

## RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

Carruthers of Holmains, and was made a burghess of Edinburgh "gratis, for good service" on August 30, 1714.<sup>44</sup> 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.

<sup>44</sup> Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

## CHAPTER XV

### BRAES

THE Braes estate came into the possession of the Carruthers family through the marriage, about the year 1675, of William Carruthers of Kirkwood (late of Over Denbie) with Blanch, daughter and heiress of Francis Irving of Braes<sup>1</sup> by his wife Catherine Irving. The lands were valued at 33/4<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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,<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. i, fos. 355 and 356.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., Vol. vii, fo. 434.

<sup>4</sup> 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.).

<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>
- (iii) William,<sup>6</sup> married in England, but whether with issue not known.
- (iv) James,<sup>6</sup> married, but estranged from his family who resided in England.
- (v) Mary, married to John Carruthers of Denbie.<sup>6</sup> She died May 30, 1800, aged 73 (Parish Register, Dalton).
- (vi) Catherine, second daughter.<sup>6</sup>
- (vii) Margaret,<sup>6</sup> baptised June 11, 1749 (Parish Register, Middlebie).

John Carruthers, third Laird, succeeded his father in the family estates in 1772,<sup>6</sup> and in 1775 acquired Blackethouse from Benjamin Bell of Blackethouse.<sup>7</sup> He married Grizel, daughter of Thomas Bell of Auldhall and Lands,<sup>8</sup> and must have died sometime prior to 1806,<sup>9</sup> survived by his wife, who was still alive in February 1813,<sup>10</sup> and by whom he had the following issue :

- (i) William, of whom hereafter.<sup>11</sup>
- (ii) Francis, in Braes, alive in July 1813.<sup>12</sup> In 1791 Mrs. Jean Irving, or Bell, his grandmother, conveyed Auldhall to Francis, whose Trustees sold to George Irving of Newfield in 1822.<sup>13</sup>
- (iii) John, alive in 1829.<sup>14</sup>
- (iv) Jean, baptised June 2, 1770,<sup>15</sup> but who probably died young.
- (v) Grace, baptised July 1771,<sup>15</sup> alive in 1821.<sup>16</sup>
- (vi) Mary, baptised January 2, 1775,<sup>15</sup> who married Robert Wooliscroft in Annan sometime prior to 1808.<sup>17</sup> She was still alive in 1829.<sup>14</sup>

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

<sup>6</sup> Dumfries Reg. Sas., September 9, 1772, Vol. xx, fo. 514.

<sup>7</sup> The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire, p. 36.

<sup>8</sup> 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).

<sup>9</sup> Dumfries Sasines, 1781-1820, Nos. 2359 and 3194. According to Session Papers in Signet Library (Edinburgh) he died in 1804.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 1781-1820, No. 3049.

<sup>11</sup> Dumfries Sas., 1781-1820, Nos. 2359 and 3194.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 1781-1820, No. 3095.

<sup>13</sup> The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire, p. 25.

<sup>14</sup> Dumfries Sas., 1821-30, No. 1714.

<sup>15</sup> Parish Register (Middlebie).

<sup>16</sup> Dumfries Sas., 1821-30, No. 169., and MS. Chart.

<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup>

In September 1808 he was described as an Attorney in Carlisle,<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup>

William was apparently dead by February 7, 1829,<sup>21</sup> and as far as is known died without issue.

<sup>18</sup> Dumfries Sas., 1781-1820, No. 2359.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 1781-1820, No. 2591.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 1821-30, No. 169.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., No. 1659.