

## *Longley Hall: the Huddersfield Seat of the Ramsdens*

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IN 1531 WILLIAM RAMSDEN (c.1513–1580) married Joanna Wood, one of three daughters of John Wood who was among the wealthiest men in the community. Within a short time, he had acquired all John Wood's properties to add to his own growing portfolio. The acquisition of Longley, the Wood family home for over two centuries, bought from his wife's brother-in-law, Thomas Savile, in 1542, was his great prize.

Longley was typical of the homes of the lesser gentry of the district. Timber framed, it consisted of a central hall open to the roof, and two cross wings forming an 'H' plan house. Elements of the original structure have survived the numerous changes which have been undertaken over the centuries. Dendro-chronological analysis of some of the timbers suggests a date of around 1380 and there is documentary evidence for a house on the site from earlier in the 14th century. This house was probably enlarged during the following century and there were further changes after 1542 when the Ramsdens gained possession.<sup>1</sup>

Having consolidated his Huddersfield landholdings, William began to speculate in monastic property which had recently come on the market. He spent much of his time away from home and it has been concluded that he and Joanna had separated. She died childless in 1565, whilst William settled his dynastic ambitions on his brothers John and Robert.<sup>2</sup> From 1559, John (151? - 1591) rented Longley as a home for his growing family. Proceeds from rearing cattle and sheep, wool sales, money-lending and the profits of the fulling and corn mill, leased from the Crown, made John a man of substance. This enabled him to encase the old house in stone, enlarge the hall range to align with the cross wings to create a new unbroken elevation, and to insert mullion windows. Re-building probably also included the insertion of a ceiling in the open hall to allow for the creation of a living room and parlour on the ground floor with chambers or bedrooms above.<sup>3</sup>



1. Longley Old Hall before restoration.  
*Huddersfield Local Studies Library*

It also established John Ramsden's status as a member of the county gentry – a position which was confirmed in 1575 by his being granted the right to bear arms. Despite having recently re-modelled Longley, in the following year he started to build a new hall a mile or so further down the hill to the north. The Ramsden Commonplace book records that work began on the Thursday in Easter week, 26 April 1576, and was completed on 3 August 1577. The total cost of labour was £17-0-5.<sup>4</sup>

### ***The New Hall***

To maintain continuity with the Wood and Ramsden inheritance, he took with him the name 'Longley'. Described in the 1584 Survey of Almondbury as the New Hall, it has also been known as Longley Hall, Nether or Lower Longley (as opposed to Longley Old Hall, Over or Upper Longley). The 'capital message' which had 'been built within the memory of man' was replete with 'two gardens, two orchards, one springe of wodde' and a number of closes.<sup>5</sup>

Other than a chimney piece, now at Muncaster Castle [see Illustration 15, p. 35], nothing of this New Hall now survives above ground. Canon Hulbert



2. Longley Old Hall after restoration (1885).  
*Huddersfield Local Studies Library*

(1804–1888), long-serving vicar of Almondbury and author of a history of the parish, described the hall as having been built in the Tudor style on three sides of a courtyard with the main entrance on the east side.<sup>6</sup> It is not clear what evidence he had for this statement and it seems more likely that he was merely describing a typical gentry house of the area in this period. On Timothy Oldfield's survey map of 1716, the hall is shown as a long, narrow building aligned north west – south east.<sup>7</sup> The main entrance would have been on the eastern elevation. With the ranks of the gentry growing at this time, the Ramsdens were not alone in establishing their new-found place in society through building. New gentry homes sprang up across the Pennine region. They were typically built to an 'H' or 'E' plan. Varying in size, these stone-built houses were firmly rooted in the vernacular tradition, with only superficial reference to the classical influences which inspired the prodigy houses of the Elizabethan and Stuart age.<sup>8</sup>

Other houses, such as nearby Woodsome, the family home of the Kayes, were being re-built, enlarged or, like Old Longley, encased in stone; and another neighbour, Richard Beaumont, was replacing an earlier timber framed house at Whitley with one in stone to an 'E' plan.<sup>9</sup> Longley was one of the larger

houses, being assessed on 25 hearths in the 1672 Hearth Tax; Woodsome was taxed on 22 hearths and Whitley Beaumont on 17. Of the 132 houses in the West Riding listed as having 10 or more hearths, only six had 25 or more; one of these was Byram, which had been acquired in about 1630 by John Ramsden's grandson, another John (1594-1646) – distinguished from his grandfather by having been knighted in 1619 – who had inherited the Ramsden estates on his father's death in January in 1622/3.<sup>10</sup>

Byram was probably a grander house than Longley and it had the further advantage of being nearer to York, the centre of county government, to which the Ramsdens like other members of their class were drawn. With gentry status came responsibility. Local government was county-based and depended on the active participation of the gentry. Sir John undertook a number of administrative and judicial roles. A JP from 1627, he was elected MP for Pontefract in 1628 and 1640. A visit to the town 'to know what service the townsmen would command' may have introduced him to Byram only four miles away.<sup>11</sup>

Set within a deer park, Byram was ideal for entertaining, which was essential to the development of political and commercial alliances. This was made much easier for the widowed Sir John after 1633 when he married twice-widowed Anne Poole, a substantial heiress. Longley had become very much a secondary home, despite the purchase of the Manor of Almondbury in 1627, but it was to become a place of safety for the family in the troubled times that lay ahead.

As High Sheriff of the county in 1636-7, Sir John bore the responsibility for collecting Ship Money, a levy instituted by the Crown without parliamentary sanction. Despite its unpopularity, he was successful in collecting £11,800 of the £12,000 charged on the county. When Parliament finally sat in April 1640, Ship Money was one of the many grievances which occupied members. Matters were unresolved when Charles dissolved the sitting after only three weeks. The lines for future conflict were drawn. In 1642, Sir John sold land near Saddleworth to raise funds for a regiment, settled his estates and made a will. The family retreated to Longley which was at a distance from the main centres of military activity in the civil wars which followed. Whilst Sir John's regiment fought at Marston Moor in July 1644, he had himself been captured at the Battle of Selby in April and sent to the Tower. Upon release he joined the forces besieging Pontefract Castle before moving on to defend Newark, where he died in 1646.

Now in Royalist hands, Pontefract Castle came under siege for a third time in October 1648 with Cromwell briefly taking charge of proceedings. On 6 November, news reached Parliament that 'Lieut. General Cromwel is at *Biron* House near *Pontefract*, and there continues 'till he hath so settled the several

Posts, as that the Enemy may not, as they have done, break forth, plunder and undo the County; which done, he goes to the Head-Quarters, as expected.<sup>12</sup> Cromwell probably spent no more than a week at Byram before crossing the River Aire and taking up residence at Knottingley. The well-provisioned and strongly-fortified garrison was still holding out when Cromwell left for London in December; it was the last Royalist stronghold to surrender in March 1649, two months after Charles I's execution.

Thanks to the arrangements made by his father, William Ramsden (1625-1679) was able to avoid sequestration and succeeded to the family estates. Newly married, he continued to live at Longley where the first of his four sons was born in 1648. It was to remain their principal home for the rest of their lives, William dying there in 1679 and his wife, Elizabeth, in 1691. Byram, which was probably in no fit state for immediate occupation after the billeting of parliamentary forces, did not become a family home again until John Ramsden (1648-1690) brought his new wife Sarah Butler there in 1670/1. Their eldest son, William was born at Byram and baptised at Brotherton on 22 October 1672. Involvement in county affairs and national politics meant that John spent little time at Longley, though he was successful in obtaining a licence to hold a weekly market in Huddersfield in 1671. After he came into his inheritance, he relied on a steward to manage the Huddersfield and Almondbury estates.

John's support of William III was rewarded with a baronetcy in 1689. Within a year the title had passed to his 17-year old son. In 1696, Sir William (1672-1736) married Elizabeth, daughter of the first Viscount Lonsdale, a prominent figure at Court, thus marking a further rise up the social ladder for the Ramsdens and necessitating alterations and improvements at Byram. Meanwhile, Longley became a backwater with rooms retained for no more than occasional use. To maintain the lifestyle now expected of him, Sir William took a keen interest in the management of his estates and kept a close eye on his revenues. His successor's interests were in national politics, serving as an MP for 27 years, and required him to maintain a household in the capital. Sir John, 3rd baronet (1698/9-1769) was 49 years of age when he married Margaret Norton on 8 August 1748; a longed-for son and heir was born in 1755.

### ***'A Modern House'***

A year earlier, on 24 September, according to local attorney John Turner, 'Longley Hall pulled down'.<sup>13</sup> No other record for this action has been found, but in his account of the hall, Canon Hulbert notes 'a modern house had been added in the last century, in the plain style of the day, looking towards the West and North'.<sup>14</sup> J. S. Fletcher remarks that this new house replaced the



3. Longley Hall, rebuilt eighteenth-century south side, enclosing part of the original Tudor building.

*Huddersfield Local Studies Library*

existing buildings. Recalling the Huddersfield of his youth, Mr. D. Schofield noted that ‘... Longley Hall, [was] at that time a brick building, plastered over and lime washed, standing on the site of the present hall’.<sup>15</sup>

Taken at its face value, John Turner’s journal entry would lead to the conclusion that John Ramsden’s New Hall had been demolished in its entirety, a view supported by the statements of Fletcher and Schofield. Canon Hulbert stands alone in observing that the ‘modern house’ was an addition, from which it must be concluded that only part of the earlier house was pulled down in 1754. Two photographs in the collections of Huddersfield Local Studies Library confirm this.<sup>16</sup> They show respectively, the west elevation and the south-west corner of the hall in or about 1871 before this ‘modern house’ itself was demolished and replaced. It is clearly a somewhat utilitarian addition to an earlier gabled building. The three by one bay extension in plain Georgian style has sash windows which have also been introduced beneath the hood mouldings of the older part of the building where they presumably replaced stone mullions. The newer part of the building has been lime rendered and was in need of attention at the time that this photograph was taken.



