

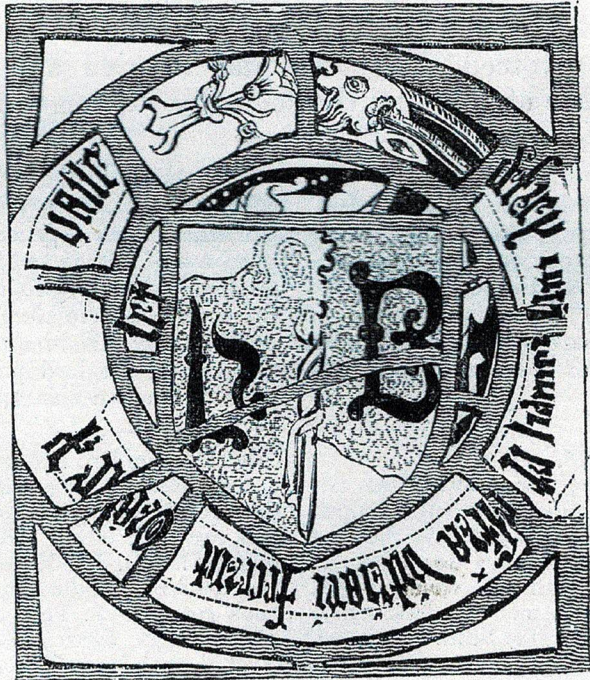
He claimed to have hung 500 Welshmen during his term of office. The headquarters of the Council of the Marches was at Ludlow, but the Council also met in Shrewsbury at the Council House which still exists near the castle. The Bishop died at Shrewsbury on 28 January 1543.



*Rabbit Hill (wooded) as it is today*  
*Copyright Rhys Whatmore*

It would seem that Bishop Lee's country seat was at Shotton as an entry in the Shrewsbury bailiff's accounts for 1540 states 'Mr Bayle Pursr had to my lorde pressydent to Schottoun a gallon of claret, 8d'. In 1811, William Watkins had in his possession a fragment of stained glass from the original mansion at Shotton Hall. An engraving of this fragment appeared in 'A History of Shrewsbury' by Rev Hugh Owen and Rev J. B Blakeway, published in 1825. The authors of this history regarded the fragment as evidence for Bishop Lee's tenancy of Shotton.





*Stained glass from the old house at Shotton Hall  
Source: Blakeway's Shrewsbury*

Describing the fragment they state ' it is a shield with the initials R. B. probably for Rowland Bishop: and from the words 'Orate pro ... fenestram vitriari fecerunt', which are all that that can be made out of the inscription, it would appear to have been set up in a chapel, which no doubt the president would have had at his manor'. [It seems more likely that the R B referred to the Banistre family.]

## Later Kynastons

The Thomas Kynaston upon whom Shotton was settled in 1539, died without offspring and the ownership passed to his brother Roger who married Maria, daughter of Thomas Hanmer of Hanmer in Flintshire.

From Roger Kynaston, Shotton passed to his son Francis Kynaston who married Barbara, daughter of Richard Sandford of The Isle, Shropshire.

From Francis Kynaston, Shotton passed to his son Thomas Kynaston of Lighteach near Prees, Shropshire who in 4 Charles 1 (1628) conveyed the estate absolutely to a William Watkins who was then in occupation of the estates.



## The Watkins Family

In considering the Watkins family we are most fortunate that Richard Gough of Myddle composed from 1700 -1702 an account of the people who lived in the village of Myddle, including what he knew of their families and ancestors. He drew a plan of the church and inserted the names of the persons which sat in each pew. He then wrote descriptions of the occupants and their families, pew by pew.

The earliest recorded connection of the Watkins family with Shotton is in 1539 when Thomas Kynaston demised the estate for a number of years to a William Watkins This William was the grandson of a Watkin Watkins who married a Hoord from Coton, Shrewsbury.

William Watkins's son was Humphrey Watkins who married Dorothy Wright of Hopton. Their son was Francis Watkins.



*The Chancel of Myddle Church*  
*Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*



Francis Watkins was buried at Myddle. His will of 1615 states that his body shall be laid to rest in the chancel beside the bodies of his ancestors.


Francis Watkins' son was William Watkins born about 1600, who was Under Sheriff of Shropshire. It was to this William Watkins that Shotton Hall was conveyed absolutely in 1628. William built the offices at Shropshire and improved the house and lands. (Blakeway). William married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Lee of Chester. Their eldest son Francis was born about 1629. William, the Under Sheriff was buried at Myddle on 9 September 1653.



