

**THE HAIGHS**  
of  
**LONGLANDS HALL OSSETT**



**A HISTORY OF LONGLANDS HOUSE AND THE HAIGH FAMILY**  
**& OTHERS WHO LIVED THERE**



c. 1950's Courtesy Jennifer Duckett; the bungalow on right was built her father, Geo. Hemingway



**Longlands House during demolition in the early 1970's**

A rare photograph of Longlands House kindly provided by Ruth Nettleton, Chair of the Ossett Historical Society. The photographs from the 1950's & early/mid 1970's became available only after publication of this History.

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Readers who do not wish to follow the full detail of the research findings may find the Summary on page 8 and/or the Timeline on page 12 useful.

If you have any observations, corrections or photographs of Longlands please contact Alan Howe at 9 Haggs Hill Road, Ossett, West Yorkshire



A recent sketch of Longlands House by Douglas Brammar which he was kind enough to make available to me in early 2016 after the publication of this history. I include it on this page, on the same page as the only close up photograph I have seen of Longlands House, to allow the reader to compare Douglas's amazing photographic memory and artistic ability with the real thing. Douglas had not seen the photograph and since Longlands was demolished in the early 1970's it must be at least 40 years since he saw Longlands House. Quite remarkable.



# THE HISTORY OF LONGLANDS HALL & THE HAIGH FAMILY OF OSSETT

## INTRODUCTION

Longlands Industrial Trading Estate is situated at Flushdyke, Ossett on the south side of the A 638 Dewsbury and Wakefield Road. The Estate is a product of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century industrialisation of the area which swept away much of the thriving Flushdyke community.

A former resident of Flushdyke, Douglas Brammer, has committed to paper his memories of the community in which he grew up. His unique collection of illustrations of Flushdyke, as it once was, is reproduced in his collection of drawings, *Flushdyke – a victim of Progress: 1940-1960*. The collection can be viewed at <https://ossettheritage.co.uk/ossett-photo-gallery/> and provides a rare look back in time to see Flushdyke as it was as recently as 60 years ago.

In those days and before, Flushdyke was home to many working class families going about their business, earning a living and bringing up their children in a small community of mainly *back to back* houses where everyone knew everyone. Almost.

There was however one significant exception to this rule. A family called Haigh and a house called Longlands known, it seems, to hardly anyone. With 12 rooms and its own “plantation” Longlands House was *the* largest in Ossett, owned and occupied for 100 years or so by Ossett’s richest family, *the Haighs of Longlands Hall*. The last of the Longlands’ Haighs died in the late 1850’s but Longlands survived for another 110 years or so until it was demolished in the 1970’s. No photographs of Longlands House appear to have survived and few people have memories of the house, standing in its own grounds and hidden from prying eyes by large walls and larger trees and bushes.

**The research which follows seeks to discover the age of Longlands Hall and to record its history, from its beginning to its end. It also records the history of the Haighs and others who lived there.**

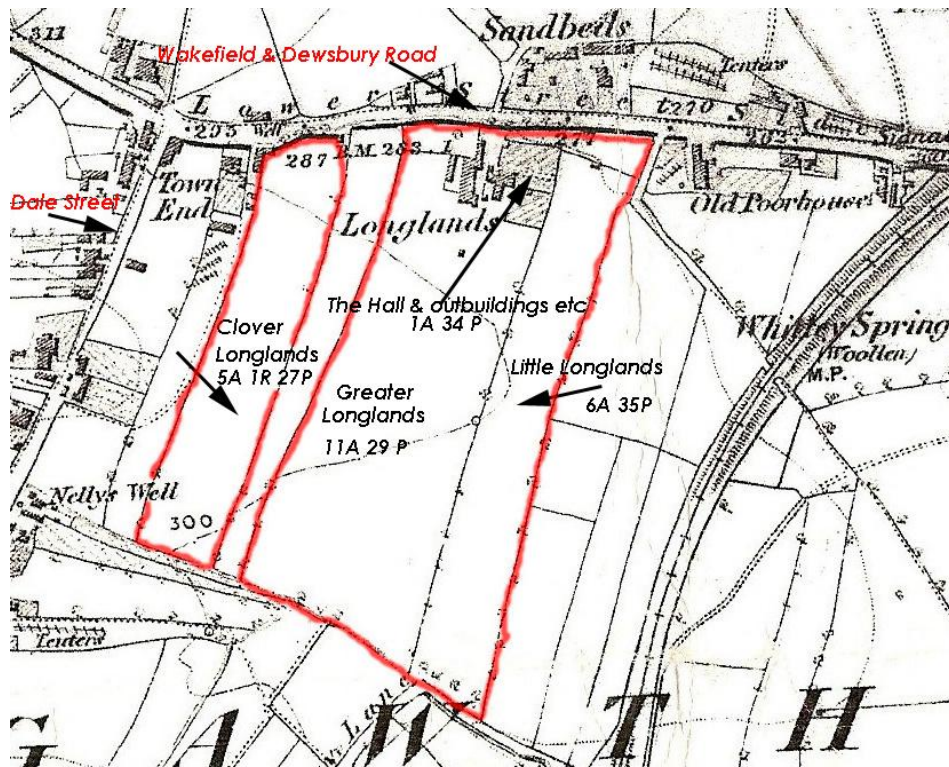
For centuries before the industrialisation of Flushdyke in the 1960’s the area was dominated by the major thoroughfare which ran through it. This road, now known as the Wakefield and Dewsbury Road, had long been a major highway variously known as The Street, Streetside, Ossett Street and the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road. As a consequence of its importance communities grew up alongside the road most of which were swept away in the 1960’s. The origins of the area are much older and some believe that Streetside was once a Roman road though others believe it more likely that the Roman route ran to the north along a natural ridge which can still be seen. Either way there is little dissent concerning the existence of a route here or hereabouts. Not far to the east, on land now known as Silkwood Park, a bronze age axe was found in 2000 by local historian Neville Ashby.

*The Street was the major highway running from Castleford, Pontefract and Wakefield, through Ossett, to Halifax, heading in the direction of Roman Ribchester in Lancashire. It is generally thought, but not proven, to be a Roman ridge top road, "The Kings Street" in the 1525 Manorial Survey, but mentioned earlier in 1337 (Strethaghs). It connected the manor administrative centres of Wakefield and Halifax.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Medieval & Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township. (Richard D Glover 2008 ISBN 978 09546439 2 8)

The importance of the area was reinforced by the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield when, more than 700 years ago, he established a 1300 acre hunting park in the locality. This was known as the New Park, situated to the north of the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road at Flushdyke which once formed the southern boundary of the Park. As such Flushdyke provided a prime location for the Haighs to establish their home and manage their empire of business interests in farming, land ownership and cloth. The Map below dates from 1850 and shows Longlands Hall and its Estate towards the end of the life of the Haigh dynasty responsible for its creation.



**1850 Map showing Longlands Hall Estate and acreage**

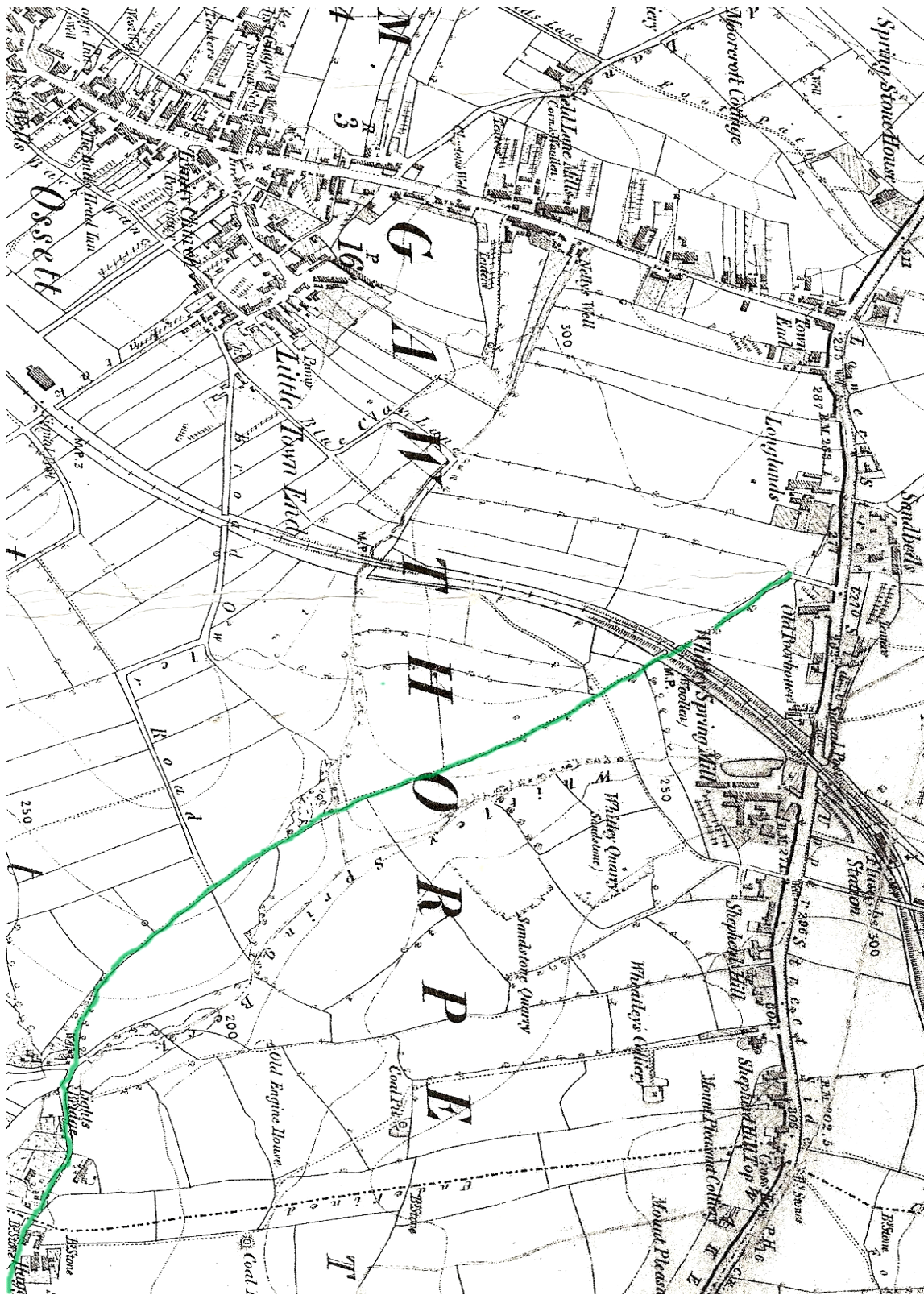
The acreage figures above are taken from the 1844 Rate Valuation and, including the 5 acre Clover Longlands, comprised about 24 Acres. The Wakefield & Dewsbury Road is shown as the northern boundary of the Estate and, for reference purposes, Dale Street is shown to the west. The 1843 Ossett Tithe Award records similar acreages and also reveals that Greater and Little Longlands were meadows and Clover Longlands was put down to pasture.

A larger section of the 1850 map is shown overleaf to reflect more of the Flushdyke area around Longlands as it was in those days. The map also highlights (in green) part of an *almost lost route*, named the "King's Hyrott" in 1583, or the High Road... would have been used by clothiers from Ossett and the surrounding villages for travelling to the cloth market at Lee fair at Woodkirk and the growing cloth market in Leeds. Many of the clothiers were living along this road which probably originated at the fulling and com mills on the Calder and passed from Horbury to what is now Low Common skirting the New Park paling and continuing through Gawthorpe onto Woodkirk and Leeds.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

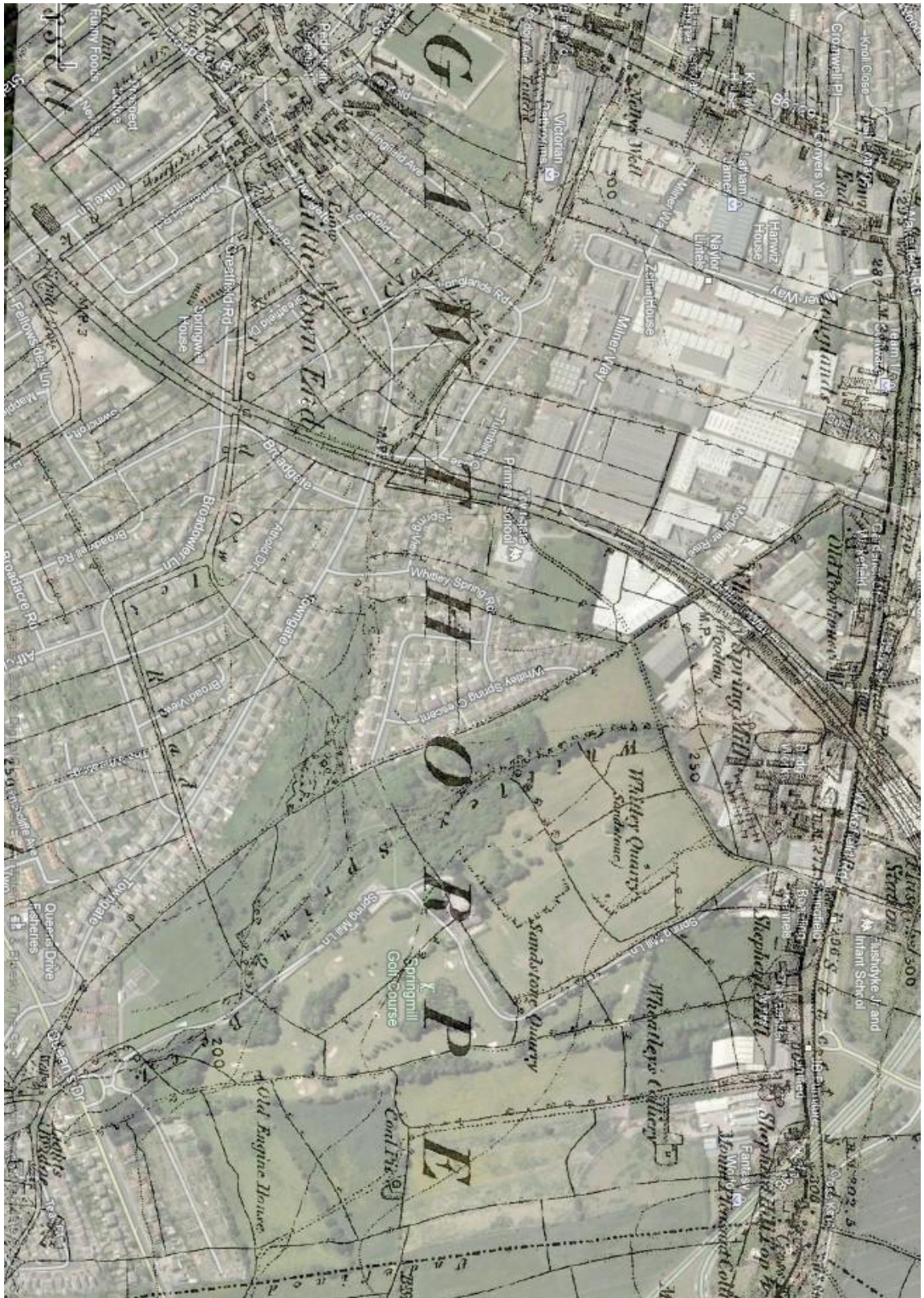
# MAPS





1850 Map showing Longlands





**1850 Map overlaid on 2012 satellite view showing Greater & Little Longlands**

To assist locating the position of the Hall, on this overlay it can be seen that present day *Smith Way* runs just to the east of the Hall and through the plantation and the gardens.



## THE HISTORY OF LONGLANDS HALL & THE HAIGH FAMILY – IN A NUTSHELL

Until the mid 1970's, a house and a home, Longlands Hall, stood where now there is only Industrial and Commercial Business Units comprising the Longlands Industrial, or Trading, Estate. In its prime the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Longlands Hall was the 12 roomed home of the largest land owners and the richest family in Ossett. The Hall stood in grounds extending to 16 acres with a further 5 acres nearby and with frontage on to the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road at Flushdyke. Its location with convenient east to west and north to south routes was perfect for its owners' business as woolstaplers and land owners. This is the history of The Haighs of Longlands Hall.

There are references to Longlands in Ossett as far back as the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century but they refer only to *land* used for pasture and meadow. In **1688-89**, John Haigh of Whitley, Thornhill, purchased land at Longlands from the Liversedge family. On his death in **1702** he left it, and other land in Ossett, to his son Joseph Haigh of Whitley.

In **1709** Joseph let this Ossett land and a dwelling house to his *kinsman*, Joshua Haigh, who was born about **1670** in Brestwell (Briestfield) near Thornhill. Joshua and his wife, Sarah North, and their first daughter came to Ossett between late **1700** & early **1703**. Joseph Haigh acquired more land at Healey, Ossett in 1717 but about this time he left Ossett for Underwood in Nottinghamshire. Married but with no surviving children Joseph Haigh of Underwood bequeathed all of his Ossett land to his tenant and kinsman, Joshua Haigh in his Will dated **1746**.

Joshua Haigh was to have a son, grandson and great grandson, each an only surviving son, and each called Joshua. For ease of reference this history refers to them as Joshua Haigh I, II, III and IV.

**Joshua Haigh I (1670-1746)**, a Woolstapler and landowner, built upon his inheritance from Joseph and acquired more Ossett land in the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century including 11 acres at Longlands. He had six children including two boys, but only one, Joshua Haigh II, survived infancy.

