

CHAPTER XIV

THE FAMILIES OF OVER DENBIE

THE modern estate of Denbie is a compact and distinct property. 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.⁵ 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.⁶

In 1618 he infeft John Carruthers, younger of Rammerskales, in the

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 decret 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".

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Jardine 40/- land under reversion for 300 merks⁷ which was renounced on repayment shortly afterwards.⁸

That same year he obtained letters of inhibition against his brother of Holmains, preventing him disposing 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 Knock, 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.¹³ 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.¹⁴ In 1665 Christopher, the eldest brother, disposed the 40/- land of Over Denbie to his brother George, "youngest lawful son to decest George Carruthers of Denbie". The following year, February 24, 1666, George disposed this 40/- land together with the £5 land of Ecclefechan,¹⁵ the ½-merk land of Raffles and the ½-merk land of Howthat to one James Carruthers, servitor to James Johnstone, Earl of Annandale.¹⁶ It is obvious that the 40/- land here conveyed was that portion held of Holmains, the other lands disposed 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.

¹¹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 67.

¹² Ibid., Nos. 88 and 89.

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.

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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 dispoise 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.

¹⁹ Ibid., No. 130.

²⁰ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xxi, fo. 201.

²¹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 131.

²² Ibid., No. 159.

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 decret 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 infest therein in 1681,²⁵ and his son, George Carruthers, was infest 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 infest in a liferent from Over Denbie under bond of provision by her first husband.²⁷ His son, John Carruthers, was that November infest 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 disposed 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 infest the young couple in the 33/4 lands of Braes, Kirtilbrig and Priestclose with reservation of liferent.³⁰ On her death William Carruthers married secondly, as her third husband, Isabel Weir, daughter of Archibald Weir of Edinburgh and Elizabeth Hamilton.³¹

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 burghess 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).

²⁷ Ibid., Vol. ix, fo. 269.

²⁸ 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 Decrees (Mack), December 3, 1692).

³² Edinburgh Apprentice Register.

³³ Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

³⁴ Edinburgh Marriages.

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- (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.³⁹
- (vii) Jean.⁴⁰
- (viii) Agnes, married to Mr. James Murray, "son of Murray of Murraythwaite", 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.

³⁶ 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. lxxix, 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.

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Carruthers of Holmains, and was made a burges 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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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 Braes¹ 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.

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- (ii) John, who succeeded his father in the family estates and of whom hereafter.⁶
- (iii) William,⁶ married in England, but whether with issue not known.
- (iv) James,⁶ 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 Dumfries Sas., 1821-30, No. 1714.

¹⁵ Parish Register (Middlebie).

¹⁶ Dumfries Sas., 1821-30, No. 169., and MS. Chart.

¹⁷ Ibid., 1781-1820, No. 2591.

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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

MENTION has already been made ¹ of James Carruthers who figures 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 firth 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 deceased 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".

² Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. xi, fo. 274, and Vol. xxi, fo. 256, renounced in 1670 (ibid., Vol. xxvi, fo. 157).

³ Ibid., Vol. xviii, fo. 145.

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possest by William Irving elder and younger, the $\frac{1}{4}$ -merk land of Raffles and the $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land of Howthat.⁴ For the troubles which this infettment 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.⁵ 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.⁶ Two years later his widow, Margaret Sinclair, was infett by James Bannatyne of Corhouse in an annual-rent furth of his lands in favour of herself for life and her seven children.⁷ Their issue was:

- (i) James, a writer in Edinburgh who disposed a Dumfriesshire annual-rent 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 S^{inclair} 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. lxxviii, 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
CARRUTHERS IN THE GLASGOW
DISTRICT

A 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 Inchynne and a merchant, became burgess by purchase,⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷ 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).

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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 deceased Patrick Fairlie, tailor and burgess.¹⁴ He was brother to John Carruthers in Mains of Houstoun and died in August 1658, his testament indicating some connection with the Inchinnan family.¹⁵ 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.¹ 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.

⁴ Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1752.

⁵ 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,¹ 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 Langholm⁴ 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-

¹ 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, 1821.⁵ 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.