*Myddle Church*  
*Copyright Rhys Whatmore*

Richard Gough says that this William Watkins was a well educated person and fit for greater employment than that of a husbandman but that his chief delight was in good husbandry. 'He found this farm much overgrowne with thornes, briars and rubbish. He employed many day labourers (to whom he was a good benefactor,) in cleareing and ridding his land; and having the



pulpit	1	Shotton	The wall under the Great Window		
Reading pew	2	Thomas Moore for the Eagle ffarme	Broomehurst ffarme	1	1 Mr Cotton
Sleep Hall Mr Acherley Mr Hanmer	3	Mr Cotton Mr Acherley Richd Gough	Mr Gittins for the Castle ffarme	2	2 Balderton Hall
Hollins	4	Billmarsh Robt Hayward Thomas Mather Richd Groome	The same	3	3 Wrights tenemt in Marton Stephen fform-ston
Sleep Hall	5	Shotton for servants	Webbscott 1 Arch	4	4 Nightingales Tent Tylors in Balderton Tho: Shaw in Mar
Mr Hanmer Mr Acherley	6	Mr Cotton Richard Gough Richd Groome Thomas Shaw	Robt Hayward Mr Muckleston Sam: Braine	5	5 James ffewtrell Noneley Tenemt Taylors Tenemt
Mr Lloyd	7	Houlston	Mr Hatcher John Eaton	6	6 Richd Gough Will Mansell and formerly to fforesters now Puld downe
Edward Garland Balderton Hall for servants	8	Thomas Gittins Wid. Mansell John Horton	Willm Amies Wid Bickley	7	7 Vicar Gittins Pool Morrice Highway & wolfe quere
Mr Acherley for servants	9	Richard Gough Wolfes tenemt Hunts tenemt	voyd 2 Arch D post	8	8 Jones now Groome Wm Chaloner now Stephen D post Price, Hortons
Sam: Braine John Eaton Thomas Peirce	10	Mr Hatchets Tent. in Newton Tylers in Balder-ton	James ffewtrell Noneleys tent.	9	9 Hordly Tent Edges Tent Ralphes Tent Blacke Vann now Nich. Astley
The Mearehouse Richd Clarke & Wid Russell	11	Mr Muckleston Guests Tenemt	Ed: Garland John Hordley	10	10 Watsons Tent, Davis Cottage Baxters Cottages Chidlows Cottage
North doore  front	12	Highway Thomas Davis	Ed. Coop(er)	11	11 Daniell Hanmer Willm Candlen
	13	ffreeman of Marton 3 Arch	Tho. Davis Ma. Willett Richd Roger Shoemaker	12	12 Chaloner Late Clarke
				13	13 Willm Jones Wid. Groome

As the Church is now 1701

**Richard Gough's plan of Myddle Church 1701 showing the Shotton Pews**  
 From 'The History of Myddle' Richard Gough  
 The Folio Society 1983



benefit of good marle, he much improved his land, built part of the dwelling house, and joined a brewhouse to it which hee built of free stone. Hee built most part of the barnes, and made beast houses of free stone, which is a good substantial piece of building. Hee was a cheerfull, merry gentleman, and kept a plentiful table for his family, and strangers ...'

From the reference to the building of offices, it is likely that William Watkins was responsible for the erection of the sandstone wing at the rear of the main house.

Francis Watkins, born about 1629 married on 4 Oct 1654 at Myddle, Mary, daughter of John Teague of The Lea, Pontesbury. Francis was a Captain in the Parliamentary Army. Richard Gough says, 'This Mr Francis Watkins was a Captaine in the warrs, and was on the Parliament party; but I never heard of any company of soldiers that hee had, or of any service that hee did in the warres, for there were several Gentlemen in our neighbourhood that were forced to flee from their houses in the warres, and to shelter themselves in Garrisons; and because they could have butt little benefit from their lands towards maintaining them, therefore they had commissions to bee captaines, to the end that they might receive a captain's pay to maintain them.'

'Hee was heire to his father's lands and alsoe to his art of good husbandry, in which his care diligence, and skill, was not exceeded by any in the county. He marled sevrall pieces, and gott abundance of corne. He purchased lands in Tylley Parke, and certainly, if hee had lived, hee had been an exceeding rich man. His wife was provident and spareing, even to a fault; and therefore he could not keep soe good a house as his father did, which was noe small trouble to him. He dyed and left 5 small children behinde him; viz. 3 sons and 2 daughters.

David Hey says that very few men from Myddle fought on the Parliamentary side (and none were killed) and that Francis Watkins of Shotton was the only person of standing in the parish to sympathize actively with the Parliamentary cause.