Joshua Haigh I died in 1746. There was *no reference to Longlands* in his Will and whilst he left named land and property to his four married daughters his only son **Joshua Haigh II (1714 – 1784)** inherited most of his father's real estate. He married Elizabeth Peace in 1738 and they had two children, Joshua Haigh III, born 1741, and Sarah, born 1744, who married John Liversedge of Lees Hall Thornhill in 1768.

Joshua Haigh II made his Will in **1769** when he referred to himself as *Joshua Haigh of Ossett*. When he died in **1784** his son, **Joshua Haigh III (1741-1814)**, was sworn as Executor of his father's estate and he was the first Haigh to describe himself as ***Joshua Haigh of Longlands***. In **1771** Joshua Haigh III took action against a neighbour at the Yorkshire Summer Assizes and presented a plan of the lands in question. That plan included a crude but telling illustration of Longlands Hall providing positive proof that the House existed by 1771.

Thus the evidence is that Longlands Hall was not built before 1746 (Joshua I Will) and 1771. Is it possible to be more specific about the date of build within this time frame of 1746-1771?

In 1763, Joshua Haigh III married Anne Robinson at Dewsbury All Saints Church and they had seven children including two sons. Only one son, Joshua Haigh IV, survived infancy. Joshua and Anne's first



two children were baptised in Wakefield in 1764 and August 1766 but their third child, Joshua III, was baptised in Dewsbury parish in June 1767. This suggests Joshua III and Anne moved from Wakefield parish, where they may have resided with Anne's parents, to Dewsbury parish between **mid August 1766 and late June 1767**. This 10 month period has emerged as the most plausible date, within the 1746-1771 time frame, when Longlands Hall was built for Joshua Haigh III and his family.

By 1774 the Ossett Valuation recorded that Joshua Haigh II & Joshua Haigh III each owned 80 acres in Ossett, or 5%, of the township's acreage. Joshua Haigh III made his Will in 1794 and died in 1814. He left named real estate to his spinster daughters but his bachelor son, Joshua Haigh IV, inherited the major part of the estate.

**Joshua Haigh IV (1767-1836)** was the only son of six surviving children born to Joshua Haigh III. Joshua IV died at Longlands Hall in 1836, aged 69, and a bachelor. His five spinster sisters, the *Misses Haighs* who lived with him at Longlands Hall, all died between 1843 and **1857** when, latterly, the eldest daughter, Ann was the last to die, aged 92 years. By 1843 the Haigh family had built an Ossett land holding of 306 acres which represented almost 10% of the township's total acreage.

The end of the Haigh of Longlands Hall dynasty was certain since the six surviving Haighs in this generation all died unmarried and without children. There were however plenty of cousins, albeit not bearing the Haigh surname, and the Haigh's favourite, was Charles Wheatley, J.P. land and colliery owner. Charles, of Sands House Hopton, Mirfield, was a man of enormous influence and wealth in his own right. In 1851 he owned 150 acres of land and employed over 200 men and boys. In **1872** his West Riding land ownership, including the Haigh's former land, extended to 356 acres. Other members of his family owned another 550 acres in the Riding.

Charles Wheatley (1813-1900) was executor and main beneficiary of the Haigh estate including Longlands Hall. Between 1861 and 1901 the Hall remained in his ownership although Charles continued to live at Sands House. Longlands Hall was rented during this period to two Ossett families. William Speight, a Woollen Manufacturer was the tenant by **1861** and after his early death the Hall was tenanted by Abraham Pollard, a Mungo Manufacturer. When Abraham died in **1900** the tenancy of Longlands Hall was taken by his eldest son, George A Pollard. He died in Copenhagen in **1908** and Abraham's younger son, William E Pollard, took over the tenancy by 1911 and he died in **1921**.

Charles Wheatley, a bachelor, died in late **1900**, aged 87. He left legacies of more than £100,000 from his estate of £554,000 (£60 million in current values), the remainder of which was left in trust for his cousin once removed, Eleanor Steele (nee Robinson) and, on her death, her children. Eleanor was the daughter of a Horbury Apothecary, G.P. and Surgeon and in 1873 she married Adam Rivers Steele, an attorney at law who was also wealthy in his own right. The couple set up their home in Essex and had a son and three daughters. Only the son would marry and the spinster daughters became known as the *Misses Steele*.

In **1910** the Inland Revenue Valuation recorded the House thus:-

**House , Greenhouse, outbuildings & Land Cellar K(itchen) Pantry, Hall, Servant's Hall, Dining, Breakfast & Library, 5 bedrooms, Boxroom, Front & Back Garden, Lawn etc. Coachman's House Room 2 beds. Stable, 3 stalls, loft over & Coachhouse. Farm buildings, Barn, Stable, Mistal for 3 cows**

**Oldish property well built in good repair, stone built House , Stable & part farm buildings of Brick**

	acreage	
<b>Land field 770 grass</b>	<b>10.581</b>	<b>(This is Greater Longlands)</b>
<b>773 grass</b>	<b>6.321</b>	<b>(This is Little Longlands)</b>
<b>House buildings 830</b>	<b>2.014</b>	
<b>Land 776 grass</b>	<b>3.510</b>	
<b>Land 778 grass</b>	<b>2.223</b>	<b>( This is the land behind Workhouse Fold on the map)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.649</b>	

Eleanor Steele died in **1910** at her 35 room Loddington Hall home in Leicestershire and her only son and her daughters, the *Misses Steele*, inherited the estate left to them by Charles Wheatley. By the early **1920's** the last tenant of Longlands House, William Ernest Pollard had died and many of the Steele land holdings were being sold. In **1929**, Longlands Hall and the Little Longlands land was sold to Colin Rowland Crook , Brickworks owner of Wakefield. Local man, Tommy Brooke was tenanting part of the Hall from Mr Crook, possibly the former Coachman's house, and also some of farm buildings. It was here that he established what became known as *Tommy Brooke's Farm*.

The tenant Tommy Brooke died in late **1953** and Colin Rowland Crook, the owner of Longlands House and the Little Longlands land died in **1971** almost 200 years after Longlands Hall was built. It is probable that, shortly after his death, Mr Crook's executors sold his ownership to Ossett based Milner Developments Ltd for the construction of industrial units on what became the Longlands Industrial Estate. By 1973 Longlands Hall had gone and industrial and commercial development had begun on site.

Forty years later no trace of Longlands Hall remains but for almost 100 years it was the home of the Haigh family who in 1843 owned more than 5% of Ossett's total acreage. In its time, and perhaps over all time, Longlands Hall was also the largest and most imposing dwelling in Ossett . Sadly no photographs of the House appear to have survived but hopefully this History of the Haighs of Longlands Hall will serve as a reminder of the House and the Haigh family who lived there.

For much of its history Longlands Hall's closest neighbour was the Ossett Poorhouse as will be seen from the 1850 map reproduced elsewhere. The proximity of Longlands Hall and Ossett Workhouse, stands as a reminder of the contrast in the lives of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries Ossett people – the *haves* and the *have nots*. Families who lived so close to one another but who probably knew nothing of their closest neighbours' lives. Longlands Hall and The Ossett Poorhouse were so close but they were worlds apart.

## Conclusion

Joshua Haigh came to Ossett between 1700 and 1703 at the invitation of his kinsman Joseph Haigh who had inherited land and property in Ossett from his father, John Haigh of Whitley. The land included acreage at Longlands that John had acquired in 1688-89 and Joshua Haigh was renting this land by 1709.

Between 1712 and 1725 Joshua Haigh assembled more land in Ossett including 11 acres at Longlands but by the time of his death in **1746** there was no evidence of a dwelling on Longlands land. His son and his grandson, also called Joshua Haigh and the only sons from the respective marriages, worked as woolstaplers and became major landowners in Ossett. In **1771** the first documented evidence emerged of the existence of Longlands Hall and by 1784 Joshua referred to himself as Joshua Haigh of Longlands.

**Thus the evidence suggests that Longlands Hall was built between 1746 and 1771.** In between these dates, in 1763, the third Joshua Haigh married and had two children baptised at Wakefield in 1764-1766 and then a child baptised at Dewsbury parish (which included Ossett) in 1767. It is possible that the mid August **1766** to late June **1767** period was the period during which Longlands Hall within a 16 acres Estate, was built as a home for Joshua's family.

On the death of last of the Longlands *Misses Haighs* in **1857** the real estate, including Longlands Hall passed first to the Haighs' cousin, the wealthy Charles Wheatley of Sands House, Hopton and then in **1900** to his cousin, Eleanor Steele (nee Robinson) who was born in Horbury. Her children, one son and three daughters, the *Misses Steele*, inherited the Haigh and Wheatley real estate on Eleanor's death in **1910**.

Between 1861 and **1921** Longlands Hall and its estate land of about 16 acres was tenanted by only two Ossett manufacturing families, the Speights and the Pollards. In **1929** the House and 9 acres were sold to Colin Rowland Crook. He lived at the House until his death in **1971** and let part of the estate to Tommy Brooke who farmed the land. Shortly after Mr Crook's death the remainder of the estate and the House itself was acquired by Ossett based Milner Developments Ltd who demolished the House and created industrial units in its stead. By **1973** development had begun on site.

For almost 200 years Longlands Hall was home to just four families with three of them involved in Ossett's staple industry, wool manufacturing, for 150 of those years. Over the early years of its life the House and grounds would echo to the laughter of the final generation of the Longlands Haigh children. Much later this may have turned to a mood of melancholy as the unmarried Haighs grew old together and died, one by one over 21 years, in the home in which they had lived all of their lives.

For most of its time the House was in the right place and at the right time but time and "progress" caught up with it as it fell in the way of the next industrial revolution and the need for jobs. Like the rest of the Flusdyke community it was swept away, as if it never existed, by the industrialisation of the area in the 1960's and 1970's.



## LONGLANDS HALL & THE HAIGHS - TIMELINE

- 1608 Longlands *land* mentioned in Manor of Wakefield Court Rolls
- 1664 John Liversedge inherits 1 ½ acres at Longlands from his father
- 1672 Joshua Haigh born in Briestwell Thornhill
- 1688 Richard Liversedge sells land at *les Longlands* to John Haigh of Whitley
- 1698 Joshua Haigh I married Sarah North at Thornhill
- 1700 Joshua's first child baptised at Thornhill
- 1703 Joseph Haigh of Whitley inherited his father John's real estate
- 1703 Joshua Haigh I moved to Ossett & second child baptised at Dewsbury
- 1709 Joshua Haigh I, *kinsman* of Joseph Haigh, occupied Joseph's Ossett dwelling & land
- 1712 Joshua Haigh I acquired 5 acres of land at Longlands
- 1714 Joshua Haigh II is baptised at Dewsbury
- 1717 Joseph Haigh, clothier bought more Ossett land (near Healey) & moved to Notts
- 1725 Joshua Haigh I acquired 6 acres of land at Longlands
- 1738 Joshua Haigh II married Elizabeth Peace
- 1741 Joshua I & Joshua II recorded as 40 shillings freeholders
- 1741 Joshua Haigh III baptised at Dewsbury
- 1746** Joshua Haigh I *of Ossett* died. **No mention of Longlands Hall** in his Will
- 1763 Joshua Haigh III married Anne Robinson
- 1766 Joshua Haigh III first two children baptised at Wakefield
- 1767 Joshua Haigh III third child, Joshua Haigh IV baptised at Dewsbury.
- 1767 **Possibly the year that Longlands Hall was built**
- 1769 Joshua Haigh II wrote his Will
- 1771 **Earliest documentary evidence of Longlands Hall** in a Case at Yorkshire Assizes
- 1774 Joshua I & Joshua II *each* recorded as owners of 80 acres of Ossett land
- 1784 Joshua Haigh II died & his son **Joshua Haigh III recorded as being of Longlands**
- 1814 Joshua Haigh III died at Longlands Hall

- 1836 Joshua Haigh IV died at Longlands Hall
- 1843 The five *Misses Haigh*, spinster sisters, were owners of 306 acres of land in Ossett
- 1843 Hannah Haigh was the first of the sisters to die
- 1857 Ann Haigh was the last of the sisters to die. Longlands Haigh line ends.
- 1857 Haigh estates left to cousin, Charles Wheatley, J.P. , land & Colliery owner
- 1861 Longlands Hall rented to William Speight, Ossett Woollen manufacturer
- 1872 Charles Wheatley recorded as owning 356 acres of land\* in the West Riding
- 1881 Longlands Hall rented to Abraham Pollard, Ossett Mungo Manufacturer
- 1900 Abraham died & son George Pollard took tenancy of Longlands Hall
- 1900 Charles Wheatley died & left his estate\* to cousin Eleanor Steele (nee Robinson)
- 1908 George Pollard died & younger brother William Pollard took tenancy of Longlands
- 1910 Eleanor Steele died & left estate\* to her son & three spinster daughters *Misses Steele*
- 1910 Longlands Hall & Estate recorded as 24 acres. The Hall is described in some detail
- 1921 George Pollard died & tenancy taken by Colin Rowland Crook, Brickworks owner
- 1929 Mr Crook bought Longlands & 9 acres. Tommy Brooke rents attached house & land
- 1969 Mr Crook sold 3 acres to Milner Developments Ltd for industrial development
- 1971 Mr Crook died & Milner Development Ltd purchased Longlands Hall & remaining land
- 1973 Demolition of Longlands Hall & construction undertaken on site

\* Longlands Hall was included in each of these estates.

## OSSETT HAIGHS & LONGLANDS BEFORE 1700

Joshua Haigh came to Ossett from the *Brestwell* (Briestfield) and Whitley district of Thornhill between 1700 and 1703. Longlands Hall was probably not built during Joshua's lifetime as the family went on to become Ossett's richest family and the most significant landowners.

This history of Longlands Hall will follow Joshua Haigh and his family through four generations which will see the Hall built, the estate established and the Haigh dynasty cease to exist. Along the way we will trace the lives of his son, grandson and great grandson, each named Joshua. But more of this line of Haighs of Longlands later as now we turn attention to pre 1700 Ossett.

There are records of a Haigh family or families in Ossett as far back as **1379** when *Thomas Hogg uxor ejis* (Thomas Haigh and his wife), were recorded in the Poll Tax record as living in *Villata de Osset*. References to one or more Haigh families are recorded in the Wakefield Manor Court Rolls throughout the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries including, in **1583-85**, Robert Haigh of Sowood who was recorded as heir to land in Dewsbury. The same Court Roll refers to William Haigh and John Haigh at Flockton and Emley respectively.

In **1651-52** Edmund Haigh of Ossett was recorded as cousin and heir to the deceased Edward Haigh when he was granted licence to inherit Edward's land in the north and west fields of Ossett. The **1672** Ossett Hearth Tax record also refers to another Edward Haigh<sup>3</sup>, perhaps the son of Edmund, who was charged tax on one chimney or hearth. In **1676**<sup>4</sup> Edward was living at Sowood Farm where he was one of two tenants renting the house from the owner, Thomas Purdue. Mention of John Haigh of Horbury, Yeoman, in particular are frequent in **1687-88** and Thomas Haigh, also of Horbury, features in the same Court Roll. This John Haigh was a man of some importance in matters relating to the Manor of Wakefield, at one time a constable of the Court, he also acted as *Grave* at Horbury, Ossett and Alverthorpe.

The Haigh name was also common in the Holmfirth district of the Manor Court. It is likely that all of these Haigh families come from the same roots but in relation to our subject, Longlands House, it is necessary to look to the Haigh family of Whitley, Briestwell and Thornhill to discover more about the origins of Longlands. Only *John Haigh of Whitley* and his son *Joseph* feature further in the history of Longlands and its Hall

An early reference was made to *land* named Longlands in Ossett in **1608-09**<sup>5</sup> when John Maunsfield and his wife surrendered to the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield 2 roods at *Longelands*. In 1639-40<sup>6</sup> Mr Cockin Tonge was instructed that he *doe scowre his ditche alonge his longlands close side and alsoe over the nether end of the same close betwixt this and the first day of May*. In the same year James Speight surrendered a close called Longlands in Ossett to the use of Francis Gill and his heirs. Later in **1639-40** John Haigh, constable, reported that William Gill, Joshua Hepworth and Uxor (wife) Pease *did not make their several fences at Longlands* They were each fined 12d.

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<sup>3</sup> There is a Thornhill St Michael's Parish Church record of an Edward Haigh of Thornhill about this time and he may have been indirectly related to the Longlands Haigh family.

<sup>4</sup> 1676 Wakefield Manor Court Roll & *A History of Sowood Farm* (Alan Howe 2013)

<sup>5</sup> Wakefield Court Roll 1608-09 page 39 (ref 51)

<sup>6</sup> Wakefield Court Roll 1638-39 page 129



The above references indicate that the description *Longlands* was in use by the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The 1850 maps above demonstrate that the name *Long lands* aptly describes the fields. The name derives from *shared plough strips of arable fields*<sup>7</sup> demonstrating its earliest agricultural usage.

More significantly for the history of Longlands House is in **1664-65**<sup>8</sup> when John Liversedge, son and heir of Richard Liversedge was given leave by the Court to inherit land and property holdings in Ossett. The inheritance included ....*a messuage in Ossett....with all structures, an orchard and a croft of meadow adjacent , an acre and half a rood of land on Longlands in the east field of Ossett, a half rood in the same field abutting on les haggas, .....*

In the **1688-89** Wakefield Court Rolls<sup>9</sup> Richard Liversedge of Boothroyd in the parish of Dewsbury, Yeoman and Lydia his wife together with John Peace junior of Ossett, farmer, disposed of their copyhold interest in a substantial number of land and property holdings in Ossett to *John Haigh of Whitley*. The land and property holdings included....*that messuage with appurtenances in Ossett with outhouses, barns, structures, orchards, gardens, folds, yards, tofts, and crofts appurtenant and those closes commonly called les Longlands, les Broadroyds, le Overhaygate, le Netherhaygate and les Honnleys.....*<sup>10</sup>.