4. Longley Hall, rebuilt eighteenth-century west front.  
*Huddersfield Local Studies Library*

This new addition must have been part of a re-organisation and refurbishment of the hall, which included moving the main entrance from the east to the west elevation. The front door beneath a semi-circular light is recessed behind a pair of Tuscan columns forming a portico. Together with the treatment of the windows – tri-partite openings with simple pediments on the ground floor and arched on the first floor – suggest a date later in the 18th century. Local historian, Philp Ahier, was of the opinion that it dated from after the building of the extension to the Cloth Hall in 1780.<sup>17</sup> He does not give his reasons for this, though stylistically he is on good grounds. It may have been the use of brick in a predominantly stone-built area which encouraged this speculation. Brick was used for the building of the Cloth Hall and its extension, and surplus bricks from this project had been used in the construction of the New Row near the Market Place.

More difficult to explain is why there was such a long gap between the demolition of part of the hall and the building of a new wing, and why this project was begun at a time when the 4th baronet was preoccupied with the improvements he was making to Byram under the direction of John Carr,



Robert Adam and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.<sup>18</sup> It seems unlikely that Sir John (1755–1839) ordered the work because he intended to spend more time in Huddersfield. He had succeeded his father in 1769, and spent most of his time in London and Byram, relying on his trustees and agents to manage his estates. So far as is known, he never stayed at Longley and, despite his long tenure, he famously visited the town from which he derived a considerable part of his income and which allowed him to live a life of pleasure, only once, in 1822.<sup>19</sup>

Whilst the 'modern house' had been incorporated into the older property, it could, quite easily stand alone. With the appearance of a modest gentleman's property or a somewhat grander farmhouse, was this, perhaps, occupied by a tenant who acted as agent and custodian of the hall? William Hirst, Corn factor, Dealer and Chapman, was living at Longley Hall when his creditors were invited to a meeting at the 'House of Samuel Mortimer, known by the sign of the George' on 22 September 1769, to make a dividend of the bankrupt's estate and effects.<sup>20</sup>

In a valuation of 1843, Margaret Holt is listed as the occupier of Longley Hall and the tenant of 24 acres of land, which she held on preferential terms.<sup>21</sup> She shared her home with her two sisters, Sarah and Mary, who were said to be in poor health and deaf.<sup>22</sup> Together they made a living through needlework and keeping a cow or two.<sup>23</sup> They were the daughters of John Holt, who is listed as tenant of the King's Mill in 1797. He was obviously a man of some substance, paying an annual rent of £266 for the mill and 19 acres. In Baines' 1822 *Yorkshire Directory* he is shown as residing at Longley Hall and acting as an agent, architect and land surveyor. In this capacity he was employed by Sir John Ramsden and was said to be 'the general measurer of buildings in Huddersfield' with 'long and considerable experience in that line'.<sup>24</sup>

As heir presumptive to the estate and baronetcy, John Charles Ramsden (1788–1836) accompanied by his wife, the Hon. Isabella, visited Huddersfield in 1829. Arriving in the town on the evening of Saturday 27 June, they took up residence at Longley Hall, attending morning and afternoon services at Almondbury Church on the Sunday. On Monday morning Isabella was 'visited by several of the principal ladies'. Members of the family having visited the town only once in the previous half century, the couple aroused a great deal of interest and crowds gathered to witness the laying of the foundation stone of the new infirmary, the purpose of their visit. 'Mrs. Ramsden appears much younger than her husband, and is a very elegant and lady-like woman. Mr. Ramsden is a tall slender man, and his general appearance produces an impression of aristocracy. His manner is tolerable, but he has an impediment in his speech, which disqualifies him from figuring as a public speaker'.<sup>25</sup>





5. The Hon. Mrs Isabella Ramsden (1790–1887),  
wife of John Charles Ramsden and mother of Sir John William Ramsden.  
*Muncaster Castle*



6. George Loch (1811–1877), Ramsden agent 1847–1853,  
by unknown artist, stipple engraving, late 19th century.  
*National Portrait Gallery*

John Charles was in fact only two years older than his wife, but she was to outlive him by over 50 years. He predeceased his father leaving Isabella Ramsden guardian of his son and heir, John William, who became the fifth baronet at the age of only seven years. Meanwhile, under the terms of the fourth baronet's will, oversight of the estate passed to trustees, the most influential of whom was his mother's cousin and brother-in-law, Earl Fitzwilliam (1786–1857) who first visited the town on Tuesday 5 November 1844 'for the purpose of inspecting and interviewing on the proposed improvements, the sites of new churches &c'. After looking around the Cloth Hall, where he bought a piece of fancy cloth, he visited the Parish Church and the Ramsden Street and Queen Street chapels. On Wednesday and Thursday of the same week, the 13 year-old John William, who was making his first visit to the town, joined the agent, George Loch, at the George Hotel to receive the half-yearly rents, estimated to amount to £30,000.<sup>26</sup>

### *Estate Office and Resident Agent*

Rooms at Longley must have been kept ready for these occasional visits. At other times, the windows would have been shuttered and the furniture covered by dust sheets. Isabella was happy to receive some of the principal ladies of the town during her stay in 1829 but there is no record of any major work having been undertaken in preparation for that visit. She encouraged George Loch to make use of Longley after he took over the management of the estate: 'I am afraid you will have very uncomfortable quarters at the George Inn, pray go and look at Longley Hall and consider if you would not be fitter lodged there'.<sup>27</sup> Earlier in the year, Loch had made a fact-finding visit to the town uncovering three decades of mismanagement and neglect. Some of this was the responsibility of Sir John's steward, John Bower, who visited the town twice a year when rents were due, staying for about two weeks on each occasion to conduct business. Like his predecessor, John Crowder, he would have stayed at Longley. The trustees accepted Loch's recommendations, which included the appointment of a resident agent.<sup>28</sup> Mrs Ramsden was impatient for the resident to take up the post and wished 'he was installed in his office and a site chosen for an Estate office &c. and the building planned'. A town centre location was envisaged as she pondered whether it might be better to wait until the site of the railway station had been determined 'and have the Estate Office &c. at a convenient distance from it'.<sup>29</sup>

In the meantime, Edward Blore (1787–1879) had been consulted about plans for an extension to Longley. At that time, the architect was employed in building New Worsley Hall for Loch's major employer, the Duke of Bridgewater. George Loch maintained an office at Worsley Old Hall to which



7. Alexander Hathorn (1816–1892), resident agent for Huddersfield, 1844–1861.  
*Huddersfield Local Studies Library*



8. Isaac Hordern (1829–1912), estate clerk and cashier, 1846–1909.  
*Kirklees Image Archive*

much of the Ramsden estate correspondence in this period was directed. Blore along with Sir William Tite advised George Loch and the trustees on building proposals, designing some new farm buildings for the estate. He wrote from Dover *en route* to Belgium in September 1844, suggesting that he had been set a difficult task. He could not match the plans he had been given to the internal arrangement of the proposed extension, but he felt he could not improve on the design without adding to the costs. He assumed that the extension would be in an ‘old English’ style rather than ‘Roman’<sup>30</sup>. Despite Mrs Ramsden’s wishes, plans for new estate offices appear to have been put on hold for the time being at least.

Alexander Hathorn (1816-1892) took up the post of resident agent in October 1844. He had been a secretary in James Loch’s offices in Albemarle Street before moving to the Bridgewater Offices in Manchester. James Loch (1780-1855) made his reputation as agent to the vast Sutherland and Bridgewater estates; George followed in his father’s steps. Hathorn became a lodger at Longley Hall where an estate office was set up in the existing building. Seventeen year old Isaac Hordern joined the office in March 1846 about the same time as three fireproof safes arrived for the storage of account books and deeds.<sup>31</sup> Longley was no longer a temporary site for the resident agent’s offices and, in May 1847, Hathorn was ready to set out his ideas for proposed additions and alterations to the hall and for the creation of new estate offices:

I do not see that any portion of these proposed additions can be made at either end of the Hall – I mean in the shape of wings – I would propose that the new buildings should be placed so as to run from near the kitchen door up the side of the plantation, leaving sufficient space at either end for entrance into the garden, larder and the croft beyond.<sup>32</sup>

It was envisaged that the extension would be of two storeys, the ground floor of which would comprise a waiting room, clerks’ office and agent’s room, whilst the upper floor would connect with the main house and provide additional accommodation. Part of the latter might be required for the agent’s office if a stone fireproof safe were to be constructed at the end of the clerks’ office, which Hathorn recommended. He also favoured an “Elizabethan” style and rough sandstone work. For this, Thomas Brook, who worked in the office, provided an estimate of about £300, but Hathorn remarked that, ‘as the season is now considerably advanced, & masons & all other kind of works so very expensive’ he would recommend postponing any work to the end of the year or the beginning of the next.<sup>33</sup>

While Hathorn was awaiting instruction about the proposed extension and the go-ahead to paint and decorate both the interior and exterior of

the existing buildings, which was said to be much in need, Mrs Ramsden intervened. She had at last received the letter relating to the plans whilst staying at Eastthorp Southern, the Warwickshire home of the Vyners: 'If Longley Hall is found on trial as suitable situation for the abode of the Resident Agent, I sh[oul]d say, hasten to build the wing you propose'. She reminded Loch that at the time of his appointment he had considered that some buildings, including an estate office and residence for an agent, might be required. Summing up, she insisted that there was no economy in postponing the required additions: 'pray proceed with the consideration of the plans for making it commodious for the intended purpose'. She regretted that the work had not been started. 'Had the work been set about in May, what progress there might have been made this fine summer!' She was equally positive about the painting and decorating. It is 'much wanted' and 'must certainly be done' though May would have been a better time for interior painting than July or August'.<sup>34</sup>

Spurred on, Hathorn was able to report to Loch on 24 August 1847 that 'the kitchen has been painted and whitewashed & otherwise repaired ... Miss Holt's parlour, Servants Hall & all the Bedrooms occupied by them [the Holt sisters] & by the servants have been painted, papered and whitewashed'. This was the first work to have been undertaken in the house for over 14 years and the rooms occupied by the Misses Holt were in quite a state. After attending a lecture on public health earlier in the year, Hathorn was convinced that 'the cleanliness of the habitation the more necessary and important for the preservation of health'.<sup>35</sup>

