RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

Compiled by

A. STANLEY CARRUTHERS, F.S.A.(Scot.), and R. C. REID

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FOREWORD

By A. STANLEY CARRUTHERS

ARLY in 1924 the present writer privately published in duplicated form a limited edition of some thirty copies of "Carruthers Records". The Records set out in chronological form, under the headings of the respective families, all the published records then available together with certain documents in private ownership. The Carruthers families dealt with were of Mouswald, Holmains, Dormont, (Over) Denbie, Braes and Langholm and Carlisle. No attempt was made to codify the items in any way and they appeared simply in date order.

Towards the end of 1930 it was decided, in view of the persistent demands for copies of the above-mentioned "Carruthers Records", that the book be thoroughly revised and issued as a limited subscription edition, and printed.

Mr. R. C. Reid, whose father, the late Mr. J. J. Reid, had written the paper on "The Barony of Mouswald and its Barons" which was published in the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland" for the year 1888-9, kindly consented to read the proofs, but at a later date offered to re-cast the chapter on Holmains. At the same time it was decided to re-write the whole of the Mouswald chapter and add an Introduction and Notes on a number of other Carruthers families not previously covered.

The work entailed proved to be very considerably greater than was at first anticipated. Mr. Reid set himself a large task which he has most faithfully and diligently discharged. He has calendared the whole of the Writs in the Holmains Charter Chest, other than those previously published by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and also noted all the Carruthers Sasines and Testaments known, from the earliest dates available—a noteworthy achievement involving much time and labour. He also prepared Calendars, or inspected the contents, of other collections of Carruthers family papers in private ownership.

Having amassed all available information, Mr. Reid entirely re-wrote the chapter on Holmains, incorporating the writer's researches amongst the published records. In a similar manner other families, cadets of, or connected with, Holmains, were dealt with and Notes prepared on the Carruthers families of Dormont, Butterwhat, Nether Denbie (or Whitecroft), (Over) Denbie, Warmanbie, Isle, Dyke, &c.

FOREWORD

Generally, apart from the Introduction, and the chapters on Mouswald, Woodfoot and Milne, Braes, and Langholm and Carlisle, the procedure adopted has been for Mr. Reid's researches into the unpublished records to be combined with the writer's investigations of published records. The chapters, other than those mentioned above, have been written by Mr. Reid and verified by the writer from the extracts made. The Charts and the Index have been prepared by the writer hereof.

Thanks are due from both Authors to all those who have assisted by making information available, communicating notes, genealogical data, &c. Special thanks, however, are due to the following:

- (i) to the late Rev. William Mitchell-Carruthers, M.A., for granting access to the Holmains Charter Chest;
- (ii) to Lieut.-Col. Francis J. Carruthers of Dormont for permitting the "History of the Dormont Titles" to be published;
- (iii) to S. W. Carruthers, Esq., M.D., Ph.D., of Norwood, and William R. Carruthers, Esq., of Brooklands, Lockerbie, for communicating information relating to the Woodfoct and Milne and other families, and notes prepared by George Carruthers Thompson, Esq.
- (iv) to the Executors of the late John Carruthers, Esq., solicitor, for permitting use of the "Genealogical Chart of the Family of Carruthers of Breckonhill" in the preparation of the Chart now shown, but which has been supplemented by further information hitherto not available;
- (v) to Major Carleton Salkeld of Holm Hill, Dalston, for allowing access to the early titles of Wormanbie and thereby enabling a more adequate and authoritative account of that family to be written.

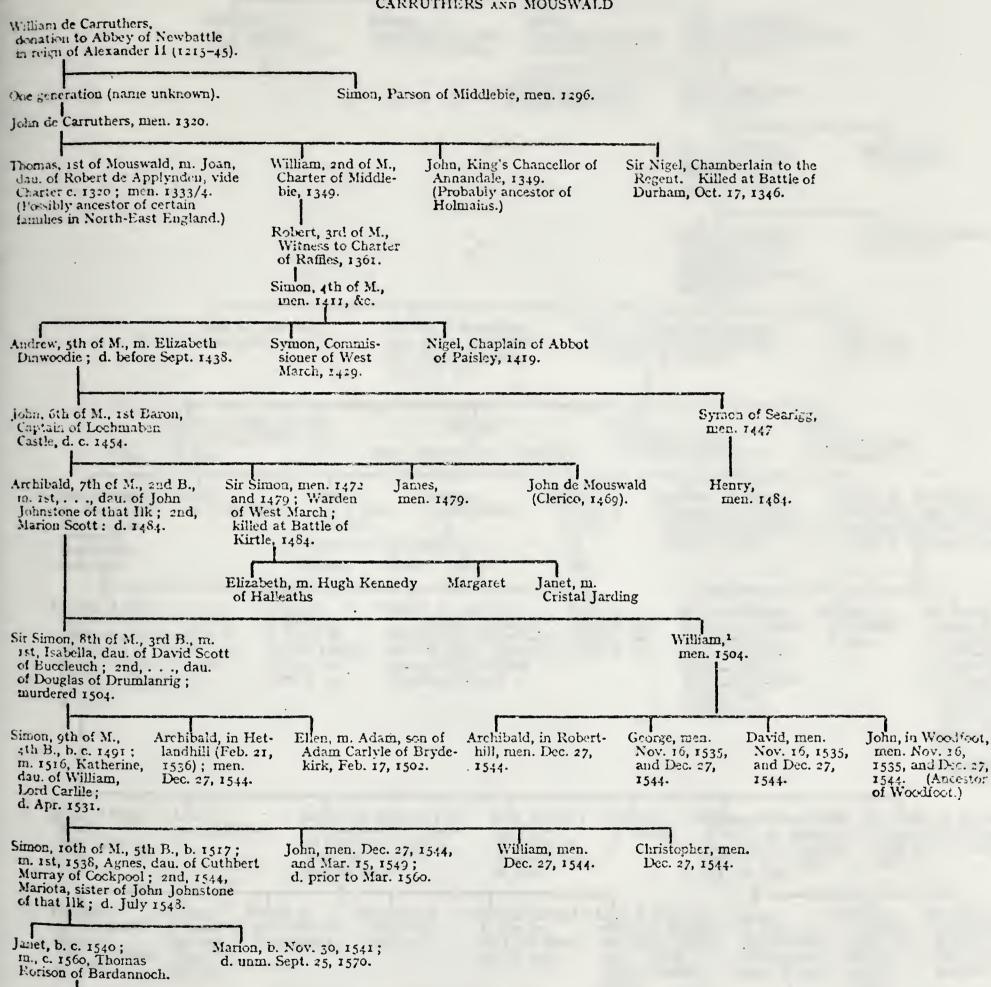
Thanks are also due to G. Murray Carruthers, Esq., of Foxfield, Broughton-in-Furness, who in the initial stages acted as "sales-manager" and originally suggested the printing of the present edition; to William Angus, Esq., Curator of the Historical Department of the General Register House, Edinburgh, for valuable help and assistance willingly given; and finally to all those who have so readily come forward to make this publication of the "Records of the Carruthers Family" possible.

October, 1933. A. S. C.

¹ The "Introduction" has been included in order to give readers who are not conversant with the conditions of life which obtained on the Border in the Middle Ages some background for the history of the various Carruthers families. The latter part of the "Introduction" (pp. 41–47) is not the result of original research, but is a brief summary based on the researches published in R. B. Armstrong's "History of Liddesdale" and the books mentioned in the Bibliography (at the end of that chapter), to which reference should be made for further information.

GENEALOGICAL CHARTS

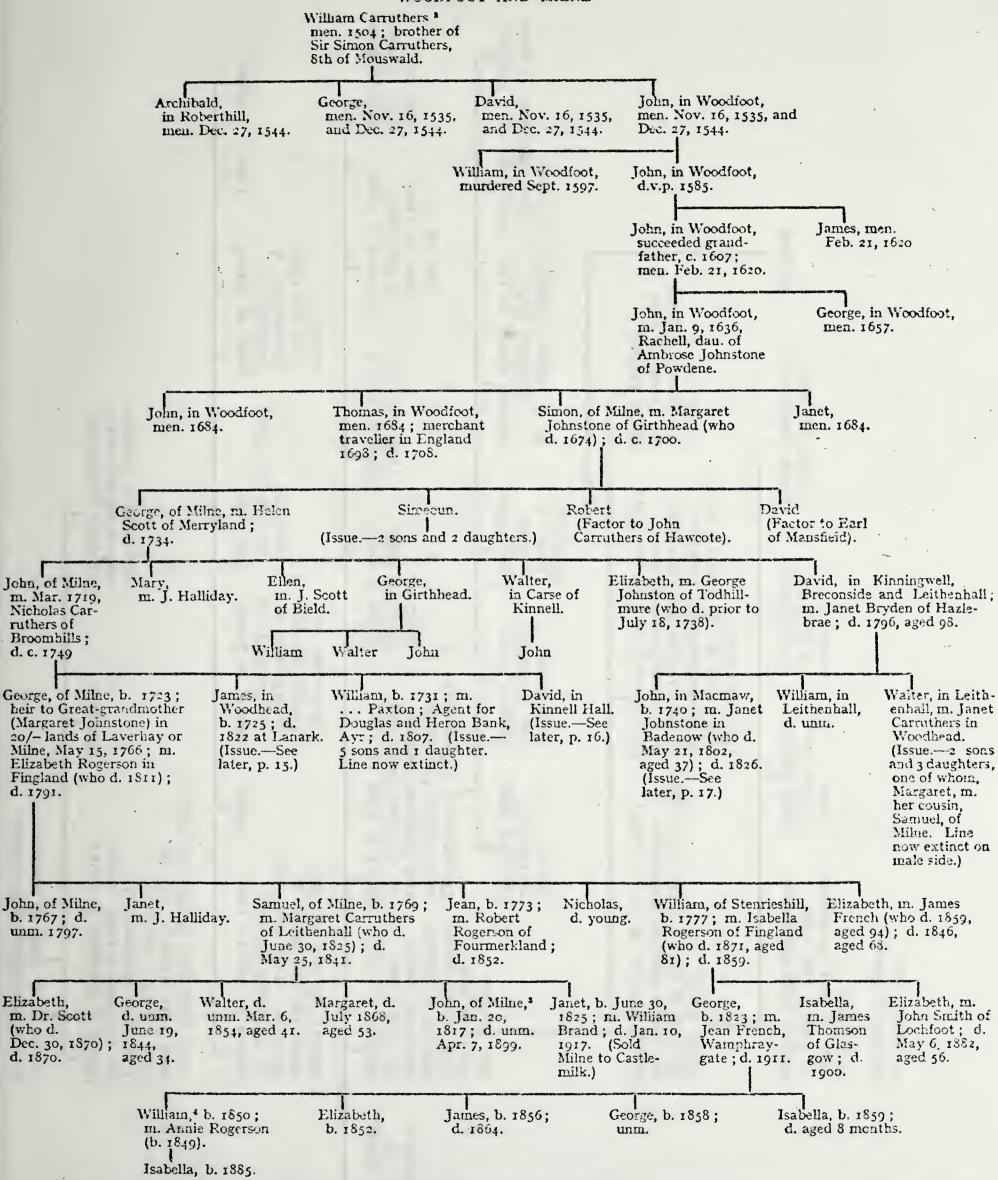
CARRUTHERS AND MOUSWALD



¹ See Chapter III.

Issue.

WOODFOOT AND MILNE 1



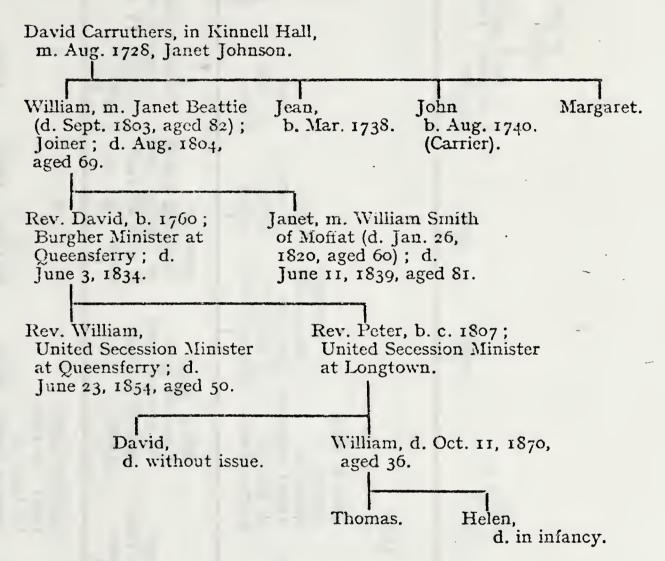
¹ The latter part of this genealogical Chart, and the Charts of Woodhead, Kinnell Hall, and Macmaw, have been prepared in the main from notes kindly communicated by S. W. Carruthers, Esq., M.D., Ph.D., and William Carruthers, Esq., of Brooklands, Lockerbie.

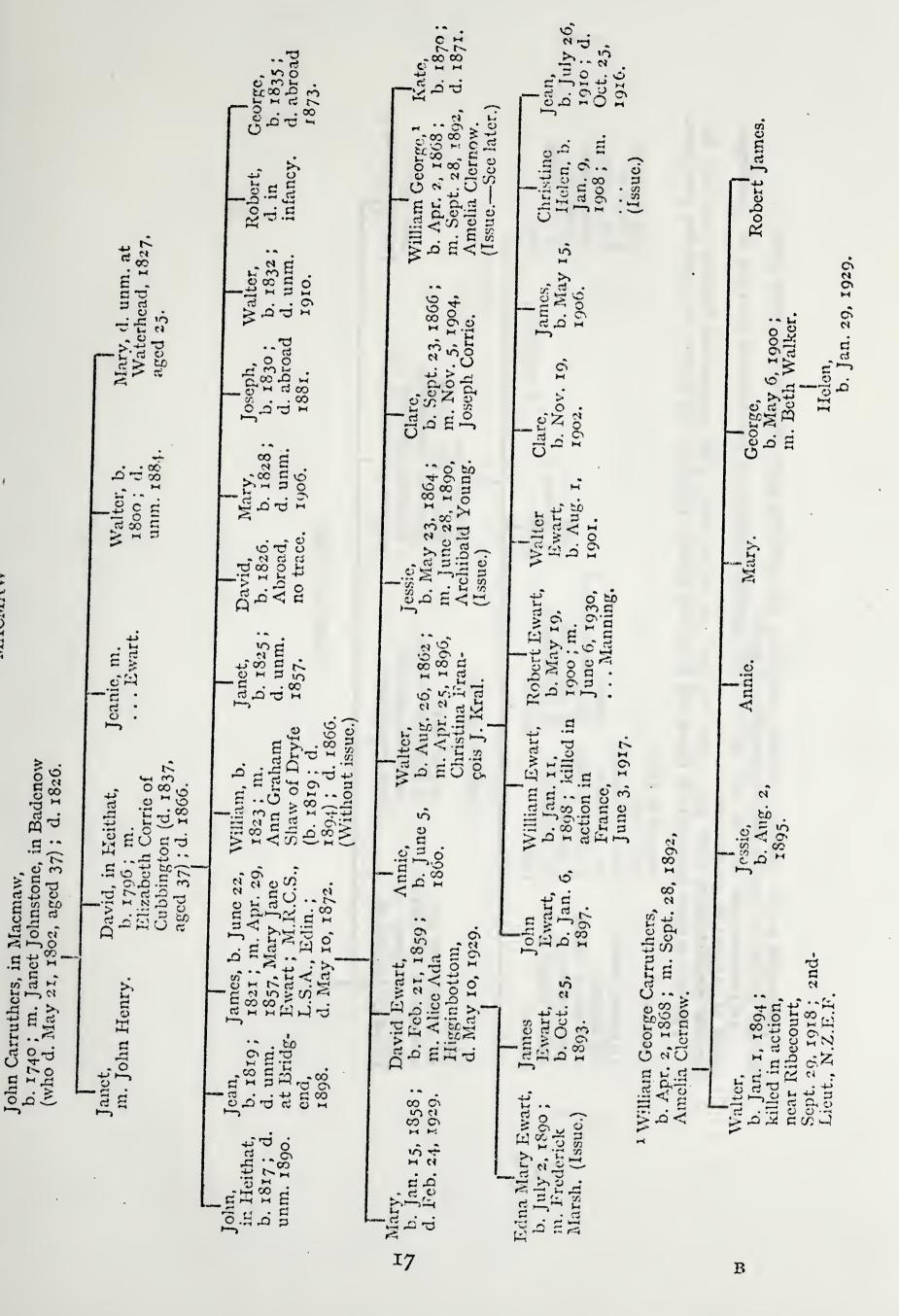
^{*} See Chapter III.

* Milne family now extinct in male line.

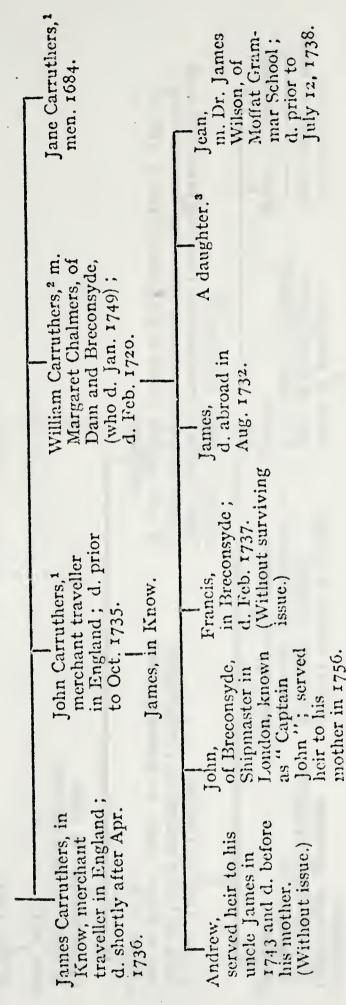
⁴ At Leithenhall, 1879-87; farmed Breckenside, 1887-92; at Stenrieshill, 1892-1918, when let and removed to Brooklands, Lockerbie.

KINNELL HALL





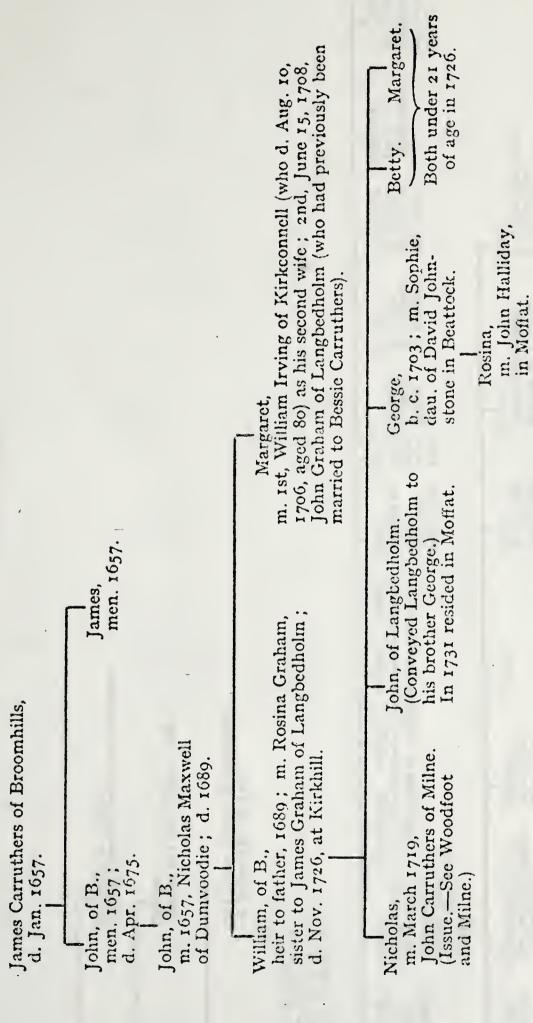
BRECONSYDE



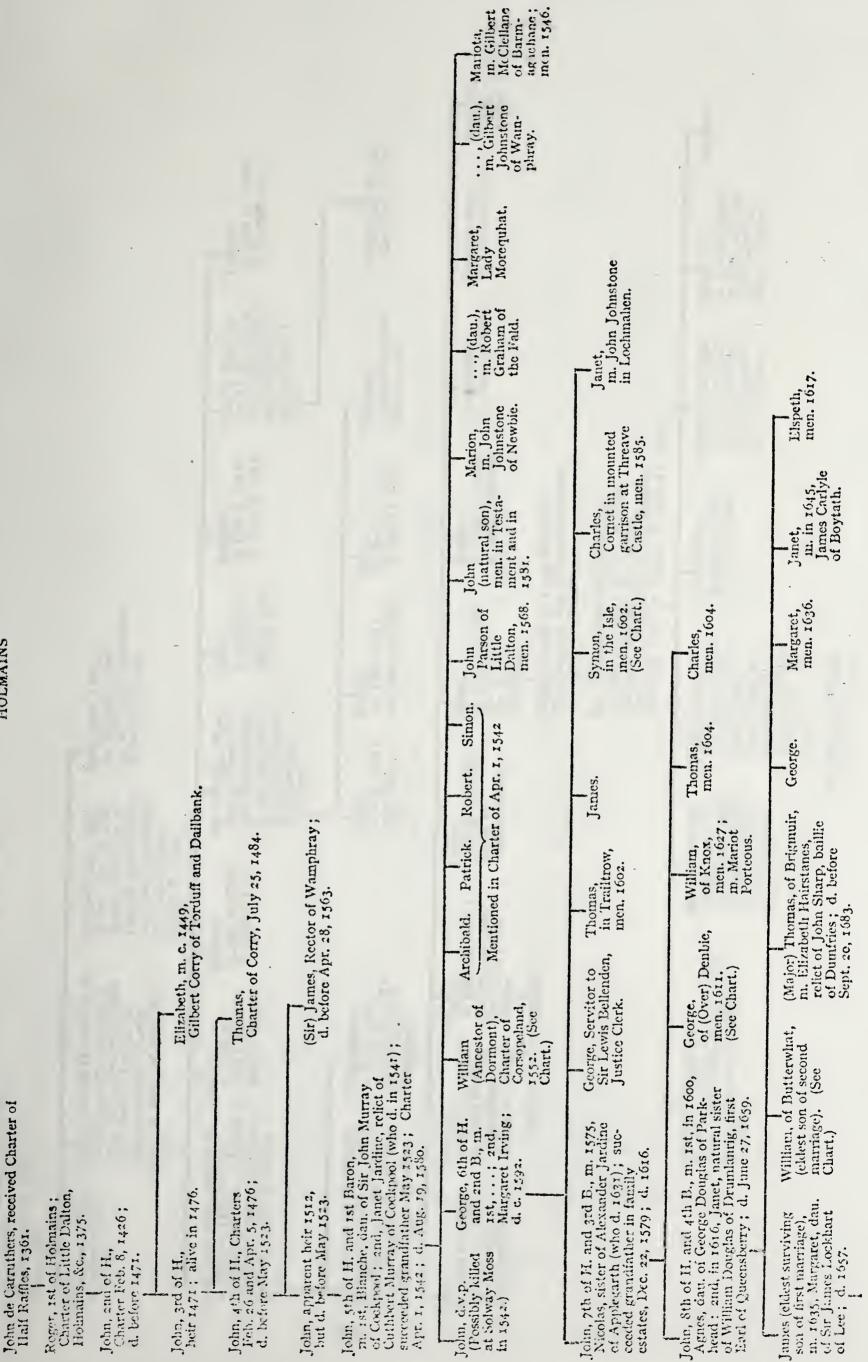
the children, are mentioned (Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix, p. 594). This William may possibly have been the father of William of Breconsyde.

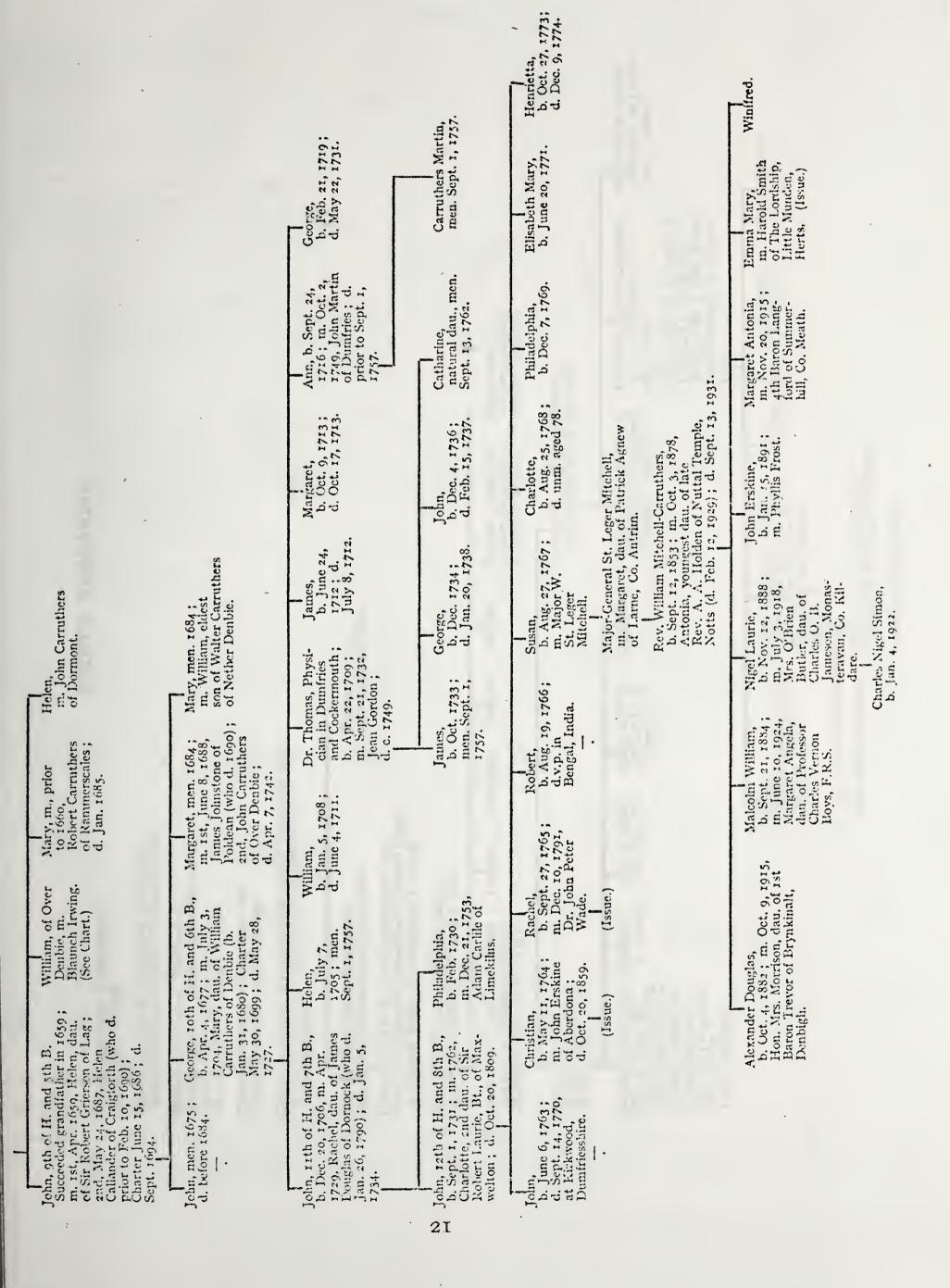
² In Dumfries Reg. Sas., fo. 126, Feb. 15, 1743, William Carruthers of Breconsyde is described as " immediate younger brother to deceast James Carruthers in Know."

³ According to Mr. George Carruthers Thompson, this unnamed elder daughter was called Janet.



¹ Prepared in the main from notes of George Carruthers Thompson communicated by S. W. Carruthers, Esq., M.D., Ph.D. See also Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. x, fo. 67, and Vol. xi, fo. 72; and Dumfries Testaments, Vol. ii (Feb. 26, 1657).

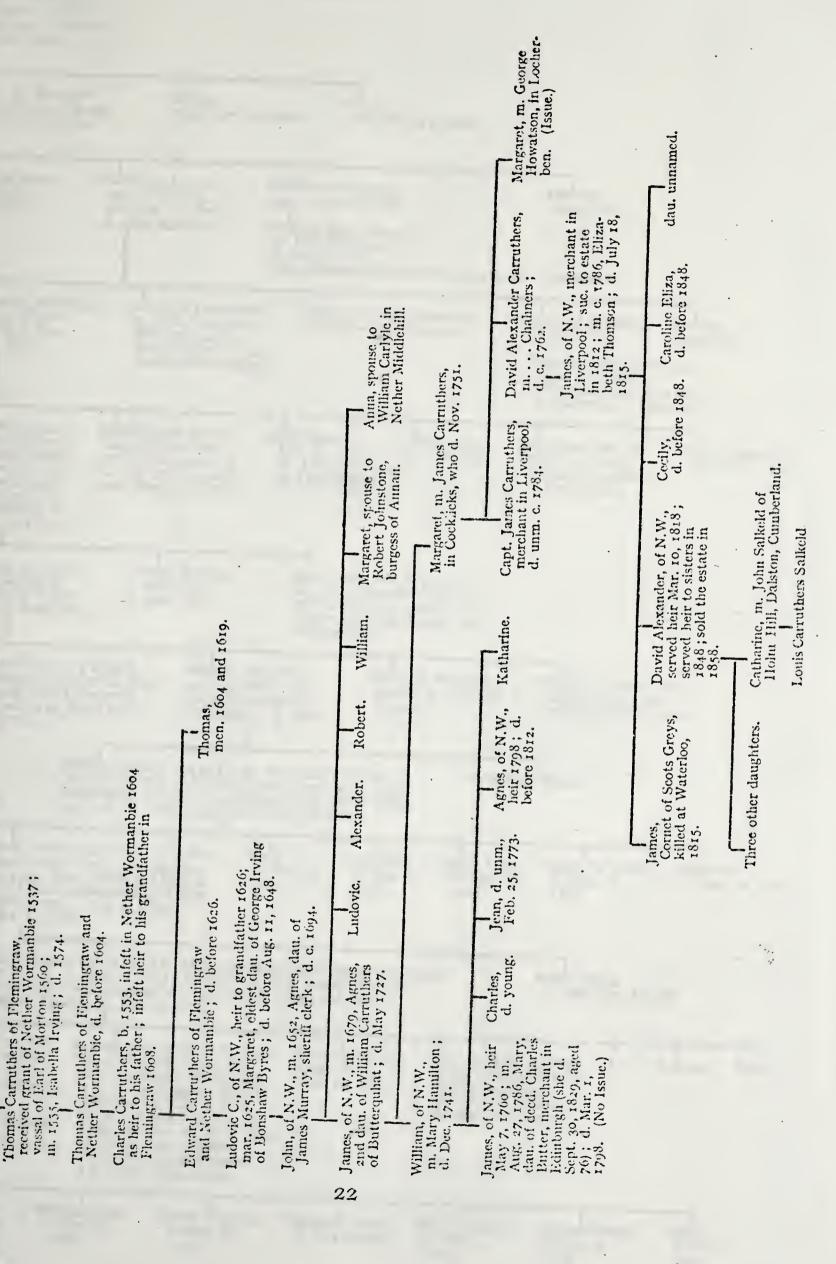




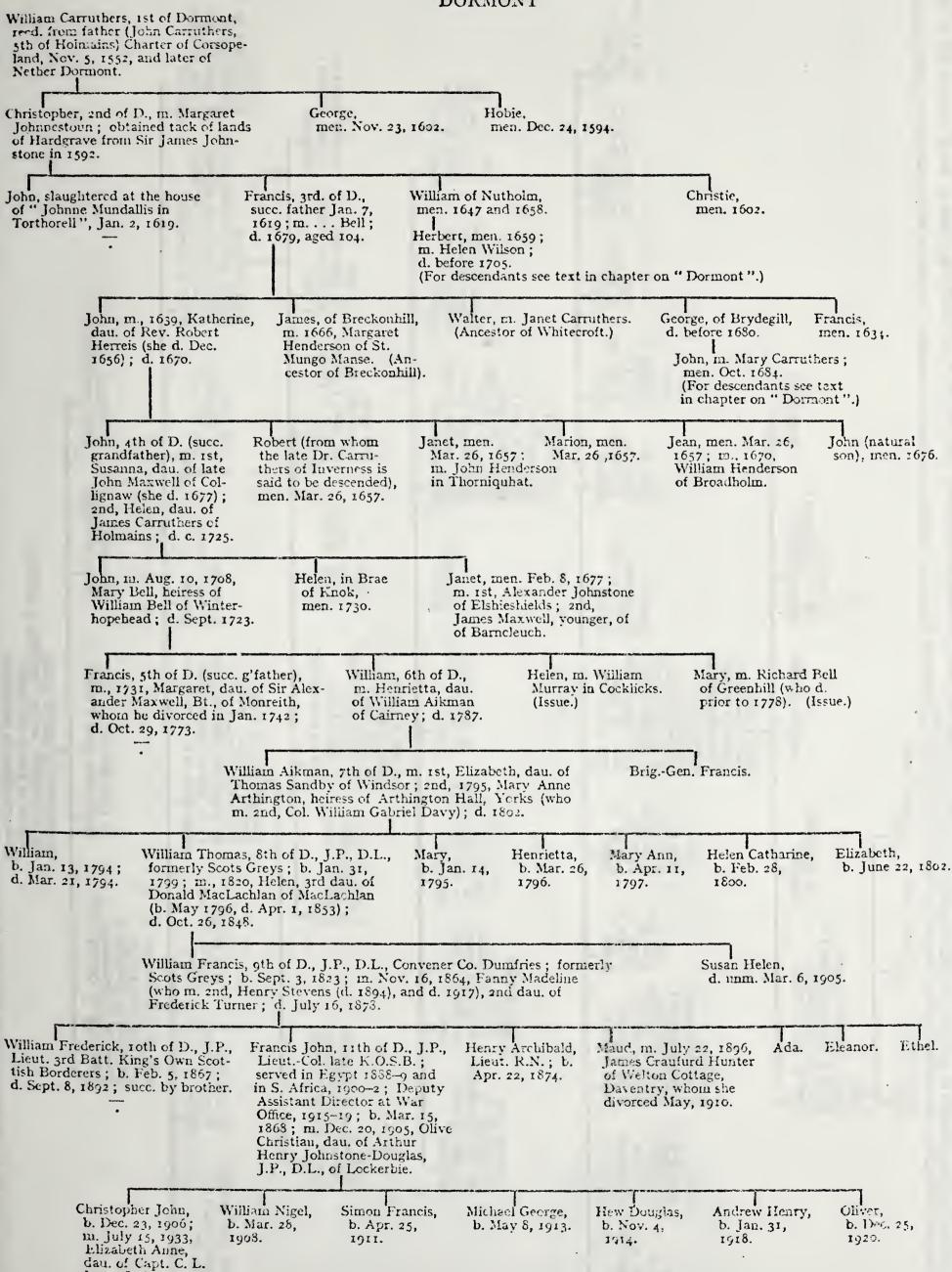
Roger Carruthers of Plemingraw, infeft 1501; surrendered claim to Nether Wormanbie 1537.

Thomas.

Thomas Carruthers of Flemingraw, infeft 1492; d. 1498.



DORMONT



Long, R.A.

BRECKONHILI

Margaret, b. Sept. 29, 1728; m. Sept. 23, 1756, Thomas Bell of Ecclefechan; d. Christian, b. Jan. 10, 1764; d. unm. May 1784. Apr. 1808. 1803; m. Robert Irving of Locker-bie; d. Jan. 27, 1889. Janet, b. June b. Jan. 30, 1726; m. 1746, Margaret Moffat of Wysebie Hill (d. Apr. 1793, aged 79); d. Feb. 3, 1818. Jannet, b. Oct. 20, 1760; m. John Bell; d. 1316. James, in Howeleugh, b. Sept. 15, 1801; d. Feb. 19, 1855. (Writer in Annan.) William, 3 other daughters, all married. b. Mar. 27, 1756; in. James Little of b. Dec. 19, 1723; m. . . . Nicholson; d. Sept. 1779. Howeleugh; d. John, b. July 26, 1798; heir to brother James in Mar. 1821; rn. Jan. 29, 1822, Janiet, dau. of John Blacklock of Albie (b. Feb. 2, 1804; d. at Workington, Mar. 1835. Margaret, Jan. 30, 1881); d. May 8, 1878. Janet, men. 1684 (married). Mary, b. Oct. 27, 1753; d. unra. Jan. 1, b. Apr. 13, 1721; John, d. in infancy. James Carruthers of Breckonhill, (2nd son of Francis Carruthers, 3rd of Dormont), m. 1666, Margaret (? Susanne) Henderson of St. Mungo Manse. d.s.p. 1792. John (of Howcleugh), b. Aug. 1, 1751; m. 1787, Janet Schoolar of Lockerbie James, b. Jan. 25, 1795; d. Oct. 5, 1819. 1719; heir to brother John; m. Helen, dau. and one of the heiresses of Andrew Carru-Walter, men. Nov. 5, 1754; d. 1765, aged 94. Christopher, of B., b. Aug. 19, (b. Feb. 1766; d. thers of Nutholin; d. at Nutholm, Dec. 10, 1798. d. Mar. 8, 1815. Mar. 7, 1834) b. Sept. 27, 1793; m. William Bell of Stockbridge; d. Oct. 26, 1858. b. Oct. 26, 1748; m. William Rae; d. Feb. 10, 1831. Christian, James, b. Aug. 9, 1718; d. in infancy. James, of B., m. Oct. 28, 171 Mary, dau. of Christopher Carruthers of Hardriggs (d. Apr. 1774, aged 84); d. Mary,
b. May 24, 1792;
m. Robert Cairns
of Prince Edward
Island; d. Apr. 1774, aged 84); d Aug. 16, 1729, aged 60. Sept. 5, 1868. Walter, b. Oct. 23, 1716; John and his mother in 1803 and to his father in 1814. ir to his uncle d. unm. 1750. Margaret, b. Mar. 27, 1788; m. John Carruthers of Gedgills; d. Apr. 10, 18, William, he John, of B., b. Aug. 20, 1715; d. unm. Nov. 8, 1738.

Jean, b. Mar. 30, 1847; d. Apr. 11, 1847. Margaret, b. Mar. 24, 1844; m. John Graham. David, b. May 14, 1842. Mary, b. Apr. 23, 1838; m. William Ewart; d. Dec. 6, Maud Boyd, William, b. July 27, 1835; d. Jan. 19, 1868. Janet Blacklock, m. . . . Robbinette; d. Jan. 1892. Elspeth, b. July 2, 1833; m. Thomas Beattie. 1831; m. May 1856, Martha, dau. of Richard Boyd of Twathats Farm, Ruthwell (Deputy (assumed name of ceeding brother in Albie Estate). Jemima Graham, Blacklock on suchn, b. Nov. 12, Postmaster, Foronto) b. Sept. 15, 1829; m. John John-ston; d. Feb. 11, William, d. in infancy. Francis, b. Feb. 14, 1828; d. Aug. 21, 1828. John, m. Aug. 11, 1899, Jean, dau. of Alexander Boyd, of Toronto (b. Feb. 12, 1873). (Solicitor, Tillsonname of Black-lock), b. June 3, 1826; m. June 4, 1876, Janet Bell of Nutholmshuw; d. Sept. 23, 1882. James (assumed nn, May 22, 1900. No issue. Joh b Janet, b. Dec. 15, 1814; m. Andrew Carruthers; d. Sept. 6, 1850. John, b. Feb. 26, 1823; d. July 2, 1830.

The Genealogical Table of the Breckonhill family has been extracted in the main from a "Genealogical Chart of the Family of Carruthers of Breckonhill" (printed for private circulation at Annan in 1903) by permission of the Executors of Mr. John Carruthers, Solicitor, the writer of the booklet.
Note.—James Carruthers (b. June 3, 1825; d. Sept. 23, 1882), son of John Carruthers and Jannet Blacklock of Albic Chapel, elder daughter of John Blacklock of Albic (b. Feb. 2, 1804; d. Jan. 30, 1881), and property of Albic Chapel. His successors, when succeeding to the property of Albic Chapel. His successors, when succeeding to the entail. b. June 14, 1904.

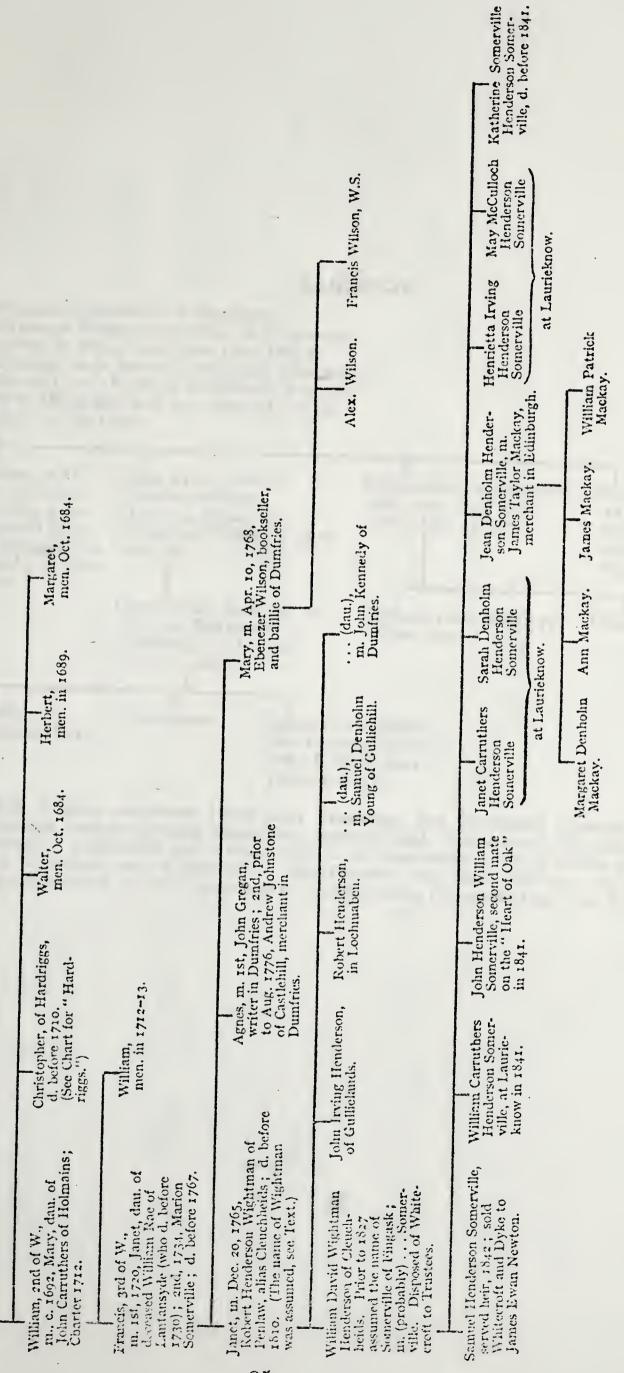
b. Jan. 10, 1903.

John

NETHER DENBIE OR WHITECROFT

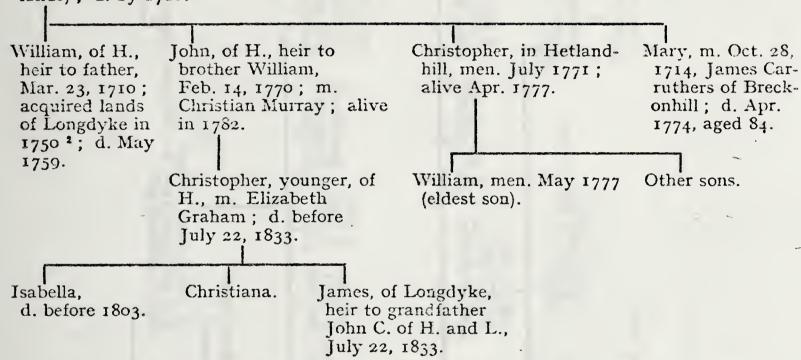
(formerly Nether Denbie), 3rd of Dormont),

Walter Carruthers of Whitecroft (3rd son of Francis Carruthers, m. Janet Carruthers.



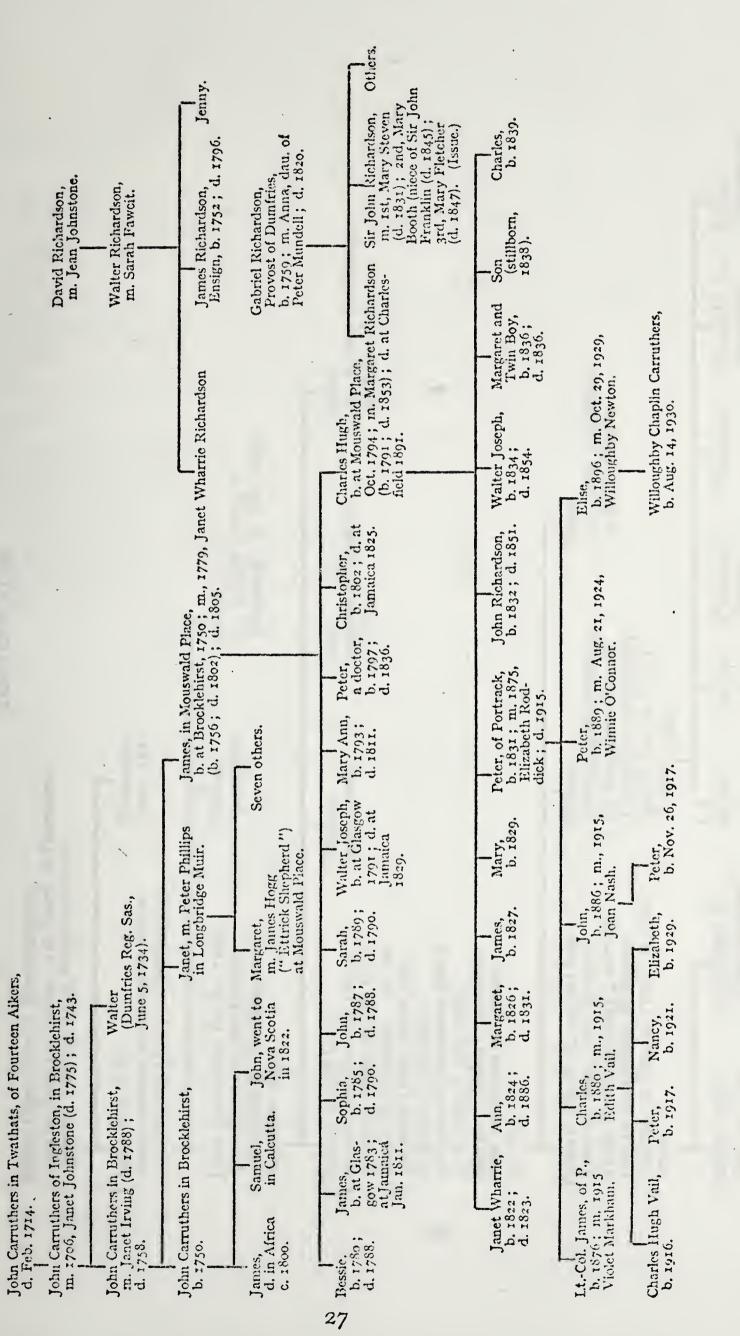
HARDRIGGS 1

Christopher Carruthers of Hardriggs, (2nd son of Walter Carruthers of Whitecroft), acquired in Feb. 1696, from John Bell of Hardriggs, 40/— land of Northfield with Annan Aiker and 40/— lands of Gullielands (viz. 20/ land of Hardriggs and 20/— land of Gullielands); d. by 1710.

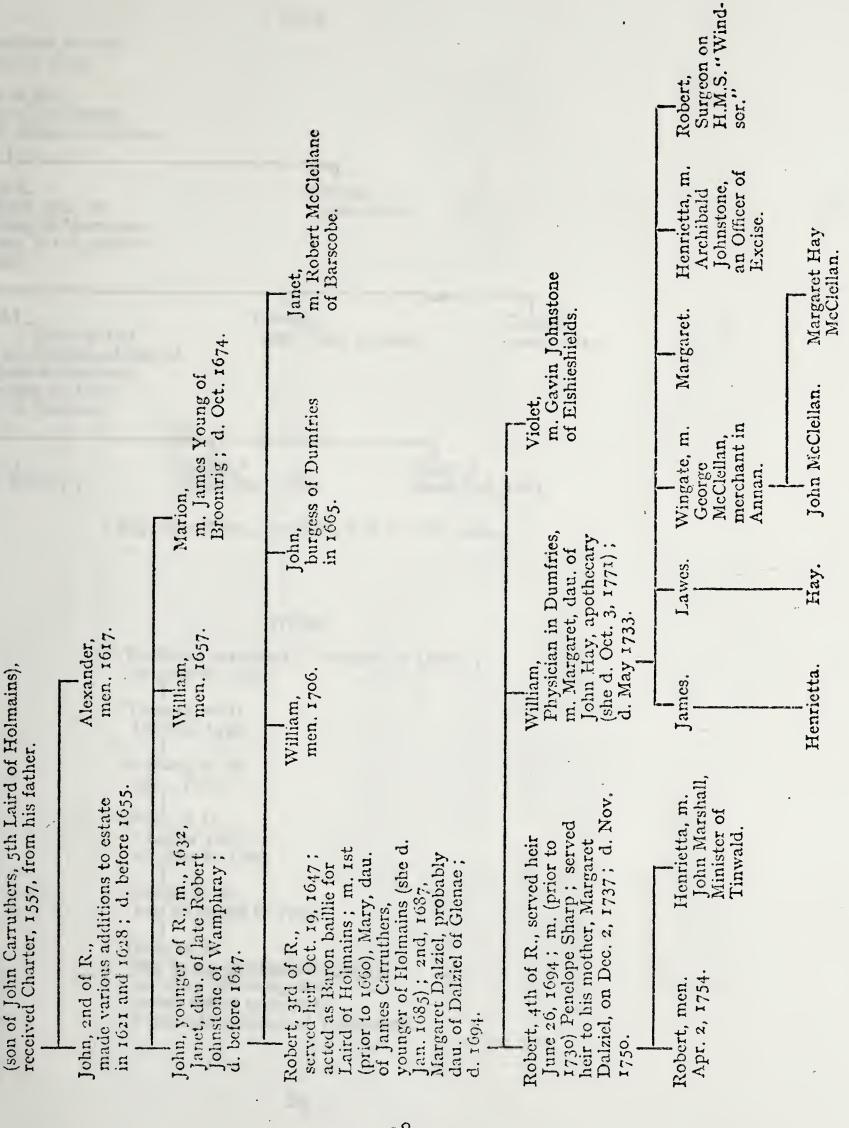


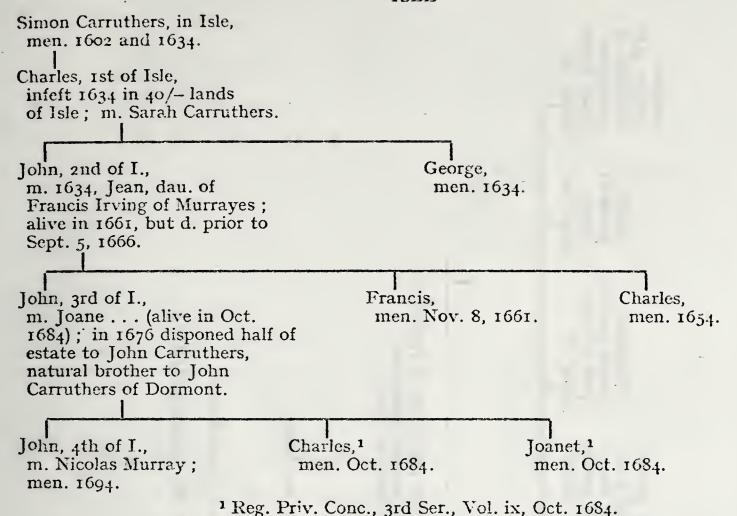
¹ The Estates comprised (inter alia) Hardriggs and Northfield (Annan), Robbiewhat [or Seariggs (comprehending Langdyke, Seariggs and Christielies)], Howthat and Raffles (Mouswald). Gullielands (20/- land) was in the possession of John Irving of Gullielands, surgeon in Annan, on feu charter in 1769 (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. xx; fo. 182).

² Acquired from Robert Carruthers of Rammerscales (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. xvi, fo. 75).



Simon Carruthers of Rammerscales





DYKE

Rolland Carruthers, "younger in Dyke", d. prior to 1576. Thomas, of D., Charter 1576. Rolland, of D., men. 1667. John, of D., Charter 1667; d. prior to 1706. George, of D., heir to father in 1706. John, of D., heir to grandfather in 1736; m. Mary Bratton; disponed estate in 1740 to Francis Carruthers of Whitecroft.

FAMILIES OF BUTTERQUHAT

John Carruthers of Butterquhat, men. 1558.

m. Gelis Wilson, who was alive in 1654; George, of B.,

d. before 1654.

m. Janet Carruthers; in 1654 sold property to William Carruthers, George, of B.,

second son of John Carruthers of Holmains.

m. c. 1667, Sarah Maxwell; purchased B. in 1654. William Carruthers of Butterquhat (2nd son of John Carruthers, 8th of Holmains);

Rev. Andrew Hamilton, Duke of Queensberry; m. Mar. 3, 1693, Katherine, 2nd dau. of Halleaths and Roberthill; Chamberlain to minister at Middlebie (she d. Oct. 1747); James, of Over John, of B., infeft hole in 1608 and superior, George resigned lands Holmains; m. into hands of Carruthers of Jean Riddell.

Nether War-

manbie.

apparent of Carruthers,

Agnes, m. 1679, James

Helen, m.

Janet, m.

ticed to Robert Robert, appren-

frving of James

lames Scott of Aug. 26, 1674,

fohnstone.

chant in Edinburgh, Mar. 5,

1673.

Liddell, mer-

Hollie.

Henrietta, nr. Mungo

William, chirurgeon and burgess of Edinburgh;

d. at Lockerbie,

Mar. 1735.

d. Sept. 1721.