These two 17<sup>th</sup> century Manor Court Rolls references need careful interpretation. The Court Roll entries relating to land transactions identify individual pieces of land by an appropriately placed comma and/or the word "and". The 1664-65 reference above lists property and land areas separated only by commas, thereby indicating that each of the land areas are in different locations with different descriptions. Read this way, the land on Longlands is just that....land. The 1668-89 entry uses the word "and" to identify that, on the one hand, there is a messuage with outhouses and so on and, on the other hand, there are several closes. Consequently in each case there is a reference to an Ossett *messuage*, but neither entry is persuasive about it being situated at Longlands.

The Richard Liversedge mentioned in the 1664-65 Court Roll was born in Hartshead in 1629 and was buried in Birstall in March 1664. He married Dorothy Naylor in May 1648. They had six children, four sons and two daughters. Two of the sons were named John (born 1651) and Richard (born 1653). John is mentioned in 1664-65 and Richard is mentioned in 1688-89. The Liversedge family do not appear in the Ossett Hearth Tax record of 1672 so if they did once live in Ossett, they had left before 1672. The family Liversedge are mentioned here because of their early association with Longlands and also because, in 1768, a John Liversedge married Sarah Haigh of Longlands. The couple made their home at Lees Hall in Thornhill.

More will be seen of *John (and his son Joseph) Haigh of Whitley* in the pages that follow but for now it is sufficient to note that by 1688-89 the Haigh family of Whitley had come into the possession of *land* at Longlands and they had also acquired more land in Ossett. In his Will of 1744, Joseph Haigh describes Joshua Haigh, as his *kinsman*, suggesting a family relationship between the men.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid ( note 1)

<sup>8</sup> Wakefield Court Roll 1664-65 page 13

<sup>9</sup> Wakefield Court Roll 1688-89 page 46

<sup>10</sup> Broadroyds, Overhaygate, Nethergate & Honnleys are not in the close vicinity of Longlands

## JOHN & JOSEPH HAIGH OF WHITLEY IN THE EARLY 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

*John Haigh of Whitley*<sup>11</sup> had acquired the copyhold interest in land at Longlands by 1689. He died in **1702** and is buried at Thornhill suggesting that he did not live in Ossett or Dewsbury parish at the time of his death. His Will was proved on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1703 and his son, *Joseph Haigh of Whitley*, was named as the sole executor. Joseph was also the major beneficiary and whilst John's land interests are not listed in his Will, unless they were sold beforehand, it is likely that Joseph inherited those interests, including some land at Longlands.

The earliest 18<sup>th</sup> Century reference to a Haigh of Whitley is found in the Wakefield Manor Book **1709** when *Joseph Haigh of Whitley* is recorded alongside a Joshua Haigh. They are both referred to as Ossett *freeholders*. Elsewhere in the 1709 Manor Book references are made to the Lord's rents being charged to *Joseph Haigh of Whitley for his Lands in Ossett in the occ [upation] of Joshua Haigh and Joseph Haigh of Whitley for a Mess[uage] & Land in the poss[ession] of Joshua Haigh*".

These 1709 references are relevant since they record Joshua Haigh and Joseph Haigh as Ossett freeholders with Joshua occupying Ossett land and a messuage<sup>12</sup> to which Joseph Haigh has some sort of legal title. The 1709 record is silent regarding the location of these Ossett lands, but it is probable that they included at least some of the lands inherited by Joseph Haigh from his father, John Haigh of Whitley, who acquired them some twenty years earlier. The fact that Joshua is also recorded as a freeholder is also important in as much as it tells us that he owned freehold land in Ossett, in his own right, in 1709.

By **1717**, *Joseph Haigh of Whitley* had moved to live and farm in Underwood near Selston in Nottinghamshire where he lived with his wife Ann (maiden name, possibly, Howett). From here on in he was known, predictably, as *Joseph Haigh of Underwood*. His marriage date and location is unknown but evidence<sup>13</sup> points to it being before 1733.

In 1717<sup>14</sup> *Joseph Haigh of Underwood* entered into an indenture of lease and release with *George Haigh of Whitley*<sup>15</sup>, Yeoman<sup>16</sup>, whereby he acquired land in Ossett at Runt Ing, Hawinend(?) Royd, the Croft, the Cold Wells, half an acre in Healey, Crabtree Syke & Crabtree Shutt, Waring Land and the Long Close. Several of these holdings (Runt Ing, Crabtree Syke & Shutt, Cold Well and Long Close) are situated in or close to Healey. Since Joseph left all of his Ossett lands to Joshua these lands would be included with those interests which Joseph acquired from his father, John Haigh, in 1703.

Mr Joseph Haigh (the *Mr* title in those days suggested a man of some substance and wealth) died in Selston in 1753 and his wife, *Mrs Haigh*, died in 1764. Both are buried in Selston and although it is probable that they had children, none appear to be surviving at the time that Joseph wrote his Will on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1744. He left all of his properties to his wife Ann until her death when his Ossett lands were devised to "*my kinsman Joshua Haigh of Ossett*". This suggests that Joseph and Joshua

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<sup>11</sup> "Old" John Haigh of Whitley was buried on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1702 at Thornhill St Michael's & All Angels Church.

<sup>12</sup> Messuage: a dwelling house and curtilage, garden & orchard and the close on which the house stands

<sup>13</sup> Deed pre-dating 1733 referring to a Mrs Haigh, wife of Joseph

<sup>14</sup> West Yorkshire Archives Service (WYAS) Deeds Office ref. S 398 544 dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 1723 which refers to 1717 agreement. Yorkshire Archaeological Society (YAS) Court Roll 1718 ref 446A also refers.

<sup>15</sup> George Haigh of Whitley was probably Joseph's brother.

<sup>16</sup> Yeoman: a landowner who works his own land

may have been first or second cousins.<sup>17</sup> Joseph's Will also includes an Inventory of his goods and chattels which provides further evidence of his standing. The Will mentions his brothers, George and James, his sisters, Hannah, Rachel and Mary, and George's children, John, Joseph, Joshua and David.

Joseph made the move to Underwood, probably between 1709 and 1717 and perhaps knowing his intentions to move, Joseph may have made earlier arrangements, possibly as early as 1703 when his father, John Haigh, died, to rent his Ossett inheritance, to Joshua.

Joshua Haigh was to inherit Joseph's Ossett land holdings after the death of Joseph's wife, Ann. She died in 1764 but Joshua died, in Ossett, on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1746 and was buried at Dewsbury All Saints Parish Church two days later. He did not live long enough to inherit his bequest but he had however made his Will and left most of his land ownerships, including Joseph's lands, to his son, also called Joshua Haigh. It was he who inherited Joseph Haigh's Ossett estates.

An interesting aside to *Joseph Haigh of Underwood's* history is that his home in the small village of Underwood, near Selston in Nottinghamshire once had a house called Haggs Farm which still exists but is now derelict. The farmhouse is a listed building because it has close connections with DH Lawrence who visited the farm as a child:-

*D H Lawrence found in Haggs Farm, Underwood, Nottinghamshire, and the people who lived there, and in its surrounding countryside, his "first incentive to write".*

*The farm and the Chambers family who lived there at the turn of the century provided the models for Miriam's farm and family in Lawrence's novel "Sons and Lovers", and inspired his first novel "The White Peacock", as well as many of his poems and short stories.*

*Lawrence grew up in [nearby] Eastwood, and during the years 1901 - 1908 he walked the two miles to see the Chambers family so often that he became "one of the family", and years later he still referred to the area around Haggs Farm as "the country of my heart".<sup>18</sup>*

Coincidentally, Joseph Haigh's kinsman Joshua Haigh owned a house in Ossett once known as Haggs Farm<sup>19</sup> which stands today on Haggs Hill Road, Ossett. The house is now, a pair of 18<sup>th</sup> century cottages. It can however only be coincidence since Haggs Farm in Underwood was not built until the 1790's some 40 years or so after Joseph's death in 1753 and a similar period after the construction of Haggs Farm, Ossett

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<sup>17</sup> The 1700 Will of John Haigh of Whitley was witnessed by a Francis Haigh who was not John's son but may have been his brother. John Haigh probably born 1626 son of Francis of Brestwell who also had a son Francis born 1639. Joshua Haigh's first born son was named Francis (died 1704 aged 2 months).

<sup>18</sup> The Haggs Farm Preservation Society <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/karone/pages/societies/haggsfps.htm>

<sup>19</sup> Not to be confused with Haggs Hill Farm Ossett

## JOSHUA HAIGH I (1672-1746) of OSSETT

For ease of reference this history refers to this Joshua Haigh as **Joshua I** because his son, grandson and great grandson were also called Joshua. These descendants are referred to later as Joshua II (1714-1784), Joshua III (1741-1814) and Joshua IV (1767-1836). Each was an only surviving son.

**Joshua Haigh I** was born about 1672 in Bristwell, Thornhill and he married Sarah North in Thornhill on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1699. They had children Martha (born 1700), Mary or Maria (1703-1703), Francis (1704-1704), Elizabeth (1706), Hannah (1710) and **Joshua II** (1714-1784). The eldest child, Martha was born in *Thornhill parish* and baptised there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1700. The second born child, Mary or Maria, was baptised at *Dewsbury All Saints parish* Church on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1703 and she was buried there on the 20<sup>th</sup> June in the same year. Francis (died aged 2 months in 1704), Elizabeth, Hannah and Joshua II were also baptised at Dewsbury.

Martha's baptism at Thornhill in late 1700 and Mary's baptism at a different parish, Dewsbury, in March 1703 suggests that Joshua and Sarah moved from the Thornhill parish area to the Dewsbury parish area, which included Ossett, between late 1700 and early **1703**.

We have seen that by **1709** Joshua was recorded in the Manor Book of that year as a tenant or under tenant of a messuage (dwelling house) and lands held by Joseph Haigh of Whitley. Neither the Manor Book nor Joseph's subsequent Will identify the location of the house other than it being in Ossett. It is possible that this was the house and land acquired in 1688-89<sup>20</sup> and inherited by Joseph from his father, John Haigh in 1703. Indeed it may have been the opportunity to occupy this house and lands which was the reason why Joshua moved from the Brestwell area, south of the River Calder, to Ossett.

By **1712** Joshua was acquiring land at Longlands, and there is the first reference to his occupation, a *clothier*, which gives additional force to his desire to establish himself in Ossett in preference to his birthplace to the south of the river. Elsewhere reference has been made to the relative attraction of Longlands' location with, even in those days, its east to west links along the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road and the north to south route via the *High Road* to Horbury and Wakefield in the south and to Woodkirk and Leeds and the cloth market in the north.

On the 2nd October 1712<sup>21</sup> Joshua Haigh, *Clothier*, acquired the freehold of *one close of land being 5 acres more or less at Longlands, Ossett* from Elizabeth Storay, spinster. The deed indicates that the land purchased, which measured 5 acres 1 rood 27 perches, abutted the land of Widow Richardson. Interestingly the deed indicates that Joshua was occupying the land before his purchase perhaps providing the clue to the land he was occupying three years earlier in 1709. If so it also confirms that the dwellinghouse mentioned in 1709 was not situated on this land and so must have been elsewhere in Ossett.

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<sup>20</sup> By way of reminder this was ...*that messuage with appurtenances in Ossett with outhouses, barns, structures, orchards, gardens, folds, yards, tofts, and crofts appurtenant and those closes commonly called les Longlands, les Broadroyds, le Overhaygate, le Netherhaygate and les Honnleys.....*

<sup>21</sup> WYAS Deed reference E 293 442

By May **1725** Joshua was purchasing land, elsewhere in Ossett, from the Storay family. In this case Mary Storay was the vendor selling a number of freehold land holdings including 2 acres 1 rood at nearby Wheatley Shutt<sup>22</sup>. This and later acquisitions of freehold and copyhold land in this area consolidated Joshua's land holdings along the old High Road route as far as, and including Lights Bridge and nearby Haggs Hill in Ossett.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1725<sup>23</sup> Joshua Haigh, Yeoman, purchased a number of dwellings and land holdings from Joseph Richardson. The deed is silent as to the location of the dwellings, one of which is occupied by Joseph's mother and himself but included in the sale is *4 acres of [freehold] land at Longlands, adjoining to the Town gate there on the west.*

In **1741**, Joshua Haigh I and his son, Joshua Haigh II (born in 1714), had the right to vote in The Poll for a Representative in Parliament for the County of York. Those men who qualified to vote, had eight days to do so at York Castle beginning on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1741. This episode in the lives of father and son, Joshua, demonstrates their status locally and their respective wealth since each of them was required to own freehold land worth 40 shillings. If father and son shared a carriage to York the journey would have been interesting since one Joshua voted for the Whig candidate whilst the other voted for the Tory.

By this time Joshua was in his late 60's and as he looked back on his life he may have reflected upon his success and the marriages made by his three surviving daughters and his only surviving son. His eldest daughter, Martha, married local North Ossett farmer, Benjamin Whittaker, whose grandmother was Elizabeth Haigh and possibly the sister of John Haigh of Whitley.

Joshua's second born surviving daughter, Elizabeth, married local South Ossett butcher, Joshua Hepworth and before and after their marriage in 1728 they acquired land and property in South Ossett. The third daughter, Hannah, married Wakefield man, Edward Wilks. All of them were left land and property in Joshua's Will

The Will of Joshua Haigh I was dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July **1746**, written shortly before his death in his early 70's. The Will states *"I, Joshua Haigh the elder of Ossett Yeoman being some what indisposed (but through God's mercies, of sound and disposing mind and memory)..... [leaves] to my loving wife Sarah all that messuage, dwellinghouse or tenement with the croft adjoining .....now in the tenure of Joshua Hepworth and also one cottage near the same messuage and now in the occupation of Joseph Naylor. One close of land in Ossett containing by estimation 4.5 acres commonly known as Long Lands..... and immediately after her decease I do hereby devise the same to my only son Joshua Haigh. Joseph adds that the remainder of his estate...and all that Ffarm in Ossett which I hold and enjoy of and under Joseph Haigh of Selston in Nottinghamshire was also to be left to his only son Joshua*

Whilst Joshua was actively purchasing land at Longlands, there is no evidence to suggest a dwelling house stood there at this time. Joshua must therefore have lived elsewhere in Ossett.

Joshua's 1746 Inventory of his home and chattels (attached as an Appendix) reveals that his home comprised *the house body, the parlour, the little buttery and great buttery* (rooms for making and

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<sup>22</sup> WYAS Deed reference U 588 764

<sup>23</sup> WYAS Deed reference W 83 108. Joshua sold these dwellings in 1728 WYAS ref Z 227 297



storing liquor and food), the *near chamber, middle chamber, high chamber* (bedrooms) and *stone chamber* (cellar or store). Outside stood a *New Barn* and an *Old Barn* together with an *out shut* (an extension). There is evidence that he had some farm equipment and animals but the numbers of stock and machinery were not significant compared with the acreage of land owned by Joshua at the time of his death. Most stock was probably kept for personal consumption and usage. The location of Joshua 's house is unknown but he left *all the low rooms* to his wife, for the rest of her life. The *chambers & outbuildings* were left to his son, Joshua, who was also required to provide at no cost *fodder & grass & all things necessary for keeping a cow for my said wife*

The Inventory, which was attached to Joshua's Will, suggests that, even by this early date, the Haighs were concentrating on their business as clothiers while drawing rents from families working Haigh lands and living in Haigh dwellings. There is no evidence of large scale farming activity.

Joshua Haigh I left some land and property holdings to his daughters which in those days meant that ownership passed out of the Haigh direct line because a wife's ownership passed to her spouse. However Joshua left the majority of his land holdings to his one surviving son, Joshua Haigh II.

*What conclusions can we draw about Longlands Hall during the period of Joshua Haigh I's stewardship of the Haigh family affairs?*

There are some late 17<sup>th</sup> Century sources which refer to land at Longlands but there is no persuasive evidence that Longlands House, or any dwelling at Longlands, was included in those land transactions. It seems more likely that in the early 1700's Joshua settled in the messuage and worked, occupied or sub let the land he rented from his kinsman, Joseph Haigh of Whitley. It may be recalled that this land included an unspecified acreage at Longlands which Joseph inherited from his father John who purchased it from the Liversedge family in 1688-89.

As Joshua found his feet in Ossett over the next 20 years into the mid/late 1720's he was acquiring additional land holdings including 11 acres at Longlands to add to the Longlands land of unspecified acreage acquired by John Haigh in 1688/89 and left to Joshua by Joseph Haigh in 1744. In spite of these land acquisitions there is no evidence that they included any dwelling or that a grand Longlands House was built upon it during the lifetime of Joshua Haigh I (1670- 1746).

Joshua Haigh's 1746 Will refers to him as being of Ossett whereas the Will of his son, **Joshua Haigh II ( 1714-1784)**, written in 1769, makes reference to *his* son being of Longlands. This also suggests that Longlands House was not built by the time of Joshua I's death in 1746.

Joshua Haigh I's Gravestone at Dewsbury All Saints Parish Church is situated in the pathway adjacent to Savile Road, close to the Church itself.

