

Supporting Memorandum

Companion to: The Dunning–Carruthers Lineage (Steve Colburn, FSAScot, Clan Carruthers Society International)

Subject: Whether James Carruthers, younger son of George, 6th Laird of Holmains, is the only individual named James in the Records of the Carruthers Family (A. S. Carruthers & R. C. Reid, 1934) whose generation and male line are consistent with the elder “James C.” of the Edinburgh Apprentice Register entry of 15 April 1600.

Method: Exhaustive enumeration and elimination across the full published corpus, confirmed chapter by chapter, and corroborated by an independent ScotlandsPeople search across all surname variants.

1. Purpose and scope

Section II of the principal study identifies the elder “James C.” of the 1600 Edinburgh apprenticeship — “Carruderis, James, son natural to James C., with John Carruderis, tailor” — as James, younger son of George, 6th Laird of Holmains (p. 92). This memorandum supports that identification by establishing, through systematic elimination, that no other James in the Records of the Carruthers Family can occupy the same position.

The claim made here is deliberately precise: among the individuals named in the standard published account of the Holmains family and its cadet branches, exactly one James meets both binding criteria. Section 8 states plainly what this does and does not prove, so the memorandum can stand without overreach.

2. Criteria for candidacy

The elder “James C.” of the 1600 record must satisfy both of the following. Failure on either is dispositive.

(a) Generation. An apprentice indentured in 1600 at the customary age of 14–16 was born c. 1584–1586. His father was therefore a man of fathering age in the mid-1580s — himself born c. 1545–1565.

(b) Line. To be consistent with the Y-DNA placement of Theophilus Dunning’s descendants on the Holmains-specific subclade I-FT191896, the candidate must descend in the male line from the Holmains Carruthers — not from the Mouswald stem, the Woodfoot/Milne line, or any branch unconnected to Annandale.

The candidate satisfies both. His own life is not separately chronicled in the Records, but his generation is fixed independently by his father’s documented floruit: George, 6th Laird, succeeded his brother after the Battle of Solway Moss (1542) and was dead before 22 May 1592 (p. 92). A younger son of George was therefore necessarily born within roughly 1550–1575 — placing him at fathering age in the mid-1580s, the exact window required by criterion (a) — and stands within the Holmains main stem, satisfying criterion (b).

3. Enumeration of every James Carruthers in the Records

Every James in the Index of Persons (p. 187 ff.) was located in the text and tested. They fall into two groups.

3a. Jameses of the earliest generation (examined individually)

Only these are chronologically proximate to criterion (a); each was read in full.

James (as indexed)	Page(s)	Dating	Line	Disposition
James, younger son of George, 6th Laird of Holmains	92	b. c. 1550–1575 (fixed by father's flouit)	Holmains	RETAINED — sole qualifying candidate
James, husband of Elizabeth (Bessie) Arneil, Glasgow; father of Friar James	172	b. c. 1510–1530 (son a friar by 1566)	Glasgow (untraceable to Annandale)	Eliminated — a generation too early; separate family
Sir James, rector of Wamphray	84	d. before 28 Apr 1563	Holmains (in holy orders)	Eliminated — too early; a churchman
James, brother of Archibald, 7th of Mouswald	56, 63	men. 1479; witness 1505	Mouswald	Eliminated — ~a century too early; wrong line

3b. Jameses of later generations (fail criterion (a) outright)

All remaining Jameses belong to the 17th and 18th centuries and cannot have fathered a child apprenticed in 1600. They are listed for completeness.

James (as indexed)	Page(s)	Era	Line
James of Breconhill, s. of Francis (3rd of Dormont)	126–127	infert 1659	Dormont cadet
James in Cocklicks (and s. Captain James)	121–122, 127	d. 1751	Dormont cadet
James, s. of George “called of Brydegill”	128	17th c.	Dormont cadet
James in Know	77–78	d. 1736	Breconsyde / Know
James, Chamberlain to the Earl of Annandale (and s. James)	162–163, 170–171	fl. 1665–1672	claimed Holmains, line unascertained
James of Over Halleaths & Roberthill, Chamberlain to the Duke of Queensberry	143, 157–160	late 17th / 18th c.	Butterquhat–Rammerscales
James of the Woodfoot / Woodhead family	76	men. c. 1620	Woodfoot (Mouswald-derived)
James, son of George, 10th of Holmains	113	18th c.	Holmains (later)

James (as indexed)	Page(s)	Era	Line
James, s. of Thomas, physician	113	18th c.	—
James, s. of William, physician (and s. James)	142	18th c.	—
James, s. of James in Dalswinton	142	17th–18th c.	—
James, s. of John of Guileburn	128	17th c.	Dormont cadet
James, s. of William of Nutholm	126	17th c.	—
James, s. of William of Breconsyde	78	17th–18th c.	Breconsyde
James in Bankhead; in Langholm; watchmaker in Carlisle	175–176	18th–19th c.	Langholm / Carlisle
James, Cornet of the Scots Greys	121–122	18th c.	—

None of the entries in 3b can satisfy criterion (a). The generational test removes every one of them before the question of line is reached.

4. Branch-by-branch confirmation across the Holmains cadet lines

Because a rival candidate could in principle have arisen in any branch that split from Holmains, each cadet chapter was examined at its founding generations. None yields a James of the c. 1545–1565 cohort.