Johnstone, vintner in Lockerbie; heir portioner in 1753 to her

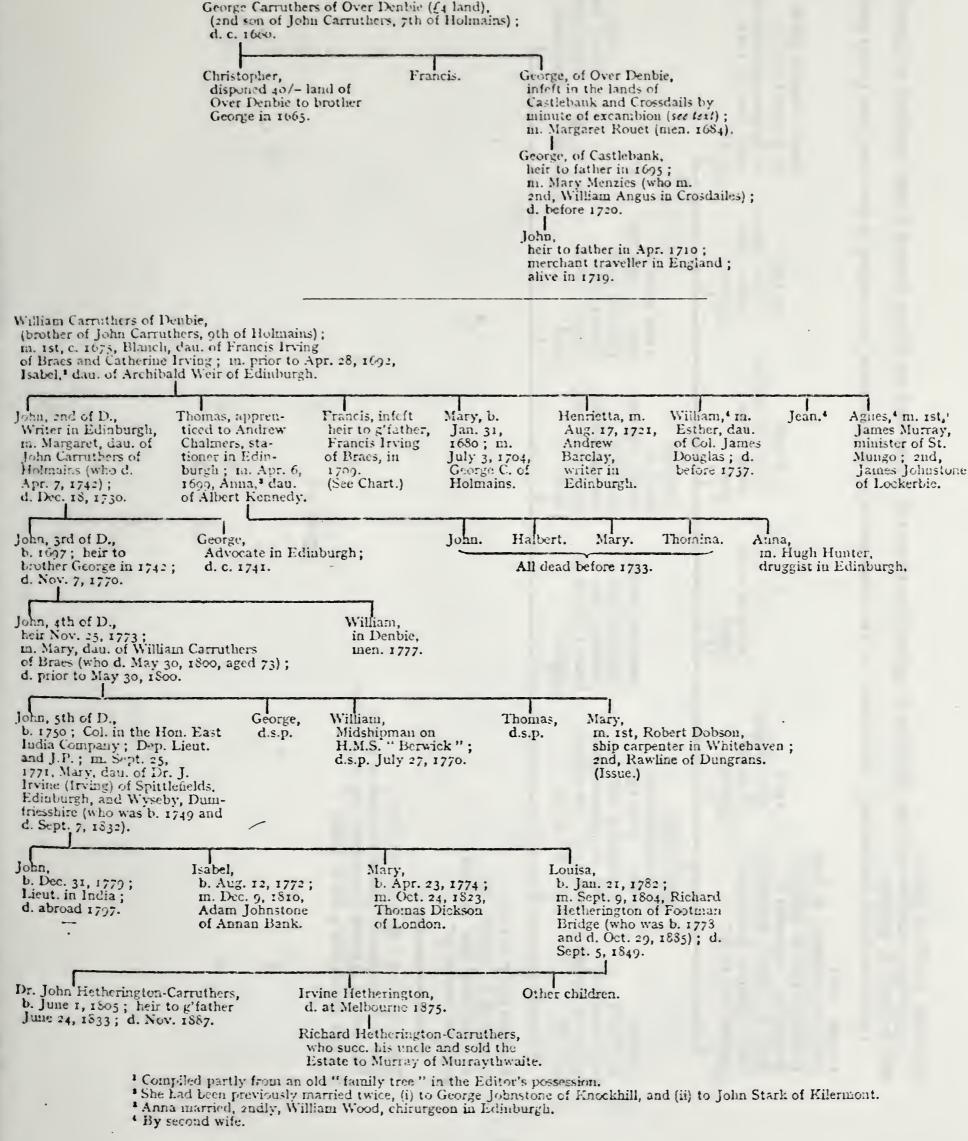
uncle, John Carruthers of Butterquhat.

1702; m., prior to Robson in Robert. 1730, Archibald Margaret, men.

m. William Halliday, merchant traveller in Anna, men. 1702; . England.

30

FAMILIES OF OVER DENBIE 1



Francis Carruthers, rst of Braes, (3rd son of William Carruthers, 1st of Denbie), heir to grandfather, Francis Irving of Braes, June 18, 1709; d. Nov. 11, 1720.

m. Margaret, dau. of John Irving of Whitehill; d. prior to Sept. 9, 1772. William, 2nd of B.,

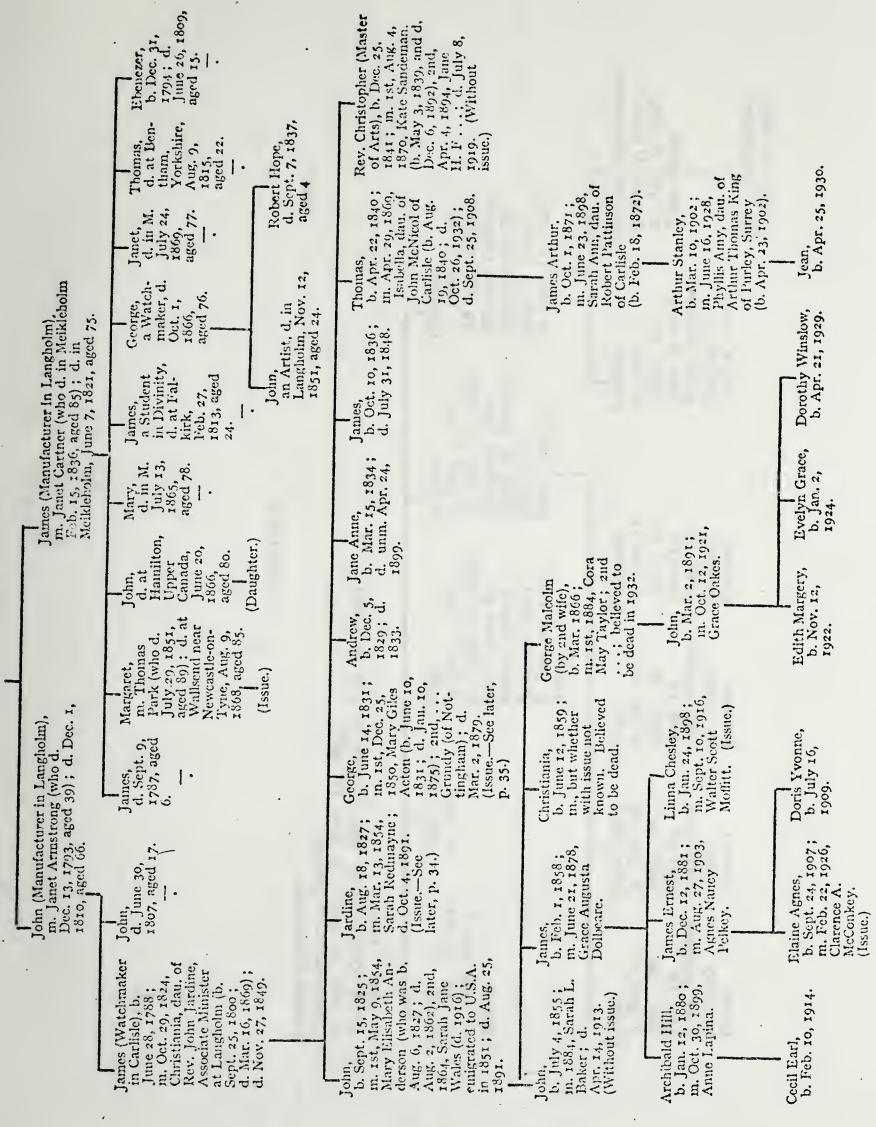
	Margaret, bapt. June 11, 1749; men. 1772.	Mary, bapt. Jan. 2, 1775; m. Robert Wooliscroft in Annan prior to 1808; alive in 1829.
	Catherine, men. 1772.	
	Mary, men. 1772, m. John Carru- thers of Den- bie; d. May 30, 1800, aged 73.	Grace, bapt. July, 1771; alive in 1821.
	James, m., but estranged from his family who resided in England.	Jean, bapt. June 2, 1770; probably d. yeung.
-	William, men. 1772, m. in England, but whether with issue not known.	John, alive in 1829.
	John, 3rd of B., heir 1772; m. Grizel, dau. of Thomas Bell of Auldhall and Land; d. in 1804. (She was alive in Feb. 1813.)	Francis, in Braes; alive in July 1813.
	Francis, John, killed at taking heir pof Louisburg dau. from the French. Land (She Feb.	William, 4th of B., reed. sasine of Braes, &c., Sept. 20, 1806; Attorney in Carlisle; disposed of Estate in 1821 to William Curll of Eastfield; d. prior
	32	

¹ Compiled partly from an old "family tree" in the possession of A. S. Carruthers, but verified in the main from Parish Registers and Register of Sasines.

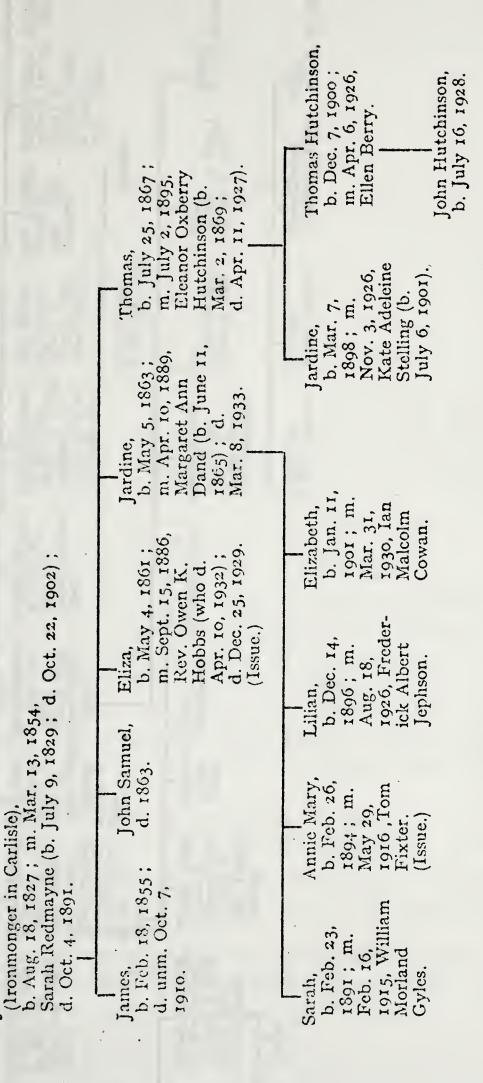
² Francis Carruthers was the third son of William Carruthers of Denbie and his spouse Blanch Irving, daughter of Francis and Catherine Irving of Braes.

Curll of Eastfield; d. prior

to Feb. 1829.

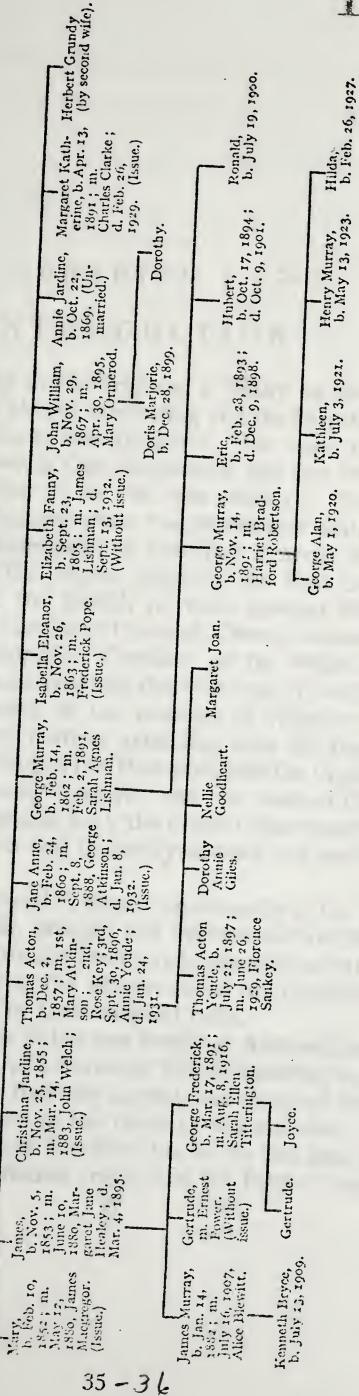


Jardine Carruthers



b. June 14, 1831; m. 1st, Dec. 25, 1850, Mary Giles Acton (b. June 24, 1831; d. Jaa. 10, 1875); 2nd, ... Grundy (of Fulness and Editor of "Barrow-in-d. Mar, 2, 1879.

George Carruthers,



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

ESEARCH relating to the origin of a family, or as to the meaning of a surname, is always interesting and the Carruthers family provides no exception to this statement. The name is Celtic in origin and is formed from the words Caer-Rhydderch (the fort of Ruther). question immediately arises as to who was Ruther? The answer takes one back to the Sixth Century when the Romanised Britons either were being gradually driven westwards, or absorbed as serfs, by the Teutonic tribes which invaded British shores following the final departure of the At this period the British territory covered the country now comprised in the modern counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Gloucester, Monmouth, Hereford, Shropshire, Cheshire, all the Welsh counties, Lancashire, Westmorland, Cumberland and the west-central portion of Southern Scotland, with the exception of the counties of Wigtown and Kirkcudbright; the more northerly portion, extending from the Derwent (possibly Dunmail Raise was the boundary) to Dumbarton on the Clyde, being known as Strathclyde and embracing Cumbria, now the modern Cumberland, for the tide of invasion had pushed back the Celtic tribes from the East Coast and in southern Lancashire had definitely severed the northern from the southern Celts.

Ruther, called "the Liberal", figures prominently in the legends woven around St. Kentigern (or St. Mungo) and appears to have been the leader of a small section of the Britons of Strathclyde who still maintained Christian traditions, although, following the withdrawal of the Romans, the majority of the Celts had reverted to their original cults.

In the year 573 a decisive battle was fought at Arthuret, near Longtown, between the Christian and non-Christian forces, resulting in a victory for the former with the result that the capital was removed from Carlisle to Alclyt, or Dumbarton, known to the Gaels as dùn Bretann. The interesting feature of this engagement, however, lies in the fact that for some time before the conflict the Christian tribes, led by Ruther, may have been

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

established in the ancient earthwork on a hill, in the modern parish of Middlebie, which later became known as Caer-Ruther. (It is possible to trace the remains of an encampment on the hill above the farm of Carruthers at the present day.)

Tradition ascribes a Celtic origin to the Carruthers family, but decisive proof is lacking. In the centuries that immediately followed, Strathclyde was assailed by Saxons, Danes and Norsemen and these undoubtedly effected settlements, as is witnessed by place-names such as Denby, Middlebie, Mouswald, &c. At a later date Anglo-Norman Barons and Knights were, as elsewhere, granted lands in this district. The language, in spite of these various settlers, remained Celtic until its absorption into the Scottish kingdom about 1018 when the Saxon tongue with a Norse admixture gradually began to predominate.

It is impossible to trace the ancestry of the family to Ruther and likewise it cannot even be stated from which of the races the family was derived. At the time that surnames came into gradual use in Scotland, i.e. during the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries, the family living at Carruthers undoubtedly adopted it as its surname and accordingly the race to which the "first Carruthers" belonged cannot be ascertained. It is interesting to notice that at a comparatively early date the name is to be found in England in the counties of Cumberland, Durham and Yorkshire. Whilst in Scotland the commonest and usual spelling was Carruthers (with slight variations), in England it became disguised as Carrothers, Carrodus and Cruddas (in Yorkshire), Croudace (in Durham), &c. There were many other variations in the spelling and it is interesting to speculate as to the reason that caused the name to cross the Border. In this book no attempt has been made to trace any early English branch of the family, and research has been confined to the Carruthers families dwelling in Dumfriesshire. Not only is the origin of a family interesting, but in order properly to understand its history it is necessary to know something of the conditions and customs which prevailed in the country or district in which the family dwelt.

The Carruthers Clan lived within Annandale, and were chiefly located at Mouswald and Holmains and numerous other adjacent places. This district was situated in what was known as the West March of Scotland. An attempt may be made to give a brief outline of the laws and customs which obtained in that part of the Scottish Border. First of all, however, it is necessary to see how it came about that a people of the same race, but living on opposite sides of the Border, were constantly fighting or raiding each other. It has been shown that Strathclyde extended on both

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sides of what is now known as the Border and that the inhabitants spoke the same language. When Strathclyde became part of Scotland the Scottish Border therefore lay considerably to the south of its present position, and it was not until the reign of William II of England that Carlisle was established as an English town and the Castle founded. For over 100 years thereafter the Scottish kings alternately possessed and were dispossessed of Cumberland and the adjacent counties of Northumberland and Durham, but these were finally lost to Scotland with the capture of William the Lion in the year 1174. William the Lion vainly endeavoured to recover this territory from Richard I of England and his brother and successor, John, but without result.

For several centuries there lay between the kingdoms of England and Scotland a stretch of ground known as the Debatable Lands. These lands came to be occupied by what were known as "broken men", i.e. men originally of good family, but who, owing to force of circumstances, had become little beyond common thieves. In 1552 after the invasion of Annandale and district a Commission met and the contested territory was divided between the two countries, the northerly part, Canonbie, being added to Scotland and the southerly part, Kirkandrews, becoming part of England.

Apart from local quarrels the Borderers seemed to have enjoyed comparative quiet for over a hundred years after the capture of William the Lion. It is to the rapacity of Edward I of England that nearly three centuries of Border raids and warfare must be charged.

After the tragic death of Alexander III in 1286 Margaret, the Maid of Norway, became heir to the Scottish Throne and it was at this time that Edward I's opportunity to interfere in Scottish affairs arrived. Edward, with great sagacity, having decided that in order to further his ambitions regarding France it was essential that Scotland be at peace with England, sought to effect this by an amalgamation of the Crowns. His intention was to acquire Scotland by peaceful means, namely, the marrying of his young son, Prince Edward, to the Maid. Unfortunately for his scheme, Margaret died on the way to Scotland and the Throne was left open to thirteen competitors, of whom there were three in chief, viz. John Balliol, Robert Bruce and Hastings. The dispute which followed was referred to King Edward (who was acknowledged Lord Paramount of Scotland) for arbitration and the result was that John Balliol was rightly declared King and crowned on St. Andrew's Day, 1292. The fatal admission of suzerainty was made with effects soon to appear, though at the time apparently unforeseen.

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The War of Scottish Independence does not fall to be discussed here and it is sufficient to mention that, owing to difficulties arising out of the acknowledged superiority of Edward, Balliol renounced his homage to the English King and made an alliance with Phillip, King of France, then at war with England. The fighting which was to devastate the Borders for nearly three centuries had begun.

The Borderers are not to be blamed for being known as "Border Thieves", they were the victims of circumstance. Intermittent warfare and the consequent passing of armies, both English and Scottish, made tilling of the ground and agricultural pursuits useless. There was no object to be gained in sowing crops which in all probability would be trampled or burnt down before the harvest. Cattle, therefore, became their principal property, which was always liable to be carried off by the enemy. The Border folk had to exist and if suddenly they were bereft of their means of subsistence they rather naturally regarded their enemies' cattle as fair plunder; robbing thus assumed an appearance of fair reprisal. The unfortunate privilege under Border Laws of pursuing raiders into their own country, for the recovery of property stolen, often led to skirmishes and bloodshed. These continual depredations unsettled the Borderers and they came to look upon what we should now call common thieving as a normal mode of subsistence, accounted honourable and lawful. When there was peace between England and Scotland this petty warfare continued and was a source of annoyance to the Kings of both countries.

It was with the object of attending to the settlement of grievances and the better" policing" of the Border that this district was divided into three separate jurisdictions on both sides of the Border, viz. the West March, East March and Middle March. It is the West March, however, that is of particular interest in connection with the Carruthers family. This district comprised Nithsdale, Annandale, Eskdale, Ewesdale and Wauchopedale, i.e. the Stewartry of Annandale, with the Sheriffdom of Dumfries. To this was added the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, though it enters but little into the picture. The most important town was Dumfries situated on the River Nith, whilst Annan and Lockerbie were also fair-sized towns. Carlaverock, Lochmaben, Annan and the Thrieve were the most important strongholds, the second named being a Royal Castle. The Warden, the Deputy and the Sheriff were stationed at Dumfries, the Deputy being entrusted with the withstanding or offence of England. A Captain, who was known as the Keeper of Annandale, was stationed at Langholm and the remainder of the wardenry was defended by the families resident therein.

The Warden had great powers and appointed deputies, clerks, ser-

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geants and dempsters. The Castles of Lochmaben, Langholm, Annan and the Thrieve were in his charge and he could call out the full armed force of the wardenry for the invasion of the opposite realm. He had power to make truces with the English Warden and in peace time one of his chief duties was to meet on certain days for the settling of disputes and the granting of redress for crimes committed. The Warden was bound to expel all thieves and trespassers and to prevent their return, and had to answer for those within his wardenry. He could hold Justice Courts for the trial of Scottish subjects under his jurisdiction and could compel the attendance of nobles, barons and landed gentry who were bound to present before him their tenants and servants when their names came before the court. The discomfiting of unruly Borderers was left to the Lieutenant, who had command of considerable forces and who, when advised by the Council, could proceed with fire and sword against all rebellious persons and demolish their dwelling-houses and castles.

Besides the laws in force in both the Kingdoms of Scotland and England there were customs on the Border which in time became law owing to ancient use and practice. The laws were from time to time added to and altered but the treaties amending them did not include laws unaltered, so that as time progressed there were an increasing number of clauses not all of which could be found in any one treaty. If completely collected, there would probably be nearly fifty different sections, but some were of minor importance though making clearer current practice. Reference may be made to some of the more important clauses.

Should a subject of one realm murder a subject of the opposite Kingdom and complaint be made to the Offender's Warden, the latter had to endeavour to arrest him and bring him to a day of Truce where, if convicted, he was to suffer punishment by death at the hands of the opposite Warden, and his goods delivered to the wife and children, or other heir, of the deceased for their use. Murderers caught in the act might be immediately executed, but this usually caused trouble with their kinsmen.

The penalty for wounding a person of the opposite realm was estimated by a jury, consisting of six Englishmen and six Scotsmen named by their respective Wardens, and was then doubled. If the aggrieved person had been maimed or mutilated, the aggressor was apprehended and suffered six months' "streight prison".

Persons who committed the crime of "burning or spoyling of goods" had to make redress of the principal, together with twice the value thereof. This was known as "double and sawfie". The latter was the charge incurred in making the enquiries and searching out the offender.

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Other clauses were designed to prevent, and attached penalties to, the crimes of Hunting and Pasturing Cattle in the opposite realm, cutting down trees, &c. Another crime was that of "Baughling and Reproving": this consisted of the carrying of a glove or picture, on the point of a spear, of an offender who had broken his word at a day of truce. The family of one who had thus sullied the honour of the clan would sometimes slay such a person in order that the stain on their family might be removed. In 1563 it was agreed that an offender who was proved guilty on three occasions should incur the penalty of death.

Should a person overswear the value or number of goods or cattle stolen, the Warden with six Scotsmen and six Englishmen might diminish the price or number of the goods or cattle oversworn. If anyone complained for goods not stolen, he was to be delivered to the opposite Warden for punishment. An aggrieved person was not allowed to avenge his own cause (though this was often done) and anyone so doing stood in danger of losing his case and being punished.

One of the most interesting clauses related to the custom known as "hot-trod" (the tracing of stolen goods). Should a subject of one country commit depredations within the territory of the other and afterwards return to his own country, the person injured might immediately, or within six days from the time of the attempt, without letters of safe-conduct, follow the malefactor within the March to which the thief had fled, or, within the said six days, appeal to one of the opposite Wardens for redress. The aggrieved person was allowed to follow his lawful trod with hound and horn, and with hue and cry and other customary manner of pursuit for the recovery of his stolen property. He had, however, to proceed unarmed, likewise it was deemed advisable to approach the nearest habitation in the opposite kingdom and inform the inhabitant of the reason for his visit to the country. None was allowed to molest the person following "hot-trod" and if he did he was liable to make good the losses incurred. The person following the trod could call on all whom he met in the opposite realm to help him, and those refusing could be punished. Sir Walter Scott states that "the pursuit was maintained with a lighted piece of turf carried on a spear ". Sometimes the Warden himself directed a raid to recover the stolen property.

Deadly feuds were occasionally stopped by the Wardens arresting the persons at feud and delivering them to the opposite Warden. Whilst this might serve with isolated and small cases, such laws were of no avail if a clan such as the Scotts, Elliotts, Maxwells, Armstrongs or Johnstones were at deadly feud.

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Enough has been said to give an indication of the peculiar Laws of the Scottish Border. There were also internal laws, the principal of which dealt with March Treason.

The form of a Day of Truce, or "diet" as it was called, is interesting. A set day and place of meeting was agreed upon by the Wardens and the inhabitants of the March were informed by proclamation in the towns on either side of the Border of the arrangement. Persons who had received injuries from subjects of the opposite realm summoned the parties responsible. The summons or "bill" was presented to the opposite Warden in order that he might summon the culprit. The Warden called upon all nobles, knights, barons and others to attend him with servants and a sufficient number of their tenants, mounted on their best horses, as was suited to the occasion.

When the Wardens met—usually on the actual border or just in Scotland ¹—four or five of the English gentlemen of repute rode forward for the purpose of demanding that assurances might be kept until the sunrise of the day following. After these had been granted, the Scots also sent four or five gentlemen to demand the same from the English Warden. This having been satisfactorily completed, the Wardens held up their hands as a token of faith for observance of the same. Having charged their followers to observe the conditions of the truce and to remain peaceful, the Scottish Warden dismounted and the English Warden approached and, after salutations, commenced the business of the day.

An assize consisting of six Scotsmen and six Englishmen was named by the two Wardens, the oath being given by the English Warden to the Scots and vice versa. The Wardens and their clerks then proceeded with the bills to be dealt with, the most recent being taken first. When there was any doubt as to guilt, the case could be tried either (i) by honour of the Warden; (ii) by assize; or (iii) by vower, i.e. by an umpire belonging to the country of the accused party and mutually chosen by the plaintiff and the defendant. Bills were marked in the margin "foule" or "cleare" as the case might be, and justice was done. The jury system, however, did not work very well on account of the fear of deadly feud should the jury find against their own countrymen.

While the assize tried the cases the Wardens examined the books for such bills as had been "fyled" at a previous meeting for the purpose of delivering the offenders to the Warden of the March where the complainant

¹ The time-honoured place of meeting was at Clochmeban Stone, a few yards from the edge of the Solway where it was crossed by the arcient sulewath or muddy ford (vide G. Neilson's Annals of the Solway).

dwelt. Should the defendant not be present, pledges could be given until such time as he could be secured.

The business in hand being completed, joint proclamation was made of the things accomplished and at the same time of a date and place for the next meeting. After salutations the Wardens withdrew with much ceremony.

One of the customs prevalent on the Border was the payment of black-mail by a small and weak family to a powerful clan, the chief of the latter being pledged to cease not only from plundering its lands, but to defend it against other would-be plunderers. In Scotland this system was known as "manrent" and was legally recognised, the weaker party giving a bond to the stronger to be his man and assist him in all things against anyone save the Crown, whilst the stronger undertook to protect the weaker. This must, of course, be distinguished from pure blackmail.

Another curious custom was one known as "handfasting". Formerly a fair was held, at a place called "Handfasting Haugh" at the junction of the White and Black Esk, to which young people of both sexes used to resort and between whom engagements were made by joining hands or "hand-fasting". The connection so made was binding for one year only and at the end of that period either party was at liberty to withdraw, or in the event of both being satisfied the "hand-fasting" could be renewed for life. Should children have been born, the party withdrawing was bound to support and care for the offspring. As far as was possible marriage and intercourse between the subjects of the opposite realm were rigidly suppressed.

During their raids the Borderers were always careful not to shed the blood of those opposed to them. When, however, blood was shed it was generally in revenge for the death of some member of the family. A feud thus might become more and more ramified and persons of the same name ruthlessly killed, however innocent of, or remotely connected they might be with, the original incident. Sometimes these feuds were terminated by intermarriage in the families concerned, or the chiefs were sent on pilgrimages to distant shrines to offer prayers for those who had fallen on either side. Another way, but prohibited after 1600, was for six or more of each family to fight to the death. At the junction of the streams Liddel and Kershope there is a place called Turneyholm where these combats used to take place.²

² The commonest form of legal settlement of a feud was by "assythement". Interested parties on both sides got together, often with a third party, assessed the damages arising out of the slaughters and prevailed on the parties to accept their

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The method of defending the towers, or peels as they were called, is interesting, but it is necessary first of all to describe such a tower. In the earliest times they were probably built of wood, but at a later period the head of each family probably dwelt in a strong tower having stone walls of great thickness. The remains of such are still to be seen in many places in Southern Scotland and Northern England. The towers varied in shape and size but were commonly square or rectangular. In the Sixteenth Century the entrance was on ground level, but in the Fifteenth Century access was gained on the first floor by a ladder which could be drawn up at night and in times of danger. The staircase was usually in a corner and of the well type, ascent being round to the right, the object being to give free play to the defender's sword-arm, whilst inconveniencing the attacker. By descending this stair the vaulted chamber in the basement was reached where the cattle killed and salted in the autumn were kept for winter food supply. The staircase usually gave access to a livingroom which would have small windows, probably with seats on either side, and a fireplace. Above would be another room with a fireplace, and above this there might be a further room or an attic, from out of which a door would open on to the parapet. The actual furniture was negligible and was usually built into the tower. The Wills of Borderers rarely recorded carpets, rugs or beds, though feather beds are occasionally mentioned. The inhabitants possessed little beyond stores of food and arms and their stock of clothing was usually entirely on their backs.

Raids rarely lasted for more than a few hours, or, at the very most, three days. On warning being given, a Borderer might decide to defend his tower, or he might gather his cattle together and drive them to an inaccessible place, such as Tarras Moss, there to await events. In the latter case, before departing he would take the precaution to fill his peel with peat, which was always to hand, and set it alight. The peat would smoulder for perhaps three days and the fumes and heat therefrom would be sufficient to keep any attackers at bay should they desire to cast down the stronghold. After the raid the owner could return, clean out his tower and again take up residence. The defence was simple and efficient.

Should the Borderer be taken by surprise he might not be so fortunate. He could use boiling water or lead, or stones from the parapet, or, at a

arbitration. The terms of settlement were embodied in "Letters of Slains" of which many examples are still extant. In addition to the payment of damages the actual murderers were called on to perform a picturesque penance (vide Adams, History of the Douglas Family of Morton, Appx. A, No. 30). It is, however, not clear whether "kinbute assythement" was recognised in Border Law.

later date, guns through loopholes, but, if his ammunition ran out, the attackers might manage to make a gap in the base of the wall, fill the vault with damp straw, set it alight and smoke the inhabitants into surrender.

The poorer people's houses were built of sods of earth or wattle and thatched with straw or branches. They were without windows and a man could hardly stand upright when inside. It was not worth an enemy's time to cast down such hovels, for they could be reconstructed in a few hours. Before evacuating these wretched huts in face of an approaching enemy it was the custom to burn the thatch in order that it might not provide provender for the horses.

Cattle, as has been stated, was the chief possession of the Border folk, and the man who could safely drive a herd through bogs and morasses and over hills was esteemed a valiant leader. In these more enlightened days the descendant of a Border family might not feel so proud of his ancestors if he was to meet with them: they lived roughly and were extremely simple in their habits. Men wore less than they do now,—a shirt, a leather jacket with plates of iron for protection, breeches, hose and shoes and a steel cap were the principal items. Nightshirts are rarely mentioned. Underclothes, if ever worn, seem to have been sewn on and only removed when absolutely necessary. Personal cleanliness does not appear to have ranked as one of the chief virtues. Pictures or tapestries were unknown except in the dwellings of the wealthy. Civilisation in these parts was at a low ebb, books are not mentioned and few, if any, possessed a Bible.

The people lived simply. Their food consisted chiefly of flesh, milk, and boiled barley. Bread was practically unknown except to the upper classes. The Borderers were temperate and hardly ever drank beer or wine. They were very musical and fond of poetry, and this is witnessed to by the ballads relating to the exploits of their ancestors which have been handed down.

Religion on the Borders was purely nominal and the Reformation hardly reached these parts until the early part of the Seventeenth Century. The Churches were dilapidated and in many cases roofless. Under Roman Catholicism the Holy Offices had fallen into the hands of sons or relations of the Patron, and were often men of evil repute. Services were rarely held and in fact practised religion might be said to be entirely absent. The people, however, were deeply religious. They believed in fairies, bogles and kelpies, but they nominally clung to the Old Faith and Bishop Lesley states, "They never said their prayers more fervently, or

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had more devout recurrence to the beads of their rosaries than when they had made an expedition, as they frequently did, of forty or fifty miles for the sake of booty."

Football was one of the chief sports, but unfortunately such assemblies were often the place where desperate exploits were planned. Hunting was another popular pastime and was, of course, carried out on horseback.

Much that has been said of the Borderers may be considered unlovely, but they had one great redeeming feature and that was good faith. A dweller of the Border country always kept his word. When in raids prisoners were captured they were hardly ever taken into actual custody, all that was required of them being their word that they would meet at some place and treat about the ransom to be paid.

Property was held from a Superior who in the first case was the King. Grants of lands were usually made for services rendered, for example, repelling invaders or for services in battle. Rent for these lands was nominal and might be the payment of a silver penny when asked for, or a white rose on a Feast Day. In many cases the Superior was a Lord of vast possessions (who held his lands direct from the Crown), and the Laird or Minor Baron was granted lands for military support when called upon. Bonds of "man-rent" were entered into, the persons entering into these Bonds being bound to support their Superiors in all lawful causes and in turn were usually protected by them from injury by others—the protection often being more moral protection than actual (the powerfulness of the Superior deterring would-be plunderers).

The Clans on the Border were based on the old Celtic family, though with an admixture of the feudal system due to the incoming of Normans in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries. The most insignificant Borderer claimed relationship, however distant it might be, to the head of the family and looked to him for protection, while the chief in turn expected absolute loyalty and support from his dependants.

A curious survival of Celtic times was the use of to-names or nicknames. Some of the families living on the Border were large and the land occupied by them extended over a number of parishes,—of such were the Maxwells, Johnstones, Irvings, Carruthers, Bells and many others—and names such as John, George, William, Thomas, Robert, &c., often recurred. In a clan of any considerable size, where three generations might be co-existing at the same period, there might be as many as a hundred Johns or Georges, especially as certain names for hereditary or family reasons were favoured above others. Accordingly a great number of the people dwelling on the Marches had to-names and these were not

always complimentary to the owner, usually taking the form of reference to some bodily disfigurement, some event in the person's life or other well-remembered feature. Examples will illustrate this: "Lang-nebbit Will", "Bastard Jok", "Christie's Will", "Half-hangit Johnnie", &c. In other cases they were known of their tower or dwelling-place, for example, "Jok o' the Syde", "Will o' the Shaws", &c. The Laird, or head of the family, was always known by his territorial designation, for instance,—"Irving of Bonshaw" was known as "Bonshaw", "Carruthers of Holmends" as "Holmends", &c.

By the Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland in 1603, through the accession of James VI of Scotland as James I of England, the Borders became the "middle shires", but Border raiding did not forthwith cease and it was many years before the Border folk learned to live peaceably at home cultivating the land and earning their sustenance by honest toil. As a result of the Union the laws peculiar to the Border became obsolete, but customs died hard. The Union of the Parliaments at the beginning of the Eighteenth Century was not favourably looked upon by many on the Border and an outcome was, for many years, the smuggling of contraband articles.

The Industrial Revolution wrought further great changes in this district which rapidly became depopulated as a result of its inhabitants removing to the towns or emigrating to the Dominions, and the present-day population must be considered small when compared with the number who previously dwelt in the West March of Scotland.

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CHAPTER II

CARRUTHERS AND MOUSWALD

CCORDING to Dr. Robert Clapperton the first mention of the Carruthers family in mediæval times is in the reign of Alexander II (1215-45), when William de Carruthers made a donation to the Abbey of Newbattle. Among those who swore fealty to Edward I of England in 1296 was Simon Carruthers, parson of Middlebie.¹ Carruthers, now in the parish of Middlebie, once was, like Pennersaughs (Pennersax), a separate parish, but both were united with Middlebie in 1609. It is stated by Bain that the Carruthers family were Stewards of Annandale and keepers of Trailtrow Preceptory and guardians of the "Old Kirk Ford" of Hoddam under the Bruces when Lords of Annandale.²

The family were loyal supporters of King Robert Bruce and accordingly were rewarded for their services, receiving, about the year 1320, a charter, granted to Thomas the Clerk, son of John of Carruthers, of all the lands of "Musfald et de Appiltretwayt cum pertinenciis". This Thomas would appear to have married one of two heiresses of Applynden, for in the same year he was granted a charter of half of all the lands, with pertinents, which belonged to "Roberti de Applingdene in valle Anandie" in right of his spouse Joan.³

Thomas's loyalty to the Bruces does not seem to have stood the test of time, for in the year 1334 he accepted office under King Edward III of England; ⁴ his brothers appear, however, to have remained faithful to the Scottish king and possibly Thomas only bent before the storm. One of these brothers, William, is mentioned both in the Book of Pluscarden and in Wyntoun's "Cronykil".⁵

¹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 709.

³ Reg. Mag. Sig., Vol. i, Nos. 92 and 93.
⁴ Rotuli Scotiæ, Vol. i, p. 263.

² Proc. of Soc. of Ant. of Scot., 1888-9, p. 24, vide "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

⁵ Liber Pluscardensis, Book ix, Cap. 31; Wyntoun's "Cronykil", Book viii, Cap. 29. William's loyalty to the Bruce-Stewart party is also mentioned in John Major's "Historia", Book v, Cap. xiii.

Sir Nigel Carruthers, possibly one of the Mouswald family, was, in 1340, Chamberlain to the Regent.⁶ In all probability he is the Chamberlain who is stated to have fallen at the battle of Durham on October 17, 1346.⁷ Living almost at the same time as the Chamberlain was another Nigel Carruthers, an ecclesiastic and described as canon of Glasgow.⁸ Several references to him are to be found; one, on October 10, 1335, being a "Safe conduct".⁹

It is not known whether Thomas Carruthers, first of Mouswald, had any sons, but he was undoubtedly succeeded in the Mouswald Estates by his brother William. It is probable that following Thomas's espousal of the English cause his lands were in due season handed over to his next brother. Should Thomas have had sons it may account for the appearance, at a very early date, of the name Carruthers in Cumberland, Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire, in which three latter counties it is found in varying forms.

The date of the removal of the Carruthers family to Mouswald is not known, but it would seem to have been in the second quarter of the Fourteenth Century. On September 10, 1349, a Charter was granted by David, King of Scots and Lord of Annandale to William of Carrutheris and his heirs of all the land in the tenement of "Mydilby" which formerly belonged to Thomas of Lyndby and which had come into the King's hands by reason of forfeiture. Amongst the witnesses to this charter was "John of Carrutheris, the King's chancellor of Annandale ".10 This John was in all probability the unnamed brother of William mentioned in Wyntoun's "Cronykil" referred to above. It is possible that the same John was the recipient of the Charter, granted by King David on December 10, 1361, of the half lands (unspecified), which had formerly belonged to John de Rafhols, lying within the Mouswald tenement. 11 If this should be the case, it would go to prove the direct connection between the Carruthers families of Holmains and Mouswald, for the John Carruthers who was granted the Charter of the half lands was almost certainly the ancestor of the Carruthers family of Holmains. A further clue to this John Carruthers being a member of the Mouswald family is the fact that amongst the witnesses is Robert Carruthers, Laird of Mouswald.

On January 17, 1370-1, John de Carruthers, rector of Ruthwell in

⁶ Exchequer Rolls, Vol. i, pp. 458 and 462.

⁷ Liber Pluscardensis, Book ix, Cap. 40.

⁸ Calendar of Entries in Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland, 1342-62.

⁹ Rotuli Scotiæ, Vol. i, p. 382, and Cartulary of Paisley, p. 140.

 ¹⁰ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, pp. 54-5.
 11 Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., pp. 709-10.

Scotland, obtained permission from Edward III of England to go to Oxford University for two years for the purpose of studying.¹²

On September 17, 1394, Simon de Carruthers witnessed a deed ¹³ and amongst the names of persons mentioned as having agreed to the conditions for the observance of the truce and promoting peace with England, on November 6, 1398, that of John Carruthers is to be found. ¹⁴

During the fifteen years between 1409 and 1424 the Carruthers family were the recipients of numerous grants of land from the powerful Archibald, Earl of Douglas, viz. Mouswald, Middleby and Dornock, with the patronage of the parish churches, also the lands of Hoddam, Westwood, Rockcliffe, Logan-tenement, Hetlandhill and Tundergarth, which rendered as follows: Mouswald, Hetlandhill and Logan-tenement three silver pennies yearly and for the rest the services used and wont.¹⁵

The first charter was granted at Lochmaben on December 4, 1411, to "Simon of Carrutherys" and comprised "his tenement of Mouswald, with the pertinents, within his forest of Daltoun, his lands of Appultrethwate, with the pertinents, lying in the lordship of Anandale, for service done and to be done to the granter, which . . . the foresaid Simon had resigned in presence of many noblemen in the justice eyre of Anandale, held at the town of Louchmabane." . . . In this Charter Simon Carruthers is referred to as esquire (scutifero). 16

At the same time as the foregoing charter the Earl granted four other charters, all to Simon Carruthers, viz.:

- (i) Charter of the lands of Hetlandhill, "in the forest of Daltoun and lordship of Anandale", which Simon had resigned in the justice eyre;
- (ii) Charter of the tenement of "Logane" in the parish of "Moffet" and lordship of Annandale, also resigned;
- (iii) Charter for service and homage, to "Simon of Carrutheris of Mousfald of the granter's lands of Middilby and Dronnok" with the pertinents in the lordship of Annandale, also resigned;

12 Rotuli Scotiæ, Vol. i, p. 942.

13 Cart. of Paisley, p. 108.

¹⁴ Cal. Doc. Rel. to Scot., Vol. iv, No. 512, and Rymer's "Foedra", Vol. iii, Pt. 4, p. 152.

15 Locality of Moffat, 1852. (Note.—Enquiry at the General Register House, Edinburgh, elicited the information that these papers cannot now be traced. All references to these papers have therefore been made from J. J. Reid's "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons", produced in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 1388–9.)

16 Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 56.

(iv) Charter for service and homage of the "lands of Dornok", in the lordship of Annandale, also resigned, with the pertinents and with the donation and advocation of the parish Church of Dornok.

The three following charters are in the Inventory of the Drumlanrig Charter Chest, but the originals have not been seen, viz.:

- (i) Charter, dated December 4, 1411, by the same Earl to Simon Carruthers of the lands of Hoddam, Tundergarth, Westwood and Rockcliffe;
- (ii) Gift, dated May 5, 1428, by Archibald Earl of Douglas and "Longavell", to Sir Thomas Kilpatrick of Closeburn of the right of patronage of the Kirk of "Pennersex".
- (iii) Charter, dated September 10, 1438, by Archibald, "Duke of Turraine, Erle of Douglas, &c.", to John Carruthers of Mouswald, of the five merk land of Cumlonganwood.¹⁷

In 1419 a "Safe Conduct" for a year through the King's dominions of France and England and elsewhere was granted to "Thomas Morwe, abbot of Paisley", with Nigel Carruthers, his chaplain, and "John Perysshone", and a servant, horses, &c. 18 References are also found in the Exchequer Rolls in the year 1436 to a Sir Laurence Carruthers, chaplain to Master John Gray at Bruges, who was on some secret service at that time. 19 It is quite possible that Sir Laurence was a member of the Mouswald family.

In the "Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland" (Vol. ii, p. 405) it is stated that on July 12, 1429, Commissioners were chosen for the East, Middle and West March, and Sym of Caruthirris was appointed Commissioner of the West March.

On August 31, 1439, John Halliday of Hoddam, having been in great difficulties and having borrowed £10 from John Carruthers of Mouswald, as security mortgaged to the latter his lands called Holcroft, a coteland formerly the possession of William of Johnstone, and two oxgangs of land, called the Tynkler's land, in Hoddam tenement.²⁰

This John Carruthers was Captain of the Royal Castle of Lochmaben from 1446 to 1454. Many references to him are to be found in the Exchequer Rolls, payments being made to him in that capacity. According to the Introduction of the Historical MSS. Commission's Sixth Report and the Asloan MS., it appears that owing to the treachery of a gate porter the castle of Lochmaben was, in 1454, taken by the Laird of Johnstone's

^{· 17} Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, pp. 55-6.

 ¹⁸ Cal. Doc. Rel. to Scot., Vol. iv, No. 891.
 ¹⁹ Exch. Rolls, Vol. iv, p. 676.

²⁰ The Family of Carruthers, p. 5.

sons and John Carruthers and his sons captured and imprisoned. Not only were the Johnstones allowed to keep possession of the castle, but they were also permitted to receive the salary of £40 per annum, thus showing the weakness of the State at that time. This salary, or annulty, of £40 per annum was paid partly from the fermes of the burgh of Dumfries and partly from those of Annandale. John Carruthers also is mentioned as the receiver of large payments for household expenses on the occasion of visits of the King and Queen to Lochmaben.²¹

King James II, on January 20, 1446/7, granted a Licence to "Elizabeth of Dunwedy" to infeft her eldest son, John Carruthers, in her lands of "Houthwate, Stanrase, and Wamfra" with the pertinents and in consequence of this Licence, Elizabeth "sometime spouse and relict of Andrew of Caruderis, lady of Houthuat, Stanres and Wamfra" gave a charter, dated March 7, 1446/7, to her son and heir of the above lands. On April 6, 1449, John Carruthers of Mouswald had a precept from the King to infeft him in these lands on the resignation of his mother and sasine was given on the 30th of the same month.²²

The above lands seem to have come to the Carruthers family as Elizabeth's dower, at all events they all lie in the neighbourhood of Dinwoody.

In 1447, Simon de Carruthers, probably a member of the Mouswald family, had a seisin of the lands of Searigg, near Denbie, and on June 10, 1452, William Lord Creichton, Chancellor of Scotland, granted "to his well beloved cousin, John Carutheris of Mousfald . . . the lands of Kyrtilhous and lands of Dundoby, in the lordship of Ananderdale in Lord Creichton's tenement of Carutheris . . ." Further, on August 20, 1452, the King, James II, granted to the same John "the lands of Mousfald, Logane-tenement, Medilby, Dronnok, Ellirbek, Hatilland Hill, Cummertries, Hoddome, Tunnergath, Hallathis, Cumlungand, Hultvhate, Stanrase and Wamfray . . . which belonged to the said John heritably and were resigned by him in the King's hands at Edinburgh: all which the King unites into one free barony to be called the barony of Carutheris". 23 . . .

On November 18, 1454, "Archibald of Caruderis" of Mouswald, on brief from chancery and precept from Robert Lord Maxwell, as Steward of the Stewartry of Annandale, received sasine of all the lands of the Barony of Mouswald.²⁴ It may be inferred from this record that John Carruthers, Captain of the Royal Castle of Lochmaben, was either killed at the time of its capture by the Johnstones or that he was put to death or died in prison.

²¹ Exch. Rolls, Vol. v, pp. 521 and 669-70.

²² Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 57.

In 1468 an assembly was held at Lincluden for the revision of the Border Laws, and among other things it was agreed that a beacon be kept on Pantath-Hill in the Barony of Mouswald.²⁵

Elizabeth Ridewood, Lady of Robbiewhat, granted a tack to Gilbert Carruthers on February 27, 1469; ²⁶ and on December 1, 1469, John of Mouswald, Vicar of Kilmaurs, appears as a witness to a deed. ²⁷ It is possible that both were related to the Mouswald family.

On May 14, 1471, Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald brought an action against Thomas Corry of Newby for taking the customs and tolls of Annandale and the "foggage of wodcokkar". Both parties claimed that they belonged to them by gift and tack of the Duke of Albany, but Archibald was successful in obtaining a judgment in his favour as Corry's tack had been made by "Robert umquhile Lord Boyd" whose family had recently been disgraced.²⁸

The next mention of the family is on March 3, 1472, when Simon, the brother of Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald, brought an action against John Maxwell, Steward of Annandale, for the wrongful withholding of Hugh Kennedy, a child, who with consent of himself and his friends had been placed in charge of Simon; for the wrongful troubling of the said Simon in the holding of his court upon his lands of "Havolathis" (Halleaths); for the wrongful invasion of his fair mansion with "multitude of men of armys"; and for the breaking of the Sovereign's protection; -against Hugh Kennedy for the performance of an indenture made between him and the said Simon; -against Thomas Kennedy for the wrongful withholding of £40 lawfully obtained;—and against numerous persons who, in company with John Maxwell, had broken the Sovereign's protection.29 Over two years later, on May 18, 1474, it was decreed by the Lord Auditors that Hugh Kennedy pay to Simon Carruthers for his cost and expense at due times £20 and ordained letters be written to distrain his lands and goods therefor.30

[Note.—It would seem that Hugh Kennedy, a minor, had been placed in Simon's charge by consent and that John Maxwell claimed to be the tutor. From the record dated May 18, 1474, Simon appears to have lost his case in that he had to give up his charge, but received compensation to the extent of £20.²⁹ Halleaths was a possession of the Kennedy family.]

Queensberry Charters per "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".
Cartulary of Paisley, p. 313.

²⁵ Riddell's MSS., Vol. ii, p. 224, per "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

²⁸ Acta Auditorum, p. 13. ²⁹ Ibid., p. 22. ³⁰ Ibid., p. 35

Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald is stated, on October 26, 1473, to be a "schirefis in that part" in Letters by King James III to John Johnston of that Ilk and others to defend Edward Livingston of Bowcastle in his lands of Raehills and others.³¹

Amongst those who witnessed a charter, dated April 5, 1476, granted by the Duke of Albany to John, son and heir of John Carruthers of Holmains, of Holmains, Little Dalton and other lands, was Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald.³²

The Seal was appended at Cockpool on March 1, 1477, to a Precept of Sasine by Cuthbert Murray of Cockpool directed to John Carruthers of Holmends and Simon Murray, his baillies in that part, stating that he had granted heritably to Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald his lands of "Colnlungane Wode" and commanding them to give state and possession of the said lands to the said Archibald Carruthers.²³

Simon Carruthers, possibly brother of Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald, would seem to have raided Robert Charteris of Amisfield's lands, for on October 20, 1478, the Lords of the Council decreed that Simon pay Charteris 40/for the maills (i.e. rents) of "trayleflat" (Trailflat) for the previous year and ordained letters to be written to distrain his lands and goods, and further with regard to the cow and 40 sheep which he had taken from the said Robert's tenants the Lords deemed him quit thereof as he had stated on oath that he had restored them all except one sheep which he was to restore.³⁴

Archibald was once more at law, on March 12, 1479, this time against his father-in-law. The action was against John Johnstone of that Ilk anent the sum of £120 claimed by Carruthers to be due to him on an indenture made between them. Johnstone alleged that he should not be bound to pay the sum until the lands of Ellioc (Eliock) were given in joint-feftment to his daughter. The Lord Auditor decreed that the said lands had been given by charter and sasine in due form to the daughter and that Johnstone should pay the sum of £120. Johnstone then alleged that £40 of the sum had been paid and May 10 next, with continuation of days, was fixed for him to prove such payment. The law is illustrated by the fact that the action had been pursued on October 16, 1478, and at that date had been continued to January 11 next.

³¹ Family Book of the Johnstones.

³² Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., pp. 711-12.

³³ Ibid., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 58.
34 Acts of the Lords of the Council, p. 17.

³⁵ Acta Auditorum, p. 74.

36 Acts of the Lords of the Council, p. 12

On the same date (March 12, 1479) John, Lord Carlile of Torthorwald, is found claiming £20 sterling, probably for ransom, from Archibald Carruthers for an Englishman named Robert Simson, who presumably had been taken prisoner. Seven days later, on March 19, 1479, John, Lord Carlile, claimed that Archibald had wrongfully taken and withheld from him the sum of £3 for 3 kye. The matter, however, was not decided, and was continued to May 10 next to enable Lord Carlile to prove that Carruthers had done as was alleged.³⁷ Later, on October 11, in the same year, Archibald became surety for his brothers, Symon and James.³⁸

The family lands seem to have suffered a severe raid in the early part of 1483, for on March 27 of that year Archibald Carruthers is found pursuing Archibald Douglas of Colschogill and Elizabeth Menzies, Lady of Craigdarroch, for the wrongful "spoiling" from him of 3,010 sheep by Douglas out of the lands of Conred, and for the tack to Archibald Carruthers of the lands of Conred alleged to belong to Elizabeth Menzies in joint-feftment by a charter with Precept of Sasine, and to have been occupied for the past twenty-one years, or thereby, by her. No decision was arrived at and the action was continued to May 8 next, fresh witnesses being summoned. A further action on the same day, in which Euphemia Maxwell, Lady of Pothouse, and Archibald Douglas of Colschogill were the complainants and Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald, Elizabeth Menzies and others the defendants, regarding the "spoiling" of 200 cattle was undecided and also continued to May 8 next, other witnesses being called.³⁹

Archibald Carruthers seems to have been a pugnacious personality and frequently "at law". The downfall of the Douglases, however, may have had something to do with this, for in the Fifteenth Century the loss of powerful friends was the opportunity for rapacious neighbours, and the Mouswald family may for some years have had a hard task preserving their estates. Archibald was once more the plaintiff in an action recorded on February 20 and 27, 1484, against Robert Crichton of Sanquhar, Sheriff of Dumfries, and Edward Crichton, his deputy, regarding the alleged bastardy of Henry Carruthers, son of umquhile Symon Carruthers. He, however, lost his case as he was declared to be in the wrong in pursuing an action of bastardy.⁴⁰

In the same year King James III granted a charter to Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald of the 20/— land of "Raffulgill" (old extent).⁴¹ The Instrument of Sasine relates that the land belonged heritably to Herbert

³⁷ Acta Auditorum, p. 82.

³⁹ Ibid., p. 99.

⁴¹ Reg. Mag. Sig., 1424-1513, No. 1587.

³⁸ Ibid., p. 86.

⁴⁰ Ibid., pp. 131* and 135-6*.

