WASHINGTON
PAST AND PRESENT
A History

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VOLUME I

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KENNETH POTTER ARMSTRONG—a civil engineer by education, a realtor and builder by vocation, Kenneth Potter Armstrong has long been identified with civic activities in Washington. Coming to this city in 1916, he established his home in the suburban section known as “Woodridge,” and soon became active in local affairs. He was, at various times, chairman of the committees on legislation, public utilities and zoning of the Rhode Island Avenue Citizens’ Association, and soon received city-wide recognition as an authority on public utility and zoning matters. In 1927 he was elected by the Federation of Citizens’ Associations to the Citizens’ Advisory Council, where he served one term, being Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of that body. He was also twice elected by his citizens’ association as a delegate to the Federation of Citizens’ Associations.

Mr. Armstrong was born December 19, 1887, in Somerville, Massachusetts, the son of Howard Blodgett and Evangeline (Potter) Armstrong. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and this year (1930) is president of the Washington Society of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the local alumni organization of that institution. He is a member of the Masonic Order, a Past Master of East Gate Lodge, No. 34, Free and Accepted Masons; a member of Woodridge Chapter, No. 15, Royal Arch Masons; of Adoniram Council, No. 2, Royal and Select Masters; and of East Gate Chapter, No. 21, Order of Eastern Star. He is also a member of the Washington Board of Trade, the Washington Society of Engineers, and the Washington Chapter of the American Association of Engineers, of which he was first vice-president in 1920. For several years he was a director in the Northeast Building Association.

Mr. Armstrong married Lillian May Elliot, of Winchester, Massachusetts, in 1915, and they are the parents of two sons: William Elliot, born in 1917, and Howard Potter, born in 1923. Mrs. Armstrong is a Past Matron of East Gate Chapter, No. 21, Order of Eastern Star.

THE HUME FAMILY: The Line of Thomas L. Hume of Washington, District of Columbia

—It is of interest to record here that the American progenitor of the Hume family, Sir George Hume, who settled in Spottsylvania County, Virginia, in 1721, had some part in shaping the life of George Washington, whom he taught surveying. It is also of interest to note that the Hume family, which is of honorable record in its American generations, was of most noble ancestry in the motherland.

The Humes are the eldest cadets of the family of Dunbar, about which Douglas, in his “Peerage of Scotland” says:

No surname in Scotland can boast of a more noble origin than that of Dunbar, being descended from the Saxon Kings of England and the Princes and Earls of Northumberland. The family has furnished Earls of Northumberland, Dunbar, March, Marchmont, Hume and Zetland; Viscounts of Blaisberrie and Melville; Barons Melrose, Hume, Polwarth, Redbraies, Greenlaw, Douglas and Dundas; Baronets, Knights of the Garter and Thistle, Privy Councilors, Ambassadors, Envoys, Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, Judge, Archbishops and Bishops, Joint Regents of Scotland, and by intermarriage comes into the lines of many other titled British families.

Hume Castle, the seat of the present Earl of Hume, is one of the most conspicuous forts in the Merse—and ancient stronghold of the time of the border warfare.

The Humes of Wedderburn are the eldest cadets of the family of Hume, and number many ennobled scions in its line. It was a warlike house, the Humes of Wedderburn being “one of the most dominant families of the Merse,” honored in the fact that “few of the older Lairds are known to have had any other deathbed than the battlefield.”

The Armorial Bearings of the Humes of Wedderburn are:

Arms—Quarterly first and fourth, vert a lion rampant argent, armed and langued gules, for Hume. Second, argent three paplings vert armed and membered gules, for Pepdie. Third, argent a cross engrailed azure, for Sinclair.

Crest—A unicorn’s head argent gorged with an imperial crown proper, horned and mailed or.

Supporters—Two falcons proper armed and membered gules.

Mottoes—“True to the End,” and “Remember.”

Cospatrik, Earl of Northumberland, who fought at the battle of Hastings, was a grandson of Malcolm II, King of Scotland (1005-34). His descent, therefore, was of a long line of Scottish kings, the first of record being Kenneth I, who reigned from 850 to 860 A. D. The line of the Saxon kings of England also comes into the Dunbar-Hume genealogy through the marriage of the fifth child, Elgiva, of Ethelred the Unready (968-1013) to Uchred, Prince of Northumberland. Cospatrik, Earl of Northumberland, was the
first Baron of Dunbar. His second son, Cospatrick II, was the first Earl of Dunbar and Baron of Hume. His son, Cospatrick III, married Ada, daughter of King Richard Coeur de Lion, the great Crusader. Cospatrick III was also a Crusader, and died at the siege of Damietta, in Egypt, 1147. Sir Patrick, fifth Earl of Dunbar, grandson of Cospatrick III, was the father of Sir William de Hume, first lord of Hume, the king conferring an estate and this title upon the latter.

