

CHAPTER IV.

THE MACNEISHES OR MACNISHES OF GALLOWAY—ADAM MACNES OF BARDONAN—GILBERT MACNAGHT AND THE KILQUHONIDY FAMILY—THE MACNEISHES OF GAITGILL.

THE numerous family of MacNishes of Galloway are descended from an earlier race of MacNesches, who appear frequently on record from the fifteenth century. The allied family of MacNaughts of Galloway are no doubt sprung from the same stock as the MacNishes.

The Galloway family would appear to be a very ancient branch of the MacNeishes of Strathearn.

It is probable that Patrick, son of Nes of Leuchars and Strathearn, settled in Nithsdale, where we find about the year 1220, "Patcio

magillness" (Patrick MacGille-nes) as a witness to Carta 340 (Carta super ecclesiam de Killosbern) of Kelso Abbey, with other prominent men of Dumfries (34).

Killosbern is now known as Closeburn, where in later years we find many records of MacNeishes and MacNaughts.

Roger de Quinci, son of Orobile (daughter of Nes) and Robert de Quinci, was a nephew of Patrick MacNes. Roger married Helena, daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway, about 1220, and succeeded to lands in Galloway; no doubt Patrick MacNes or his sons obtained lands in Galloway through the influence of their relative Roger, who, on the death of Alan, Lord of Galloway, in 1233, succeeded to the office of Constable of Scotland.

The following ancient place-names indicate that the family was in occupation of land in Galloway and Ayrshire at a very early period. The lands of Bischoforrest, called Makknachstoun, in the parish of Kirkpatrik Irnegray, Kirkcudbrightshire ('Instrument of Sasine,' 1656).

The 5s. lands of Maknaythyscroft in the Lordship of Mauchline, Ayrshire, then belonging to Campbell of Kingyeancleucht ('Melrose Regal Rec.,' 1576).

Adam, son of Nes (Adam MacNes) of Bardonan, Dumfries, was slain in the Isle of Man, in the service of the King of Scotland, in 1289 (23).

Bardonan, now corrupted to Bardannoch, near Moniaive, Glencairn, is situated 4 miles east of Neis Hill (1045 ft.), in Nithsdale. (Bardonnenhill, alias Haliedayhill, parish of Dunscore, 1632; is now known as Barndennoch or Halliday Hill.)

"Item, per wardem terre de Bardonan, que fuit Ade, filii Nesonis interfecti in Mannia in seruicio regis, et que jacuit inculta propter guerram motam post mortem regis per duos annos. vt dicit S; excepta dote vxoris eiusdem, quam habuit" (23).

The lands of Bardonan in Dumfries, in ward to the crown, are reported by William Sinclair, the sheriff of Dumfries, to have lain uncultivated

for two years in consequence of the war stirred up after the King's death (23).

The Norse King, Haco, was crushed at the battle of Largs in 1263, and Alexander III. undertook in the following year to put an end to the Norse dominion in the Isle of Man.

Alexander the Steward and John Comyn landed in Man in 1270, and slew Ivor, who had usurped the throne.

Adam MacNes of Bardonan was killed during the last fighting in Man, for Edward I. of England appears to have taken over the island at the end of 1289, or the beginning of 1290. In February 1290, Edward of England informed the keepers of the land of Mann "that he had given a safe conduct to certain merchants for the dispatch of their business there" (Cal. of Patent Rolls, 18 Edward 1).

Thomas de Bardonan of Dumfries, as well as Patrick of Bardonan, were among those who signed the Ragman Roll in 1296.

The seal of Patrick of Bardonan is given

as "an eight - rayed figure, S' patrik de bardonan" (24).

This Patrick of Bardonan may have been the son of Adam MacNes of Bardonan who was killed in 1289, and the grandson of Patrick MacNes of Dumfries, who died *circa* 1250.

Also among the Scottish nobles and land-owners who, on the 28th of August 1296, swore allegiance to King Edward of England at Berwick - on - Tweed, was Gilbert Make-naght (24).