Grymme and was resigned in the King's hands on his behalf. Precept was given under the quarter seal on June 3, and the Sheriff delivered sasine on June 9, 1484.⁴²

It would appear that Archibald was married twice, his first wife being, as previously mentioned, a daughter of John Johnstone, the second, Marion Scott. It may be assumed that Archibald died, or was killed, about 1484, for, although he was of the King's party, he was not included in the list of those who were declared traitors after the murder of King James III at Sauchieburn in 1488. There is also a reference to his son Symon in 1485. On his death his widow, Marion Scott, married Sir Adam Johnstone of that Ilk. 43

According to a short notice of the Carruthers family which appeared in the "Annandale Observer" of July 5, 1878, Sir Simon Carruthers, son of John Carruthers, was killed at the battle of Kirtle in 1484. This was probably Archibald's brother previously mentioned in 1479. It is likely that both Archibald and Simon, who was Warden of the West March, perished together in the battle.

After the succession of Simon Carruthers to the family lands, Marion Scott, who had married Sir Adam Johnstone of Johnstone, is again heard of. She and her husband "were challenged by the officers of the Crown for wrongfully labouring the lands of Polcornell, Whiterig, Appltreewhat and Langwoodend. These lands had belonged to the late Sir Simon Carruthers of Mouswald, and were in the hands of the Crown as ward-lands during the minority of his heir. Marion Scott, however, the widow of Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald, appears to have laid claim to the lands, in which Johnstone, now her husband, had thus an interest. Johnstone and his wife were required to produce evidences of their rights over the lands, failing which they were to desist from the cultivation of them".44

Simon, son of Archibald Carruthers of Mouswald, was betrothed to Euphemia, daughter of John, Lord Carlyle of Torthorwald. For some reason or other this projected marriage was not carried through, for on June 29, 1485, there is a Notarial Instrument narrating that, though Simon was ready to complete the marriage, yet John, Lord Carlyle, had not obtained a dispensation for the marriage although "a most reverend father in Christ, James 'Episcopus Imolen', legate a latere' was in the kingdom and gave such dispensations. ⁴⁵ John, Lord Carlyle, would seem to have

⁴² Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, pp. 58-9.

⁴³ Family Book of the Johnstones, Vol. i, p. xxvii; Scots Peerage, Vol. i, p. 239; Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 709.

⁴⁴ Ibid., p. xxvii. 45 Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 59.

paid to Simon's father, Archibald Carruthers, 400 merks as part of his daughter's dowry and on the breaking off of the engagement this sum apparently was not refunded. Lord Carlyle accordingly took action and summoned Simon to make repayment. Simon, on his part, claimed that he had a letter of acquittance but seems to have been unable, or unwilling, to produce it. On three occasions, viz. November 14, 1487; January 31, 1488; and February 6, 1489—the case had been previously heard and the Lord Auditor decreed on February 13, 1490, that Simon pay the money owing because he had failed to show the discharge, and ordered letters to be written to distrain his lands and goods therefor.46 The case dragged on for years. On March 9, 1492, the action was continued to May 7 next, Simon being the pursuer . . . "to here and se a pretendit act and decrett gevin be the lorde auditore for the tyme for the said Johne lord carlile agane the said symon"...; and the letters for distraining the Laird of Mouswald were for the time being suspended.47 The case was continued to October 8, next on July 6, 1492, and execution of letters further delayed, whilst on February 27, 1493, it was deferred until May 8 next.48 The next that is heard of the case is on June 23, 1494, when John, Lord Maxwell, Steward of Annandale, is sued by both parties; firstly by Simon for wrongfully distraining his lands and goods for the sum of 400 merks whilst the case was still undecided, and secondly by Lord Carlyle for failing to hand over the proceeds of the said distraining. The Lords of Council found that Lord Maxwell had committed no wrong and directed him to put the letters into execution and . . . " mak the said Johne lord Carlile be content and pait of the said soume . . . " 49 No satisfactory settlement seems to have been arrived at, and the action was still being pursued in the early part of the Sixteenth Century and was being carried on on behalf of the Carlyles by William, grandson of John, Lord Carlyle, who was now dead, Simon now alleging that his part of the indenture had been lost or stolen. 50 The action was finally decided some time prior to July 1, 1516, when, as will be seen later, Simon Carruthers, son of the Simon concerned in this long-protracted action for "breach of promise", had married Catherine Carlile, niece of Euphemia Carlile, the lady "in the case". It is possible that the action was settled when the Lords of the Council transferred a debt of 400 merks due by Simon Carruthers to the King to William, second Lord Carlyle, on February 15, 1502/3.51

⁵⁰ Ibid. (unprinted), Vols. xiii and xiv.

⁴⁶ Acta Auditorum, p. 135.

47 Acts of the Lords of the Council, p. 227.

48 Ibid., pp. 242 and 295.

49 Ibid., p. 336.

⁵¹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 61, and Scots Peerage, Vol. ii, p. 387.

In 1487 another churchman is mentioned, Sir William Carruthers, Rector of Dalton, and it is probable that he was a member of either the Holmains or Mouswald family.⁵²

On January 30, 1489, Simon Carruthers of Mouswald became lawburrows for John Gordon of Lochinvar, his servants and tenants. 53 days later, on February 7, 1489, Simon was declared to be in the wrong in disturbing the above John Gordon, assignee to John Shaw of Knokhill in the occupation and manuring of the lands of "rokcale and Culyn" (Rockhall and Collin) and was ordered to desist therefrom in time coming; he was also to make restitution for the profit he had made in so doing, and letters were to be directed to distrain his lands and goods therefor.54 Simon does not appear to have taken much notice of orders of the Lords of the Council, for previously on October 17, 1488, he had been ordered to cease from intromitting with the same lands and to hand them over to John Shaw of Knokhill. The latter record concludes . . . "the said Symone was summond to this actioun oft tymes callit and not comperit ".55 Ten years later, on June 26, 1498, Simon was in trouble on John Gordon of Lochinvar's account when the Lords of the Council decreed that Simon "aucht til freith, relief and keip skaithles" John Murray, son and heir of the late Cuthbert Murray of Cockpool, "of the payment of the soume of fifti merkis usuale money of the realme "after the tenor of the obligations under seal produced before the Lords. 56

Simon Carruthers had become pledge for "Johne Raa duelland with the laird of Cokpule", who seems to have carried out an extensive raid on the property of Thomas Corry of Newby, judging by the goods and cattle enumerated which were driven away. Like many others who both before and since that date have become sureties, Simon found himself held responsible and was ordered by the Lords of Council on October 13, 1490, to pay to the said Thomas Corry the extent of the damage suffered. Again Simon appears to have taken little notice of the orders of the Lords of the Council and nearly four years later, on June 25, 1494, he was once more ordered to make restitution to Thomas Corry, assignee of umquhile Thomas Corry of Newby, and letters were instructed to be written to distrain his lands and goods therefor.⁵⁷

In 1492 Simon Carruthers obtained a sasine of Mouswald, Logan-

53 Acts of the Lords of the Council, p. 103.

⁵² Muniments of Glasgow University, Vol. ii, p. 248.

⁵⁶ Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes, p. 235. ⁵⁷ Acts of the Lords of the Council, pp. 149 and 337.

tenement, Raffles, Hetland Hill, Middleby, Dornock, Hoddam, Dunnabie, Kirtlehouse and Westwood. 58 According to Dr. Carruthers Logan-tenement consisted of the farms of Craigbeck, Breconside, Logan Woodhead, Logan Woodfoot and Crofthead. The estate was called the Procornal or Logan, and on it are still to be seen the remains of a small keep called the Cornal Tower. 59

Simon Carruthers seems to have suffered at the hands of John Gillespie, for on March 28, 1495, the latter obtained a "Precept of ane Remissioun . . . for the forthocht fellony done apone Symond Carutheris, and for al uther actionis that may impit apone him thairthrow"... and for all other offences done up to November 16, 1493.60

There were further actions by Simon in 1498, the first, on July 4, against John Jardine of Applegarth for detaining from him eight stud mares and their foals, the price of them being stated to be £10, and Jardine was ordered to restore them; the second, on July 16, was against his nephew by marriage. Simon apparently married Isabella, daughter of David Scott of Buccleuch and the 600 merks due under the marriage contract still remained unpaid, accordingly Simon sued Walter Scott, heir to the deceased David Scott his grandfather, for this sum. No decision was reached, the defender being absent, and the Lords of Council continued the case until January 15, 1499, Simon being requested to prove then that the marriage had taken place and the joint-feftment duly given in the £10 land of Dronnok.61

On June 15 and 20, 1498, Simon obtained a grant from Adam de Kirkpatrick of the 5-merk land of Westscales in the parish of Gretna. 62 Prior to this acquisition the Mouswald estates had been further extended by the purchase on May 9, 1495, from Adam Kirkpatrick of Pennersaughs, of his 3-merk land of old extent in the town of Pennersaughs. This land formerly had been leased to David Bell by the late Isabella Johnstone, Kirkpatrick's grandmother. Four years later, on July 3, 1499, Simon Carruthers acquired from Adam Kirkpatrick of Pennersaughs (but in the records styled as "of Dalgarnok") the lands of Pennersaughs extending to a £20 land of old extent. 63 The lands, which were an inheritance of the family, had been in the hands of the Kirkpatricks from the early part of the Fourteenth Century. The acquisition, which was an important one, carried with it the advowson of the parish church.

⁵⁸ Exch. Rolls, Vol. x, p. 764.

⁵⁹ The Family of Carruthers, p. 5. 60 Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. i, No. 47.

⁶¹ Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes, Vol. ii, pp. 245 and 276.

⁶² MS. Inventory (per "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons").

⁶³ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 53; and Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. i,

Simon appears once more as a litigant, this time against three female cousins, daughters of the Sir Simon Carruthers who was killed at the battle of Kirtle in 1484. The cause of action does not appear, but it would seem to have been in connection with the disposal of the late Sir Simon's possessions. "Mr James Henresone, procurator for Hew of Kennedy of Hawlaithis, Elspeth Carutheris, his spouse, Margaret Carutheris, and Janet Carutheris, wife of Cristale of Jarding, protested" on December 5, 1500, that since a Statute of Parliament made on erroneous facts should be pursued within three years Simon Carruthers should not be heard in the following of his summons, whilst the latter declared that he had "made his diligence" and craved a new summons. The outcome of the action is not known.

Until his death in 1504, as recorded later, Simon would seem to have been very fully occupied as both plaintiff and defendant in a large number of law cases. On February 14, 1500, he, with a number of other persons, was charged with putting his seal to a retour of curatory of Terreglis "impetrat be George Heres of Terraughti". It is stated that they had "served a brief of ydeotry apon . . . Herbert, 'Lord of Terreglis'," and that the action was brought "for wilful and manifest error, because thai retourit under thair selis the v day of Februar the yere of God, etc. nynti and thre yeris, and als thai retournand the sammyn under a part of thair selis the last day of Januar immediat precedand the sade v day of Februar'". Only Simon and two others put in an appearance and because part of the summons concerned crime that part of it was referred to the King's Justice and the remainder was continued "'til the thrid day of the next justice are of Drumfreis'." 65

Simon, along with John, Lord Maxwell, Adam Johnstone of that Ilk, John Murray of Cockpool, John Jardine of Applegarth, and Sir Adam Murray, were responsible for bringing sixteen persons, being "trespassouris", before the King and in default were to be amerciated in the sum of 100 merks for each person. Complaint was made on April 6, 1500, by Sir Robert Lundy of Balgony, the Treasurer, that they had failed to produce these persons and the Lords ordained that they pay the fines in conformity with their subscribed bonds. Symon had the care of nine persons and should have delivered six of them and was amerciated in the sum of 600 merks which was to be paid before April 28 under pain of warding. 66

On December 7 in the same year there was an action at the instance of Simon Carruthers against Gavin Murray in "Coklakis", Adam Carruthers

⁶⁴ Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes, Vol. ii, pp. 384, 393 and 467.
65 Ibid., Vol. ii, p. 395.
66 Ibid., Vol. ii, pp. 408-9.

in Robbiewhat, John Carruthers in Over Denby, and Robert Carruthers of Denby for the wrongful occupation of 8 merks' worth (of old extent) of his lands of Hetlandhill. The Lords of the Council ordained that the parties be called and if the lands were found to be part of the Mouswald estate to give order for payment of the intromission.⁶⁷

As a respite from the numerous actions at law it is interesting to note that the family estates were further added to on September 12, 1501, by the acquisition from Walter Scott of Buccleuch of the 4-merk land of Roberthill and the 1-merk land of "Tukkisholm", of oid extent.⁶⁸

In addition to the numerous litigations in which Simon Carruthers of Mouswald was involved, and which have been noted previously, there are a large number recorded, but as yet unpublished. In 1500–2 there was an action for theft and with reference to corn, concerning Borthwick, the parson of Mouswald; an action by Patrick, Earl of Bothwell, with regard to the pasturing of cattle on the Foggage of "Wodcokkar"; an action against Simon Moffat for unlawfully occupying the lands of Selcleuch and Foukschaw; an action by Sir William Borthwick, Parson of Mouswald, for 10 score bowls of meal at 6/8, 3 score bolls bere 4/–, and the tiends for 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499 and 1500; in 1503–4 an action in connection with the lands of Appletreewhat and Langwoodend in which Marion Scott, widow of Archibald Carruthers, and now wife of Adam Johnstone, was concerned; and an action by Borthwick, Parson of Mouswald, for 20 score of oatmeal, and 6 score of bere. 69

On January 15, 1503, Simon received sasine of the 6-merk lands of old extent of the lands of Trailflat.⁷⁰ In 1504 Robert Carruthers became surety for William, brother of the laird of Mouswald, who was accused of being art and part in assaulting John Dickson of Locharwood under cover of night.⁷¹

It was in the latter year that Simon (or Sir Simon, as he is styled in the MS. Record of the Privy Seal) was foully murdered by Thomas Bell of the Broom and Thomas Bell of Currie.⁷¹ The reason for the crime is not known, but it may possibly have been in connection with the acquisition of the Pennersaughs estate, for the two Bells were probably related to the Bells of Middlebie which is adjacent to Pennersaughs. Sir Simon Carruthers of Mouswald enjoyed the "kepping of the wod and forest of Wodcokkar", being appointed to this office for a period of nine years, on

⁶⁷ Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes, Vol. ii, p. 471.

⁶⁸ Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 709, and 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 59. 69 Acts of the Lords of the Council, Vols. x, xi, xii, xiii, xiv and xv (unpublished). 70 Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 59.

Justiciary Records MSS., Vol. i, per "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

February 20, 1503. Owing to his untimely death, he held this appointment for only a short time and John Murray of "Faulohill" was appointed, on April 12, 1504, to the "office of forestarschip" for the time during which his heir(s) happened to be the King's ward(s). Following on this, John Murray was given the ward and marriage of the heir(s) of the late Sir Simon.⁷² The office of "forester" would appear to have been an hereditary one in the Carruthers family of Mouswald.

According to the National Gazetteer Sir Simon was termed the "belted knight". He was married firstly, as previously stated, to Isabella, daughter of David Scott of Buccleuch, their daughter Ellen marrying Adam, son of Adam Carlyle of Brydekirk, under Papal dispensation (February 17, 1502); 73 secondly, to a daughter of Douglas of Drumlanrig. There is an effigy in the Churchyard at Mouswald of this Sir Simon—it is in red sandstone, its head is pillowed, its feet on a lion, its hands in an elevated posture, but it has neither date nor inscription. There was also a statue to his wife, but owing to the predisposition of the villagers to the freestone of which it was composed none of it now remains.

The Lady of Mouswald, probably Sir Simon's widow, became surety in 1504 for four of the family of Rae, viz. Robert, called "Knewlta"; another Robert, John, and Thomas, called "hannay". In 1505 the name of James Carruthers appears as a witness; it is probable that he is the same James who is mentioned in 1479 as a brother of Archibald, then Laird of Mouswald. 15

There is a Precept of Clare Constat on March 16, 1512, by Adam, Earl of Bothwell, charging his baillies in that part to give sasine to Simon, son of the late Sir Simon Carruthers of Mouswald, of the lands of Dunnabie, Kirtlehouse and Carruthers. It is interesting to note that, although the family removed to Mouswald in the early part of the Fourteenth Century, the original estate from which the name was derived was still in its possession and seems to have remained so until the lands were obtained by the Douglases. It will have been noted that at the time of its erection in 1452 the Barony was called the Barony of Carruthers, thus retaining the name of the more ancient family residence.

Simon Carruthers would appear to have come of age in 1512, for on August 8 in that year he obtained from King James IV a Charter of the family estates which are enumerated and thus give an indication of the impor-

⁷² Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. i, Nos. 912 and 1029-30.

⁷³ Scots Peerage, Vol. ii, pp. 228 and 382.

^{74 &}quot;Barony of Mouswald and its Barons", p. 46.

⁷⁵ Acts Parl., Vol. ii, p. 265, and Acta Auditorum, p. 86.

⁷⁶ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 59.

tance of the family at that time. The estates comprised the 20-merk land of old extent of the dominical lands of Mouswald, with the mill, the 10merk land of Holthwaite and Hetlandhill, the f10 land of "Drunok", the 24-merk land of Pennersaughs, the £5 lands of Middlebie, the 10-merk lands in Logan-tenement, and 5-merk land of Westscales, with the pertinents, and advowsons of the churches of the said lands. The Charter stated that these lands, which all belonged heritably to the late Simon Carruthers, had been apprised, in default of movable goods, for the sum of 750 merks of fines adjudged in the "Justice eyres of Drumfreis" and after apprising were assigned to the King who now discharged Simon as heir to his late father. On October 12 and 13, 1512, Sasine of the above lands was given, John Carruthers of Holmains and John Carruthers, his son and apparent heir, being amongst the witnesses.78 The phrase "in default of movable goods" indicates, or would seem to indicate, the comparative poverty of the Border Barons. Of furniture they appear to have had little or none, and owing to the possibility of raids and invasion, no great material comfort seems to have been provided. The system of defending their towers, as previously explained, also called for little furniture.

Simon Carruthers of Mouswald is mentioned in the Retour of the Service of Robert, fifth Lord Maxwell, as heir of his father, John, fourth Lord Maxwell, in the lands of Garnsalloch and Dursquhen on November 4, 1513; 79 he was also one of the party, headed by the Warden of the Scottish Borders, who on November 27, 1515, burnt a Grange and sixteen cottages in the village of Arthuret, near Longtown.80

On July 1, 1516, Catherine Carlile, wife of Simon Carruthers of Mouswald, resigned into her husband's hands, as superior, the 7-merk land of "Dronok", the 1-merk land of Cummertries, the 3-merk land of Howthwaite, the 4-merk land of Panthwaite, the 5-merk land of Hetlandhill, and the 5-merk land of Cockett of old extent, and following upon this King James V on July 8, 1516, granted a charter of confirmation of the above lands to Simon and his wife, Catherine Carlile. Later, on August 9, 1516, in the chamber of the Warden of the Friars Minors of Dumfries, before William, Lord Carlile, father of Catherine, Simon produced an indenture made upon the contract of marriage, which had now been consummated, and declared that he had fulfilled the various items contained therein.⁸¹

⁷⁷ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, pp. 59-60, and Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. i, No. 2420.

⁸⁰ Historical Families of Dumfriesshire and the Border Wars, p. 81.

⁸¹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 61, and Reg. Mag. Sig., 1513-46, No. 85.

Simon Carruthers of Mouswald, together with John Carruthers of Holmains, Archibald Carruthers in Loganwoodend, and others, were appointed procurators, on November 14, 1517, for resigning in the King's hands the lands of "Sorowsik and Medilschaw" (Middleshaw).82 It would seem that Simon Carruthers was in pecuniary difficulties, for on September 22, 1528, he disposed of his 20/- worth of land called Loganwoodhead, "otherwise called Ker and Thasseholme, of old extent", occupied by George Carruthers and Thomas Ramsay, together with the office of forestership of his wood called Loganwoodhead, to Gavin Johnstone in the Kirktown of Kirkpatrick-Juxta on the condition that when Simon on forty-days' notice should pay him £20 Scots and give him a tack of the lands for the nine years following at a yearly rental of 20/- he would return the lands to Simon.⁸³ Whether or not Simon recovered his lands is not known, for he died in April, 1531, leaving as heir his infant son, Simon, then aged about 14 years, the ward and marriage being gifted to John Johnstone of that Ilk and his assignees.84

In the Drumlanrig Charter Chest there is a MS. Protocol Book of Mark Carruthers, presbyter of St. Andrew's diocese and notary public (Dumfries). The entries in this book begin on October 17, 1531, and cover the long period of thirty years to February 18, 1562.85 Under the date January 31, 1532, Simon Carruthers of Mouswald appears as a witness to an instrument narrating that Robert Johnstone, baillie of Lochmaben, gave sasine to John Carruthers of Holmains, son and heir of the late John Carruthers of Holmains, in a tenement in that burgh and also other burgh tenements. On the same date there is a further instrument narrating that the above Robert Johnstone gave sasine to Simon Carruthers as son and heir to his father, Simon Carruthers of Mouswald, in various lands mentioned. Later, under the date August 7, 1532, it is recorded that Simon Carruthers of Mouswald, a minor, appeared and was asked by John Johnstone of that Ilk if he was willing to pay and refund all the expenses that Adam Johnstone of Corrie had incurred in building and constructing the place and tower of Polcornar 86 from that time until the entrance thereto of the said Simon. Simon replied that he was willing to do so, whereupon John Johnstone demanded instruments on behalf of Adam Johnstone his brother.

83 Ibid., 15th Rept., Appx. viii.

85 Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 63.

⁸² Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 712.

⁸⁴ Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, Vol. v, p. 401; Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. ii, No. 870; and see also later.

⁸⁶ This is undoubtedly the Procornal Tower the ruins of which can still be seen close to the Moffat-St. Mary's Loch Road just outside Moffat.

There is a memorandum dated November 16, 1535, recording that Simon Carruthers of Mouswald, in his own court held at Cockett, within the lands of Logan-tenement, warned Adam Johnstone of Corrie to remove himself and his belongings from further intromission with, and occupation of, the lands of Polcornar, Logan-tenement, together with the tower, &c. of Polcornar. Amongst the witnesses named are John Carruthers of Woodfoot, and George and David Carruthers, his brothers. The Protocol Book also records that on February 21, 1536, Simon Carruthers bound himself to ratify a letter of life-rent made by the late Simon Carruthers of Mouswald, his father, to Archibald Carruthers, uncle of the said Simon, of the lands of Hetland hill.

Simon Carruthers married Agnes, daughter of Cuthbert Murray of Cockpool, in the year 1538, and on February 24 in that year a Charter was granted by the King in contemplation of the marriage. The lands concerned were, viz. £10 land of "Dronok", of old extent, with fisheries, and 7 merks of Mouswald, of old extent.⁸⁷

On March 16, 1543, John Carruthers of Holmains and others were directed to be summoned to appear before the Privy Council on May 10 next as the jury which on October 9, 1535, had served Simon Carruthers as son and heir of the deceased Simon Carruthers of Mouswald. John Johnstone of that Ilk had been granted the ward and marriage of Simon Carruthers and whilst he was in prison "by command of the King" Simon had been served heir and Johnstone had lost the profits that appertained thereto. At his instance those who had served on the jury were to be charged with declaring that Simon was of lawful age on that date whereas he was only 18 or 19 years of age; that they had stated the value of the lands at £64, and as much in time of peace, without distinguishing the difference of value in time of peace from that in time of war; that they had valued the lands as worth only £64 whereas they were worth 300 merks and as they had not distinguished between the values of the old and new extent they had "greatly prejudiced the duties of ward and relief pertaining to the Crown, and to those having right from it ". Robert, Lord Maxwell, Steward of Annandale, was also charged with having failed to give the prescribed fifteen days' notice required before proceeding to serve an heir.88

The Laird of Mouswald on December 27, 1544, obtained from Queen Mary a re-erection of the Barony, together with the grant of additional lands. The lands comprised in the Charter were as follows: the £20 lands

⁸⁷ Reg. Mag. Sig., 1513-46, No. 1922.

⁸⁸ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. ix, pp. 18-19; and Exch. Rolls, Vol. xvi, p. 597.

of old extent of Mouswald, Howthwaite and Hetlandhill, with tower, fortalice, mill and advowson of the church of Mouswald; £20 (old extent) of Logan-tenement with mill; £10 (old extent) of "Dronok" with fisheries; 40/- (old extent) of Cummertries; I merk in Stenries; £20 (old extent) of Pennersaughs, with advowson of the church; 10 merks (old extent) of Middlebie with advowson of the church; 5 merks (old extent) of Westscales; 2 merks (old extent) in Hoddam; I merk (old extent) in the Holms of Annan (called Blaeberrylands); and ½ merk in Westwood, with tenants, &c. In view of the events which followed, the entail to this charter was to be of importance. After passing to the male heirs of his body the lands were entailed in the following order, viz. to his brothers, John, William and Christopher, in that order; then to his uncle Archibald; then to Archibald Carruthers in Roberthill, and to his brothers George and David; then to John Carruthers in Woodfoot, who was also probably a brother of Archibald of Roberthill; and finally to John Carruthers in Holmhead; in each case passing to the heirs male.89 The instrument of sasine following upon this was dated January II, 1544/5.90

It is evident that Simon's first wife, Agnes Murray, must have died some time previous to 1544, for in January of that year he married Mariota, sister of John Johnstone of that Ilk, a notarial instrument relating the giving of sasine of Simon's 10 merks of Middlebie, of old extent, and 10 merks of Hetlandhill to his spouse, Mariota Johnstone, in conjunct fee for her life, on January 12, 1544.⁹¹ Following on this, on August 30, 1544, John Johnstone, for himself and his heirs, quitclaimed to Simon Carruthers of Mouswald and his heirs, &c., all debts, lawsuits, sums of money and complaints between them, up to date; the witnesses inter alia, being John Carruthers of Holmains, John Carruthers, brother of the Laird of Mouswald, and David Carruthers in Banks.⁹²

After the capture of Annan by Lords Lennox and Wharton on September 20, 1547, Holinshed wrote that the Border country was in such fear that the next day all the clans of the lower part of Annandale came and took an oath of obeisance as subjects of the English King. In Bell's MS., preserved in the Carlisle Cathedral Library, there is preserved a list of the chiefs and the number of their followers who surrendered to the English at this time. The list differs slightly from the two lists preserved amongst the State papers of King Edward VI, as do those from each other. "John Carruthers of Holmends" is mentioned in Bell's MS., whilst "Carruthers

⁸⁹ Reg. Mag. Sig., 1513-46, No. 3041.

⁹⁰ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 62.

⁹¹ Ibid., Appx. viii, p. 61; and Scots Peerage, Vol. i, p. 242.
⁹² Laing Charters, 488.

of Mouswald" is mentioned in one of the official lists. From the roll of gentlemen and landowners which Lord Wharton, the English Warden, submitted to his Government Simon Carruthers of Mouswald is stated to have been able to supply seventy-one fully equipped men. Following upon the wholesale surrender of the families dwelling in the southern part of the West March a number of them were charged with the crime of treason and lèse-majesté in an Act of Parliament on June 12, 1548, and amongst those enumerated was Carruthers of Mouswald. 4

Simon Carruthers seems to have been killed in July 1548, in a fight with the "thieves" dwelling in the Debatable Lands, for it is recorded that the thieves of the Scottish West March with the assistance of English thieves had slain the principal barons nearest adjacent to the marches, viz. Lord Carlile, and the Lairds of Mouswald, Kirkmichael, Kirkconnell and Logan in Annandale and many other landed men. Simon died without leaving male issue and on August 13 of the same year Queen Mary granted to Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig the ward and marriage of Janet and Marion, the two daughters of the deceased Simon Carruthers. Upon the sudden death of Simon a lawsuit ensued between Sir James Douglas and the heir according to the entail of the Charter of December 27, 1544, viz. John Carruthers, Simon's eldest brother. In this law suit Sir James was successful by bargaining for a sum of money with the heir; the entail was set aside and the two daughters of Simon became co-heiresses.

The history of the Carruthers family of Mouswald now commenced to close rapidly. Following on Simon's death Robert, Lord Maxwell, seems to have occupied the house, probably as it was desirable to have the place in strong hands in such unpropitious times, but Sir James Douglas, having secured the ward and marriage of the two heiresses, obtained an order from the Lords of the Secret Council on April 20, 1550, relieving Lord Maxwell of his charge and commanding him to deliver it to Sir James Douglas during the time of ward. 98

The late Simon Carruthers does not appear to have made up his title to certain of his lands, for on January 19, 1558, Janet Carruthers expede a Retour in the Burgh Court of Edinburgh before the Stewards of Annan-

94 Acts Parl., Vol. ii, p. 481.

96 Original produced in Locality of Moffat, 1852.

98 Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. i, p. 96, and Book of Carlaverock, p. 217.

⁹³ Hist. Fam. of Dum. and the Border Wars, pp. 94-8.

⁹⁵ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 62, and Reg. Priv. Conc.

⁹⁷ Vide "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons" and History of the Douglas Family of Morton, Appx. C, No. 166; see also later.

dale as the elder granddaughter of Simon Carruthers of Mouswald who died in April, 1531, vested in the lands of Cumlonganwood, Dunnabie, Kirtlehouse and Carruthers. Cumlonganwood was held from Charles Murray of Cockpool for a red rose yearly, Dunnabie and Kirtlehouse from James, Earl of Bothwell, for a penny yearly, and Carruthers from the same Earl for ward and relief.⁹⁹

Sir James Douglas seems to have kept a tight hand on the two young girls, for on March 21, 1558, Charles Murray of Cockpool, Archibald Murray and Cuthbert Murray, their uncles, obtained letters from the Lords of Council commanding Sir James to produce Janet and Marion, who were stated to be "now past tuttorie and 14 years of age complete", before the Lords of Council at Edinburgh, as he would not permit them liberty to visit their friends. 100

In the year 1560 Janet Carruthers was married to Thomas Rorison of Bardannoch. This marriage was soon turned to account by Sir James Douglas, for he persuaded the Lady of Bardannoch to make over to him her half of the Barony of Mouswald for the services he had rendered to her. The Contract which was dated March 14, 1560, is very plausible and proceeds on the lines that the lairdship of Mouswald lay in a very troublous country and that there was little profit to be gained from the lands; that Sir James had got the entail to the Charter of December 27, 1544, set aside in favour of the two daughters at his own expense and had made great payments in satisfying the late John Carruthers, the heir according to the entail, to the extent of £2,000 Scots, of which Janet's part was £1,000 Scots; that he had paid on her behalf whilst she was his ward £1,000 Scots and had sustained her in . . . " meit drink and cleithing and other necessars" . . .; that he had found her a husband in Thomas Rorison of Bardannoch; that he would obtain her an infeftment in conjunct fee in the £5 land of old extent of "Drumragane with the pertinents by and in the parochine of Glencairn" and pay her dowry of 1,000 merks to her husband and also sustain them and their servants for the space of two years. 101 One cannot help feeling that Sir James obtained far more than he gave, for the Mouswald estates were extensive, and though they undoubtedly lay in an exposed place, having regards to Border raids and warfare, yet they were valuable as is evidenced by the payments made to the Exchequer when Janet entered into her half-share of the baronial-lands in June, 1561.102 A Precept for a Charter of Confirmation of a Charter of

⁹⁹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 61.

¹⁰⁰ Douglas Family of Morton, Appx. C, No. 232.

¹⁰¹ Orig. prod. in Loc. of Moffat, 1852. ¹⁰² Exch. Rolls, Vol. xix, pp. 472-3.

Alienation (dated July 16, 1562),¹⁰³ by Janet Carruthers, with consent of her husband, Thomas Rorison of Bardannoch, to Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig was obtained on January 8, 1562/3.¹⁰⁴ Thus Sir James obtained for himself and his heirs Janet's half of the Mouswald estates.

It is interesting here to note the extensive possessions of the Mouswald family in the middle of the Sixteenth Century. The Estates comprised: £20 land of old extent of Mouswald, Howthwaite, and Hetlandhill, with tower, fortalice, mill and advowson of the church of Mouswald; £20 land of old extent of Logan-tenement, with mill; for land of old extent of "Dronok", with fisheries; 40/-land of old extent of Cummertries; 1-merk land of Stenries; £20 land of Pennersaughs, with advowson of the church; 10-merk land of old extent of Middlebie, with advowson of the church; 5-merk land of old extent of Westscales; 2-merk land of old extent in Hoddam; I-merk land of old extent in the Holms of Annan called Blaeberrylands; ½-merk land of Westwood, with tenants, &c., and the 20/- land of Rafflegill. These lands were held directly from the Sovereign. In addition there were the lands of Cumlonganwood, Dunnabie, Kirtlehouse and the most ancient holding of all, Carruthers, the first-named held from the Murrays of Cockpool and the three latter from the Earls of Bothwell. There were also other lands, e.g. the 6-merk land of old extent of the lands of Trailflat.

Having disposed of Janet Carruthers to his advantage, Sir James now turned his attention to the younger daughter, Marion. She seems to have had a stronger spirit and to have been less pliable than her elder sister, for she made a valiant fight for her half of her ancestral estates. On January 28, 1563, Marion and her uncle, Charles Murray, appeared before Queen Mary and the Lords of Secret Council and sought permission for her to consult her friends in Edinburgh regarding the things required of her by the Council. The permission was granted and Charles Murray bound himself to present Marion before the Council again on January 30 next, undertaking that she should not get married or dispose of her lands in the meantime. 105 It is obvious that the "thing" required of Marion was that she should marry the husband whom Sir James Douglas had found for her. It appears that Charles Murray in order to protect Marion had obtained letters requiring Sir James again to produce the two daughters of the deceased Simon Carruthers. He produced Marion, placing her under the Chancellor's care, and declared that as Janet was only bound to her hus-

<sup>Reg. Mag. Sig., 1546–80, No. 1440. Janet Carruthers had sasine of her half of Mouswald and the rest of her father's lands on July 14 and 15, 1562. (Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 62.)
Douglas Family of Morton, Appx. C, No. 139.
Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. i, p. 233.</sup>

band he could not produce her. The following day (January 29) the whole of the proceedings against Sir James were suspended, a letter from the Queen requiring the Lords to abandon the action being produced. On the same day letters of restraint were raised by Sir James and therein is related that he had offered her a suitable husband whom she had absolutely refused; further, that she intended to marry whom she pleased and also to dispose of her lands and goods. 106

Marion appears to have made up her mind not to marry the husband provided for her, possibly she was in love with someone else, but the records do not explicitly tell of this. At all events Sir James himself went to see her on the next day (January 30) and offered her in marriage John, son and heir of James McMath of Dalpeddar, and required her to "compleit the said band of matrimonye with the said Johne McMath as effeirit oweir in the Kirk of Borthick, quhare . . . that sche was ordainit be the counsale to remove for the tyme or into ony place quhare sche plesit upon the first day of Merche next to cum thaireftir, or uthir convenient day sche plesit to appoint and gif sche failzeit he protestit for the double avail of hir mariage quhilk the said Marioun refusit to do, and declarit that sche wald not be at the said James' byddin". 107

Two days later (February 1, 1563), Marion left Edinburgh and went to reside for a period of forty days with the family of her kinsman John, Lord Borthwick, but before being allowed to depart both she and Lord Borthwick had to bind themselves under a penalty of £2,000 that Marion would remain with him and not depart to Annandale or any other place and that after the space of forty days she should not depart until notice had been given thereof to the Queen and Council by Lord Borthwick. 108

At the end of the forty days Marion seems to have been able to return to Annandale, for on March 13, 1563, she expede a retour at the Court of Lochmaben making up her part of the Barony of Mouswald as second daughter and one of the two heiresses of the late Simon Carruthers. 109 It is interesting to note from this record that Marion was 21 years of age on the feast of Saint Andrew last, which gives her date of birth as November 30, 1541.

In September Marion was evidently still as determined as ever not to marry the man chosen for her by her guardian, for on September 13, 1563, Thomas Borthwick of Pryncards and Michael Borthwick of Glengelt became sureties, jointly and severally, for Marion Carruthers that she should

¹⁰⁶ Orig. prod. in Loc. of Moffat, 1852.

¹⁰⁸ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. i, p. 233.

¹⁰⁹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 62; see also Exch. Rolls, Vol. xix, pp. 509-10.

not marry a traitor or other "Brokkin Man" of the country, nor join herself with any such person under a penalty of £1,000.¹¹⁰

Presumably in an endeavour to safeguard her estates Marion attempted to dispose of her lands to her uncle, Charles Murray of Cockpool, and a Charter of Confirmation was granted by the Queen on June 24, 1564.¹¹¹ The lands mentioned are incomplete and others are different from those appearing in the charter of 1562 granted to Sir James Douglas and it seems that the list of the lands comprising her portion of the barony had been compiled from memory. Obviously, Sir James could not let this pass unchallenged and he immediately obtained letters of inhibition (February 16, 1565) contending that Marion could not legally dispose of her heritage without his consent in view of the gift of ward and marriage which had been obtained by him.¹¹²

The struggle still continued, but evidently Marion was beginning to realise that the case was hopeless as the law was against her. Whether in despair she committed suicide, or whether she was murdered, it is difficult to state, but on October 17, 1570, King James VI granted an escheat in favour of Sir William Douglas of Hawick. The Deed narrates that the lands of Mouswald had fallen into the hands of the Crown through "the said Marioun Carrutheris wilfull slaying of hirself in leiping ovir the wall of the Castell touer and fortalice of Cullyngane, upoun the twenty-five day of September last bipast, and thairthrow wilfullie breaking hir awin craig and banis quhairof sche deit". The above record states that she committed suicide, but the traditions of the surrounding district assert that she was murdered, for she was found dead with strong suspicions of foul play. It also seems difficult to understand why she should take her life while residing with her uncle who, throughout her struggles to preserve her inheritance and her right to choose a husband, had so befriended her.

During the thirty years since Simon Carruthers's death all had been confusion at Mouswald and this is pointed out by Lord Herries, in his report on the West March in the year 1578-9, who advised that since there was no capable defender of Mouswald it should be taken possession of by some laird.

On March 8, 1588, the history of the Carruthers family of Mouswald comes to an end, for on that date Sir James Douglas resigned all the lands of Carruthers, Mouswald and Logan-tenement, into the hands of King James VI for infeftment to himself and his heirs male. Following upon this, on March 18, 1588, came a charter of resignation and an erection of

Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, Vol. i, p. 434*.
 Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 709.

¹¹³ MS. Inventory—per "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

Logan-tenement into the barony of Drumlanrig, and upon which sasine was given on April 11, 1589.114. Sir James resigned all the lands of Mouswald into the hands of the Crown, but in point of fact only half of the barony belonged to him, although for some time past he had treated the deceased Marion's part as his own. It was not until May 11, 1604, ten years after he had obtained in 1594 an Act of Parliament to bolster up his title to the Mouswald estates, that he received the necessary conveyance to himself from Janet, she having become entitled to her sister Marion's inheritance. For this conveyance Sir James was stated to have paid great sums of money, though the exact amount is not specified; it is probable, however, that he obtained far more than he gave. 115 On September 4, 1607, Sir James Douglas was granted a charter of the younger sister's half of the barony 116 and sasine followed on November 6, being registered in the Secretary's Register of the Sheriffdom of Dumfries and Stewartries of Kirkcudbright and Annandale on November 27, 1607.117 The lands of Cumlonganwood were also acquired by Sir James Douglas from Janet on January 22, 1607, for "certain sums of money paid to her". 118 Sir James Douglas was undoubtedly determined to have his "pound of flesh", for on December 13, 1600, he obtained a decree against Janet for 5,000 merks in full of "the double avail" of the marriage of Marion, with £20 for expenses, and £5 paid to the collector of the Lords of the Privy Council. This decree was assigned to his son on April 6, 1613.

The last act as far as the Carruthers family was concerned was the granting of a charter, by King James VI, on September 1, 1613, to William Douglas, son and heir of James Douglas of Drumlanrig, of Marion's half of the Mouswald estates. This William was destined to become the first Earl of Queensberry. A charter of subfuedation, dated Oct. 7/8, 1608, had previously been granted by Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig to his second son James, the founder of the Douglas family of Mouswald. Douglas family of Mouswald.

Mouswald remained in the possession of the Douglas family of Mouswald for about a century, reverting then to the House of Queensberry. As a possession of that House its fate was to become an outlying and neglected portion of a great estate. Ere long the fine old tower of Mouswald, by permission of the Duke, was stripped of its coping and corner stones, and the entrance gateway carried off to oblige a neighbour, Grierson of Lag,

Orig. prod. in Loc. of Moffat, 1852.
 Barony of Mouswald and its Barons ".
 Reg. Mag. Sig., 1593–1608, No. 1968.

^{117 &}quot; Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

¹¹⁸ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, pp. 62-3.

Reg. Mag. Sig., 1609-20, No. 911. 120 "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

who wanted them for his stables. Similarly, no objection was taken to the acquisition by the same family of the old burying-place in the church-yard, where, over the entrance, can still be traced the arms of Douglas, with I. D. (James Douglas) and A. R. (Agnes Rome) on either side and the date 1655 below.¹²¹ There is also still to be seen a stone, built into the oldest portion of the modern mansion house, bearing a device no longer decipherable, but which is known once to have had its place over the arch of the drawbridge gate.

The Tower of Mouswald was oblong in plan and measured approximately 24 feet by 17\frac{3}{4} feet, the walls being 6 feet thick. There were three storeys below the wall head, the ground floor being provided with gun-loops, but it does not appear to have had a vaulted roof. The Tower is now in a ruinous condition, little of the north wall remaining, but the south, east and west walls are still about 30 feet high and have been buttressed where necessary.\frac{122}{2}

As regards the Church of Mouswald, this was dedicated to St. Peter. In 1815 the old church was taken down and very little is now known of this building. It is stated by one who remembered it to have looked very old and was like a barn on entering; it was two steps below the level of the ground. It had very small windows and the original seats had all been carved, but some new ones had been put in. At the north end there was a gallery, whilst at the south end there was a small gallery where they kept the benches and the tent which they used on the occasion of the observance of the Lord's Supper, the church being too small to hold all the people. The font is stated to have borne the armorial bearings of the ancient family of Torthorwald of that Ilk. If such be the case, it must be considered to be of considerable antiquity, for the main line of the Torthorwald family became extinct on the death, in 1296, of Sir David de Torthorwald, whose only daughter, Isabel, married Humphrey Kirkpatrick. It has been conjectured that Mouswald in the Thirteenth Century formed a portion of the Torthorwald estate, which was forfeited on account of the family taking the side of the Edwards of England against Scottish independence, and that on the overthrow of the English by Bruce, who, whilst giving to Isabel's husband, as one of his own supporters, Torthorwald itself, assigned Mouswald to the Carruthers family who had steadily supported him. 123

According to Sir David Lindsay of the Mount (1542) the Arms of Carruthers of Mouswald were—Gules, a chevron between three fleurs-de-lys argent.¹²³

¹²¹ "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons". ¹²² Hist. Mon. of Scot. Comm., No. 515. ¹²³ "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

CHAPTER III

WOODFOOT AND MILNE

OODFOOT and Milne is probably the senior traceable branch of the Carruthers family at the present day, as descendants of the earlier heirs of the entail to the Mouswald Charter of 1544 cannot now be traced.

The relationship of the first four heirs to the Mouswald estates is stated in the entail, namely three brothers and an uncle: the relationship of the last five was possibly too complicated to be set forth in detail. The link must be looked for, therefore, at least one generation earlier. Carruthers, who died about 1504, had a brother William, mentioned in that same year; 2 he would be born c. 1465-70 and his children would probably be born from about 1495 onward, and would be around 50 years of age at the time of the death, in 1548, of Simon, the last baron. The fifth to eighth heirs of entail, Archibald of Roberthill, George, David and John in Woodfoot, were apparently four brothers. The first three are so designated in the document, and it is known that John in Woodfoot had brothers called George and David, who along with him witnessed a memorandum on November 16, 1535.3 If his brothers George and David were not the same George and David as the brothers of Archibald, then their names also should be among the heirs of the entail in 1544, unless the supposition is adopted that both of them had died between 1535 and 1544. The likely reason why John was not described in the entail as a brother of the three former was probably owing to the ancient Scottish custom of describing landed men by a territorial title. Sir Simon's brothers and uncle do not seem to have been landed men and are, therefore, described by their relationship to him. The next heir, Archibald, was a landed man; two of his brothers were landless and are described by their relationship,

¹ The precise connection of the Woodfoot family is not a matter of actual certainty, though it can be deduced with a very high degree of probability.

² Justiciary Records MSS., Vol. i, per "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

but the third brother had acquired property and he, like the ninth and last-named heir, is territorially designated.

John Carruthers in Woodfoot appears to have been succeeded by his grandson John, presumably son of John Carruthers.4 At any rate, on May 17, 1607, a retour was expede by John Carruthers in Woodfute, as heir of John Carruthers in Logan Woodfute, his grandfather, in the lands of Howthat in the parish of Mouswald, a part of the old barony. This John also had a brother James who witnessed an Instrument of Sasine on February 21, 1620.6 John was in turn succeeded by another John who on January 9, 1636, married Rachell, daughter of Ambrose Johnstone of Powdene.7 He would appear to have had a brother George, mentioned in 1657.8 John Carruthers seems to have had four children, viz. John and Thomas, both mentioned as in Woodfoot in 1684,9 Simeoun of Milne, 10 who married Margaret Johnstone of Girthhead, and Janet, also mentioned in 1684.11 Of John nothing further is known: he appears to have had no descendants. In 1698 Thomas Carruthers, sometime in Woodfute, is described as a merchant traveller in England and has been identified with Thomas Carruthers of Twickenham, gentleman, who on his death in 1708 left £20 to erect a stone memorial and directed that he be buried "in the parish of Christ Church, London". It is not known whether he left issue. The Milne family is now extinct in the direct male line, but is represented by the descendants of William Carruthers of Stenrieshill (b. 1777); of James Carruthers in Woodhead (b. 1725); and of David Carruthers in Kinningwell, Breconside and Leithenhall.

⁵ Dumfries Retours, per "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons".

⁴ This John Carruthers died in 1585. William Carruthers in Woodfoot, who was murdered in September 1597, was probably an elder brother who died without male issue (Reg. Sec. Sig., lxix, p. 197).

⁶ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. i, fo. 300.

⁷ Register of Deeds, 499 and 562.

⁸ Dumfries Tests., Vol. ii.

⁹ Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix, p. 403.

¹⁰ Milne (or Mill), Leverhay and Girthhead were all one property and were brought to Simon Carruthers of Milne by his marriage with Margaret Johnstone of Girthhead.

¹¹ Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix, p. 403.

CHAPTER IV

BRECONSYDE

THE lands of Breconsyde and Cocketts lie in the parish of Moffat and were occupied at least as early as 1550 by a branch of the Johnstone family as feuars of the Douglases of Drumlanrig. That family came to an end in 1693 when John Johnstone disponed the lands to his nephew Andrew Chalmers of Dam. Andrew Chalmers of Dam was dead by 1695 when his sister, Margaret Chalmers, was retoured heir to him. That lady married a William Carruthers who was sometime known as "of Dam", but more often as "of Breconsyde", in right of his wife. Unfortunately, it is only possible to speculate as to his parentage. Some members of the Carruthers clan had been tenants of Know (of Daltonheuk, parish of Dryfesdale) for a few generations, and it seems likely that William Carruthers came of this stock, for he is known to have had two brothers, one of whom was certainly tenant there. They were:

James Carruthers in Know, merchant traveller in England, who died shortly after April, 1736. In his Testament he directed that he be buried at Meikle Dalton.³

John Carruthers, also merchant traveller in England, was dead by

¹ Register of Deeds, Dalrymple, Vol. 77, Pt. 2 (April 30, 1693). Andrew was son of James Chalmers of Dam by Janet, sister of John Johnstone. He was a stationer in Edinburgh (Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. ix, fo. 106) and had become burgess there as prentice to Gideon Schaw, stationer there, on February 22, 1689. Margaret Chalmers was infeft in 1714 in the 40/— lands of Dam, Ludovickland and Pantonacre in parish of Dryfesdale as heir to her uncle, John Chalmers. (Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. viii, fo. 225.)

² On May 21, 1666, John Carruthers of Holmains gave a seven-years' tack at a rent of £48 to William Carruthers in Know of Daltonheuk of that part of Know then possessed by him (Cal. of Holmains Charters, No. 114). He may well have been the father of William of Brecansyde. In 1684 there is mention of Martha Johnstone, wife of William Carruthers called Know, and John and Jane, their children (Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix, p. 594).

³ Dumfries Testaments, Vol. 12 (Feb. 14, 1743).

October, 1735, when his son James Carruthers in Know was infeft in an annualrent forth of the family estate.4

William Carruthers of Brecansyde and his wife Margaret Chalmers succeeded to an estate already encumbered with Johnstone debts and our knowledge of them is almost entirely derived from this unhappy source. In 1696 they had to infeft John Jardine, merchant traveller in England, in an annualrent of 300 merks out of part of the estate,⁵ and in 1699 they were forced to borrow 6,000 merks from his brothers James and John "now merchant travellers in England".⁶ From Mr. James Short, minister of Dryfesdale, £1,000 was borrowed.⁷ The same embarrassments continued after William's death, Mr. David Wightman, minister of Applegarth, being the lender.⁸

William Carruthers died in February, 1720,9 but was survived by his wife Margaret till January, 1749,10 by whom he had—

- (i) Andrew Carruthers, was served heir to his uncle James in 1743 and died before his mother without issue.
- (ii) John Carruthers of Brecansyde, Shipmaster in London, usually designated Captain John, was served heir to his mother in 1756, and owing to the accumulated encumbrances assigned the estates in 1769 to the same George Muir, W.S., who had been instrumental in the sale of Rammarskales a few years before.¹¹
- (iii) Francis Carruthers in Brecansyde, died in February, 1737, without surviving issue. 12
- (iv) James Carruthers, described as fourth son, died abroad in August 1732.13
- (v) A daughter unascertained.
- (vi) Jean Carruthers, second daughter, spouse to James Wilson, doctor of the Grammar School at Moffat. She died prior to July 12, 1738.¹⁴
- ⁴ Brecansyde Inventory.
- ⁵ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, fo. 365. His nephew John Dobie, merchant in Newport Pagnell, was infeft in the annualrent in 1727 (Ibid., Vol. x, fo. 288).
 - 6 Ibid., Vol. vi, fo. 164.

⁷ Ibid., Vol. ix, fo. 106.

⁸ Ibid., Vol. x, fo. 151.

- 9 Dumfries Testaments, Vol. 7, fo. 101.
- ¹⁰ Brecansyde Inventory. ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² Dumfries Testaments, Vol. 14, fo. 247; but John was served heir to Francis on July 28, 1736, and the Retour states that Francis died in September 1734.
 - 13 Edinburgh Testaments, Vol. 98.
 - 14 Dumfries Testaments, Vol. 10.

CHAPTER V

HOLMAINS

O direct light can be shed on the origin of the Holmains branch of the Carruthers family. The undoubted progenitor was Roger de Carutheris who in 1375 received from George of Dunbar, Earl of March, the then Lord of Annandale, a £4 land in the vill of Little Dalton, 8 merks of land in Holmains and a 40/— land in Fourteenaikerbank. There are no means of knowing who Roger was, though this branch of the family is generally assumed to be descended from Mouswald. It seems probable, however, that Roger was a son of John de Carrutheris who in 1361 was granted by King David, as Lord of Annandale, a half of the lands (unnamed, but probably Raffols) that had formerly belonged to John of Raffols within the tenement of Mouswald, amounting to 50/— sterling, for in the next charter reference (1425) to a Carruthers in Holmains that occurs, this half of Raffols there belonged to the owner of Holmains. The John Carruthers of 1361 must therefore have been either father to Roger or an uncle who died without issue.

These lands in Little Dalton, Holmains and Fourteenaikerbank first acquired in 1375 by Roger de Carruthers were the kernel of what was to extend in time into the substantial barony of Holmains and were to remain in the hands of the family till the break up and sale of their patrimonial estate. The lands had previously belonged to Sir Robert Lawder of Urqu-

¹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 710.

² Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 709. This may be the same John Carruthers who was granted a wadset over the 2½-merk land called Glengepp and Gerardgille within the tenement of Wamphray on April 22, 1372, by Duncan of Kirkpatrick (Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 51). Even if there be no justification it would be pleasant to identify him with the King's Chancellor of Annandale.

³ He cannot be identified with John Carruthers of Mouswald who did not own Raffols, though his son Archibald in 1484 was infeft in the 20/— land of Raffulgill resigned by Herbert Grymme (Drumlanrig MSS., p. 59). The ownership of the other half of Raffols has not been elucidated. John of Raffols had forfeited his half.

hart and, along with a 40/- land in Little Dalton, the property of Hugo the Larde (Laird), also included in the 1375 grant, had been forfeited by the previous owners. The grant also included the patronage of Little Dalton Church.4 Roger was thus firmly established, but this is all that is known of him. He must have been dead by 1425/6 when John de Carruthers was in possession of these lands and many others, all of which are included in another Douglas grant to him of that date. How they were acquired, by marriage or in return for services, is not known, but they were widely scattered and substantial. They consisted of the £10 lands of Ecclefechan-which may denote a Carlyle marriage, as the Lords Carlyle were the superiors-Plewlands, Copwood, half of Bengalhill, Auldtoun (in Moffat), 2 merks of lands in Crefe (Tundergarth), I merk in Glaisters, Newlands, 2 husbandlands and a saltcoat in Ruthwell, half of the vill of Perisbie (Tundergarth) and others.⁵ Beyond this further extension of property little is known about John de Carruthers. To his wife there is no reference. He served on a jury that retoured George of Moffat as heir to his grandfather, Thomas Moffat, in 1457.6 He was dead by 1471 when his son was infeft as his heir in the lands of Blawat which were perambulated in his favour in 1476.7 Blawat was held of the Lords Crichton who were superiors of Dryfesdale and Carruthers, and after being again perambulated in favour of Holmains in 1504 was included, as a fro land, with other Dryfesdale lands in a precept dated January 11, 1531, in favour of the great-grandson of this Laird.8

It must be obvious that John Carruthers, the second Laird, must have been a very old man if he lived to 1471, for his grandson was placed in possession of the fee of the estate only five years later. The aged Laird had a daughter Elizabeth, married c. 1449 to Gilbert Corry of Torduff and Dailbank.9

John Carruthers, the third Laird of Holmains, only figures once in record with certainty. In 1476 he resigned into the hands of Alexander,

⁴ Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 710. Sir Robert Lauder was Justiciary North of the Forth, and in 1363 received confirmation of a pension of £20 from the fines levied (Reg. Mag. Sig., 1306–1424, No. 163).