A late start had been made on the alterations and additions to the hall and good progress made by the end of August 1847. The front door and portico were painted at the same time as the kitchen, but the work was halted before the expected arrival of George Loch so that he 'should not be annoyed with the smell of the paint'. Four rooms were ready for decorating. Hathorn sought advice on the papers to be chosen. A man had been set on to find a supply of water in the field above the hall. Hathorn was confident that a suitable source would be found and that the pressure would be good enough to carry the water up to the bedrooms. Here, Hathorn probably means the bedroom floor rather than the individual bedrooms. Housemaids would have been expected to fill pitchers 'with water and other matters' in a closet on the landing between the old and new parts of the house. Once the water supply was proved, the pipes could be installed and the painting commence. This would be a considerable improvement; Hathorn had had no running water for three months and had to rely on a well he had dug two years earlier.<sup>36</sup>

As Hathorn had suspected, there was little likelihood of all the building work being completed before the end of the season, leaving the new estate offices to be erected the following year. Work resumed in March 1848 but

was halted when a dispute arose about the cost of the outstanding work. In January 1848, William Wallen had estimated the mason's work on the new offices at £300 with other costs at £315.<sup>37</sup> This is the first mention of Wallen's involvement in the project; his plans for the buildings do not appear to have survived. Estimates in March 1848 put the total cost of the work at £712, the discrepancy being accounted for by a higher estimate from Catton, the mason. Wallen explained that since January, 'the workmen have "struck" and there is now a general demand for an increase of 6d a day for labour'. Furthermore, Wallen noted, the quarry that had been chosen to supply the stone, which was the only source of suitable stone for the job, charged higher rates for its product and, if that were not enough, problems had been found when excavating the foundations, the ground being 'made' rather than 'natural'. Hathorn recommended that the estimates be accepted and the work proceeded.<sup>38</sup>

The new offices survived the later rebuilding at Longley Hall in the form of the two gabled bays and a single storey castellated extension on the eastern side of the building [see Illustration 9, p. 15]. W. H. Crossland was to place his new main entrance in this wing, which he converted from agent's offices to domestic offices. Wallen employed the local vernacular, with hood mouldings to the mullioned windows which would have fitted in with the remaining parts of the original building. On the easternmost gable the Ramsden arms are carved in stone, whilst a roundel on the other gable included a clock. There are close similarities between the agent's offices and the former Castle Hill Hotel for which Wallen was probably responsible two years later [see Illustration 38, p. 164]. The Georgian wing, which included the principal reception rooms and bedrooms and which were re-decorated at this time, has not survived.

With the new buildings in place, Hathorn felt that the old buildings looked dirty and dingy. He recommended that Thomas Clayton, 'who coloured the Cloth Hall so successfully and has discovered some preparation which prevents the weather from having the usual effect upon whitewashed or coloured Buildings', be employed to colour the hall to match the stone of the new offices. Approval for this must have been forthcoming as Clayton was given two additional days' work to repair and replace the ridge tiles and slates which had been found in need of attention.<sup>39</sup>

Fitting out the new building started in earnest in 1849. Wallen sought advice concerning the chimney pieces to be installed in the rooms to be occupied by Hathorn and members of the Ramsden family. The specification had provided for stone fireplaces, which would be in a Gothic style, though plain and well executed. Alternatives in marble were offered, but this would add at least £10 to the final cost. And cost was an issue. Loch had already



9. Longley Hall, north front. Engraving by Rock & Co. of London, 15 May 1873.

The two gables on the left formed part of the Estate Offices, designed in 1848-9 by William Wallen, enclosing the old Tudor building. The porch by W. H. Crossland was added in 1873 when the whole western side of the Hall was replaced: the ground floor rooms under the two gables to the right were the ante room and the library.

*Huddersfield Local Studies Library*

complained that the ceilings were 'too expensive and rich'. Wallen disagreed. All the plasterers' work had been included in the contract and any additional work had been approved. Wallen considered their prices to be fair as there was 'great competition in the plasterers' work'.<sup>40</sup>

Loch carefully scrutinised all estimates and accounts with the aim of keeping down the costs of the alterations and additions to the hall. Due economy was observed by the re-use and refurbishment of fixtures and fittings, but even the workmen questioned some of the decisions. Mr Wilson, who attended in October 1849 in order to measure the four rooms in the new offices for carpets, was asked to include the entrance, hall, staircase and landings in his measurements. Somewhat dismayed, he opined that 'anything new put on the floor of the Hall & staircase will not correspond well, or at all with the present condition of the walls and ceiling'. Hathorn confirmed



that the ceiling was so black that before it could be whitewashed again, it would have to be papered first. Indeed, the four large front square rooms were in want of being papered and painted throughout as they 'are hardly fit to receive either Lord Fitzwilliam, Sir John Ramsden or yourself'.<sup>41</sup>

Local tradesmen were encouraged by the Ramsdens' revived interest in the town and the new developments that were taking place in the wake of the arrival of the railways in Huddersfield. Wallen, Hathorn observed in January 1849, was 'already set to work in preparing the necessary papers and measurements by which the several builders may be enabled to deliver tenders'.<sup>42</sup> Messrs Roebuck did not wait to be invited to compete for work, sending a letter and circular detailing their joinery work. Hathorn was keen to employ them and Loch had expressed a wish that 'a greater portion of the recent furnishings had been done by Huddersfield tradesmen'.<sup>43</sup> With this in mind, Hathorn had sought estimates for painting and papering at Longley from Burman & Calvert of whom 'Mr Wallen has the highest opinion'. Moreover, they were tenants on the estate and, like others in their position, 'they always appear glad to be employed'.<sup>44</sup> On this occasion, it was not to be. Mrs Ramsden wrote announcing that she had been to the Duppa & Collins showrooms in Oxford Street and selected the papers for Longley Hall and 'they wish to put them up & say it will not increase [sic] the expense as they have workmen now employed near Leeds'.<sup>45</sup>

If employing London tradesmen incurred no additional monetary costs, it did cost a great deal of the goodwill which Hathorn had fostered, providing Joshua Hobson and the recently-established *Huddersfield Chronicle* with ammunition to aim against the estate and its absentee owners who were already under fire over the issue of Tenant Right [see chapter 3]:<sup>46</sup>

... the majority of the inhabitants of Huddersfield are tenants under the estate of Sir J.W. Ramsden at the hands of whose Trustees they have had many concessions of a wise and comprehensive character conceded to them, and we believe that the Right Honourable Baronet in return draws a rent-roll of £60,000 a-year from the people of Huddersfield and the neighbourhood. So far there has, we think been a quid pro quo. Now there is standing within a short distance of Huddersfield, a mansion pretty generally known as Longley Hall in connection with which a suit [sic] of offices has been erected by the Ramsden Trustees... where the matters of detail pertaining to the management of the estate are transacted. The shell of these buildings having been carried up, and the exterior erections completed [local tradesmen expected to be called upon to tender for painting and papering]. ...those hopes and expectations of being patronised by their landlord have, within the last

week been completely dispelled; for within the last few days a number of painters, paper-hangers, decorators &c. have arrived from London ... accommodation having in the meantime been provided for them at a neighbouring inn.... Were we not convinced to the contrary we should be led to infer that the tradesmen of Huddersfield are not competent to undertake the decoration of these baronial offices.<sup>47</sup>

Sir John William read these criticisms at his home in Upper Brook Street but did not realise the extent of the opposition to the estate's leasing policy nor did he anticipate that it would lead to battle in the courts. He felt that the *Chronicle* was indulging in hyperbole. And, as for ordering paper and curtains in London, this was a 'very far fetched grievance indeed'.<sup>48</sup>

Alexander Hathorn's progress reports, together with the Duppa & Collins account for work at Longley, give a fuller picture than is usual of what was involved in decorating a country seat, and compensate for the absence of plans or illustrations of the finished rooms.<sup>49</sup> During May 1850, the suitability of the chimney pieces in each room was considered. A marble chimney piece in the surveyors' office was moved to the drawing room; others were relegated to the bedrooms and new grates and mantels ordered. These had all been installed before painting and papering was commenced in June. The woodwork in all the rooms was prepared, rubbed down, filled, and any rotten wood replaced. All the windows were given two coats of paint whilst the doors, the woodwork in the dining room, passage and stairs were given three coats in readiness for the grainer's arrival. Outside, after preparation, the wooden window frames were given two coats of paint, which was also applied to the stone jambs and sills.

There were four principal rooms on the ground floor, including a drawing room and dining room. Hathorn had a bedroom on the upper floor, where there were three more new bedrooms, two of them larger than the others, presumably set aside for Sir John William's use although nothing had been finalised and Miss Holt was anxious to know how the rooms were being allocated. These rooms received three coats of paint before papering. Observing the progress made, Hathorn felt that the work would be well-done, but he was less happy with the workmanship in the offices and bedrooms above, recommending that these rooms be re-varnished. Additionally, he requested that the Servants' Hall be whitewashed and the walls papered in oak together with the passage leading to the Entrance Hall.

Duppa & Collins provided a detailed account for the work they had undertaken in one of the four original reception rooms. After washing off the old colour from the ceiling, any cracks exposed were cut out and stopped in readiness for the application of a cream tint which was also applied to 111 feet



of cornice. The walls had been covered with a flock paper mounted on canvas stretched over battens and tacked. The fixings were concealed beneath a gilt moulding or fillet. This was carefully dismantled, the old canvas restored and replaced where necessary before sheets of green and gold paper were applied and the gilt mouldings re-fixed. Paid in September 1850, the account totalled £31-5-7, including £1-17-9. to cover the paperhanger's railway fares, time travelling and lodgings. The fashionable decorators' services extended to supplying, making and fitting curtains, and repairing and re-upholstering seat furniture as well as supplying items of furniture, all of which were required at Longley. Where possible, the existing furniture was retained. A set of 12 dining room chairs was re-furbished and the seats covered in leather. The claw feet of a matching pair of armchairs needed to be re-carved before the seats were stuffed and covered with leather. Some of the furniture was found to be beyond repair including the bed in Hathorn's room, the North Bedroom. It was replaced with an iron bed which both Sir John and his mother thought 'would be more easily kept clean and [would be] more durable'. Six old bedroom chairs were covered in chintz and one placed in each of the bedrooms. On the recommendation of Hanson, the upholsterer, velvet and damask were chosen for the new covers of the large armchairs in the dining and drawing rooms. And there was new furniture too – a consignment of mahogany furniture arrived from Lambs of Manchester on 16 October 1849.