Gilbert MacNaght, whose seal is appended to homage No. 810 of the calendar, was probably the ancestor of the Kilquhonidy family, for we find that later on the MacNaughts of Kilquhannedie used arms in the shape of a shield.

The following is a description of the seal of Gilbert Makenaght:—

"Seal in form of shield; device, foliage and tracery, four-footed beast on top; S' Gilberti fil' melnechra" (24).

Compare "melnechra" with the slightly earlier Fife and Perthshire forms—Malnethte, Malfnacht, and Malsnacht.

The original Ragman Roll, which is in sheets, well written, and still in good preservation, seems to have been penned by the same person, who evidently was guided by his ear as the names were pronounced, which was usual at that period, and now causes so much confusion.

THE MACNAUGHTS OF GALLOWAY.

The chief family of the MacNaughts held the lands of Kilquhanidy, in the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham, in Kirkcudbrightshire, for many centuries.

They are probably a branch of the Galloway MacNeishes.

In 1471 Celestine Maknacht received sasine of the lands of Kilconaughty (23).

In 1474 Duguld M'Nacht (probably son of Celestine) received sasine of the lands of Cohonody (23).

In 1496 Fergus Maknath received sasine of the lands of Culchonachty.

In 1537 John Maknaicht received sasine of the lands of Culquhonite.

In 1546 John M'Naucht received sasine of the lands of Culquhomyte (23).

In 1582 John Maknech, junior, received a charter of the lands of Nether Kilquhennedie (17).

In 1585 John McKnicht of Kilquhennad, Robert McKnicht in twa merk land, Fergus McKnicht in Culsyde, Hendrie Mcknayt in Culsyde, John Mcknayt in Mule, Gillespie Mcknayt in Little Mcquhir, all in the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham; and Gillespie Mcknayt in Glengopok, James and John Mcknayt in Ernealmery, in the parish of Crossmichell, are all mentioned in 'Acta Parl. James VI.,' page 391.

It is evident that the surname MacKnicht is derived from an early form of MacNaught or MacNeischt.

During the years 1580 to 1593, the name

appears as McNache, McNach, and McNaich (17).

In 1598 John Maknaucht received sasine of the lands of Kilquhannedie.

In 1612 John M'Naught of Kilquhonyity was slain at Carlingwark.

The testament of James McNaught, elder, of Over Killquenadie, was dated 9th November 1629 (35).

The testament of Roger McNaught of Kilquadie, parish of Kirkmichael-Durham, was dated 24th December 1641.

The testament of John McNaught of Killwhannady was dated 1st January 1679 (35).

The following are early records of some of the MacNaught families in Galloway:—

In 1473 Andrew, son and heir of John M'Nacht of Dalcarne and Cragow, Kirkcudbright, received a charter of the said lands (17).

Egidia M'Nacht, who was still in ward, received sasine of lands in Kirkcudbrightshire in 1486 (23).

In 1498 Egidia and Mariot M'Naucht received sasine of the lands of Dalcharne and Creggo (23).

In 1505 the four merk land of Knokinschene and Barneschauch was let to Janet M'Naucht (23).

A part of the lands of Knokkinschene was let to Janet M'Knach after the year 1505, and before 1521 (23).

Gilbert MakNauch was a well-known notary public in Galloway in 1526 (23).

In 1364 Christino McNawych was a witness to "Confirmacio cartarum monasterii de Kilwynnyn," a confirmation of a charter granted by John of Menteith, dom. of Arran and Knapdale, to the monks of Kilwinning, in Cunningham, Ayrshire.

In 1473-4 the following payment was made to the Exchequer:—

"Composition with Gilberto M'Nauth and John Dingalli, Kirkcudbrightshire" (31).

In 1476 a branch of the MacNeish family

held half of the lands of Gaitgill-macgille-Warnoch, in the parish of Borgue, Kirkcudbrightshire.

The lands of Borgis, which John Mowbray forfeited, were granted by David II. to Fergus M'Dowgall by charter *circa* 1350.

In 1465 John Akersane (now Carson) received relief by sasine of the fermes of Gaytgilmcgilwarnok (23).

