

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 Meikdeholm 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.