Sir John had not visited Huddersfield since 1844. He had not, as expected, joined Earl Fitzwilliam at the laying of the foundation stone of the railway station in 1846; and a planned stay at Longley in autumn 1849 had been postponed at the last minute. In view of the mounting criticism of the estate's policies, Loch wanted the young baronet to be seen by his tenants. With the new bedrooms partially furnished, he wrote to Mrs Ramsden saying that they were '... very nice ... very comfortable...I shall hope to see you and your son in them next year.'<sup>50</sup> A date was finally fixed. Sir John would join his mother at the laying of the foundation stone of the new church at Bay Hall in which they had taken a keen interest, on 16 October 1851 [see pp. 134-6]. This allowed plenty of time to complete outstanding work and to furnish the rooms at Longley as well as to improve the approach to the house by widening and fencing the carriage road and erecting a new gate and gate piers at the entrance.<sup>51</sup>

The visit proved a great success. Isabella was overjoyed: '...no mother and son could be greeted and supported with more warmly expressed kindly feeling than we were'.<sup>52</sup> But their stay was short. They stayed overnight at Longley, entertained Earl Fitzwilliam to lunch, and returned to Byram after the ceremony 'as our time is not at our own disposal', wrote Isabella. She hoped that this would not be misconstrued by our friends and she was sorry

to think that any ladies and gentlemen might be encouraged to ‘come up the hill to Longley Hall’ and find them not at home.<sup>53</sup>

Whilst congratulating Loch on their reception in the town, the Ramsdens appear not to have recorded what they thought of the improvements at Longley nor their appreciation of all the work that Hathorn had undertaken on the house and grounds. Given approval to have the garden ‘made to look a little tidy’ not long after his arrival at Longley, Hathorn set about this task with enthusiasm.<sup>54</sup> The plantations were thinned out and older fruit trees in the orchard taken away. Despite the exceptionally cold weather, Armitage the gardener was creating a new walk leading towards the house. He proposed to plant lilacs and roses on the bank which ran alongside.<sup>55</sup> Writing in 1847, George Searle Phillips described the garden and the improvements which had been made in the intervening years:

[The garden] is situate on top of a pleasant hill surrounded by trees; and below it lies a deep dell, the banks of which slope in rather sudden declivities to the bottom. A short time ago, this dell was wild and uncultivated; but the present occupier of the hall having an eye both to use and beauty, has broken it up into a garden, and planted the hillsides with potatoes and other vegetables. He has likewise built a green house there, and cut a deep trough to carry off the water which comes down the hill; and on either side the trough he has planted shrubs and flowers, which I remember had a very beautiful appearance in the early part of the summer. Then there is a fine shadowy walk, running to the end of the dell, amongst tall and graceful trees.<sup>56</sup>

Phillips was of the opinion that these improvements reflected the character of the man who had wrought them: ‘he is a man who will war with disorder, and put up with no wild nonsense either from men or nature’. He went further, considering that a man ‘who can turn a savage stony dingle into a garden is just the man to stop all nuisances of what sort soever, and look well after the sanatory matters within his authority’.

Whilst he might have enjoyed free rein in the garden, Hathorn was answerable to Loch and the family. He carried out their instructions and sought their approval on estate matters which not infrequently extended to matters of detail. Phillips described Longley as being ‘once the seat of the Ramsden family and now occupied by a gentleman acting in the capacity of an agent.’ As far as Hathorn was concerned it remained a seat of the family where he merely had rooms and where his offices were located. In the 1851 Census, he was described as a ‘lodger’, the eldest of the Holt sisters, Mary, being described as head of the household. Her youngest sister, Sarah, who acted as housekeeper, asked the family through Loch how the new rooms

were to be allocated, and Hathorn had had no say in the decoration and furnishing of the rooms. The family even chose the door furniture, expressing a preference for white china door knobs and finger plates over ones in brass.<sup>57</sup>

So much for the house Hathorn believed he had been promised as an incentive to make the move over the Pennines. But that was not his only grievance. Not unsurprisingly, he felt that he was being taken for granted. He complained to Loch that he was not adequately remunerated for the work he did as resident agent. He had been in post for over six years and in that time had devoted himself to the service of the estate, so much so, he argued, that 'I may without any exaggeration, call it 9 years'. During that time, the business of the estate had grown with the acquisition of neighbouring estates and the 'healthy increase of the Town' and with that had come 'new duties, anxieties and responsibilities'. Yet, despite previous approaches, his salary had not been increased in line with this additional burden. And, if that were not enough, he had had to meet the cost of keeping a horse without which he could not do his job. He reminded Loch of his loyalty to him and his father James over almost 14 years. 'My great object now is to get everything into as perfect order as possible by the time of Sir John Wm Ramsden's attaining his majority.'<sup>58</sup>

In achieving this objective, Hathorn became increasingly reliant on Isaac Hordern, the clerk who had arrived at Longley from the Bridgewater offices not long after he had taken up the post of resident agent. When an opportunity for advancement arose following the suspension of Dyke, one of the clerks, on account of his 'reckless conduct and extraordinary actions', Hathorn happily supported Hordern's application. Not only was he familiar with every department of the business, but 'he has very good taste in Architecture, and has at various times by his suggestions and otherwise assisted me very materially in the arrangement & laying out of Land for Building purposes'.<sup>59</sup>

### *New Longley*

Hordern was able to leave his mark on Longley when called upon to draw up plans for new stables, barn and coach house. The chosen site was to the north east of the hall and the buildings, on two sides of a rectangular plot, forming an 'L' shape, survive, though the interiors have been stripped of their original features. The walls and gate on the other two sides of the rectangle, which formed the stable yard, have also disappeared. Built of coursed dressed local sandstone in a plain gothic style, buttresses separate one bay from the next. A string course forms a dado around the whole building. Windows are emphasised by hood mouldings and decorative stonework whilst the doors are Early English arches. Narrow slit openings on the north and west elevations

LONGLEY HALL MUDDERSFIELD  
PLANS AND ELEVATIONS OF STABLES.



SOUTH ELEVATION.

11. Longley Hall Stables, North Elevation by Isaac Hordern (1855), from a plan by Huddersfield Corporation Architects  
*WYAS Kirkles, CBH/A/321.*

are given a similar treatment. The double doors of the barn and coach house necessitate Tudor arched openings. Most of the building was single storey, but there was a floor above the harness room at the southern end of the building to provide accommodation for groomsmen and above the coach house at the eastern end for coachmen and visiting servants. Windows and a dormer indicate the second floors.<sup>60</sup>

In his notebook, Hordern recorded the completion of the stables in 1855, with which he appears to have been very pleased, noting that, 'Mr Matthews, Sir W Tite's repr[esentative] spoke very well of them when he visited Huddersfield'. Later historians have attributed the building to Edward Blore and the overall appearance of the barn and stables does owe much to him. There are similarities between Hordern's plans and those provided by Blore for George Green's farm approximately 10 years earlier.<sup>61</sup>

Loch stayed at Longley to oversee the celebrations to mark Sir John William Ramsden's coming of age. These took place on Wednesday 15 September 1852, the day after the birthday to avoid competition with the business of the Tuesday market, and were deemed to be a success despite the rain. Neither



Sir John nor any member of the family attended, but it was anticipated that Sir John would become more actively involved in Huddersfield affairs.<sup>62</sup> With the health of his father deteriorating, Loch was spending more time on the Sutherland estate, the running of which he took over following James Loch's death in 1855.<sup>63</sup> Sir John attended the soiree at the Mechanics' Institute on 18 May 1853 and, on the following day toured the town with Earl Fitzwilliam and Thomas Nelson, a London-based solicitor.<sup>64</sup> The latter took on Loch's role at a time when many local people were concerned about the costs of leases, the security of their property and their position as tenant-right holders of property. Nelson's actions exacerbated the situation.<sup>65</sup> Looking back, Hordern confided: 'I said the Estate would not recover from his Management for 30 years. It never has'.<sup>66</sup>

Sir John was all too well aware of shortcomings in the management of his affairs. Following a rent dinner, which Nelson had failed to attend, Sir John reviewed his own situation:

During my recent stay at Huddersfield I became painfully conscious of the manner in which I had hitherto neglected my duties there – and of the injurious extent to which it had reacted [reflected?] on my own character and interests. As an absentee I was very ignorant of my own property & a very indolent & very careless Proprietor, I had delegated to you a vast amount of business which ought properly to have been discharged by myself. ... Many circumstances brought this forcibly to my mind at Huddersfield & showed that I had relied too exclusively on my Agents instead of acting for myself. ... I determined therefore to adopt an entirely new course – to take the management of my own affairs, as in duty bound, into my own hands – & in all local matters to carry on the ordinary business by direct instructions to Mr. Hathorn as my resident & local Agent & referring to you for advice assistance on more special and important matters properly falling under your functions.<sup>67</sup>

Nelson did not last long and after his departure, Alexander Hathorn was appointed general manager of the estate in June 1860, reporting directly to Sir John. Nelson had spent little time in the town, leaving Hathorn as resident to face the critics of the estate's leasing practices, and deal with the consequences of ongoing legal challenges. Not even a substantial pay rise assuaged Hathorn's grievances. He reminded Sir John that he had given the best years of his life to the estate, pointing out that the business of the estate was 'of a very varied nature' and differed 'widely from the ordinary run of Estates'. For much of that time, he complained, he had not been adequately remunerated. Had he been given a separate residence, as promised, his salary would not have been sufficient to enable him to keep it in a manner commensurate with his

position. This had undoubtedly impacted on his career and on his prospects of marriage and family life. Nevertheless, he had 'become much attached' to Longley Hall.<sup>68</sup>