The Gravestone reads;

***HERE lieth the body of Joshua Haigh of Ofset who departed this life the 19th day of July 1746 aged 74 years***

***Here also lieth Sarah wife of the above said Joshua Haigh who died the 8th day of June 1761 aged 87 years***

***Here also lieth Joshua Haigh of Longlands Ossett Great Grandson of the above who departed this life on the 9th day of August 1836 aged 69 years.***



## **JOSHUA HAIGH II (1714-1784) of OSSETT**

**Joshua Haigh II** was baptised at Dewsbury All Saints Church on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March **1714** and he married Elizabeth Peace of Horbury at Dewsbury All Saints Church on the 5<sup>th</sup> December **1738**. The couple had two children; Joshua Haigh III born in **1741** and Sarah Haigh born in **1744**.

We have seen that Joshua Haigh II was a 40 shilling freeholder by his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1741 when he accompanied his father to vote in York for the County of York MP indicating that he was a man of means in his own right. He was 30 years of age at the time of his father's death in 1744 and, as the only male child, he inherited the major part of his father's land holdings.

Joshua's only son, Joshua Haigh III, married Anne Robinson of Ossett on the 16<sup>th</sup> August **1763** and his only daughter, Sarah married John Liversedge of Lees Hall, Thornhill on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 1768. Both couples were married at Dewsbury All Saints Parish Church. John and Sarah Liversedge (nee Haigh) of Lees Hall Thornhill had three children, all girls, Sarah (born 1770), Elizabeth (1772) and Mary (1775). The marriages of two of the daughters Elizabeth Liversedge (to Richard Greenwood) and, more particularly, Mary Liversedge (to Charles Wheatley senior) are important in the story of Longlands House in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

This latter marriage was to define the ownership of the House after the last of Longlands' Haighs died in the late 1850's. It will be seen that the House was inherited by bachelor, Charles Wheatley junior (1813-1900), the son of Charles and Mary Wheatley (nee Liversedge). Charles Wheatley junior's grandmother was Sarah Haigh, the daughter of Joshua Haigh II. In shorthand, Charles Wheatley (1813-1900) was the great grandson of Joshua Haigh II. The Haigh dynasty lived on. More of this later.

By **1769** Joshua Haigh II was 55 years of age, both of his children were married and his son, aged 28 was old enough to be helping in the family business. He also had three grandchildren. On the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1769 Joshua Haigh III made his Will wherein he is described as *Joshua Haigh of Ossett, Gentleman*.

In **1774**<sup>24</sup> Joshua Haigh *senior* and Joshua Haigh *junior* were assessed to pay a rate in the £ on the value of their estate in Ossett. The money raised was to be used to finance the war against France. The Assessment revealed that Joshua II, had about 81 acres and Joshua III had an estate of about 79 acres. In total therefore father and son owned about 160 acres of Ossett land which was approximately 5% of Ossett's acreage. The 160 acres excluded the land holdings bequeathed by Joshua Haigh I to his daughters on his death in 1746.

Joshua Haigh II died in Ossett and was buried at Dewsbury All Saints Church on the 13<sup>th</sup> March **1784**, some 15 years after he made his Last Will and Testament. His son, Joshua Haigh III was appointed as executor and when he was sworn in he was described as *Joshua Haigh of Longlands, Gentleman*.

He was in his 70<sup>th</sup> year and the grandfather of nine children. He bequeathed all his household and goods and furniture in his dwellinghouse *and premises* at Ossett to his wife, Elizabeth (nee Peace).

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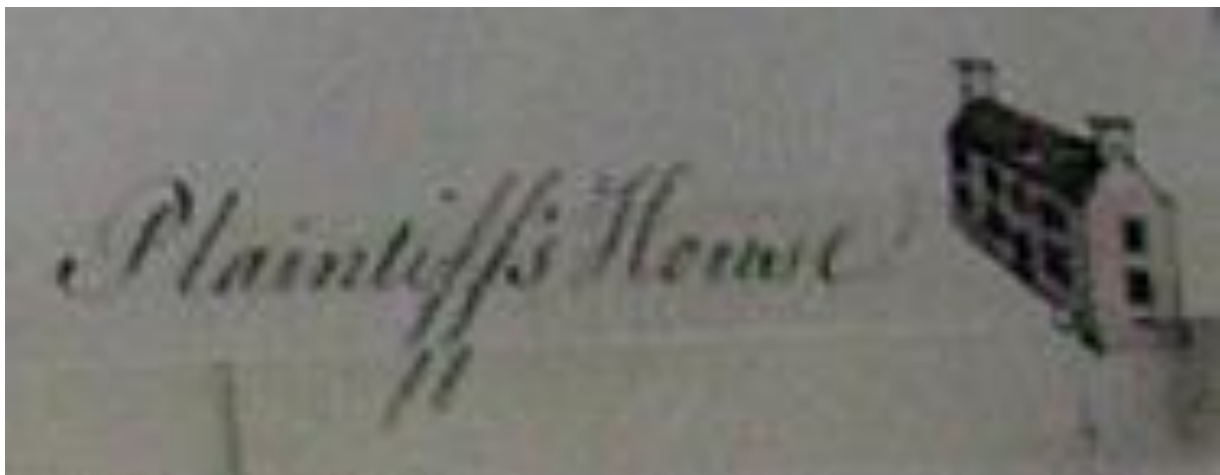
<sup>24</sup> Ossett Valuation 1774 John Goodchild Collection West Yorkshire Archives

He does not appear to have left her any property and neither did he leave any instruction to his son that he be required to provide her with a home for the rest of her life. He did however specify the freehold and copyhold land and property estate to be left to his daughter, Sarah Liversedge of Lees Hall, Thornhill but the *remainder* of his landed estate, left to his son **Joshua Haigh III (1741-1814)**, was unspecified in the Will.

A short Inventory, taken on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1784, is attached to his Will and records;

Purse & Apparel	£50
Household Furniture	£60
Securities	£200
Hay & Corn	£49
Four Cows	£25
	£380

Whilst Joshua Haigh II probably never lived at Longlands House we will see that it was almost certainly built, on his watch, between 1746 and 1771: perhaps around early/mid **1760** 's for his son's marriage. Elsewhere it has been mentioned that no photographs of the House appear to have survived and the only representation of its appearance appears on the 1771 "plan" which will be seen in the next section. That plan included the following illustration of what the 12 roomed house house may have looked like at that time.



**Illustration of Longlands Hall in 1771<sup>25</sup>**

The historian, John Goodchild, lived at Flushdyke as a young boy and has some recollections of the House before it was demolished in the early 1970's. He recalls that the house was *not grand* in the way we might today imagine an 18<sup>th</sup> Century house called "Hall" might have been. He recalled that it had seven bays compared with the five of the house which stood at nearby Low Laithes.. This latter house is now the Low Laithes Golf Club House.

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<sup>25</sup> See page 14.

## JOSHUA HAIGH III (1741- 1814) of LONGLANDS

The 1774 Assessment referred to above recorded that the land at Longlands was now in the ownership of Joshua Haigh III indicating that it had been sold, or granted, to him by his father earlier<sup>26</sup>. The Assessment record is shown below<sup>27</sup> and the extract also records the lands bequeathed to Joshua Haigh I by Joshua's kinsman, *Joseph Haigh of Whitley* in his Will dated 1744.

	Survey	Value	Pence	Total
75	A R P	£	s	d
Joshua Haigh Junr				
House Shops and Orchard				3
Great Longlands	10 1 22	11 3		5 16 8
Little Longlands	5 1 24	11 3		3 1
Clove Longlands and Coy	5 1 15	12 6		3 6 8
Jack Clove	2	15	14	1 9 3
Shelbutnys	6	25	10 6	3 14 6
Upper Park Hoyle	4 1 15	11		2 7 9
Lizzal Hoyle	2	26	11 6	1 14 8
Lower Clove	3 3 3	9		1 13 9
Square Clove	3	30	12	1 18 3
Long Clove	2 2 8	12		1 10 6

### 1774 Ossett Valuation recording some of Joshua Haigh III's land ownerships by 1774

Joshua Haigh III is the first to be known as **Joshua Haigh of Longlands** and the earliest reference to this *title* appears in his father's Will, when Joshua Haigh III was sworn as sole executor on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May **1784**, shortly after the death of his father.

In his Will, Joshua Haigh II is recorded as Joshua of Ossett to differentiate him from his son of the same name but the significance of the terminology confirms that **Longlands House was built by 1784**. The Will of Joshua Haigh I in 1746 makes no mention of a house at Longlands and it seems likely therefore that Longlands Hall was built between 1746 and 1784.

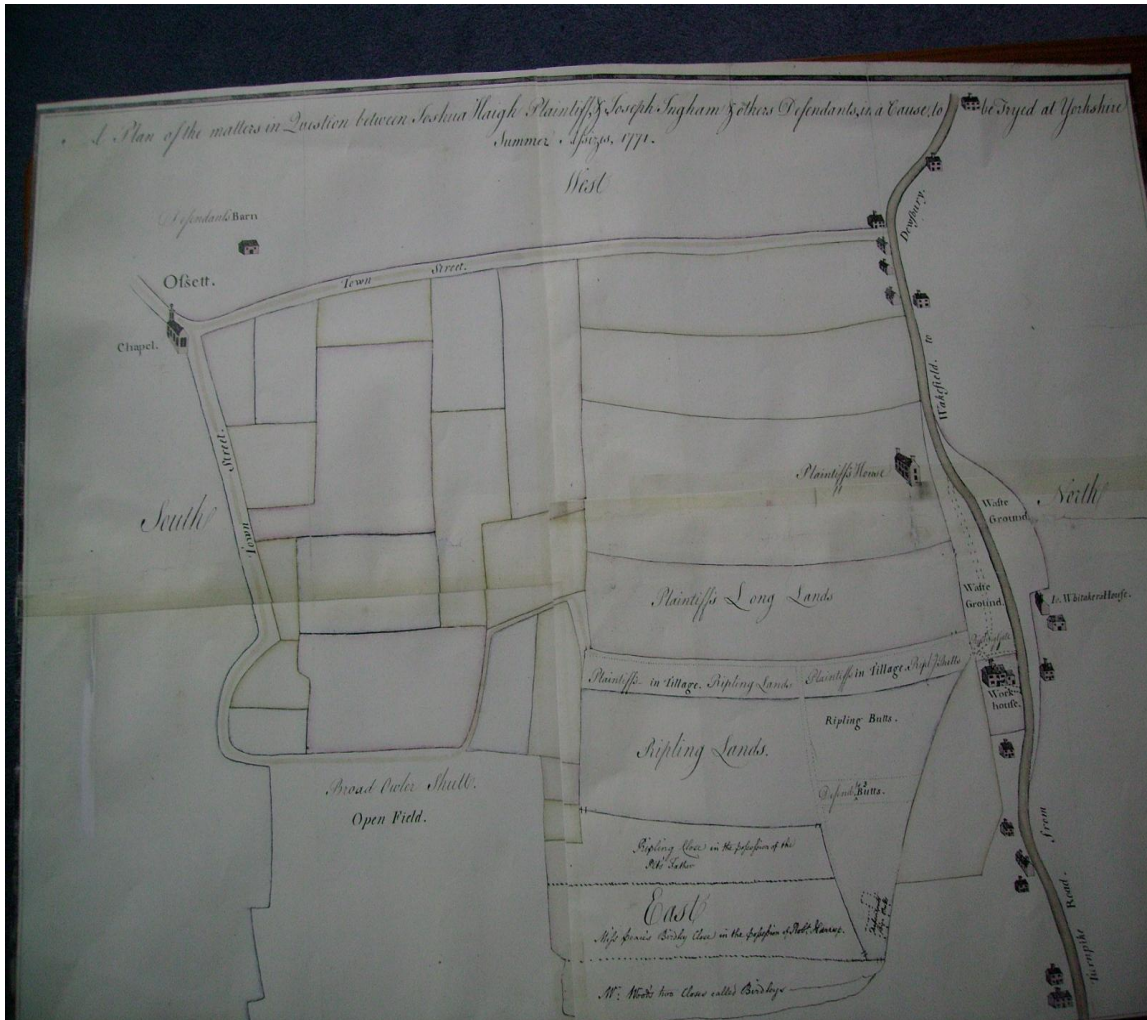
Is it possible to be more accurate about the date of construction within this period?

<sup>26</sup> WYAS Deed reference BU 82 105 Vol 15 17772-1775 covers several Haigh to Haigh land transactions

<sup>27</sup> The Valuation also records the first entry for Joshua as "House(work)Shops and Orchard which probably refers to Longlands House.



The following “map” was presented to the Summer Assizes **1771** in support of a dispute between Joshua Haigh, Plaintiff, and Joseph Ingham and Others, Defendants. The issue and outcome of the dispute is not known but the map provides evidence that Longlands House existed by Summer 1771.



### Plan recording Longlands House, home of the plaintiff, Joshua Haigh in Summer 1771

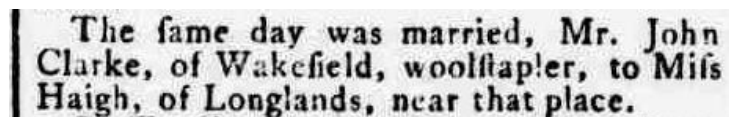
This narrows down the **construction of Longlands Hall to between 1746 and 1771** but it is interesting to speculate the possibility of the circumstances in which the Hall may have been built.

In the 1760's, Joshua Haigh III's grandmother, Sarah (nee North) died in June 1767, aged 87. and Joshua married Anne Robinson on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1763. They were to have seven children and probably planned to have a large family and, so, they would need a large house. Joshua's status as Ossett's preeminent land owner suggested that the house should also be grand and worthy of the family's wealth and status in the community.

In these circumstances it may be that the 12 roomed Longlands Hall was built for Joshua III's marriage to Anne Robinson in August 1763. The baptism locations for their first three children, indicated below, suggests that it may have been a few years later.

Joshua Haigh III and his wife Anne had seven children born between 1765 and 1776. Ann was the first born in 1765, followed by Mary (1766), Joshua IV (1767), Richard (1769)<sup>28</sup>, Hannah (1771), Elizabeth (1775) and Sarah (1776). The first two children, Ann and Mary were baptised at Wakefield All Saints Parish Church: Ann in 1764 and Mary on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1766. Joshua was the first of their children baptised at Dewsbury All Saints and this was on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1767. The Wakefield All Saints baptismal records for Ann and Mary registers the letter "W" against Joshua's name This suggests Joshua III and his wife Anne (nee Robinson) may have been living in the Wakefield parish area<sup>29</sup> in August 1766 but moved to Ossett, in Dewsbury parish, by the time of Joshua's baptism in June 1767. ***Perhaps Joshua III and his wife, Anne, moved into their new Longlands House home between August 1766 and June 1767.***

None of Joshua III's surviving children appear to have married, although a rather mysterious notice appeared in the Leeds Intelligencer on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1798 which casts some doubt on this assertion;



The same day was married, Mr. John Clarke, of Wakefield, woolstapler, to Miss Haigh, of Longlands, near that place.

No record has emerged to confirm this appointment and evidence suggests that the Haigh girls lived together and remained spinsters until their deaths. They became known as the *Misses Haighs*

Conscious, perhaps, of the increasing importance of good schooling, father of six, Joshua Haigh was made a Trustee of Ossett School in 1773 and later, in 1836, his daughter, Ann, bequeathed land for the school to expand.

It is thought that each of the Joshua Haighs in this history derived some of their income from their trade as *woolstaplers*. This was a dealer in wool who bought wool from producers then sorted and graded it and then sold it on to manufacturers. Local historian John Goodchild records Joshua as a woolstapler in 1773. In most land transactions the Haighs are referred to as *yeoman or gentleman* but in 1807<sup>30</sup> Joshua III and IV were described as Woolstaplers. However, with one exception (below) no real evidence has emerged in this research as to the extent or the location of their business.

In 1786 Joshua Haigh was appointed the treasurer and one of five trustees of *The Healey Mill Company*. This was a joint-stock business where a number of Ossett clothiers formed a company to purchase land, build and operate a mill for the scribbling and carding of their own wool. First built by a co-operative of local clothiers in 1787 and one of Yorkshire's first mechanised scribbling and fulling mills.

Joshua Haigh III is recorded in the press on several occasions in the 1790's, almost always with the description of *Longlands*. Most of the press entries are to do with the mundane things of 18<sup>th</sup> Century life for a Gentleman landowner, including the gaining of the annual game licence. However

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<sup>28</sup> Richard, baptised 1769 and named after his maternal grandfather, died in 1773

<sup>29</sup> Perhaps Joshua was living with his Robinson in laws, who were from Horbury, in the Wakefield parish area

<sup>30</sup> 1807 Ossett Poll Book

on the 19<sup>th</sup> May **1794**, *J. Haigh, Longlands* was one of many men who journeyed to Wakefield to attend...*a meeting of the Clergy, Gentlemen, Merchants, Traders and Respectable Inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood held this day at the Moot Hall for the express purpose of raising a Volunteer Corps for the defence of this town and neighbourhood....*<sup>31</sup>The resolution was passed to raise a force and Joshua was one of many who subscribed more than most (£50) to the cause. It would be 63 years later, in 1857, before all cities in the UK were required to form their own police forces.