The first Baron of Wedderburn was Sir David Hume, son of Sir Thomas Hume, whose father was Sir John de Hume, fifth Lord Hume. The Barony of Wedderburn in the County of Berwick came to him by grant from Archibald, Earl of Douglass, Sir David's mother being the Douglass family. The King confirmed the Barony to Sir David in 1413 for his military services.

The later Barons of Wedderburn were: Sir George, who died in 1497, in battle; Sir David, who was killed at the battle of Flodden in 1513; Sir David, commander-in-chief of the Army of King James V. Like earlier Humes he too died in battle. The next Baron of Wedderburn, Sir George, was killed at the battle of Pinkie, 1547. His brother, Sir David, who succeeded to the Barony, died in 1574, and "is said to be the first male of his family to die a natural death." He became "one of the most prominent lawyers of Great Britain," and his wife, because of her charity work, was known as "Good Lady Wedderburn." Their son, Sir George Hume (1550-1616), was Comptroller of Scotland and Warden of Marches. Sir David Hume, 7th Baron of Wedderburn, comes into the record as of assistance to Captain John Smith of Jamestown. In 1635 Sir David gained an English title, being made a Baronet by King Charles I. Sir David was an old man when killed at the battle of Dunbar, in 1650, by Cromwell's Roundheads. In this battle, too, his son and heir, Sir George, also fell. The eighth Baron of Wedderburn was Sir George Hume, born 1651, died 1716, leaving two sons, George and Francis. Sir George became the 9th Baron, but having engaged in the cause of Prince Charlie, he was taken prisoner at Preston, and condemned to death. He was later pardoned, but lost his estates. He died in 1720. His brother, Francis, was also captured at Preston, and was transported to Virginia in 1716. Governor Spottwood was his kinsman, and was able to shield the exile to some extent in the New World. But Francis Hume died in 1718, and was buried on the bank of the "Rapid Anna" River.

George Hume, second son of Sir George, 9th Baron of Wedderburn, was also taken prisoner at Preston in 1715, and after some years of imprisonment "Was taken from the Marchelsea, and much against his will, placed on a Glasgow slaver." At the request of Captain Dandridge, (of the family of Martha Dandridge who married Daniel Parke Custis and later George Washington) George Hume "was exchanged to his vessel, and put ashore at Norfolk, Virginia." From Norfolk George Hume went to Williamsburg, and there found his relative, Governor Spottwood. Two years later, in 1723, George Hume became assistant to the chief surveyor of William and Mary College. Three years later, King George II appointed George Hume surveyor of the county of Orange. In 1727-28 he laid out the city of Fredericksburg. In 1729, as lieutenant, George Hume served in the Colonial Troops of Spottsylvania County, this military service being duly recorded in the Order Book of Spottsylvania County. In 1731 George Hume was commissioned deputy to the King, and settled his family at Fredericksburg, on a 2,000-acre estate, which was a marriage dowry. To him and his wife, Elizabeth Proctor, were born six children, and one of their sons, William Hume, was a classmate of George Washington, in the little village school taught by Mr. Williams. George Hume was surveyor to Lord Fairfax from 1743 to 1750, and for the last two years had young George Washington as an assistant. In the dispute as to the boundaries of the Culpeper grant, which Lord Fairfax had inherited, the King appointed a Board of Arbitration, and named one Abercrombie, of Georgia, to this board. Lord Fairfax appointed George Washington, and the third member, George Hume, was agreed to by Abercrombie upon recommendation of George Washington. It is seen, therefore, that the associations of the Washington and Hume families were intimate in those days. George Hume, like all the Humes, was an Episcopalian. He was a vestryman, reader, and receiver of the King's rates on tobacco in the parish of St. George's. In 1750 King George II appointed him surveyor of Orange County, and the remainder of his life was spent at Culpeper Courthouse. He died in 1760, three years before his brother, Sir David Hume, 10th Baron of Wedderburn, died in England without issue. Had George Hume outlived his brother, the Baron, he
might have exerted himself to claim the title. But it went to his younger brother, Patrick, who became the 11th Baron of Wedderburn, but, strange to say, also died in 1763 without issue. The Scottish title, if not the estates, should have descended to the eldest son of George Hume of Virginia, but he made no effort to claim it. In 1811, however, George Hume, grandson of the American progenitor, the rightful heir, claimed the barony, but circumstances occurred which delayed the prosecution, and the effort faded away. More recently, however, the Scottish branch of the family entered a claim, and the English courts then decided that the title "rightfully belong to the American family."