But he was not too attached and when offered a partnership with a Mr. Chadwick in a public accountancy practice and agency in Manchester, Hathorn accepted, leaving Longley in December 1861. He was succeeded in March 1862 by John Noble who made no mark on the estate or Longley. He retired on 31 October 1864, leaving Hordern to complain that he was away from business for 96 days between 1 January 1864 and 6 August 1864: 'I had a busy time of it'.<sup>69</sup>

### *Agent's House and Mansion*

Captain Richard Hewley Graham (1834-1885) took up the post in December 1864. The son and grandson of leading Yorkshire Evangelical clergymen, the 30 year old bachelor had been in the army until the previous year, having recently served as aide-de-camp to the Governor of Malta.<sup>70</sup> For the next 20 years, he brought to the role of agent and advisor 'firmness of character, gentlemanly courtesy and common sense'. He proved to be the right man to heal the wounds which the tenant right case had exposed, spending time looking after the social, educational and spiritual needs of the tenantry. He also took seriously responsibility for members of his own family: two unmarried sisters were living with him at Longley in 1871.<sup>71</sup>

It seems that Sir John had agreed to provide a residence at Longley where Graham could live independently. To this end, and to avoid the situation which had arisen because of the estate's failure to provide Hathorn with a suitable residence, he had shown William Burn (1789-1870) over the site sometime in the summer of 1865.<sup>72</sup> A pioneer of the Scottish baronial, Burn worked in a variety of styles but became known for the layout and planning of country houses. Sir John would have become aware of Burn's houses on his visits to Scotland, the beginning of a love affair with the country that would lead to his building Ardrverkie on the shore of Loch Laggan, Inverness. From 1844, Burn lived at and practised from Stratton Street, a short walk from the Ramsdens' London home. In the months following his visit, the prolific architect produced a number of plans for the agent's house and the 'mansion'.

In his initial exchanges with Burn, Sir John had also discussed the possibility of providing a suitable residence for himself. Reviewing the various options and 'considering the separate requirements of the Mansion House and the Agent's residence', Burn wrote, 'it appeared to me indispensable to look at the whole subject, as from their close connexion, it became necessary to see how far advantages could be taken of any part or portions of either for the

general benefit, and mutual convenience be best promoted'.<sup>73</sup> With this in mind, in August 1865, Burn produced a ground plan showing both elements of the proposals.<sup>74</sup>

At the centre of the ground plan, which formed an irregular 'E' shape, was Wallen's 1848 estate office [see Illustration 10, p. 18]. To the east, the agent's house with dining and drawing room, kitchen and domestic offices; to the west, the mansion with its principal reception rooms. Burn had tried to take into account all Sir John's wishes regarding the number, size and position of the public apartments in his proposals for the mansion, but he did not feel he could achieve this within the existing walls which he proposed to replace. The re-built walls would occupy a larger rectangular footprint approximately 60 by 95 feet with octagonal towers on three of the building's four corners. That on the north east formed the entrance hall; the one to the north-west, Sir John's room, whilst that to the south-west formed a light and airy extension to the drawing room. 'The Drawing Room, Library, or ante drawing room, Billiard room will all open on to the Terrace, and beneath the latter will be all the offices [the domestic office rather than the agent's], the public entry to which will be from the area at the back of the principal staircase'. The latter was located on a corridor running from north to south which afforded entry to the main reception rooms.

Having given a good deal of thought to fulfilling Sir John's requirements, Burn deferred providing plans for the basement and bedroom floors until these proposals were accepted.<sup>75</sup> Sir John lost little time responding to Burn's plans from the Glenfeshie estate where he was spending the summer. He liked the arrangement of the dining room, drawing room and library and thought the new main entrance well-placed. However, he wanted a waiting room adjacent to the entrance hall and a doorway from there into his room in order that visitors did not have to go through the private rooms. He wondered if there might be a door from the entrance hall to the service quarters to make it easier for the staff to respond to callers. He had seen such an arrangement at Oxenfoord Castle, to which Burn had made significant alterations for Lord Stair in 1841. He felt the billiard room unnecessary but wanted his room to be larger though not as large as the dining room. Although he liked the large octagon angle towers, which he considered a fine feature, he felt that 'a room consisting of nothing else, would be too much like a lantern to be comfortable and would have no comfortable corners by the fireside'. As an adjunct to the drawing room, an octagon would make 'a charming variety to an ordinary shape of rooms'.<sup>76</sup>

Graham does not appear to have raised any objections to the accommodation provided in the agent's house. His main concerns centred on the adjoining offices. In particular, he insisted that more space be set aside for the strong

room and the waiting room which was 'sometimes full & under pressure of business Callers'. He did not approve of the proposed siting of the water closets, and was anxious that the surveyors' office should be located on the south side where it would benefit from the maximum amount of daylight. An alternative might be to move it upstairs into one of the bedrooms, but this was not thought to be as convenient as having all the offices on one floor. Graham did express an interest in the bedrooms above the offices being part of the agent's house.<sup>77</sup>

Burn did his best to take on board the comments of Sir John and his agent, responding at length on 1 September 1865. He did not foresee any obstacles to accommodating these and other requirements, but there was now no real urgency as it appears that Sir John had intimated to Burn that he was not ready to proceed with the mansion at that time. The reasons for this are unclear. Sir John had consulted Burn in order to fulfil promises made to Captain Graham on his appointment and perhaps he now felt that he had been manoeuvred into taking on a grander scheme. On the other hand, it may have been simply to do with cash flow.<sup>78</sup>

Whatever the reason, no final decisions had been made by November 1865 when Burn wrote to his patron requesting an interview when he was next 'in Town ... there being many matters connected with the proposed buildings at Longley Hall that could be so much better considered and explained at a meeting than by sheets of correspondence'. Possibly to prepare himself for a meeting with the architect, Sir John asked Graham to send copies of the latest plans to Byram. It seems likely that they did meet, but not until March 1866 when Burn forwarded tracings of the proposed attic and bedroom floors. Not previously discussed, the attic was to provide accommodation for single ladies and gentlemen as well as servants' quarters. A secondary staircase would allow access to the former and the private stairs to the latter.<sup>79</sup>

At that meeting in March 1866, the architect told his client that there would be time to build the agent's house and make alterations to the offices if the go-ahead were given as soon after Easter as possible. Sir John wrote four weeks after Easter, asking if there would still be time to complete the work that season and requesting that he proceed with the working drawings immediately. He was anxious to have the agent's house and estate offices completed during that year so that 'Mr. Graham could move into his new House at the very beginning of next year – and leave the old House in time to be pulled down ... to clear the ground & make the most of the building season of 1867, for getting on with the "Mansion"'. Sir John did not want Burn to do any work on the drawings for the mansion as he was likely to require further changes, but he did not want any

more changes to the plans for the agent's house as he did not want the money he had allotted for the works to be exceeded.

It was Burn's assistant William Bunn Colling (1813-1886) who replied. The 77 year-old architect was 'too unwell to write for himself or give any attention to business'. The working drawings, 'which have been thoroughly arranged by Mr. Burn,' would be ready in a week when they would be sent to Longley together with specifications in order that estimates could be obtained from local contractors.<sup>80</sup> A month later, Burn himself wrote apologising that influenza, bronchitis and lumbago had prevented his working on the drawings and specifications which he had now completed and which he would send to Graham.<sup>81</sup> The set of five drawings for the agent's house, dated May 1866 and now in the archive of Historic England, are either Burn's office copies or the originals which were never sent.<sup>82</sup> They illustrate a roughly 'L' shaped two storey addition to the north and east of the extended estate office which had been built in 1848. The accommodation included a south facing drawing room (18 x 22 feet) with a large bay window, a dining room (18.5 x 22 feet), domestic offices, with cellarge, and upwards of eight bedrooms. Externally plain, the elevations were to be enlivened by tall chimney stacks, gables with kneelers, dormers and the use of dressed stone quoins, window and door frames. Despite Sir John's haste earlier in the year, these proposals for the agent's residence were then shelved; there had been another change of plan.

### *A New Plan*

The long-running tenant right case had caused a review of the management of the estate and its leasing practices, necessitating a private Act of Parliament to effect these changes and modify the settlement established by the fourth baronet's will and subsequent estate acts. John Beasley (1801-1874), the influential agent of the Spencer estate, was commissioned to write a report on the Huddersfield and Almondbury estate, which he presented in 1866. He was adamant that the new estate offices should be built in a central situation in the town and recommended the site of the Cherry Tree Inn.

The agent is necessarily obliged to be in the town if not every day, nearly every day in the week, and sometimes twice a day; he has to see not only the solicitor to the estate, but solicitors to the lessees and other parties, and much time is lost on both sides in passing between Longley Hall and the town ... the cashier has instantly to go to the bank, and probably the assistants in the office reside in the town.<sup>83</sup>

At the same time, he did not consider it necessary for the agent's house to be attached to the offices and, taking his own experience into account, he was of the opinion that it was better if this was not so.

