

Helen Yuille Watkins married in 1866 to George Yuille Strang. George was second cousin to Helen. He was baptised on 31 Oct 1836 at Glasgow, the son of Robert Strang and Margaret Murdoch Yuille. Helen inherited Shotton Hall on the death of her father. George Strang changed his name on marriage to Strang-Watkins. He died on 12 January 1898. Helen died on 12 May 1909.



*Plaque below the Watkins memorial window in Myddle Church
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George and Helen Strang-Watkins had one son – Watkin James Yuille Strang-Watkins, born 4 June 1867 in Edinburgh. He married Lady Muriel Maud Stuart Lindsay of Crail in Fife. They were married on 30 September 1896 in London. Watkin adopted the prefix Strang in 1912. He was a barrister-at-law of the Inner Temple. In 1919 he sold Shotton Hall to the Marquis of Cambridge. Watkin Strang-Watkins died aged 54 in London in 1921.

Watkin and Muriel Strang-Watkins had at least one son – Watkin Lindsay Watkins, born 19 July 1897 in London.

Shotton Hall in the censuses and Electoral Rolls

The Watkins family owned Shotton Hall throughout the nineteenth century but did not necessarily live there. The censuses, however, provide a snapshot of the actual occupants, at ten year intervals. The Electoral Rolls also give an indication as to the occupants

1841 census

Christiana Watkins	45	Independent	Born Scotland
Sarah Felton	40	Servant	Born Shropshire
Watkin Watkins	70	Independent	Born Shropshire
Ann Watkins	70		" "
Mary Woolrich	75	Independent	" "
Mary Williams	20	Servant	" "
Elizabeth Evans	20	Servant	" "

1851 census

Edward Evans	38	Head	Ag Lab	Born Clunbury
Sarah Evans	52	Wife		Born Baschurch
John Evans	8	Son	Scholar	Born Middle

Bagshaw's Directory of Shropshire for 1851 provides the following information:

'SHOTTON, a small township pleasantly situated on elevated ground, two miles N W of Hadnal, contains 230 acres 2 rods 13 poles of land, the rateable value of which is £417. 4s 6d. Colonel Watkins owns the whole township. The number of inhabitants at the census in 1841 were twenty-two, at which period the land was divided into two farms. Within the last few years the two farms have been united, and the whole township is now farmed by Mr John Groome. The tithes are commuted for £54 5s.'

The 1859 Electoral Roll shows no voters at Shotton Hall.

1861 Census

The enumerator states that Shotton Hall is uninhabited. The 1864 Electoral Roll shows no voters at Shotton Hall.

1871 census

The enumerator states 'Shotton Hall as been uninhabited for upwards of 20 years it is now in a state of repair and will be occupied in a short time'. The 1873 –1890 Electoral Rolls show

John Groom, resident at Shotton Hall, being eligible to vote due to his ownership of a freehold house and land (Sleap Hall). This John Groom was the tenant of Shotton Farm in 1871. Shotton Farm is not included in the census of 1881 but John Groom is shown as residing at Shotton Hall. Whilst Shotton Farm may have been meant, if Shotton Hall was renovated in 1871 it would be strange if it was unoccupied for several years thereafter. On the strength of the Electoral Rolls we must assume that John Groom and his family had moved across the road from the farm into the Hall itself.

It seems likely that it was in the renovations of about 1871 that the front of the house was remodelled in accordance with current Victorian taste – the bay windows being inserted and the balcony erected.

1881 census

John Groom	Head	53	Farmer 550 acres employing 8 men and three boys Born Hadnall
Isabel Groom	Wife	49	
			Born Snenstone [Smestow?] Staffordshire
Emily Frances Groom			
	Dau	Unm 22	Born Hadnall
Catherine Harding Groom			
	Dau	Unm 17	Born Hadnall
Thomas Groom	Son	Unm 12	Scholar Born Hadnall
Henry Herbert Groom			
	Son	Unm 11	Scholar Born Hadnall
Martha Pate	Ser	Unm 19	Born Wem
Joseph Dytor	Ser	Unm 50	Shepherd Born Moreton Corbet

1891 census

Watkin J Y S Watkins	Son	Single	22	Barrister Born Edinburgh
Matilda J Strang	Sister in Law	Married	54	
				Born Gartloch Scotland
Kathleen E Vaughan	Visitor	Single	21	Scholar
				Born St Leonards Sussex