Tracing the line from George and Elizabeth (Proctor) Hume to Thomas L. Hume, of the District of Columbia, it is seen that it leads through Francis (2) (1730-1811), who served in the troops of Culpeper County, in the French and Indian War; Armistead (3), who died in 1815; Charles (4), and Thomas L. (5).

Charles and Frances Virginia (Rawlins) Hume, grandparents of Thomas L. Hume (2), were life-long residents of Virginia. They were the parents of thirteen children: 1. Mary Ann, born in 1837, who married (first), December 12, 1864, Henry Clay Brown, of Maryland, who died May 17, 1865. She married (second), July 17, 1867, Charles Camden Brown, a son of Dr. Edward and Mary (Camden) Brown, of Maryland and West Virginia respectively. By her second marriage she was the mother of eight children: Mary Virginia, Carrie Wellford, Ida May, Charles Hume, Bessie Camden, Edward, Harry Lee, and William Mason Brown. 2. Thomas Levi Hume, the father of the subject of this article, of whom further. 3. William Holliday Hume, who was born July 12, 1840, and who died June 12, 1841. 4. Charles Connor Hume, who was born February 2, 1842, and who served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War with the rank of major, being killed in battle, May 20, 1863. 5. Frank Hume, who was born July 21, 1843, and who married Emma Phillips Norris. 6. Barbour Hume, who was born March 16, 1848, and who died in childhood. 7. Morton Hume, who was born June 5, 1850, and who died in childhood. 8. Edward Hall Hume, who was born January 23, 1859, and who died without surviving issue. 9. Fannie Ella. 10. Virginia Rawlins. 11. Eliza. 12. Priscilla. 13. Sue Hume.

Thomas Levi Hume (1), the father of Thomas Levi Hume (2), was born at Culpeper, Virginia, October 28, 1837, and died at Washington, District of Columbia, October 23, 1881. He was for many years a prominent resident of the District of Columbia, where he built a country place, known as "Runlaw." He married at Christ Church, Georgetown, District of Columbia, April 17, 1866, Annie Graham Pickrell, who was born December 2, 1844, and who died December 17, 1895. Thomas Levi and Annie Graham (Pickrell) Hume were the parents of seven children: 1. Adolphus Pickrell Hume, who was born March 27, 1868, at Georgetown and who died in Mexico in 1900, leaving one daughter, Mary Elizabeth Hume. 2. Thomas Levi Hume, who was born at "Runlaw," August 18, 1870, and who died in infancy. 3. Charles Hume, who was born at Washington, October 29, 1871, and was educated at the University of Virginia. He is a veteran of the World War, during which he served in the United States Remount Service with the rank of captain. He was married at St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, Washington, January 23, 1902, to Sally Cox, born at Georgetown, October 29, 1872, a daughter of Thomas Campbell and Margaret (Robinson) Cox. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hume, who make their home in Washington at No. 1509 Twentieth Street, are the parents of five children: Margaret Robinson, born at Washington, March 2, 1903, who married at Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia, December 30, 1924, Abdullah Khan Entezam, who was born at Teheran, Persia, March 26, 1897, and who at the time of his marriage to Miss Hume was Secretary of the Imperial Persian Legation in Washington; Annie Graham, born in Washington, January 4, 1906; Laurence Benet Hume, who was born at Washington, September 24, 1900, and who died there, September 30, 1900; Sally Cox Hume, who was born in Washington, March 17, 1912, and who died there at the age of six years; Laurence Benet Hume, who was born in Washington, August 13, 1917. 4. Thomas Levi Hume (2), of whom further. 5. Graham Watkins Hume, who was born at Washington, November 23, 1875, and who married (first), June 7, 1899, Laura Belle Willett, who was born in Washington, August 1, 1876; and who died at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, February 19, 1916. By this marriage Mr. Graham Watkins Hume was the father of three children: Graham Willett, born in Washington, May 30, 1900; Helen Watkins, born in Washington, April 3, 1903; and George Graham Hume, born in Washington, February 21,
1907. Graham Watkins Hume married (second) Ethel Wise, and by this marriage is the father of one son, William. 6. Rawlins Hume, who was born at "Tunlaw," Washington, July 9, 1878, died in Washington, District of Columbia, August 1, 1928. He married at Christ Church, Georgetown, District of Columbia, June 10, 1901, Elizabeth Booth Orme, who was born at Georgetown, June 25, 1880, a daughter of William B. and Julia (Lockwood) Orme. Mr. and Mrs. Rawlins Hume made their home in Washington at No. 2235 Q Street, and were the parents of four daughters: Julia Lockwood, born in Georgetown, November 30, 1902; Elizabeth Rawlins, born in Georgetown, August 6, 1906; Jeanette Tilsley, born in Georgetown, March 8, 1908; and Mary Murray Hume, born at Cape May, New Jersey, July 23, 1911. 7. Mary Elizabeth Hume, who was born at Washington, March 28, 1880, and who married (first) at Georgetown, District of Columbia, April 3, 1902, Charles Hedges James. By this marriage she is the mother of two children: Charles Hedges James, Jr., born at Georgetown, March 28, 1903, and Nancy James, born in Washington, March 3, 1906. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Hume) James married (second) at Washington, December 4, 1920, Frederick Clinton Baird, and is now a resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Thomas Levi Hume (2) was born in Washington, November 18, 1873, the fourth son and child of Thomas Levi Hume (1) and Annie Graham (Pickrell) Hume. He received his early education in the public schools and then attended an academy and the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, from where he went to Columbian University, now George Washington University, from which he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. However, he has never practiced law, but has devoted himself to investment banking, being one of the well-known stock and bond brokers of Washington. He is a member of the Masonic Order, the Sons of the American Revolution, and Sigma Chi Fraternity. His religious affiliations are with the Protestant Episcopal church, and more particularly with St. Margaret's Episcopal Church of Washington.

