

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, burghess 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 Inchynnane and a merchant, became burghess 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 burghess 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

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 burghess 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 Burghess on May 27, 1669.¹¹ His two sisters married respectively John McKewin and George Kirkland, merchant burghesses.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 burghess in right of his wife Elspeth, daughter to deceased Patrick Fairlie, tailor and burghess.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 burghess on August 7, 1680, and Sarah, in whose right her husband John Wilson, tailor, became burghess 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 Burghess Roll.

¹¹ Burghess Roll.

¹⁴ Glasgow Burghess Roll.

¹⁶ Glasgow Burghess Roll.

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 Burghess 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).