

RECORDS OF THE CARRUTHERS FAMILY

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² Forfeiture was rescinded in 1593, but the family only recovered a part of their property (The Clan Lindsay, Vol.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.

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Hardriggs, in the parish of Annan,⁷ and was thereafter known as "of Hardriggs".

His father in 1693 disposed to him a wadset of 1,000 merks out of Medilshaw inherited from Francis Carruthers of Dormont.⁸ Christopher married (contract dated February 13, 1691) Margaret Carlyle, second daughter of Adam Carlyle of Lymekills (Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1737. Mary, third daughter of same, married David Murray of Belridding). Christopher was dead by 1710, in which year William Carruthers of Hardriggs was served heir to him. Hardriggs was still in the family in 1770 when John Carruthers of Hardriggs was served heir special to his brother William in the lands of Searigg and Longdyke. (For further particulars of this family see Chart.)

- (iii) Walter, mentioned October 1684.⁹
- (iv) Herbert Carruthers figures as a witness in 1689.¹⁰
- (v) Margaret, mentioned October 1684.⁹

William Carruthers of Whitecroft did not succeed to the estate till after 1692 when his father disposed the estate to him with reservation of terce to his mother Janet Carruthers.¹¹ This disposition was no doubt connected with William's marriage to Mary Carruthers, a daughter of John Carruthers of Holmains.¹² William in 1692 infeft his spouse in an annual-rent of £120 Scots from a mortgage over Little Dalton granted to him by George Carruthers of Holmains.

In 1710 William entailed his estate upon his eldest son and other heirs of Tailzie, resigning it into the hands of the Crown and obtaining a Great Seal Charter in 1712.¹³

By his wife, Mary Carruthers, he had the following issue :

- (i) Francis Carruthers, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) William Carruthers, second son, was a witness in 1713,¹⁴ having been mentioned as next heir after Francis in a Great Seal Charter of Whitecroft in 1712.

⁷ Gen. Reg. Sas., Vol. lxxi, fo. 125.

⁸ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv, fo. 476.

⁹ Reg. Priv. Conc., 3rd Ser., Vol. ix, October 1684.

¹⁰ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv, fo. 476.

¹¹ Ibid., 2nd Ser., Vol. v, fo. 42.

¹² Ibid., fos. 32 and 33. Dormont acted as Attorney for Mary in the infeftment. She received £1,000 as "bairn's part" in 1692 (Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 154).

¹³ Whitecroft Inventory. ¹⁴ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. viii, fo. 159.

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To the patrimonial estate of Whitecroft, Francis Carruthers added a $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land of Dyke, held of Murray of Moriquhat, and acquired from John Carruthers of Dyke in 1740.¹⁵ In 1753 he disposed to his eldest daughter Janet, whom failing to his other two daughters in turn, his lands of Whitecroft and Dyke, and was dead by 1767. He had married in 1720 Janet, daughter to the deceased William Rae in Lantansyde, in consequence of which his father had renounced his power to burden the estates.¹⁶ She was dead by 1730 when her husband, then tenant of Lantansyde, was infeft in some acres in Troqueer that had belonged to her.¹⁷ He married secondly Marion Somerville, who received Sasine in 1738 in an annual-rent of £300 conform to the marriage contract dated November 25, 1734 (Dumfries Reg. Sas.). Francis Carruthers of Whitecroft left the following issue :

- (i) Janet Carruthers, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) Agnes, wife of John Gegan, writer in Dumfries, to whom she assigned all her effects on May 14, 1768.¹⁸ She must have married secondly, prior to August 1776, Andrew Johnstone of Castlehill, merchant in Dumfries.¹⁹
- (iii) Mary, married to Ebenezer Wilson, bookseller and bailie of Dumfries, with issue.²⁰

Janet Carruthers of Whitecroft married Robert Henderson Wightman²¹ of Penlaw, alias Cleuchheids, the contract dated December 20, 1765, containing a provision that Whitecroft should go to the second son procreated of the marriage, or the heir male thereof. Janet was dead by 1810 when her eldest son, William David Wightman Henderson of Cleuchheids, was retoured her heir in Whitecroft.²² He must have had two sisters whose names are not recorded, married to Samuel Denholm Young of Gulliehill

¹⁵ Whitecroft Inventory. Sasine followed in 1747 (ibid.).

