Mch 1911
Presbyterian Church
Lindfield. N.S. Wales.