⁵ Ibid., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 711.

⁶ Ibid., 15th Rept., Appx. ix, p. 11.

⁷ Holmains Inventory. The writs are missing. The later history of Blawat is unknown, save that John Carruthers of Holmains was infeft on June 4, 1490, on precept from the Earl of Bothwell, who had succeeded the Crichtons in the superiority.

⁸ Holmains Inventory.

⁹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 43, and Reg. Mag. Sig., 1424-1513, No. 319.

Duke of Albany and Lord of Annandale, his lands of Holmains, Little Dalton and Fourteenacres in favour of his son, John Carruthers, reserving liferent to the resigner and terce for his widow. ¹⁰ His wife, then alive, is not named, nor is it known when the third Laird died. In addition to John, his heir, the third Laird may have had another son, Thomas Carruthers, who for his services at the battle of Arkinholme was granted the lands of Corry, forfeited from George Corry for implication in the Albany-Douglas invasion. ¹¹

John Carruthers, the fourth Laird of Holmains, became fiar of Holmains in 1476, as narrated above. In 1492 he added yet a further holding in the Barony of Dryfesdale to the Holmains estate. Blawat had been granted him in 1471 by William, Lord Crichton; John's sister had married a feudal vassal of the same Lord. The reason for these special favours shown to Carruthers may perhaps be sought in some unrecorded marriage with a daughter of the house of Crichton. The new acquisition consisted of the lands of Daltonheuk, Blaeberrieward and Isle in the Water of Annan. As early as the year 1410 these lands belonged to Sir John Crichton of that Ilk whose father had acquired the Barony of Dryfesdale prior to 1361.12 On May 20, 1410, Sir John Crichton gave a charter of "the lands of Daltonheuk and of the Isle lying within the water of Annan, commonly called Blaeberrieward, within the tenement of Drysdale with common pasturage in Bengal and Turnmure" to his brother, Thomas Crichton of Brunston. 13 In 1470 John Crichton, "lawful and natural son" of John Crichton of Brunston, was infeft therein, the baillie being John Carruthers of Holmains.14 In February, 1483/4 William Lord Crichton the Superior was forfeited, and in October, 1488, the Barony of Dryfesdale was granted by the Crown to Patrick Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, as superior thereof. 15 Into the hands of this new superior John Crichton of Daltonheuk resigned these lands in favour of John Carruthers of Holmains who, on January 30, 1492, obtained a charter from the superior. 16 Seven years later Carruthers

¹⁰ Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 711.

¹¹ Reg. Mag. Sig., 1424-1513, No. 1590. Nisbet's Heraldry, Vol. i, p. 170, boldly asserts without a vestige of proof that he was "Thomas Cauruthers of Howmains".

¹² Scots Peerage, Vol. iii, p. 56. Probably by marriage from the Boyis family, Lords of Dryfesdale, i.e. de Bosco, whose arms were by 1449 incorporated in the Crichton Shield.

¹³ Holmains Inventory. 14 Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 1.

¹⁵ Reg. Mag. Sig. 1424–1513, No. 1784. Perhaps it was in view of this impending change of superiors that "John Crichton son of the Laird of Brunston" obtained another sasine on July 7, 1487 (Holmains Inventory).

¹⁶ Holmains Inventory.

took instruments at a Court held by the Earl at Drysdale Dyke concerning his rights to the fishings in the Annan.¹⁷

A word of warning might well be inserted here. In all there were over ten Lairds of Holmains bearing the Christian name of John. The later ones can easily be distinguished from each other, but the first three present many difficulties. In the enumeration followed in this account of the family there is a strict adherence to the few available historical data. the first Laird, has charter authority in 1375, John, the second Laird (presumably his son), in 1425/6, and John, the third Laird, in 1471 when he was served heir, but it is quite possible that the John Carruthers to whom he was served heir was not the second Laird, but a third Laird of whom we have no record. In any other family it would be safe to assume that there was a generation missing, but no such assumption can be made in the case of Holmains which was noted for its longevity, one member of its Dormont cadet being a centenarian. The only safe course to adopt is to adhere strictly to the known facts until clear evidence to the contrary is forthcoming from other sources. Several other references occur that apply either to the third or fourth Laird of Holmains. In 1471 John Carruthers of Holmains was engaged in litigation with Esplane Craufurd, 18 and in 1479 was in dispute with John Glencors of that Ilk concerning a tak of the lands of Stronschelauch. 19 In 1470 he acted as baillie for John Crichton of Burnstoun, infefting Crichton's natural son in the lands of Daltonheuk and Blaberywerd.²⁰ But by 1485 when John Carruthers of Holmains witnessed several documents 21 it may be safely assumed that he was the fourth Laird. In 1493 he had some oxen stolen from him by Gilbert Wilson in Glenken,22 and in 1500 was ordered to enter ward within eight days in the castle of Dumbarton along with the Lairds of "Dunwedy" and "Cokpule" whilst other Dumfriesshire Lairds were sent to Kildrummie, Blackness and Edinburgh Castles.²³ The nature of his offence is not stated. In 1502 he was fined 550 merks in the Court of the Steward of Annandale and as he did not, or could not, pay some of his lands were apprised from

¹⁷ Holmains Inventory. All these missing charters, which might throw considerable light on the obscurities of the early generations of Holmains, were produced in an action before the Sheriff of Dumfries on December 13, 1750.

¹⁸ Acta Auditorum, p. 13.

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 80.

²⁰ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 1.

²¹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 59, and Appx. ix, p. 13; and Book of Carlaverock, p. 442.

²² Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. i, No. 27.

²³ Acta Dominorum, Vol. ii, p. 453. That same year he figured as tutor to Robert Boile, son and heir to deceased John Boile of Ardach. (Ibid., Vol. ii, p. 463.)

him to the Crown. That action had the desired effect and in 1506/7 he made part payment to the Treasurer of the sum of £26 13s. 4d.,24 whereat in February 1507, he received a charter on Crown precept of re-entry of his lands.²⁵ Sasine was not taken till October 12, 1510.²⁶ The full explanation of this obscure transaction comes to light in a document of date March 20, 1538/9, which shows that Carruthers had become surety for the appearance of Roger Carruthers of Warmanbie, William Graham in Moskeswray, Thomas Bell of Kirkconnel, Richard Latimer in Ecclefechan, and others at the Justice Ayre of Dumfries. They failed to put in an appearance so Carruthers was amerced in the fine of 550 merks. Carruthers, to recoup himself, apprised sufficient lands from all of them to meet the fine, but was never infeft in the apprised lands, an omission that was to give trouble to his successor. Instead he assigned some of the lands to the Crown, thereby completing payment of the fine 27 and the Crown under a Signet Letter dated November 10, 1515, gave them to Sir Alexander Jardine of Applegarth till such time as they were redeemed by their owners. 28

The later years of this Laird's life were occupied by a recrudescence of Border warfare, in which he took an active part. He was one of a strong party of Scottish horse, 400 in all, who burnt the village of Arthuret in 1515 according to a complaint by Lord Dacre, 29 and two years later participated in the well-known raid that lifted 700 English cattle from the Debatable Lands, an episode that kept busy the Chancelleries of the respective Governments for quite a number of years. 30

At some date prior to May 1523, John Carruthers, the fourth Laird, must have died. His eldest son, John, was alive in 1512,³¹ but must have predeceased him, for on May 21, 1523, his grandson, John Carruthers,³² was infeft as his heir in Holmains and other lands, and on the following day, in a 2½-merk land in Ruthwell. The date of the fourth Laird's death and his wife's name are alike unknown.

In addition to his eldest son John, who predeceased him, he had another

²⁴ Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, Vol. iii, p. 244.

²⁵ Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 712, and Reg. Mag. Sig. 1424-1513, No. 3192.

²⁶ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 2.

²⁷ Ibid., No. 8.

²⁸ Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. i, No. 2660.

²⁹ Historical Families of Dumfriesshire and the Border Wars, p. 81.

30 Hist. Mon. (Scot.) Comm., Dumfriesshire, p. xxxiv.

³¹ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 60. He was actually alive in February 1516 (Castlemaddy Charters, No. 2).

32 Ibid., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 712; see also Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 4.

son, James, who entered the Church and prior to 1515 became rector of Wamphray, being infeft by his father in May 1518, in the liferent of the 5-merk land of Auldtoun, a ½-merk land in Moffat and the Mote thereof. 33 The name of Schir James Carruthers constantly occurs in documents of the period as a notary and cleric. He probably resigned his life interest in the Moffat lands which are stated to have been gifted in 1546 to the Johnstones of Wamphray, 34 perhaps as a marriage portion, contenting himself with the church lands of Moffat. Even in that possession he was not to remain unmolested. 35 At the Reformation he adhered to the Old Faith and suffered in consequence. Aged and broken and fallen on evil days, he died in 1563. His effects were publicly rouped in Dumfries, perhaps owing to dispute amongst his heirs. His whole effects consisted of:

"Feddir bed wt bowster and cod and couering, arress werk, I pair of sheits, £55/-. Pair of quhite hose, 5/8; Blak coit, Io/-; a chandler, 4/-; twa cushions, 20/-; a kist, 30/-.

Officer and clerk 8/-; Restis £8 II/-; £4 I3/- for debtis; Thomas Turner for hors hire auld debt 5/-; a gray gown sold to him by William Maxwell of Ile comprised at 50/-; Reid braid kirtill laid into waa be umquhile Sir James Carrutheris comprised at 53/- twa pennies less." 36

In June 1525 John Carruthers, the fifth Laird, resigned some of his lands, clearly by way of jointure and obtained a new Crown Charter in favour of himself and his wife conjointly.³⁷ The lady, whom he must have married some years prior to this date, was Blanch, daughter of Sir John Murray of Cockpool, but little else is known of her.³⁸ In 1532 he made an addition to the family estate, purchasing from Richard Carsop of Birkmyre, his cousin (consanguinus), the 5-merk land of Birkmyre in the town of Cummertrees.³⁹

In 1532 he took steps to rectify an omission in his titles and was infeft

34 Douglas Baronage of Scotland, p. 232.

37 Reg. Mag. Sig. 1513-46, No. 320.

³³ Castlemaddy Charters, Nos. 1 and 2.

³⁵ Dumfriesshire and Galloway Nat. Hist. and Ant. Soc., Proceedings, 1923-4, p. 170.

³⁶ Dumfries Burgh Court Book, April 28, 1563, and August 14, 1562. These references are kindly supplied by Mr. G. W. Shirley, Ewart Libraries, Dumfries.

³⁸ Scots Peerage, Vol. i, p. 222.

³⁹ Reg. Mag. Sig. 1513-46, No. 1198. The precept was dated August 28, 1527, but sasine waited on the Crown Charter (Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 7). Richard Carsop had been infeft heir to his father, John Carsop, in 1519 in Birkmyre and also in the 5-merk land of Creif, Glaisters and Persbiehall (Holmains Writs, No. 3).

heir to his grandfather in the lands of Daltonheuk, Blaberryward, called Bengalhill and the Isle in the Water of Annan together with the £10 land of Blawat on precept from the Earl of Bothwell.⁴⁰

Early in 1539 the Laird was called on to deal with a problem that had been ignored by his grandfather. 41 It has been recounted how, to recoup himself for a Royal fine in 1502, his grandfather had apprised the lands of the defaulters for whom he had been surety, assigning some of the lands to the Crown, but refraining from being infeft in the rest. His grandson tried to repair the omission, but the Clerk of the Signet declined to issue the brief on the ground that the defaulters were all dead, so the grandson had to obtain a decreet of the Lords of Council for infeftment. In this way the lands of at least four of the defaulters came into the hands of Holmains, until such time as they were redeemed—some were never These lands were 3 merks of the lands of Thornick and a 10/land of Murthwate belonging to Robert Graham and a 10/- land of Hennelland belonging to Thomas Moffat of which Holmains obtained a Crown Charter on March 20, 1538/9; 42 a 2-merk land of Ecclefechan belonging to Richard Latimer,43 and a 20/- land of Pennersax, belonging to David Bell.44

Though he had been infeft in 1523 it was not until 1541 that he completed his feudal dues when £20 was paid to the Treasurer for the ward, relief, &c., of his lands granted to John Carruthers of Holmains.⁴⁵

The fifth Laird inherited a goodly estate and was able to put one hundred armed followers in the field whereas both Wamphray and Mouswald could only muster eighty. 46 Both Mouswald and Wamphray were baronies, and Holmains may well have desired a similar status. Accordingly, in 1542, he obtained a new Crown Charter that recited at length all his lands and erected them on his resignation into the Barony of Holmains, in favour of himself and his heirs male in tail. 47 The Charter gives the names of no less than seven of his sons. Amongst the lands recited in this charter

⁴⁰ Holmains Inventory.

⁴¹ There can be no doubt that John Carruthers, fifth Laird, was grandson of the fourth Laird, as these proceedings clearly indicate; yet the Protocol Book of Marc Carruthers records on January 31, 1531, the sasine of John Carruthers of Holmains, son and heir of the late John Carruthers of Holmains, in some tenements in Lochmaben.

⁴² Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 8.

⁴³ Ibid., No. 10. Held of Michael, Lord Carlyle as superior.

⁴⁴ Ibid., No. 11. Held of Simon Carruthers of Mouswald as superior.

⁴⁵ Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, Vol. vii, p. 372.

⁴⁶ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. viii, p. 66.

⁴⁷ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 15, and Reg. Mag. Sig. 1513-46, No. 2633.

are the 40/- lands of Rammerscales and Greenlands. This charter illustrates the dangers to which all early titles are liable, namely, misdescription of the lands conveyed, for it can be demonstrated that Greenlands did not at that date belong to Carruthers, and that Rammerscales instead of being a 40/- land was a 5-merk land. Rammerscales, Greenlands and Harthwat were all granted in 1419 by Archibald, Earl of Douglas, to Michael Ramsay of Sipland, a property on the outskirts of Kirkcudbright. 48 descendant John Ramsay, on December 16, 1541, sold the 5-merk lands of Rammerscales to John Carruthers, retaining Greenlands and Harthwat. 49 In 1546, four years after the creation of the Barony of Holmains, John Ramsay gave a thirty-eight year tack of the 2-merk lands of Greenlands to Carruthers.⁵⁰ In November of that same year Ramsay granted to Carruthers the 7-merk lands of Harthwat, Boddome and Pottisaker.⁵¹ All these lands were held by Carruthers from Ramsay whose immediate superior was the Crown, and it was not till 1562 that William Ramsay resigned the superiority which was granted to John Carruthers, grandson of the Laird The grant included Rammerscales and amounted to a 10of Holmains. merk land. 52

In 1542 occurred the disastrous rout of Solway Moss. It is difficult to believe that Holmains was not in that fight at which his eldest son may well have perished, for many of the local Lairds fell or were taken prisoner that day.

Two years later he is referred to as in residence at Holmains. The English were carrying on a series of raids on a practically defenceless Border. They had things all their own way for the most part, but every now and then the defenceless Scot hit back hard. It was a curious position, for the two countries were not at war and the respective Wardens were in regular official correspondence. Nevertheless, a state of active warfare prevailed. John Musgrave of Bewcastle had been stationed in that Castle with an armed force, "the nearest strength to Scotland". He had indeed only just been appointed Constable. He had probably entered Scotland on a light-hearted raid which misfired, for he was taken prisoner by a band of Irvings and Bells. The actual captor was David Irving of Trailtrow,

⁴⁸ Reg. Mag. Sig. 1424–1513, No. 71.
49 Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 13.
50 Ibid., No. 18.
51 Ibid., Nos. 19 and 20.

⁵² Ibid., Nos. 28 and 29. William Ramsay was infeft heir to his father John in the 13-merk lands of Rammerscales, Harthwat and Greenlands on May 15, 1553. His father had been dead for 5½ years (ibid., No. 25).

⁵³ Cal. of Border Papers, 1595-1603, p. 572.

⁵⁴ Cal. of State Papers, Henry viii, Vol. xix, Part 2, p. 418.

william Bell. David Irving at once brought him back in triumph to Holmains. The Constable of Bewcastle was an important person and at once the machinery of diplomacy was set in motion. On May 28, 1544, Lord Wharton, the English Warden, wrote to Robert Maxwell, eldest son of the fifth Lord Maxwell and then Scottish Warden, to arrange for Musgrave's release. Maxwell as Warden was Keeper of Lochmaben Castle and at once made enquiries. He found Musgrave at Holmains and removed him to Lochmaben where he was allowed some freedom. Maxwell promised to send him to Carlisle, but seems to have procrastinated. Perhaps the ransom offered was insufficient. David Irving must have received a windfall.

For many a long year after Solway Moss there was chaos on the Border. Most men made haste to make their peace with England and only Drumlanrig remained staunch. Most of the surviving Scots changed sides with 'a remarkable facility as opportunity offered. John Carruthers of Holmains seems to have held out until the battle of Pinkie must have extinguished all further hope. The renegade Lennox and his ally Wharton, the English Warden, captured Annan (September 1547), whereat "the country . . . was stricken in such fear that the next day all the Kilpatricks, and the Jardines, the Lairds of Kirkmichael, Aplegirth, Closeburn, Howmendes (and) Nuby . . . came and received an oath of obeisance as subjects to the King of England".56 For this he was declared a traitor by Parliament the following year, 57 but such were the kaleidoscopic conditions that by 1553 Holmains was completely restored to favour and figured as Steward Depute of Annandale for Sir John Maxwell of Terregles. 58 Two years later he had his lands burnt by the Grahams of Esk, "the pure inhabitantis of the toun of Annand" also suffering at their hands. 59 In 1563 a feud broke out between the Carruthers and the Kirkpatricks of Closeburn. The circumstances in which it arose are not recorded, but a fight ensued in which Roger Kirkpatrick of Closeburn was wounded and several of his relatives and retainers slain. For this Holmains and his followers were summoned to appear before the Justice Ayre, Sir James Hamilton of Crawfurdjohn being surety for the execution and indorsation of the Letters. The surety, however, failed to execute, not of malice prepense, but deliberately on

⁵⁵ Hamilton Papers, Vol. ii, p. 727.

⁵⁶ Historical Families of Dumfriesshire and the Border Wars, p. 95 (quoting Holinshed).

⁵⁷ Acts Parl., Vol. ii, p. 481.
⁵⁸ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 25.

⁵⁹ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. xiv, p. 156.

the advice of Sir John Maxwell of Terregles, the Warden, in the hope of coming to an agreement betwixt the parties. The Justice Ayre, however, amerced the surety in 1,000 merks for his failure whereat Closeburn, who had amicably settled his differences with Holmains, successfully petitioned the Crown to discharge the surety and not enforce the penalty. Manslaughter was not considered a very serious offence in those days and amicable settlement could readily be secured by a cash compensation of which in this case no record survives.

It was in the lifetime of this fifth Laird that for the first time reference occurs to the lands of Mekill Daltoun. Little Daltoun had been Holmains property since the earliest of that Carruthers branch. Mekill Daltoun, however, had been Grierson property since 1409/12 when it was granted to Gilbert Grierson by Archibald, Earl of Douglas. In 1552 Gilbert Grierson of Dalton granted the £20 land of Meikill Dalton to John Lindsay of Barcloy. The grant included Kirkwood and Dormont and the advocation of Mekill Dalton Kirk, and it was subject to a wadset dated October 2, 1544, in favour of John Carruthers of Holmains. Pending redemption Holmains was in possession, for the Griersons were resident at Castlemaddy in Carsphairn, and the Lindsays were well-to-do burgesses of Edinburgh. The Lindsays attempted to oust the Carruthers, who at once appealed to the Privy Council, claiming to have been "kindly tenants" of Meikle Dalton past memory of man, and to have held a tack of that kirk for forty years.

⁶⁰ Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, Vol. i, pp. 430/1*, and Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. i, p. 307. ⁶¹ Considerable obscurity envelops the early history of Meikle Dalton. It was, of course, included in the first grant of Annandale to Brus circa, 1124. He divided Annandale into knights' fees for his followers. The first-known feudal vassal was Adam de Gessemüth, who flourished 1240-70, though no one of that name is recorded earlier in Annandale; he certainly held the fee of Magna Dalton and the right of presentation to the Church. In July, 1270, he set out with Prince Edward, Sir Eustace de Baliol and eighty others on a Crusade to the Holy Land and seems to have died there. He married Christina, daughter of Odard de Hodelm (Hoddam), relict of Thomas de Lascells who, after his death, married Robert de Brus the Competitor as his second wife. In 1296 she came to an arrangement with her stepson as to her dowry from Dalton and elsewhere. She surrendered her rents from Annan and Lochmaben in return for the vills of Rainpatrick and Gretna, reserved her dower from Dalton, but gave up the right of presentation to Dalton (Bain, Vol. ii, p. 826). Adam de Gessemuth also had land in Northumberland with a fortified house at Heton (Ibid., Vol. i, p. 2463). The earliest reference to the church is c. 1215/45, when is mentioned Master Adam, rector of the Church of Magna Daltun (Ibid., Vol. i, p. 1680).

⁶² Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 710.

⁶³ Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 22, 23 and 24. There had been a previous disposition by Grierson to Lindsay dated August 8, 1515, the details of which are not known (Holmains Inventory).

Holmains, who was represented by his son George, pleaded that if they were evicted the tenure of all kindly tenants on the Border would be imperilled, which would be contrary to public policy. With picturesque licence it was stated that Dalton was within 6 miles of England, and that Carruthers was subject to continual military service and liable to maintain horses and warlike gear for the defence of the realm, a heavy obligation not imposed on those farther inland. It was further declared that within the last few years Holmains had lost a son and no less than twenty-eight friends and relatives in defence of the realm. The Privy Council decided to set up a "Court of Kyndnes" to investigate the claim of Holmains, and if it were well founded he was to be allowed to continue his possession.⁶⁴

It is evident that Holmains substantiated his claim and in 1605 the Lindsays were quite willing to sell their interest to Holmains for 2,400 merks. In this manner a substantial area of land, approximately the bulk of the now extinct parish of Mekill Dalton, was added to the Holmains Estate.

John Carruthers of Holmains was now well on in years, and his position was such that in 1567 he was summoned to Edinburgh with other leading Border Lairds to advise the Regent anent "the establissing of universall justice and quietness within the boundis of the said West Marche." 66 He was still not too old, however, to participate in a fight and was in the affray at Cockpool with Scrope's raiders in 1570.67 The same year he signed the Band of Dumfries promising allegiance to James VI.68 He died on August 19, 1580, at a great age, for he must have been born in the latter part of the Fifteenth Century. His testament directed that he be buried at Little Dalton Kirk.69 The aged Laird was twice married. By his first wife, Blanche Murray, he had seven sons and perhaps some daughters. The name of his second wife, Janet Jardine, is only preserved in his Testament as she was one of his executors, but a document amongst the Holmains Charters indicates who she was. She may be identified with Janet Jardine, relict of Cuthbert Murray of Cockpool, his own brother-in-law.70 Cuthbert died in January, 1541, and in the following June, Janet Jardine called on

⁶⁴ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. i, p. 432, and Clan Lindsay Society, Vol. ii, p. 192. ⁶⁵ Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 47 and 48. It was not until as late as 1616 that the transfer took place (Ibid., No. 60), whilst the legal completion was not effected until as late as 1667 when the superiority was acquired from the Lindsay family (Ibid., No. 119).

⁶⁶ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. i, p. 570.

⁶⁷ Scharf Peerage, Vol. i, p. 224. 68 Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. xiv, p. 66.

⁶⁹ Edwiburgh Commissariot Testaments, Vol. viii. Confirmed January 16, 1580/1.

⁷⁰ Scots Pécrage, Vol. i, p. 223.

the sheriff to divide as between herself and her young son, Charles Murray, her late husband's lands so as to ascertain her lesser (secunda) terce of those lands. This document, reposing amongst the Holmains Charters, clearly establishes her identity.⁷¹ The following issue by his two wives is recorded:

- (i) John Carruthers, who did not succeed his father, being dead by 1558 72 without issue.
- (ii) George Carruthers of Holmains of whom hereafter.
- (iii) William, who witnesses several Holmains deeds. In 1552 he received from his father a charter of Corsopeland and was the progenitor of Dormont, q.v.
- (iv) Archibald.
- (v) Patrick.
- (vi) Robert.
- (vii) Simon.

All the above sons are mentioned in the entail of the Charter of 1542.

- (viii) John, mentioned in his father's Testament, perhaps a son of Janet Jardine. In 1568 he was presented by his father to the parsonage of Little Dalton.⁷³
- (ix) John, a natural son, to whom he left in his Testament the crop and dewties of Over Dormont. He may, however, be identical with No. 8. In 1581 he was associated with David, Earl of Crawford, and others in setting fire to the House of Ruthven, and releasing. Adam Creichton, who had been incarcerated there.⁷⁴
 - (x) Marion, married to John Johnstone of Newbie, who died February 10, 1577, leaving Marion as tutrix to his grandson, John Johnston, described as "oy and apparent heir to the Laird of Holmendis".75
- (xi) A daughter, married to Robert Graham of the Fald.76
- (xii) Margaret Carruthers, Lady Morequhat, who as a legatee may also have been a daughter.

⁷¹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 12. 72 Ibid., No. 26.

⁷³ Herbert Anderson's Protocol Book, Vol. ii, p. 81.

⁷⁴ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. iii, p. 573.

⁷⁵ Edinburgh Commissariot Testaments, March 18, 1578.

⁷⁶ Cal. of Border Papers, Vol. i, p. 126. If this is correct, Robert Graham must have been son of George Graham of the Fald and grandson of "Long Will" (Scots Peerage, Vol. viii, p. 98). Robert (or perhaps a son of that name) must have married secondly Lucrece, natural daughter of John, fifth Lord Fleming, in 1593 (ibid., Vol. viii, p. 545).

- (xiii) An unnamed daughter is stated, without any evidence though in all probability, to have married Gilbert Johnstone of Wamphray.
- (xiv) Mariota Carruthers, wife of Gilbert McClellane of Barmagachane, may have been another daughter. In 1546 John Carruthers of Holmains acted as cautioner for her.⁷⁸

George Carruthers of Holmains on succeeding his father took no steps to be served heir. He does not figure much in record. Along with Edward Maxwell of the Isle he was put to the horn in 1585 for not appearing before the Privy Council and undertaking to underlie the Law.79 This may have been in relation to Lord Maxwell's forcible deposition of the favourite Arran with a strong force from the Borders, including a troop of cavalry furnished by George Carruthers and his son Charles. 80 So close was the connection between the Earl and the Laird of Holmains that George is described as Captain of Threave Castle,81 and elsewhere his son Charles figures as a Cornet in that mounted garrison.⁸² All through the feud between the Maxwells and the Johnstones the Holmains family played a considerable part in support of the Maxwells, though there is no evidence that they fought at Dryfesands. For their support of Maxwell in 1585 they obtained a remission by Act of Parliament under what was known as the Pacification of Perth,83 and when Lord Maxwell and Sir James Johnstone of that Ilk entered a mutual bond of amity, George Carruthers of Holmains was one of the attesting witnesses.84 In 1585 he evicted the aged Provost of Lincluden from his steading of Ernesbie and not appearing to answer the charge was denounced rebel.⁸⁵ In 1590 he figures in a Roll of Landit Men and was ordered to find sureties for all lawlessness done by those members of the family for whom he was responsible.86

By April 1591, he must have been failing and made provision for his family, "being now aged and myndfull and parposit, God willing, to provide my bairnis and ilk ane of thame till a resonabill lyiff".87 So to one of his

⁷⁷ Douglas Baronage of Scotland, p. 232.

⁷⁸ Herbert Anderson's Protocol Book, Vol. i, p. 45.

⁷⁹ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. iii, p. 735.

⁸⁰ Hist. Fam. of Dumfriesshire and the Border Wars, p. 118.

⁸¹ Annandale Book, Vol. i, p. xcvi.

⁸² Acts Parl., Vol. iii, p. 395. 83 Ibid., Vol. iii, pp. 408-9.

⁸⁴ Hist. MSS. Comm., 15th Rept., Appx. ix, p. 33, and Annandale Book, Vol. i, p. 59.

⁸⁵ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. iv, p. 101.

⁸⁶ Ibid., pp. 781–2–6 and 789–90. The other members of his family who also had to find caution were John Carruthers of Kirkwood, Thomas Carruthers of Wormanbie and John Carruthers of Robyflat.

⁸⁷ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 41.

sons, George, he gave a charter of his half of the lands of Almagill and 6 acres in the Ile lying in the lands of Hietae, subject to the liferent of himself and his wife.⁸⁸ He seems to have died by May 22, 1592.⁸⁹

George Carruthers may have been twice married, though the name of the first wife is not recorded. His widow, Margaret Irving, survived him for some years. He had the following known issue:

- (i) John Carruthers of Holmains, perhaps a son of the first marriage, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) George, who as servitor to Sir Lewis Bellenden, Justice Clerk, received a Crown gift of the ward and non-entry of the 40/—lands of Almagill and others belonging to the late Archibald McBrair, and the marriage of his son, Robert McBrair. He and his eldest brother obtained an assignment in 1588 of this ward from John Carruthers of Rammerscales. 1
- (iii) Thomas in Trailtrow (1602).
- (iv) James.
- (v) Symon, in the Ile (1602),92 for whose family see Chapter XI on Carruthers of Ile.
- (vi) Charles, Cornet in the mounted garrison at Threave Castle, mentioned 1585.
- (vii) Janet, who in 1578 was relict and executor to John Johnston in Lochmaben. Her father, mother and grandfather are mentioned as owing part of her tocher.⁹³

John Carruthers, seventh Laird of Holmains, prior to succession was known as John Carruthers of Harthwat, having been infeft in 1563 in the 10-merk land of Ramerscales and Harthuat resigned by William Ramsay of Sipland.⁹⁴ In 1573 he received from his grandfather the 6-merk land of Little Dalton and the £4 land of Ecclefechan called Castlebank.⁹⁵ Two years later he married Nicolas Jardine, sister to Alexander Jardine of

^{*8} Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 26 and 41. George had received from John McBrair, Provost of Dumfries, a charter of these 40/- lands in 1558 (ibid., No. 26).

⁸⁹ Ibid., No. 43. He was certainly dead by 1597 (Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. v, p. 379).

^{*} Ibid., No. 39, February 21, 1587.

⁹² Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. v, p. 379, where these three younger sons are mentioned.

John Johnstone's Testament (Edinburgh Commissariot Testaments, August 26, 1581). There was also a John Johnston elder in Lochmaben, executor to his wife Elizabeth Carruthers, who died March 14, 1575 (Edin. Comm. Tests., February 27, 1577). Elizabeth may have been an unrecorded aunt of Janet.

⁹⁴ Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 28 and 29.
⁹⁵ Ibid., No. 31.

Applegirth, being infeft under that contract by his grandfather in many lands amounting to a 28-merk 40d. land in the parishes of Little and Meikle Daltoun and Dryfesdale.⁹⁶ In 1579 this grant was extended to cover the whole Barony of Holmains, a new Crown Charter being procured on December 22, but not recorded in that Register.⁹⁷ It certainly seems strange that in obtaining this Crown confirmation the grandfather should have benefited the grandson and omitted all reference to his son and successor, George.

It was during the Lairdship of George that John Carruthers of Harthuat obtained by apprising the lands of Holmheid and others extending to a

 $16\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land and known as the third of Castlemylk.

It was this same John Carruthers of Harthuat that absorbed from the McBrair family the lands of Almagill and Hallidayhill. As early as 1542 the transfer had begun when Roger Macbrair gave a charter of a 2-merk land of his lands of Hallidayhill to Archibald Carruthers, who in turn was succeeded by his son, John Carruthers, in 1558.98 In 1574 Archibald McBrair had been infeft, became Provost of Dumfries and was executed at Edinburgh for murder. John Carruthers of Rammerscales became donator to the ward and non-entry of the lands of Hallidayhill and assigned the gift on April 16, 1588, to John and George, sons to George Carruthers of Holmains.99 The gift included the marriage of Robert McBrair, the heir and a minor, who was called on in 1590 by the Crown to find caution for all lawlessness committed by the dwellers on Almagill. He appealed to the Privy Council on the grounds that he was a minor and that the proper cautioner was the donator of the ward and was absolved from the duty which was imposed on John Carruthers, younger of Holmains. 100

By April, 1597, John Carruthers of Harthuat had succeeded his father George and is thereafter described as "of Holmains". On the 5th of that month he complained to the Privy Council that though he had been heritably infeft in that barony by his grandfather, without any reservation of liferent to his grandfather or father, the latter of whom the complainant had suffered to possess the house of Holmains during his lifetime, yet at his father's death his relict and her four sons had refused to deliver up the house to him. Only his stepmother appeared to answer the charge

⁹⁶ Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 32, 33, 34, 42 and 43. The marriage contract was dated at Spedling, April 16, 1575.

¹⁷ Ibid., No. 35. Similarly the grandson was infeft in an annual rent forth of a tenement in the Lochmabengait of Dumfries in 1580 (ibid., No. 36).

⁹⁸ Ibid., No. 14. Sasine did not follow till 1550 (ibid., Nos. 21 and 27).

^{89.} Ibid., Nos. 39 and 40. 100 Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. iv, p. 795.

and she was ordained to deliver up the house of Holmains and receive instead the house of Kirkwoode for life on condition that her sons did not intrude themselves into Holmains, but submitted their differences with the young Laird to the arbitration of impartial friends.¹⁰¹

The following month John Carruthers, now of Holmains, received Crown infeftment in the lands of Murthiswat and Hennelland as heir to his grandfather. 102 He at once took his place as head of his powerful clan in local affairs. In the innumerable bonds of mutual caution of the period he is to be found acting surety for Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar and the Laird of Applegirth, the latter of whom had to acquit himself of the slaughter of John Johnstone of Fingland. 103 When his brothers Simon and Thomas refused to obey a decreet of removing from Almagill and Hallidayhill he was called on to produce them in Court. 104 In 1602 along with other Border Lairds he received a Bond for the good behaviour of his clan and tenants, 105 being rewarded with appointment to a committee of Lairds whose duty it was to advise the Warden in maintaining quietness on the Border.¹⁰⁶ If his advice in any way helped to maintain the desired quietness on the Border it certainly was unable to prevent disturbances within his own clan. In 1602 Christopher Carruthers of Dormont and his sons, 107 laying claim to the teind sheaves of Meikle Dalton, proceeded to take into their own hands what they were pleased to think was the law. They collected the teind sheaves from the tenants who obtained letters of lawburrows against them, to which Holmains was cited as a party having the real right thereto. This infuriated the Dormont family who with "uthir brokin men of the countrey armed with jackis, steelbonnets, swords, lances and uther weaponis" went to Meikle Dalton, Dyk, Knox, Twaquhattis and Over Dormont and "be oppin reif and bangastrie, dang up the said complainers barne duris, kaist down thair haill coirne stalkis, caryit and awaytuke the same ". For this violent dispossession the tenants, complaining that they were "alluterlie wraikit, being bot puir creaturis, unable to resist his violence", had the satisfaction of seeing Dormont denounced rebel by the Privy Council.

The following year James VI ascended the throne of England and at once turned his attention to the pacification of the Borders—"the heart

¹⁰¹ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. v, p. 379. 162 Exch. Rolls, Vol. xxiii, p. 398.

¹⁰³ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. v, p. 743, and Annandale Book, Vol. i, pp. 69-70.

¹⁰⁴ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. vi, p. 356.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid., Vol. vi, pp. 482-3. His named sons were Christie and Francis, and George Carruthers his brother.

of his royal empire". New commissioners were appointed, new gaols built in the Burghs and as prisoners could not maintain themselves and the burgesses declined to do so, "justice was administered to them as soon as possible". Indeed, justice did not always wait for the arrival of the evidence. The method proved most efficacious, for with it was combined the removal of a great number of Border Lairds to suffer temporary detention in the North, nor were they released till tranquillity had been established. John Carruthers of Holmains was amongst the deported Lairds. On November 26, 1607, he was ordered to enter himself in ward in the town of St. Andrews and remain there till relieved by George, Earl of Dunbar, to whom the charge of the Borders had been committed, 103 and James Douglas of Torthorwald became surety in 1,000 merks that he would conform to that order.109 The following March the same surety was forthcoming that he would keep ward in the Burgh of Edinburgh.¹¹⁰ With him in Edinburgh was Thomas Kirkpatrick, younger of Closeburn.¹¹¹ Whilst warded in Edinburgh (which merely confined him within the radius of the town walls) he served on the assize, acting as Chancellor to the court that sentenced Ninian and William Elliot to be hanged for resisting arrest by His Majesty's Guard and slaying William Baillie, a member of that force. 112 So though Holmains was under detention whilst the Borders were being pacified, his services were requisitioned to deal with its disturbers. He was at freedom again in September, acting as Steward Depute of Annandale. Some three and a half years before this, in March 1605, Holmains was conjoined to the Lairds of Drumlanrig, Amisfield, Lag and Applegarth to deal with the disturbances at Newbie. 113 That tower of which only some foundations now remain had been in the possession of a cadet branch of the Johnstone family. A place of some strength, which a century later was to be one of the principal residences of the Johnstones, Earls of Hartfell, it was no doubt desired by the Maxwells, then still at deadly feud with the Johnstones. So at the instigation of John Maxwell, Lord Hereis, a party of Maxwells under John Jardine, younger of Birnok, surprised the tower, took it and held it in force, ejecting the Johnstones and grievously wounding Edward Johnstone, brother of the late John Johnstone of Newbie. The Privy Council ordered Holmains and the other Lairds to turn out and assist Robert Hepburne, Lieutenant of the Guard, to retake the tower and

¹⁰⁸ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. viii, p. 8. 109 Ibid., p. 641. 110 Ibid., p. 646. 111 Ibid., p. 658. At a later date (July 1608), along with Sir Alexander Jardine of Applegarth, he was warded in the Shire of Fife (ibid., p. 662).

¹¹² Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, Vol. ii, p. 559.

¹¹³ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. vii, p. 25.

to hold it, and all Johnstones and Maxwells alike were charged not to go near Newbie "becaus thair is greit appeirance of trubill and inconvenientis lyk to fall out . . . for the richtes of the said landis" . . . One of his first actions as Steward Depute was to prepare "ane perfyte taxt roll". Lord Maxwell the Steward was in hiding, having slain Sir James Johnstone of Dunskellie in April, 1608, and the taxt roll could not be found, so Holmains had to convene a court at Lochmaben to prepare another which was to be lodged with Sir Archibald Primrose, to be kept with the rest of His Majesty's Taxt Rolls. 114 It is to be regretted that the interesting document has not survived. 115

Holmains probably acted as Steward Depute till his death. He certainly held that office in 1610 and 1613, and he was also one of the first Justices of the Peace for Dumfriesshire. 116 But his tenure of the Stewardship was interrupted. By June, 1611, charged with "negligence and sleuthe", he was supplanted by Mr. John Johnstone, advocate, who received rigorous instructions to collect "the bigane taxatiounis". These were owing as far back as 1597. At that period there was no definite system of taxation and mankind could look forward to a cheerful Christmas unmarred by the demands of the income-tax collector. When the Crown was in need of funds—a chronic condition—it prevailed on Parliament to grant it a definite taxation such as £1 on every pound land or merk land. This was a definite assessment and once paid the landowner was not troubled again till Parliament once more enacted a taxation. In 1597 a taxation of £2 on every pound land had been enacted, followed by £1 per pound land in 1601, £4 in 1606, followed by 5/- per pound land "supporte of the Burgh of Dunbare". In all, £7 5s. per pound land had to be collected, especially in lawless Eskdale, Ewesdale and Wauchopdale "through want of ane officiar within the bounds thereof ".117 Tax collectors are never popular and there could have been no competition for the vacancy in the Border parishes. The advocate at once got busy and the Register of Acts and Decreets is full of his proceedings and the consequent bonds recorded in the Register of Deeds. He brought an action against Holmains for deforcement, particulars of which are not given, but was worsted on the technical ground that the Lord Advocate had not been cited as a party. 118 Whereupon he obtained letters of horning against Holmains for his share of the unpaid taxation. 119

¹¹⁴ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. viii, pp. 163-4.

¹¹⁵ The earliest published Roll is dated 1647.

¹¹⁶ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. ix, p. 77, and Vol. x, p. 162.

¹¹⁷ Ibid., Vol. ix, p. 206. ¹¹⁸ Ibid., Vol. xiv, p. 623. ¹¹⁹ Ibid., Vol. ix, p. 318.

Perhaps Holmains was glad to be relieved of his Deputy Stewardship. With the only gaol at Dumfries he must have been pressed at times to know what to do with his prisoners. The vaulted basement of his Tower at Holmains had at times to be used as such. For some reason he apprehended James Wichtman in Over Dormont and put him "in strait prisone within the pitt in [the] place of [? Holmains]". Thus detained "in grite miserie as yf I wer a notorious malefectour", Wichtman craved the Privy Council for letters charging the Steward Depute to put him at liberty on the ground that there had been no lawful sentence and no decreet stood against him.¹²⁰ The victim seems to have been successful, for Holmains had to find surety in 500 merks not to harm him.¹²¹

The last few years of this Laird's life were clouded with trouble. Symon Scot of Bonytoun in 1611 successfully sued him for the yearly duty of 1,000 merks as assignee of Mathew Baillie of Littlegill. Holmains had been cautioner for William Carruthers of Knock, his son, who had contracted the debt in 1608. He was also sued in 1612 by John Skougall, writer in Edinburgh, for the sum of £1,000, his eldest son, John, and Robert Johnstone of Raecleuch being parties thereto. 124

He must have died early in 1616, being survived by his wife, Nicolas Jardine, who at once had trouble with her eldest son. On July 10, 1617, she complained to the Privy Council that John Carruthers, now of Holmains, who "has divers times attempted to procure her wreck and overthrow" in company with William Carruthers apparent of (Nether) Denbie, John, his son, John Carruthers called "Bastard Jok" and others, had gone to the place of Holmains "and to that chalmer of the said place quhair . . . [she] remanit and dwelt as pertening to hir and quhairof she wes in possession and thair efter a most insolent maner brak the dure of the said chalmer, enterit thairintill, brak up the haill kistis being within the same, and maisterfullie and perforce pat the said complenair forth of hir said chalmer and will not suffer hir to returne agains within the same". In other words, he ejected his mother from the house and collected and disposed of the rents at his pleasure. All parties appeared to the summons; the charge of putting his mother violently out of the house was denied on oath and found not proven, but the charge of misapplying the rents was remitted to the Court of Session and meantime Holmains had to find caution in £1,000 and remain in Edinburgh. 125

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120 Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Series, Vol. viii, p. 322.
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125 Ibid., Vol. xi, pp. 180-1.

¹²³ Ibid., p. 397. 124 Ibid., p. 317, and Vol. x, p. 8.

In the following September Holmains had to go to Edinburgh to appear before the Council. As soon as he was safely out of the way his two brothers, George and William, who sympathised with their mother, having "conceived a great hatred against him, and . . . tried to bring about his 'hurte, wraike or inconvenient'" went to his lands of Almagill accompanied by Francis, son of the said George, and George Carruthers, son of Jok Carruthers, called "Quhyte Jok in Little Datoun" and assaulted the Laird's tenants there, namely James Nicolson and David Bell and struck their wives—Isobel Hauch and Janet Beck with "staulfis and treis". Two of Holmains's children happened to be at Almagill, James and Elspeth. The former, William Carruthers struck with his "fauldit nevis" (clenched fist) upon the face to the effusion of blood; whilst the latter was harled by the hair of her head along the ground. The assailants then made off with 24 nolt and 84 sheep. They were denounced rebels. 126

Nicolas Jardine's next appearance is in association with another son in the illegal imprisonment of Richard Nicolson in Clois in Little Dalton. Perhaps Richard had failed to pay his rent; at any rate, in May 1626, Nicolas herself, supported by her son George and George Carruthers of Butterwhat, suddenly invaded his house, pursued him with a great baton with which they gave him many "bloodie strakes" on the head and other parts of the body and left him lying for dead. They turned his wife and children out of the house, broke up his plenishings, locked the house, removed the keys and carried poor Richard away to the "place of Kirkhill" like a malefactor, threatening to put him in the stocks. There they held him in detention whilst they intromitted with his goods and cattle. 127 Such were the methods adopted to effect evictions in the Barony of Holmains by the widowed Nicolas.

By his wife, Nicolas Jardine, who may have died in 1631, John Carruthers of Holmains had the following issue:

- (i) John Carruthers, eighth Laird of Holmains, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) George Carruthers of (Over) Denbie, who witnessed a precept by his father in 1611.¹²⁸ (See account of the Families of Over Denbie.)
- (iii) William Carruthers of Knox is definitely described in 1627 as third son of the deceased John Carruthers of Holmains. It is not known when or how he obtained the lands of Knocks in Little Dalton, but he must have received Knocks and Twaquhattis from his father, for on July 4, 1624, he disponed these lands to William Carlyle,

¹²⁶ Reg. Priv. Conc. Vol. xi, p. 244.

127 Ibid., 2nd Ser., Vol. ii, p. 588.

128 Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 54.

notary, burgess of Dumfries, who was infeft in 1627.¹²⁹ William Carruthers married Mariot Porteous, who consented to the disposition. Knocks and Twaquhattis amounted to a £5 land and was possessed by William Carruthers in 1616, when his mother, Nicolas Jardine, obtained summons of removal against him and all the other tenants of her liferent lands.¹³⁰ They had probably not paid her the rents.

- (iv) Thomas Carruthers, who in 1604 witnessed his eldest brother's sasine in the Barony of Holmains. 131
- (v) Charles Carruthers, a witness in 1604.132

John Carruthers, the eighth Laird of Holmains, married in 1600 Agnes Douglas, daughter of George Douglas of Parkhead and Marion Douglas, spouses, and was infeft in that barony in 1604 reserving liferent to his father and the usual terce to his mother. The contract, dated December 21, 1600, though very dilapidated, is still in existence; it provides that if there were no heirs male £1,600 were to be paid to the issue of the marriage. Perhaps owing to his father's financial status the young couple were for long unable to enforce the terms of their marriage contract. In 1607 he obtained letters inhibiting his father from disposing of certain lands in contravention of his marriage contract with Agnes Douglas.

This difficulty was overcome by the son paying an unstated sum of money and receiving assignment from his father of the £20 land of Meikle Dalton, recently acquired by his father from the Lindsays; ¹³⁴ but it was not till 1611 that the father resigned into the hands of the Crown the Barony in favour of himself in liferent and to his son John and Agnes Douglas, spouses, in fee and their heirs male, whom failing to James their second son. ¹³⁵ With these family difficulties to overcome it is not surprising that John Carruthers did not make up his titles to the estate till nineteen years

¹²⁹ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. ii, p. 228.

In 1553 Cristine Carruthers who had a liferent of the £5 lands of Hoddam, and also of Knokkis and Tuethchettis, assigned her interest therein on August 14 to William Carruthers, son to deceased George Carruthers, burgest of Edinburgh. Ten years later (June 6, 1563) William alienated his interest in the £5 land of Hoddam (no mention of Knoks, &c.) to Sir John Maxwell of Terregil; for £90 who a few months later secured the lands in ownership from James Lindsay of Barcloy (Herries Inventory, Nos. 110, 158, 163 and 166).

¹³¹ Ibid., No. 46.

¹³² Ibid., No. 46.

¹³³ Ibid., Nos. 44, 46 and 50.

¹³⁴ Ibid., Nos. 51 and 52.

¹³⁵ Ibid., No. 54. The eldest son, whose name is unknown, must have died quite young.

after succession. Indeed, his father had omitted to do the same, an oversight not expected from a Steward Depute. So in March 1635, Holmains was served heir both to his father John and his grandfather George. 136 The reason for the repair of this omission is clear. His wife, Agnes Douglas, had died and he had married a second time, a lady named Janet Douglas who, by 1630, had already a family by him. 137 By his first wife he had a son and heir, James, who in 1635 was contemplating matrimony with Margaret Lockhart, daughter of Sir James Lockhart of Ley. 138 Provision had to be made for her by way of marriage contract and the estate was already heavily burdened. Nicolas Jardine, the mother of Holmains, may have been still alive and drawing her terce—she was certainly alive on July 30, 1631.139 Provision too had been made by him for the children of his marriages out of the estate.140 Further, two at least of his brothers had been given by their father interests in the estate. Furthermore, he was in debt and had inherited an encumbered estate. He was at the horn in 1631 for a debt of 500 merks to John Fluiker, burgess of Edinburgh, who had obtained letters of caption against him,141 whilst the Earl of Annandale (John Murray) had secured a decreet of improbation against him concerning his titles to the Barony which prevented him from easing the situation by means of sale of part of his estate. That nobleman had been created Earl of Annandale in 1624 and the following year obtained a Great Seal Charter of an enormous number of lands in Annandale and elsewhere. 142 It was in the nature of an "omnibus" grant and a great number of lands were included which were held by others direct of the Crown. These also the Earl claimed in property under his Charter. Those who resisted were treated to a summons of improbation and had to produce their titles to show that they held of the Crown. Amongst them were Holmains, who was successful in repelling the claim. John Murray must certainly have been the most unpopular man of his generation in the county.

Such was Holmains's position that he was forced to supplicate the Privy Council for protection for going to Edinburgh to consult his lawyers—in other words, suspension of the letters of caption which had been issued at the instance of his creditors. 143 "Left by his late father with a great and

140 Ibid., No. 68.

¹³⁶ Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 69 and 70A.

¹³⁷ Ibid., No. 66. She was a natural sister of William Douglas of Drumlanrig, created first Earl of Queensberry. The marriage contract is dated July 30, 1616 (Drumlanrig Inventory).

¹³⁸ Ibid., No. 76.
139 Ibid., No. 67.
141 Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv, p. 233.

¹⁴² Reg. Mag. Sig. 1620/33, No. 826.

¹⁴³ Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, pp. 205-6.

heavie burden of debt quhilk will overthrow and undoe him if with the advyce of his friends he take not some solide course to prevent the wrack and overthrow wherewith he is threatened with these burdens . . . he is resolved by God's grace so to governe his affaires as be tyme he sall exoner him selfe of a great part of the same, partlie by sale and disposition of some part and portion of his lands and partlie by governing the rest with sic oversight as may best conduce to the furtherance of this his honest resolution." 144 This plaintive supplication was granted and the legal advice taken. His affairs certainly were in need of financial reconstruction. The Lockharts, whose daughter his son was about to marry, no doubt saw to that. So in September 1635, Mr. John Lockhart, fiar of Heides, 145 brother to Margaret Lockhart, came to the rescue and arranged the financial reconstruction. He advanced a large sum of money unspecified and received a disposition from Holmains irredeemably of all his lands, representing the third of Castlemilk and also the £10 lands of Blawat. 146 Further, he agreed to dispose to him all his other lands subject to a back bond by Lockhart and a general settlement with his son, James Carruthers. 147 That settlement included a liferent for Holmains in part only of his lands, on his undertaking to lay aside the yearly sum of 1,000 merks from the rents till the sum of 13,000 merks was accumulated to take the place of a bond of provision for that amount which had been given by James Carruthers to his father's children by his second wife, Janet Douglas. James was to act as Chamberlain, collect the maills and accumulate the provision. John undertook to assign at death to his wife and bairns all his movable goods and plenishings, and to give to James and Margaret a certain amount of farm stock and to put the house of Kirkwood in repair for them. He was also to pay Mr. Alexander Johnstone, advocate, 500 merks for his escheat 148 which was to be assigned to James and to pay off a number of other named debts, and finally to ratify the marriage contract of James

144 Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Ser., Vol. vi, p. 18.

147 Ibid., Nos. 72 and 73.

¹⁴⁵ He is described as a son of Sir James Lockhart of Ley (Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 81). Sir James had by his wife Jean Auchinleck a third son, John, to whom he gave the lands of Kirkbank in 1622 (Reg. Mag. Sig. 1620-33, No. 336). There was a George Lockhart of Heides in 1631 (ibid., No. 1918).

¹⁴⁶ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 75.

¹⁴⁶ Holmains had owed 500 merks to Johnstone and been put to the horn, yet had gone about uplifting rents as if he were a free subject. Not appearing when summoned, he was charged to render up the house of Holmains and enter into ward in Blackness Castle (Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Ser., Vol. vii, p. 311). He must have ignored the order and suffered escheat.

and Margaret. Such were the main headings of this comprehensive settlement. 149

It was followed in October by the marriage contract of James and Margaret who was infeft in the £5 lands of Kirkwood and others. ¹⁵⁰ Finally, in July 1637, Lockhart assigned in favour of James the non-entry maills of all the lands other than the third of Castlemilk, which thus was finally dissevered from the Holmains estate. ¹⁵¹ This settlement was not carried through in the following years without some friction. In January 1636, James had to raise letters of inhibition against his father to prevent him disposing of the lands of Kirkwood and Mr. John Lockhart had to take the same steps, ¹⁵² whilst the financial side of the settlement was found too onerous and James had to obtain a summons for production and reduction of the bond for 13,000 merks provision for his half-brothers and sisters. ¹⁵³

One of the results of this settlement was that whilst John Carruthers, the father, was still called "of Holmains", he was also called "elder, sometime of Holmains"; whilst his son James occurs as "apparent of Holmains" and "of Holmains" (the strictly correct legal designation). 154

In matters affecting the Kirk John Carruthers of Holmains must have been a thorn in the flesh to his minister at Dalton. Owing to the poverty of the people, the collapse of the Roman Catholic Church and the lack of ministers of the Reformed Faith, it had been found necessary to unite the kirks of Meikle Dalton, Little Dalton and Mouswald in 1609. Services were held at Little Dalton as a convenient centre. Mr. William Hamilton acted as minister there till 1615 when the centre was removed from Little Dalton to Mouswald. In 1633 the two Daltons were again dissevered from Mouswald. Mr. William Hamilton as early as 1615 had had trouble with Holmains about the teinds of Wodlands and had kept a tryst on September 19, 1615, with the seventh Laird to settle amicably the collection by the minister of his teind. The Laird's two sons, William Carruthers of Knocks and George Carruthers of Denbie, held other views, however, and with others proceeded to menace the minister, bidding him "tak his decritis and dicht his ears with thame, and farder disdanefullie saying 'Pack yow away soone with these dastartis that are with yow; your craig youkis; we vow to God to lay oure swerdis upour it '." So, drawing their swords,

¹⁴⁸ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 73. 150 Ibid., No. 76.

