

CHAPTER XII

DYKE

THE lands of Dyke were a relatively modest holding amounting to a merk land. This trifling piece of land presents a number of difficulties awaiting collation. In 1662 it is named in the Barony of Holmains.¹ At an early date it had been divided and only one moiety was definitely occupied by cadets of the Carruthers family. That moiety had belonged to the Lindsays who had probably owned the whole.² In 1576 James Lindsay of Barcloch granted a charter of that $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land to Thomas Carruthers, son of the late Rolland Carruthers, younger in Dyke, at a feu duty of a merk Scots.³ Lindsay remained merely as a superior, a right of which his descendant divested himself in favour of William Murray of Moriequhat prior to 1667. That Holmains had some sort of claim to this $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land is clear from the fact that in that year that Laird undertook not to molest either Lindsay or Murray for the transaction.⁴ Thomas Carruthers was probably succeeded by Rolland Carruthers of Dyke, for in 1667 Moriequhat, as superior, gave a charter of the $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land to John Carruthers, son of Rolland of Dyke.⁵ John was dead by 1706 when Moriequhat issued a precept in favour of George Carruthers, as heir to the said John his father, but infestment apparently did not follow as in 1736 John Carruthers, son of George, was retoured heir to his grandfather John of Dyke.⁶ This John Carruthers, with consent of Mary Bratton, his spouse, disposed the $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land of Dyke in 1740 to Francis Carruthers of Whitecroft

¹ Cal. of Holmains Writs, No. 103.

² Whitecroft Inventory. The other $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land belonged to Johnstone of Wamphray on June 12, 1712 (MacKenzie Decrees, Vol. 190).

³ Whitecroft Inventory.

⁴ Cal. of Holmain Writs, No. 120.

⁵ Whitecroft Inventory. On the other hand, a John Carruthers of Dyke was infest as heir to his grandfather Herbert in a $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land of Dyke in 1659 by Lindsay as superior (Dumfries Reg. Sas., Vol. vii, fo. 146). This, of course, may refer to the other half. John disposed this half to John Blackstock in Raffles.

⁶ Ibid.

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and disappears from record.⁷ For the later history of Dyke see Note on Carruthers of Whitecroft.

There are frequent references to other Carruthers in Dyke. It must be assumed that these Carruthers were tenants or feuars of the other $\frac{1}{2}$ -merk land of Dyke that belonged to Wamphray.

⁷ Whitecroft Inventory, also Dumfries Reg. Sas., July 12, 1740.