[Handwritten text not legible]
Sir, we take the liberty to address you these few lines, in hopes that it will give you pleasure to hear from us, who are the sons of the late Mr. George Hume of Wedderburn, who died in this country. We now earnestly request the favour of you to give us information respecting this estate, which our father gave us to understand descended to him as heir in tail, after the death of an elder brother. Our father left a large family, and a small estate, very much embarrassed; we have been very much dispossessed by a security to the sheriff to which he entered into, very unfortunately for his children, whose slight fortunes it has considerably diminished, and almost reduced them to a state of indigence, and want.

From his character, in which you are represented to us by Mr. Skene, lately arrived in Virginia, we are induced to think our situation will excite your humanity, and that you will be generous enough to relieve us from an accumulated scene of distress. We are now arrived at that period of life when man begins to feel sensibly the effects of old age, and becomes incapable of those active and laborious operations that distinguish youth. Permit us to express the grateful sense we shall ever entertain of your kindness, which we flatter ourselves will be extended to us in this instance, that you will be pleased to favour us with your aid and assistance, that the remainder of our days may be rendered easy and comfortable; we have no doubt but our situation will make a due impression upon your feelings, being so nearly related to you by consanguinity.

In expectation of hearing from you, we remain, Sir,

A very humble & grateful Servts.

Patrick Hume Esq.

George Hume

John Hume

Charles Hume
Sir,

It is with great concern, that I communicate the untimely fate of my worthy Friend and Benefactor, Mr. Ninian Home of Paxton, who, with Mr. Campbell, fell a sacrifice to the merciless Natives of the Island of Grenada, and the French. The accounts of this fatal Catastrophe, will have reached you, ere this comes to hand.

I wrote Mr. George Home of this melancholy event, and made him an offer of my services in the West Indies. I have now been these three years in America. I managed my late Uncle Mr. Hunter's Estate in Virginia, for that period. Might I with propriety, solicit your interference in my behalf? Your kind offices in this affair will add to the numerous obligations already conferred on our family, of which I am impatient with a due and grateful sense. You may rest assured, that I never will forfeit any recommendation, you may be pleased to honour me with, but will study to render satisfaction, and will never degenerate from that race, whose extraction I am proud to boast of, and whose name I have the honour to bear. Your goodness, I hope, will pardon me for this intrusion, and for withdrawing your attention from other objects, which occupy your Mind. I remain with the most profound Respect,

Sir, very Hum. & Trust
Rappahannock, forge, Virginia
18. June 1765.

Patrick Home.
Sir,

It is with great concern, that I communicate the untimely fate of my worthy Friend and Benefactor, Mr. Menan Horse of Paxton, who, with his Campbell, fell a sacrifice to the merciful Natives of the Island of Grenada, and the French. The accounts of this fatal catastrophe, will have reached you, ere this comes to hand.

I wrote Mr. George Home of this melancholy event, and made him an offer of my services in the West Indies. I have now been three years in America, and managed my late Uncle Mr. Hunter's Estate in Virginia, for that period. Might I with propriety solicit your Interference in my behalf? Your kind offices in this affair will add to the numerous obligations already conferred on our Family, of which, I am indebted with a due and grateful sense. You may rest assured, that I will forever forget any recommendation you may be pleased to honour me with, but will study to render satisfaction, and will never degenerate from that Race, whose Emulation I am proud to boast of, and whose name I have the honour to bear. — Your Goodness, I hope, will pardon me for this intrusion, and keep withdrawing your attention from other objects, which occupy your Mind. — I remain with the most profound Respect, Sir,

Rappahannock Point Virginia. Very obliged & Humble Servt.

Patrick Home.

18th June 1796.
Sir,

Your letter of the 17th April last we received about a month ago. It will not doubt appear a little strange to you, that the manner of spelling our names is not the same, but it is a fact that can be well established here, that our Father used to write his name as you do, for a considerable time after he arrived in this Country, but altered it afterwards, for what reason we cannot explain. Our Father in his life time frequently mentioned he had an undoubted right to the Estates of Wedderburn, before the death of his Brother, David, but he died before him. His Brother, Patrick, of course could not succeed. We are in possession of several letters addressed to our Father from some of the family of Wedderburn, particularly Patrick, the Lady Billy, all acknowledging him to be of descendents of that family; so that we hope you will admit us to be the legal descendents from him.

One of our Brothers, John, was in the sea service with Capt. James Home for five years, who took him under his protection. On the 1st he continued during that time.

We do not fully apprehend what you mean respecting a settlement which you allude to, in regard to the Estate of Wedderburn, nor can we think that any contract entered into between the Wedderburns, to which our Father was not a party, could possibly invalidate our claim. Should these papers not appear to you sufficiently satisfactory, we can bring forward others, which will we are convinced, leave no doubt in your minds, that we are the children of Mr. George Home, your Uncle. From a variety of letters, & other documents, which we have exhibited to Mr. Home, who resides in this Country, he is fully satisfied, that there is no imposition practiced on our parts, in order to mislead you, with respect to our being sprung from the family of Wedderburn.

When your leisure will permit me, I will consider ourselves much obliged to you, for an answer, in the meantime we remain with great regard,

Sir, Your Humble Servant,

George Hume

Francis Hume
Sir,

On the other side is a copy of what we wrote you the 22 Decr 1796, but never having had the pleasure of receiving an answer from you, we conclude the letter must have miscarried. We will be very happy to hear from you, and as miscarriages of letters frequently happen in these times of war, if you will be so kind as to transmit duplicates, we should be more certain of their reaching us.

We remain with great regard, Sir,

[Signature]

George Hume

Francis Hume
Sir,

Having had the honour of writing to you on the 2d. Aug. 1796, relative to the subject of your inquiries after the children of your late uncle, and not receiving any letter from you since, I am induced to believe that mine must have miscarried. Least my supposed silence might be attributed to neglect and inattention, I shall recapitulate the contents of my former letter.

Your uncle died in the year 1760, and left issue six sons, four of whom are alive, George, Francis, Charles & John. The two former I have seen, they are between 60 & 70 years of age, gentlemen of respectable characters, and in their looks they bear a strong resemblance of the family of Wedderburn—Their father left them rather in embarrassed circumstances. They, as well as myself, have to contend with the vicissitudes of fortune, but on my side is Youth, on theirs, Old Age. A few weeks ago they applied to me to know if I had heard from you, as they expected an answer to a letter they had written to you; they seem to think they have a claim to the estate of Wedderburn, but as I informed them, I had some faint recollection of having my father mention that they were not entitled to it, but upon what principles I was unable to say.

I have received information from my correspondent in Charleston, that no such person as Charles Jarvis Home Egg, you lived there, some mistake must exist, respecting the name or place. Be assured, Sir, I shall feel a peculiar gratification in having an opportunity of manifesting my readiness in executing your desires.

I remain with great respect, Sir,

Your faithful & obedient Servant,

P.S. Say to Mr. Rogers near Salem. 19th Sept. 1797.

Sat. Home.