¹⁵¹ Ibid., No. 83. Lockhart had received the gift of the non-entry on July 28, 1635 (ibid., No. 81), and obtained summons of Special Declaration against all the tenants.

¹⁵² Ibid., Nos. 77, 79 and 80. As late as 1656 Lockhart had to supplicate for inhibition against John (ibid., No. 96).

¹⁵³ Ibid., No. 78. ¹⁵⁴ Ibid., No. 96.

they prevented the teind collection. The minister, however, was not to be deterred. He must have got further legal powers and in July 1616 distrained for his teind. By that time Holmains was dead. On July 13 the minister and John Blak, messenger, distrained some cattle and drove them off towards Dumfries, to apprise them formally at the Market Cross, when William Carruthers of Knocks, Archibald Carruthers called Mungo's Archie and others attacked them with staffs and swords. The minister must have beaten them off, probably with the assistance of James Hamilton and John Dickson, burgesses. The apprising took place and the cattle were taken to some fields outside Dumfries by James Hamilton and Dickson, who were cruelly assaulted there by the Carrutherses who removed the cattle. The minister at once appealed to the Privy Council and the assailants not appearing were denounced rebels. 155

When the next harvest came round the minister again went to Wodlands to collect his teinds. The same scenes were enacted, but this time the Carruthers family turned out in force. William Carruthers of Knocks was accompanied by his brothers, John, the new Laird of Holmains, and George of Denbie, George Carruthers of Butterquhat, John Carruthers in Dyke, Herbert Carruthers in Midelraw, Andrew and George Carruthers in Over Dormont and Alexander Carruthers, brother to John Carruthers of Ramerskales and others to the number of forty or fifty, who again threatened him. Indeed, had it not been for the help "of some good people" he feared he might have been slain. That happened on September 20, 1616. The minister collected his teind sheaves and carefully stacked it in the ground of Wodlands. On September 23 the same disturbers of his peace went again to Wodlands, expecting him to cart his stacks to his manse, and lay in wait for him, but the minister got wind of what was intended and changed his plans. In the evening his enemies, disappointed, had to content themselves with casting his stacks to the ground. Again the Court denounced them as rebels and put them to the horn. 156

For two months the Carrutherses ignored this horning, then on February 27, 1617, the minister again complained to the Privy Council that they had remained unreleased from the horning. Again they did not appear so this time the Privy Council ordered them to be apprehended.¹⁵⁷

As might have been expected, these lively episodes did not make Mr. William Hamilton a popular pastor in the eyes of Holmains and his family. They declined to attend Kirk on the Sabbath and thereby gave him a chance to persecute them, for the Kirk, supported by the Law, vigorously

157 Ibid., Vol. xi, p. 51.

¹⁵⁵ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. x, p. 588. 156 Ibid., Vol. x, p. 668.

upheld a series of penal enactments against all who did not attend at Kirk. The minister put these into operation, which aroused in them "deadly hatred" towards him. In the autumn of 1625 the minister was engaged transporting corn from Dalton to Mouswald-probably teind sheaves extracted from Holmains and his tenants. The Carrutherses decided "to lay in wait for him by the way". They were substantially the same dramatis personæ as in the previous affrays. Somewhere on the moor, near Deadman's Gill, they must have lain concealed, but the minister was providentially detained at Mouswald Manse and in their rage at their disappointment they set upon his servants, "threw thame to the ground, breisted and punsed thame with thair hands and feete, and after a barbarous maner strake and wounded my horses, whilks wer careing my cornes, brake the sleddes 158 and uthers instruments quhilks served for careing of the cornes and caused thair awin bestiall eate and destroy the same ". The minister at once went into Dumfries and obtained a summons against Holmains in the Commissary Court. The Officer of the Court, one John Neilson, went forth to execute the summons on Holmains, but was met by an angry Laird with a drawn sword who gave him a deep wound in the shoulder and then turned loose and set on him "ane great mastisk dog" which threw him to the ground and bit him through the "ball of my leg so that I was unable to stirre for a long spaice thairafter". That was followed by a further attempt by Holmains and his brothers to waylay the minister. Hearing that he was at Butterquhat they went there, but missing him had to content themselves with attacking his servants at Hoile who escaped just in time; later in the day they ran the minister to ground at Kirkhill, besieged him in the house and tried to burn it down; failing in that effort. they slew a horse which they thought was his. 159

These high-handed proceedings ill became a son of a Steward Depute. It was a lawless age, for so cumbersome, remote and impotent was the Law that everyone, being brought up in violence, took the Law into his own hands. Relatively simple disputes arising from rights to land usually flared up into a pitched fight. They were apt to strike first and argue afterwards, though frequently it ended with there being no one left to argue with. An episode of this character occurred in 1622. Some dispute arose between Andrew Murray of Moryquhat and John Carruthers of Holmains as to some land heritably belonging to Moryquhat. In December, in the ploughing season, Holmains with a crowd of relations and followers

¹⁵⁸ A sort of sledge still used on the moors to bring in peats. Wheeled carts were not then in use for agriculture.

¹⁵⁹ Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Ser., Vol. ii, pp. 587-8.

numbering about sixty and fully armed entered the disputed land on Moryquhat and began to plough it up. Andrew arrived on the scene and tried to meet the situation diplomatically, "and in a verrie modest and calme maner asked quhat moved thame to proceid after suche a lawles maner againis him". Holmains, however, had not gone there to argue calmly and they set on Andrew with drawn swords and lances, chased him to his own house and would have killed him had he not got there first and locked the door. "Frome the sonne riseing to ane hour befoir the sonne setting they beseiged him" with full resolve to kill him if he came forth. following February the same crowd again went to the lands of Moryquhat and started ploughing operations. Andrew again calmly desired them to leave his land in peace, whereupon one of them "keast a whinger at him" and the others went for him with swords, but being on horseback he escaped. Andrew's complaint to the Privy Council was heard in July 1622. Some of the assailants were dismissed for lack of proof, but Holmains and his relatives being found guilty were charged to enter ward in Edinburgh Tolbooth under pain of horning.160

John Carruthers of Holmains died on June 27, 1659,¹⁶¹ being survived by his second wife, Janet Douglas. The plenishings left in the house of Holmains were inventoried by his successor on May 30, 1660. They did not consist of a luxurious equipment—four old bedds, ane meikle chist, ane ambrie, two gunnes, ane uthir old little chist, ane brewing leid, ane maskinfatt and ane garner—all of which he bound himself to make forth-coming to the heirs at law.¹⁶²

The following issue of John's two marriages are recorded, though it is not known by which wife:

- (i) James Carruthers, younger of Holmains, described as the eldest son of the first marriage, so there may have been others. His marriage to Margaret Lockhart has already been described. He died during the lifetime of his father, survived by:
 - (a) John Carruthers of Holmains, ninth Laird, of whom hereafter.
 - (b) William Carruthers of Over Danbie, second son, for whom see Chapter XIV on "The Families of Over Denbie".
 - (c) Mary, married prior to 1660 to Robert Carruthers of Rammerskales. 163
 - (d) Helen, married to John Carruthers of Dormont.

¹⁶⁰ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. xiii, pp. 6-7.

¹⁶¹ Dumfries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. ii.

¹⁶² Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 98.

- (ii) William Carruthers of Butterquhat. (See Chapter XIII on Families of Butterquhat.) With his brother Thomas he advanced 4,000 merks to his nephew John Carruthers of Holmains. He was eldest son of Janet Douglas. 164
- (iii) Thomas, first mentioned in 1636, who afterwards became Major Thomas Carruthers of Brigmuir. For his half of the 4,000 merks loan he was infeft in security in 1664.165 He was admitted burgess of Dumfries on October 8, 1660, and at once made himself unpopular with the magistrates in what was a close corporation with vested interests. At the November election for the Town Council he protested that he could not find out the names of the voters, and when the magistrates tried to ride rough-shod over him he promptly cited the Council to appear in Court in Edinburgh whereat a voters' roll was produced. 166 He was appointed Steward Depute as early as . . . and married Elizabeth Hairstanes, relict of John Sharp, baillie of Dumfries 167 and was dead by September 20, 1683, when Elizabeth, then described as spouse of Thomas Charteris of Amisfield, secured a decreet against John Carruthers of Holmains relating to the above wadsett for 4,000 merks.168 By Major Thomas Carruthers she had a daughter, Janet Carruthers, whom she had to cause enter heir to her late husband for the purposes of her decreet. Janet was dead by November 1684.169 The decreet she assigned to John Sharp, Sheriff Clerk of Dumfries, who obtained a heritable bond from Holmains. 170 The loan was probably repaid in 1714 when the Butterquhat portion was redeemed. 171

(iv) George.

(v) Margaret, mentioned in the summons of 1636. With her sister Janet she was infeft in 1633 in a 40/- land of Over Dormont by her father and brother James in security for £1,000 and 1,000 merks Scots respectively under bond of provision. Margaret was to get her provision on marriage. 173

¹⁶⁴ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 66. William and the younger children are named in a Summons of Reduction of their bond of provision on February 17, 1636 (ibid., No. 78).

¹⁶⁵ Ibid., Nos. 106, 107 and 108.

¹⁶⁶ Town Council Minutes.

¹⁶⁷ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 143.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid., No. 140.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid., No. 143.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid., No. 145.

¹⁷¹ Ibid., No. 176.

¹⁷² Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. iv, fo. 1.

¹⁷³ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 68. She was only to marry with consent of William Douglas of Kelhead, James Douglas of Mouswald, Francis Carruthers of Dormont and John Carruthers of Rammerskales.

- (vi) Janet, married in 1645 to James Carlyle of Boytath.
- (vii) Elspeth, assaulted in 1617 with her brother James by George and William Carruthers, their uncles. 174

John Carruthers, ninth Laird of Holmains, succeeded his grandfather in the Barony in 1659. He had already had some trouble with his uncle, William Carruthers, afterwards of Butterquhat, but then a landless younger son. At the death of James Carruthers, father of John, his children (including apparently John) were minors and the grandfather was probably too old to act as tutor to them. So William Carruthers purchased a brieve to be served tutor to them. This was opposed by John Carruthers, with the support of his Lockhart uncles, on the ground that William was "a man of no means or estate either lands or goods", and that, if he be so served, responsible cautioners be found for his intromissions. 175

In spite of the financial reconstruction effected by Mr. John Lockhart of Heids the estate was still embarrassed. So when James Carruthers died Samuel Lockhart, merchant in Edinburgh, and brother to Mr. John Lockhart, obtained from the Lord Protector a gift of the ward and non-entry duties of the estate on August 7, 1657,¹⁷⁶ which gift he assigned to Robert Fergusson of Craigdarroch on January 23, 1662.¹⁷⁷ Fergusson secured adjudication in his favour, followed on October 2, 1662, by a charter under the Great Seal which set forth that John Carruthers had renounced his right to be served heir.¹⁷⁸ It was not till May 1673 that Carruthers was infeft under a Great Seal charter proceeding on Craigdarroch's resignation.¹⁷⁹

In April 1659, John Carruthers married as his first wife Helen, daughter of Sir Robert Grierson of Lag, who was infeft by Craigdarroch in the liferent of Kirkwood and other lands, a proviso being that if she had heirs male she was to resign in favour of such heir the lands of Over Dormont estimated at £200 Scots yearly. In 1663 John Carruthers was appointed a Justice of the Peace and in 1678 and again in 1685, was appointed by Parliament as one of the Commissioners of Supply for his shire; whilst in 1667 he was appointed, with others, to enquire into the conduct of Sir James Turner during his command in the sheriffdom. In 1668 he is

¹⁷⁴ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. xi, p. 244.

¹⁷⁶ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 90. The document is undated, but the endorsement bears April 21, 1643, which is probably a wrong date.

¹⁷⁶ Holmains Inventory. 177 Ibid.

¹⁷⁸ Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 101 and 102. 175 Holmains Inventory.

¹⁸⁰ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 105 (August 11, 1663).

¹⁸¹ Acts Parl., Vol. vii, p. 505, and Vol. viii, pp. 225 and 465.

¹⁸² Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ii, pp. 369 and 387.

named as a "captaine of foot" in the "list of the officers of the militia of the shyre of Dumfreice." 183

In 1675 he was in conflict with John Carruthers of Ile, who had to find caution not to molest Holmains or John Carruthers, his son. 184 That same year David, Viscount Stormont, supplicated the Privy Council to the effect that Holmains, with Craigdarroch, Closeburn, Sir Robert Dalzell of Glenae and other leading landowners, had laid an imposition on him of 50/- Scots for every 100 merks of valued rent, which was illegal. 185

In Church matters Holmains had distinct leanings towards the Covenanting cause. Although he never seems to have taken a leading part, yet he was called on to find a cautioner that he himself, his wife and children in family should frequent their own parish church and refrain from Conventicles under penalty of 1,000 merks. 186 Holmains bowed to the storm and on December 27, 1683, subscribed the Test. 187 Three years later he secured an Act of Parliament in his favour establishing the right of holding three yearly Fairs at Meikle Dalton-on April 23, August 15 and the first Tuesday after Martinmas. The fairs contemplated were substantial affairs as each of them was allowed to continue for three days. Further, he was granted the right to hold a weekly mercat on Tuesdays and to uplift the usual tolls derived therefrom. 188 This was an obvious source of revenue, but it is not known what use was made of these rights. A mercat cross certainly was erected and still stands, but the scheme if started must have been shortlived and premature. 189

In 1684 Holmains took steps to enforce his right of presentation to the church of Ecclefechan, "now called Hoddam". The ancient parishes of Luce, Ecclefechan and Hoddam had been conjoined. Ecclefechan had long belonged to the Holmains family, being mentioned in most of their Great Seal charters. The three parishes were combined in 1609 when after the Reformation there was a great scarcity of persons fit or qualified for the ministry. The combination must have entailed some scheme of which there is no record now whereby those who possessed the right of presentation to the separate parishes still preserved a reduced right of presentation to the combined parish of Hoddam. As in similar known cases the right after 1609 may have been exercised in turn. Holmains at least had not

¹⁸³ Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ii, p. 542. ¹⁸⁴ Ibid., Vol. iv, p. 619.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid., Vol. vi, p. 646. 185 Ibid., pp. 467 and 474.

¹⁸⁸ Acts Parl., Vol. viii, p. 652. ¹⁸⁷ Ibid., Vol. viii, p. 639.

¹⁶⁹ The Hist. Mon. Comm. inventories it as a standing stone (No. 100). It is little else, having no pretensions to ornate mason work.

exercised his right of presentation as "heretor of the £10 land of Ecclefechan" since the time of the Troubles had begun. In 1681 the Rev. William Carnegie, minister of Careston, had been translated to Hoddam. 190 It is not recorded who made the presentation, but clearly Holmains felt that his right had been overlooked. Accordingly he commenced an action against the other parties with equal rights—viz. the Earls of Southesk, Queensberry and Annandale and Douglas of Kelhead, and also against Arthur, Archbishop of Glasgow, whose duty it was to induct the presentee. 191

It was in the life of this Laird that the old tower of Holmains perched high on the hill was forsaken and Kirkwood, which previously had been used as a dower house or residence for the eldest son, was turned into the family mansion. A good deal of building must have been necessary to adapt Kirkwood to the more luxurious age that was spreading in Scotland at that time. Two contracts still survive to show the type of structure. In June 1689, James Selkirk (who signs Selkrig) undertook the mason work which was finished by the following September—not an excessive period seeing that the mason had to do his own quarrying and dressing—whilst Hugh Cunninghame undertook the slating work. Selkirk received £150 Scots and Holmains supplied stone, lime, sand and tools. Cunninghame received £104 Scots, half a boll of meal and a morning drink, and had to hew all the slates from Holmains's slateheuch. 192

As previously mentioned, John Carruthers married in April 1659 ¹⁹³ Helen, daughter of Sir Robert Grierson of Lag by Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir James Murray of Cockpool. ¹⁹⁴ She was infeft in the liferent of the £10 lands of Kirkwood, Meikle Dalton and others in 1663. ¹⁹⁵ Helen Grierson predeceased her husband who married, secondly, Helen Callendar. From an instrument in bad condition amongst the Holmains Writs that lady would appear to have been dead by February 10, 1690. ¹⁹⁶ It is not known if she had any issue by her husband. The Laird himself died in September 1694, his second surviving son, George, being his executor. ¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁰ Scott's Fasti, Vol. ii, p. 620.

191 Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 142.

192 Ibid., Nos. 149 and 152.

193 Holmains Inventory.

¹⁹⁴ MS. Hist. of Grierson Family by Sir P. Hamilton Grierson where the date of Sir Robert and Margaret's contract is given as May 23, 1622. Their eldest son John was knighted in November 1641, having the previous month married (1) Lady Jean Fleming, daughter of John, Earl of Wigtown, and (2) in October 1646, Isabel, daughter of Lord Boyd.

¹⁹⁵ Gen. Reg. of Sasines, Vol. vi, fo. 427.

¹⁹⁶ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 151.

¹⁹⁷ Durafries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. vii, No. 290.

By his first wife, Helen Grierson, 198 John Carruthers had the following issue:

- (i) John Carruthers, who, though alive in 1675, was dead unmarried and without issue by 1684.
- (ii) George Carruthers of Holmains, of whom hereafter.
- (iii) Margaret, married firstly on June 8, 1688, James Johnstone of Poldean, who died in 1690; secondly, John Carruthers of Over Denbie. She died on April 7, 1742.
- (iv) Mary, married to William Carruthers, eldest son of Walter Carruthers of Nether Denbie. In 1690 her father gave her a heritable bond for 3,000 merks with infeftment for the £120 Scots annual-rent thereof in the lands of Little Dalton. In 1692 she ratified her husband's discharge to her father for £1,000 Scots as her bairn's part.

Though George Carruthers, tenth Laird of Holmains, succeeded on his father's death in 1694, it was not till 1723 that he made up his titles by having himself served heir to his father, 201 a procrastination peculiar to the Holmains family, which led to many difficulties to themselves and the inevitable puzzlement of the writer of this account. Born on April 4, 1677, he lived just for fifty years, dying on May 28, 1727. On July 3, 1704, he married Mary, daughter of William Carruthers of Denbie.

In 1699 he took a definite step to improve the status of his Barony and to stabilize the dues payable to the Crown. As will have been noticed from this account, the unusual longevity of several of the Lairds of Holmains had been accompanied frequently by the lengthy minority of their grandsons and heirs. The minorities were, under the feudal practice prevailing at the time, a very costly business to the family estate. If a minor succeeded, the gift of his ward was in the hands of the Crown. For this the estate was "in non-entry" on the death of the owner until his heir was legally infeft therein. Until the successor was entered as heir (on or after majority) the non-entry, i.e. the administration of the estate, and the disposal of the rents and profits, belonged to the Crown who could gift it at pleasure. The Crown suffered from chronic financial stringency and was of course ill equipped to administer estates in non-entry at a great distance from Edinburgh. So the practice had been long established for the Crown to gift the non-entry to the highest bidder who had to recoup himself for his investment out of the profits of the estate. The effect on the estate was frequently disastrous and a long minority was always dreaded.

¹⁹⁸ In the document quoted she is called "Helen Greir".

¹⁹⁹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 155 and 156. ²⁹⁹ Ibid., No. 154. ²⁰¹ Ibid., No. 178.

The family of the minor, therefore, made great efforts to secure to itself the gift of the non-entry, for if the gift was given to an enemy there was frequently no estate left to inherit at the end of the minority. The greater the effort of the family, the better pleased was the Crown, for it meant higher and more determined bidding, and the higher the bidding went, the more the estate had to be bled by the successful bidder. It was a vicious system.

The marriage of the heir was also an asset of the Crown in minorities which was freely gifted. From all of these feudal exactions the Estate of Holmains had suffered heavily in the past, and it was George Carruthers who in 1699 took steps to modify and stabilise them for the future. Accordingly on May 13 he was given a Great Seal charter in favour of himself and his heirs male, whom failing, his heirs or assignees whatsoever, of the whole Barony with this provision that, whenever the lands should fall into the hands of the Crown by reason of ward, non-entry, relief or marriage, or any of them, the heir should peacefully enjoy them on payment of 250 merks Scots per annum during the time of the ward or non-entry, or for relief, and 520 merks Scots for the marriage of the heir. By this means the estate could not be plundered by anyone having the gift of these dues and the heirs knew exactly how much their feudal liabilities were. As a further precaution this grant was ratified by Act of Parliament. 202

George Carruthers was a Commissioner to Parliament for Dumfriesshire in 1704. He presented a bell to the parish church of Dalton. It is described as a clean good casting by John Meikle of Edinburgh with the inscription bands close together and separated by very small rims. The strawberry-leaf frieze above, often used by Meikle, is copied from the work of Peter Osmens of Rotterdam. The coat of arms on the waist is very carefully done and the heraldic tinctures are indicated. Diameter 214 inches, height 144 inches. The inscription is as follows: "George Carruthers of Holdmains, patron of the united parishes of Meikle and Little Daltouns. Edinburgh 1704." On the waist repeated on opposite sides is a shield with Carruthers arms surmounted by helm and crest with mantling and above the motto—"Promptus et Fidelis". 2023

In 1715 George Carruthers brought to an unsuccessful conclusion some litigation of old standing. In 1680 his father had granted a tack of a £5 land of his £10 land of Ecclefechan to William Irving of Kirkconnel, which tack contained this clause,—" perpetually and continually as long as the grass groweth up and the water runneth down". In due course William Irving died, a number of grandchildren and others succeeding to the tack.

²⁰² Acts Parl., Vol. x, pp. 316–18, and Appx., p. 103. ²⁰³ Hist. Mon. (Scot.) Comm.—Dumfriesshire, No. 96.

For some reason unknown to us George Carruthers wished to terminate the tack and on January 27, 1715, failed in obtaining a Decreet of Reduction.²⁰⁴ His case, in law, was that the tack as wanting an "ish", i.e. having no definite date of expiry, was null and void. The other parties maintained that a proprietor has it in his power to grant such an obligation to his tenant that shall be good against himself and his heirs for ever. The Court held that by the meaning of the parties the contract was intended to be a perpetual right to the tenant and his successors, and so George Carruthers lost his case.²⁰⁵

So many members of the Irving family are mentioned in the Decreet that it is of interest to record them in the accompanying chart (p. 113),²⁰⁶ especially as the action occurred at a time when male heirs were failing and the property of Kirkconnell changing hands.

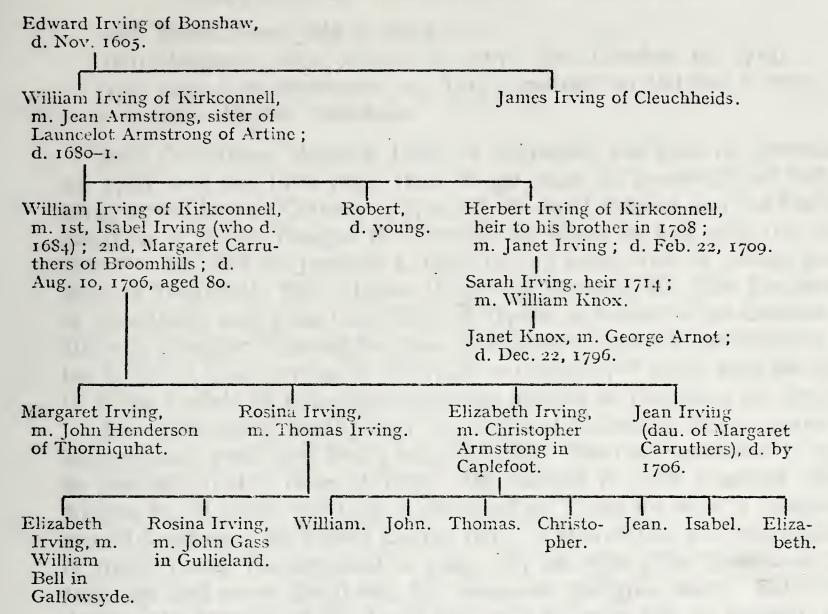
George Carruthers married clandestinely his cousin Mary, daughter of William Carruthers of Denbie. This was an irregularity which the Kirk could not tolerate. Offenders whether high or low were sternly called to account. On December 7, 1705, he was prosecuted in the Stewart Court of Annandale, the Procurator-fiscal claiming 1,000 merks penalty under an old Act of Parliament in 1661.²⁰⁷ It is not recorded how much he had to pay, but as on appeal to the Court of Session it was held that whereas the fine was to be shared between the fiscal and the poor of the parish "the

204 Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 181.

205 Decisions of the Court of Session, Vols. xxxv and xxxvi, 15195.

²⁰⁶ This chart is compiled from the Process of 1715 (Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 181) with additions from "History of the Irvings", p. 57, the "House of Arnot", by Lieut.-Col. J. Arnot, MS. Calendar of Kirkconnell Writs penes R. C. Reid and Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society Transactions, 1898–9, pp. 16 and 80. It must be pointed out that in all probability at least two generations of William Irvings have been omitted in the above after Edward Irving of Bonshaw.

207 A similar case is recorded in 1740. "Indictment of David Cumming, Wigmaker in Dumfries, for ignoring the 34 Act of Parliament of Charles II which ordains that whosoever marry in a clandestine unorderly way or is married by persons not authorised by Kirk shall be imprisoned for three months and also pay, if a nobleman £1,000, if a gentleman or burgess £500, and everyone else 100 merks and remain in prison till the fine is paid and applied to pious uses in the parish where they dwell, the celebrator to be banished, never to return under pain of death." Nevertheless, the said David Cumming did go through a form of marriage with Helen Brown, daughter of John Brown, Dean in Dumfries, on October 22, 1740, being married by John Thomas, Vicar of Brampton, Cumberland, without proclamation of banns in Scotland as appears by the Register of Marriages of Brampton. On October 28 Defender appeared in Court and was fined 100 merks Scots payable to Mr. Archibald Malcolm, Procurator-fiscal, to be disposed of in terms of law (Sheriff Court Processes).



poor of the parish only have the right to the fine for clandestine marriage; but in order to encourage to prosecute, the Procurator-fiscal will be allowed his full expenses out of the first of the fine ''. Apparently the fine levied was a small one which barely met the costs of prosecution. The poor, as usual, got nothing. George Carruthers had the following known issue:—

- (i) John Carruthers of Holmains, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) William, born January 5, 1708; died June 4, 1711.
- (iii) Thomas Carruthers, M.D., physician in Cockermouth, born April 22, 1709; married to Jean Gordon on September 21, 1732, and died in 1748, having been lost at sea on his passage to Carolina, leaving issue three sons—James, 209 born October 1733; George, born December 1734 and died January 20, 1738; and John, born December 4, 1736; died February 15, 1737.
- (iv) James, born June 24, 1712; died July 8, 1712.
- (v) George, born February 21, 1719; died May 22, 1731.

208 Decisions of the Court of Session, Vol. vi, 2251.

209 His eldest son was confirmed his executor in 1750, being still under the curator-ship of George Gordon, merchant in Dumfries (Edinburgh Testaments, Vol. 113, Part i).

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- (vi) Helen, born July 7, 1705.
- (vii) Margaret, born October 9, 1713; died October 17, 1713.
- (viii) Ann, born September 24, 1716; married on October 2, 1749, to John Martin, Dumfries.

John Carruthers, eleventh Laird of Holmains, was born on December 20, 1706, and was little more than of age when he succeeded his father, being served heir on October 2, 1729. In April 1729 he married Rachel, daughter of James Douglas of Dornock, by whom he had only two children. He died on January 5, 1734, having nominated Sir James Johnstone of Westerhall, Bart., James Douglas of Dornock, Mr. John Henderson of Broadholm and John Carruthers of Denbie as tutors to his children. His only daughter Philadelphia, born in February 1730, was provided for by her father in £500 sterling on marriage or majority, which sum she took to Adam Carlyle of Lymekilns whom she married on December 21, 1753.

John Carruthers, twelfth and last Laird of Holmains, like so many of his forebears, must have had a long minority. Born on September 1, 1731, he survived to the close of 1809. He married in 1762 (contract dated August 19, in which the lady is described as "now his wife") Charlotte, second daughter of Sir Robert Laurie, Bart., of Maxwelton, who was nephew of Annie Laurie immortalised in song. By his wife John Carruthers had two sons and seven daughters, for whom see pedigree chart. Both sons died in the lifetime of the Laird who had no male heir to succeed, and financial disaster overwhelmed him so that there was no estate left to He had invested £500 in the Douglas Heron Bank at Ayr succeed to. when it was floated in 1769. His uncle, William Douglas of Kelhead, put in £1,000 and many other gentry in the county followed suit with like sums. The shares carried unlimited liability and the affairs of the Bank were grossly mismanaged. In 1772 the storm broke. The capital of £150,000 melted as if by magic. Call after call was made on the luckless proprietors, the last call made and extracted being no less than £1,400 per share on such as were still solvent. In the end the balance against the Bank was £366,000, representing a loss of £2,600 on each share. In the crash John Carruthers was overwhelmed and the estate passed into other hands. Only the Charter Chest of Holmains remained. He died on October 20, 1809.

²¹⁰ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 179.

²¹¹ The Marriage Contract is dated at Castlemylk, September 29, 1729 (Holmains Charter Chest). She died January 26, 1790 (Gentleman's Magazine).

²¹² Dumfries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. x, No. 465.

²¹³ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 180, dated November 10, 1732.

²¹⁴ Marriage Contract in Holmains Charter Chest.

HOLMAINS

His eldest daughter, Christian, married John Erskine of Aberdona, who was the great-grandfather of Mr. Erskine Murray. To the last named was left, as senior representative of the Holmains family, the Holmains Charter Chest by Major J. P. Carruthers Wade, a son of a younger sister of Mrs. Christina Erskine. Mr. Erskine Murray allowed the Historical Manuscripts Commission to have access to the Chest, with the result that a selection of the earliest writs were published by that Commission. Mr. Erskine Murray at a later date presented the Charter Chest to the Rev. W. Mitchell-Carruthers, grandson of Susan Carruthers, the third daughter of the last Carruthers, Laird of Holmains. That gentleman, hearing that a History of the Carruthers family was in contemplation, most generously placed the contents of the Charter Chest at the disposal of the writer of this account. A careful Calendar of its contents, other than the documents printed by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, has been prepared which will ultimately be deposited in a Public Library.

The return of the Holmains Charters were acknowledged by Mr. Mitchell-Carruthers on September 3, 1931. A few days later he passed away. His passing was wonderful and just what he would have wished. As so often was his habit, he was preaching in a neighbouring parish church morning and evening, and resting between times at the house of a friend at Burford. He lunched and was left to rest and later was taken for a walk round the garden till tea. During tea he collapsed, gave a few sighs and died in a few seconds, perfectly painlessly and peacefully. He was working hard and full of plans up to the very last. He had retired for some years from active work as an incumbent and had become Governor and Chaplain of Kingham School, Oxon. His diary was written up to the Saturday night. "My 78th birthday. Inexpressible gratitude to the merciful God for all the way in which He has led and preserved me. Up to the Office, I saw K . . ., on to the school and saw S . . . on many matters. Then to Daylesford and home at noon. Rest after lunch. Motored to the W . . . as I heard his suffering wife had died. Looked through sermon notes for to-morrow, and then a quiet time for meditation and intercession. 'Waiting upon God for renewed strength." Such was his passing.

The Arms of Carruthers of Holmains were matriculated in the Lyon Register c. 1672. Arms: Gules, two chevronels engrailed between three fleurs-de-lis or. Mantling gules, doubled argent. Crest: On a wreath of the liveries, a cherub's head proper. Motto: "Promptus et fidelis."

²¹⁵ Hist. MSS. Comm., 6th Rept., Appx., p. 709.

CHAPTER VI

WORMANBIE

THE lands of Wormanbie extending along the eastern bank of the Annan River a little north of that town were originally a £10 land. At some early date it became divided into Over and Nether Wormanbie, each amounting to a £5 land, Over Wormanbie belonging in superiority to Holmains, and Nether Wormanbie in superiority to the Lords Maxwell. It is with their respective vassals that these notes are concerned. earliest reference to a Carruthers of Wormanbie is in two documents amongst the (Nether) Wormanbie titles, being a charter, followed by sasine, by Roger Carutheris of Wormondby to his son John Carutheris of a 16/- land of his lands of Raffellis and an annual-rent of 4/- forth of Roberthuait, dated March I and 7, 1472.1 Roger was in all probability sprung from Holmains, but whether he was ancestor of Over or Nether Wormanbie, or of both, cannot at present be established. Amongst the same titles is an Eighteenth Century copy of a charter reproduced from an entry in the Register of the Great Seal dated July 25, 1484, whereby the Crown grants to Thomas Carruthers for his share at the battle of Arkinholme, the lands of Corrie forfeited by George Corry of that Ilk. The presence of this copy amongst these titles cannot establish legal identification, though it indicates that the Carruthers of Wormondbie in the Eighteenth Century claimed that Thomas as an ancestor. If that be allowed, then Thomas may have been ancestor of Nether Wormanbie. George Corry of that Ilk, however, soon got back his lands and Thomas Carruthers may have been compensated with the lands of Flemingraw of which no grant is known.

Over Wormanbie first appears in 1535 when it was possessed by Thomas Carruthers of Over Wormanbie who served on a Mouswald assize.² He was dead by 1546 when John Johnstoun of that Ilk obtained the ward of the 5-merk land.³ He must have been succeeded by Esota Carruthers,

¹ Wormanbie Titles, Nos. 1 and 2. ² Raehills Papers, p. 18. ³ Reg. Sec. Sig., January 15, 1546.

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presumably his daughter, who had sasine on May 5, 1547.⁴ The relief paid to the sheriff was £3 6s. 8d. Esota Carruthers was murdered a few years later by some members of her own clan, James Carruthers called gay George (sic) and his son John Carruthers, and on January 13, 1553, John Johnstone of that Ilk was given their escheat. The lands remained in the hands of the Crown for 28 years till in 1582 William Carruthers obtained sasine in Over Warmanbie.⁵

For the next thirty years nothing is known of Over Wormanby and its possessors. In 1611 it was possessed by James Irving of Cleuchheidis, who is described 6 as brother to Jaffray Irving of Coiff. Irving held of Carruthers of Holmains as superior, but not the whole £5 land—only the 5-merk land of Over Wormandby, alias Cleuchheidis. It may be conjectured that Irving acquired his interest through the marriage of George Carruthers of Holmains with Margaret Irving, perhaps a sister of Cleuchheidis. Like all his clan, James Irving could never keep his hands off other people's possessions and was convicted of theft at a Justiciary Court at Peebles at which he did not appear and so was declared fugitive. His lands were consequently escheated to the Crown. On July 8, 1613, the Crown presented to the vacant holding William Carruthers of Knox, a son of Holmains, as hereditary holder in place of Irving.7 Irving's liferent escheat must have been granted to John Carruthers of Holmains who on October 8, 1614, disponed it to Knox. The disposition contains mention of a tower.8 Some arrangement must have been reached between the Irvings and the Carrutherses, for soon after James Irving was in possession again. In 1621 he disappears from the picture, disponing the 5-merk land of Over Warmanbie and Garthend to William Irving, eldest son of Jaffray Irving of Robgill, but reserving his liferent.9 William Irving, the new owner of Cleughheids—his two brothers, Richard and Christopher, witnessed the infeftment-married Susan Irving, daughter of Jaffray Irving of Brotis and relict of Robert Charteris of Hoil. 10 There is no need to pursue the history of Over Wormanbie further.

Exch. Rolls, Vol. xviii, p. 413. Some complexity is caused by another Crown Gift to John Johnstoun of that Ilk, of the ward of Over Wormanby and the marriage of William Irving, Laird thereof (Reg. Sec. Sig., January 13, 1553). From this it appears that the Carruthers owned the superiority and the Irvings were their feudal vassals.

⁵ Ibid., Vol. xxi, p. 472.

⁶ Annandale Peerage Case, p. 850. In 1553 the marriage of William, Laird of Over Wormanbie, was gifted by the Crown to John Johnstone of that Ilk (Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. xxvi, p. 137).

⁷ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 56. ⁸ Ibid., No. 57.

Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. viii, fo. 7. 10 Ibid., Vol. iv, fo. 227.

Nether Wormanbie was also a £5 land and when first noticed belonged to the Hereis family. Early in the Sixteenth Century a member of the Carruthers family was in possession and seems to have taken advantage of the involved affairs of the last Lord Hereis to assume proprietorship as well as possession. That action of course had to be dealt with by Lord Hereis, the result being embodied in an instrument whereby Roger Carruthers "called Lord of the £5 land of Nether Wormanbie in the parish of Annan" confessed that he had no right to the same which belonged to William, Lord Hereis, as Lord proprietor. It is by no means clear what happened to Roger's possession which would seem to have terminated, for the same instrument records the escambion by Hereis of the £5 land of Nether Wormanbie for the £5 land of Tundergarth that belonged heritably to Lord Maxwell.¹¹ The date of these proceedings was January 21, 1537.

A month later Lord Maxwell regranted Nether Wormanbie to Thomas Carruthers, who is described as son and heir-apparent of Roger Carruthers of Flemingraw "for his help, counsel, homage and service rendered".¹² This is the foundation of the Nether Wormanbie titles and shows that the family had previously owned Flemingraw.

As early as 1492 a Thomas Carruthers had sasine of Flemingraw, 13 no other details being vouchsafed. He must have been father of the above Roger and have died in 1498, for when Roger was in turn infeft in 1501 in the 6-merk land of Flemingraw it is stated to have been in the hands of the Crown for three years. 14 Of Roger Carruthers the only other record is that in 1507 he suffered a 10/- land of his lands of Flemingraw to be apprised by John Carruthers of Holmains. 15 It is not known when he died, but by 1560 Thomas Carruthers of Wormanbie reigned in his stead. As early as 1410 James of Douglas, Lord of Dalkeith, granted to Thomas Carruthers the lands of Brandrigs in the holding of Hutton-under-the-Moor resigned by Elizabeth Cryspyne. 16 Just 150 years later a Carruthers was still in possession of Brandrigs and Heathquhat, extending to a 6-merk land, for on November 10, 1560, Patrick Grahame there resigned his "kyndness" of those lands to his "master" Thomas Carruthers of Wormanbie, 17 who seven years later resigned them into the hands of his superior, James Douglas, 4th Earl of Morton, the Regent, in favour of James Graham of Gillesbie. 18

12 Wormanbie Titles, No. 4 (February 9, 1537).

16 Laing Charters, No. 90, February 2, 1410.

¹¹ Hereis Inventory, Nos. 47 and 49.

¹⁸ Exch. Rolls, Vol. x, p. 766.

¹⁴ Ibid., Vol. xi, p. 341*.

¹⁵ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 8.

¹⁷ Wormanbie Titles, No. 8. ¹⁸ Gillesbie Titles, No. 2.

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Thomas Carruthers married a lady named Isabella Irving. It was an irregular union as they were within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity. To regularise the union a Papal dispensation had to be obtained, an expensive luxury in those days. It was procured from the Archbishop of St. Andrews in 1555, and the document, which is still amongst the Wormanbie Titles, sets forth that they were within the third degree of consanguinity, had been married by consent and not in face of Holy Church and that, to avoid further scandal, they were absolved from ecclesiastical penalties and made free to be married in face of Church. Isabella could not write and was represented by Robert Corbet of Hardgray as her procurator, who with Thomas Carruthers on bended knees heard the dissolution of the "de praesenti" marriage and received the dispensation.19 Then comes a hiatus of about 50 years in the records of the family. Thomas Carruthers, vassal of the Earl of Morton, must have been succeeded by another Thomas Carruthers in Wormanbie and Flemingraw who was dead by 1604 when Charles Carruthers, his son, was infeft on precept from John, Lord Maxwell, as his son and heir in Nether Wormanbie.20 This was followed in 1608 by his service as heir to his grandfather, Thomas Carruthers of Wormanbie, in the 6-merk land of Flemingraw which had been in the hands of the Crown for forty years.²¹ Thomas, the Earl's vassal, must therefore have died in 1574. Charles resigned Flemingraw in 1610 for a new Crown Charter in favour of himself for life and his eldest son Edward in fee.²² Both Charles and Edward were engaged in a lawsuit anent Flemingraw in 1618.23

It would seem that shortly afterwards Edward Carruthers parted with Flemingraw. Edward can never have made up his titles to Wormanbie, for in 1626 his son Ludovick Carruthers was infeft as heir to his grandfather Charles in the £5 lands of Nether Wormanbie.²⁴ Ludovic married (contract dated September 28, 1625) Margaret, eldest daughter of George Irving in

¹⁹ Wormanbie Titles, No. 7.

²⁰ Ibid., Nos. 9 and 10. But see Acts and Decreets, Vol. 262, p. 389, where Charles is said to be heir in 1608 to his grandfather's brother.

²¹ Ibid., No. 11.

²² Reg. Mag. Sig. 1608/20, No. 396. Charles had another son, Thomas, infeft in 1619 in 8 acres of land in Wormanbie under reversion for 250 merks (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. i, fo. 174).

²³ Acts and Decreets, Vol. 319, fo. 10. Flemingraw has now disappeared from the map. In 1719 James Scot of Flemingraw is mentioned in a Langholm sasine (Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. cxiii, fo. 387). Charles Carruthers in 1605 was charged with the slaughter of the late Roger Gordon in Lochenkit (Pitcairn, ii, 475).

²⁴ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. ii, fo. 203. Robert, Earl of Nithsdale, is stated to be the superior (also Wormanbie Titles, No. 12).

Bonshaw Byres,²⁵ and seems to have been of a lively disposition, for in 1637 and again in 1642 he was prosecuted as a Border outlaw.²⁶

Ludovic Carruthers was dead by 1654 in which year his son John Carruthers was served heir to him in Nether Wormanbie, having married (contract dated October 7, 1652) Agnes Murray, daughter of James Murray, sheriff clerk.²⁷

John Carruthers of Nether Wormanbie lived till nigh 1694, when his eldest son James was served his heir.²⁸

He had the following issue:-

- (i) James Carruthers of Nether Wormanbie of whom hereafter,
- (ii) Ludovic,
- (iii) Alexander,
- (iv) Robert,
- (v) William,
- (vi) Margaret, spouse to Robert Johnston burgess of Annan,
- (vii) Anna, spouse to William Carlyle in Nether Middlehill, all of whom were infeft in an annual-rent of 2,150 merks as their bairn's part in 1699.²⁹

James Carruthers married in 1679 Agnes, second daughter of William Carruthers of Butterquhat.³⁰ It was in this Laird's lifetime that the superiority of Wormanbie passed from the Earls of Nithsdale to the Queensberrys, for in 1708, James Carruthers received a charter from the Duke of the superiority (penes Col. Spencer of Wormanbie). He died in May 1727. The following year his son William Carruthers of Nether Wormanbie was retoured his heir.³¹

William Carruthers of Nether Wormanbie died in December 1741 leaving by his wife Mary Hamilton, who was perhaps of the Ellershaw family,³² the following issue:

- (i) James Carruthers of Nether Wormanbie, served heir May 7, 1760.33 He married in August 27, 1786, Mary Butter, daughter to deceast
- ²⁵ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. ii, fo. 197. Adam Carlyle, apparent of Brydekirk, was donator of Ludovic's ward and marriage.

²⁶ Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Ser., Vol. vi, p. 408, and Vol. vii, p. 352.

²⁷ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. v, fo. 379. Ludovic was dead before August 11, 1648, when Robert, Earl of Nithsdale, issued precepts for John's infeftment (Wormanbie Titles, No. 14).

Wormanbie Titles, No. 17. 29 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. vi, fo. 110.

³⁰ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xlii, fo. 105.

³² Sheriff Court Deeds, bundle 1748, where the widow on behalf of her children granted a factory to Joseph Corrie, writer. The fact that her daughter Jean was buried in the Girthead tomb points to Mary Hamilton being of the Ellershaw family.

33 Retours

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Charles Butter, merchant in Edinburgh, who was infeft in liferent of Warambie under post-nuptial contract dated January 10, 1788.³⁴ She survived her husband, by whom she had no issue, and in 1820 was served heir to her sister Helen, widow of Quentin Fleming at Boathaugh.³⁵ She died at Dumfries on September 30, 1829, aged 76, having mortified £6,000 for the benefit of old lame women who were natives of Dumfries.³⁶ James died in March 1, 1798.

- (ii) Charles, who must have died young.
- (iii) Jean Carruthers, who died on February 25, 1773, and was buried at St. Michael's, Dumfries.³⁷
- (iv) Agnes who was served heir special to her brother James in 1798 in Nether Warmanbie.
- (v) Katharine.

By 1812 Agnes Carruthers, last of the main line of Wormanbie, was dead and the estate passed to a second cousin, James Carruthers, merchant in Liverpool, who on September 4, 1812, was infeft therein as heir special to his great-grandfather, James Carruthers of Wormanbie (d. 1727), and to his grand-uncle, William Carruthers of Wormanbie, and to the said deceased Agnes his second cousin. The proceedings were instituted by James Carruthers, Cornet of the Scots Greys, son to the new Laird. The connection of the new owner of Wormanbie with the former owners is thus legally established, though two generations remain undisclosed. Perhaps some faded notes on a slip of paper amongst the Wormanbie titles may supply them. These notes commence with a James Carruthers who with his wife, Margaret Carruthers of Wormanbie, is stated to have been buried in Dalton c. 1766. They are given two sons:

- (i) Captain James Carruthers, who died unmarried c. 1784.
- (ii) David Alexander Carruthers, who died probably about 1762, having married a Miss Chalmers by whom he had an only son.

From the above it is possible to trace the relationship. James Carruthers of Nether Wormanbie must have had by his wife, Agnes Carruthers, a daughter, Margaret, married to James Carruthers in Cocklicks, who was descended from John Carruthers, younger of Domont, and his wife Katharine

³⁴ Dumfries Reg. Sas., May 19, 1798. ³⁵ Retours.

³⁶ Tomb in old Annan Churchyard. 37 Adam's Douglas of Morton, p. 339.

³⁸ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. xxxv, fo. 96.

³⁹ The action charging him to enter heir is recorded in Acts and Decreets, Dal., Vol. v, June 12, 1812.

Herries (see Chapter on Dormont, footnote 27). James Carruthers died in November 1751,40 leaving three children; Capt. James, merchant in Liverpool, who left £100 to the Seaman's Hospital there 41; David Alexander; and Margaret, married to George Howatson in Locherben whose son John was executor to Cocklicks. This John Howatson had a sister, Jean, married to Richard Rawline in Chapelhill. 42

James Carruthers, merchant in Liverpool, was son of the above David Alexander Carruthers and may be identified with the merchant in Liverpool who succeeded to the estate in 1812. In 1785 as "cooper in Liverpool" he was executor to his uncle and is stated to have married about 1786 Elizabeth Thomson and had two sons and three daughters:

- (i) James Carruthers, killed at Waterloo, 1815 (the Cornet of Scots Greys in 1812).
- (ii) Alexander Carruthers, of whom hereafter.
- (iii) Cecily, dead by 1848.
- (iv) Caroline Eliza, dead by 1848.
- (v) A daughter unnamed.

Alexander Carruthers of Nether Wormanbie, who later took the name of David Alexander, on March 10, 1818, was served heir in the lands of Wormanbie to his father James Carruthers of Wormanbie, who died on July 18, 1815, 43 and was infeft on April 6 following. 44 On December 11, 1848, as David Alexander Carruthers of Wormanbie he was served as only brother and nearest heir to his sisters Cecily Carruthers and Caroline Eliza Carruthers in the lands of Northfield. 45

David Alexander Carruthers had no male issue, but four daughters, the youngest of whom, Catharine, married John Salkeld of Holm Hill, Dalston, Cumberland. To provide for these daughters he sold the estate in 1858 for £38,000 to Edward MacKenzie of Newbie, Auchenskeoch and Wormanbie, who allowed the vendor to remain at Wormanbie as his tenant. In 1877 MacKenzie entailed the estate on his third son Austin MacKenzie with remainder to his other sons. Austin, for £17,140, sold Wormanbie, i.e. the policies and one farm only, back to Louis Carruthers Salkeld, son of Catharine Carruthers and John Salkeld, in whose family it remained till 1922, when on

⁴⁰ See his Testament, August 26, 1752.

⁴¹ This Testament was recorded at Chester, July 10, 1785. (Wormanbie Titles).

⁴² Dumfries Reg. Sas., November 9, 1787.

⁴³ Retours. ⁴⁴ Dumfries Reg. Sas. ⁴⁵ Retours.

⁴⁶ This and the following facts are derived from the modern titles *penes* Messrs. MacKenzie & Roberton in Glasgow.

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the death of Catharine Carruthers, Mrs. Morton (she had married a second time and resided at Wormanbie), the Trustees of Louis Carruthers Salkeld sold the diminished estate to Colonel John James Spencer, the present proprietor, who has since added to it by purchase.

The early titles of the estate, however, remained in the hands of Major Carleton Salkeld of Holm Hill, son of Louis, to whose courtesy in giving

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access to them this account of the family is mainly indebted.

CHAPTER VII

DORMONT

YILLIAM CARRUTHERS, first of the Dormont family, was the third son of John Carruthers and Blanche Murray, his wife. He received from his father, in 1552, a charter of Corsopeland and later of Nether Dormont. He had three sons, Christopher and George, both mentioned on November 23, 1602 (see Holmains Chapter), and Hobie, mentioned December 24, 1594. Christopher, the eldest, who married Margaret Johnnestoun, succeeded to the family estates on his father's death and in 1592 obtained a tack of Hardgrave from Sir James Johnstone. During the feud between the Maxwells and the Johnstones the Dormont family undoubtedly favoured the cause of the Johnstones, for in a Respite granted December 24, 1594, by King James VI to Sir James Johnstoun and eight score others, for the slaughter of John, Lord Maxwell, the Warden, in December 1593, "Christie Carrutheris of Dormont" and "Hobie Carrutheris his brother" are mentioned. Christopher Carruthers of Dormont was witness to a Holmains Sasine on December 2, 1584.2 Christopher Carruthers is known to have had three sons:

- (i) John Carruthers "called of Dormont" was probably the eldest. On January 2, 1619, he was slaughtered in the house of John Mundell in Torthorwald, the assailants being Habbie Rae in Mouswald, Pait McKeg, servitor to the Laird of Lag, and twenty others. He must have been succeeded by
- (ii) Francis Carruthers, of whom hereafter,
- (iii) William Carruthers of Nutholm who is definitely described as brother to Francis. In 1647 he was infeft by Francis in the 20-merk land of Meddilshaw and again in 1658. These infeftments represented wadsetts for 3,200 merks. In addition he had been infeft by John Maxwell of Castlemilk in a wadsett for 500 merks furth of the 3-merk land of Nutholm. All these wadsetts he trans-

³ Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, Vol. iii, p. 472.

¹ Book of Carlaverock, p. 498. ² Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 38.

Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. v, fo. 198, and Vol. vii, fo 70.

DORMONT

William in due course. Herbert married a lady named Helen Wilson and was dead by 1705.6 In 1710 his son William Carruthers was infeft in the £2 land of Haldykes being "a fifth part of a £10 land of the £20 land of Hutton Common." He was served heir to his father Herbert on November 15, 1711, and in 1713 renounced a wadsett held by his grandfather and father since 1641 for 600 merks secured on John Maxwell of Castlemilk's 40/— lands of Nutholm.8 At the same time he effected an excambion with William Douglas of Dornock whereby he secured the other two-thirds of the 6-merk land of Nutholm of which he and his father had held the other third —thus consolidating his property.9

William Carruthers of Nutholm was dead by 1731 when his brother Andrew, who had succeeded to the property, entered into an agreement with Agnes Carruthers, widow of William, and with Margaret, his own sister, as to the division of William's estate. Andrew married Mary Bell, whose family has not been ascertained, and in 1746 executed a bond of provision in her favour thereby leaving Nutholm to his eldest daughter Helen, and 700 merks to his only other daughter Agnes. 11

Andrew Carruthers of Nutholm was dead by 1761 when his two daughters were infeft as his heirs. Helen was then married to Christopher Carruthers in Nutholm, brother to John Carruthers of Breconhill; ¹² Agnes being wife of Alexander Robertson in Dykestoun. The property at that date consisted of the 2-merk land of Nutholm and Kilnpotlees, a merk land of Shawhead, 1½-merk land of Townfoot of Castlemilk, ½-merk land of Broatshaw, ½-merk land of Middleshaw and ½-merk land of Holmfoot. ¹³ By 1803 Helen was dead, her son William Carruthers of Nutholm being infeft heir to her and to John Carruthers of Brecanhill, his uncle, ¹⁴

⁵ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. vii, fo. 132. There was a John Carruthers in Netholme (sic) charged with the slaughter of Andro Lindsay of Rascarrel in 1611 (Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, Vol. iii, p. 115) at the West end of the Brig of Dumfries.

⁶ Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix, pp. 606 and 628.

⁷ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xcviii, fo. 434.

⁸ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. viii, fo. 131. In the interval Maxwell had sold the lands to William Douglas of Dornock in whose favour the renunciation was made.

⁹ Ibid.; Vol. viii, fo. 146.

¹⁰ Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1750 and 1757. ¹¹ Ibid., Bundle 1754.