The Mac-gille-Warnochs long ago shortened their surname to Warnock.

In 1467 the lands of Gaitgill, alias "nuncupatus," Litiltoun, 3 mark lands (£2), in the parish of Borg, vic Dumfres, was granted to the MacDowells of Spotts. Their charter was confirmed on 27th January 1469 (17).

In 1476 John Akersane received a sasine of the lands of Gaitgill-McGilwithnocht (23).

In the same year the King granted a charter of the 25s lands of Gategill, vic Dumfres, to Thomas M'Kelle, which John Kersane resigned (17).

The MacKellies or MacKailes of Gaitgill

were no doubt descended from Gilmalagon MacKelli, who was a witness to No. 107 Carta of Kelso Abbey *circa* 1150. John M'Kelli was clerk of liverance to Queen Euphemia *circa* 1366.

In 1476 the following action was moved by Maurice MacNeish of Gaitgill.

GALLOWAY.

Acta Auditorum, 5th July.

1476. In the action and cause movit [moved by] be Morrice McNesche against James McCowlach of Cardness, Rankin Mure, William Mure, James Lintoune, Brice Stewarte, John McKelle, Archibald Mure, Thomas McCowlach, Donald McLellane, Archibald McLellan, John McLellan of Barsallach, Andrew Law, Patrick Kessock, John Adowgane, and Thomas McKelle, anent the error committed by them as was alleged in the serving of a breve of Inquest purchased by Johne Akersane anent 16s and 8d worth of land of the lands of Gaytegill McKilvernak.

The said Morrice being present by his

procurator, and the said persons being lawfully summoned and oftymes called and nocht comperit [appeared]. The allegation of the said procurator and the depositions of witnesses being at length heard and understandin. The Lords Auditors ripely advisit [advised], finds by the depositions of the said witnesses that the said persons has erred in the serving of the said breve in sa [so] far as they have found John Acarsan, cousin of umquhile Margaret Acarsane, lawful heir to umquhile [blank in record—probably Margaret] of the said 16s 8d of the said land, whereas they should [blank in record] found him but heir of 8s 4d worth thereof, and the said Morice upon 8 d [blank in record, possibly the other 8s 4d] worth of the same proportionally. And that Brice Stewart has not erred because he said against all the said persons. And the party to raise a new breve gif it please him. And that the said persons be punished at the King's will after the form of the Act of Parliament thereupon.

In 1477 Maurice MacNeish, tenant of the lands of Gaitgilmakgilvernok, received a sasine of the said lands from King James III. :—

“Kirkcudbricht. Sa. Mauricio McKneishe. t. Gaitgilmakgilvernok.”

“Sasine of Gaitgilmakgilvernok, £8. 6. 4d land thairof to Maurice McKneishe” (23).

1493-8. Thomas M'Kelle again had sasine of the lands of Gategilmakilvernok in 1493 and 1498 (23).

1500. The King confirms to John Makkelle of Gaitgill, son of Thomas Makkelle of Berskeach, of the 3 merk and 10 sol. lands of Gaitgill (17).

- 1502-4. 1. John McKelle, executed at Wigton.
2. Composition of escheat of John M'Kelle.
3. Thomas McKelle, escheat of.
4. Thomas McKelle of Gatyell, ward of lands of (31).

1508. Duncan MacNeish of Gaitgill (who was no doubt the eldest son of Maurice Mac-

Neish) appears to have died in or before 1508. No. 1779, at Edinburgh, 14th December 1508 (Reg. Privy Seal).

A Lettre made to Johne Murehede of Bulleis, his ayris and assignais, ane or maa . . . of the gift of the warde of all and sindri the landis and annuallrentis that pertenit to umquhile (the late) Duncane Makneische of Gaitgill, and now being in the Kingis handis be resone of warde throw (through) the decess of the said umquhile Duncane, and als the nonentreis of the said landis and annuelrentis ay and quhil the richtwis ayre (heir) or ayris of the said umquhile Duncain recover heretable state and sesing (sasine) of the samyn; togidder with the mariage of Henry Makneisch, the sone and ayre of the said umquhile Duncain . . . To be Haldin . . . with power to him and thaim to occupy the sade landis with thare awn gudis (goods), or to set thaim to tenantis. . . .

