

FOREWORD

By A. STANLEY CARRUTHERS

EARLY in 1924 the present writer privately published in duplicated form a limited edition of some thirty copies of "Carruthers Records". The Records set out in chronological form, under the headings of the respective families, all the published records then available together with certain documents in private ownership. The Carruthers families dealt with were of Mouswald, Holmains, Dormont, (Over) Denbie, Braes and Langholm and Carlisle. No attempt was made to codify the items in any way and they appeared simply in date order.

Towards the end of 1930 it was decided, in view of the persistent demands for copies of the above-mentioned "Carruthers Records", that the book be thoroughly revised and issued as a limited subscription edition, and printed.

Mr. R. C. Reid, whose father, the late Mr. J. J. Reid, had written the paper on "The Barony of Mouswald and its Barons" which was published in the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland" for the year 1888-9, kindly consented to read the proofs, but at a later date offered to re-cast the chapter on Holmains. At the same time it was decided to re-write the whole of the Mouswald chapter and add an Introduction and Notes on a number of other Carruthers families not previously covered.

The work entailed proved to be very considerably greater than was at first anticipated. Mr. Reid set himself a large task which he has most faithfully and diligently discharged. He has calendared the whole of the Writs in the Holmains Charter Chest, other than those previously published by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and also noted all the Carruthers Sasines and Testaments known, from the earliest dates available—a noteworthy achievement involving much time and labour. He also prepared Calendars, or inspected the contents, of other collections of Carruthers family papers in private ownership.

Having amassed all available information, Mr. Reid entirely re-wrote the chapter on Holmains, incorporating the writer's researches amongst the published records. In a similar manner other families, cadets of, or connected with, Holmains, were dealt with and Notes prepared on the Carruthers families of Dormont, Butterwhat, Nether Denbie (or Whitecroft), (Over) Denbie, Warmanbie, Isle, Dyke, &c.

FOREWORD

Generally, apart from the Introduction,¹ and the chapters on Mouswald, Woodfoot and Milne, Braes, and Langholm and Carlisle, the procedure adopted has been for Mr. Reid's researches into the unpublished records to be combined with the writer's investigations of published records. The chapters, other than those mentioned above, have been written by Mr. Reid and verified by the writer from the extracts made. The Charts and the Index have been prepared by the writer hereof.

Thanks are due from both Authors to all those who have assisted by making information available, communicating notes, genealogical data, &c. Special thanks, however, are due to the following :

- (i) to the late Rev. William Mitchell-Carruthers, M.A., for granting access to the Holmains Charter Chest ;
- (ii) to Lieut.-Col. Francis J. Carruthers of Dormont for permitting the " History of the Dormont Titles " to be published ;
- (iii) to S. W. Carruthers, Esq., M.D., Ph.D., of Norwood, and William R. Carruthers, Esq., of Brooklands, Lockerbie, for communicating information relating to the Woodfoot and Milne and other families, and notes prepared by George Carruthers Thompson, Esq.
- (iv) to the Executors of the late John Carruthers, Esq., solicitor, for permitting use of the " Genealogical Chart of the Family of Carruthers of Breckonhill " in the preparation of the Chart now shown, but which has been supplemented by further information hitherto not available ;
- (v) to Major Carleton Salkeld of Holm Hill, Dalston, for allowing access to the early titles of Wormanbie and thereby enabling a more adequate and authoritative account of that family to be written.

Thanks are also due to G. Murray Carruthers, Esq., of Foxfield, Broughton-in-Furness, who in the initial stages acted as " sales-manager " and originally suggested the printing of the present edition ; to William Angus, Esq., Curator of the Historical Department of the General Register House, Edinburgh, for valuable help and assistance willingly given ; and finally to all those who have so readily come forward to make this publication of the " Records of the Carruthers Family " possible.

October, 1933.

A. S. C.

¹ The " Introduction " has been included in order to give readers who are not conversant with the conditions of life which obtained on the Border in the Middle Ages some background for the history of the various Carruthers families. The latter part of the " Introduction " (pp. 41-47) is not the result of original research, but is a brief summary based on the researches published in R. B. Armstrong's " History of Liddesdale " and the books mentioned in the Bibliography (at the end of that chapter), to which reference should be made for further information.