

## 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.<sup>1</sup> A third—the eldest—daughter Margaret married Walter Carruthers in Hetlandhill who gave bond of provision for her on August 12, 1696.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

As late as 1798 Jane Carruthers, wife of John Pasley in Springfield, was served heir portioner to her father William Carruthers in Alisonbank.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Testament, July 25, 1676.

<sup>2</sup> Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1734.

<sup>3</sup> See Testament of Robert Carruthers in Gateside, March 4, 1735.

<sup>4</sup> Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1752.

<sup>5</sup> Retours.

## CHAPTER XIX

### LANGHOLM AND CARLISLE

TOWARDS the close of the Eighteenth Century two brothers, John and James Carruthers, are found carrying on the business of cotton weavers and thread manufacturers in Langholm. The brothers are of unknown parentage,<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> Both were intimately connected with the founding of the Associate Congregation in Langholm<sup>4</sup> 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-

<sup>1</sup> 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.)

<sup>2</sup> 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 Meikdeholm Mill.

<sup>3</sup> At some date prior to 1787 they must have resided in Dumfries, for they were promoters and founder members of the Dumfries Temperance Society.

<sup>4</sup> Session Records of Associate Congregation.