Mr. Hume married at the Rectory of Trinity Church, Georgetown, District of Columbia, June 10, 1896, Laura Gertrude Cox, who was born at Georgetown, September 5, 1875, a daughter of John F. and Laura Gertrude (Welch) Cox. Thomas Levi Hume (2) and Laura Gertrude (Cox) Hume are the parents of seven children: 1. Thomas Levi Hume (3), who was born at Georgetown, September 17, 1897, and who served during the World War in the Aviation Corps of the United States Naval Reserve Force with the rank of Ensign. He married at Christ Church, Dayton, Ohio, January 16, 1923, Ruth Carolyn Fitzgerald. Mrs. Thomas Levi Hume, who was born at Dayton, Ohio, November 28, 1901, is the daughter of the Hon. Roy Gerald Fitzgerald, Member of Congress from the Third Ohio District and a prominent lawyer, and his wife, Caroline L. (Wetecamp) Fitzgerald. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Levi Hume are the parents of one daughter, Suzanne Lee Hume, who was born at Washington, May 6, 1924, and one son, Thomas Levi (4), born at Wesley Heights (Old Tunlaw Farm), July, 1929. 2. John Rawlins Hume, who was born August 13, 1898, and who died August 7, 1899. 3. Charles Watkins Hume, who was born in Washington, February 1, 1900, and who served during the World War in the Aviation Corps of the United States Army. Now engaged at the First National Bank of Chicago. 4. James Pickrell Hume, who was born at Washington, June 4, 1901, member of the law firm of Wilkinson, Huxley, Byron & Knight of Chicago. 5. Mary Virginia Hume, who was born at Washington, July 23, 1902. She married Lewis Wainwright Voigt, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has one son, Lewis W., Jr. 6. Richard Hume, who was born in Washington, July 7, 1905, married to Charlotte Rhodes Hanna, December 27, 1927. She is the daughter of Daniel Rhodes Hanna. 7. Patrick Henry Hume, who was born at Washington, March 17, 1911, married Elizabeth McKnew, March 18, 1929. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Levi Hume and their family make their residence at No. 2113 S Street, Washington.

LANDON CABELL WILLIAMSON—For almost half a century one of the leaders of the legal profession in Washington, District of Columbia, a city in which that profession is represented by so many very able men that to be ranked amongst the leaders is high praise, indeed, the late Landon Cabell Williamson was prominently and most effectively active in many other directions, too. Having joined the Masonic Order in his early manhood, he rose to very high rank in it, and especially that branch of it devoted to the interests of the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of Masons, the Order of the Eastern Star, received for a very long period of years his un-