The Ramsden Estate Act of 1867 took on board Beasley's recommendations. If a new Estate Office were erected in a convenient and central situation, 'it would be a great convenience to the tenants and occupiers of the [estate], and would materially facilitate the economical and efficient management of the said Estates'. Another clause set out the desirability of erecting a residence for the agent on part of the estate and for the provision of a suitable residence for Sir John William and his successors: 'the only house upon the said Estate available for that purpose is an old mansion house called Longley Hall, altogether inadequate and unsuitable for the accommodation of the said Sir John William Ramsden and his establishment.' Provision was made for the demolition and replacement of Longley or for its re-building commensurate with Sir John's standing and the value of the Huddersfield estates, in the £75,000 which the act allowed to be raised for developing the estate. This included £8,000 for the new estate offices and agent's residence and £10,000 for the mansion at Longley, 'with such out-offices, stables, coach houses, outbuildings, gardens and pleasure grounds' as thought necessary.<sup>84</sup>

Work began on the site of the proposed estate buildings, which included shops, offices, warehouses and rooms for the Huddersfield Club in addition to the Ramsden estate offices, in the summer of the following year. By November, the *Chronicle* could report that 'the quaint old Cherry Tree is no more'.<sup>85</sup> Construction began in 1869 and was completed in August 1870. On 14 September 1870 the business of the estate was transferred to the new offices from Longley [see front cover].<sup>86</sup> According to Hordern, Sir John now agreed to the old offices being connected with the hall. 'Mr. Graham started to do this, but found it difficult & asked me to make suggestion.' Although Sir John approved of the scheme, he thought it better to consult W. H. Crossland, the architect of the Estate Buildings. 'My plan was sent to him and he enlarged upon it'. In the absence of these plans, tracings of which Hordern had placed in an envelope in his drawer, it is not possible to determine to what extent they influenced Crossland's scheme. It seems unlikely that the accomplished architect whose reputation was riding high had need of advice from the estate cashier; maybe the architect merely wanted to humour his pretensions. It is surprising that in his notes on the estate, Hordern makes no mention of the earlier abandoned proposals by William Burn.<sup>87</sup> Nothing that went on in the estate offices escaped his attention and he would have seen the plans, copies of which were made by the surveyors.

Huddersfield-born William Henry Crossland (1835-1908) was the son of a stone merchant who rented a quarry from the Ramsdens.<sup>88</sup> He trained in

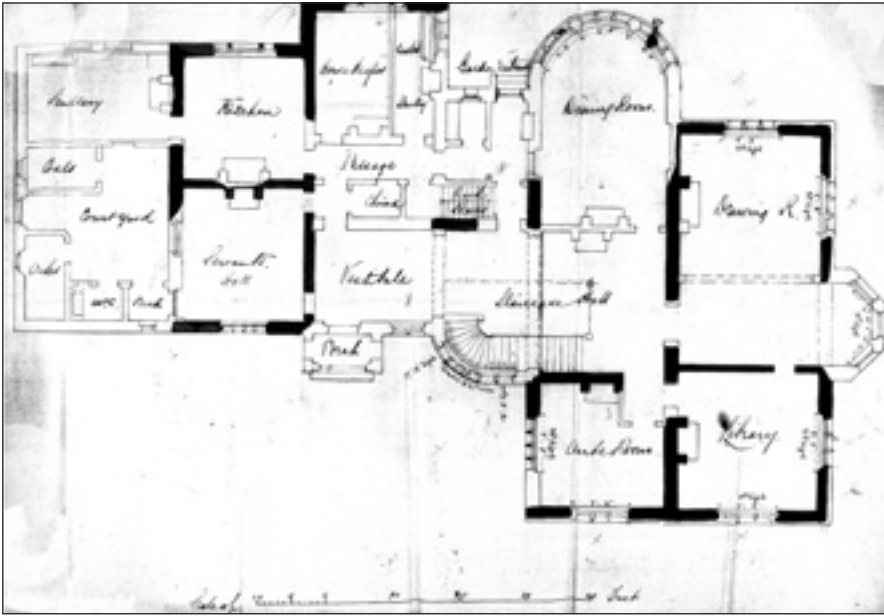
the offices of George Gilbert Scott before setting up in practice in Halifax in 1858 and later in Leeds. It may have been his work on local churches which drew him to the attention of Sir John William Ramsden but it seems more than likely that it was his prize-winning designs for Rochdale Town Hall (1864–1871), which enhanced the architect's reputation nationally, that led to his being commissioned to work on estate projects. By 1869, Crossland had moved to the capital and opened an office in Regent Street in premises once occupied by Scott.

In Crossland's plan for the mansion, which was to provide accommodation for both the agent and Sir John on his occasional visits, Wallen's estate offices were retained, but with new internal arrangements and changed functions.<sup>89</sup> These domestic offices occupy the area to the east of the main entrance marked externally by twin gables, one bearing the Ramsden arms. Beyond is a castellated single storey extension housing the kitchen court and offices.<sup>90</sup> To the right (west) of the entrance porch occupying two storeys with an attic are the principal reception rooms which lead off an entrance hall with a grand staircase which follows the curve of the outer wall, leading up to a gallery which provides access to the bedrooms. The arrangement of the ground floor rooms closely follows that of William Burn's abandoned scheme. To the right of the entrance an ante room, which could be used by the private secretary or visitors waiting to see Sir John or his agent, leads into the library on the western corner. The remainder of the north front was occupied by two interconnected drawing rooms, one with a canted bay. These could be opened up to form a large reception room. A dining room with a semi-circular bay window occupying the full width of the room and facing west adjoins the drawing room.

There do not appear to have been many changes to Crossland's proposals. Sir John was generally happy with the arrangements. His response to the attic plans was that more would be an improvement. Graham recommended dormers in place of skylights in the attics 'though this would increase the cost' – something which Sir John was unwilling to do.<sup>91</sup> He had no wish to exceed his budget. But he was insistent that the new house should be thoroughly warm, something he had earlier impressed on William Burn, who was called upon to take extra precautions, 'especially on the north side to keep out the cold' from this 'cold and exposed situation'.<sup>92</sup> With this in mind, Crossland replaced the 30 inch thick walls of the old buildings with 21 inch walls with an additional inner brick wall, and felted the roof.<sup>93</sup>

If the plans drawn up by Burn and Hordern influenced Crossland's layout of the rooms of the house, the elevations are very much his own work. Building on Wallen's vernacular, Crossland introduced elements of French Renaissance and 'Tudorbethan' style to give the impression of a house which had evolved



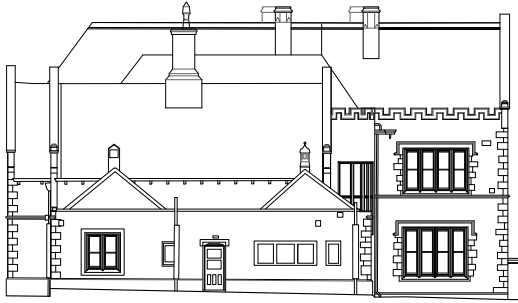


12. Longley Hall after 1873. Ground Plan of W. H. Crossland's hall of 1871-3  
 WYAS Kirklees, DD/RA/C/27/6.



EXISTING ELEVATION A \_\_\_\_\_ Datum 90.00 A.O.D.

13. Longley Hall, (A) North, (B) East, (C) South and (D) West Elevations, 2008 survey by  
 AHR Building Consultancy Ltd.  
 AHR Surveys & Project Archive, 2008-10.



EXISTING ELEVATION B \_\_\_\_\_ Datum 90.00 A.O.D.



EXISTING ELEVATION C \_\_\_\_\_ Datum 90.00 A.O.D.



EXISTING ELEVATION D \_\_\_\_\_ Datum 90.00 A.O.D.



14. Longley Hall, view of the new south and west fronts from the garden (1871–3),  
by W. H. Crossland.

*Huddersfield Local Studies Library*

over the years. Constructed in coursed Crosland Hill stone, the window and door reveals, mullions, sills, heads, dripstones, storey dressings, gable coping and kneelers are all in ashlar. Tall chimney stacks tower above the varied roofscape of blue slate. This includes a conical roof over the dining room bay on the south front. The asymmetrical entrance north front has a finely detailed porch with ashlar reveals and a semi-circular head adorned with the Ramsden arms, to the right of which stands a semi-circular castellated staircase tower with rising windows. Characteristic of Crossland's work, he had included similar details in the Estate Buildings and Rochdale Town Hall. Graham was to claim that as the whole was very plain he had directed the adding of a string course similar to that in the old building and also label moulding over the windows.<sup>94</sup>

Three sheets of plans, showing the alterations and additions to Longley Hall, signed off by Major Graham on 2 October 1871, were submitted for consideration by the Borough Engineer and approved on 24 October.<sup>95</sup> The main contracts had already been awarded to those responsible for the Estate Buildings. There may have been some preliminary work on the site and the first payments are not recorded until December 1871. The eventual cost was £6,364-10-8 including architect's commission of £280.

Sir John was closely monitoring the project. Crossland, who was now working on the Byram Buildings as well as the Holloway Sanatorium at Egham, was sometimes late in providing up-to-date figures. Graham received numerous complaints. Sir John was answerable to his trustees for the £50,000 which had been raised under the terms of the 1867 Estate Act. Until he knew the full extent to which he was committed by the re-building of Longley, he could not raise the remainder of the authorized loan, and to cover the shortfall in the meantime he had no other option but to raise money on his own account.<sup>96</sup> Crossland's clerk, A.J. Taylor, spent a month working on the accounts of the various building projects, allowing Graham to produce a statement of liabilities in November 1873. These included £562-5-10 of ordinary expenditure relating to Longley and extraordinary expenditure of £1,923-6-8 on additions. 'This is nearly double the estimate ... and you give no explanation of it', Sir John complained. On a visit in the spring, he had directed that no further expenditure should be made and he now required a full explanation and 'a statement showing the estimate on the faith of which I undertook the building.' Whatever the explanation, Sir John had to accept the increased costs, which were as nothing compared with the overrun on expenditure on Byram Buildings.<sup>97</sup>

The need for economy probably influenced Graham's decisions on the furnishing of the hall. Existing curtains and carpets were re-used as far as possible. In January 1873, Sir John had directed that no new blinds be ordered, but Graham had already had Venetian blinds made for the windows in Sir John's and Lady Guendolen's rooms. New carpets were ordered for the drawing room, dining room, stairs and principal bedrooms. Samples were sent to Byram at Sir John's request, prompting a swift response. He was especially unhappy with the choice of carpet for the drawing room and sorry to learn that it had already been laid. Graham thought the pattern, which he had selected from more than 200 samples supplied by Crossley's, bold and rich, and encouraged Sir John to make a final decision once he had seen it in the room. 'That we should ever like such a carpet is quite out of the question', was his response. Graham found himself in a difficult position. He had been under pressure to get the work on the hall completed as quickly as possible and he had not wanted to do anything to increase costs. He had not expected Sir John to take an interest in the choice of furnishings. He agreed to negotiate with the supplier and, if the carpet could not be returned, he would have it cut-up and re-used in the bedrooms, and he would bear any additional cost. Sir John was insistent that he would pick up the bill. Perhaps with the cost of the carpets in mind, he authorized expenditure on druggets to protect them when the rooms were not in use.<sup>98</sup>