Mary E Vaughan	Visitor	Single	27	Hospital Nurse
				Born St Neots Huntingdonshire
Bessie Earle	Housemaid	Single	29	
				Born North Walsham Norfolk
Bessie Hale	Cook	Single	35	
				Born Ottery St Mary Devon
Ada Judge	Lady's Maid	Single	22	
				Born Chipping Norton Oxfordshire
Elizabeth Williams	Housemaid	Single	21	
				Born Trewin Montgomeryshire
Fanny Bright	Kitchen maid	Single	22	
				Born Condover Shropshire
Walter R Skinner	Butler	Married	72	
				Born High Halden Kent
Henry C Jinks	Footman	Single	19	
				Born Hastings, Sussex
Charles France	Coachman	Married	28	
				Born Shrewsbury Shropshire

As the first person listed is shown as 'Son' it appears that in transferring information from the original return to the official form which has been preserved, the enumerator has omitted names from the beginning of the list. Since Matilda Strang is shown as 'Sister-in-Law' the omitted names must be George Yuille Strang-Watkins and his wife Helen Yuille Stang-Watkins

1896 Electoral Roll

Helen J S Watkin

1900 Electoral Roll

Ellen J S Watkin

1901 census

Captain H L Butler	Head	43	Retired Captain of H. M. Army
			Born Palmers Green, Middlesex
Fanny A L Butler	Wife	32	Born Richmond Surrey
Henrietta S Butler	Sister	41	Single Born London

Ellen M Cogger	Cook	29	Single Born Lymington, Hants
Henrietta Cooke	Kitchen maid	19	Single Born Bache Mile Shropshire
Alice Hutchinson	Lady's Maid	32	Single Born Esher, Surrey
Eliza Grant	Visitor		Lady's Maid 30 Single Born Sidlesham Sussex
Hannah E Brown	Under Housemaid	16	Single Born Henfail Denbighshire
Herbert J Goringe	Servant (Indoor man)	26	Single Born Corfe Castle Dorset
Caroline Tipper	Housemaid	34	Single Born Cheadle Cheshire

1904 Electoral Roll

Herbert Lavie Butler

1910 Electoral Roll

Watkin James Yuille Strand Watkin of Highfield,
Harrow-on-the Hill

1915 Electoral Roll

Watkin James Yuille Stand-Watkins of 33 Evelyn Gardens,
London W
Emily Evans

1918 Electoral Roll

St John Herbert Charlton
Elizabeth Bronwen Charlton
Herbert Horton

1919 Electoral Roll

Elizabeth Bronwen Charlton
Herbert Horton



Shotton Hall in about 1907
Postcards published by Wilding's of Shrewsbury

The Marquis of Cambridge

In 1919 the Marquis of Cambridge purchased Shotton Hall from the Strang-Watkins family.

Colonel Adolphus Charles Alexander Albert Edward George Philip Louis Ladislaus 1st Marquis of Cambridge was born on 13 August 1868 at Kensington Palace, the son of Prince Adolphus, Duke of Teck and his wife Princess Mary of Cambridge. His sister, Princess Victoria Mary of Teck married George V and became Queen Mary and paid frequent visits to her brother at Shotton Hall.

Tradition has it that Queen Mary was always accompanied on her visits by her collection of caged birds. These were housed at Shotton Hall in a room on the top floor (the second from the right at the back of the main house). This suggests that the Queen's bedroom was the room which is the first from the right on the top floor at the back of the main house).

Visiting royal parties would arrive by train at Yorton Station, being driven from there to Shotton Hall.

Adolphus was educated at Wellington College and then began a military career. He served on the Western Front in the First World War but in 1915 illness forced him to spend the rest of the war in the War Office. During the War his title of Duke of Teck was changed by the King to 1st Marquis of Cambridge.

The Marquis married Lady Margaret Evelyn Grosvenor in October 1894. Their children were Prince George of Teck (1895), Princess Mary of Teck (1897), Princess Helena of Teck (1899) and Prince Frederick of Teck (1907)

Adolphus settled with his family in 1919 at Shotton Hall and became an active partaker in the life of the village of Harmer Hill. He held fetes at the Hall, provided annual parties for the school children, raised money for the school and was President of Harmer Hill Men's and Football Clubs. He also established a Choral Society. Beyond the village he was Treasurer of the Royal Salop Infirmary, 1st president of the Shropshire Branch of the British Legion and Vice President of the West Midland Agricultural Society. He was also a local JP and a director of the Alliance Insurance Company at Shrewsbury.