On 9<sup>th</sup> March **1797** Joshua put his name in support of a resolution that *...we the undersigned do declare we will not refuse to receive Bank of England notes as cash in all payments whatever; and we consider the Wakefield Bank as highly respectable and entitled to the confidence of the public and will continue to receive the notes of the bank as well as the notes payable on demand of other approved banks in the country as usual.*<sup>32</sup>

Anne, the wife of Joshua Haigh III died in early December 1788, aged 49, and was buried at Dewsbury All Saints Church on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1788. Joshua Haigh III of Longlands made his Will on the 19<sup>th</sup> September **1794** and died at Longlands 20 years later in November **1814**. He was buried at Dewsbury All Saints Church on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1814 and probate of his estate, certified as being worth under £1500, was granted to his son Joshua Haigh IV of *Longlands* on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1814. Joshua's Will is unremarkable except to the extent that it appears not to have been changed between its writing in 1794 and his death in 1814. He left various named land holdings to his five spinster daughters, all aged under 30 at the time of his Will and all probably living at Longlands Hall. As with earlier Haigh Wills the remainder of the freehold and copyhold landed estate was unspecified but left to the only surviving son, **Joshua Haigh IV (1767 -1836)**.

In 1791/92<sup>33</sup> the Window Tax records reveal that the Haighs were charged tax on 22 windows – the highest number in Ossett and ahead of other men of substance including Robert Smithson, of Low Laites Farm (with 21 windows), Joshua Thornes of Thornes House, Green Park (12), Thomas Walshaw(12) and Benjamin Ingham (11). In the same years it was recorded that there were thirty horses in the Ossett township and Haigh and Smithson owned the most with two horses each<sup>34</sup>.

In 1795 Joshua Haigh was charged 18/9d Poor Rate for his Longlands House & Estate and, by way of comparison, Joshua Thornes paid 16/10d for his house at Green Park.

An examination of the 1850 map including Longlands, which is reproduced earlier, show that the House and its gardens were built *up to the boundary line* between Greater and Little Longlands. It is not known if this has any significance but it may indicate that Little Longlands was acquired after the House was built in the mid 1760's. Alternatively future reference (at a Court Baron of the Manor of Wakefield in 1902) indicates that Little Longland was copyhold land. There is no reference in that 1902 document to Greater Longlands which could suggest that it was freehold. The Haighs may have preferred to build their home on freehold land as opposed to copyhold land.

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<sup>31</sup> The Leeds Intelligencer Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 1794

<sup>32</sup> The Leeds Intelligencer 20<sup>th</sup> March 1797

<sup>33</sup> John Goodchild Collection WYAS

<sup>34</sup> In his 1746 Will Joshua Haigh I owned six horses

## JOSHUA HAIGH IV (1767 -1836) of LONGLANDS

Joshua Haigh IV was baptised at Dewsbury All Saints Parish Church on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1767. Joshua was the third child and the first son of seven children born to Joshua and his wife Anne (nee Robinson). Joshua did have a brother, Richard, born in 1769 but he died in 1773..

Consequently Joshua Haigh IV was the only surviving son and he grew up at Longlands Hall in the company of his five female siblings. Neither Joshua nor any of his sisters married.

Joshua IV was only 21 years of age when his mother died in 1788 at the age of only 49 years. In 1807 he was recorded in the Ossett Poll tax record as a woolstapler and in 1810 he was “a gentleman aged 43 with no children”.<sup>35</sup> His father died in 1814 and by then Joshua IV had established himself in the family business and now he was the head of household and the sole male in a household which included his five spinster sisters. Ann was the eldest, born in 1765, followed by Mary (1766), Hannah (1771), Elizabeth (1775) and Sarah (1776). Ann and Mary were older than Joshua.

Of course none of the Haigh *gentle women*<sup>36</sup> worked and this left the Misses Haigh with much time to socialise. This was the time when Longlands Hall would echo with the presence of the Haigh extended family and friends. Their mother Anne (nee Robinson) was one of eight children who, by the 1770's had or were having their own children who would be cousins of the Haigh sisters. Their Aunt Sarah had married John Liversedge in 1738 and had three daughters all born in the early 1770's and so they were a similar age to the Haigh sisters. Two of the Liversedge daughters married into the Greenwood and Wheatley families. So the social circle expanded.

Through marriages in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the Haigh family established an extended family which included the Robinson, Liversedge, Greenwood and Wheatley families. Each marriage gained or lost land holdings by way of marriage dowry or subsequent Wills and bequests to children and grandchildren.

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<sup>35</sup> John Goodchild Collection

<sup>36</sup> A woman of good family or of high social position

**Ossett Inclosure.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given, That all Persons having any Claims or Demands upon the above-mentioned Inclosure, are requested to deliver in the same Immediately, to Messrs. WILLIAM INGHAM and JOSHUA HAIGH, Jun. the Treasurers appointed under the said Inclosure, when the same will be discharged. And that all Persons standing indebted to the said Inclosure, are likewise requested to make immediate Application to the said Treasurers, and pay the Amount of their respective Debts to them.

By Order.  
 JOHN SCHOLEFIELD, }  
 ELLIOT CARRETT, } Solicitors.  
*Dewsbury, August 19th, 1813.*

The Leeds Intelligencer 30<sup>th</sup> August 1813

The Ossett Inclosure Act and Order was enacted between 1807 and 1813 with the purpose of establishing larger, more economic farming units and practices to replace the earlier, less efficient, practice of strip farming. The Act was sponsored in Ossett by the major landowners including Joshua Haigh who was also appointed as Treasurer. Longlands was on the edge of the area affected by the enclosure orders and not directly affected by it. Maps and details of the Enclosures and land ownerships, including Haighs, in those areas of Ossett affected are still accessible.<sup>37</sup>

By **1814**, when their father died, Joshua and his sisters were in their 40's or very late 30's and they must have been aware that the time available to marry and have children was becoming short. The consequence was that without a male heir the Haigh name would die with the last male, Joshua Haigh IV. Moreover the 200 acres or so of landed estate and other value in securities etc would no longer find a home in a Haigh household. The extended family provided many opportunities for distribution and after 1860 this is precisely what happened to the Haigh estate, including Longlands Hall.

The **1821** Census for Ossett records the family comprising Joshua, Ann & Mary who were all recorded as being 60 years age, Hannah aged 50 and Elizabeth and Sarah who were both recorded as being 40 years old.

Joshua Haigh IV died in November **1836** and was buried at Dewsbury All Saints Church on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1836, alongside his great grandparents, Joshua I and Sarah. He was 69 years of age. His five sisters each reached at least their 70<sup>th</sup> year and the eldest, Ann, was the last to die in 1857, aged 92.

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<sup>37</sup> West Yorkshire Archives Service. ref A 108



Joshua Haigh IV made his Will on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1836 suggesting that he may have been aware of his state of health. He died six months later in November 1836, aged 69 years. He is described in his Will as Joshua Haigh of Longlands and his title *Gentleman* was deleted and replaced by *Esquire*.

It is worth dwelling for a moment to reflect on the descriptions assigned to the earlier Joshua's at the time of their deaths. Joshua Haigh I (1746) was a *Yeoman*, whilst Joshua Haigh II (1784) & III (1814) were *Gentleman*.

In its original meaning, the term **gentleman** denoted a man of the lowest rank of the English gentry, standing below an **esquire** and above a **yeoman**. Titles matter especially when they describe how far the family had come in 90 years. The Haigh heads of household had made the journey from yeoman status before 1746 to that of esquire by 1836.

Joshua Haigh IV will have pondered carefully over his Will. His father, grandfather and great grandfather left named land holdings to the female members of their family and the *remainder* was bequeathed to the son. Joshua Haigh IV died a bachelor and consequently he did not have the same opportunity. Instead he did leave named land holdings to his younger siblings and the remainder of the estate was left to his eldest sister, Ann, who rather conveniently as it turned out, was also the last of the Haighs of Longlands to die. Longlands House is not mentioned in the properties devised, forming part of the *remainder*. The cottage at Longlands however is mentioned and it was left to Joshua's second sister, Mary. The Will adds that the cottage was in the *occupancy of my man William Ellis*. In all other respects the Will is unremarkable.

Joshua's death in 1836 was the beginning of the end of the line for the Longlands House Haigh family. Joshua's five spinster sisters, the youngest 60 years old, survived him.

Before turning to the next and final episode in the lives of the Haighs of Longlands it may be worth considering something of the lives of their nearest neighbours. **The Ossett Workhouse** was in existence before 1780, but probably dates back much earlier still. Luckily, some old accounts kept by Benjamin Hallas, one of the Overseers of the Poor for Ossett dating back to this period are still in existence.

The [Workhouse](#) was also located along the Wakefield to Dewsbury turnpike (toll) road in Flushdyke. The Workhouse, a reluctant home to the very poorest families in Ossett, was barely 100 yards along the road from Longlands Hall, the extravagant home to the richest family in Ossett. Joseph Townend, of the Green, Ossett was master of the Ossett Workhouse between 1780 and 1786 and it was Townend who kept a detailed book of accounts recording the activities of the workhouse for Benjamin Hallas.

Attached to the workhouse was some land, adjacent to Longlands (see 1850 map on the cover page and elsewhere), which was farmed, as the Overseers accounts show by their records of the occasional purchase of a cow, seed, mattocks and various other agricultural implements. Apparently, some of the paupers were engaged in spinning yarn and a few were employed by the cloth weavers of the district. We know that in 1834, just two years before the death of Joshua Haigh IV, the workhouse housed 80 inmates and was one of the largest in the district.

Townend records that "*beef supplied to the workhouse*" amounted to as much as 1,644 lbs in five months. Though the heading is "*beef*", the individual items include "*mutton*", and the butchers who supplied it were named Hawmshaw and Warin at a cost of 3¼d per pound. In the same period,

*"twelve load and one stroak"* of wheat was purchased from Titus Stephenson, John Stephenson, John Shepard and Joshua Stephenson, while John Stephenson and William Ingham between them supplied thirty-two loads of oats. Mr Ingham was a maltster as well as a farmer, and of him and Mark Whitaker some ten sacks of malt were purchased, to be used probably in the brewing of ale as suggested by the item *"hops 1lb at 1s 6d"* appearing occasionally in Richard Brook's bill. Both wheat and oats seem to have been in the form of meal. Oats cost 17 shillings per load of 12 stones, but the price of wheat is not stated. A *"stroak"* equalled two stones in weight.

The Stepsons, Shepards (of Shepherd Hill) and Whitakers were long established farming families in North ossett and the Stephenson family were cloth weavers as well as farmers or millers. They had spinning done for them at the workhouse, the value of which Mr. Townend set down against the wheat they supplied. For spinning yarn, 1s 1d to 1s 5d "a. w." was the charge. Other items in this for were *"John Heald 5w 5lb 14oz at 1s 1d aw 6s 5½d"*; *"George Wright 6w 1lb 2oz at 1s 2d aw 7s 2d"* so "a.w." is probably an abbreviation of a weigh and that a weigh was six pounds. A weigh was once a common term in the 18th century.

*"Heald for George Stephenson 2 week 8 shillings," "Received from Benjamin Hallas, Abraham Ellis wage from December 14th to February 10th, 10s 10d" "Ammaras Rennor for Samuel Sharp scribbling 3s 8d."* These entries show that workhouse inmates were hired out to local trades-people at low wages to do a variety of tasks.

Cloth was purchased in the piece, mainly from Bridget Wilson Rawlin, a *"pees"* or *"two peeses"* at a time and Townend duly recorded how it was distributed: *"to Hannah Rayks 2¼ yards, Thomas Clark 5 yards, Thomas Lee 2½ yards, Young Joe Cudworth 2 yards, Meriah Ellis ½ yard,"* and so on. Presumably, these are the names of some of the inmates in the workhouse, who would be given the cloth to make garments for themselves. However, there are entries for *"new leather breeches, new coat and singlet"* being supplied to *"Little Tom Clark."* Some of the names are quaint such as *"Robert Awsley," "Ann Towlson," "David Pickrin," "John Hinsliff," "Bett Ellee," "Halice Morehous," "Bett Hobkin,"* and others, most of which will be recognised as the ancient forms of common names.

The proximity of Longlands Hall and Ossett Workhouse, stands as a reminder of the contrast in the lives of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries Ossett people – the *haves* and the *have nots*. Families who lived so close to one another but who probably knew nothing of their closest neighbours' lives. Longlands Hall and The Ossett Poorhouse were so close but they were worlds apart.

## THE MISSES HAIGHS FROM 1836 to 1857

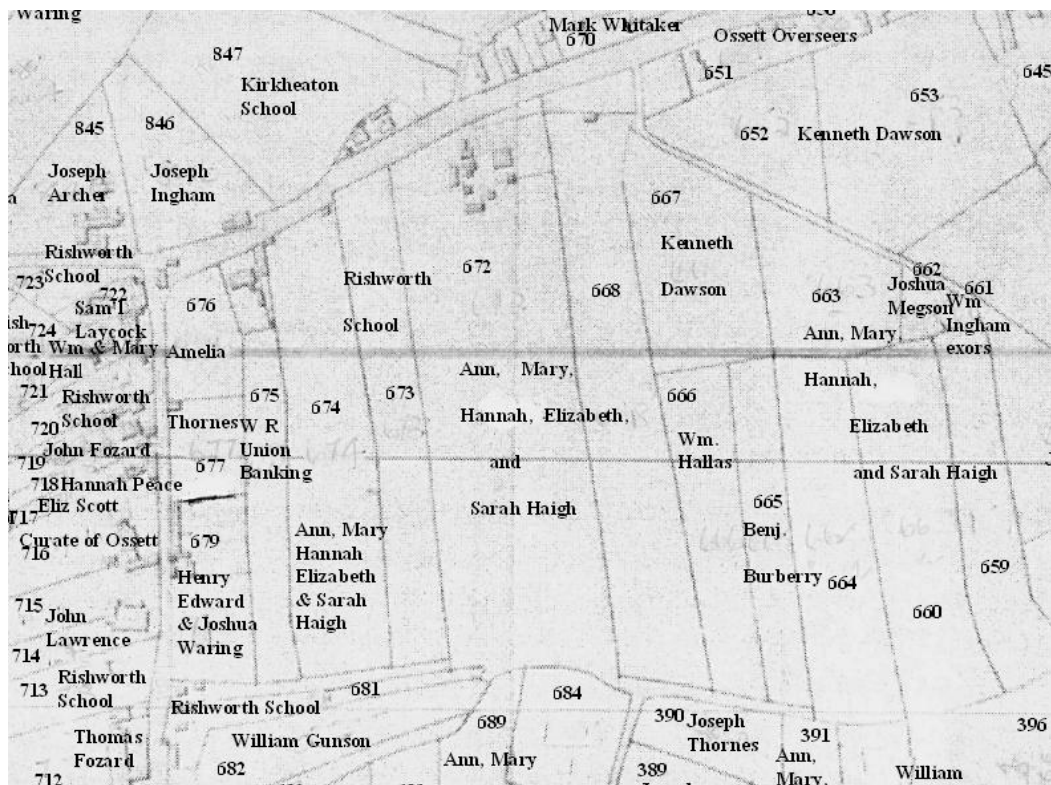
The five spinster sisters saw out their lives at *Longlands Hall* and in the **1841** Census, five years after Joshua's death, the household comprised the five sisters who were all described as being *Ind* i.e. of *independent means*. The ages of some of the sisters in the Census are rounded to five and not quite as accurate as the birth or baptism records suggest. The sisters had two servants living with them.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhab (tot)		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
Longlands Hall		1	John Haigh		10			Yes
			Ann Haigh		70	Ind.		Yes
			Mary do		70	Ind.		Yes
			Hannah do		65	Ind.		Yes
			Elizabeth do		60	Ind.		Yes
			Sarah do		60	Ind.		Yes
			Hannah Pitty		15	W S		Yes
			Mary Hoby		15	W S		Yes

Joshua Haigh IV's man servant, William Ellis was living with his family next door to Longlands Hall working as an agricultural worker. His home was probably the Longlands Cottage, across the yard to the big house, which he occupied prior to Joshua's death.

Even though Joshua Haigh IV left some named land holdings to his sisters, The Ossett Tithe Award 1843, interestingly, records the Haigh land holdings in the names of *Ann, Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth, & Sarah Haigh* as if they were an individual entity. The Tithe record indicates that in 1843 the sisters Haigh held 306 acres of good Ossett land. This was approximately 10% of the Ossett Parish acreage. Perhaps unusually the 1842 Gawthorpe Tithe Award does not record the Haighs with any land in nearby Gawthorpe.

The 1843 Ossett Tithe Award records Ann, Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth & Sarah as the owners and occupiers of Little Longlands (6 acres 2 roods 21 perches of meadow), Great Longlands (10A 3R 24P of meadow) and Clover Longlands (5A 1R 27P of pasture).



**1843 Ossett Tithe Award Map (extract): Longlands Hall footprint & some Haigh land ownership<sup>38</sup>**

The **1844** Rate Valuation specified the owners of *Longlands, Ossett Street* as *Haigh, Ann, Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth & Sarah* and the “tenant” as Ann Haigh. The Longlands holding<sup>39</sup> comprised:-

	Acres	Roods	Perches
House, Kitchen, Stables, Old Shop, Mistals, Sheds, Barn, Pig place, Yard	-	1	37
Gardens & Shed	-	2	10
Little Longlands	6	-	35
Great Longlands	11	-	29
Old Quarry			17
Clover Longlands	5	1	37

The total acreage including Clover Longlands was 24 acres and 5 perches.

<sup>38</sup> 1843 Tithe Map and annotations courtesy of Ossett local historian, Joan Smith

<sup>39</sup> The Longlands holding recorded above in 1844 does not include a cottage. It is possible that this was recorded in a separate assessment since the 1841 and 1851 Census (see later) appears to record a dwelling adjacent to Longlands which was occupied by a family most probably employed by the Haighs.

