

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

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 expedited 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.⁵ 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 Stenriesshill (b. 1777); of James Carruthers in Woodhead (b. 1725); and of David Carruthers in Kinningwell, Breconside and Leithenhall.

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).

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

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 Douglasses of Drumlanrig. That family came to an end in 1693 when John Johnstone disposed the lands to his nephew Andrew Chalmers of Dam.¹ 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,² 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 burghess there as apprentice to Gideon Schaw, stationer there, on February 22, 1689. Margaret Chalmers was infeft in 1714 in the 40/- lands of Dam, Ludovickland and Pantonaire in parish of Dryfesdale as heir to her uncle, John Chalmers. (Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. viii, fo. 225.)

² On May 21, 1606, 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 Breconsyde. 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).

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October, 1735, when his son James Carruthers in Know was infeft in an annualrent forth of the family estate.⁴ JAMES HAD A SON JOHN, BAPTISED 1714/1762 WHO ON 21 AUG 1716 MARRIED MARGARET CARRUTHERS (DRYFESDALE PARISH REGISTER) SHE CAME FROM ST. MUNGU AND WAS PROBABLY DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM CARRUTHERS OF BRECANSYDE AND HIS WIFE MARGARET CHALMERS JOHN C. OF GUILLEBURN.

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

NO 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.¹ 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,² 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.³

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.