¹⁶ Dumfries Reg. Sas., 2nd Ser., Vol. ix, fo. 286.

¹⁷ Ibid., Vol. x, fo. 490. ¹⁸ Dumfries Commissary Deeds, Bundle 1768.

¹⁹ Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. xxi, fo. 338.

²⁰ Married April 10, 1768 (Edin. Marr. Reg.).

²¹ Whitecroft Inventory. Robert Henderson assumed the name of Wightman, for when factor to Viscount Stormont he was known as Robert Henderson of Cleuchheids. Mr. David Wightman, minister of Applegarth, purchased Penlaw from William Johnstone of Penlaw and entailed it in 1744 on his brother Mathew Wightman for life and then to his sister Elizabeth Wightman, spouse to William Henderson of Cleughheads, with remainder to their son, Robert Henderson of Cleughheads, who on succeeding took the name of Henderson-Wightman (Sheriff Court Deeds, Bundle 1748).

²² Ibid. He had sasine following thereon (Gen. Reg. Sas., July 25, 1810).

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and John Kennedy, residing in Dumfries.²³ At some date prior to 1827 William D. W. Henderson of Whitecroft must have inherited the small property of Fingask, near Dundee, for when in that year he disposed Whitecroft to Trustees he was described as William D. W. Henderson Somerville of Fingask. The name of his wife has not been ascertained, so perhaps she was a Somerville.²⁴ The Trustees named in the disposition, which was of a Testamentary nature, were his brother, John Irving Henderson of Gullielands, afterwards Sheriff-Substitute at Dundee, his two cousins, Alex. Wilson, cashier of the old Bank at Paisley, and Francis Wilson, W.S.,²⁵ and his two brothers-in-law, Samuel Denholm Young and John Kennedy, to whom was added his brother, Robert Henderson in Lochmaben.

W. D. W. Henderson Somerville of Whitecroft left the following issue :

- (i) Samuel Henderson Somerville, of whom hereafter.
- (ii) William Carruthers Henderson Somerville, residing in 1841 at Laurie Know; a legatee for £1,500.
- (iii) John Henderson William Somerville, in 1841 second mate on the "Heart of Oak" in the West Indian Trade; a legatee for £1,500.
- (iv) Janet Carruthers Henderson Somerville } at Laurie Know.
- (v) Sarah Denholm Henderson Somerville } at Laurie Know.
- (vi) Jean Denholm Henderson Somerville, wife of James Taylor Mackay, merchant in Edinburgh with issue :
 - (a) Margaret Denholm Mackay.
 - (b) Ann Mackay.
 - (c) James Mackay.
 - (d) William Patrick Mackay.
- (vii) Henrietta Irving Henderson Somerville } at Laurie Know.
- (viii) May McCulloch Henderson Somerville } at Laurie Know.
- (ix) Katherine Somerville Henderson Somerville, dead by 1841; all the above daughters were provided with legacies of £1,000 sterling each.

Samuel Henderson Somerville of Whitecroft was Laird for a very brief period. He was served heir to his father in 1842,²⁶ and the same year the

²³ Whitecroft Inventory. This marriage of Samuel Denholm Young is not recorded. He had married in 1803 Helen Goldie (Douglas of Morton, p. 307). The marriage can scarcely refer to his son of the same name.

²⁴ The Rev. John Somerville, minister of Carlawerock (1697-1734), had one son, William Somerville, advocate, and five daughters, "of which W. Henderson Somerville of Fingask and Whitecroft is the representative" (Scott's Fasti).

²⁵ These were sons of Ebenezer Wilson, bailie of Dumfries, and Mary Carruthers.

²⁶ Whitecroft Inventory.

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Trustees being unable to pay his brothers and sisters the provision made for them by their father, sold Whitecroft and Dyke to James Ewan Newton, merchant in Leith.²⁷ By 1858 Newton had become a bankrupt and the following year his Trustee sold the estate to Robert Munn,²⁸ in whose family Whitecroft remained till 1920, when it was bought by the marriage Trustees of Lady Maitland Heriot.

²⁷ Whitecroft Inventory.

²⁸ Ibid. John Baird, writer in Lockerbie, was the Trustee.