**Hannah Haigh**, was the “middle” sister of the five and she was the first of the sisters to pass away. She was baptised at Dewsbury All Saints Parish Church on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1771 and she was buried at the same Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> March **1843**, aged 71. Hannah died intestate suggesting that her demise may have been rather sudden. No record has emerged of the administration of her estate but it is likely that it was granted to her eldest sister, Ann Haigh. Because she died intestate Hannah’s estate was divided equally between her four surviving sisters

**Elizabeth Haigh** was the fourth sister to be born and she was baptised at Dewsbury All Saints on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1775 and she was buried there on the 4<sup>th</sup> March **1850**. Elizabeth was 74 years of age. It seems that she did leave a Will dated 31<sup>st</sup> May 1843 but it was some 24 years later, in 1867, before any action was taken in its connection. Elizabeth’s youngest sister, Sarah, was the sole devisee.

In **1851** the three remaining sisters were recorded in the Census of that year living at *Longlands Hall*. They had two servants, Rachel Rebecca Smith, aged 20 and Sarah Kitson, aged 21, and the sisters were described as Landed Proprietors.

**Mary Haigh** was the second child and second daughter of Joshua Haigh II and Anne Robinson. She was baptised at Wakefield All Saints Church on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1766 and buried at Dewsbury All Saints Church on the 28<sup>th</sup> March **1853** at the age of 86 years. No record of a Will has emerged.

**Sarah Haigh** was the youngest of the Haigh girls. She died at Longlands Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> September **1853**, aged 77 and was buried on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1853 at Dewsbury All Saints where she had been baptised on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1776. The Will of Miss Sarah Haigh of Longlands was dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1853 and she left all her monies, securities, goods, chattels, plates, linen, books and other personal estate and effects to her eldest and only surviving sister, Ann. She also left to Ann, her quarter share of her sister Hannah’s, estate, which she inherited on Hannah’s (intestate) death in March 1843. Sarah also left her sisters’, Elizabeth and Mary, share of Hannah’s estate which Sarah had been left on their deaths. It is supposed that this was considered to be a reasonable arrangement since Sarah was the youngest of the Haigh daughters and she might therefore have been expected to live longer than the others.

The rest and residue of Sarah’s estate was devised, equally to her cousins, *Sarah Greenwood* and *Ann Greenwood*, spinsters, residing at Sands House Hopton, Mirfield and also to *Caroline Wheatley* wife of Richard Wheatley (who was also Caroline’s cousin) of Royds House Hopton, Mirfield. The fourth cousin to be a beneficiary of her Will was *Charles Wheatley*, Gentleman of Sands House, Hopton, Mirfield. Charles was also named as co-executor with Ann Haigh. The Will was witnessed by Sarah’s servant, Rachel Rebecca Smith.

And so, to the last of the Longlands Haighs. **Ann Haigh** was the eldest child born to Joshua Haigh III and Anne Robinson. Ann Haigh was baptised at Wakefield All Saints Church on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1764 and she was buried at Dewsbury All Saints Church on the 21<sup>st</sup> March **1857**, aged a remarkable 92 years. Perhaps it was her determination, as the eldest child to ensure she was there for her siblings until their very end.

Ann Haigh, spinster of Longlands, made her Will on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1853 just three months after the death of her only surviving siblings. Ann left named land holdings in Ossett to three of her

cousins, *Ann Greenwood, Sarah Greenwood & Caroline Wheatley (nee Wheatley)* to whom she also left an equal share in all her household goods, chattels and effects. Her fourth named cousin, *Charles Wheatley* was also left an equal share in those effects and the remainder and residue of Ann's estate. He was also named as the sole executor. Like her sister, Sarah, Ann had asked her servant, Rachel Rebecca Smith, to witness her Will.

The end of the Longlands Haigh dynasty came with Ann's death on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1857. No more Haighs would live at Longlands Hall after that day but by leaving their landed and personal estates to their cousins they had at least ensured that their land assets and the fortune they had built since 1700 remained within the extended Haigh family. The baton was handed over by Joshua Haigh IV and his spinster sisters to their nearest or dearest cousins and in particular Charles Wheatley, their first cousin once removed<sup>40</sup>

The last word on 19<sup>th</sup> Century life at Longlands Hall goes to Rachel Newsome<sup>41</sup> (nee Lonsdale) who was servant to the Misses Haighs between 1833 and 1838. An article in the Ossett Observer dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1910<sup>42</sup> reported the death of 94 year old Mrs Rachel Newsome who was born in Ossett on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1815, *the year of Waterloo* as the Observer reminds the reader.

Rachel recounts that, as an 8 year old, she worked at Pildacre Mill and afterwards....*between 1833 and 1838 she entered the service of five maiden ladies, the Misses Haighs of the Longlands Ossett, who kept a farm and she used to journey regularly to Dewsbury to sell butter which she sold near the Old Market Cross. She also attended at Wakefield but did not regard it as good a place as Dewsbury, the prices being low. In those days the price of food was very high, flour being from 4s 6d to 5s per stone and she used to say that they could talk about "the old days" but she was quite happy and contented with the improved conditions which marked the latter part of her life.*



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<sup>40</sup> Expressed in a different way. Joshua Haigh II was the grandfather of the Misses Haigh and Joshua IV but the *great* grandfather of Charles Wheatley

<sup>41</sup> This was not the same Rachel ( surname - Smith) who was servant to the Misses Haighs in 1851 and who witnessed the Wills of Sarah & Ann Haigh in 1853.

<sup>42</sup> I am obliged to local historian David Scriven for bringing this article to my attention



## LONGLANDS HOUSE 1857 -1900 – THE CHARLES WHEATLEY YEARS

The Misses Haighs had bequeathed some of their personal estate, land and property to their cousins Ann and Sarah Greenwood and Caroline and Charles Wheatley. In so far as Longlands House is concerned the key character in its future over the period to 1901 was Charles Wheatley. He was the major beneficiary and also the sole executor of Ann, the last surviving Miss Haigh, who had been vested with the greater part of the Haigh estate on the deaths of her brother Joshua IV and her four spinster sisters.

By way of reminder *Ann Greenwood* (born 1801) and *Sarah Greenwood* (born 1800) were the great grand daughters of Joshua Haigh II whose only daughter, Sarah Haigh married John Liversedge in 1768. They lived at Lees Hall Thornhill. One of their daughters, Elizabeth, married Richard Greenwood in 1798 and they had two daughters, Ann and Sarah Greenwood. Another of Sarah and John Liversedge's daughters, Mary, married Charles Wheatley *senior* in 1810 and they had four children including *Charles Wheatley junior* (born 1813) and *Caroline Wheatley* (born 1816). Ann and Sarah Greenwood and Charles and Caroline Wheatley were first cousins once removed of Joshua Haigh IV and his siblings the Misses Haigh. The Greenwoods spent much of their later life living with Charles Wheatley at his home, Sands House, Hopton, Mirfield.

Charles Wheatley was a very wealthy man in his own right and the **1851** Census records him as a freeholder with 150 acres of land and a collier employing 110 men and 140 boys. In 1860 he was also a magistrate and although he was born and lived in Hopton, Mirfield he was well known in Ossett being the owner of Wheatley's Colliery established at nearby Whitley Spring Mill.

The acreage of the Haigh land holdings he inherited is unknown since some were bequeathed to the Greenwood spinster sisters and to his sister Caroline (who also left Charles the remainder of her estate when she died in 1890). In 1872<sup>43</sup> Charles Wheatley of Mirfield was recorded as the owner of 356 acres of West Riding real estate.

In this context, Longlands House, was relatively insignificant and it perhaps received little attention from Charles Wheatley in the early years after Ann Haigh's death in 1857. It was 10 years after Ann's death that Charles sought permission from the court to obtain probate for the Wills of Elizabeth Haigh (dated 31<sup>st</sup> May 1843) and Sarah Haigh (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1853). The record shows that *....probate of her Will is required by Charles Wheatley*. As Executor of Ann Haigh's estate Charles would, of course, require access to Elizabeth and Sarah's estates because Ann Haigh was a beneficiary of Sarah's estate.

Since the *1872 Owners of Land* record does not appear to record any land in the ownership of Ann or the other Misses Haighs it is assumed that Charles had managed to administer the estates before this date and transfer his inherited land into his name. Consequently the Haigh land ownerships appear to be included in the 356 acres registered to Charles Wheatley by 1872.

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<sup>43</sup> England, Return of Owners of Land 1873. This return also records other members of the Mirfield & Hopton Wheatley family as owners of a *further* 550 acres of Yorkshire land.

Meanwhile at Longlands in 1861, Charles Wheatley had been able to arrange to let the House and it was occupied by the Speight family.

In **1861** the Census records a property on *Low Street* Ossett occupied by Ossett born 32 year old William Speight, a woollen manufacturer, his wife Jane and their five month old child Henry. Living in the same household is William's 87 year old father in law together with Ann Green, a nurse, Elizabeth Speight, cook and Jane Robinson, housemaid. There is nothing in the census to distinguish this house as Longlands Hall but a clue to the name of the dwelling is provided ten years later in the 1871 Census. The adjacent two properties were occupied by agricultural labourers

In **1871** the Census records two entries for the address *Longlands House Lower Street Ossett*. Jane Speight a 45 year old widowed annuitant was living there with a housemaid, Lizie Swift, aged 26 and Maryann Watson, aged 22, a cook. Neither of the servants was from Ossett. This indicates the Speights lived there in 1861. The second family was Henry Armstrong, a 23 year old groom with his wife, Jane, and their one year old daughter, Ann. It is probable that Henry was living in the cottage whilst Jane Speight was living in the house. Both would be tenants and not owners of the properties.

In **1881** Abraham Pollard a 44 year old, Ossett born, married Mungo Manufacturer was living at *Longlands House* with Hannah Gordon, cook and Sarah Taylor, house maid (neither born in Ossett). Next door was home to William Gore, a coachman and his family and next door to William was home to an agricultural labourer, Thomas Allen.

By **1891** Abraham Pollard, aged 54, was widowed but still living at Longlands House and he was joined by his son, William, a law student aged 22. They have two servants, Adela Harrison, a cook/housekeeper and Nancy Batty, a housemaid. Neither was born in Ossett. Next door, in a two roomed dwelling, was a domestic gardener George Taylor and his wife. Next door to them also in a two roomed dwelling was agricultural labourer, Thomas Hiram, his wife and two adult children. These addresses may have been the Longlands Cottage(s). Abraham Pollard died in 1900.

In **1901** the Pollard family was still renting Longlands House, as they had since at least 1881, but now the head is Abraham's son, George Arthur Pollard a 36 year old Mungo manufacturer, and his wife, Ellen. The couple had two daughters, Margaret, aged 12, and Dorothy, aged 9. George's younger brother, William, also a mungo manufacturer was also living in the household. The Pollard family had three servants, a cook and two housemaids, none of whom were born in Ossett. Living next door to the Pollards in a 2 roomed dwelling is Joseph Cousins, aged 50, a coachman, and his wife and four children.

In **1911** the Pollards were still living at the 12 roomed *Longlands House* but George Arthur Pollard of Longlands Ossett died in Copenhagen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1908. The head of household was now Abraham's son, 42 year old William Ernest Pollard, Mungo manufacturer, living with his widowed sister in law, Ellen and her two children, Margaret and Dorothy. The Pollards had two servants, a cook and housemaid, neither of whom were born in Ossett. William Ernest Pollard died in 1921 and the Pollard tenancy would have come to an end. This may have been one of the triggers for the Steele's to consider the sale of Longlands Hall

Neighbours of the Pollards in 1911 were living at the four roomed *Longland Cottage* . This was 61 year old Joseph Cousins, who described himself as a *Domestic* and the census enumerator has added *Groom*. Joseph was living with his wife, his son Willie, a *vanman*, and his daughter Emma. The couple had eight children from their marriage but sadly four of their children had died before the night of the Census.

What can be deduced from this information?

For the 60 years between 1861 and 1921 *Longlands House* had been occupied by just two families, the Speights and the Pollards. During the whole of that period the censuses reveal that the families employed at least two *live-in* servants, a cook and a housemaid. Over the same 60 years none of those servants recorded in the census, as living in the household, was born in Ossett. In 1841 and 1851 the Misses Haighs also employed two servants and those employed in 1851 were not born in Ossett.<sup>44</sup> In 1911 Longlands House, along with Sowood House, was still the largest in Ossett with 12 rooms. Trailing behind with 9 rooms were West Wells House, Prospect House & Mona Cottage.

Between 1841 and 1911 the adjacent dwelling to Longlands House, was occupied by either an agricultural labourer, a domestic gardener, a groom, or a coachman. In some years a second adjacent dwelling was occupied by an agricultural worker. In a location where most households were weavers this was unusual and, whilst Owlars, Lodge and Tofts farms were nearby, there is no doubt that at least one of these cottage dwellings was part of the Longlands estate.

*An aside.* In 1851 the census records an agricultural labourer living in the dwelling adjacent to Longlands House. It is probable that this man was employed by the four surviving Misses Haighs who it may be recalled, lost their only brother, Joshua Haigh, who died in 1836. The reader will make of this what they will but the agricultural labourer was called Joshua Haigh, born in Ossett in 1810 and baptised at Ossett Holy Trinity on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1810. His parents were Samuel and Sarah Haigh. Joshua's wife was also called Sarah and in 1841 the couple lived at *Ossett Town* where Joshua worked as a weaver. By 1861 Joshua and Sarah had moved back to a *Town* address in Ossett where he resumed his occupation as a weaver. It is not known whether this Joshua and his father, Samuel, were relatives of the Longland Haighs.

Meanwhile on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1900, Charles Wheatley died at his home, Sands House, Hopton, Mirfield, aged 87 years.

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<sup>44</sup> The 1841 Census only specified the county of birth and not the location in the county.



***Sands House in 2006. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century home of brother and sister Charles and Caroline Wheatley***

Charles Wheatley had already amassed a huge real and personal estate even before Ann Haigh left him the Haigh fortune in 1857. By 1872 his landed estate in the West Riding amounted to 356 acres. Charles continued to buy and sell land after 1857 and in 1880 his sister, Caroline Wheatley (nee Wheatley) and her husband and cousin Richard Wheatley, gentleman of Royds House Mirfield sold to Charles Wheatley..... *all their messuages farms lands tenaments and hereditaments and real estate.....situate in Ossett...late the estate of Sarah Haigh, Ann Haigh, Ann Greenwood and Sarah Greenwood...to which ..Caroline Wheatley now is entitled ...by virtue of the Wills of the said Sarah Haigh, Ann Haigh and Sarah Greenwood*<sup>45</sup>

Richard Wheatley was buried at Mirfield St Mary's Parish Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 1886. His wife Caroline Wheatley died on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1890 and was buried at the same Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1890. Her Will was dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 1888 and her estate was valued at a gross £32,520<sup>46</sup> (£32,278 net). Her brother, Charles Wheatley, was one of her Executors and her residuary beneficiary. Caroline left a great many cash legacies in a list that read like an address book but the bulk of her remaining estate and her personal estate, including the usual books, linen and household goods was left to Charles. This included *all horses, carriages, harness, live and dead stock, tools, implements and utensils*.

In the world of the Haigh extended family it seems that *what went round came round* and the real estate which had been gifted by Ann Haigh, the last of the Longlands Haighs, to the Greenwood<sup>47</sup> spinster sisters and to Caroline and Charles Wheatley in 1857, had come together again. What had not been sold in the intervening 33 years was now in the possession of Charles Wheatley.

Charles Wheatley, *Esquire*, was a bachelor when he died at home in December 1900, aged 87. His Will was dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1900 and his witnesses swore that his Will had *been first read over to*

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<sup>45</sup> WYAS Deed reference Vol 846 500/501 581

<sup>46</sup> Approximately £3.5m in current (2014) values

<sup>47</sup> Sarah and Ann Greenwood, spinsters, may have been living at Sands House with Charles in their later years. Sarah (aged 61) & Ann (aged 59) were recorded there in 1871 and Sarah was there in 1871.

*him and he seemed perfectly to understand the same.* Charles Wheatley also *set his mark* to his Will and the record suggests therefore that he was not a well man by March 1900. Probate was granted in London to his executors on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1901 when his estate was valued at £553,766 7s 9d (resworn April 1902 with a value £554,171 15s 3d<sup>48</sup>). Charles left a huge number of cash legacies, totalling more than £100,000, to friends and relatives and also to local and national charities.

The largest legacy, £20,000, was left to Eleanor Steele (nee Robinson) and her sisters, Annie and Caroline were each left £15,000. Charles Wheatley left his residuary estate to Eleanor Steele. This included his household effects amongst which were his *horses and carriages* together with cash, securities and his real estate, including Longlands Hall. The cash and securities were to be held in trust by his trustees and used to provide Eleanor with an income for *her sole use independent of her present or any future husband*. Charles's real estate was left for Eleanor's use on a similar basis and on her death his Will was that his estate be left to her children when they reached the age of 21 years or, if they were daughters, on their earlier marriage.

Charles made one other stipulation in his Will relating to circumstances in the event that Eleanor did not have children who reached the age of 21. If this was to be the case, his estate after Eleanor's death would be treated as though it was an intestate estate. This meant that any relative could make a claim but in this event Charles included the proviso that *I expressly declare my Will and intention is to be that no person being or claiming to be a descendant of my Uncle Richard Wheatley (who went to America about 60 years ago)....* would become entitled to a share of Charles's estate.

But who was Eleanor Steele nee Robinson? By the following means, Eleanor was Charles Wheatley's first cousin, once removed.

