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HAMILTON HUME

Emigration to New South Wales in the early days of the colony required courage and determination. They were qualities which the Hume family, descended from Scottish borderers, seemed to have in abundance.

Andrew Hamilton Hume, the first of the family to come to Australia, arrived in 1790 to take up the position of Superintendent of convicts. He survived a shipwreck at the Cape of Good Hope.



Hamilton Hume

Soon after his arrival in Sydney, Andrew Hume was appointed to Norfolk Island. Shortly afterwards, in May 1793, he was Superintendent of convicts at Toongabbie where he received a land grant of 30 acres. He was a hard worker and he possessed a fine tenor voice. He was also able to produce good quality flax.

He married Elizabeth Moore Kennedy who had arrived in 1795 and who had, for a time, served as Matron of the Orphanage Institution.

Andrew and Elizabeth, both free settlers, established themselves in the Parramatta district where their first son, Hamilton, was born on 18 June 1797. He was destined to become one of the country's greatest explorers.

In the early days of the colony, the means of education were extremely limited and young Hamilton received his only education from his mother. He wrote: "I owe everything to her".

He also suffered the disadvantage of being Australian born and found himself included with the "Currency lads and lasses" who were mostly the illegitimate offspring of convict parents.

As a result, Hamilton developed considerable initiative and a very independent attitude.

He also had to cope with his father's reputation as an irascible man with an explosive, reckless temper who constantly quarrelled with authority and who, as a result, was unemployed for long periods.