Subscripta per dominum Regem.

Gratis ex mandato domini M. Roberto

Elphinstoun portandi mandatum domini,
111, 202.

1511. Non onerat se de xvj £ xiiij s iiij d
compositionis warde Duncani Makneische de
Gaitgill cum maritagio heridis venditarum
Johanni Mureheide de Bullies (31).

1517. An Instrument of Sasine, under the
hands of Gawin Fullartoun, presbyter of the
diocese of Glasgow, notary public, setting forth
that on 10th March 1517, on the grounds of
the lands after-mentioned, William Hostan,
bailie in that part, in virtue of a Royal Precept,
and a Precept of the Steward of Kyrkcubryt,
gave to Mariota McNess, daughter of the late
Duncan McNess of Gadgile, of the fourth part
of the 25s. lands of Gadgill, of old extent lying
within the Lordship of Galloway, parish of
Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubre. Dated
10th March 1517. Witnesses—Robert Schaw,
George Carnis of Siltoun, Fynlay Wilzemsone,
William Bell, Adam Carnis, and Donald Free
(Frier) (29).

1517. Charter of Sale by Mariota Makness, daughter of the late Doncan McNess of Gadgill, and Lady superior of the 4th part of the 25s. lands of Gadgill, in favour of Robert Gordoun of Glen, Knight, of the 4th part of the 25s lands of Gadgill, lying in the parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubre. To be holden *a me de supremo domino rege*, giving three suits yearly at the Court of the Stewartry with ward and relief. At Gatgill, 12th March 1517. Witnesses—John Aschennane of Park (now Shannan or Cannan), Fynlay Wilzemsone, William Carnis (now Cairns), William Hostan, and Sir Gavin Fullartoun, notary public. (Seal wanting, 29.)

1517. The Steward returned 12s. 6d. as yearly rent due to the King for sasine given to Mariote Makneisch of the 4th part of the lands of Gadgill, in the lordship of Galloway and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, 27th November 1517 (23).

1518. The Steward returned 12s. 6d. as the

yearly duty for sasine given to Jonet Makneisch of the 4th part of the 25s. land of Gadzell Makilvernok, in the parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. 3rd December 1518-19 (23).

1519. The Steward became answerable for £4, 7s. 6d. of the fermes of the 4th part of the 25s. lands of Gadgil Makilvernok in Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, being in the King's hands for the space of seven years by reason of ward, of which the yearly rent of 12s. 6d. due to the King for sasine given to Katherine Makneische of the said 4th part. 12th November 1519 (23).

The following charters appear in the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland :—

Charter of Sale by Jonet Makneisch of Gadzell McIlvernok in favour of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight of her fourth part of the lands of Gadzell McIlvernok extending in whole to 25s. lands of old Extent lying within the parish of Borg and

Stewartry of Kyrkcubryt. To be holden *de supremo domino nostro rege* for service aucht and wont. At Ruschew, 16th May 1519 (Seal wanting).

Charter of Sale by Jonet Makneis of Gadgill McYlvernok in favour of Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight of her 4th part of the lands of Gadgill McYlvernok extending in whole to 25s. lands of old extent, lying in the parish of Borg and stewartry of Kyrkcubryt.

To be holden *de supremo domino nostro rege* for service aucht and wont. At Ruschew, 16th May 1519 (seal wanting).

Charter of Confirmation under the Great Seal with consent of the Lords regents in absence of John Duke of Albany protector and governor of the Kingdom Confirming 4 charters in favour of Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight—viz. (1) No. 861 *supra*; (2) No. 880 *supra*; (3) Charter by Katherina Makneische of

Gaitgill Makilvernok of her 4th part of said 25s. land (at Ruschew, 16th May 1519. Witnesses as in two preceding charters); (4) Charter by Elena Makneische of Gaitgill Makilvernok of her 4th part of said 25s. land (at Ruschew, 16th May 1510 (19?)) ('R. M. S.', III., 191).