Eliza Wheatley, the daughter of Timothy Wheatley, was born about 1817 and was only a few years younger than Charles, who was her cousin. In 1841, at Mirfield Parish Church, Eliza married Charles Robinson who was living in Horbury and working there as a *Licentiate of the Apothecaries*. They moved to Middleham in North Yorkshire in about 1846-47 and they had four children within six years of their marriage; Eleanor (born 1843 in Horbury), Annie (born Horbury 1845), Caroline (born Horbury 1846) and Charles Wheatley Thomas Robinson ( born 1847 at Middleham - died in 1875).

Charles Robinson, continued his work as a *Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company General Practitioner Surgeon* in Middleham where the couple had three servants to assist them with household duties and the four children, aged nine years and under. Charles Robinson died before 1861 leaving Eliza a widow in her 30's or early 40's, with four children. By 1871 she had returned to Dewsbury.

Eleanor Robinson married Adam Rivers Steele, an attorney at law, at Mirfield Parish Church on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1873 and by 1881 they were living at Northbrooks, Great Parndon Essex. The couple had four children. Eleanor Wheatley Steele was born in 1876, Adam Rivers born 1877, Camilla born 1889 and Mary born 1890. They had five servants. In 1901 the family were still living at Northbrooks but by the time Eleanor died in April 1910 they had moved to Loddington Hall in Kettering, Northamptonshire. In 1911 Eleanor's widowed husband was living at the 35 (thirty five) roomed

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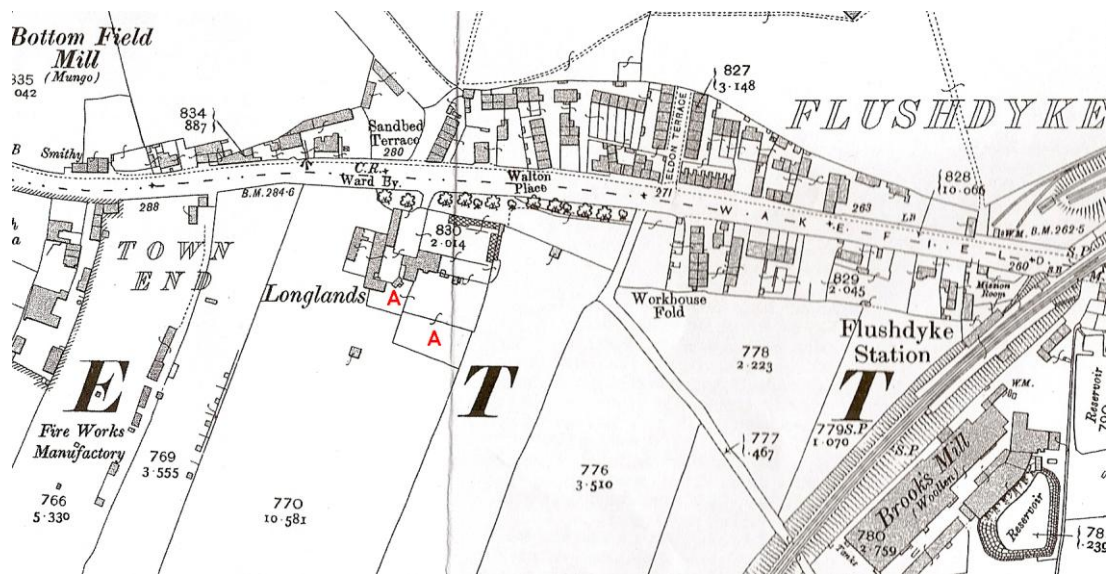
<sup>48</sup> About £60 million in current (2014) values





close called Longland (measuring 3 acres 3 roods 4 perches), a cottage and stable. Missing from this list is the 11 acres at Greater Longlands. This may be missing from this schedule because Greater Longlands may not have been copyhold land. M. Riley & Sons<sup>52</sup> were Ossett based manufacturers and suppliers of fireworks who had their works on Wakefield Road Ossett, situated between Longlands House and Dale Street. (See 1910 map overleaf) This explains the Company's occupation of Clover Longlands and the 3 acres 3 roods 4 perches Longland site referred to above could be other land near Clover Longland, which had been acquired at some stage by the Haighs or by Charles Wheatley. The cottage occupied by Riley & Sons, was probably in this location and not within the curtilage of Longlands House.

Eleanor Steele of Loddington Hall died on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1910 and probate of her estate was granted at London on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1910. Her effects were "only" £4691, resworn to £5737. Her life interest in her Grand Uncle Charles Wheatley's estate ceased on her death. Hence the value was not included in her estate since Charles had signified his intention that his estate should pass to her children upon her death. The Steele spinster sisters, Eleanor Wheatley Steele, Camilla and Mary (often recorded as *the Misses Steele*) and their brother, Adam Rivers Steele junior<sup>53</sup> now inherited Charles Wheatley's estate including Longlands Hall.



**1905 Map showing the Longlands House and Buildings footprint, field numbers and acreage.**

The above map shows the field numbers recorded in the 1910 Inland Revenue Valuation which is reported in the next section of this history. The areas marked "A" on the map were previously a part of Greater Longland but appear to have been incorporated into the Longlands House curtilage, thus reducing,

<sup>52</sup> In 1891 Mr Solomon Riley, the son of the founder of Riley's Fireworks was living 3 doors away from Longlands House.

<sup>53</sup> There was a legal action relating to Adam Rivers Steele and Charles Wheatley's Will following his mother, Eleanor Steele's death. This may be the reason he is not recorded on the 1910 Valuation

slightly, the acreage of Greater Longlands. This may have been in readiness for a disposal of the Greater Longlands Close of land

## LONGLANDS HOUSE AFTER THE STEELE OWNERS

The **1910** Inland Revenue Valuation records Longlands, Land, Greenhouses, Outbuildings, & Appurtenances, House and Land with an acreage of 24 acres 0 roods and 18 perches (The 1844 Valuation record measured the acreage as 24 acres 0 roods and 15 perches suggesting that nothing had changed between 1844 and 1910). The holding was owned by *Eleanor Wheatley Steele, Camilla Steele & Mary Steele all of Loddington Hall, Kettering* and tenanted by the Executors of Abraham Pollard.



**1910 Inland Revenue map used in the 1910 Valuation (aka Domesday Valuation)**

The 1910 Valuation includes the following descriptive details of the House and grounds (assessment ref 3184):-

***House , Greenhouse, outbuildings & Land. Cellar, Kitchen Pantry, Hall, Servant's Hall, Dining, Breakfast & Library, 5 bedrooms, Boxroom, Front & Back Garden, Lawn etc. Coachman's House Room 2 beds. Stable, 3 stalls loft over & Coachhouse. Farm buildings, Barn, Stable, Mistal for 3 cows.***

***Oldish property well built, in good repair, stone built House Stable & part farm buildings of Brick***

	acreage	
Land field 770 grass	10.581	(This is Greater Longlands)
773 grass	6.321	(This is Little Longlands)
House buildings 830	2.014	
Land 776 grass	3.510	
Land 778 grass	2.223	( This is the land behind Workhouse Fold on the map)
Total	24.649	

The land to the west of Longlands House, known as Clover Longlands is not recorded in this assessment but will be recorded elsewhere in the 1910 Valuation. Fields 776 & 778 have not been identified previously in this research as being Haigh/Wheatley ownerships but it is further indication of their determination to acquire land to consolidate and increase their land holdings.

Elsewhere in the 1910 Valuation is an assessment number 3310 on Wakefield Road and in the ownership of the *Misses Steele* which is occupied by I & T Brooke. As will be seen later this is likely to a reference to Tommy Brooke but the only clue for the location of this assessment is that the area is *grassland*.

The Ossett Valuation List for **1915** records Eleanor Steele Executors as Longlands owners and W.E. Pollard as tenant of House, land, greenhouse, and outbuildings with an acreage of 16 acres 2 roods 25 perches. This Valuation excludes Clover Longlands.

With the end of WW1 and the approach of the 1920's, the *Misses Steele* began to dispose of the land holdings they had inherited from Charles Wheatley after the death of their mother, Eleanor Steele, in 1910. Perhaps the legal altercation involving Adam Rivers Steele junior had delayed some matters but it appears by 1929 the worst of this was over. It seems probable that the Steele sisters and Adam had by then come to an agreement regarding the division of Charles Wheatley's estate.

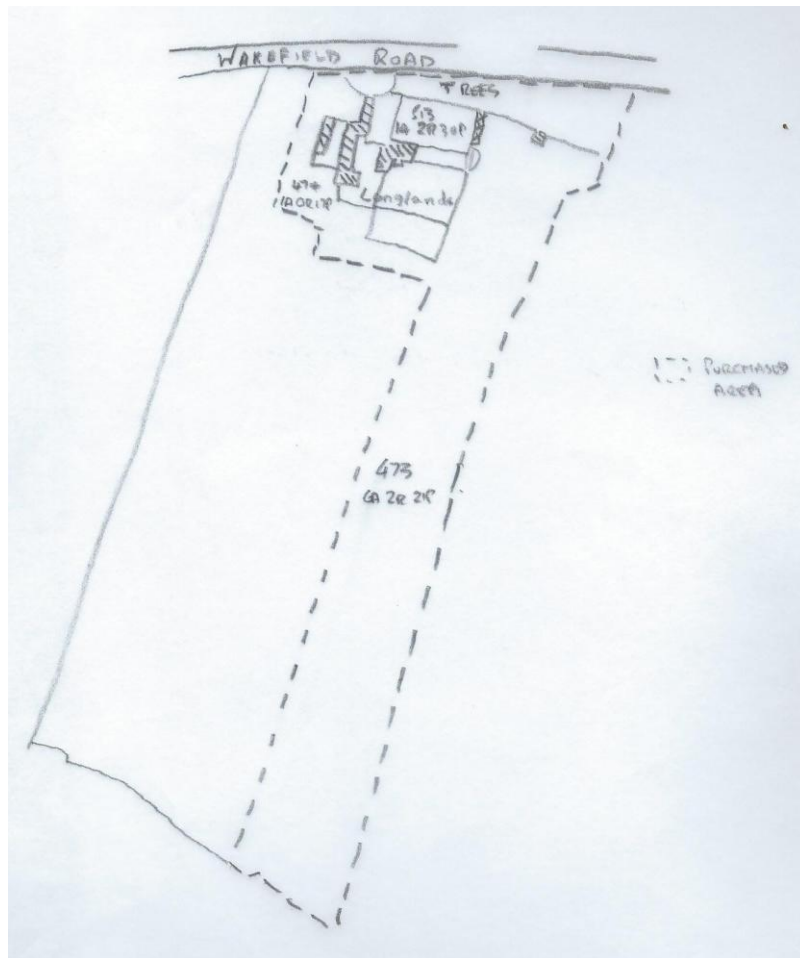
On the 21<sup>st</sup> August **1929** Adam Rivers Steele, *Major Retired*, of Gatewood Towers, conveyed land and buildings at Longlands to Colin Rowland Crook<sup>54</sup> being .....*all that dwelling house, now divided into two dwellings called Longlands with the gardens plantation and farm buildings, two cottages & other outbuildings & also two closes adjoining all which premises are partly in the occupation of the purchaser and partly in the occupation of Thomas Brook and his undertenants*

The schedule to the conveyance records

No. of field On 1907 1/2500 O.S.	Description	Area
513	Part of Longlands House, garden etc Occupied by the purchaser Part of Longlands House garden, farm Buildings & 2 cottages occupied by Mr T Brook	1. 2. 30
473	Little Longlands	6. 2. 21
474	Part of Great Longlands	<u>1. 0. 17</u>
		<u>9. 1. 28</u>

<sup>54</sup> WYAS Deedreference Vol 100 487 157.

The plan of the area purchased by Colin Rowland Crook in 1929 is reproduced below.



### 1929 Conveyance of Longlands House & 9 ¼ acres from Steele to Crook

The conveyance to Colin Rowland Crook did not include most of the Greater Longlands land which was retained by the Steele family and developed for industrial purposes by the early 1970's. It is supposed that the Steele family disposed of this part of the Longlands land holding directly to a developer.

Oddly the Longlands House & acreage sold to Mr Crook in 1929 was recorded in the ownership of the Misses Steele in 1910, in the ownership of Eleanor Steele's Executors in 1915 and, in 1929, in the ownership of Adam Rivers Steele as he conveyed 9 acres or so to Colin Rowland Crook of Longlands, Brick Works Manager. Mr Crook is believed to have owned the old brickworks on Dewsbury Road, Wakefield where Morrison's Supermarket now stands (2014). In any event by 1929, for the first time, Longlands Hall was no longer owned by persons connected to the Haigh family who created it in 1766-67. The House, which for the whole of its existence was lived in by only three families, the Haighs, Speights and the Pollards, *appears* now to be occupied by two families *at the same time*; Colin Rowland Crook and Tommy Brooke.

By 1929 the conveyance states that the House was in *two parts*, each occupied by different persons. There is no reference to any dual occupancy of the property in the 1915 Rating Valuation and *if* the House was two parts then this might have occurred between 1915 and 1929.

William Ernest Pollard was living at the House in 1911 and he died in 1921 suggesting that this may have been about the time that Longlands House was let in two parts by the Steele owners. This suggestion that the House was let in two parts is examined later, concluding that one part, the main House, was occupied by Colin Rowland Crook and the other part was actually accommodation, perhaps the Coachman's house, which was *attached* to Longlands House.

*Colin Rowland Crook* was born in Wakefield on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1897, the son of a Wakefield Building Contractor. He married Evelyn Sylvia Compston in Wakefield in early 1926 and Longlands House may have been their first home which suggests that Colin moved to the House shortly thereafter. Colin Rowland Crook was recorded at Longlands in 1927<sup>55</sup> and in 1928<sup>56</sup>. When he purchased Longlands House in 1929 the acquisition must have been subject to Tommy Brooke's existing tenancy.

*Thomas (Tommy) Brooke* was born in Ossett on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1872 the son of Thomas and Elizabeth. He was one of 15 children, born to the couple. By 1891 Thomas was working as a banksman at the local pit. He married Ann Pollard<sup>57</sup> of Ossett in Summer 1893, living at Dale Street in 1901 where Thomas was working as a self employed carting agent. They had six children before Ann's death in 1909 when she was 38 years of age. On the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1910 Thomas married his second wife, Alice Linton and in 1911 the couple were living on Dale Street with Thomas's six children, all under the age of 15, from his first marriage. It appears that Tommy and Alice had at least six children between 1913 and 1921 thus bringing Tommy's children to a total of 12 children.

Colin Rowland Crook, owner, and Tommy Brooke, tenant, were neighbours at Longlands House for about 30 years between the early to mid 1920's and the time of Tommy's death in late 1953 at the age of 81 years.

Tommy Brooke also rented land and other buildings at Longlands which could be used for agricultural purposes. Tommy, a miner in 1911, was about 50 years of age in the early 1920's when it seems likely that he became a tenant at Longlands and established *Tommy Brooke's Farm*.

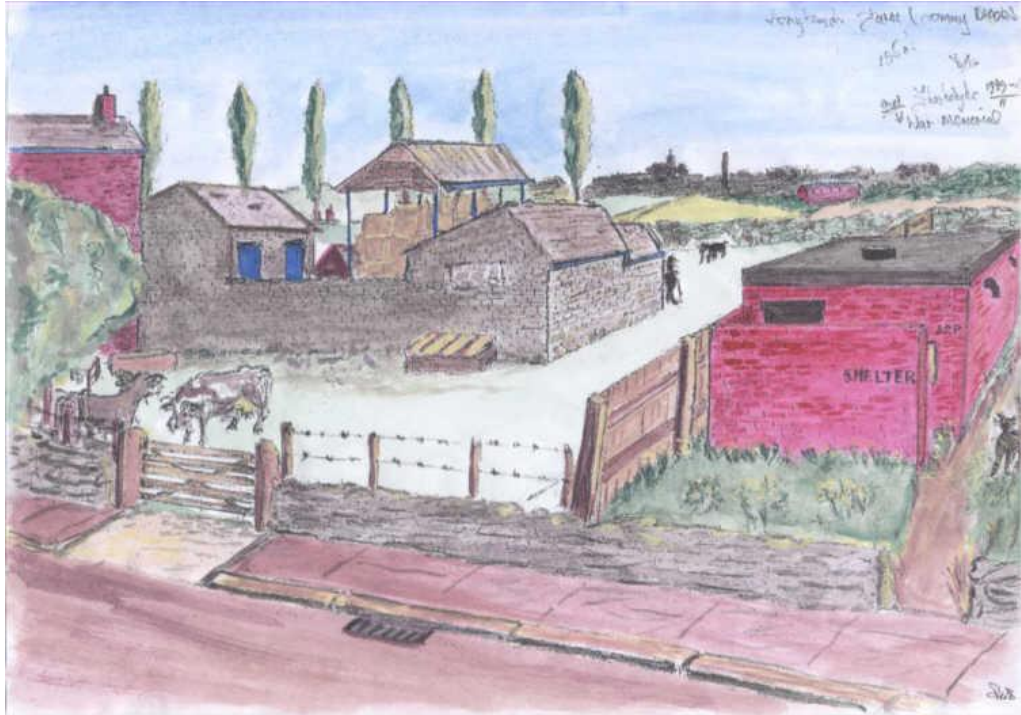
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<sup>55</sup> Kelly's Trade Directory records him as a private resident in 1927 – 2 years before he purchased Longlands

<sup>56</sup> Telephone Directory 1928 (Ossett 300) & 1978 (Ossett 273300). Latter was 6 years after his death

<sup>57</sup> It is not known if Ann was related to the Pollards who lived at Longlands





**An Illustration of Tommy Brooke's Farm at Longlands as remembered by Douglas Brammer<sup>58</sup>**

With the exception of the Air Raid shelter built for WW2 and demolished thereafter the buildings shown in the above illustration are probably part of the early Longlands House complex. The red brick building on the left of the illustration represents the cottages ( also see later)

Two of Tommy's grandchildren have memories of life at Longlands which they often visited as young boys in the 1940's and early 1950's. One of the grandchildren is descended from Tommy's first marriage to Ann Pollard and one is descended from his second marriage to Alice Linton .