¹⁴ Ibid., May 24, 1803.

and in 1814 heir to his father Christopher. William left two sons, James and Andrew, concerning whom a deed of settlement was made in 1841 whereby they were infeft in that part of Nutholm resigned by James Carruthers, brother of William, in return for an annuity to James and lump sums to his three sons, John, William and Thomas, the last two of whom were then abroad and whose share if unclaimed in three years was to go to the children of William Smith, merchant in Leith, and Mary Carruthers, sister of William, and therefore their aunt.

Francis Carruthers, third Laird of Dormont, was infeft heir to his grandfather William on January 7, 1619, in the 5-merk lands of Corsopelands, 17 but not till 1634 was he infeft in the 5-merk lands of Nether Dormont and the mill thereof as heir to his father Christopher. 18 These two infeftments taken in conjunction would seem to indicate that the ancestral estate originated in Carsopelands and that Nether Dormont did not come into the possession of the family till acquired by Christopher Carruthers. in a backbond dated June 1, 1667, by John Carruthers of Holmains to John Lindsay of Waucope it is specifically stated that Lindsay's predecessors had disponed the £5 land of Little (Nether) Dormont to John Carruthers of Dormont, which can only be read as a clerical error for Christopher, unless Christopher had died before 1619 when his son John was murdered. 19 number of other infeftments of Francis are recorded:—in 1643 in an annual-rent of 320 merks furth of the lands of Netherefield of Benga in Dryfesdale, for his life and in fee to James, George and Walter, his younger sons. 20 Again, he was infeft by the Earl of Annandale in 1647 in the 20-merk land of Medilshaw called the Thrid of Castlemilk 21 on a wadsett amounting to 8,000 merks.²² These were followed by his first rights to Nether Denbie being a reversionary interest in a 40/- land thereof.23 This last in 1663 was converted into a definite grant from John Lindsay of Waucope in the 4-merk land of Nether Denbie to himself for life and then to his son Walter.24

Francis Carruthers had the following issue:

(i) John Carruthers, who married in 1639 Katharine, daughter of Mr. Robert Herries, minister of Dryfesdale.²⁵ She died in December 1656, and her Testament ²⁶ shows that she had five children: John

¹⁵ Dumfries Reg. Sas., November 30, 1813.

¹⁶ Ibid., Vol. xl (May 4, 1847). ¹⁷ Ibid., Vol. i, fo. 180.

¹⁸ Ibid., Vol. iv, fo. 75.

12 Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 120.

 ²⁰ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. liii, fo. 296.
 ²¹ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. v, fo. 190.
 ²² Ibid., Vol. vii, fo. 125.
 ²³ Ibid., fo. 123.

²⁴ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. vi, fo. 401. ²⁵ Durafries Reg. Sas., Vol. iv, fo. 362.

²⁶ Dumfries Testaments, March 26, 1657.

Carruthers, fourth Laird of Dormont, Robert, 27 Janet, Marion and To these may be added a natural son, John, mentioned in 1676.29 Jean in 1670 married William Henderson of Broadholm.30 Her father died in 1670 31 having, in 1654 and again in 1659, in partnership with Mark Loch, Provost of Annan, been infeft in annual-rents in Applegarth parish.22

(ii) James Carruthers infeft by his father in 1659 in a wadsett of 3,000 merks out of the lands of Medilshaw.33 He was known as of Breconhill, though it is not clear how he acquired it. In 1706

²⁷ In the Petition of Colonel Francis Carruthers of Dormont for Arms this Robert Carruthers is given four sons, though no evidence is adduced.

(i) John Carruthers of Mosside, who had Robert Carruthers in Hyndwood, who had John Carruthers, wright in Dumfries. Marion Edgar, spouse of a John Carruthers in Mossyde, died in September 1682, her husband being executor (Dumfries Testaments).

(ii) James Carruthers of Cocklicks, who married a sister of Wormanbie and had James Carruthers in Cocklicks, who had James Carruthers, captain in Liverpool, and David Carruthers. [The Testament of James Carruthers in Cocklicks, who died in November 1751, was given up by his grandson and executor

James Howatson, son of George Howatson in Locherben.]

(iii) Francis Carruthers in Harthuat. [The Testament of Francis Carruthers in Hartwood, who died in February 1721, the second son of Robert Carruthers in Gateside, was given up by his daughters, Catharine, wife of Philip Forsyth in Carthat, Jean, wife of Francis Johnstone in Kirkwood, Helen, wife of John Nicolson in Little Dalton, Nicolas, wife of John Dawnie in Waulkmiln of Dryff, and Mary, Margaret, Violet and Agnes. Francis had married on March 5, 1685, Janet, daughter of William Carruthers in Hurkledale. tocher was 700 merks, to which his father added 1,000 merks as Francis' bairns part, and the witnesses were John Carruthers of Dormont and William Carruthers, younger of Whitecroft (Commissary Court Deeds, Bundle 1732).]

(iv) William Carruthers in Mouswald, who had William, d.s.p., and Robert, who had Walter Carruthers in Dumfries. This William Carruthers married in 1695 Bessie, daughter of William Fergusson in Woodbarnes, and to them his father, Robert Carruthers in Gateside, gave as patrimony 700 merks, the bond being witnessed by John Carruthers, eldest brother of the bridegroom, and William Carruthers in Hurkledale (Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle

1735).

²⁸ All the data contained in this Petition must be accepted with caution. According to the above Petition Janet married John Henderson in Thorniquhat and Margaret (sic) married James Harper.

²⁹ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol ii, fo. 65.

30 Reg. of Deeds (Durie), Vol. xxxi, fo. 460.

31 MS. Hist. of Dormont Titles.

32 Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. vi, fo. 2, and Vol. vii, fo. 145.

³³ lbid., Vol. vii, fo. 126.

James Carruthers of Breconhill who must be his son was infeft by Viscount Stormont in 1½-merk lands of Breconhill and other lands in St. Mungo's parish, subject to the above wadset.³⁴ The younger James had a brother Walter, who was infeft in half the 6-merk land of Earshag called Wester Earshag in 1724 equally with William Blacklock in Gummenbie.³⁵ For an account of his descendants see Chart of Breckonhill.

- (iii) Walter Carruthers, infeft by his father in a wadset of 1,000 merks from the lands of Medilshaw in 1659, 86—ancestor of Nether Denbie or Whitecroft (q.v).
- (iv) George Carruthers, infeft by his father in a wadset of 800 merks from the lands of Medilshaw.³⁷ He must have had some interest in the lands of Braidgill by which he was designated. He died before 1680,³⁸ but it was not until 1705 that his son John Carruthers was infeft in the Medilshaw wadset as heir to his father George "called of Braidgill".³⁹ On August 21, 1737, William Carruthers of Bridegill was served heir general to his father John.⁴⁰ Accompanying the Petition of Lieut.-Col. Francis Carruthers of Dormont for a grant of Arms (Lyon Office Register) is a pedigree which whilst open to some criticism, supplies further details. It gives George of Braidgill another son, James, who had an unnamed son married to Janet Bell by whom he had a son—William Carruthers in Ecclefechan. It gives John Carruthers of Brydegill another son, John Carruthers of Gyleburn, who had James, John and George.⁴¹
- 34 Dumfries Reg. Sas, 2nd Ser., Vol. vii, fo. 122.
- 35 Ibid., 2nd Ser., Vol. x, fo. 142. 36 Ibid., Vol. vii, fo. 125.
- ³⁷ Ibid., fo. 125.

 ³⁸ Dumfries Testaments, Vol. v.
- ³⁹ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. vii, fo. 75. In 1684 Mary Carruthers, John's spouse, is mentioned (Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix).
 - 40 Retours.
- The Dumfries Register of Sasines, Vol. xiv, fo. 354, however, supplies an account of the origin of the Guileburn family, where, under date September 19, 1744, is recorded sasine to William Carruthers, now of Guileburn, eldest son and heir of deceast John Carruthers called of Brydegill and thereafter of Guileburn, in a merk land of Sorrysyke and a ½-merk land of Guileburn. It was to his father, William Carruthers of Guileburn,* that John Carruthers of Guileburn was infeft heir in the lands of

^{*} William Carruthers of Guileburn had two other sons besides John, his heir, the third son being named William (the name of the second is unknown), also three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary and Jean, all mentioned in February 1768. Four grand-children (presumably children of his son William) are also mentioned, viz. Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth and Jean (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. xx, fo. 120).

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(v) Francis Carruthers, mentioned as a witness in 1634.42

John Carruthers, fourth Laird of Dormont, married probably in 1668/9 firstly Susanna, only daughter and heir of the deceased John Maxwell of Collignaw and relict of Robert Maxwell, eldest son to John Maxwell of Castlemilk. She must have been a considerable heiress, for on January 18, 1669, as heir to her grandfather, John Maxwell of Collignaw, she infeft John Carruthers, then younger of Dormont, apparently in marriage (though he is not described as her husband), in a number of lands in the Stewartry. Susanna died in 1677, 44 leaving an only daughter Janet Carruthers, who was served heir general to her mother in 1705. Her father gave a discharge for a wadset on the lands of Collignaw in 1699 under decreet at instance of Lady Mary Maxwell. Janet married firstly Alexander Johnstone of Elshieshields, as his second wife, 47 and secondly at some date prior to 1706 James Maxwell, younger of Barncleuch. 48

Like the Laird of Holmains, John Carruthers of Dormont favoured Conventicles. He was thrown into prison in the Edinburgh Tolbooth, but was offered and accepted his liberty on February 19, 1679, on condition that he undertook to frequent Dalton Kirk under a heavy penalty for which John Cavert in Bayliehill became surety.⁴⁹

In 1687 his kinsman by marriage, John Maxwell of Castlemilk, had so far forgotten himself as to assault Mr. James Alexander, the Sheriff Depute, at a meeting of the Commissioners of the Borders held at Dornock on June 9. This gross insult to one of their number could not be overlooked by that Commission. Dormont undertook to produce Maxwell before Sir Patrick Maxwell and the other Commissioners, and on October 4 Castlemilk appeared

Sorysyke, on December 11, 1797 (Dumfries Reg. Sas.). John Carruthers of Guileburn was alive in 1798 when he disponed to his son James a merk land of Sorysyke and the ½-merk land of Guileburn in which James was infeft in 1818 (Dumfries Reg. Sas.), having as "younger of Guilburn" been infeft in part of Middleshaw in 1791 (ibid.). James was dead by March 24, 1824, when his son Walter Carruthers, now of Guileburn, was infeft heir to his father James in Sorysyke, &c. (ibid.). The name of Walter's mother must have been Mary Carlyle, referred to in a sasine dated January 29, 1825, as "relict of James Carruthers of Guileburn" (ibid.).

⁴² Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. iv, fo. 75A.

⁴³ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xxi, fo. 184. The lands were Meikle and Little Kirklands, Breochis, Brounehillis, Keltonhill, Threifmains, Halmyre and Collignaw.

⁴⁴ Dumfries Testaments, Vol. iv. ⁴⁵ Retours.

46 Nithsdale Muniments, Nos. 192 and 197. 47 See account of Elshieshields in Edgar's History of Dumfries, p. 97.

48 Nithsdale Muniments, No. 250.

49 Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. vi, p. 645.

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and apologised. His apology and repentance were recorded in the Sheriff Court Books of that date and in addition he found surety in 5,000 merks Scots.

He married secondly Helen, daughter of James Carruthers of Holmains, by whom he had an only son, John, married to Mary, daughter and co-heiress of William Bell of Winterhopehead, 50 and also a daughter Helen Carruthers in Brae of Knok, who held an annual-rent out of Kirkbank in St. Mungo's parish. 51

In the year 1708 John Carruthers, younger of Dormont, married Mary Bell, heir portioner to the Winterhopehead estate, which thus became part of the Dormont estates. His father settled Dormont on the young couple with succession, failing sons, to any daughter of the marriage, whom failing to the heirs female of the settler. William Bell, the bride's father, conveyed Winterhopehead to the heir male of the marriage, failing whom to Mary Bell's heirs. The bridegroom died in 1723, his son Francis, fifth Laird, succeeding his grandfather in 1725 and in 1731 married Margaret, daughter of Sir Alexander Maxwell of Monreith. In 1735 he made a post-nuptial contract of marriage to himself and his heirs male, whom failing the heirs male of any other marriage, whom failing to any daughter he might have by Margaret Maxwell. A clause stipulated that if a daughter was excluded from the estate by any term in the deed she should get £1,000 sterling.

On May 28, 1741, after having been ten years married without issue, Margaret had a daughter Elizabeth whom Francis refused to acknowledge as his daughter. The parents were divorced in January 1742. refused to see the infant Elizabeth and arranged for her to be brought up in humble obscurity in Northumberland with a farmer who in his cups let out to her the secret of her birth. In 1758 she ran off with a man named Rutledge, who later died in Carlisle gaol. That year she brought an action against Francis claiming the provision to which she was entitled under her mother's marriage contract. Francis denied she was his child, but she established her identity and was held to be in law his daughter. 512 Under the marriage contract she could not claim the estate whilst her father Francis was alive, but she badly needed money. So an arrangement was come to whereby instead of the £1,000 sterling which might have been hers if she was excluded from the estates she was to receive £650. She gave a full discharge of all claims against Francis or his estate. Francis at once on December 8, 1759, settled the estate on his heirs male, whom failing on his brother

to her sister Jean in 1751 (Retours). Her mother's name was Jean Armstrong (Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. x, fo. 92).

51 Ibid., Vol. xi, fo. 15.

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William.⁵² Elizabeth died in 1768, leaving a son John Rutledge, then in India, and a daughter Ann, Mrs. Majendie, wife of the Bishop of Bangor. She was followed to the grave by Francis in October 1773.

In the year 1806 John Rutledge returned from India. He had prospered, and whilst visiting Cumberland is believed to have crossed to Dumfriesshire and stopped at an inn nigh to Dormont, where he learnt quite by chance of his mother's connection with the Carruthers family. He at once raised an action to set aside the settlement of the estate made in 1759 by Francis. The two main questions were (1) was the deed of 1759 valid seeing that it had not been challenged for over forty years; (2) did the discharge given by Elizabeth on receipt of the £650 exclude her heir's rights to the estate under his grandmother's marriage contract in 1735. It took exactly fourteen years to reach an ultimate decision. By that time John Rutledge was dead, but his sister Mrs. Majendie continued to maintain the lawsuit. The case was heard in every court in the land, being twice argued at length before the House of Lords, judgment finally being given in favour of William Thomas Carruthers of Dormont, grand-nephew of Francis.⁵³

It was on this interminable litigation that Sir Walter Scott founded the

plot of Guy Mannering.54

For further particulars of the family see Chart of Dormont.

The Arms of the Carruthers of Dormont are—Gules, two chevronels engrailed between three fleurs-de-lys or, a bordure of the last for difference. Crest: A seraphim volant proper. Motto: "Promptus et fidelis".

APPENDIX

Some years ago whilst in correspondence with Lieut.-Col. F. J. Carruthers of Dormont mention was made of a "History of the Dormont Titles" prepared by J. and F. Anderson, W.S., and with his kind permission it is possible to reproduce a substantial portion of this history.

On November 5, 1552, John Carruthers of Holmendis, with consent of his son George, granted a Charter of the . . . lands of Kirkmuire therein named Carsopland to his second son William and the heirs male of his body to be held blench.

Carruthers of Holmendis appears afterwards to have granted to this William

he was able to prove that he had not cohabited with his wife for nearly ten months before the birth he was justified in refusing to recognise his paternity.

52 William Carruthers, younger of Dormont, was apprenticed to Alexander Hunter, merchant in Edinburgh, on April 21, 1731 (Edinburgh Apprentice Register); as Mr. William Carruthers, merchant in Dumfries, he married on June 19, 1743, Henrietta Aikman, daughter to late Mr. William Aikman, "limner" (portrait painter) (Edinburgh Marriages).

53 See Scottish Law Review, February 1931.

64 Cf. Sir Walter Scott's letter to Lady Abercorn, May 21, 1813.

Carrutheris a Fue Charter of the Lands of Nether or Little Dormont part of the £20 land of Meikle Daltoune and he conveyed the Superiority of these lands to John Lyndsay of Wauchope.

The said William Carruthers of Dormont was succeeded by his son Christopher

who again was succeeded by his son Francis (i).

On November 1, 1617, this Francis of Dormont expede a Retour of Special Service to the said William Carruthers his grandfather in the foresaid lands of Carsopland and he made up a title to the said lands in that character.

Carruthers of Holmendis on March 12, 1636, granted a Charter of the Lands of Know and Twathets comprehending Knockrig Runninglees and Potties Closs, lying in the Parish of Dalton to William Carlisle, Burgess of Dumfries, to be held of the Earl of Dumfries as Superior, and on July 5, 1641, this Carlisle disponed these lands to John Carrutheris (i), the eldest son and heir apparent of the said Francis Carruthers of Dormont, and on February 24, 1659, the said John Carruthers acquired the Superiority by Disposition from James Crichton.

The said John Carruthers (i) in 1670 predeceased his father who died in 1679

aged 104 years.

The said John Carruthers had left a son also named John (ii). He entered into possession of the Estates, but he never made up any titles to the lands which had belonged to his grandfather Francis (i) or to the lands which had been acquired by his father John (i). He married Helen Carruthers a daughter of Holmains by whom he had an only son named John (iii) who married Mary Bell, eldest daughter of William Bell of Winterhopehead.

A Contract of Marriage dated August 10, 1708, was entered into whereby John Carruthers (ii) of Dormont conveyed to his said son John (iii) and the heirs male to be procreated of the marriage, &c., the five merk lands of Dormont, the five pound lands of Knox and Twathet, and the five merk land of Kirkmuire of Carsopland, on the other hand the said Wiliam Bell disponed to the said John Carruthers younger, in liferent, and the heirs male of the marriage, in fee, the six merk land of Winterhopehead.

John Carruthers (ii) died between 1720 and 1730, John (iii) died in 1722. He

was succeeded by his eldest son Francis (ii).

In 1731 this Francis Carruthers (ii) of Dormont married Margaret Maxwell, daughter of Sir Alexander Maxwell of Monreith, Baronet.

In 1735 they executed a Post Nuptial Contract of Marriage whereby the said Francis Carruthers resigned the said lands of Dormont and others in favour of himself and the heirs male of the marriage whom failing the heirs male of his body in any subsequent marriage, &c.

On November 27, 1735, the said Francis Carruthers was served nearest and lawful heir male of Provision of the said marriage. He was also served Heir in General to John Carruthers (i) of Dormont his Greatgrandfather; and heir in special to Francis Carruthers (i) his Greatgreatgrandfather.

He obtained a Precept from Chancery for infefting him in the Lands of Nether Dormont as heir in special to his said Greatgreatgrandfather (his Superior Lindsay

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though thrice charged having failed to infeft him) and he was infeft on this precept

on July 1, 1736.

On July 12, 1736, he obtained a Crown Charter of Resignation and Confirmation of the Lands of Knox and Twathet and of the Lands of Winterhopehead; the first on the Procuratory of Resignation in the Disposition by James Crichton to John Carruthers his greatgrandfather July 24, 1659, and his General Service to him; and the second on the Procuratory of Resignation in the foresaid Contract of Marriage and his General Service as heir of Provision and in virtue of this Charter he was duly infeft in the said lands.

The said Francis Carruthers also completed his title to Kirkmuir or Carsopland by obtaining from the Tutor of John Carruthers of Holmains a Precept of Clare Constat in his favour as heir of the said Francis (i) his Greatgreatgrandfather on which he was duly infeft.

The said Francis Carruthers separated from his wife in August 1740, and soon after obtained a Decreet of Divorce from her.

In 1751 the said Francis Carruthers and Sir John Douglas agreed for their mutual convenience and advantage to excamb the foresaid lands of Kirkmuir or Carsop lying in the Parish of Cummertrees for the lands of Hardgrave lying in the Parish of Daltoun. This was settled by a Submission to Referees who gave out a Decreet Arbitral in which they found that Carsopland exceeded Hardgrave in value by £100, stg. A Contract of Excambion was executed in terms of this Decreet. Sir John Douglas with consent of his eldest son William sold and disponed to the said Francis Carruthers the said lands of Hardgrave and Knox to be held of him in feu farm for payment of a penny Scots; and the said Francis Carruthers sold and disponed to the said Sir John Douglas his heirs and assignees the said lands of Carsopland now called Gateside and Mosside with the lands under the real burden of the said £100 for which a Bond was granted to be held in feu farm of the said Francis Carruthers for payment of one penny Scots.

The Contract of Excambion contains a clause whereby in regard Sir John was not yet entered infeft in Hardgrave he bound himself to complete his titles as heir in special to the deceased Sir William Douglas his father or other predecessor and he granted a Procuratory for that purpose and bound himself thereafter to infeft and seize the said Francis Carruthers and his heirs absolutely and irredeemably.

The said lands of Hardgrave were contained in an Entail executed by Sir William Douglas of Kelhead Sir John's father. The said Sir John therefore by Disposition dated November 11, 1752, in terms of an Agreement forming part of the transaction sold and disponed with consent of his said eldest son to the said Francis Carruthers his heirs or assignees "heritably and in real security of the said lands of Hardgrave and Knox and in further corroboration of the Contract of Excambion All and Whole the lands of Kelhead commonly called the Mains of Kelhead", &c., as then in his natural possession lying within the Parish of Cummertrees, to be held in feu farm for payment of one penny Scots Providing Always that as soon as Sir John or his heirs should obtain a reduction of said Entail this Disposi-

tion should become void and extinct and the said Francis Carruthers should be obliged to redispone the said lands of Kelhead to him or his heirs or to discharge said Security.

The said Francis Carruthers was duly infeft in the said lands of Kelhead on this Disposition and his Sasine recorded in the Particular Register for the

County of Dumfries on December 15, 1752.

The whole of the Deeds were recorded in the Court Books of the Commissariot

of Dumfries on December 13, 1752.

It does not appear that any Decreet of Reduction of said Entail was obtained and the real warrandice lands reconveyed. The Excambion was never disturbed and the lands of Hardgrave and Knox have ever since been in the possession of the Dormont Family, but no titles have been made up since either to these lands or to the warrandice lands. It is not known whether any title was made up to Carsopland by the Douglas family but it is supposed not as they must have applied to Carruthers as Superior for an entry.

Hardgrave and Knox have been mixed up with the Dormont Estate and been occupied as part and portion thereof and perhaps it may now be held that they are covered by the Dormont titles and that no further title is now required. The same may be the case with Carsopland, which has been mixed up with the Queensberry Estate and now forms part of the Policies. It is not known whether

the floo stg. was ever paid.

The lands of Winterhopehead and of Little Dormont, Knox and Twathets were valued by Decreet dated July 17, 1745; on June 13, 1753, John Carruthers of Holmains disponed to the said Francis Carruthers of Dormont the Teinds of the lands of Dormont, Brae, Knox, Knoxrig, Twathets and Edge alias Runninglees, Potties Closs, Hardgraves, and Knox and on October 9, 1755, the Duke of Queensberry disponed to him the Teinds of the lands of Winterhopehead.

On December 8, 1759, the said Francis Carruthers executed a Disposition and Settlement whereby he disponed to himself and the heirs male of his body whom failing to William Carruthers, Merchant in Dumfries, his brother german, &c., &c. All and Haill the five merk land of Dormont, the five pound land of Twathet and Knox, the five merk land of Hardgrave and Knox, "which lands were acquired by me from Sir John Douglas of Kelhead, Baronet, in exchange for the lands of Kirkmuir or Carsop, and in case of eviction of the said lands of Hardgrave or Knox All and Haill the said five merk land of Kirkmuir or Carsop" All and Haill the lands of Winterhopehead and the teinds of the said haill lands. This Deed contains obligations to infeft a me vel de me Procuratory of resignation and precept of sasine.

A Crown Charter of Resignation of the whole foresaid lands and teinds with the exception of Hardgrave and Knox and Carsopland was expede on the Procuratory of Resignation and the said Francis Carruthers was infeft on said Charter on May 8, 1761.

Francis Carruthers died in 1773 and was succeeded by his brother the said William Carruthers, Merchant in Dumfries.

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William Carruthers made up Titles as heir male of Provision to his said brother in the foresaid Crown lands by Precept from Chancery and Sasine.

On January 1, 1781, the said William Carruthers executed a Deed of Entail, whereby he disponed to himself whom failing to William Aikman Carruthers, his eldest son, and the heirs male of his body, whom failing to Francis, his second son and the heirs male of his body, whom failing to the heirs female of their bodies, whom failing to John Murray and Francis Murray, Sons of Helen Carruthers, the Entailer's Sister, and of William Murray, Merchant in Glasgow, and the heirs male of their bodies, whom failing to John Bell, Jane Bell, and Mary Bell, in their order of seniority, children of Mary Carruthers, the Entailer's Sister, and of Richard Bell of Between-the-Waters and the heirs of their bodies, whom failing to any heirs to be afterwards named by him, All and Whole the lands of Nether or Little Dormont "All and Whole the lands of Hardgraves Knox and Twathets comprehending the lands of Knockrig the lands of Runninglees and lands of Pottiescloss as proper parts and portions of the said lands." All and Whole the lands of Winterhopehead and the Teinds of the said lands.

Sasine was given in the whole of said lands conform to Clause of union and dispensation contained in his Retour of Special Service as heir to Francis Carruthers of Dormont his brother german. There is no clause of union in this Retour. There is such Clause in the Precept of Chancery 1774 following on it, but then Hardgrave being held of Douglas of Kelhead is not contained in this Precept. The Sasine therefore so far as regards Hardgraves appears to be null and void.

John Carruthers of Holmains fell into difficulties. He in consequence conveyed his whole Estate to a Trustee for his creditors. The lands were the whole lands contained in the Charter 1699 excepting the lands in the Parish of St. Mungo and the Patronage of Ecclefechan, which must have been sold prior to 1728 for these are not contained in the Special Service expede that year by John Carruthers as heir to his father George Carruthers of Holmains, nor the lands of Kirkmuir, Ruthwelltown, Alstown, Archbank, Moffat and Mole, Warmbie, Almagill, Hallidayhill and Murriewhat, which may have been omitted or merely base superiorities or from having been sold as they were omitted in the title made up by John Carruthers of Holmains in 1755. The lands of Kirkmuir, or Corsopland, are contained in the Disposition to the said Trustee, but this would carry merely the Superiority with Carruthers of Dormont as Vassal he again having subfeued to Douglas of Kelhead. By a subsequent Supplementary Disposition in 1783 the said John Carruthers disponed Almagill and Hallidayhill to said Trustee.

The Trustee exposed the whole lands to public sale in Edinburgh on December 15, 1779, at the Upset price of £21,000 but there were no offers. He therefore exposed them in four lots. The fourth lot contained the lands in the Parish of Daltoun with the Patronage and thirty acres of the outby commonty in the Parish of Lochmaben. It was exposed at the upset price of £16,000, but still there being no offers it was exposed in four divisions. The fourth division consisted of the lands of Upper Dormont and the said 30 acres. It was exposed at £920 and was purchased by the said William Carruthers of Dormont at £960.

The Disposition in his favour is dated November 29, 1781, and he was infeft in the lands of Upper Dormont on February 9, 1782.

On July 20, 1785, the said William Carruthers executed a Deed of Entail of the Lands of Upper Dormont in the same terms as those of the previous entail in

1781.

The other lots of Holmains were exposed to sale from time to time and were sold to different parties. It may be mentioned that the third lot consisting of the lands of Bengawhill and Copwood the lands of Knox and Daltonhook with the Multures of Lynmill &c. was on December 6, 1780, sold to Thomas Stothart of Arkland, Writer in Dumfries, for £3,800. And in 1782 the lands of Hartwood, being lot 1 of the lands in the Parish of Dalton (excepting Upper Dormont and Pleacairn), and the Patronage of Dalton being lot 4, were sold to James Macrae, Esq., of Houston for £13,200.

The said William Carruthers died in 1787 and was succeeded by his son, the said William Aikman Carruthers, but he made up no title to the Estate. He married Miss Arthington and the Estate of Arthington in Yorkshire was settled by her father upon her and the heirs of her marriage. The only son William

Thomas Carruthers succeeded to the Estate.

The said William Aikman Carruthers died in 1802 and was succeeded by his

son who made up the following titles.

He expede a General Service as heir male of Tailzie and Provision of the said William Carruthers his grandfather under the foresaid Deed of Entail in 1781 whereby he acquired right to the Procuratory of Resignation in that Entail on which he Accordingly resigned and obtained a Charter of Resignation from the Crown of the foresaid Lands of Nether and Little Dormont, the lands of Knox and Twathets comprehending as aforesaid and the lands of Winterhopehead and the Teinds thereof on which he was duly infeft and he made up a title to the fee which had been thereby constituted and consolidated same with superiority.

He also expede a General Service as heir male of Tailzie and Provision of the said William Carruthers under the Deed of Entail 1785 whereby he acquired right to the Procuratory of Resignation in that Entail on which he resigned and obtained a Charter from the Crown of the foresaid lands of Upper Dormont which Charter confirmed the Trust Disposition by John Carruthers of Holmains and subsequent titles and on this Charter the said William Thomas Carruthers was duly infeft.

On April 11, 1827, the said William Thomas Carruthers acquired the Lands of Dormontrig in the Parish of Lochmaben from James Wightman Portioner in

Smallholm at the price of £310.

In October 1838 he acquired from Mr. Arundel of Barjarg and his Trustees the lands of Know, Daltonhook and Beck Mills, &c., being parts and portions of the foresaid lands and Barony of Holmains at the price of £8,000 and he was duly infeft on July 29, 1842.

On May 14, 1840, the said William Thomas Carruthers acquired from William Bell Macdonald of Rammerscales and others Smallholm Muir Park, now called

Dormontrig, at the price of £375 14s. 10d.

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And on May 15, 1840, he acquired from John Wright Bengal the Mailing, called Smallholm Burn, and other lands at the price of £2,800.

The said William Thomas Carruthers by Missives of Sale dated May 27, 1848, purchased from Mr David Sandeman the lands of Holmains excepting a coppice wood thereon consisting of about 30 acres at the price of £6,000 but he died before a Disposition was executed in his favour.

The said William Thomas Carruthers in 1820 married Miss Helen Maclachlan, third daughter of the late Donald Maclachlan, Esquire, of Maclachlan. Their Ante Nuptial Contract of Marriage is dated August 29, 1820. There were only two children of the said marriage, viz. the said William Francis Carruthers and Miss Susan. He died in 1848 and was succeeded by the said William Francis Carruthers who made up the following Titles.

i. He expede before the Sheriff of Chancery a General Service as the only son and nearest lawful heir male of tailzie and provision in general of the said William Thomas Carruthers under the foresaid Entail 1781 and he obtained a Precept from Chancery on which he was duly infeft in the said lands of Little or Nether Dormont, Knox and Twathets and Winterhopehead.

ii. He expede before the Sheriff of Chancery a General Service as the only son and nearest and lawful heir male of tailzie and provision in general of the said William Thomas Carruthers his father under the foresaid Entail 1785, obtained a Precept from Chancery and was duly infeft thereon on the foresaid lands of Upper Dormont.

iii. He expede before the said Sheriff a General Service as only son and nearest and lawful heir in general of the said William Thomas Carruthers his father and obtained a Charter of Confirmation and Precept from Chancery on which he was duly infeft in the foresaid lands of Know Daltonhook, and Beck.

iv. He completed a title by Sasine to the lands of Dormontrig acquired from Mr Bell Macdonald of Rammerscales.

This proceeds on the Disposition to his father and his service and other writs and is recorded in the Particular Register of Sasines for the County of Dumfries and in the Court Record of the Earl of Mansfield on May 3, 1851. The title to Dormontrig acquired from James Wightman was completed by recording his Disposition in the Court Record of the Earl of Mansfield on May 3, 1851, and the Title to the property acquired from Mr Wright was completed on May 3, 1851, by his recording the Disposition by Mr Wright to his father in the Earl of Mansfield's Court Record.

Mr Carruthers on November 29, 1856, executed a Deed disentailing the lands of Nether Dormont, Knox and Twathets and Winterhopehead and the Lands of Upper Dormont and the requisite consents having been given the Court pronounced Decreet of Disentail on July 17, 1857, and a notarial Instrument of Disentail was expede which was recorded in the Register of Tailzies on March 14, and in the General Register of Sasines May 22, 1857.

On May 5, 1850, Mr Carruthers acquired from James Gillison 40 acres of part of the Commonty of Hightae now called Leafield at the price of £980 and

completed a Title thereto by Instrument of Sasine recorded in the General Register of Sasines June 12, 1850.

On September 26, 1851, he acquired from John Johnston, Portioner, the land or field called Dormontrig at the price of £300, and the Disposition was recorded in the Earl of Mansfield's Court Books on October 1, 1851.

On May 15, 1856, he acquired from Robert Seaton the lands called Newton at the price of £1,700. £1,000 of the price was left in Mr Carruthers' hands and was declared to be a real burden on the lands and he granted his personal Bond for that sum. This burden was discharged conform to Discharge dated September 22, and recorded in said Register October 11, 1875.

By Missives dated April 4, 1850, the said William Francis Carruthers purchased from the said David Sandeman the lands of Middleraw and buildings Blackshall, Amigill, Kirkhill, Butterwhat, Little Dalton, Dam, Mousewald Commonty, Little Dalton Mill and Fourteen Acres all lying in the Parish of Dalton excepting . . . acres from Middleraw at the price of £16,700 and he also purchased the said 30 acres of Coppicewood on the lands of Holmains for £527.

On November 18, 1850, Mr Sandeman who was entered with the Crown granted a Disposition in favour of Mr Carruthers of the whole of said lands purchased by his father and by himself and his Sasine thereon was recorded in the General Register on April 26, 1853.

In 1860 Mr Carruthers purchased from the Trustees of General Matthew Sharpe of Hoddam the hundred shilling land of Almagill lying within the Parish of Dalton at the price of £3,500 and the Disposition was recorded in the General Register of Sasines on January 4, 1861, and his title was completed by a Charter of Confirmation from the Crown. It is understood that these lands originally belonged to the Family of Holmendis but they were as before stated acquired from the Hoddam family so early as the year 1682.

In payment of £500 of this price Mr Carruthers disponed to General Sharpe's Trustees All and whole that part of the lands of Butterwhat lying on the south side of the Parish Road from Dumfries to Dalton extending to 16 acres and 572 decimal parts of an acre Imperial measure bounded on the South East and West by the Farm of Hallidayhill belonging to said Trustees.

In 1856 Mr Carruthers purchased from the Trustees of Mrs Margaret Rae Harvey of Castle Semple at the price of £19,750 the following parts and portions of the lands and Estate of Mousewald vizt. All and Whole the lands of Mousewald Townfoot as possessed by William Irving, as also to lots thereof as possessed by sundry tenants; lands of Kirkfield as possessed by James Palmer and Lands of Boddam as possessed by Mrs Jane Paterson with the Teinds; as also the lands of Midtown of Mousewald, Townhead of Mousewald, the lands of Byebush, lands of Dodbeck, as also the Cottages in the Village of Mousewald being parts and portions of the Twenty pound land of old extent of Mousewald, Howthat and Hetlandhill, part of the lands barony and lordship of Drumlanrig and Mr Carruthers' Sasine on this Disposition was recorded in the General Register of Sasines on May 28, 1856. His title was completed by confirmation from the Crown.

CHAPTER VIII

RAMMERSCALES

HE early history of this small property is given elsewhere in this volume (see page 86). In the mid-Sixteenth Century it was acquired by the Laird of Holmains. Unfortunately the early titles are missing, the Holmains Inventory being of no assistance. There is, however, in the Holmains Charter Chest a "Note of some of Rammerscales original charters"—a fragment, on the back of which is engrossed a Seventeenth Century prayer commencing, "Lord, give us spiritual wisdom that we may know how to behave orselves in thir dayes". It contains three items relating to Rammerscales and four relating to Raffles. They are somewhat conflicting, but at least they give the origin of the family.

- (i) (Rammerscales)—Charter—John Carruthers of Holmendis to Simon Carruthers, his son,—1557.
- (ii) (Raffles) Introduction in favour of Simon Carruthis,—1566
- (iii) (Raffles) Precept for taking of Sasine,—1566.
- (iv) (Raffles) Sasine—John Carruthis of Rammerscales,—1600.
- (v) (Rammerscales) Sasine—John Carruthis of Rammerscales,—1605.
- (vi) (Raffles)—Charter—John Carruthis of Holmendis to John Carruthers of Rammerskales,—1620.
- (vii) (Rammerskales)—Precept of Clare Constat in favour of John Carruthers, son to Simon Carruthis of Rammerskales,—1655.

If the last item, owing to its dubiety, be ignored it is clear that the progenitor of the family was Simon Carruthers, who already figures in the Holmains tree. He must have been dead by 1600 when his son John succeeded him. That John was his son is established by a lawsuit in 1627 when John obtained a summons for production of writs against Thomas Johnstone who seems to have been in possession of Rammerskales. In the summons John is described as son of the late Simon Carruthers of

¹ This account must surely omit one or more generations of whom no documentary trace has been found.

Rammarskales.² Unfortunately the action was dropped. In addition to his son John, Simon had another son, Alexander, who, in 1617, assisted Holmains in his assault on the Minister of Mouswald.³

John Carruthers, second Laird of Rammarskales, made some additions to his property. The 35/- land of Cokkethill called the Maynes of Rammarskales belonged to Robert Johnstone of Raecleuch, but lay into Carruthers' land. Accordingly in 1621 he secured disposition of Cokkethill for the sum of 500 merks on condition that he did not disturb the tenants during their taks.4 In 1628 he also acquired from John Carruthers of Raffles a merk-land of Grymisfield, a 20/- land of Raffles, a merk-land of Sandihill and Robiequhat, and a 2-merk land of Howthat, lying in the parishes of Mouswald and Ruthwell.⁵ In 1632 he was charged to appear before the Privy Council for failing to arrest two prisoners escaped from Dumfries gaol whom he had seen crossing the Annan with the irons upon them.6 In 1634, in conjunction with Matthew Wilson, younger in Bus, he was infeft by the Earl of Annandale under reversion for 7,000 merks in the Netherfield of Bengaw (Dryfesdale).7 Three years later the money was repaid and he renounced the infeftment.8 In 1574 Rammerskales had been donator of the ward, non-entry and marriage of Robert McBrair of Almagill which he assigned to the Holmains family.9

It is not clear when the second Laird of Rammerskales died. Perhaps the last item of the above, "Note on Charters", may be trusted in so far as its date is concerned. If so he was dead by 1655. But it seems he has been confused with his son of the same name.

Only three children of John Carruthers are known:

- (i) John Carruthers, younger of Rammerskales, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) William Carruthers, who in 1657, as son of the deceased John Carruthers of Rammarskales, was cautioner to the testament of Janet Johnstone in Priestdykes.¹⁰
- ² Acts and Decreets, Vol. 397, fo. 406. Thomas is described as son and heir to the late William Johnstone sometime in Holmendis. Simon Carruthers may have had another son Abraham who, in February 1600, had to find caution not to harm Henry Fergus, merchant burgess of Edinburgh (Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. vi, p. 638).
 - ³ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. xi, p. 51. ⁴ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. viii, fo. 49.
- ⁵ Ibid., Vol. ii, fos. 364, 443, and Vol. iii, fo. 63. Holmains was the superior, and to provide a title John Carruthers of Raffles was retoured heir to his father John.

⁶ Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv, p. 562.

- ⁷ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. iv, fo. 57. The Contract is recorded in Register of Deeds, Vol. 476 (July 17, 1634).
 - ⁸ Ibid., Vol. iv, fo. 248.

 ⁹ Cal. of Holmains Charters, No. 40.

¹⁰ Dumfries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. ii.

RAMMERSCALES

(iii) Marion Carruthers, in 1625 married to James Young of Broomrig, and died in October 1674.11

John Carruthers, younger of Rammarskales, died in his father's lifetime. He was a minor in 1618 when he received from George Carruthers of Denbie a disposition of the 40/— land of Denbie under reversion for 300 merks. ¹² In 1629 his father infeft him in the Raffles lands which he had recently acquired. ¹³ Both he and his father in 1626 had to find caution not to molest Francis Irving, provost of Dumfries. ¹⁴

He married in 1632 Janet, daughter of the late Robert Johnstone of Wamphray, receiving at the hands of his father conjunct infeftment in Rammerskales and Cokethill. 15

He was dead by 1647 16 having by his wife:

- (i) Robert Carruthers, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) William Carruthers, mentioned in 1706.17
- (iii) John Carruthers, brother german to Robert, who was executor to his aunt Janet in 1674. He was made a burgess of Dumfries gratis on September 30, 1665. He was one of a large party who extruded John Graham from his house at Langbeddom in 1662. 19
- (iv) Janet Carruthers, married in 1664 to Robert McClellane of Barscobe, who infeft her in a liferent of 800 merks.²⁰

Robert Carruthers, third Laird of Rammerskales, was served heir to his father on October 19, 1647, and to his grandfather on the same day. ²¹ In 1672 he was infeft in an annual-rent of 420 merks furth of Murrayes, ²² and two years later acquired the £4 land of Mossyde ²³ in Lochmaben parish, but in 1694 he disposed of Mossyde to John Faid in Broadchapel ²⁴

- ¹¹ Adams' Douglas Family of Morton, p. 299.
- 12 Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. i, fos. 87 and 92. It was the 40/- land of Denbie held of Applegarth.
 - 13 Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xxvi, fo. 23 and 24a.
 - ¹⁴ Reg. Priv. Conc., 2nd Ser., Vol. i, pp. 284--5.
- ¹⁵ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. iii, fo. 203. The Contract was dated at Sanquhar, November 6.
 - 16 Dumfries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. iv.
 - 17 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. vii, fo. 191.
 - ¹⁸ Dumfries Burgess Roll. ¹⁹ Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. i, p. 157.
- ²⁰ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xi, fo. 483a. The marriage contract was dated September 7, 1664.
- ²³ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. i, fo. 308. Viscount Stormont was the superior (ibid., Vol. ii, p. 46).
 - ²⁴ Ibid., Vol. v, fo. 137.

and died shortly after. He acted as Baron baillie for Holmains from 1660, succeeding William Murray of Moriquhat, and the Baron Court Book recording his labours still reposes in the Holmains Charter Chest.

He had married prior to 1660 Mary, daughter to James Carruthers, younger of Holmains, and was predeceased by her in January 1685.²⁵ In 1687 he married secondly Margaret Dalziel, stated by Douglas to be a daughter of Robert, Earl of Carnwath. She is not, however, mentioned in the New Scots Peerage.²⁶ Robert Carruthers left the following issue:

- (i) Robert Carruthers of Rammarscales, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) William Carruthers, physician in Dumfries, and thereafter in Quarrelwood, was almost certainly a son of Robert Carruthers of Rammarskales. He died in May 1733, the Laird of Rammarskales being cautioner.²⁷ He had married Margaret, daughter of Mr. John Hay, apothecary, who was son of Mr. Alexander Hay, H.M. Apothecary, and Mary Bleckburn, spouses, and in her right was admitted burgess of Edinburgh on September 10, 1707,²⁸ whereafter he must have removed to and practised in Dumfries. His wife died on October 3, 1771, and her testament shows she had the following issue:
 - (a) James Carruthers, eldest son, whose daughter Henrietta Carruthers, milliner in London, was a legatee. Perhaps identifiable with the James Carruthers elder in Dalswinton who became burgess of Dumfries on May 31, 1756. If so, his son, James Carruthers, younger, was admitted burgess on June 9 of the same year (Dumfries Burgess Roll).
 - (b) Lawes Carruthers, her youngest son, staymaker in London, to whose daughter Hay Carruthers she left a legacy. He was admitted burgess of Dumfries on January 4, 1742.
 - (c) Wingate Carruthers, her eldest daughter, spouse to George McClellan, merchant in Annan, whose second son, John, and eldest daughter, Margaret Hay McClellan, were legatees.
 - (d) Margaret, her second daughter.
 - (e) Henrietta, youngest daughter, relict of Archibald Johnstone, Officer of Excise at Dumfries, thereafter at Coupar.²⁹

²⁵ Dumfries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. vi.

²⁶ A marriage stone at Rammerskales bearing their initials is dated 1687. She was probably of the Glenae family, cadets of Carnwath.

²⁷ Dumfries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. x, fo. 26.

²⁸ Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

²⁹ Dumfries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. xv, fo. 375.

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(f) Robert Carruthers, surgeon on H.M.S. "Windsor", who became burgess of Edinburgh in right of his father, William Carruthers, surgeon apothecary, on January 18, 1749, may also have been a son.³⁰

Further descendants have not been traced.

(iii) Violet Carruthers, married in 1714 to Gavin Johnstone of Elshieshields.³¹

Robert Carruthers, fourth Laird of Rammarskales, was served heir to his father Robert on June 26, 1694,32 and was infeft in Cokethill that August.33 Three years later he received infeftment in Murrayes, his father's annual-rent being increased to 7,000 merks.34 He was still in 1706 under curators—John Carruthers of Butterwhat, James Carruthers, Chamberlain to the Duke, and Captain James Dalzell-when he gave to Sir John Jardine of Applegarth a renunciation of numerous bonds relating to the Rammarscales estate,35 having been infeft in Rammarskales and the Raffles property in 1701.36 He married prior to 1730 a lady named Penelope Sharp 37 and on December 2, 1737, was served heir to his mother, Margaret Dalziel.38 He was "out" in the '45 and according to a MS. at Rammarskales was tried at Westminster, had his estate confiscated and died abroad.39 He died in November 1750, but of issue only a son and a daughter, Henrietta, are recorded. 40 William Carruthers of Hardriggs was his executor qua creditor. The executor had secured assignment in 1749 of a bond on the estate held by the Minister of Torthorwald which he in turn assigned in 1758 to George Muir, W.S. There were a large number of creditors from whom the astute Muir took over their claims. In 1756 he sold Rammarskales and Cocketts to James Mounsey, late First Physician and Councillor to the Empress of Russia. The Raffles estate was broken up, part being acquired by Viscount Stormont in 1781 from a son of the late John Car-

30 Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

31 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. ix, fo. 344.

³² Retours. ³³ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. 67, fo. 269.

34 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, fo. 422.

³⁵ Ibid., Vol. vii, fo. 191.

³⁶ Ibid., Vol. vi, fo. 291.

³⁷ Ibid., Vol. xi, fo. 61.

38 Retours.

³⁹ This must be erroneous. In the 1715 with his second cousin Robert Johnstone of Wamphray and a few others, he demonstrated at the horse races at Lochmaben on news of the rising, but he has not been traced as going south to Preston (vide Peter Rae's History of the Rebellion, p. 49).

40 Dumfries Commissariot Testaments, Vol. xiii. Henrietta married Mr. John Marshall, Minister of Tinwald, and had a bond of provision from her father on

January 31, 1750 (Raffles Inventory).

ruthers of Hardriggs, whilst the rest was bought in 1792 by Philip Forsyth of Underwood.⁴¹

Robert Carruthers, last of Rammerscales, was survived by a son, Robert Carruthers, who on April 2, 1754, gave a bond to his cousin, Lawes Carruthers, staymaker and tailor in the parish of St. Margaret's, Westminster, for £40 sterling, assigning to the latter whatever might remain in the hands of George Muir, writer in Edinburgh, of the price of the estate.⁴² Thus was the last asset disposed.

⁴¹ Raffles Inventory amongst the Hetland titles.

⁴² Dumfries Commissary Deeds, Bundle 1754.

CHAPTER IX

NETHER DENBIE OR WHITECROFT

of Wauchop. They amounted to a 4-merk land. In 1646 John Lindsay of Waucop set a part of them—a 40/— land of Nether Denbie to Francis Carruthers, elder of Dormont, for five years at a rent of £50. The following year Lindsay granted a wadset over the lands for 900 merks Scots to Francis, which wadset was assigned by Francis in 1658 to his son Walter Carruthers.¹ The Lindsays had been in embarrassed circumstances ever since their forfeiture in 1506,² and in 1661 disponed the property, with some additional lands amounting in all to a 4-merk land, to Francis in liferent and Walter Carruthers, his son, in fee.³ Two years later (1663) Lindsay sold the superiority of Nether Denbie to the Carruthers for 600 merks Scots.⁴

It was in the days of this Walter that the name of Nether Denbie was changed to Whitecroft, probably to prevent confusion with his kinsmen, the Carruthers of Over Denbie. At about this same period too Over Denbie dropped its affix. Walter Carruthers figures for the first time as "of Whitecroft" in 1666. He married Janet Carruthers, who has not yet been identified, by whom he had the following issue:

(i) William Carruthers, of whom hereafter.

(ii) Christopher Carruthers, the second son, was infeft by John Bell of Hardriggs in 1696 in the 40/- lands of Northfield, Annisaiker, and half the 40/- lands of Gullielands, known as the 20/- lands of

¹ Whitecroft Inventory. The assignment was dated August 24. To make up the title Francis was infeft in 1659 (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. vii, fo. 123).

² Forfeiture was rescinded in 1593, but the family only recovered a part of their property (The Clan Lindsay, Vol. ii, p. 189).

³ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. vi, fo. 401. ⁴ Whitecroft Inventory.

⁵ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xv, fo. 301.

6 Dümfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, fo. 42.

Hardriggs, in the parish of Annan,7 and was thereafter known as "of Hardriggs".

His father in 1693 disponed to him a wadset of 1,000 merks out of Medilshaw inherited from Francis Carruthers of Dormont.8 Christopher married (contract dated February 13, 1691) Margaret Carlyle, second daughter of Adam Carlyle of Lymekills (Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1737. Mary, third daughter of same, married David Murray of Belridding). Christopher was dead by 1710, in which year William Carruthers of Hardriggs was served heir to him. Hardriggs was still in the family in 1770 when John Carruthers of Hardriggs was served heir special to his brother William in the lands of Searigg and Longdyke. (For further particulars of this family see Chart.)

- (iii) Walter, mentioned October 1684.9
- (iv) Herbert Carruthers figures as a witness in 1689.10
- (v) Margaret, mentioned October 1684.9

William Carruthers of Whitecroft did not succeed to the estate till after 1692 when his father disponed the estate to him with reservation of terce to his mother Janet Carruthers. This disposition was no doubt connected with William's marriage to Mary Carruthers, a daughter of John Carruthers of Holmains. William in 1692 infeft his spouse in an annual-rent of £120 Scots from a mortgage over Little Dalton granted to him by George Carruthers of Holmains.

In 1710 William entailed his estate upon his eldest son and other heirs of Tailzie, resigning it into the hands of the Crown and obtaining a Great Seal Charter in 1712.¹³

By his wife, Mary Carruthers, he had the following issue:

- (i) Francis Carruthers, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) William Carruthers, second son, was a witness in 1713,14 having been mentioned as next heir after Francis in a Great Seal Charter of Whitecroft in 1712.

⁷ Gén. Reg. Sas., Vol. lxxi, fo. 125.

⁸ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv, fo. 476.

⁹ Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix, October 1684.

¹⁰ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv, fo. 476.

¹¹ Ibid., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, fo. 42.

¹² Ibid., fos. 32 and 33. Dormont acted as Attorney for Mary in the infeftment. She received £1,000 as "bairn's part" in 1692 (Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 154).

¹³ Whitecroft Inventory.

¹⁴ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. viii, fo. 159.

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To the patrimonial estate of Whitecroft, Francis Carruthers added a ½-merk land of Dyke, held of Murray of Moriquhat, and acquired from John Carruthers of Dyke in 1740. In 1753 he disponed to his eldest daughter Janet, whom failing to his other two daughters in turn, his lands of Whitecroft and Dyke, and was dead by 1767. He had married in 1720 Janet, daughter to the deceased William Rae in Lantansyde, in consequence of which his father had renounced his power to burden the estates. She was dead by 1730 when her husband, then tenant of Lantansyde, was infeft in some acres in Troqueer that had belonged to her. He married secondly Marion Somerville, who received Sasine in 1738 in an annual-rent of £300 conform to the marriage contract dated November 25, 1734 (Dumfries Reg. Sas.). Francis Carruthers of Whitecroft left the following issue:

- (i) Janet Carruthers, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) Agnes, wife of John Gregan, writer in Dumfries, to whom she assigned all her effects on May 14, 1768. She must have married secondly, prior to August 1776, Andrew Johnstone of Castlehill, merchant in Dumfries. 19
- (iii) Mary, married to Ebenezer Wilson, bookseller and bailie of Dumfries, with issue.²⁰

Janet Carruthers of Whitecroft married Robert Henderson Wightman ²¹ of Penlaw, alias Cleuchheids, the contract dated December 20, 1765, containing a provision that Whitecroft should go to the second son procreated of the marriage, or the heir male thereof. Janet was dead by 1810 when her eldest son, William David Wightman Henderson of Cleuchheids, was retoured her heir in Whitecroft. ²² He must have had two sisters whose names are not recorded, married to Samuel Denholm Young of Gulliehill

16 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. ix, fo. 286.

19 Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. xxi, fo. 338.

²⁰ Married April 10, 1768 (Edin. Marr. Reg.).

²² Ibid. He had sasine following thereon (Gen. Reg. Sas., July 25, 1810).

¹⁵ Whitecroft Inventory. Sasine followed in 1747 (ibid.).

Whitecroft Inventory. Robert Henderson assumed the name of Wightman, for when factor to Viscount Stormont he was known as Robert Henderson of Cleuchheids. Mr. David Wightman, minister of Applegarth, purchased Penlaw from William Johnstone of Penlaw and entailed it in 1744 on his brother Mathew Wightman for life and then to his sister Elizabeth Wightman, spouse to William Henderson of Cleughheads, with remainder to their son, Robert Henderson of Cleughheads, who on succeeding took the name of Henderson-Wightman (Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1748).

and John Kennedy, residing in Dumfries.²³ At some date prior to 1827 William D. W. Henderson of Whitecroft must have inherited the small property of Fingask, near Dundee, for when in that year he disponed Whitecroft to Trustees he was described as William D. W. Henderson Somerville of Fingask. The name of his wife has not been ascertained, so perhaps she was a Somerville.24 The Trustees named in the disposition, which was of a Testamentary nature, were his brother, John Irving Henderson of Gullielands, afterwards Sheriff-Substitute at Dundee, his two cousins, Alex. Wilson, cashier of the old Bank at Paisley, and Francis Wilson, W.S., 25 and his two brothers-in-law, Samuel Denholm Young and John Kennedy, to whom was added his brother, Robert Henderson in Lochmaben.