With the house almost ready for occupation, a consignment of furniture arrived on 18 January 1873,<sup>99</sup> and Sir John wrote to Graham setting out his intentions for the use of the rooms:

The drawing room and the rooms over it & the room over the dining room, I reserve exclusively for Lady Guendolen & myself. The two sitting rooms [that is, the library and ante room] adjoining the Drawing room, I make over to you, and you are welcome to use the Dining room in our absence. I also make over to you the 4 bedrooms over the East end of the House, the two remaining bedrooms at the top of the front staircase, I should wish to have available in case I bring any guests with me, but you are welcome to use them occasionally for any visitors of your own.<sup>100</sup>

Graham does not appear to have raised any objections to these arrangements and since Sir John's visits were fairly infrequent and of short duration, they were of no great inconvenience. With the marriage of Major Graham to Frances Mary Smith in September 1874, Longley became a family home once more. By 1881, the Grahams had three sons and a daughter, and their household included Mrs. Graham's mother, a nurse (the youngest child was only seven months old) and two housemaids.<sup>101</sup> This happy existence was to be short-lived; Major Graham died suddenly, aged 51, on 16 March 1885.<sup>102</sup> Sir John reassured Mrs. Graham that she could stay at Longley for as long as she needed, but in due course she had to make way for her husband's successor. Frederick William Beadon (1853-1933) was appointed in June and was soon taking part in public meetings and fulfilling his professional duties, though this was not soon enough for Isaac Hordern who complained of it being an arduous time for him as the new agent did not get to work soon enough.<sup>103</sup> Previously agent to Sir William Eden of Windlestone Hall, Co. Durham, Beadon was already married. His family was to grow up at Longley where they lived until the sale of the estate in 1920. Major Beadon then moved to Byram where he oversaw the dismemberment and sale of that estate.<sup>104</sup>

During his 35-year tenure of Longley Hall, there were no major changes. Mains drainage arrived in 1889 following a diphtheria scare which the Beadons' second daughter survived.<sup>105</sup> At about the same time, a new and improved heating system was installed, much to Sir John's satisfaction. He found Longley very cold.<sup>106</sup> There were new kitchens and improvements to the servants' quarters.<sup>107</sup> Electricity was installed in 1914, the year that Sir John William Ramsden died.<sup>108</sup> In his later years, he had spent little time at Longley, Lady Guendolen having inherited Bulstrode Park on the death of her father, the 12th Duke of Somerset, in December 1885. Sir John Frecheville Ramsden, who took on the Huddersfield estate in 1910, had little enthusiasm



15. Tudor chimney piece, Tapestry Room, Muncaster Castle, removed from Longley New Hall, 1920.

*Muncaster Castle*

for Longley – his interests lay further afield – but he did inherit his father’s enthusiasm for family history. On one of his infrequent visits he found a portrait of the first baronet which he had removed to Byram.<sup>109</sup> At the time of the sale of the Huddersfield Estate, he expressed an interest in retaining the old mantel piece from Longley Hall for sentimental reasons.<sup>110</sup>

Specifically excluded from the sale was Longley Old Hall, which was considered to be the family's ancestral home, and which his father had 'restored' in 1885. From being the house of one of the richest families in the community, in the words of G. S. Phillips, it had become 'a poor and naked cottage'.<sup>111</sup> By the time Sir John ordered the restoration, it had been sub-divided to form three cottages. Plans prepared by A. J. Taylor restored the porch, mullioned windows, and gables with finials. The pitch of the roof and gables was determined by discoveries when the plain roof was removed during the restoration work.<sup>112</sup> Having consulted some of his older parishioners, Hulbert considered that the hall had been restored to its original form. 'Old oak wainscoating was also found in out of the way places, which, when collected was found sufficient for forming a Dado round the walls of the inner Hall. This together with an old oak Settle and other furniture,' were to give what Hulbert described as 'a most quaint and pleasing appearance'.<sup>113</sup> In the principal ground floor room, Hulbert described a board painted with a biblical text and associated with Longley from the time of the Wood family. The words from the first epistle of St Peter read:

All flesh is as grasse and all the glory of man as the flower of grasse. The grasse withereth and the flower falleth away. But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever.<sup>114</sup>

### *The Last Years*

A number of options were considered for the Victorian Longley Hall before it was passed to the council's education department to become the home of Huddersfield's second selective school for girls, which opened in 1924. Longley Hall (Girls) Central School was later to become a special school known as Longley School. Since 2016, it has catered for the special needs of children and young people on the autistic spectrum, aged from 3–19 years, and is now known as Woodley School and College. Whilst 'Longley' may have disappeared from its name, the hall would be immediately recognisable to Major Beadon and his family, the last residents. They might notice the loss of some of the elaborate chimney stacks, and would be all too well aware that the rich and colourful interiors had given way to bland institutional gloss and emulsion and that suspended ceilings had hidden decorative plasterwork. Double skirtings, doors, original fireplaces, a black and white ceramic chequerboard floor, an etched glazed screen, and curved baluster staircase survive, which along with the carved Ramsden arms and intertwined ciphers of Sir John William and Lady Guendolen provide permanent reminders of their time at Longley and a reminder of whose wealth caused it to be built.





16. Longley Old Hall, interior, showing the board with the text from 1 Peter, chapter 1, 24–5.

*Kirklees Image Archive*

With the death of Sir John Frecheville Ramsden in 1958, the family's direct connection with Huddersfield and Longley was lost. His heir, Sir Geoffrey William Pennington Ramsden (1904–1987), was a 16 year-old at Eton when the estate was sold and would have had little, if any, knowledge of Huddersfield. He sold the freehold of the Old Hall to the long-term tenants in November 1975, thus bringing to an end the Ramsdens' 433 year-long association with Longley. The painted board bearing the words of St Peter, still hangs on a wall in the Old Hall.

### ***Endnotes***

- 1 Cant, D. (2001), pp 58–67. For a full survey by the Yorkshire Vernacular Architecture Study Group see Leeds University Library, Yorkshire Archaeological Society MS 1627 No 1669, Longley Hall (2004).
- 2 For the Ramsden Family Tree see pp. xxii–xxiii. Not all early dates are agreed and some are unknown.
- 3 Dennis Whomsley, Unpublished typescripts for an intended history of the Ramsden family. Copies lodged at WYASK, KX486/2.
- 4 DD/DD/dd/V/30 ff 13.
- 5 DD/RE/5/1 and KC 311/1/1, Survey of Almondbury, 1584.

- 6 Hulbert (1882), pp.231-2
- 7 DD/RE/S/4, Survey and Map of the Manor of Almondbury, Timothy Oldfield, 1716.
- 8 Giles (1986), pp. 48-105.
- 9 Redmonds (1982), pp.7-11; Tolson (1929), pp.117-24.
- 10 Hey (2007), pp. 60, 63-4, 311; DD/RA/F/29/32; Wickham and Lynch (2019).
- 11 Thrush and Ferris (2011); Ormrod (2000), p.138. The county justices sat at Pontefract.
- 12 Rushworth (1721), 6 November 1648.
- 13 Law (1985), p. 23. The original document is to be found in Leeds University Library, Special Collections, YAS MS 751, Journal of John Turner of Hopton.
- 14 Hulbert (1882), p. 232.
- 15 Fletcher (1900), vol II, p. 41; Schofield (1883), p. 5.
- 16 Huddersfield Local Studies Library, Photographic Collection, RH1/13, Yi 1871 BTT Longley Hall, South View; RH1/12, Yi 1871 BTT Longley Hall, West View.
- 17 DD/AH/92, Philip Ahier Papers, Notes on Longley Hall.
- 18 Wickham and Lynch (2019).
- 19 DD/RE/S/13, Valuation of Estate.
- 20 *Leeds Intelligencer* [LI], 12 September 1769.
- 21 DD/RE/S/13, Valuation of Estate.
- 22 Sarah Holt acted as housekeeper at Longley. Despite her apparent ill-health, she outlived her two sisters retiring on their deaths in 1862. She received a pension from the estate and died at Shorehead Cottage on 12 March 1873, aged 76 years and is buried at Edgerton Cemetery (*Huddersfield Chronicle* [HC], 15 March 1873).
- 23 *Bradford Observer*, 16 March 1843, p.5.
- 24 DD/RE/S/11, Survey 1797; Baines (1822), vol. 1; Law (1986), 'John Holt'.
- 25 *LI*, 2 July 1829. Nevertheless, John Charles Ramsden was an MP from 1812 until his death in 1836.
- 26 *Leeds Times*, 9 November 1844.
- 27 DD/RE/3/23, Isabella Ramsden to George Loch, 12 August 1844.
- 28 DD/RA/C, Box 24, Report on Canal by Mr. Loch, Notebook. See below, chapter 2. pp.56-7.
- 29 DD/RE/C/4, Isabella Ramsden to Loch, 4 September 1844; DD/RE/C/38, Isabella Ramsden to Loch, 21 July, 1847.
- 30 DD/RE/C/4, Isabella Ramsden to Loch, 4 September 1844; DD/RE/C/38, Isabella Ramsden to Loch, 21 July, 1847.
- 31 DD/RE/419, Isaac Hordern, 'Notes Relating to the Ramsden Estates and Huddersfield', 1846, pp. 5 and 7.
- 32 DD/RE/C/36, Alexander Hathorn to Loch, 24 May 1847.
- 33 DD/RE/C/36, Hathorn to Loch, 24 May 1847.
- 34 DD/RE/C/38, Isabella Ramsden to Loch, 21 July 1847; 23 July 1847.
- 35 DD/RE/C/37, Hathorn to Loch, 8 June 1847; 24 August 1847.
- 36 DD/RE/C/37, Hathorn to Loch, 23 August 1847; 24 August 1847. DD/RE/C/65, Hathorn to Loch, 10 October 1849.
- 37 For Wallen, see chapter 5.
- 38 DD/RE/C/46, Hathorn to Loch, 10 March 1848.
- 39 DD/RE/C/61, Hathorn to Loch, 4 June 1849.
- 40 DD/RE/C/32, Hathorn to Loch, 16 June 1849.
- 41 DD/RE/C/65. Hathorn to Loch, 10 October 1849
- 42 DD/RA/C/56, Hathorn to Loch, 24 January 1849.