- Dormont (Ch. VII) — founded by William, third son of John Carruthers and Blanche Murray; early generations run on William, Christopher, George, Hobie, John, Francis. James enters only in the 17th century (Breconhill, infest 1659).
- Isle (Ch. XI) — founded by Symon, George 6th's own son ("in Isle" by 1602); the line runs on Charles and John. No James.
- Nether Denbie / Whitecroft (Ch. IX) — a Dormont offshoot dating only from 1646 (Francis, Walter, William, Christopher). No early James.
- Over Denbie (Ch. XIV) — founded by George, brother of John, 8th Laird — a generation later than the candidate; runs on George, John, William, with its sole James dying in 1672.
- Butterquhat (Ch. XIII) — founded by John of Butterquhat (named 1558), then George, William. No James.

Across the entire Holmains complex — main stem, Isle, all three Denbie/Butterquhat branches, and Dormont — "James" is not an early-generation name. The recurring forenames of the sixteenth century are John, George, William, Charles, Symon, Francis and Walter; James proliferates only from the mid-seventeenth century. This pattern is itself corroborative: it makes the single early James conspicuous rather than one of many.

5. The earliest non-qualifying Jameses, addressed directly

For completeness, the three earliest Jameses an objector might raise are each disqualified on independent grounds:

1. The Glasgow James (husband of Bessie Arneil; p. 172). His son was already a friar by 1566, placing his own birth c. 1510–1530 — too early by a generation. The Records moreover treats the Glasgow Carrutherses as “disconnected members ... [whose connection with Annandale] it is not possible to establish or even show” (p. 172): a separate urban family, not the Holmains stem.
2. Sir James, rector of Wamphray (Holmains chart; p. 84). Dead before April 1563 and a beneficed clergyman — disqualified on both date and status.
3. James, brother of Archibald, 7th of Mouswald (pp. 56, 63). Active 1479–1505, of the Mouswald line — wrong by roughly a century and on the wrong branch for the Holmains Y-DNA.

6. Independent corroboration: the ScotlandsPeople search

To test the field beyond the named corpus, an exhaustive ScotlandsPeople search was conducted across all recorded surname variants (Carruthers, Carruderis, Carruders, Caruthers, Carothers and related forms). The search returned no competing James in the Edinburgh records of the requisite period. It did surface contemporaneous bearers of the surname elsewhere, which are recorded here transparently rather than omitted:

Child	Parents	Date	Parish	Ref
Elizabeth (Elizat)	James Carruderis / Marioun Herbesoun	23 Dec 1617	644/1 (Glasgow)	10/226
John (Jon)	James Carruderis / Marioun Herbesoun	1621	644/1 (Glasgow)	—
Elizabeth (Elizat)	Johne Carruderis / Agnes Watsoune	21 Aug 1615	644/1 (Glasgow)	10/169

These are Glasgow baptisms (parish 644/1) of legitimate children to married couples. The James Carruderis recorded with Marioun Herbesoun — father of Elizabeth (1617) and John (1621) — is a real, contemporaneous man of the surname; but he is in Glasgow, not Edinburgh, and is married, with legitimate issue by a named wife. He is therefore neither the natural-son apprenticeship of 1600 nor the father of Theophilus, whose mother was Marion Bannatyne in Edinburgh parish 685/1 in 1618. He is set aside on geography and household, consistent with the Records’ express note (p. 172) that the Glasgow Carrutherses cannot be connected to Annandale.

These records do not bear on Theophilus’s parentage, but they are reported here for candour: they confirm that men named James bore the surname outside the Holmains pedigree at the same time. For that reason the present claim is bounded — see Section 8 — to the named corpus and the Edinburgh records, and the candidate is advanced as the sole qualifying James within that scope, not as the only conceivable bearer of the name.

7. Result

Within the Records of the Carruthers Family, James, younger son of George, 6th Laird of Holmains, is the only individual named James who satisfies both the generational and the male-line criteria for the elder “James C.” of the 1600 Edinburgh apprenticeship. Every other James in the corpus fails on generation, on line, or on both. The conclusion is corroborated by the ScotlandsPeople search, which returned no competing Edinburgh James of the period, the only contemporaneous bearers being the geographically and circumstantially distinct Glasgow family set out in Section 6.

8. Evidentiary scope

So that this memorandum may stand against scrutiny, its reach is stated plainly:

- It establishes sole candidacy by elimination within the named corpus of the Records and the corroborating ScotlandsPeople search. It does not, by itself, prove biological paternity; that conclusion rests on the combined documentary and genetic argument of the principal study.
- The Records is an account of the landed Holmains family and its cadets, not a census of every man of the surname then living; its author expressly notes untraceable urban members of the name, and the Glasgow records in Section 6 are concrete examples. The ScotlandsPeople search across all variants is what addresses that residual population, and the two should be cited together.
- The candidate’s identification as the actual father of the 1600 apprentice — and thence as Theophilus Dunning’s grandfather — is supported here only as to generation and line. The Records assigns this James no separate floruit, occupation or issue; his suitability rests on his fixed generational position and the convergent evidence marshalled in the main study.
- The Y-DNA confirms descent from the Holmains stem and distinguishes it from the Mouswald line; consistent with the principal study’s own statement, it does not by itself single out which James. This memorandum supplies the documentary half of the identification — the demonstration that, among named Holmains Jameses, only one fits.

Properly cited with these limits, the memorandum strengthens the principal study by closing the field of named alternatives without claiming more than the records will bear.

*Prepared as a companion document to *The Dunning–Carruthers Lineage*. Page references are to *Records of the Carruthers Family* (A. S. Carruthers & R. C. Reid, 1934). ScotlandsPeople entries cited by parish and reference number.*