Instrument of Sasine taken by Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight in the hands of Gavin Fullartoun presbyter of the diocese of Glasgow notary public on the sasine given to him by William Hostane sheriff in that part by virtue of Precept of Jonet Makneis of Gadgill McYlvernok in her 4th part of the 25s. lands of Gadgill McYlvernok, lying in the Lordship of Galloway parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubryt. At the principal mansion of Gadgill McYlvernok 24th July 1520 Witnesses, Alexander Mwr, Fynlay Williamsone, William Carnis, George Carnis of Nuntoun, Donald Frer, and Archibald McKelle.

Instrument of Sasine as the preceding in Katherina Makneiss, fourth part of the same lands. Bailie, notary, and witnesses the same (except that George Carnis is styled of Litilltown instead of Nuntoun), 24th July 1520.

Instrument of Sasine as the two preceding in Elen Makneiss, 4th part of the same lands. Bailie, witnesses, and notary the same (except that Donald Frer is omitted), 24th July 1520 (17).

1520. On the 8th of July the King confirmed four charters by Marion, Jonet, Katherine and Elena Makneissche, sisters, daughters of the late Duncan Makneissche of Gaitgill-Makillwarnok, who, for certain sums of money, sold to Alexander Gordon of Glen, Knight, his heirs and assignees, the fourth part of the 25s. lands of Gaitgill-Makillwernok, in the parish of Borg, Stewardry of Kirkcudbright. Rendering yearly to the King, for the part of the said Marion, three suits at the Stewart Court of Kirk-

cudbright and ward and relief, and for the others, the service used and wont. Witnesses—John Aschennane (now Shannon) of Park, Finla Williamson, William Carnis, William Howstoun (now Houston), D. Gavin Fullertoun, notary public.

The charter of the said Marion was dated at Gaitgill on the 12th of March 1517, the other charters at Ruschew, 16th May 1519 (17).

Henry, the son and heir of Duncan MacNeish of Gaitgill, was probably killed at the battle of Flodden on the 9th September 1513. King James IV. and the flower of the Scottish nation fell on this fateful day.

From the year 1500, notices of the MacNeishes of Galloway become fairly frequent.

In 1513 Nevin Agnew of Croach was prosecuted for raiding various lands, and the stealing of a horse from John McNesche, in the county of Wigtowne (36, vol. 8 p. 90).

On the 18th June 1526, at Edinburgh, a Respite (Remission) was granted to Gilbert,

Earl of Cassillis, and his retainers, including Donald and Johne McNysche, and about 300 other gentlemen, for the treasonable slaughter of Cornelius de Machteme (Machitama), a Ducheman, in the time of the sitting of Parliament ('Reg. Sec. Sig.').

In 1549, "Item to ane callit William Maknath, that wes taiken be the thevis, in xv crounis of the sone, £xvi. xvii s. vi d." (31).

In 1550, "Item to Alexander Maknach, be my lord governoures precept and spetial command, to his support efter his heirscheppis witht the Inglismen and thevis" (31).

The above entries probably refer to members of the MacNaught branch.

The lands of Rais, in Renfrewshire, were held before 1550 by a Master James McNeiss. In 1550 Katren Fergusson appears as heir of the late James; and Hugh Kennedy of Barquhany (Carrick) was procurator for the said Katren (29).

1565. The goods and lands of Sir Robert

MacNeisch, in Carrick, were forfeited to the Crown.

“ Macneische, Sir Robert, escheat of, 1565-6.

Item to Andro Bannatyne, messenger, passand of Edinburcht witht lettres to serche, seik, inbring, appris and arreist, and mak penny of the personis gudis and geir underwritten, viz. :—

Gilbert, Erle of Cassillis; Thomas Kennedy of Bargany; John Kennedy Armillan; Schir Robert Macneische: Wm. Cambell, tutor of Cesnok; David Craufurde of Kers, and certane uthiris contenit in the saidis lettres. iiij £” (31).