The memories include the fact that Mr Crook liked his fast motor cars and he owned, perhaps at different times, an Aston Martin, a Lagonda, an Aliss and a Riley car. Outwith the House there was the tennis court, the plantation and pristine lawns which were perhaps in contrast to Tommy's working farm. The 1929 Conveyance indicates that the House was occupied by two persons but the nature and extent of this arrangement are uncertain. Some of those who have memories long enough to recall 60 years past believe that Tommy may have lived in *a cottage attached to Longlands House*.

This may be the answer to the puzzle about Crook and Brooke jointly occupying Longlands House as the 1929 Conveyance appeared to suggest. Possibilities were considered during the research that the alterations to the Hall to create two dwellings of equal size were unlikely. Rather, it may that a part of the House, no longer integral to the running of the House, may have been "sectioned off" to provide separate accommodation. Evidence has shown that the House once had a Servants' Hall and

<sup>58</sup> Courtesy of Douglas Brammer. His full collection of Flushdyke memories and illustrations can be seen at <https://ossettheritage.co.uk/ossett-photo-gallery/>

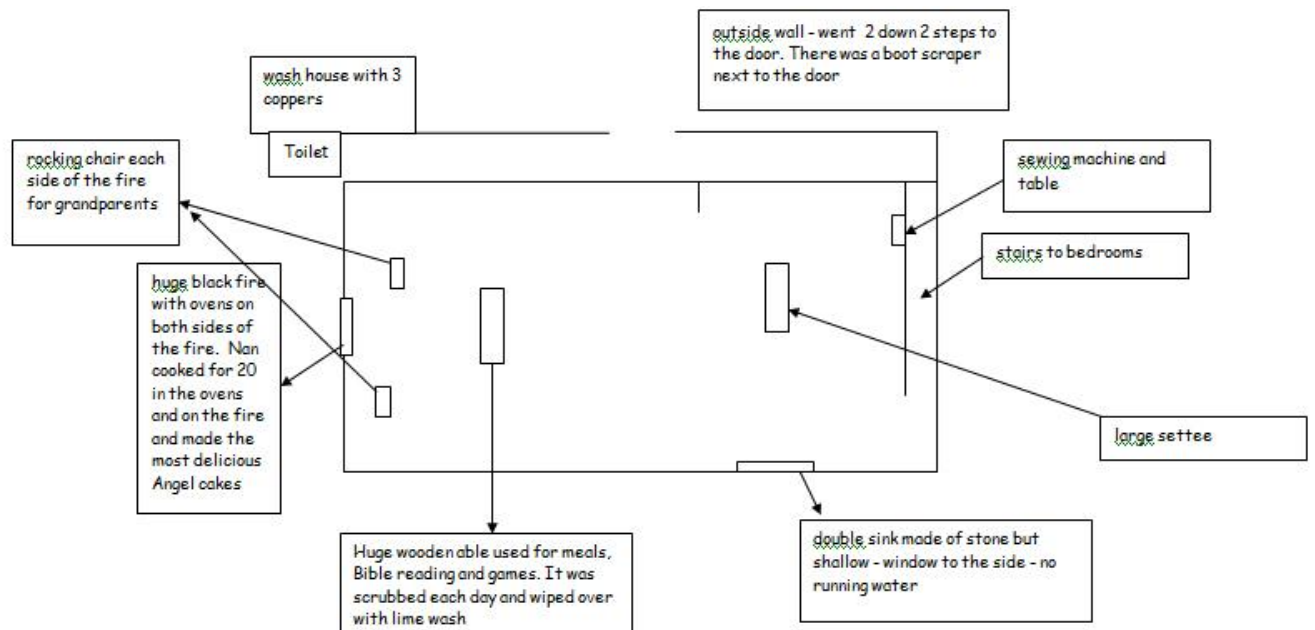
it would also have provided sleeping areas for the staff. Perhaps by the 1920's there was no need, or less need, for domestic servants, and if there were structural alterations they may have been as straightforward as blocking up the doorways between the servants' accommodation and the main house. However the most plausible arrangement is offered by the 1915 description of the House that makes reference to a *Coachman's House* comprising a room & two bed[room]s. It is possible that it was this *part* of Longlands House which was tenanted by Tommy Brooke and that in reality no alterations were made to Longlands House to create two dwellings as might be suggested by the 1929 Conveyance to Colin Crook. By this arrangement Mr Crook would have purchased Longlands House and all its outbuildings including that occupied by Tommy Brooke who, thereby, became tenant of Mr Crook.

In any event, the inside of the property rented by Tommy, had a layout of the downstairs area as shown below. But first a description of the facilities from one of Tommy Brooke's grandchildren.

*The door, and either side for about 5', was covered by a very heavy and thick red curtain on a runner with big brass hooks. Towards the fire was a big grandfather clock which granddad kept in good nick until he became ill.*

*The fire was the cooker as well as the heater with fairly large ovens on either side of the fire. It was one of those black metal fire which had to be cleaned and blacked every day. Gran used to make the most amazing cakes in the oven as well as bread and meals for about 20.*

*There was no electricity in Longlands, grandfather wouldn't have anything to do with it so even in the early 1950's before he died we were still taking candles upstairs to bed.*



**Illustration showing the ground floor layout of Tommy Brook's rented part of Longlands House**

Evidence records that Tommy Brooke also rented the two cottages at Longlands, at least one of which was sub let by Tommy. Other Flushdyke residents have memories of another family called Chapman who lived *across the yard* in one of these Cottages or, perhaps, in both since it has been suggested that at some time they may have been adapted to one dwelling. There were two Chapman sons, John and David, who arrived in the mid 1940's and may have been evacuated from the Oxford area. There were stories that their father had been injured in the War and also that the Chapmans tended some of the gardens and cared for Colin Rowland Crook's greyhounds. A photograph of the Cottages at Longlands follows.

Tommy Brooke had pasture land for his cows and sold milk around Flushdyke from a wheeled urn. While Tommy farmed some of the land it is believed that the Longlands fields down towards Tumbling Close were farmed by a Mr Waterhouse at the farm situated next to the Coopers Arms on Intake Lane.



**Cottage(s) at Longlands occupied by the Chapman family**

Tommy Brooke died in late 1953, aged 81 and Colin Rowland Crook continued as the owner and occupier of Longlands House with his wife Evelyn. The couple do not appear to have had children.



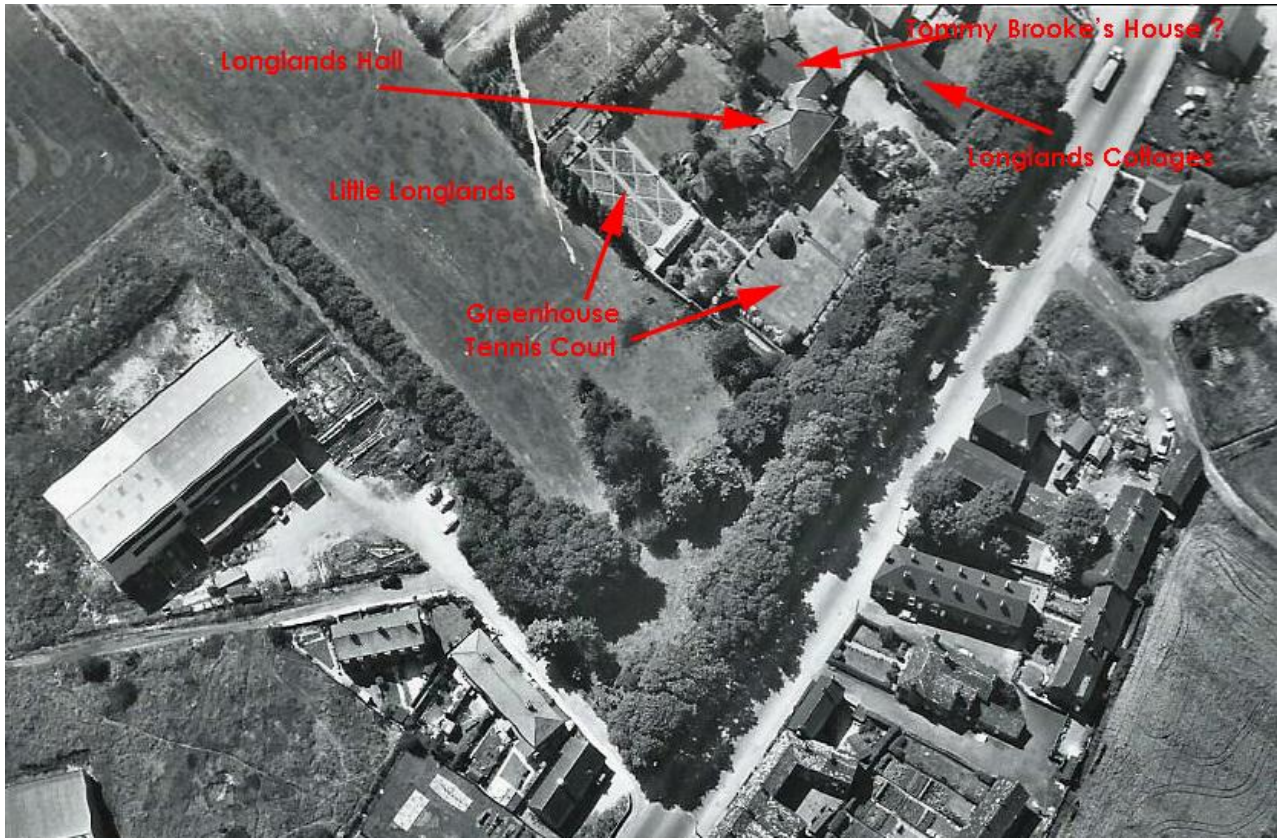


**Map (undated) showing Longlands House & Cottages**

The above map is undated but thought to be mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and records the Longlands Hall footprint a relatively short time before its demolition.

The following aerial map is dated August 1967 and shows Longlands Hall within a few years of its demolition. The annotation speculates on the position of the location of Tommy Brooke's home which in 1929 was described as part of Longlands House. Memories reveal that Tommy's accommodation had no electricity but it seems unlikely that Colin Rowland Crook, a man with a telephone in 1928 and a love for powerful cars, would willingly suffer such deprivation.

This being the case it suggests that, whilst the 1929 Conveyance refers to the House being in *two parts*, there must surely have been only a single electricity supply to the House. Consequently if Tommy was actually occupying part of the House he too would have had an electricity supply. But he didn't. All the circumstances and evidence suggest therefore that a more feasible reality was that Tommy was occupying a dwelling which was *attached* to the main Longlands Hall. Such a building, perhaps the earlier referenced Coachman's House appears on the aerial photograph as being the possible home of Tommy Brooke.



Aerial Map of Longlands in August 1967 shortly before its demolition<sup>59</sup>.

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<sup>59</sup> Photograph Courtesy Richard Glover



**1967-68 Aerial Photograph including Longlands, Ossett<sup>60</sup>**

The above map shows Longlands House and grounds in 1967-68. Significant industrial development can be seen on part of the Greater Longlands field which was not sold to Colin Rowland Crook in 1929. However the industrial development stops short of Longlands House such as to avoid too close an infringement on southerly views from the House. Little Longlands, not sold until 1969, remains untouched.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1969, shortly after this photograph was taken, Colin Rowland Crook sold 3.04 acres of land, being part of the 6 acres 2 roods and 21 perches of Little Longlands, purchased by him from Adam Rivers Steele on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1929.

Bit by bit Longlands House was fighting a battle it could not win. The land at Greater Longlands appears to have been sold sometime earlier and now 3 acres of Little Longlands was sold for industrial development. By 1973 this area was built upon. Nonetheless the 1969 sale of land probably did not compromise Colin Rowland Crook's home to too great an extent and he continued to enjoy his Longlands House until Spring 1971 when he died, aged 74.

<sup>60</sup> Photograph Courtesy Neville Ashby



Milner Developments Ltd continued their land assembly programme for the Longlands Industrial Estate development during the early 1970's. This included the acquisition<sup>61</sup> of the remainder of the Little Longlands land holdings, including Longlands House, from Mr Crook's estate

Longlands Hall, built in 1766-67, had endured for more than 200 years before being demolished by 1973 when industrial development and construction work had begun. The House which had seen so much of Ossett's history and development met an ignominious end as rubble for foundations, architectural salvage and rockery stone for Ossett's new homes.



**Longlands House site (October 2014) on the Wakefield & Dewsbury Road. Ossett Holy Trinity in background**

From left to right: In the near distance was Little Longlands (meadow land) which is now DFE (Wakefield) Ltd. In the middle distance, just after the bollards, *Smith Way* leads off to the left. Longlands Hall plantation, gardens and tennis were bisected by Smith Row. In the far distance, just beyond the white sign for Concorde Group, was Longlands Hall proper. The Hall and its extensive range of outbuildings stood on the site of Concorde Group offices .

Note the mature trees which, even today, mark the extensive road frontage of what was once Longlands Hall and its Grounds.

<sup>61</sup> The West Yorkshire Archives Service (WYAS) Deeds Office records Memorials of Deeds from 1704 to 1972 when the Land Registry assumed responsibility for land and property registration. No record of a 1970's sale of Longlands by Colin Rowland Crook has emerged but his executors must have sold the remainder of the Longlands estate and Longlands House shortly after Mr Crook's death..

## Appendix

The Will of Joshua Haigh I (1670-1746) includes an Inventory dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1746, taken just two days after his burial. The location of his house is unknown, except to the extent that it was in Ossett. Longlands Hall was not built until 20 years after his death but the Inventory provides a glimpse of the life and possessions of a wealthy man in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

*July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1746 An Inventory of the Goods and Chattels of Joshua Haigh of Ossett in the parish of Dewsbury deceased as followeth*

<i>In purse and Apparel</i>	10. 0. 0
<i>In the House one range and Irons poker Tongs</i>	10. 0
<i>Pots and pans Iron and Brass</i>	1. 5. 0
<i>Brass and iron things</i>	10. 0
<i>In pewter</i>	1. 10. 0
<i>One Clock</i>	15. 0
<i>All the Goods in the House Body</i>	1. 1. 0
<i>In the Out Shutt</i>	
<i>One Bed and other Goods</i>	10. 0
<i>In the Little Buttery and the Great Buttery</i>	
<i>Brewing vessels and other goods</i>	1. 5. 0
<i>In the parlour</i>	
<i>One Bed and Bedding and other goods</i>	10. 0
<i>In the Stone Chamber</i>	
<i>One ????? and Corn and Sacks</i>	2. 2. 0
<i>In the Middle Chamber</i>	
<i>One Bed and Bedding and other Goods</i>	5. 0. 0
<i>In the Near Chamber</i>	
<i>Two Beds and Bedding and other Goods</i>	5. 10. 0
<i>In the New Barn</i>	
<i>A parcel of Wood</i>	15. 0
<i>Some Hay</i>	2. 10. 0

<i>Six Horses and Geese Carts and ploughs Harrows &amp; Wood Bean Stack</i>	30.00.0
<i>One Bean Stack</i>	7. 0.0
<i>One Lead Pump</i>	1.15. 0
<i>In the Old Barn Some Hay</i>	3. 5. 0
<i>One Fan</i>	7. 6
<i>In Widow Bradford Barne Some hay</i>	2. 00. 0
<i>In William Land Barn</i>	5.00. 0
<i>Some Beans in the Chamber</i>	3.00.0
<i>One Swine</i>	1. 5. 0
<i>Some Hay in Healey</i>	2. 10. 0
<i>Two ????? Cows</i>	7.00. 0
<i>One Bull Black Cow &amp; Red Cow</i>	7.10. 0
<i>Why and calf and Feeding Why</i>	6.10. 0
<i>In calved Cows</i>	2.10. 0
<i>Two Calves</i>	2.00.0
<i>A parcel of Sheep</i>	4. 8. 0
<i>In the High Chamber some Oates and Barley</i>	6. 0
<i>One Why</i>	2.10. 0
<i>Some Malt</i>	1.10.0
<i>One Silver Cup one Tumbler and one spoon</i>	3.00. 0
<i>Some Linen</i>	1.00. 0

£ 132. 9. 6

*Appraised by us and witnessed John Kays, Robert Haigh, Joshua Hepworth*

Robert Haigh, was a tanner of Street Hagsgs and one time part owner of Hagsgs [Hill] Farm. Joshua Haigh II was described in Robert's Will of 1768 as his *brother*. No evidence has emerged that they were birth brothers and it may be that they were related through their respective spouse's line.

Joshua's Inventory of his home and chattels reveals that his house comprised *the house body, the parlour, the little buttery and great buttery* (rooms for making and storing liquor and food), the *near chamber, middle chamber, high chamber* (bedrooms) and *stone chamber* (cellar or store). Outside stood a *New Barn* and an *Old Barn* together with an *out shut* (an extension). There is some evidence that he had some equipment for arable farming and he had animals but the numbers of stock and machinery were not significant compared with the acreage of land owned by Joshua at the time of his death. Most stock was probably kept for personal consumption and usage.

