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The title derives from the family home, Kames House in Berwickshire, where he was born and privately educated. Modest family circumstances meant that Kames, unlike his intellectual contemporaries, did not attend university, but went to Edinburgh to train as a solicitor instead. He qualified for admission to the Faculty of Advocates in and in due course established a successful legal practice. In he was raised to the bench of the Court of Session, and in rose still higher with his elevation to the High Court of Justiciary. A year later, through his wife, he inherited an estate at Blair Drummond. As a result his material circumstances changed radically, and he became a wealthy man. Despite lacking a university education, Kames was a central figure in the flowering of intellectual life now known as the Scottish Enlightenment. He was in constant debate with his eccentric fellow judge Lord Monboddo. Kames himself wrote and published a great deal. Much of it was related to the law, but he also wrote copiously on philosophy, history, literary criticism and religion. His major work, entitled *Sketches on the History of Man*, was published in when Kames was 78 years of age. Contrary to what might be supposed from the title, this work comprised two large volumes on which, he declared, he had been working for over 30 years. In it Kames traces human history through four distinct stagesâ€”from hunter-gatherers, to animal herders, agriculturalists, and finally urban dwellers and seafarers. They thereby laid the foundations for two emerging subjects -- anthropology and sociology â€” and they exercised considerable influence on the shape and direction of these subjects for several generations. A second edition of the *Sketches* appeared in and a considerably expanded third edition in The book was translated into German and published in America. It continued to be printed into the nineteenth century. In comparison to Hume and Smith, or even Reid, he fell into near total neglect. The *Elements* in particular has prompted a re-examination of some issues in aesthetics in which, arguably, Kames offers more plausible solutions than Hume. Kames lived to what was for his time an unusually old age and remained active until shortly before his death. Gordon Graham, Princeton Theological Seminary.

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Sketches of the History of Man: In Three Volumes (Natural Law and Enlightenment Classics) Amazon Divided into three books, Kames's Sketches of the History of Man draws together the concerns of many of his earlier works.

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