1576. Mathew M'Kneis, tenant of the 40s. lands of Dunane, in Carrick, was a witness to a charter by George Kennedy of Dunane, of the lands of Dunane, to Oswald M'Knedar (MacNider) in Dunure. Mathew was a witness to another Dunane charter, dated 6th August 1577, also to the sasine dated 7th March 1578 (56).

circa 1540. Thomas Makneische, a merchant burghess of Edinburgh, who died in 1582, was

born about the year 1540; he appears to have belonged to a Nithsdale branch of the family. His testament and inventory of goods is dated 30th January 1582; the Inventory consisting of skins, hides, &c.; partly in his dwelling-house at the "fute of Restis Wynd and partly in ships; with money, utencils, etc.; and the third part of a ship in Leith called *The Gift of God.*"

He left legacies to Edward McNeische, his eldest lawful son and apparent heir by Helen Hart; Adam McNeische, his eldest lawful son by Marion Bellenden; and to his youngest bairns, John and Katherine. His first wife, Marion Bellenden, died in 1574, and his second wife, Helen Hart, died in 1581.

On the 30th April 1586 Katherine MacNeiche was returned heiress to her brother, Edward MacNeiche, in some tenements in Edinburgh (50).

1550. John Makneische, merchant in Kerymanoch, Kirkcudbright, was born about the

year 1550, and died in 1593. The following are mentioned in his will, dated 16th October 1593: Jonet Bell, his mother; his wife, Jonet McClamie.

1550. William Makneische, farmer in the clauchane of Dalry, Kirkcudbright, was born about the year 1550, and died in 1603. He married Elizabeth Banoch, and left the following children, John, Robert, and Jonet.

1550. Robert McNeische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, was born about the year 1550, and died in 1628. He married Agnes Dobie, who died in 1645 (see Appendix, p. 192); he left an only son, John, who in 1628 was abroad. Robert appears to have been a relative (brother?) of William MacNeish of clachan of Dalry.

1560. December 6th.—A Decreet of Council settling the amounts due by a number of persons to the Master of Glencairn, as factor for the Kirk of Glencairn (Dumfries), among whom is

William McNeische in Craufurdoun, of his Merkland thereof (21).

1563. Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, Andro McKnek in Closeburnetoune, and others were slain by John Carruthers of Holmains, in the district of Nithsdale (36).

1567. Jonet MacCanis, relict of William Grierson, in Mermilloch; testament dated 24th November (41).

1623. Caution by Robert McNeische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, for Gilbert Greirson of Castlemadie in £100, which sum the said Robert consigned in the hands of James Prymrois, Clerk of the Council; therefore the horning against him is suspended (21).

1580. John MacNeish, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, was born about the year 1580. He died in December 1652, leaving legacies to John Blathman, son to umquhile John Blathman, in Balmaclellan, who was son and heir to umquhile Issobell McNeill, "my cow-

signe german and appeirand air to me and nearest of kin on the father's side" (Edinburgh Testaments, vol. 67, dated 10th December 1652).

Jonet Hart, sometime spouse to Johne McKneische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, died in 1629 (Edinburgh Testaments, vol. 55, dated 19th December 1629).

1583. Robert McNeische, son of William McNeisch, in Balmaclelloquhan, was a witness to an Instrument of Sasine given to Robert Smart, burghess of Edinburgh, of an annual of £20 Scots, out of a house and other property in the town of Leith, 9th April 1583 (C. of C.).

1585. Adam, son of the late Thomas McNeish, merchant, was entered with John McCuir, tailor; dated 21st August (52).

1590. James McNeische appears on a list of excommunicated persons of Galloway, dated 11th August (21).

1612. Johne, son of Gilbert McNeische, in

Traqueir, was born 26th May. (The earliest birth record in Reg. of Dumfries.)

1616. Robert M'Neische, burgess of Kelso, was served heir of William M'Neische, alias Stewart, shoemaker there, son of the deceased Robert McNeische, alias Stewart, shoemaker, indweller in Kelso, nephew of his grand-uncle or grandfather's brother (53).