- 43 DD/RA/C/56, Hathorn to Loch, 30 January 1849.
- 44 DD/RE/C/72, Hathorn to Loch, 18 May 1850.
- 45 DD/RE/C/72, Isabella Ramsden to Loch, May 1850.
- 46 See chapter 3.
- 47 *HC*, 15 June 1859.
- 48 DD/RA/C/73, Sir John William Ramsden [JWR] to Loch, 20 June 1850.
- 49 WYL/109/58/3, Paid Bills, 1850. Duppa & Collins, 25 March 1850. Paid 21 September 1850; DD/RE/C/65, Hathorn to Loch, 10 October 1849; DD/RE/C/72, Hathorn to Loch, 8 May 1850; DD/RE/C/72, Hathorn to Loch, 18 May 1850; DD/RE/C/72, Hathorn to Loch, 24 May 1850; DD/RE/C/73, Hathorn to Loch, 8 June 1850; DD/RE/C/73, Hathorn to Loch, 21 June 1850; DD/RE/C/73, Hathorn to Loch, 1 July 1850; and DD/RE/C/75, Hathorn to Loch, 19 August 1850; DD/RE/C/75.
- 50 Loch to Isabella Ramsden, November 1849 quoted in Dennis Whomsley, 'Sir John William Ramsden, Part I, 1831-1857', unpublished typescript, p. 14, note 6. Copy lodged at KX486/2.
- 51 DD/RE/C/75, Hathorn to Loch, 9 August 1850.
- 52 Isabella Ramsden to Loch, 20 October 1851, quoted in Whomsley, 'Sir John William Ramsden, 1831-1857', unpublished typescript, p16, KX486/2.
- 53 DD/RE/C/77, Isabella Ramsden to Loch, 6 October 1851.
- 54 DD/RE/C/7, Isabella Ramsden to Loch, 18 December 1844.
- 55 DD/RE/C/7/40, Hathorn to Loch, 30 December 1844.
- 56 Phillips (1848), pp.19-20. First published in *Bradford & Wakefield Observer*, 27 September 1847.
- 57 DD/RE/C/74, Hathorn to Loch, 1 July 1850; DD/RE/C/89, Hathorn to Loch, 7 October 1851; TNA, HO 107/2294/15/23, 1851 Census, Longley Hall.
- 58 DD/R/dd/VII/187, Hathorn to Loch, 16 December 1850.
- 59 DD/RE/C/66, Hathorn to Loch, 24 November 1849.
- 60 CBH/A/32, Huddersfield County Borough Records, Plans of Stables, drawn in Borough Architect's Office, July 1924.
- 61 Hordern, 'Notes', 1855, p. 40; *HDE*, 12 September 1987; WYK 1628/33, Edward Law Papers.
- 62 *HC*, 18 September 1852; George Loch to Sir John William Ramsden, 14 September 1852, quoted in Dennis Whomsley, 'John William Ramsden, 1831-1857', KX486/2.
- 63 *The Times*, 6 August 1877.
- 64 *HC*, 21 May 1853.
- 65 See chapter 3.
- 66 Hordern, 'Notes', 1853, p. 33.
- 67 DD/RA/C/11/4, JWR to Nelson, 6/11/59.
- 68 DD/RA/C/28, Alexander Hathorn to Sir John William Ramsden, 18 June 1860. These issues had been discussed at length in an 'interview' at Byram.
- 69 Hordern, 'Notes', 1861, p. 65; 1864, p. 75. Hathorn's venture was short-lived and the partnership dissolved. He undertook work for the Huddersfield Estate and went on to run a farm at Birkin on the Byram Estate before setting up an agency on his own account in London. He died at Frensham, Surrey, aged 76 in 1892.
- 70 *Daily News*, 9 April 1860. He was a Captain, and later Major, in the militia.
- 71 Hulbert (1885), pp. 164-5; TNA, RG 10/4356/94/20, 1871 Census, Longley Hall.
- 72 For William Burn, see *ODNB* (2004) and Walker (1976).
- 73 DD/RA/C/33/6, William Burn to JWR, 9 August 1865.

- 74 DD/RA/C/33/6, Longley Hall, Ground Plan of Principal Floor, 9 August 1865.
- 75 DD/RA/C/33/6, Burn to JWR, 9 August 1865
- 76 DD/RA/C/33/6, JWR to Burn, 25 August 1865.
- 77 DD/RE/C/33/6, R.H. Graham to JWR, 9 September 1865.
- 78 DD/RA/C/33/6, Burn to JWR, 1 September 1865.
- 79 DD/RA/C/33/6, Burn to JWR, 18 November 1865.
- 80 DD/RA/C/33/6, William Colling to JWR, 18 May 1866.
- 81 DD/RA/C/33/6, Burn to JWR, 12 June 1866.
- 82 Swindon, Historic England Archive, MD60/00034 – MD60/00038, Longley Hall Agent's House, Plans of Cellars, Ground Floor, Bedroom Floor, Roofs and East Elevation and Sections. The five plans were deposited by the successors to William Burn's practice and remained in the Stratton Street premises.
- 83 DD/RA/C, Box 24, Report on the Estates of Sir John William Ramsden, Bart, in Huddersfield and Almondbury, 1866, by John Beasley, Chapel Brampton. Beasley had taken Loch's place as the country's leading land agent, a role which he helped to redefine. See Beardmore, C (2016), pp. 172-192.
- 84 DD/RE/449, Ramsden Estate Acts, 1859, 1867, & 1885; Ramsden Estate Act 1876, pp. 20-1; 40-1.
- 85 *HC*, 11 July and 7 November 1868.
- 86 *HC*, 27 August and 10 September 1870.
- 87 Hordern, 'Notes', 1871, p. 92.
- 88 For Crossland's career, see Whittaker (1984); Elliott (1996), and Law (2001b), 'William H. Crossland'.
- 89 KMT 18, Huddersfield County Borough, Building Control Plans, Moldgreen Ward 63, Alterations & Additions, Longley Hall, October, 1871.
- 90 The crenellation, a characteristic feature of Crossland's work, would have been added at this time. It is not altogether clear whether the single storey extension is from the Wallen estate offices or wholly Crossland's work. Matching crenellation is seen most notably on the staircase tower and other parts of the new building.
- 91 See Law (2001b) for an account of Longley Hall.
- 92 DD/RA/C/33/6, Postscript to JWR to Burn, 25 August 1865.
- 93 Law (2001b).
- 94 Law (2001b).
- 95 KMT 18, Huddersfield County Borough, Building Control Plans, Moldgreen Ward 63, Alterations & Additions, Longley Hall, October, 1871
- 96 DD/RA/27/6, JWR to Graham, 31 March 1873.
- 97 DD/RA/27/6, Graham to JWR, 4 November 1873 and his reply from Kingussie, 7 November 1873. For the growing costs of Byram Buildings see copies of letters included in Graham to JWR, 10 April 1873.
- 98 DD/RA/27/6, Graham to JWR, 11, 13 & 15 January 1873, and JWR's reply, 14 January 1873.
- 99 DD/RA/27/6, Graham to JWR, 21 January, 1873 includes a list of the items received.
- 100 DD/RA/27/6 JWR to Graham, 14 January 1873.
- 101 TNA, RG11/4375/14/21, 1881 Census, Longley Hall.
- 102 KC/592/2/5, Isaac Hordern's Notes and Photographs, Ramsden Estate, Huddersfield, list of agents; WYAS, Wakefield, WDP12, Almondbury Burial Register, 21 March 1885.
- 103 Hordern, 'Notes', 1885, p. 143.
- 104 *HC* 13 June 1855; *Northern Echo*, 30 June 1885. Beadon began work on 1 June 1885.

- 105 DD/RE/C/21/9, F.W. Beadon to JWR, 24 August 1889; 11 September and 16 September 1889.
- 106 DD/RE/C/21/5, Beadon to JWR, 1 October 1889.
- 107 DD/RA/30, Beadon to JWR, 3 March 1914 and 3 July 1914.
- 108 DD/RA/30, Beadon to JWR, 9 April 1914.
- 109 DD/RF/27, Sir John Frecheville's Historical Notes. '... an immense full-size picture of him [the first baronet] on a prancing grey pony which I rescued from Longley whither it had been banished ... He has a big aquiline nose.'
- 110 During the re-building work in 1871-4, according to Ahier, an 'exceedingly good chimney piece of the Tudor period' was found in the basement (DD/AH/92 Philip Ahier, Notes on Longley Hall). A fireplace in the Tapestry Room at Muncaster Castle, which Sir John had inherited on the death of the 5th Lord Muncaster in 1917, is said to have come from a Ramsden house in Yorkshire.
- 111 Phillips (1848), p. 22.
- 112 KMT 18, Huddersfield County Borough, Building Control Plans, Almondbury & District Building Plans, 14 September 1884, 'Alterations & Additions to Longley Old Hall'. A. J. Taylor had been W. H. Crossland's chief clerk.
- 113 Hulbert (1885), p. 163.
- 114 Hulbert (1882), p. 219. Hulbert wrongly gives the reference as 1 Peter, chapter 1, verse 29. It is actually from verses 24 and 25 and is taken from the Tyndale translation.