W. D. W. Henderson Somerville of Whitecroft left the following issue:

(i) Samuel Henderson Somerville, of whom hereafter.

(ii) William Carruthers Henderson Somerville, residing in 1841 at Laurie Know; a legatee for £1,500.

- (iii) John Henderson William Somerville, in 1841 second mate on the "Heart of Oak" in the West Indian Trade; a legatee for £1,500.
- (iv) Janet Carruthers Henderson Somerville at Laurie Know.

(v) Sarah Denholm Henderson Somerville

- (vi) Jean Denholm Henderson Somerville, wife of James Taylor Mackay, merchant in Edinburgh with issue:
 - (a) Margaret Denholm Mackay.
 - (b) Ann Mackay.
 - (c) James Mackay.
 - (d) William Patrick Mackay.
- (vii) Henrietta Irving Henderson Somerville at Laurie Know. (viii) May McCulloch Henderson Somerville
 - (ix) Katherine Somerville Henderson Somerville, dead by 1841; all the above daughters were provided with legacies of £1,000 sterling each.

Samuel Henderson Somerville of Whitecroft was Laird for a very brief period. He was served heir to his father in 1842,26 and the same year the

²³ Whitecroft Inventory. This marriage of Samuel Denholm Young is not recorded. He had married in 1803 Helen Goldie (Douglas of Morton, p. 307). The marriage can scarcely refer to his son of the same name.

²⁴ The Rev. John Somerville, minister of Carlaverock (1697–1734), had one son, William Somerville, advocate, and five daughters, "of which W. Henderson Somerville of Fingask and Whitecroft is the representative " (Scott's Fasti).

²⁵ These were sons of Ebenezer Wilson, bailie of Dumíries, and Mary Carruthers. ²⁶ Whitecroft Inventory.

NETHER DENBIE OR WHITECROFT

Trustees being unable to pay his brothers and sisters the provision made for them by their father, sold Whitecroft and Dyke to James Ewan Newton, merchant in Leith.²⁷ By 1858 Newton had become a bankrupt and the following year his Trustee sold the estate to Robert Munn,²⁸ in whose family Whitecroft remained till 1920, when it was bought by the marriage Trustees of Lady Maitland Heriot.

Annual Control of the Control of the

²⁷ Whitecroft Inventory.

²⁸ Ibid. John Baird, writer in Lockerbie, was the Trustee.

CHAPTER X

PORTRACK

of Fourteen Aikers, who in turn are supposed to be an early off-shoot of Holmains. There is not, however, enough evidence to warrant a descent from Holmains, indeed the progenitor of this branch would rather seem to be descended from Dormont.

The lands of Fourteen Aikers in spite of its name amounted to a 3-merk land, or a 40/— land, and lay in Dalton Parish. From a very early date they belonged to Holmains. In 1571 a John Carruthers in Fourteen Aikers witnessed a Holmains Sasine.¹ He was clearly a tenant as must have been the William Carruthers of Fourteen Aikers who served on a Holmains Inquisition in 1583.² The last named may perhaps be identified with the William Carruthers, merchant burgess of Dumfries, "pretendit tenant of the 40/— land called Fourteen Aikers" who was summoned to remove from those lands by Nicolas Jardine, Lady Holmains, in 1616.³ By 1631 Francis Carruthers was the tenant.⁴

In 1662 Mr. William Carruthers of Fourteen Aikers was cautioner for John Carruthers of Holmains, though who he was and what interest he had in Fourteen Aikers is by no means clear.⁵ His interest must have terminated in 1666, for on May 26 of that year John Carruthers of Holmains leased Fourteen Aikers to John Carruthers of Dormont for the space of twenty-one years at a rent of £60 Scots.⁶ Two years later, the rent not being paid, Holmains obtained letters of Horning against Dormont.⁷ By 1689 Fourteen Aikers was tenanted by John Dinwoodie and John Ker.⁸ In April of that year the Laird of Holmains wadsett Fourteen Aikers for the sum of £1,086 4/- Scots to John Carruthers in Twathats ⁹ who was the undoubted ancestor of Portrack.⁹

Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 30.
 Ibid., Nos. 37 and 38.
 Ibid., No. 100.
 Ibid., No. 116.

⁷ Ibid., No. 121.

8 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv, fo. 476.

⁹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 148. Twathats was part of the lands of Knocks

According to the custom of those days John Carruthers in Twathats would take actual possession of Fourteen Aikers as security for his loan in the absence of any agreement to the contrary. This is what actually happened until 1710 when the wadsett was paid off and John Carruthers in Fourteen Aikers gave renunciation thereof to George Carruthers of Holmains. 10 John Carruthers only survived this renunciation for four years, dying in February 1714. In his Testament he is described as John Carruthers in Twathats, thereafter in Mouswald. 11 His wife and family are not mentioned in that document. His eldest son, John Carruthers, had borrowed 700 merks from him in 1698 and in 1706 had married 12 Janet Johnstone, eldest daughter to the late Archibald Johnstone, wadsetter of Holmains, 13 receiving from his father an assignment of the bond for 700 merks and other debts. In 1734 this John Carruthers described as "sometime of Fourteen Aikers" obtained sasine on apprising in the 20/- lands of Newlands, Ingleston and others in the parish of Kelton, apprised from Anna and Marianna, sisters and heiresses of Robert Johnstone of Kelton by William Veitch, W.S., who disponed to Carruthers. 14 Two months later as "now of Ingleston", John Carruthers infeft his wife Janet in the 3-merk land of Craigley under his marriage contract 15 and in 1736 gave a heritable bond for £350 sterling on this property to Francis Carruthers of Whitecroft.¹⁶ At that time he was living in Mouswald Place.

For the later generations of this family see the accompanying chart, mainly compiled from family notes and other sources by Mrs. Carruthers of Portrack, who is better known in the literary and political world by her maiden name-Violet Markham.

in the parish of Dalton, the superiority of which was acquired in 1659 from John Crichton of St. Leonards by John Carruthers of Dormont (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. vii, fo. 119).

10 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. vii, fo. 457.

¹¹ Dumfries Testaments. Recorded on February 24, 1731.

12 Marriage Contract dated April 28, 1706 (see above Testament).

13 On February 22, 1689, Archibald and George Johnstones, brothers, in Hoddamstanes and William Johnstone in Slork, merchant travellers in England, were infeft in the mains and manor house of Holmains under reversion for 10,000 merks Scots (Holmains Writs, No. 147). Renunciation followed in 1719 by Joseph Johnstone, eldest son of Archibald, and by the said William in Slork then still alive (Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. ix, fo. 172).

14 Ibid., Vol. xi, Part 2, fo. 300. The lands were—Meikle Ingleston, 20/- lands of Newlands, 3-merk land of Craigley, 3-merk land of Westquarter and Summer-

sheilds, with others on warrandice.

15 Ibid., fo. 310.

16 Dumfries Reg. Sas., February 20, 1736.

CHAPTER XI

ISLE

O light can be thrown on the origin of this family, though it would seem to have been descended from Holmains. John Carruthers, seventh Laird of Holmains, who married Nicola Jardine in 1575, had a son Charles as well as a brother of the same name, and Charles was a common name in the Isle family. But the progenitor of this branch seems to have been Simon Carruthers, son of George Carruthers of Holmains and Margaret Irving. As early as 1602 he was "in Isle", and was still there thirty-two years later when his son and heir apparent, Charles Carruthers, was infeft in the 40/— lands of Isle (parish of Dalton) on precept from the Lindsays. Charles's wife was Sarah Carruthers, of unknown family, and that same day (December 16, 1634) Charles infeft his eldest son, John Carruthers, and Jean Irving, spouses, in his lands, reserving the liferent of half of the lands to himself and his wife. In addition to John, Charles Carruthers had another son named George, who witnessed a Dormont sasine on the same date.

John Carruthers, second of Isle, married in 1634 (contract dated March 28) Jean Irving, daughter of Francis Irving of Murrayes.⁵ In 1654 this John Carruthers infeft his eldest son John in the lands of Isle, reserving his own liferent.⁶ He had another son Francis who witnessed a precept on November 8, 1661.⁷ Their father John must have been still alive at that date.

John Carruthers, third of Isle, was infeft in those lands on September 5,

² Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. iv, fo. 75a.

¹ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. vi, p. 356.

³ Ibid., fo. 76. ⁴ Ibid., fo. 75. ⁵ Ibid., fo. 77.

⁶ Ibid., Vol. vi, fo. 5. A witness was Charles Carruthers, younger, who may be another son of John, second of Isle. His father, Charles Carruthers, first of Isle, was then still alive. He may be the Charles Carruthers in Ailhead (sic) who died in December 1690 whose Inventory was given up by Holmains (Dumfries Testaments, Vol. 6).

⁷ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. vi, fo. 401.

1666, being described as "now of Isle", from which it must be inferred that his father was dead. The sasine was on precept from William Murray of Moriquhat who must have acquired the superiority from Lindsay.8 It is stated that he and an unnamed brother were then in occupation. So far the property of Isle had remained intact. It was always described as a 40/land which was the equivalent of a 3-merk land. But in 1676 John Carruthers, third of Isle, disponed half of the 3-merk land of Isle to John Carruthers, natural brother to John Carruthers of Dormont, retaining apparently the other half.9 This division, however, does not seem to have been exactly stated in the sasine, for in 1688 John, third of Isle, still owned the 2-merk land of Isle and Islehead in which he infeft his son John, reserving liferent of a quarter of Over Isle during the lifetime of Jean Irving and a third after her death. 10 This was followed in 1694 by the liferent infeftment in the 2-merk land of Isle in favour of Nicolas Murray, spouse of the younger John.¹¹ At that date John Carruthers, third of Isle, must have been still alive.

According to Edmondson's "Heraldry", Vol. ii, the Arms of the Carruthers of Isle were—Gules, two chevrons engrailed between three fleurs-delis or, within a border argent. The Crest was a cherub proper, and the Motto "Paratus et Fidelis".

⁸ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xv, fo. 301.

⁹ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. ii, fo. 65.

¹⁰ Ibid., Vol. iv, fo. 428.
¹¹ Ibid., Vol. v, fo. 247.

CHAPTER XII

DYKE

THE lands of Dyke were a relatively modest holding amounting to a merk land. This trifling piece of land presents a number of difficulties awaiting collation. In 1662 it is named in the Barony of Holmains.¹ At an early date it had been divided and only one moiety was definitely occupied by cadets of the Carruthers family. That moiety had belonged to the Lindsays who had probably owned the whole.2 In 1576 James Lindsay of Barcloy granted a charter of that ½-merk land to Thomas Carruthers, son of the late Rolland Carruthers, younger in Dyke, at a feu duty of a merk Scots.³ Lindsay remained merely as a superior, a right of which his descendant divested himself in favour of William Murray of Moriequhat prior to 1667. That Holmains had some sort of claim to this $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land is clear from the fact that in that year that Laird undertook not to molest either Lindsay or Murray for the transaction.4 Thomas Carruthers was probably succeeded by Rolland Carruthers of Dyke, for in 1667 Moriequhat, as superior, gave a charter of the \frac{1}{2}-merk land to John Carruthers, son of Rolland of Dyke.⁵ John was dead by 1706 when Moriequhat issued a precept in favour of George Carruthers, as heir to the said John his father, but infeftment apparently did not follow as in 1736 John Carruthers, son of George, was retoured heir to his grandfather John of Dyke.6 This John Carruthers, with consent of Mary Bratton, his spouse, disponed the ½-merk land of Dyke in 1740 to Francis Carruthers of Whitecroft

¹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 103.

² Whitecroft Inventory. The other ½-merk land belonged to Johnstone of Wamphray on June 12, 1712 (MacKenzie Decreets, Vol. 190).

³ Whitecroft Inventory.

⁴ Cal. of Holmain Writs, No. 120.

⁵ Whitecroft Inventory. On the other hand, a John Carruthers of Dyke was infeft as heir to his grandfather Herbert in a ½-merk land of Dyke in 1659 by Lindsay as superior (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. vii, fo. 146). This, of course, may refer to the other half. John disponed this half to John Blackstock in Raffles.

⁶ Ibid.

DYKE

and disappears from record. For the later history of Dyke see Note on Carruthers of Whitecroft.

There are frequent references to other Carruthers in Dyke. It must be assumed that these Carruthers were tenants or feuars of the other $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land of Dyke that belonged to Wamphray.

⁷ Whitecroft Inventory, also Dumfries Reg. Sas., July 12, 1740.

THE PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

CHAPTER XIII

THE FAMILIES OF BUTTERQUHAT

THE lands of Butterquhat lying quite close to Holmains Tower were once a separate holding that gave its designation to several younger sons of Carruthers of Holmains. It is now part of the large farm of Kirkhill, and its name only survives in a piece of high heathery ground known as Butterquhat Moor.

The first mention of a cadet of Holmains in possession of Butterquhat occurs in 1558 when John Carruthers of Butterquhat is named as bailie in a precept.1 The lands were only a 30/- land. It has not been possible to establish the identity of this John, but he was probably a son of John Carruthers of Holmains and Janet Jardine. He was succeeded by his son George Carruthers of Butterwhat who was dead by 1654, though survived by his wife Gelis Wilson.2 On March II of that year their son George Carruthers of Butterwhat disponed his 30/- land to William Carruthers, second son of John Carruthers of Holmains, subject to the liferent to his mother. Janet Carruthers, wife of George, was a consenting party.3 To complete the new owner's title George was infeft in 1655 heir to his grandfather.4 This was not the first transaction between the parties, for in 1645 George of Butterquhat had infeft William Carruthers in those 30/lands under reversion.⁵ It was a wadsett or mortgage and may have been paid back before the disposition by George to William. If not, the equity of Butterquhat was disponed in 1654 as a complement to the 1645 wadsett. William Carruthers of Butterwhat (1654) married Sarah Maxwell, daughter of Agnes Maxwell and James Maxwell of Tinwald, spouses. Agnes was heiress of the 40-merk land of Dunwoodie, which she entailed upon her son Robert Maxwell of Tinwald and his heirs, whom failing on George Maxwell, apparent of Munsches and his heirs, whom failing on John Carruthers, eldest son of William Carruthers of Butterquhat and therefore grandson of the entailer.

¹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 27.

³ Ibid., No. 92.

⁵ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. v, fo. 126.

² Ibid., No. 93.

⁴ Ibid., Nos. 93 and 94.

THE FAMILIES OF BUTTERQUHAT

At the same time Agnes disponed the 36/-lands of Brumblebank to William and Sarah.⁶

William and Sarah must have been married about 1667, in which October he infeft her in an annual-rent of £120 furth of Butterquhat, whilst Agnes Maxwell, Lady Tinwald, infeft Sarah in another annual-rent of 180 merks furth of Brumblebank.

The superior of Butterquhat was of course the Laird of Holmains who, being in financial straits owing to the adjudication of his estate by Robert Fergusson of Craigdarroch, borrowed 4,000 merks from his uncles, the above William Carruthers of Butterquhat and Major Thomas of Brigmuir and infeft them in an annual-rent of 240 merks furth of Kirkhill, Ruthweltoun and Butterquhat.⁸ In 1670 William had a dispute with the Laird of Holmains, his nephew, as to the marches of Butterquhat which was submitted to the arbitration of Roger Grierson, uncle to Lag, acting for Holmains, and George Maxwell of Munsches for William.⁹

By his wife Sarah Maxwell William Carruthers had the following issue:

- (i) John Carruthers of Butterquhat, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) James Carruthers of Over Halleaths, named as second son, was Chamberlain to the Duke of Queensberry and married on March 3, 1693, Katherine, second daughter of Rev. Andrew Hamilton, minister at Middlebie. In 1697 he had sasine from William Bell of Scotsbrig in an annual-rent of £180 from the lands of Woolcoats and Ecclefechan. 10 In 1699 as James Carruthers in Butterquhat he secured his first hold on the lands of Over Halleaths, being infeft in an annual-rent of £12 Scots therefrom. 11 This was followed the same year by infeftment under decreet of adjudication in some lands in Colvendthat belonged in wadsett to James Tailfair of Haircleuch. 12 In 1700 he acquired from John Kennedy of Over Halleaths and Mary Johnstone, spouses, the 5-merk land of Over Halleaths. 13 He could not pay for it all in cash so he infeft Alexander Thomson

⁶ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xx, fo. 217.

⁷ Ibid., Vol. xviii, fos. 18 and 77.

⁸ Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 106 and 107. In 1664 William had been infeft by John Carruthers of Holmains in an annual-rent of 60 merks Scots furth of Hetlandhill (Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. viii, fo. 152).

⁹ Ibid., No. 132.

¹⁰ Dumíries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, fo. 465. On change of ownership it was confirmed by John Maxwell of Middlebie in 1711 (ibid., Vol. viii, fo. 16).

¹³ Ibid., Vol. vi, fo. 226. There were two families of Kennedy, near kinsmen, of Halleaths, and of Over Halleaths.

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

in Brigmuir in an annual-rent of £100 Scots therefrom in 1701 14 and granted the vendors a wadsett for 1,200 merks—the remainder of the price—upon Over Halleaths. 15

James Carruthers never cleared Over Halleaths of debt. In 1703 he had to infeft John Forsyth and William Johnstone, both in Carthat in the lands of Over Halleaths, 16 receiving renunciation of Thomson's wadsett the following year. 17 In 1708 he was the recipient of a Crown Charter of the lands of Roberthill 18 and in 1711 acquired an annual-rent furth of Scotsbrig. 19 This seems to have been his last deal in landed estate. He was certainly dead by 1726 when his widow and only son are mentioned. 20

His widow, Katherine Hamilton, survived him for over twenty years, dying in October 1747 21 with the following issue:

(a) William Carruthers, an only son and still a minor in 1726.²² As a youth he was apprenticed on December 2, 1724, to George Cunyngham, chirurgeon apothecary and burgess of Edinburgh.²³ His father had disponed his annual-rent from Scotsbridge before his death to John Carruthers of Butterquhat who by some family arrangement transferred it back to William and his widowed mother.²⁴ The qualifying period of a medical practitioner in those days was not very prolonged, so on January 10, 1729, William entered into a curious contract to take up a practice in Annandale. It was a contract ²⁵ between the practitioner and his principal patients who guaranteed him a minimum income if he lived

¹⁴ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. lxxix, fo. 64 (May 4, 1701). It was paid off in 1703 (Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. vi, fo. 404).

¹⁵ Ibid., Vol. lxxxii, fo. 283.

Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. vi, fo. 390. In 1712 Forsyth and Johnstone disponed Over Halleaths to George Kennedy of Halleaths subject to all the encumbrances placed on it by James Carruthers and his liferent tack thereof to John Kennedy of Over Halleaths and Mary Johnston, spouses (ibid., Vol. viii, fo. 105).

¹⁷ Ibid., fo. 404.

¹⁸ Ibid., Vol. vii, fo. 317.

¹⁹ Ibid., Vol. viii, fo. 16.

²⁰ Ibid., Vol. x, fo. 253. He appears to have died in September 1721 (Dumfries Tests., Vol. vii).

²¹ Dumfries Testaments, Vol. xiii, fo. 172. She is described as relict of James Carruthers in Roberthill.

²² Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. x, fo. 253.

²³ Edinburgh Apprentice Register.

²⁴ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. x, fo. 253.

²⁵ Penes R. C. Reid.

THE FAMILIES OF BUTTERQUHAT

in their district and physiced their families. The prospective patients were James Douglas of Dornock, Francis Maxwell of Tinwald, Gavin Johnstone of Elshieshields, Robert Johnstone of Wamphray, George Kennedy of Halleaths and George Maxwell of Munsches, who "having sufficient experience and assurance of the knowledge, skill and abilities of the said William Carruthers chirurgeon and burgess of Edinburgh," agreed to pay him a yearly pension as expressed in promissory notes lodged by them with the Stewart Clerk of Annandale (Mr. John Henderson). Drugs and medicines were to be charged by William at current prices of Edinburgh druggists. He was to live within 20 miles of Lochmaben, and was only to be absent when buying drugs at Edinburgh or Carlisle, in no circumstances longer than 3 weeks away. He was to take no other patients save the subscribers or those elected by a majority of the original subscribers, not by poll, but by the value of their annual subscriptions. Unfortunately the amount of the subscriptions is not recorded. He died in March 1735,26 being then in Lockerbie and described as son of deceast James Carruthers at Roberthill. There is no mention of a wife or family.

(b) Henrietta Carruthers, wife of Mungo Johnstone, vintner (or merchant) in Lockerbie. In 1753 she was served heir portioner to her uncle John Carruthers of Butterquhat.²⁷

(c) Another, or other heir portioners, also daughters, must have been alive in 1753. Margaret and Anna, daughters to late James Carruthers, Stewart Depute, are mentioned with Hendretta in a bond of relief dated 1702.28 One of these two daughters must have married a man named Halliday, for in 1793 David Halliday in Righeids was served heir to his granduncle John Carruthers of Butterquhat.29

(iii) Robert Carruthers, apprenticed to Robert Liddell, merchant in Edinburgh, on March 5, 1673.30

(iv) Janet, the eldest daughter, married (contrast dated August 26, 1674)

28 Reg. of Deeds (Dalrymple), Vol. xcv (January 15, 1708).

²⁶ Dumfries Testaments, Vol. x, fo. 272. ²⁷ Retours.

²⁹ Retours. Prior to 1730 Margaret was spouse to Archibald Robson in Roberthill and Anna spouse to William Halliday, merchant traveller in England (Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1735).

³⁰ Reg. of Edinburgh Apprentices.

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

James Scot of Johnstone, being infeft in an annual-rent of £240 Scots furth of Craikhous in the parish of Westerkirk in 1675.³¹

- (v) Helen, who was infeft under bond of provision in an annual-rent of £40 Scots furth of Milberry in parish of Kirkpatrick Fleming by her husband James Irving in Hollie in 1695.³²
- (vi) Agnes, married in 1679 James Carruthers, apparent of Nether Wormanbie. 33

John Carruthers, last Laird of Butterquhat, in 1698 was infeft heir to his father William in those 30/— lands on precept from George Carruthers of Holmains.³⁴ The same year he was infeft in the half of the annual-rent of 240 merks which had been his father's security in the loan to John Carruthers of Holmains in 1664.³⁵ On the same day (November 7, 1698) he resigned Butterquhat into the hands of his superior, George Carruthers of Holmains, and Butterquhat was thereafter swallowed up in that estate.³⁶

John Carruthers married Jean Riddell, apparently daughter of Andrew Riddell of Hayning, the spouses being infeft in 1702 by Sir James Scot of Gala in an annual-rent of £100 Scots furth of Faldounsyde.³⁷ He was a curator of Sir Alexander Jardine of Applegarth ³⁸ and till 1714 held his father's wadset over Butterquhat which he that year renounced in favour of George Carruthers of Holmains.³⁹

31 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. i, fo. 369.

33 Gen. Reg. Sas., April 24, 1679.

38 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, fo. 423.

³⁹ Ibid., Vol. viii, fo. 215.

³² Ibid., Vol. v, fo. 276. She is described as sister of James Carruthers in (" of " deleted) Butterquhat.

³⁴ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 161.

³⁵ Ibid., No. 164.

CHAPTER XIV

THE FAMILIES OF OVER DENBIE

It was not always such. When first met with in records there were two distinct estates, Over and Nether Denbie, whose origins were totally dissimilar. Nether Denbie originally belonged to the Lindsays and was a 4-merk land and must have been derived from the Griersons of Meikle Dalton. From the Lindsays it passed to the Carruthers of Dormont, becoming the appendage of a cadet of that house.

Over Denbie belonged to Holmains. As early as 1510 John Carruthers of Holmains was infeft therein along with Little Dalton, &c., and Ecclefechan.¹ In the Crown Charter of 1542 it is described as a 3-merk land,² which was the equivalent of a 40/- land. In 1575 these 40/- lands were occupied by John Carruthers, Rolland Lyndsay, Robert Carruthers and John Carruthers.³ Three of these were tenants, but one of them, John Carruthers, had been infeft by the Laird in a 10/- land of Denbie in 1571. The other John was son and heir of the deceased William Carruthers.⁴

At some unknown date John Carruthers of Holmains, eighth Laird, infeft his brother George in this 40/— land. George was thereafter known as of Denbie or of Over Denbie. In addition to that 40/— land George also acquired by charter in 1613 from John Jardine of Applegarth another 40/— land of Over Denbie which had never been divided off from the 40/— land he held of Holmains. There can be little doubt that he got this Jardine land through the influence of his mother, Nicolas Jardine. In all he owned a £4 land of Over Denbie.

In 1618 he inseft John Carruthers, younger of Rammerskales, in the

161

¹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 2. ² Ibid., No. 16.

³ Ibid., No. 33. ⁴ Ibid., No. 30.

⁵ Ibid., No. 64, where is mentioned a decreet arbitral between George and his tenants dated November 11, 1613, and other writs.

⁶ Ibid., No. 91, where he gives a tack of a "£3 land of my £4 land of Denbie-Over".

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

Jardine 40/- land under reversion for 300 merks 7 which was renounced on repayment shortly afterwards.8

That same year he obtained letters of inhibition against his brother of Holmains, preventing him disponing or intromitting with the £5 land of Ecclefechan, the 6/8 land of Raffles and the 6/8 lands of Howthat in which John should have infeft him.⁹ He took an active part with his brother, William Carruthers of Knocks, in the series of assaults on the minister of Mouswald. These two brothers, George and William, seem to have taken their mother's part against their eldest brother.¹⁰ Indeed, shortly before her death Nicolas Jardine assigned in 1631 to George, "her second lawful son", all her effects and sums due to her.¹¹ In 1639 he gave a charter of a 20/– land of his 40/– land of Over Denby to his nephew, James Carruthers, apparent of Holmains, under reversion for 300 merks.¹²

George Carruthers of Over Denby was dead about 1660 when his sons, Christopher and George, gave a discharge to John Carruthers of Holmains for all sums, legacies, &c., due to them through the death of their father. The dealings with and disposal of these two 40/- lands of Over Denbie by these two brothers led to much confusion which was not clarified till Holmains had prepared for himself an "Information" dated 1671 which explains the position. In 1665 Christopher, the eldest brother, disponed the 40/- land of Over Denbie to his brother George, "youngest lawful son to deceast George Carruthers of Denbie". The following year, February 24, 1666, George disponed this 40/- land together with the £5 land of Ecclefechan, the ½-merk land of Raffles and the ½-merk land of Howthat to one James Carruthers, servitor to James Johnstone, Earl of Annandale. It is obvious that the 40/- land here conveyed was that portion held of Holmains, the other lands disponed being also in that barony.

In 1668 John Carruthers of Holmains took steps to acquire in property the 40/- lands of Over Denbie which his forebears had long held in

⁷ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 61, and Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. i, fos. 87 and 92.

⁸ Ibid., No. 63.

⁹ Ibid., No. 62.

¹⁰ Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. xi, pp. 180-1 and 244.

¹³ Ibid., No. 97. There was also another son, Francis (Reg. Priv. Conc., Vol. xi, p. 244).

¹⁴ Ibid., No. 133.

¹⁵ "possest by William Irvings, elder and younger" (Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xv, fo. 432).

¹⁶ James Carruthers has not been identified. He is referred to in the 1671 "Information" as "a certain James Carruthers having pretendit disposition". See chapter on the Chamberlain to the Earl of Annandale.

THE FAMILIES OF OVER DENBIE

superiority. George, the youngest brother, had some right to this land held of Holmains. He contracted to assign that right to his brother Christopher who was to dispone the combined rights to Holmains. In return Holmains was to give to Christopher and his heirs, or to his two brethren, a tack of the land for periods of nineteen years in all time coming, the tacksman to pay a rent of £40 Scots and £40 Scots as grassum, rendering personal service on horseback, &c. The lands are described as the 40/lands of Over Denbie "that lie undividit from the other 40/- lands of Over Denbie whereof Alex Jardine of Applegarth is superior ".17 In other words, both Holmains and James Carruthers were sold the same property. Christopher and George at once found themselves in trouble. James Carruthers could claim the prior disposition, but Holmains could most easily apply pressure. This he did by means of Letters of Horning to make Christopher pay the tack duty of £40.18 The solution of the impassé was obvious and it was adopted. In July 1669 Christopher and George renounced in favour of Holmains the 40/- land of Over Denbie (held of Holmains) without prejudice to the rights of George to the other 40/- lands, 19 whilst in February 1669 James Carruthers was infeft in the 40/- lands held of Jardine. 20 With the progress of the latter we are not concerned here, but from a dilapidated instrument of July 13, 1669, it would seem to have been acquired from James Carruthers by Holmains.21 George Carruthers did not surrender Over Denbie without compensation. He entered into a minute of excambion with Holmains whereby in return for his renunciation he was to be infeft in the lands of Castlebank and Crossdails.²² For some reason, though the excambion was effected, it was never legally completed, so that as late as 1694 Holmains in burdening Over Denbie with a wadset had to specify warrandice for that reason.23 George, however, certainly took possession of and was known as of Castlebank, though as late as 1680 he was protesting against Holmains prejudicing his rights to Over Denbie.24

17 Cal. of Holmains Writs, Nos. 122, 123 and 124.

¹⁸ Ibid., Nos. 127, 128 and 129.

²⁰ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xxi, fo. 201.

²³ Castlebank was part of the £10 land of Ecclefechan. In 1630 the £3 lands of Castlebank and the 10/— land called Tibbies Johnies had been set in tack by Holmains to John Bell called Castlebank (Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 111), who had subtacked part of it to a son of George Bell called Provost (ibid., No. 110). In 1665 under decreet arbitral Holmains resumed possession (ibid., No. 111) under payment of compensation (ibid., No. 114).

²⁴ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 136. In 1684 Margaret Rouet is described as spouse of George Carruthers of Castlebank (Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix, p. 597).

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It is not clear what these rights were, but his descendants certainly possessed the 40/— lands held of Jardine, for he himself was infeft therein in 1681,25 and his son, George Carruthers, was infeft therein in 1697 as heir to his father.26 The latter was dead by 1720 when his relict, Mary Menzies, then spouse to William Angus in Crosdailes, was infeft in a liferent from Over Denbie under bond of provision by her first husband.27 His son, John Carruthers, was that November infeft heir to his father in Over Denbie.28 He was a merchant traveller in England and in 1719 burdened Castlebank and Denbie with a wadset.29

It is now necessary to return to the 40/— lands of Over Denbie held of Holmains. After their surrender by George Carruthers in 1669 Holmains disponed the lands to his brother, William Carruthers of Denbie. The latter, then described as of Kirkwood, had married Blanch Irving, daughter of Francis Irving of Braes, by Catherine Irving, his wife. In 1675 the bride's parents infeft the young couple in the 33/4 lands of Braes, Kirtilbrig and Priestclose with reservation of liferent. On her death William Carruthers married secondly, as her third husband, Isabel Weir, daughter of Archibald Weir of Edinburgh and Elizabeth Hamilton.

By his first wife William Carruthers had:

(i) John Carruthers, of whom hereafter.

- (ii) Thomas Carruthers, apprenticed on March 12, 1690, to Andrew Chalmers, stationer in Edinburgh.³² Thomas became a stationer and burgess of Edinburgh on March 27, 1695.³³ He married on April 6, 1699, Anna, daughter of Albert Kennedy, Professor of Philosophy at Edinburgh,³⁴ who survived him and married secondly William Wood, chirurgeon in Edinburgh. They had the following issue:
 - (a) John,
 - (b) Halbert,

²⁵ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. iii, fo. 145.

²⁶ Ibid., Vol. v, fo. 423. He had been served heir November 28, 1695 (Retours).

Ibid., Vol. ix, fo. 269.
Ibid., fo. 292. John was served heir general to George on April 8, 1710

(Retours).

²⁹ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. cxiv, fo. 88.

30 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. i, fos. 355 and 356.

31 She had married (i) George Johnstone of Knockhill, and (ii) John Stark of Kilermont (Acts and Decreets (Mack), December 3, 1692).

32 Edinburgh Apprentice Register.
33 Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

³⁴ Edinburgh Marriages.

THE FAMILIES OF OVER DENBIE

- (c) Mary,
- (d) Thomina,—
 all dead by 1733 when their Testament was given up,
- (e) Anna, spouse of Hugh Hunter, druggist in Edinburgh, their executor. 35

The Hunters had a son Andrew Hunter, surgeon at Dalkieth, who in 1770 was served heir general to his uncle John Carruthers, son of Thomas the bookseller.³⁶

- (iii) Francis, who inherited Braes and therefore may have been a second son. He was infeft heir to his grandfather, Francis Irving, in that 33/4 land in 1709.³⁷ For an account of his descendants see Chapter entitled "Braes".
- (iv) Mary, born January 31, 1680, married on July 3, 1704, to George Carruthers of Holmains.
- (v) Henrietta Carruthers, who married on August 17, 1721, Andrew Barclay, writer in Edinburgh, was probably another daughter as Barclay figures frequently in Denbie Sasines.³⁸

By his second wife, Isabel Weir, William Carruthers had:

- (vi) William Carruthers, described as mariner on board the "Lennox", man-of-war; he was dead by 1757 when his relict Esther Douglas, only daughter of the first marriage of the late Col. James Douglas of 1st Battalion Scots Guards, assigned to her brother Archibald Douglas, surgeon in Moniaive, a process against the children of her late sister-in-law, Agnes Carruthers. 59
- (vii) Jean. 40
- (viii) Agnes, married to Mr. James Murray, "son of Murray of Murray-thwaite", minister of St. Mungo, who died in March 1735, 41 survived by his wife and John, James, and George, their children. 42 She appears to have married secondly James Johnstone of Lockerbie. 43

John Carruthers, second Laird of Denbie, was a University graduate and a writer in Edinburgh. He married Margaret, daughter of John

³⁵ Edinburgh Testaments, Vol. vc.

Retours. 37 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. vii, fo. 434.

³⁸ Edinburgh Marriage Register. ³⁹ Dumfries Sheriff Court Deeds, 1760. ⁴⁰ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. lxix, fo. 396. In 1695 these three children were infeft in an annual-rent furth of Knockhill.

⁴¹ Scots Fasti. ⁴² Sheriff Court Deeds, 1760.

^{43.} Reg. of Deeds (Mack), Vol. clxvii, April 20, 1742.

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

Carruthers of Holmains, and was made a burgess of Edinburgh "gratis, for good service" on August 30, 1714.⁴⁴ He was a member of Parliament in 1705-07 and voted against the Union. It is interesting to note that the Rev. W. S. Crockett in his Scott Originals records that when Isabel Walker, sister of "Jeanie Deans", was tried at Dumfries in 1736 for child murder, four of the fifteen members of the assize were members of the Carruthers family, viz. John of Denbie, who was chosen "chancellor", and with John Irving, the clerk, signed the verdict against Isabel, William of Braes, Francis of Whitecroft and William of Hardriggs.

Mr. John Carruthers of Denbie died on December 18, 1730, and particulars of his descendants will be found in the Chart of the Families of Over Denbie.

44 Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

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CHAPTER XV

BRAES

THE Braes estate came into the possession of the Carruthers family through the marriage, about the year 1675, of William Carruthers of Kirkwood (later of Over Denbie) with Blanch, daughter and heiress of Francis Irving of Braes 1 by his wife Catherine Irving. The lands were valued at 33/4 and consisted of Braes, Kirtilbrig, Whitehill, and Priestclose, and William Carruthers and his wife were infeft therein by the bride's parents, with reservation of liferent.2

On June 18, 1709, Francis Carruthers, probably second son of William Carruthers and Blanch Irving, was infeft heir to his grandfather, Francis Irving of Braes.³ Nothing further is known of Francis Carruthers, apart from the fact that he died on November 11, 1720. He was succeeded in the estate by his son, William Carruthers,⁴ who according to a manuscript chart married Margaret, daughter of John Irving of Whitehill, by whom he had the following children:

- (i) Francis, killed at the taking of Louisburg from the French.5
- ¹ The Irvings of Braes were an offshoot from the Bonshaw stock. George Irving, first of Braes, had been a tenant in Braes for some time before 1642 when his brother William Irving of Bonshaw infeft George and his wife Blanche Armstrong in the small estate of Braes, their son Christopher acting as an attorney for his mother (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. v, fo. 31). Their daughter Agnes married c. 1640 James Irving of Kirkconnel (ibid., Vol. iv, fo. 375).
 - ² Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. i, fos. 355 and 356.
 - ³ Ibid., Vol. vii, fo. 434.
- ⁴ On June 11, 1762, there is recorded a sasine in favour of William Carruthers of Braes as heir to his father Francis Carruthers of Braes, in those lands on precept of Clare Constat (Dumfries Reg. Sas.).
- ⁵ MS. Chart. He was alive in 1746, when he witnessed a sasine in favour of James Johnstone in Dykestoun and Mary Carruthers spouses (Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. xv, fo. 98). His father, William, acted as bailie for John Irving of Bonshaw who gave sasine.

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

- (ii) John, who succeeded his father in the family estates and of whom hereafter.6
- (iii) William, married in England, but whether with issue not known.
- (iv) James, married, but estranged from his family who resided in England.
- (v) Mary, married to John Carruthers of Denbie.⁶ She died May 30, 1800, aged 73 (Parish Register, Dalton).
- (vi) Catherine, second daughter.6
- (vii) Margaret,6 baptised June 11, 1749 (Parish Register, Middlebie).

John Carruthers, third Laird, succeeded his father in the family estates in 1772,6 and in 1775 acquired Blackethouse from Benjamin Bell of Blackethouse.7 He married Grizel, daughter of Thomas Bell of Auldhall and Lands,8 and must have died sometime prior to 1806,9 survived by his wife, who was still alive in February 1813,10 and by whom he had the following issue:

- (i) William, of whom hereafter. 11
- (ii) Francis, in Braes, alive in July 1813.¹² In 1791 Mrs. Jean Irving, or Bell, his grandmother, conveyed Auldhall to Francis, whose Trustees sold to George Irving of Newfield in 1822.¹³
- (iii) John, alive in 1829.14
- (iv) Jean, baptised June 2, 1770,15 but who probably died young.
- (v) Grace, baptised July 1771,15 alive in 1821.16
- (vi) Mary, baptised January 2, 1775, 15 who married Robert Wooliscroft in Annan sometime prior to 1808. 17 She was still alive in 1829. 14

William Carruthers, the fourth and last Laird of Braes, was infeft in Braes and other lands on September 20, 1806, under burden of a liferent annuity of £5 to Grizel Bell, relict of John Carruthers, late of Braes, and

⁶ Dumfries Reg. Sas., September 9, 1772, Vol. xx, fo. 514.

⁷ The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire, p. 36.

⁸ Thomas Bell of Auldhall and Land married Jean, eldest daughter of John Irving of Wysebie and Mary Bell, his spouse. Grizel was the only child (The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire, p. 25).

⁹ Dumfries Sasines, 1781–1820, Nos. 2359 and 3194. According to Session Papers in Signet Library (Edinburgh) he died in 1804.

¹⁰ Ibid., 1781–1820, No. 3049.

¹¹ Dumfries Sas., 1781-1820, Nos. 2359 and 3194.

¹² Ibid., 1781–1820, No. 3095.

¹³ The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire, p. 25.

¹⁴ Dumíries Sas., 1821–30, No. 1714. ¹⁵ Parish Register (Middlebic).

¹⁶ Dumfries Sas., 1821-30, No. 169., and MS. Chart.

¹⁷ Ibid., 1781–1820, No. 2591.

BRAES

the sum of £400 to Francis Carruthers, £300 to John Carruthers and £200 to each of Mary and Grace, their children. 18

In September 1808 he was described as an Attorney in Carlisle, 19 and on September 4, 1821, disposed of the estate to William Curll of Eastfield (the lands then being described as "Braes, Kirtlebridge, Whitehill, Priestclose, Donkins, Caldwell Know, and Braes Park with Manor House, Miln and Kiln of Kirtlebridge and Teinds") under burden of liferent of Grace and John Carruthers, sister and brother of William Carruthers, presently residing at Rigg Cottage. 20

William was apparently dead by February 7, 1829,21 and as far as is known died without issue.

¹⁸ Dumfries Sas., 1781–1820, No. 2359. ²⁰ Ibid., 1821–30, No. 169.

¹⁹ Ibid., 1781–1820, No. 2591. ²¹ Ibid., No. 1659.

CHAPTER XVI

NOTE ON THE CHAMBERLAIN TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE

Variously as servitor, factor and Chamberlain to the Earl of Annandale. His lineage has not been ascertained, but he undoubtedly claimed descent from Holmains, for in the Register of Grants of Arms in the Lyon Office occurs the following undated entry:

"James Carruthers of [], Steward Depute of Annandale and factor to the Earl of Annandale, descended from the family of Howmains, bears two chevrons engrailed betwixt three flowers de lis, or, with a bordure argent. Above the shield one helmet befitting his degree mantled gules doubled argent, next is placed on a torse for his crest, a seraphim standing

vested proper. The motto is Paratus et fidelis."

James Murray, second Earl of Annandale, died in 1658 without issue, the peerage becoming extinct. Two years later the Crown revived it in favour of James Johnstone, first Earl of Annandale, created in 1660, who died 1672. It was to the latter that James Carruthers acted as Chamberlain. He seems to have been appointed shortly after Johnstone's accession. From 1665 onwards there are frequent references to him in various financial transactions relating to land both on his own account or on behalf of the Earl. Thus in 1665 he was infeft in an annual-rent by Hugh Scott of Beddockholm furth of some land in Hutton parish,² and in 1667 lands in Corrie parish.³

In 1666 he made the first of two acquisitions that caused serious complications between himself and the Laird of Holmains, receiving a disposition from George Carruthers, youngest son of the deceast George Carruthers of (Over) Denbie, of the 40/- lands of Denbie, the £5 land of Ecclefechan

¹ See chapter on "The Families of Over Denbie".

³ Ibid., Vol. xviii, fo. 145.

² Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xi, fo. 274, and Vol. xxi, fo. 256, renounced in 1670 (ibid., Vol. xxvi, fo. 157).

NOTE ON THE CHAMBERLAIN TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE

possest by William Irving elder and younger, the ½-merk land of Raffles and the ½-merk land of Howthat. For the troubles which this infeftment caused and the way in which they were overcome see the Chapter on "The Families of Over Denbie".

On November 24, 1686, he was admitted as a Burgess and Guildbrother of Edinburgh without having to pay the usual fees. On the Earl's death in 1672 James Carruthers does not seem to have been reappointed by his successor. He must have retired to Lanarkshire, becoming tenant of Harperfield in Lesmahago parish, where he died in September 1687. His estate was worth £11,191 and his list of debtors amply proves his Dumfriesshire connection. Two years later his widow, Margaret Sinclair, was infeft by James Bannatyne of Corhouse in an annual-rent furth of his lands in favour of herself for life and her seven children. Their issue was:

- (i) James, a writer in Edinburgh who disponed a Dumfriesshire annualrent in 1690 to Mr. John Carruthers of Denbie.⁸ He was dead by 1710.⁹
- (ii) William, executor to his father in 1701, when the belated Testament was recorded. It has been suspected that William might be identified with William Carruthers of Brecansyde, who is known to have had two brothers named John and James, but this cannot be as James, brother of Brecansyde, did not die until 1736.
- (iii) John.
- (iv) Hendretta.
- (v) Mary, apparently dead by 1690.10.
- (vi) Margaret.
- (vii) Anna.

Margaret Sinclair, relict of James Carruthers, died in Edinburgh and was interred at Greyfriars on August 20, 1698.11

⁴ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xv, fo. 432. ⁵ Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

- ⁶ Lanarkshire Testaments, Vol. xiv. He was not the first member of the clan to settle in Lesmahago. On December 17, 1625, the Testament of John Carruthers in Nether Birkwood in parish of Lesmahago was recorded. He died in November 1625 and his wife Agnes Sherer on April 16, 1625. They do not seem to have left issue as he left everything to his brother-in-law Robert Steill in Goishill (Lanarkshire Testaments, Vol. ii).
 - ⁷ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. lix, fo. 314.

 8 Ibid., Vol. lxviii, fo. 65.

9 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. viii, fo. 2.

¹⁰ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. lxi, fo. 438.

¹¹ Reg. of Greyfriars Burials.

CHAPTER XVII

CAPTURE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

CARRUTHERS IN THE GLASGOW DISTRICT

NUMBER of disconnected members of the Carruthers family were early settled in Glasgow and neighbourhood though it is not possible to establish or even show any connection between them and Annandale.

David Carruthers, a witness in 1531, followed by John Carruthers, a witness in 1536/7, are amongst the earliest occurrences of the name in Glasgow.¹

In 1560 there was a Janet Carruthers, relict of Robert Arthwire, burgess of Glasgow, and spouse of John Aitkyn who renounced in favour of her son Robert Arthwire a tenement in Glasgow. Robert sold it to Elizabeth Arneile, from whom it was acquired by James Carruthers.² Elizabeth would seem to have been wife of James Carruthers, for by 1566 there is mention of Friar James Carruthers, son of Bessie Arneil, heiress of the late William Arneil and now spouse to William Smyth, smith.³

In 1567 a Thomas Carruthers "laicus" figures as a witness.4

On May 4, 1613, Andrew Carruthers, sometime indweller in Inchynnane and a merchant, became burgess by purchase, and establishes a connection with families that appear later at both places. He had a daughter Janet Carruthers married to Thomas Pirrie, merchant burgess of Glasgow. He may well have been a brother of the Margaret Carruthers in Quhitehill (Inchinnan) who died in August 1616 leaving a brother John Carruthers in Killellane. Hardby in the adjoining parish of Erskine a Robert Carruthers

¹ Glasgow Protocols, Vol. iv, 1093 and 1293. ² Ibid., Vol. ii, 281 and 613.

 ³ Ibid., Vol. v, 1541.
 ⁴ Ibid., Vol. iii, 957.
 ⁵ Glasgow Burgess Roll.
 ⁶ Ibid., June 15, 1643.

⁷ Glasgow Testaments, Vol. xiii, June 10, 1617. Her brother-in-law Mathew Wilson in Barsaill was her co-executor and is suggestive of a Dumfriesshire connection. Mathew was a common Christian name of the Wilsons of Croglin (Dumfriesshire) and of Greenhill (Lochmaben).

CARRUTHERS IN THE GLASGOW DISTRICT

died in October 1636, his Testament being given up by the relict of John Carruthers in Erskine on behalf of John Carruthers, nephew to the defunct.8

From outside of Glasgow came yet another of the clan in the person of John Carruthers, merchant, who became burgess and guildbrother of Glasgow on April 17, 1623, in right of his wife Janet, daughter of Mathew Merschell.⁹ He died in February 1631, his eldest son, Mathew, then a minor, being his executor.¹⁰ Mathew in turn was admitted Burgess on May 27, 1669.¹¹ His two sisters married respectively John McKewin and George Kirkland, merchant burgesses.¹² Janet Carruthers, wife of the last named, died in November 1656.¹³

Finally there was William Carruthers, tailor, who on March 9, 1648, became burgess in right of his wife Elspeth, daughter to deceast Patrick Fairlie, tailor and burgess. He was brother to John Carruthers in Mains of Houstoun and died in August 1658, his testament indicating some connection with the Inchinnan family. He left two children, William Carruthers who was admitted burgess on August 7, 1680, and Sarah, in whose right her husband John Wilson, tailor, became burgess on May 10, 1677. 16

⁸ Glasgow Testaments, Vol. xxv, June 15, 1637.

¹⁰ Glasgow Testaments, Vol. xxii, March 4, 1631.

¹² Ibid., August 6, 1640, and May 26, 1653.

¹³ Glasgow Testaments, Vol. xxix, May 21, 1659.

¹⁵ Glasgow Testaments, Vol. xxix, October 23, 1658.

⁹ Glasgow Burgess Roll.

¹¹ Burgess Roll.

¹⁴ Glasgow Burgess Roll.

¹⁶ Glasgow Burgess Roll.

CHAPTER XVIII

ALISONBANK

THIS branch of the family appears first as tenants in Hurkledaile, Roland Carruthers in Hurkledaile dying there in February 1676, leaving a widow Elizabeth Hood and two daughters, Mary and Janet, as his executors. A third—the eldest—daughter Margaret married Walter Carruthers in Hetlandhill who gave bond of provision for her on August 12, 1696.2 Roland probably left male issue, for in 1735 there was a William Carruthers in Hurkledaile whose daughter Janet had been married to Francis Carruthers in Hartwood, second son of Robert Carruthers sometime in Gateside, thereafter in Lambrigs.3

His son, William Carruthers, younger in Hurkledaile, married Jean Murray, eldest of three daughters of William Murray of Hydewood and Sarah Murray spouses and an heir portioner of her brother Robert Murray. This William Carruthers, younger, acquired Alisonbank, in parish of Gretna, and had a son George Carruthers, ships carpenter in London, who granted a power of attorney to his father to collect debts due to him.4

As late as 1798 Jane Carruthers, wife of John Pasley in Springfield, was served heir portioner to her father William Carruthers in Alisonbank.5

¹ See Testament, July 25, 1676. ² Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1734.

³ See Testament of Robert Carruthers in Gateside, March 4, 1735.

CHAPTER XIX

LANGHOLM AND CARLISLE

and James Carruthers, are found carrying on the business of cotton weavers and thread manufacturers in Langholm. The brothers are of unknown parentage, and researches have not elucidated their previous history. Family tradition indicates that they were descended from Holmains via Over Denbie, and possibly having connection with Braes, but so far it has not been possible to establish the exact relationship.

The cotton industry was established in New Langholm about the year 1789.² In 1793, however, there were difficulties arising out of the financial troubles through which Dumfriesshire passed at that time and work was suspended. In 1794 work was resumed under John and James Carruthers and in its prime the mill employed some ninety persons. It is not known whether these brothers established the industry in Langholm, or whether they only restarted it in 1794; it is certain, however, that they had for some years, at least, previously resided in or near Langholm.³ Both were intimately connected with the founding of the Associate Congregation in Langholm ⁴ and James Carruthers and two others were elected and ordained, in 1787, according to the appointment of the Presbytery of Kelso, as the first elders in that congregation. Walter Pattison, who had previously held office in another congregation, was also admitted to the Session. In Septem-

Possibly James Carruthers, farmer, in Bankhead (Middlebie Parish), was their father, for on January 30, 1790, his relict, Mary Johnstone, who had died on January 28, 1790, was buried in Langholm Churchyard (Parish Register, 1668–1819). (His widow seems to have been the only other Carruthers, apart from James and John Carruthers, in Langholm at this time and it is possible that she was their mother, living with them after their father's decease.)

² The first mill is believed to have been on the Ewes road about a mile from the town, but at a later date was situated at Meikleholm Mill.

³ At some date prior to 1787 they must have resided in Dumfries, for they were promoters and founder members of the Dumfries Temperance Society.

⁴ Session Records of Associate Congregation.

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

ber 1788 John Carruthers appeared as a Commissioner from the Congregation requesting Presbytery to appoint a Moderator over them in electing a Pastor. The Rev. John Jardine was duly called in 1789 and it is interesting to note that thirty-five years later John Carruthers' son, James, married Rev. John Jardine's daughter Christiania. Another interesting point may be noted that the Rev. John Jardine was the first minister in Scotland to introduce Sunday Schools for the young. John Carruthers died on December 1, 1810, and James Carruthers on June 7, 1821. The cotton industry appears to have been carried on for a few years after the death of the brothers, but apparently not by members of the Carruthers family. At a later date the industry was abandoned and the factory converted into a flour mill.

John Carruthers had two sons, James, born June 28, 1788,6 from whom the Carlisle family are descended, and John, who died June 30, 1807, aged 17.5 James Carruthers, brother of John Carruthers, elder, had nine children, six sons and three daughters. Of his sons four died young and unmarried, his eldest surviving son, John, emigrated to Canada and died there on June 20, 1866, aged 80, leaving, it is believed, one daughter; the other son, George, died in Langholm on October 1, 1866, aged 76, having been predeceased by his two sons, John (an artist) and Robert Hope.⁷

James Carruthers, born June 28, 1788, does not seem to have taken part in the cotton-weaving business and along with his cousin, George Carruthers (who at a later date was a watchmaker in Langholm), were probably apprenticed to Philip Corrie, a well-known clockmaker in Langholm and with whom the family had business relations (vide Dumfries Reg. Sas.).

Some time prior to 1824, possibly in April 1818, James Carruthers established a clockmaking business in Carlisle, for at the time of his marriage in Langholm on October 29, 1824, to Christiania, daughter of Rev. John Jardine, Associate Minister at Langholm, he is described as "Watchmaker in Carlisle". Some of the clocks and watches which he made are still to be seen in use in homes in that City.

James Carruthers and his wife Christiania Jardine had eight children, seven sons, and one daughter who died unmarried. His eldest son, John, emigrated to the United States of America in 1851 and has descendants in that country. Three of his other sons left issue and are represented by families in Carlisle, Barrow, Purley (Surrey) and elsewhere. For full particulars of the descendants of these families see genealogical charts "Langholm", "Carlisle" and "Barrow".

⁵ Tombstones in Langholm Old Kirkyard.

⁶ Tombstone in Stanwix Churchyard, Carlisle.

⁷ Tombstones in Langholm Old Kirkyard.

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Note.—Variations in spelling have not been taken into account. This index only covers the Text and footnotes: persons mentioned in the Genealogical Charts have been excluded.

The following abbreviations have been used:

B. = Butterquhat; C. = Carruthers; D. = Dormont; H. = Holmains; I. = Isle; M. = Mouswald; N.D. or W. = Nether Denbie or Whitecroft; R. = Rammerscales; W. = Wormanbie; b. = brother(s); d. = daughter(s); h. = husband; s. = son(s); sis. = sister(s); w. = wife.

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The Descendants of George Carruthers of Brydegill.

By A. STANLEY CARRUTHERS.

In the account of the Carruthers family of Dormont in the "Records of the Carruthers Family," at pages 128 and 129, some details were given of George Carruthers, fourth son of Francis Carruthers, third Laird of Dormont, and his descendants. An investigation of the Parish Register of St. Mungo down to the year 1800 has provided further particulars and it is now possible to prepare a fairly complete "tree" for this family to that date.