1622. John McNische, in Crafurtoun (Craufordtoun, Dumfries), appears on the list of persons who refused the authorised instruction in the art of tanning leather; dated 28th March (21).

1628. Gilbert M'Kinshe, cordiner in Brigend of Dumfries; testament dated 6th September (35).

1633. Thomas Nesche, at the Market Cross of Lochmaben, was a witness to the Execution of Summons by Adam Clerk, messenger, at the instance of John, Earl of Annerdaill, against Fergus Graham of Blawetwod (21).

1635. William McNeish, in Over Elschfeild, and others were summoned by John Moresone of Edinburgh ('Acts and Decrees,' vol. 477).

1639. William McNeish, parishioner of Troquer, married Elspet Cairlell; this the first marriage entry of the family in the Dumfries Registers; the surname afterwards appears as McKnish up to 1680, and McNish from 1689.

1647. John, son of James McNeish, at the Chappell in Galloway, was entered with George Younger, merchant, dated 21st July (52).

1668. Alexander McNish, in Nether Ardwell, a retainer of Sir Andrew M'Culloch of Myretoun, is mentioned in a complaint by William Gordon, of Newton of Cardinis, against M'Culloch of Myretoun (21).

1684. The McNishes and McKnishes were now quite numerous in Wigtownshire. (See Appendix.)

1643. John McNeish, merchant burghess of

Edinburgh, contributed a sum of 300 merks (£2000) for the supply of the Scots in Ireland (21).

1712. Forty - two acres of Kingholm Merse were converted by the plough into arable land, the same being let to John M'Nish, deacon of the weavers, for three years, at rather more than 10s. sterling an acre yearly (15).

1718. There are many McNishes in Antigua, in the West Indies, who claim descent from William McNish of Dumfries, who died in Antigua *circa* 1797.

The first on record of the family in the island was Hugh M'Nish, who was buried at St John on the 13th February 1718. The pedigree of the family is given in the 'History of Antigua,' vol. 2, p. 230.

1731. The testament of Anna, daughter of Robert Gordon of Barharrow, spouse to Robert M'Nish in Irelandton, was dated 1731 (56).

1736. James Nish, in Garlieston, on the 30th

September 1736, had principal sasine of the merklands of Balsarroch, &c.

He was factor to the Earl of Galloway.

Balsarroch is situated in the parish of Penninghame (19).

1750. James M'Nish, merchant in Kirkcudbright, served on the Assizes (Criminal Records of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright).

1760. The testament of Margaret Gordon, relict of Robert M'Nish of Greenslack,^F was dated 1760 (56).

THE CARRICK BRANCH.

There were a few MacNeish and MacNaught families in Carrick, Ayrshire, dating from the sixteenth century; at that period, and earlier, Carrick formed a part of Galloway.

The following are a few of the early entries concerning them:—

On the 3rd of March 1582, “in presens of me notar publict and witnessis underwrittin,

comperit personalie Mathew M'Kneis in Dunene, and as full dettour for Gilbert Kennedy of Dunene, his maister, oblist him to pay to Thomas Mirrie, the sowme of fiftie merkis, upoun the xv day of Aprile nixt to cum" (51).

The testament of Thomas McNeish, in Daldabie, parish of Girvan, was dated 24th October 1607 (42).

The testament of Elizabeth Kairnochane, spouse to Adam M'Nische in Myllendderdaill, parish of Colmonell, was dated 7th August 1621. The testament of Margaret Kennedy, spouse to Hew M'Nische in Auldames, parish of Colmonell, was dated 30th April 1634 (42).

In 1658 Thomas McNinch held the lands of Blarawart in the parish of Colmonell, in Carrick (see charter by Kennedy of Knockdaw, 'Reg. Mag. Sig.,' lx. 131).

McNinch is probably a corruption of MacNische, not as some authorities give—a form of MacLynch.

The surname MacNinch still occurs in Ayr (1900).

The testament of Robert MacNeish, parish of St Quivox, in Kyle, was dated 1676 (42).

There is a short account of the M'Neights of Barns, who were descended from a MacNaught family in Ayr, given in Paterson's 'Ayrshire.'