

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

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 disposed 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 10 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 Feinds; 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

THE 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.¹

- (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 Rammerscales,—1620.
- (vii) (Rammerscales)—Precept of Clare Constat in favour of John Carruthers, son to Simon Carruthis of Rammerscales,—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 Rammerscales. 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 McBair 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 Decrees, 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 burghess 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 Commissariat Testaments, Vol. ii.

- (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 1647¹⁶ 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 burghess of Dumfries gratis on September 30, 1665.¹⁸ 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 Murrays,²² and two years later acquired the £4 land of Mossyde²³ in Lochmaben parish, but in 1694 he disposed of Mossyde to John Faid in Broadchapel²⁴

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 Commissariat 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.

²¹ Retours.

²² Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xxix, fo. 66.

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 Rammarscales. He died in May 1733, the Laird of Rammarscales 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 burghess 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 burghess of Dumfries on May 31, 1756. If so, his son, James Carruthers, younger, was admitted burghess 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 burghess 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 Commissariat Testaments, Vol. vi.

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

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

²⁸ Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

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

- (f) Robert Carruthers, surgeon on H.M.S. "Windsor", who became burghess 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 Elshields.³¹

Robert Carruthers, fourth Laird of Rammarscales, 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 Murrays, 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 Rammarscales and the Raffles property in 1701.³⁶ He married prior to 1730 a lady named Penelope Sharp³⁷ 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 Rammarscales 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 Rammarscales 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 Commissariat 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).

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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

THESE lands in Meikle Dalton parish belonged of old to the Lindsays 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 disposed 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 1666.⁵ He married Janet Carruthers,⁶ 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 Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, fo. 42.