Francis Carruthers, third Laird of Dormont, was born in 1575, as he died in 1679 at the remarkable age of 104 years. He married a lady of the Bell family (Christian name not known) and by her had five sons, viz:

- 1. John, who in 1639 married Katherine, daughter of the Rev. Robert Herreis, and who predeceased his father in 1670, his eldest son, John, succeeding to the Dormont estates.
- 2. James, of Breckonhill, who married in 1666 Margaret Henderson of St. Mungo Manse.
- 3. Walter, of Whitecroft, who married Janet Carruthers.
- 4. George of Brydegill (see below).
- 5. Francis, mentioned 1634.1

Full details of the Breckonhill and Whitecroft families are given in the "Records" (See Charts on pages 24 and 25).

George Carruthers "of Braidgill" was infeft by his father in a wadset of 800 merks from the lands of Medilshaw. ^{1a} He died before 1680, ² but it was not until 1705 that his son John Carruthers was infeft in the Medilshaw wadset as heir to his father, George. ³ John some time prior to 1684 had married Mary Carruthers. ⁴ George Carruthers had another son, James Carruthers, in Breckonhill, who on 5th October, 1710, married Agnes Davidson. ⁵ Particulars of their descendants will be given later.

John Carruthers, called of Brydegill and thereafter of Guileburn, had two children, at least: William, who succeeded him in the estates, and James, who died at Guileburn, aged 76, and was buried 21st March, 1763. According to the pedigree accompanying the Petition of the late Licut.-Col. Francis Carruthers of Dormont, for a grant of Arms (Lyon Register Office) two further sons are named. John and George, but other than the pedigree there is no evidence to support this so far as can be traced.

William Carruthers of Guileburn was served heir general to his father. John, on 21st August, 1737,6 and under date 19th September, 1744, he received sasine as elder son and heir of deceast John Carruthers, "called of Brydegill and thereafter of Guileburn," in a merkland of Sorrysyke and a ½-merkland of Guileburn. William married, circa 1720-21, Mary, daughter of John Bell in Bankside⁵ and by her had six children, viz:

- 1. John Carruthers of Guileburn, of whom later.
- 2. Christopher, in Kirkbank, mentioned 1768, who married Janet Ker, and had a daughter, Elizabeth, baptised 11th October, 1760.⁵
- 3. William, in "Sorrysick," baptised 24th May, 1737, and mentioned in February, 1768.8 (For descendants see later.)
- 4, 5, 6. Elizabeth, Mary and Jean, 8 mentioned in February, 1768.

John Carruthers of Guileburn was baptised 19th September, 1721⁵ and on 11th December, 1797, was infeft heir to his father in the lands of Sorysyke (Dumfries Reg. Sas.). In 1798 he disponed to his son, James, a merkland of Sorysyke and the ½-merkland of Guileburn in which James was infeft in 1818 (Dumfries Reg. Sas.). having as "younger of Guilburn" been infeft in part of Middleshaw in 1791 (ibid). On 13th February, 1810, there was a Bond of Provision to his younger children by John Carruthers of Guileburn and his eldest son and heir apparent James Carruthers: the children named were William, John,

Christopher, David, Walter and Mary, the only daughter (Sheriff Court Deeds).

John Carruthers was married twice. The name of his first wife is not known, but his second wife was Jean Johnston.⁵ In all he had nine children, four being by his second wife:

- 1. John, baptised 13th July, 1746,⁵ but who must have died in infancy before 22nd August, 1755.
- 2. James, who succeeded him, and of whom later.
- 3. William, baptised May, 1753.5
- 4. John, baptised 22nd August, 1755.5
- 5. Mary, baptised 11th March, 1759, and married 2nd August, 1786, John Carruthers in Know.⁵
 By his second wife, Jean Johnston:
 - 6. Robert, baptised 17th July, 1768,5 but who must have died before February, 1810, as he is not mentioned with the other children in the Bond of Provision.
 - 7. Christopher, baptised 25th November, 1769.5
 - 8. David, baptised 22nd December, 1771.5
 - 9. Walter, baptised 22nd July, 1775.5

John Carruthers of Guileburn must have lived to a ripe old age as he was 88 years of age when the Bond of Provision was entered into in February, 1810. James Carruthers, of Guileburn, was baptised on 2nd October. 1748. He was dead by 24th March, 1824, when his son Walter, then of Guileburn, was infeft heir to his father, James, in Sorysyke, etc. (Dumfries Reg. Sas.). James married Mary Carlyle as she is referred to in a sasine dated 29th January, 1825, as "relict of James Carruthers of Guileburn" (ibid). They had six children:

- 1. Walter Carruthers of Guileburn, heir to father, 24th March, 1824.
- 2. Philadelphia, baptised 6th August, 1775.5
- 3. William, baptised 26th February, 1778.5
- 4. James, baptised 28th April. 1783.⁵
- 5. Christopher, baptised 25th September, 1798.5
- 6. William, 14th March, 1800.5

Descendants of James Carruthers in Breckonhill.

James Carruthers in Breckonhill (son of George Carruthers of Brydegill—see above) married on 5th October, 1710, Agnes Davidson.⁵ They had four children:

- 1. Isobel, baptised 7th November, 1711.
- 2. George, in Sorrysick, baptised 18th August, 1713. who married Janet Bell and had three children—
 - (a) Agnes, baptised 18th May, 1744.5
 - (b) William, in Ecclefechan, baptised 13th July, 1746.5
 - (c) Janet, baptised 23rd September, 1748.5

George was dead when his daughter, Janet, was baptised.⁵

- 3. Philadelphia, baptised 23rd September, 1715.5
- 4. James, baptised 14th July, 1719,5 may be identified as the James Carruthers, farmer in Bankhead, Middlebie Parish, who married Mary Johnstone. She died 28th January, 1790, and was buried in Langholm Churchyard.9

James Carruthers, farmer in Bankhead, and his wife, Mary Johnstone, had four children:

- 1. John, cotton thread manufacturer in Langholm, married Janet Armstrong, and died 1st December, 1810, aged 66.10
- 2. James, cotton thread manufacturer in Langholm, married Janet Cartner, and died 7th June, 1821, aged 75.10
- 3. Johnstone, mentioned 11th July, 1818, 11 was probably a son.
- 4. Janet, who died 15th July, 1794.9 may also have been a daughter.

For details of their descendants see Chart on page 33 of "Records of the Carruthers Family."

Descendants of William Carruthers in Sorrysyke.

William Carruthers in "Sorrysick" (third son of William Carruthers of Guileburn—see above) was baptised

24th May, 1737.⁵ He is mentioned in the Dumfries Register of Sasines⁸ along with the other children of his father, William Carruthers. The name of his wife is not known, but he had seven children:

- 1. William, baptised 18th February, 1768.5
- 2. Janet, baptised 20th October, 1771.5
- 3. James, baptised 4th June, 1773.5
- 4. Jean, baptised 22nd March, 1775.5
- 5. Elizabeth, baptised 6th March, 1777.5
- 6. Mary, baptised 15th November, 1781.5
- 7. Christopher, baptised 22nd December, 1782.5

In conclusion, may I say that I am indebted to Dr Jean Dunlop of Edinburgh for carrying out the search in St. Mungo's Parish Register. This was undertaken as part of a general search through south Dumfriesshire Parish Registers for Carruthers entries down to the year 1800.

- 1 Dumfries Reg. Sas. Vol. iv., fo. 75a.
- 1a Dumfries Rog. Sas., 2nd Ser. Vol. vii., fo. 125.
- ² Dumfries Testaments, Vol. v.
- 3 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser. Vol. vii., fo. 75.
- 4 Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser. Vol. ix.
- 5 St Mungo Parish Register.
- 6 Retours.
- ⁷ Dumfries Reg. Sas. Vol. xiv., fo. 354.
 - 8 Dumfries Reg. Sas. Vol. xx., fo. 120. Four grandchildren, viz., Joseph. Mary, Elizabeth and Jean are also mentioned.
- 9 Langholm Parish Register.
 - 10 Tombstones, Langholm Kirkyard.
 - 11 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 1781-1820.

9, BEECHWOOD ROAD,
SANDERSTEAD, SURREY.

June 1958.

Records of the Carruthers Family

(by A. STANLEY CARRUTHERS and R. C. REID)

To Subscribers:

Twenty-five years have passed since the above "Records of the Carruthers Family" was compiled. During this period, as opportunity has presented itself, research has been carried on by or on behalf of the undersigned, and a number of additions to our knowledge of the family has become available, quite apart from births, marriages and deaths which fall to be recorded.

A search has been made through the majority of Dumfriesshire Parish Registers, and the Registers of the northern Parishes of Cumberland, for Carruthers entries up to about the end of the 18th Century in each case, and this has provided additional matter regarding some families. It has also enabled a more detailed record of the Carruthers family of Brydegill and Guileburn and their descendants to be prepared.

It is thought that the result of these researches should be put on record, and the attached Appendix, together with the reprint of the article on the Brydegill and Guileburn family and their descendants, from "Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, Volume XXXV," will bring the "Records" up to date.

It is hoped that recipients of this Appendix and the Reprint will attach them to the pages provided at the end of the "Records," and also draw reader's attention to the additions and alterations, either by means of a general note at the beginning of the book, or by a note—e.g. "See Appendix"—on each of the pages referred to in the Appendix.

A. STANLEY CARRUTHERS.

APPENDIX.

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS.

PAGE

- 7 D. A. Carruthers, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.—for Glasgow, N.12, read London, N.12.
- 12 Line 18, for Thompson read Thomson (see also note 3, p.18, and note 1, p. 19).
- 13 John, men. Dec. 27, 1544, Mar. 15, 1549, and July 14, 1551.
- 14 James, men. Feb. 21, 1620, possibly ancestor of Broomhills—see p. 19.
 - John, in Woodfoot, men. 1684; mentioned Dec. 9, 1687, as of Gawcote, Bucks. Buried July 11, 1710, at Christ Church, Newgate, London (Parish Register). His son, John Carruthers, merchant in London, was heir to his uncle Thomas, June 18, 1713 (Decennial Service of Heirs). He married Judith ... who was buried March 11, 1764, aged 84, some twenty years after John, who also had been buried Jan. 28, 1744, aged 71, at St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London (Parish Register). John had died Jan. 21, 1744. He was a Cashier at the Bank of England. Under his Will (May 20, 1725) his wife Judith was sole executrix and all was left to her. (Holograph Will, Somerset House, Archdeaconry of London Register). They had four children: 1 - Thomas, buried Feb. 2, 1703, at St. Matthew-in-Friday Street, London (Parish Register); 2 - Judith, baptised May 27, 1707, at Christ Church, Newgate, London (Parish Register) and buried Mar. 15, 1787, at St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London (Parish Register); 3-Anne, baptised Dec. 13, 1710, at Christ Church, Newgate, London (Parish Register), and buried Dec. 2, 1795, at St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London (Parish Register); and 4-Thomas, baptised Dec. 21, 1716, at All Hallows, Bread Street, London (Parish Register) and buried Dec. 27, 1735, at St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London (Parish Register). None of these left issue and with them the Woodfoot branch of the Carruthers family came to an end.
 - Thomas, in Woodfoot, men. 1684; married Dec. 18, 1669, Jean, dau. of John Richardson, of Kellobank.
 - George, of Milne, m. Helen Scott, of Merrilaw (not Merryland). This George had a sister Margaret, mentioned 1697.
 - George, of Milne, heir to Great-grandmother was born Dec. 8, 1723. His wife died Nov. 23, 1811, and he died Oct. 27, 1791. George had three sisters: Rose, horn Oct. 1722; Bessie, born 1726; and Isabella, born Dec. 1732.

David, in Kinnell Hall - delete.

William, in Leithenhall, d. unm. May 29, 1807.

- 14 Samuel, of Milne, b. 1769, married Dec. 28, 1807, Margaret contd. Carruthers, of Leithenhall.
 - William, of Stenrieshill, born Mar. 1777; married May 28, 1818, Isabella Rogerson, of Fingland.
 - Children of Samuel, of Milne: Elizabeth, b. Jan. 21, 1808; George, b. June 4, 1810; Walter, b. Aug. 10, 1812; Margaret, b. Oct. 2, 1814.
 - William, b. 1850; m. Annie Rogerson (b. 1849; d. 1934). He died 1939.

Elizabeth, b. 1852; d. 1945.

George, b. 1858; d. unm. 1938.

Isabella, b. 1885; d. 1935.

- James Carruthers, in Woodhead, married first Margaret Corrie and second Janet Ainslie. (Delete Margaret, and seven brothers...). Their children were: 1 Robert, bapt. Mar. 23, 1758; 2 David, in Troquier, bapt. July 15, 1759; 3 Grizel, bapt. Dec. 21, 1760 (died in infancy); 4 Janet, bapt. Apl. 2, 1763; 5 Nicholas, bapt. Aug. 11, 1765; 6 Grizel, bapt. Aug. 2, 1767; 7 Helen, bapt. Oct. 16, 1770; 8 Margaret, bapt. Aug. 9, 1773; and 9 William, bapt. Sept. 1775 (by second wife).
 - Mary (dau. of David, in Troquier) mar. Ninian Johnston (issue).
 - Children of David, b. Sept. 14, 1834: Samuel James, died Aug. 17, 1938, in Sydney, N.S.W.; and William, born 1887, married . . . Bruce (no issue).
 - Children of David Allan and Nora Jack: 1 David Graeme, b. March 14, 1905; mar. 1935, Mary Cunyngham Brown. In 1945 Inspector of African Police in Accra. (They had a son, David, born 1939); and 2 Mary Elizabeth, b. Oct. 12, 1903.
 - William John Haldeman, married secondly Katharine Miller (no issue).
 - Anna Reigart married, Aug. 22, 1940, Maurice John Lynn (no issue).
- Children of David Carruthers, in Kinnell Hall: 1-Joan, b. May, 1730; 2-William, b. Mar. 18, 1735; 3-Jean, b. Mar. 1738; 4-John, b. Aug. 29, 1740 (died in infancy); 5-John, b. Sept. 18, 1741 (Carrier); 6-Simon, b. Aug. 27, 1744; 7-Margaret, b. Apl. 1, 1746; and 8-David, b. Aug. 5, 1749. John (b. Sept. 18, 1741) had a son, Rev. James, b. Nov. 21, 1772, who married Robina Johnstone. He was a Missionary in Portland, Maine, U.S.A. They had three children: a-Rev. John Johnstone, b. 1800; mar. Eliza Sloan (issue, one daughter); b-Jane, d. 1838, aged 29; and c-Helen, d. 1822, aged 21.

- David, b. Aug. 5, 1749, mar. Catherine Carruthers, and had two children: a-Janet, bapt. Feb. 24, 1770; and b-William, bapt. Oct. 26, 1771.
 - Rev. David was baptised Nov. 21, 1758 (delete b. 1760 Mosfat Parish Register).
 - Janet was baptised Mar. 1, 1761 (delete aged 81 Moffat Parish Register).
 - Children of John Carruthers, in Macmaw: David, in Waterhead (delete Heithat), b. May 12, 1796, m. Elizabeth Corrie, of Nethermill (*delete Cubbington—d. Sept. 30, 1837, aged 37); d. May 19, 1866; Walter, d. unm. Jan. 21, 1884.
 - Children of David: John, b. Apl. 1, 1817; Jean, d. Jan. 4, 1898;
 William, b. Feb. 21, 1823, m. Ann Graham, of Shaw, Dryfe
 (b. Sept. 10, 1819; d. Nov. 3, 1894); d. Mar. 23, 1866;
 Janet, b. Jan. 25, 1825, d. unm. July 11, 1857; George, d. abroad, Mar. 9, 1873.
 - 18 Add William Carruthers, in Know and Kirkwood, mar. Martha Johnstone (men. 1666 and 1684), parents of James, John, William and Jane.
 - James, in Know (son of John Carruthers), was heir to father on Jan. 18, 1745. His son John was baptised May 2, 1762, and married Aug. 2, 1786, Mary, daughter of John Carruthers, of Guileburn.
 - Children of William Carruthers: John, of Breconsyde, served heir also to brother Francis, July 28, 1736; and Francis, in Breconsyde, d. Sept. 1734. He married Henrietta Porteous (Moffat Parish Register) and had two children: William, b. Sept. 28, 1727, and Henrietta, b. June 27, 1729. (Both died in infancy).
 - 19 James Carruthers, of Broomhills, is possibly the same as James, mentioned Feb. 21, 1620, son of John Carruthers, in Woodfoot (see under p. 14).
 - John, of Langbedholm, married Christian Graham, and had four children: 1-William, bapt. Jan. 17, 1731; 2-Alison, bapt. Dec. 28, 1743; 3-John, bapt. May 13, 1746; 4-Marjory, bapt. Dec. 20, 1750.
 - George, of Langbedholm, had two children: 1 George, bapt. Sept. 3, 1749, who may be identified as George Carruthers, in Swinefoot, who had a son, William, baptised on Mar. 20, 1798; and 2 Rosina.
 - Betty Substitute Elizabeth. She married Adam Johnston, of Beattock (men. Dec. 12, 1757), and had issue.
 - Note 1: Add Moffat Parish Register to sources.

- George, 10th of H. and 6th B., had a sister Agnes, who on June 13, 1720, married William Carruthers, of Nutholm.
 - John, 12th of H. and 8th B., m. 1762, Charlotte Laurie, bapt. Jan. 10, 1743. Their daughter Christian married John Erskine, of Aberdona, on Aug. 30, 1786.
 - Malcolm William's wife, Margaret Angela, dau. of Professor Sir Charles Vernon Boys, LL.D., F.R.S., died Aug. 1937. Malcolm William died June 2, 1941.
 - Emma Mary died May 11, 1952.
- 22 William, of Nether Warmanbie, mar. Mary Hamilton (she died 1783). Their daughter Katharine died March, 1785.
- George, of Brydegill, 4th son of Francis, 3rd of Dormont, had another son (beside John who married Mary Carruthers), James, in Breckonhill, who married, on Oct. 5, 1710, Agnes Davidson (St. Mungo Parish Register) see page 33, Notes.
 - Helen, in Brae of Knok, d. Mar. 1771, aged 96.
 - Elizabeth, 1st wife of William Aikman, 7th of D., died Dec. 1790.
 - Eleanor, sister of Francis John, 11th of D., had a further name, Caroline. She died March 14, 1949.
 - Francis John, 11th of D., was a C.B., Lord Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire, and a Brigadier of the King's Bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers). He died May 22, 1945.
 - Christopher John, eldest son of Francis John, 11th of D., died on Jan. 17, 1938. His widow, Elizabeth Anne Long (born 1913) married secondly, on Oct. 7, 1952, Peter Horace Gordon Clark. Christopher John had two daughters: 1-Harriet Anne, b. Nov. 2, 1935, and 2-Olivia Mary, b. Oct. 24, 1937.
 - William Nigel, 12th of D., married June 7, 1947, Constance Margaret, daughter of Cyril Jarrett. She was born 1914.
 - Simon Francis, married Nov. 19, 1946, Pamela Elizabeth, daughter of Wm. Melville Foster, of Box, near Stroud. She died May 22, 1955. They had two children: 1 James Andrew, b. Aug. 15, 1947; and 2 Marianne Caroline, b. Dec. 11, 1948.
 - Michael George, married, Jan. 15, 1946, Maureen Dorothea, daughter of F. E. E. Booker, of Hong-Kong. She was born 1921. They had two children: 1-Ian Robert, b. Mar. 10, 1947; and 2-David Noel, b. Feb. 22, 1949.
 - Hew Douglas, married, Nov. 8, 1939, Pamela, daughter of Col. Thomas J. Torrie. She was born 1916. They had two children: 1-Christopher Hew, b. July 28, 1940; and 2-John Anthony, b. Sept. 17, 1941.
 - Andrew Henry married, Oct. 5, 1941, Marguerite, daughter of C. W. Edwards. She was born 1906. He died Sept. 1, 1945, in a prison camp in Sumatra.

- 24 James Carruthers, of Breckonhill, married Margaret Henderson, of St. Mungo Mause, who died Nov. 2, 1715.
 - NOTE: The dates of Baptisms in St. Mungo Parish Register in some cases vary somewhat from the dates given in the Chart on this page.
- 25 Francis, 3rd of Whitecroft, died in April, 1764.
- 26 Christopher Carruthers, of Hardriggs, married, in 1691, Margaret, second daughter of Adam Carlyle, of Lymekills.

John, of H., was alive in 1791.

- Isabella, Christiana, and James, of Longdyke, were all mentioned on March 21, 1788.
- 27 Lt. Col. James, of P. add D.S.O., M.V.O. He died June 27, 1936.

 Add C.H. after Violet Markham. His brother Peter is a Surg.

 Lieut.-Cmdr. R.N. add M.B, Ch.B. (Edin.)
- William, Physician in Dumfries, married Margaret Hay in 1708. Their children: 1 James, b. Sept. 18,1709; mar. Mar. 21,1729, Margaret Oliphant, by whom he had: a William, presumed dead in 1783; b Elizabeth, mar. George Baillie at Portsmouth (issue); and c Henrietta, b. 1738, mar. 1771, George Maxwell, of Carruchan; 2 Lawes, b. Jan. 4, 1723, mar. 1st, Mrs. Ann Johnson, 2nd, Mary Collyfourt; 3 Wingate, b. Jan. 4, 1723; 4 Margaret, b. Jan. 8, 1726,; 5 Henrietta, b. July 15, 1731; and 6 Robert, b. June 30, 1718, Surgeon on H.M.S. "Windsor" and later Surgeon in Wareham, Dorset. (His wife was alive in 1771).
- 31 Families of Over Denbie: Note on Chart Confusion arose owing to the succession of sons bearing the name John. In the Chart shown on this page, John, 3rd of Denbie, and his brother George, Advocate in Edinburgh, should be deleted. John, 4th of D., should be John, 3rd of D., and John, 5th of D., should be John, 4th of D.
 - John, 3rd of D., was b. 1697, and heir to brother George, Advocate in Edinburgh (who died March, 1734 per Faculty of Advocates, Scotland) in 1742. John married Mary, dau. of William Carruthers, of Braes. He died Nov. 7, 1770. In addition to George, he had a brother William, in Denbie, mentioned 1777.
 - John, 4th of D., was b. Sept. 25, 1750, and was heir to his father Nov. 25, 1773. His wife, Mary, was b. Jan. 19, 1750 (not 1749). He died July 26, 1832. His son, John, was b. Dec. 31, 1778, and d. Dec. 21, 1797. In addition to Isobel, Mary and Louisa, he had two other daughters: Jacobina, b. Jan. 25, 1776, and d. Feb. 20, 1777, and Louisia, b. Aug. 10, 1777, and d. Oct. 11, 1777. He also had a sister Margaret.
 - Agnes, daughter of William Carruthers, 1st of D., was married, 1714/5, to the Rev. James Murray, minister of St. Mungo.

- 32 William, 2nd of B., married Margaret Irving, on July 9, 1725.
- John and James Carruthers, Manufacturers in Langholm—James Carruthers, farmer in Bankhead, Middlebie Parish, was almost certainly their father. He was the son of James Carruthers, in Breckonhill, who, on Oct. 5, 1710, had married Agnes Davidson. (James, in Breckonhill, was the son of George Carruthers, of Brydegill, and grandson of Francis Carruthers, of Dormont—see page 23, Notes). James, farmer in Bankhead, was baptised July 14, 1719. He married Mary Johnstone, who died Jan. 28, 1790, and was buried in Langholm Kirkyard. He died prior to 1790. In addition to John and James, mentioned above, Johnstone (mentioned July 11, 1818), and Janet, buried in Langholm Kirkyard July 15, 1794, were also almost certainly their children.
 - John (Manufacturer), in addition to James (b. June 28, 1788), and John, had a further child (unnamed), who was buried Nov. 23, 1793.
 - James (son of James, the Manufacturer) was a student of Divinity at the Burgher Hall.
 - George (Watchmaker) married Jane Hope, who died Sept. 30, 1867, aged 68.
 - Sarah Jane Wales, 2nd wife of John (in U.S.A.), died Oct. 11, 1915, aged 77.
 - Rev. Christopher (Master of Arts)—the full name of his second wife was Jane Hamilton Fleming Macleod. She died Feb 2, 1951. Both are buried in Putney Vale Cemetery, London.
 - James, b. Feb. 1, 1858, died Jan. 6, 1936.
 - George Malcolm was b. Mar. 25, 1865.
 - Sarah Ann, wife of James Arthur, died Apl. 5, 1952, and on Apl. 9, 1952, was cremated at Croydon (Surrey) Crematorium, her name being inscribed in the Book of Remembrance.
 - Archibald Hill was married on Oct. 29, 1899, and died Jan. 1, 1946.
 - His son, Cecil Earl, married, 1936, Ethel McHenry and have issue: 1-Earl, b. Feb. 7, 1937; 2-Carl, b. Dec. 14, 1939; and 3-Elizabeth, b. March 16, 1945.
 - James Ernest died July 25, 1912. His wife died in Apl. 1954.

 His daughter Elaine Agnes, married, May 30, 1926, Clarence A.

 McConkey, who died Feb. 1941. Doris Yvonne married, in 1942,

 Albert Cowles (issue).
 - John, b. Mar. 2, 1891, married Grace Oakes Winslow. Children: 1 Edith Margery, married 1st, in 1941, Edwin R. Frye (marriage dissolved) and 2nd, Oct. 16, 1948, Frank B. Kelley, Jnr. (issue); 2 Evelvn Grace, married 1st, in 1942, Kenneth

G. Dunn (marriage dissolved) and 2nd, May 29, 1947, Emile A. Dumas, Jnr. (issue); 3 – Dorothy Winslow, married Sept. 1, 1948, David Donald Conners (issue).

Arthur Stanley, b. Mar. 10, 1902, and wife, Phyllis Amy King, had three children: 1 – Jean, matried, May 15, 1954, Dr. Peter Jervis Ashton, M.B., B.S. (b. Mar. 7, 1931), son of the late Rev. Philip Ashton, B.A. (issue); 2 – Arthur Christopher (Kester), b. May 21, 1935 (an Ordination Candidate and Student at the London College of Divinity, St. John's Hall, Northwood, Middlesex); and 3 – Helen, b. May 5, 1936, engaged to be married to David John, son of C. W. Fisher, of Cullompton, Devon (April 5, 1958).

34 Sarah Redmayne, wife of Jardine Carruthers (b. Aug. 18, 1827), was the daughter of John Peacock Redmayne, of Preston, Lancashire.

Margaret Ann Dand, wife of Jardine (b. May 5, 1863), died March 17, 1947.

Thomas, b. July 25, 1867, died Nov. 21, 1938.

Kate Adeleine Stelling, b. July 6, 1901, wife of Jardine (b. Mar. 7, 1898), died April 12, 1935. Jardine married secondly, on May 7, 1936, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of William Brown, of Middle Herrington, Sunderland, Co. Durham. She was born Sept. 9, 1902. Issue: Elizabeth, born Aug. 30, 1937.

Ellen, wife of Thomas Hutchinson, was born Jan. 7, 1898. She was the daughter of John Berry, Chief Constable of Barrow-in-Furness. Children: 1-John Hutchinson, married, Aug. 15, 1953, Dorothy Frances (b. Mar. 23, 1928), daughter of A. E. Maidment, of Exbury, and have issue—Ian James, b. May Il, 1956; 2-Patricia Mary, b. Aug. 11, 1935, married, Jan. 16, 1957, Robert Garry Hawker, and have issue.

35 Children of George Carruthers, b. June 14, 1831:

Mary, d. Feb. 1938.

Christiana Jardine, d. Dec. 24, 1946. Her husband, John Welch, d. July 18, 1935, aged 78.

Jane Anne's husband, George Atkinson, d. Aug. 9, 1935,

George Murray's wife, Sarah Agnes Lishman, d. May 20, 1934.

Elizabeth Fanny mar. James Lishman on Jan. 27, 1906.

John William, d. Nov. 5, 1947. His wife, Mary Ormerod, d. in Aug. 1952.

Margaret Katherine was born Apl. 13, 1871.

Children of Thomas Acton, b. Dec. 2, 1857:

Dorothy Annie Giles, b. Oct. 7, 1900, and mar. July 14, 1934, Ralph Lowe.

Nellie Goodheart Hope, b. Apl. 16, 1902.

- Margaret Joan, b. Sept. 5, 1912, and married in Nov. 1948, Charles Birchall (issue).
 - Children of Thomas Acton Youde, b. July 21, 1897: Hilary, b. Aug. 25, 1931. Donald, b. May 26, 1934.
 - Ronald, b. July 19, 1900, married Mar. 24, 1934, Dinah Dorothy Taylor (b. Apl. 16, 1908). Issue: Beryl, b. Nov. 9, 1934.
 - 65 Line 18. After "(Dumfries)" add note 84a. He is probably the same as Mark Carruthers, Rector of Mouswald, natural son of late Simon Carruthers, of Mouswald (Dec. 2, 1530) (Reg. Sec. Sig. Vol. II, No. 771).
 - 68 Note 97. Read as Acta Dom. Con. et Sess. XXVII, f. 82a; see also "Barony of Mouswald and its Barons" and History of the Douglas Family of Morton, Appx. C, No. 166.
 - The following: Of John ... no descendants "and substitute the following: Of John little further is known: on Dec. 9, 1687, he was described as "sometime in Woodfett, now of Gawcote in County of Bucks" 12. He appears to have had a son, John, who on June 18, 1713, was heir to his uncle Thomas. John is described as "merchant in London" 14 (See earlier, under page 14).
 - Line 20, Delete "It is....issue" and substitute the following: On Dec. 18, 1669, he had married Jean, daughter of John Richardson, of Kellobank¹⁸.

Add to footnotes:

- 12 Dumfries Burgh Processes. 13 Dumfries Burgh Processes. 14 Decennial Service of Heirs.
- 78 Line 2, Add James had a son John, baptised May 2, 1762, and who, on Aug. 2, 1786, married Mary Carruthers (Dryfesdale Parish Register). She came from the parish of St. Mungo and was probably the daughter of John Carruthers, of Guileburn.
- 100 Line 27, For "were" read" was."
- 114 Line 18, After "Charlotte," add footnote 214a Baptised Jan. 10, 1743 (Parish Register).
- 120 Add to footnote 32 She was buried at Dumfries on March 7, 1783 (Parish Register).
- 121 Line 13, Read (v) Katharine, who was buried at Dumfries, March 22, 1785 (Parish Register).
- 125 Line 13, After "1731" add footnote 9a -- May 18, 1731 (St. Mungo Parish Register).
 - Line 15, After "Carruthers" add footnote 9b—Agnes was sister to George Carruthers, of Holmains. The marriage was on June 13, 1720 (St. Mungo Parish Register).

- 125 Footnote 7, add A sister of William, Margaret, married, on Aug. 11, 1709, John Irving, one of the Baillies of Annan (St. Mungo Parish Register).
- Lines 20/24 Delete "It gives George . . . George *1" and substitute the following: It gives George, of Braidgill, another son, James, *40a*, who, it is known, had a son, George, married to Janet Bell, by whom he had a son William Carruthers, in Ecclefechan (baptised July 13, 1746), and two daughters, Agnes and Janet (baptised respectively on May 18, 1744, and Sept. 23, 1748). George was dead before Sept. 23, 1748 (St. Mungo Parish Register). It gives John Carruthers, of Brydegill, another son, John Carruthers, of Gyleburn, who had James, John and George *1.
 - Add Footnote 40a. This James Carruthers, in Breckonhill, married, Oct. 5, 1710, Agnes Davidson. In addition to George, there was another son, James, baptised July 14, 1719, farmer in Bankhead, Middlebie Parish, who married Mary Johnstone; also two daughters, Isabel and Philadelphia (Parish Registers St. Mungo and Langholm).
 - NOTE* Delete and substitute the following:

William Carruthers, of Guileburn, had two other sons besides John, his heir, viz. Christopher and William, and also three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary and Jean, all mentioned in February 1768. Four grandchildren are also mentioned, viz. Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth and Jean. (Dumfries. Reg. Sas., Vol. XX, fo. 120).

129 Continuation of footnote 41:

Line 2 — Delete "was alive" and "when he" and read "John Carruthers, of Guileburn, in 1798 disponed . . ."

Line 5 — After "(ibid)" add On Feb. 13, 1810, there is a Bond of Provision to his younger children by John Carruthers, of Guileburn, and his eldest son and heir apparent, James Carruthers. The children named are William, John, Christopher, David, Walter and Mary (an only daughter—Sheriff Court Deeds).

Line 6 - For "(ibid)" substitute "(Dumfries Reg. Sas.)."

- NOTE: For fuller details of the Guileburn Family and of the descendants of James Carruthers, in Breckonhill, and William Carruthers, in Sorrysyke, see the attached reprint of the article in the "Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society," Vol. xxxv.
- 130 Footnote 51, Add She died in Mar. 1771, aged 96 (Dalton Parish Register).

- 132 Lines 27/28, For "Kirkmuire of Carsopland," read "Kirkmuire or Carsopland."
- 135 Line 29, For "Mole" read "Mote."
- 142 Line 27, After Jan. 4, 1742, add footnote 28^a Lawes Carruthers married firstly Mrs. Ann Johnson, on July 9, 1747, and, secondly, Mary Collyfourt, on Aug. 7, 1749 (Register of St. George's Chapel, Hyde Park Corner, Mayfair).
- 147 Line 5, After "1767" add footnote 152 Apl. 1764 (St. Mungo Parish Register).
- Line 3, After "Langholm" add footnote 1; Delete "The..."

 Lines 4-7, Delete "brothers... relationship."

 Line 8, Insert after "New Langholm"—"at Meikleholm Mill."

 Line 12, After "persons" add footnote 2a.
 - Lines 13-15, Delete "whether...Langholm" and substitute "when these brothers establised the industry in the Langholm district, it is certain, however, that they had for some years, at least, previously resided in Langholm⁸.
 - FOOTNOTES: Delete 1, 2, 3 and 4 and substitute the following:
 - 1. James Carruthers, farmer in Bankhead (Middlebie Parish), was almost certainly their father, and on January 30, 1790, his relict, Mary Johnstone, who had died on January 28, 1790, was buried in Langholm Churchyard (Parish Register, 1668-1819). He was the son of James Carruthers, in Breckonhill, (See details of Guileburn family).
 - 2. Previously the brothers had carried on the industry at a mill called Whiteshiells, situated on the Ewes road about a mile from the town.
 - 2a. See "Statistical Account of Scotland." (Sinclair), Vols. 13 and 21.
 - 3. Buccleuch Estates Ledger records entries in 1778 and onwards. John Carruthers lived at 6, Buccleuch Square, Langholm, from Whit-Sunday, 1800, until his death on Dec. 1, 1810.
 - 4. Session Records of Associate Burgher Congregation, Langholm.
- 176 Line 14 After "17⁵" insert "There was also a third child, name unknown, buried on Nov. 23, 1793 (Langholm Parish Register)."
- 176 Line 19 After "Robert Hope," add "Johnstone Carruthers, mentioned July 11, 1818, 10 and Janet Carruthers, buried July 15, 1794, 11 were almost undoubtedly a brother and sister of John and James Carruthers."

Lines 25/30 — Delete "Some time . . . City" and substitute the 176 following: "From the April 1, 1828, issue of the Dumfries contd. and Galloway Courier' it is learned from an advertisement that James Carruthers was for twenty years, from 1808, 'employed in the shop of Mr. Blaylock, Watchmaker, Carlisle.' James Carruthers commenced business on his own account in the 'Shop of the late Mr. Chisholm, situated at the head of Buccleuch Street, next door to the Post Office,' and remained in business in Dumfries until June 1833, when he again took up residence in Carlisle, conducting his own business, first at 73, Scotch Street (v. 'Carlisle Journal,' June 22, 1833), then at 17, Scotch Street (v. Directory, 1837), and later at 32½, Scotch Street (v. Directory, 1847). Latterly he lived at Stanwix (v. Directory, 1849), dying there on November 27, 1849. Clocks and watches made by him are still to be seen in use in homes in Dumfries, and in Carlisle and district. James Carruthers married at Langholm, on October 29, 1824, Christiania, daughter of the Rev. John Jardine, Minister of the Associate Burgher Congregation in Langholm. James took a keen interest in Church affairs, and was elected an Elder, and Session Clerk, of the Associate Burgher Congregation in Dumfries (Buccleuch Street Church) in 18288, which Office he held until his removal to Carlisle in June, 1833. In the following year, and again in 1835, he was asked to stand for election as an Elder in the Associate Congregation in Fisher Street, Carlisle, but declined9. However, he accepted Office in 1843, and was a Ruling Elder until his death in 1849, having been a most efficient member of Session in this Church and an Ornament to the Church with which he was connected for nearly forty years9."

Add footnotes as follows:

- 8. Session Records of Associate Burgher Congregation, Dumfries.
- 9. Session Records of Associate Congregation, Fisher Street, Carlisle.
- 10. Dumfries Register of Sasines.
- 11, Langholm Parish Register.
- 184 2nd column, line 25, Add after "114, 166"—168; line 26, Delete "John (4th of Denbie), 168.
- 189 1st Column, line 32, read "her h., John C. (3rd of Denbie).

James Carruthers (1788-1849), Clockmaker.

By A. STANLEY CARRUTHERS.

James Carruthers was born in Langholm on 28th June, 1788, and was the eldest son and only surviving child of John Carruthers and Janet Armstrong, his wife.

James's father, John Carruthers, was born in 17441 and was almost certainly the son of James Carruthers, farmer, in Bankhead, Middlebie parish, 1a for his relict, Mary Johnstone, who had died on 28th January, was buried in Langholm Kirkyard on 30th January, 1790.2 (Bankhead was part of the Springkell estates.) John, and his brother James (born 1746)1, were manufacturers of cotton thread, candlewick, checks, etc., and seem to have been in quite a considerable way of business, for in its prime the mill employed upwards of 90 persons.³ At first they had a mill at Whiteshiels, on the Ewes road, about a mile out of Langholm, but in 1789 they established themselves in New Langholm at Meikleholm Mill. In 1793 Dumfriesshire passed through a period of financial stress and work was suspended at the mill for a time. In 1794, however, work was resumed and the brothers carried on the business until sometime prior to Whitsunday, 1802, when a new lease of the mill for 99 years was granted to George Millar. 3a Subsequently it became a flour mill, and at the turn of the last century was in a ruinous condition and is now non-existent.

According to a ledger of the Buccleuch Estates (unfortunately destroyed in a fire at Irvine House some years ago) John Carruthers rented property in Meikleholm, No. 38 in E Street in 1778, with arable ground and pasture for a cow on the hill in 1779 and 1795. The rental payable was 2s 8d for area, 6s for ground, and 18s for grass, a total of £1 6s 8d per annum. At Whitsunday, 1800, John Carruthers apparently moved from No. 38 in E Street to No. 6 Buccleuch Square, and occupied it till his death.

John Carruthers and his brother James were intimately

associated with the founding of the Associate (Burgher) Congregation in Langholm. In 1788 John appeared as a Commissioner from the Congregation requesting the Presbytery of Kelso to appoint a Moderator over them in electing The Rev. John Jardine was duly called in 1789 and it is noteworthy to recall that he was the first Minister in Scotland to introduce Sunday Schools for the young. connection with the founding of the Church John Carruthers in 1784 had advanced the sum of £12 3s 0d (a quite considerable sum in those days) and this was repaid as to £7 on 11th December, 1795, and the balance of £5 3s 0d on 5th July, 1797.4 His brother James also had made an advance to further the building of the church; and he was one of the first Elders of the Congregation, being elected and ordained in 1787. (See "Langholm as it was."—Hyslop, for an account—based on the Session Records—of the founding of this Congregation.)

The Dumfries Register of Sasines records several transactions by John Carruthers and his brother (see 1781-1820, P.R. 25-132, 195, 196, etc.), but a sufficient account has been given of James Carruthers's father, John Carruthers. As previously mentioned John married Janet Armstrong, who died 13th December, 1793, aged 39, and is buried in Langholm Kirkyard. John Carruthers, died 1st December, 1810, and is also buried in Langholm Kirkyard. They had three children:

- 1. James (see below).
- 2. John, died 30th June, 1807, aged 17 years.1
- 3. An unnamed child, who was buried on 23rd November, 1793.2

It may be that James Carruthers (John's eldest son) was apprenticed to Philip Corrie, Clockmaker in Langholm,⁵ with whom the family had had business dealings, but at the age of nearly 20 years, in 1808, he was working with Blaylock's, the well-known Carlisle Clockmaker.⁶ This is apparent from the advertisement which appeared in the Dumfries and Galloway Courier of 1st April, 1828, when he set up in business for himself in Dumfries:

CLOCK AND WATCHMAKING. JAMES CARRUTHERS

"Begs leave to inform the Inhabitants of Dumfries and its vicinity, that he has taken the Shop of the late Mr Chisholm, situated at the head of Buccleuch Street, next door to the Post Office, where he intends carrying on the above trade in all its branches.

"James Carruthers, having for the last 20 years been employed in the Shop of Mr Blaylock, Watchmaker, Carlisle, where he has been accustomed to execute the most difficult Jobs in the Common, Patent Lever, Duplex, Horizontal and Repeating Watches, flatters himself that from a thorough knowledge of his profession, he will be found deserving of the support of the friends of the late Mr Chisholm, as well as the public at large."

This shop may have been at the corner of Buccleuch Street and Castle Street, since although in the advertisement it is given as Buccleuch Street, just over a year later, on 19th May, 1829, in the same paper, he is recorded as having subscribed 10s 6d to a fund for "... the Poor, and suppressing of public begging in Dumfries, 5th February, 1829," and his address is there given as Castle Street.

James Carruthers attended the Associate Burgher (Buccleuch Street) Church whilst in Dumfries, and the Session Minutes of that Congregation record that during 1828 he was invested with the Office of the Eldership, and was chosen as Session Clerk. At this time the famous (and witty) minister was the Rev. "Wattie" Dunlop. James was last present at a Session Meeting on 2nd May, 1833.7

During his sojourn in Dumfries James Carruthers was one of the promoters and founders of the Dumfries Temperance Society,⁸ having signed the Constitution along with 27 other persons. The Constitution was in these terms:

"We, whose names are subscribed, believing that intemperance and its attendant evils are promoted by existing habits and opinions, in regard to the use of intoxicating liquors and that decisive measures for effecting a reformation are indispensable, do voluntary agree, to abstain entirely from the use of ardent spirits, except for medicinal purposes,

and although the moderate use of other liquors is not excluded, yet as the promotion of Temperance in every form is the specific design of the Society, it is understood that excess in these necessarily excludes from membership."

Sometime between 2nd May and 22nd June, 1833, James, his wife and family, removed to Carlisle, for he set up in business at 73 Scotch Street (vide Carlisle Journal, 22nd June, 1833), and six weeks later, on 2nd August, the "Moderator reported . . . James Carruthers and Wife as intending Communicants by Certificate . . . '' (Fisher Street, Carlisle, Presbyterian Church Session Minutes. This church was then a Congregation of the Associate Presbytery). Seven months later on 3rd March, 1834, the "Moderator reported that he had waited upon James Carruthers, who declined in the meantime being put in Nomination for the Eldership on account of the uncertainty of his continuing resident in the Bounds of the Congregation."9 The Session were auxious evidently that James Carruthers should be added to their number as on 31st July, 1835, it was reported that they "... unanimously requested the Moderator to make another application to James Carruthers requesting him to take Office as an Elder . . . "9 The Moderator reported on 4th December, 1835, "that James Carruthers had now consented to officiate as an Elder in this Congregation and the Session unanimously instructed the Moderator to take the necessary preliminary steps for his admission as a Member of this Session and further agreed that he be admitted on the last day of the year. . . ''9

However, the "necessary steps" for some reason not explained were not taken and there is no reference to the matter until 26th March, 1843, over seven years later. On that date it is recorded in the Session Minutes that "In pursuance of Intimation from the Pulpit on the 12th, a Congregational Meeting was held on the 13th for the purpose of Electing an additional number of Elders in this Congregation when after a suitable discourse from I Timothy V and 17 the Congregational Meeting was formed, Mr Hunter in the chair when the following individuals were proposed and seconded and unanimously elected to the Office of Ruling

Elder in this Congregation subject nevertheless to the approval of the existing Session (viz.) James Carruthers, Andrew Paterson, James Rutherford, James Briggs, Alexander McKie, John Raffle . . . And whereas James Carruthers had been previously Ordained an Elder in the United Associate Congregation at Dumfries and the Session considering him duly qualified to hold Office in this Congregation at a meeting of Session held this day in pursuance of Intimation from the pulpit all the Members being present appeared James Carruthers and no objections being stated to his Admission to Office in this Congregation he after giving satisfactory answers to questions in the Formula was formally admitted as a Member of this Session and the Right Hand of Fellowship given him by the Moderator and other Members of Session . . . "9

James held office for some six and a half years until his death on 27th November, 1849, when the following Minute is recorded on 30th November of that year: "The Session also Deem it their Duty to Testify their Sense of the Loss which they and the Congregation have sustained in the Death of James Carruthers, who departed this Life on the 27th of November, 1849, in the course of the week previous to the Dispensation of the Lord's Supper in the Congregation after having been a most efficient Member of Session in this Church and an Ornament to the Church with which he was connected for nearly 40 years. He died in his sixty-first year."

James Carruthers was buried in Stanwix Churchyard, the tombstone also bearing the name of his sixth child, James, who had died 31st July, 1848, aged 11 years. (This tombstone, in sandstone, near to the wicket-gate leading to the Old Brampton Road, has lost its inscription owing to flaking, but it was clearly readable in the 1930s.) James left no Will and Letters of Administration were granted on 3rd April, 1850, the estate being less than £200.10

Of his fine craftsmanship as a Clockmaker and Watchmaker there is ample evidence, and there are, after well over a century, Grandfather Clocks and watches of his manufacture still keeping accurate time. (The writer has two Grandfather Clocks and a watch made by James Carruthers in his possession, and has seen several others in Border homes.)

James Carruthers married, on 29th October, 1824, Christiania Jardine, daughter of the Rev. John Jardine (the Langholm Associate Burgher Congregation's first Minister) and his wife Ann Patterson (both of whom are interred in Wauchope Kirkyard). She was born 25th September, 1800, and died 16th March, 1869, being buried in Stanwix Churchyard. According to the Session Records she was admitted to the membership of the Associate Burgher Congregation in Langholm on 13th May, 1818.4

James Carruthers, on his return to Carlisle in 1833, set up in business on his own account, as has been previously mentioned, at 73 Scotch Street, and by 1837 he was at 17 Scotch Street (1837 Directory), living in Fisher Street. Later his business was at 32½ Scotch Street (1847 Directory), whilst he resided at Eden Terrace, Stanwix, where he died.

James and his wife, Christiania, had eight children, as follows: 11

- John, born in Rickergate, Carlisle, on 15th September, 1825. In 1850 he was probably carrying on his late father's business as a Clockmaker at 32 Scotch Street, but in 1851 he emigrated to the United States of America, and later became Statistician to the Labour Bureau of the United States Government. He married twice: first, on 9th May, 1854, Mary Elizabeth Anderson (who was born 6th August, 1827, and died 2nd August, 1862); and second, in 1864, Sarah Jane Wales (who died aged 77 years on 11th October, 1915). He died 25th August, 1891. By his first wife he had three children, John (born 4th July, 1855), James (born 1st February, 1858), and Christiania (born 12th June, 1859); and by his second wife, George Malcolm (born 25th March, 1865). Details of their families will be found in "Records of the Carruthers Family," page 33 and Appendix.
- 2. Jardine, born in Rickergate, Carlisle, on 18th August, 1827. He founded the business of Jardine Carruthers and Sons, 10 Scotch Street, Carlisle (Ironmongers), and

took an active part as a member of Carlisle Corporation, being a member of the Council for a number of years. Together with Mr Robert Pattinson, and others, he was one of the founders of Charlotte Street Congregational Church, Carlisle, which contains a memorial to him. He married on 13th March, 1854, Sarah, daughter of John Peacock Redmayne of Preston, Lancashire (she was born 9th July, 1829, and died 22nd October, 1902). Jardine died 4th October, 1891, and was buried in There were five children of the Carlisle Cemetery. marriage: James (born 18th February, 1855, and died unmarried 7th October, 1910); John Samuel, who died in infancy in 1863; Eliza (born 4th May, 1861, married the Rev. Owen K. Hobbs (15th September, 1886) and died 25th December, 1929); Jardine (born 5th May, 1863, married Margaret Ann Dand on 10th April, 1889 -by whom he had four daughters-and died 8th March, 1933); and Thomas (born 25th July, 1867, married Eleanor Oxberry Hutchinson on 2nd July, 1895-by whom he had two sons—and died 21st November, 1938). Jardine and Thomas succeeded to their father's business, which was carried on until 21st September, 1938, shortly before Thomas's death on 21st November, 1938. premises were then disposed of to the Corporation and pulled down to make way for the new Police Station and Fire Station. Details of their families are set out in the "Records of the Carruthers Family," page 34 and Appendix.

- 3. Andrew, born in Dumfries on 5th December, 1829, and died in 1833.
- 4. George, born in Dumfries on 14th June, 1831, was a printer and publisher in Barrow-in-Furness. He married twice: first, on 25th December, 1850, Mary Giles Acton (who was born 10th June, 1831, and died 10th January, 1875); and second,— Grundy, of Nottingham. He died on 2nd March, 1879. By his first wife he had 11 children: Mary (born 10th February, 1852), James (born 5th November, 1853), Christiana Jardine (born 25th November, 1855), Thomas Acton (born 2nd Decem-

- ber, 1857), Jane Anne (born 24th February, 1860), George Murray (born 14th February, 1862), Isabella Eleanor born 26th November, 1863), Elizabeth Fanny, born 23rd February, 1865), John William (born 29th November, 1867), Annie Jardine (born 22nd October, 1869), and Margaret Katherine (born 13th April, 1871); and by his second wife, Herbert Grundy. Details of their families are set out in "Records of the Carruthers Family," page 35 and Appendix.
- 5. Jane Anne, born in Stanwix, Carlisle, 15th March, 1834, and died unmarried on 24th April, 1899, being buried in Carlisle Cemetery.
- 6. James, born in Fisher Street, Carlisle, on 10th October, 1836, and died 31st July, 1848, being buried in Stanwix Churchyard.
- Thomas, born in Fisher Street, Carlisle, on 22nd April, 1840, married 29th April, 1869, Isabella, daughter of John McNicol (of Carlisle) (she was born 19th August, 1840, and died at Purley, Surrey, 26th October, 1932, being buried in Colchester Cemetery). He was a partner in the Ironmongery firm of Hetherington and Carruthers, 25 English Street, Carlisle. He took an active part in the work of the Church and was a Manager and later Elder in the Fisher Street Presbyterian Church. Thomas left Carlisle in 1892 and later resided in Colchester, where he died on 25th September, 1908, and was buried in the cemetery there. They had one son, James Arthur Carruthers (born in Carlisle 1st October, 1871) who married on 23rd June, 1898, Sarah Ann, daughter of Robert Pattinson of Carlisle (she was born 18th February, 1872, and died 5th April, 1952). See "Records of the Carruthers Family," page 33 and Appendix, for further details of descendants.
- 8. Christopher, born in Fisher Street, Carlisle, 25th December, 1841. He graduated Master of Arts and entered the ministry of the Church of England, becoming Rector of Duncton, near Petworth, Sussex, and Rural Dean of Chichester. At an earlier date he had been

private chaplain to the Duchess of Abercorn, and he was also tutor to Lords Claude and Ernest Hamilton, and with them had been round the world. He married twice: first on 4th August, 1870, Kate Sandeman (born 3rd May, 1839, and died 6th December, 1892); and second, on 4th April, 1894, Jane Hamilton Fleming Macleod (who died 2nd February, 1951). There was no issue by either marriage. He died at 8 Hillside, Wimbledon, Surrey, on 8th July, 1919.

REFERENCES.

- 1 Tombstone, Langholm Old Kirkyard.
- James Carruthers, farmer, in Bankhead, was baptised on July 14th, 1719, and was the son of James Carruthers, in Breckonhill, who, on October 5th, 1710, had married Agnes Davidson. He was thus descended from the Dormont family, through George Carruthers of Brydegill, fourth son of Francis Carruthers, 3rd of Dormont. For earlier details of this family see Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society—Vol. XXXV., p. 125, and "Records of the Carruthers Family"—Appendix, pp. 7 and 11.
- ² Langholm Parish Register (1668-1819).
- 3 See First and Second Statistical Accounts of Scotland (Sinclair) (Vols. 13 and 21).
- 3a Buccleuch Estates Ledger.
- 4 Session Records (Laugholm Erskine Church, formerly the Associate Burgher Congregation).
- 5 James's cousin, George Carruthers (son of James Carruthers—cotton throad manufacturer in Langholm), may also have been apprenticed with Philip Corrie. George later carried on business as a clockmaker in Langholm. He died October 1st, 1866, aged 76. George married Jane Hope (who died September 30th, 1867, aged 68) and had two sons, John (an artist, who died November 12th, 1851, aged 24 years) and Robert Hope (who died September 7th, 1837, aged 4 years). It is also believed he had a married daughter, with issue in Edinburgh.
- 6 "Dumfries and Galloway Courier" (April 1st, 1828).
- 7 Session Minutes (Buccleuch Street Associate Burgher Congregation)
- 8 This Temperance Society is earlier by at least four years than the "Dumfries and Maxwelltown Total Abstinence Society" formed on January 10th, 1837, and said by M'Dowall in his "History of the Burgh of Dumfries" to be the "original society" (pp. 731-2).
- 9 Fisher Street, Carlisle, Presbyterian Church Session Minutes.
- 10 Probate Office, Carlisle.
- 11 Particulars of the children of James Carruthers, clockmaker, are from personal family records, etc. Full genealogical details of the descendants of James Carruthers, and of his uncle, James Carruthers, manufacturer in Langholm, may be seen in "Records of the Carruthers Family."