

The eldest son of Francis and Mary was William Watkins born 1656. Francis was buried at Myddle on 23 March 1663.

William Watkins was baptised on 26 January 1656 at Myddle. He married in 1681 Elizabeth, daughter of John Edwards of Great Ness. Their third son, and heir, John was born in 1693. William Watkins died on 12 September 1731 and was buried on 15 September 1731 at Myddle.

Of William Watkins, Gough says, 'William, the eldest son, was putt to a covenanted servant unto Mr John Edwards, one of the ablest attorneys at Law in this County. At expiration of his terme, he married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr John Edwards. This Mr William Watkins is now (1701) owner of this farme, and very happy in that it hath pleased God to give him such skill, care and industry in good husbandry as his grand-father and father had, for he is not inferiour to eyther of them therin. He is alsoe happy in a prudent, provident and discreet wife who is in every way suitable for a husband. They live very loveingly together, very loveing to their neighbours, and very well beloved of theire neighbours, and they are both happy in that itt hath pleased God in toaken of his love to them, and their mutuall love one to another to blesse them with many comely and witty children'.

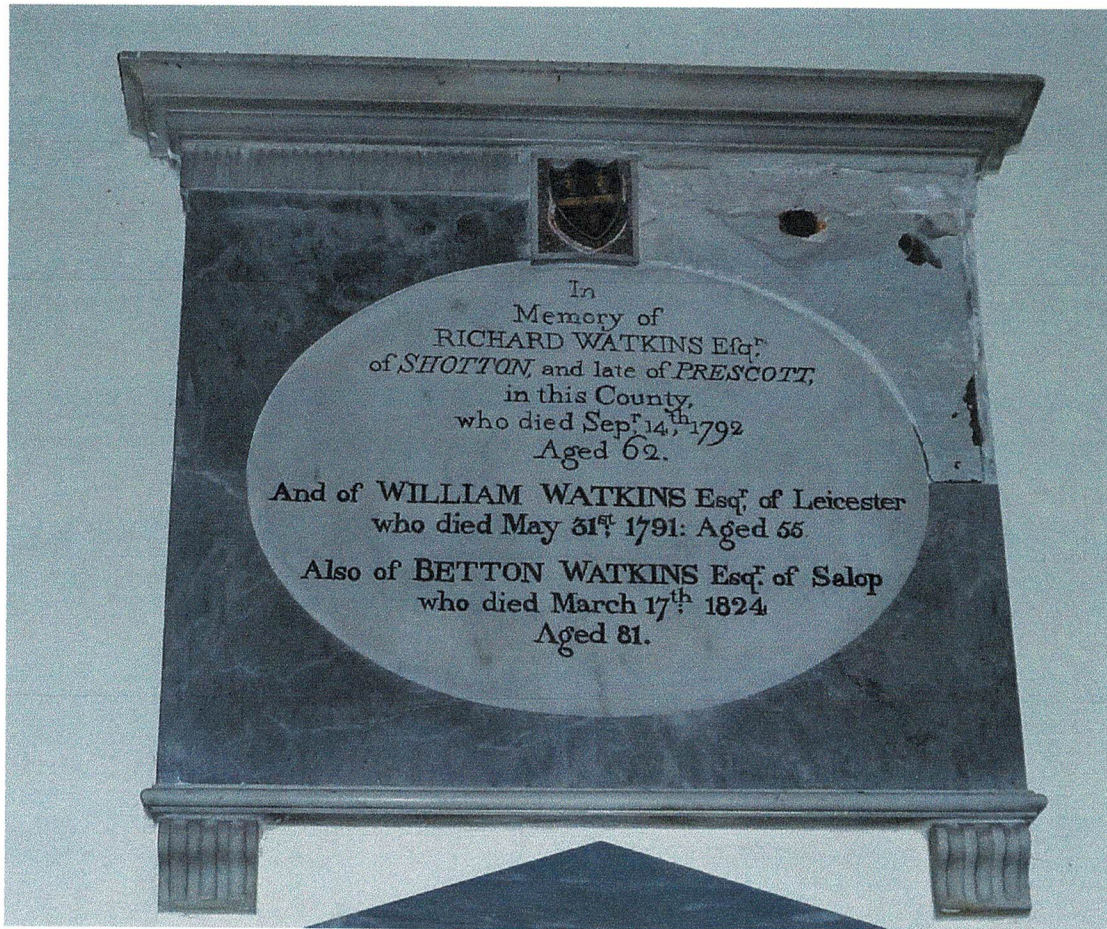
John Watkins was baptised on 3 May 1693 and buried on 2 December 1765 at Myddle. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Betton of Upper Berwick. They had three sons who survived to adulthood – Richard baptised on 13 June 1734 at Myddle and buried on 14 September 1793; William Watkins baptised on 30 March 1736 at Myddle and buried on 30 May 1791 and Thomas baptised on 7 June 1737 at Myddle.

On the death of John Watkins in 1765 Shotton Hall passed to his eldest son Richard.

Richard Watkins married Anne Williams and he died without issue in 1792. Shotton Hall then passed to his nephew Watkin Watkins.



Watkin Watkins was born about 1767 and died in December 1849. William was the son of Richard's brother William who was an eminent surgeon at Leicester and who married a Mary Bowker.



*Memorial in Myddle Church to Richard Watkins and to his uncle William,  
and also to Betton Watkins  
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Watkin Watkins married Ann Eddows of Shrewsbury on 13 February 1798 at St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury. Their son Watkin William Watkins was born in 1798. He married a Catherine and they had a son William Watkin Watkins born in 1826 but who died young. Watkin Watkins and Ann's daughter Mary Ann Watkins was baptised on 15 April 1806 at Myddle.

Watkin Watkins outlived both his children and left Shotton Hall in his will of 1849 to his son-in-law James Watkins.



Watkin Watkins was responsible for demolition of the 'old timber house called Mansion House' at Shotton Hall and the building of a new house. This took place between 1792 (when he inherited the estate) and 1811 (when he refers to the demolition in a letter.)

Watkin Watkins provides the following description of the old house:

'The old Hall House of Shotton was composed, part of wrought freestone, part of lathe and plaister, and part of brick. The stairs were cubes cut diagonally, being square blocks about 2ft 10in long, so that one block made two steps. The old house was covered by flags a yard square, and from 1 to 2in thick; the chimneys of well worked and moulded freestone. The old back door was thick and nailed like a prison door. The house had been so repaired and rebuilt at different times, that it was a mixture of all orders and disorders. Nothing remains of the old house but the pigeon house. I rebuilt the family house, and another with proper appurtenances for the tenant.'

Presumably the house Watkin Watkins erected was of three storeys and possibly of the same size as the present main house. It would probably have had typical Georgian features with rows of sash windows and a pillared front porch. Given the obvious antiquity of the sandstone wing we must assume that this did not form part of the old house and was allowed to remain by Watkin Watkins.



***Marshwood House,  
Dinton near Wilton***

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*Mike Searle*

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***The house built by  
Watkin Watkins may  
have looked like this***

In 1839 the tithe apportionment shows the Shotton Hall estate to consist of the following:

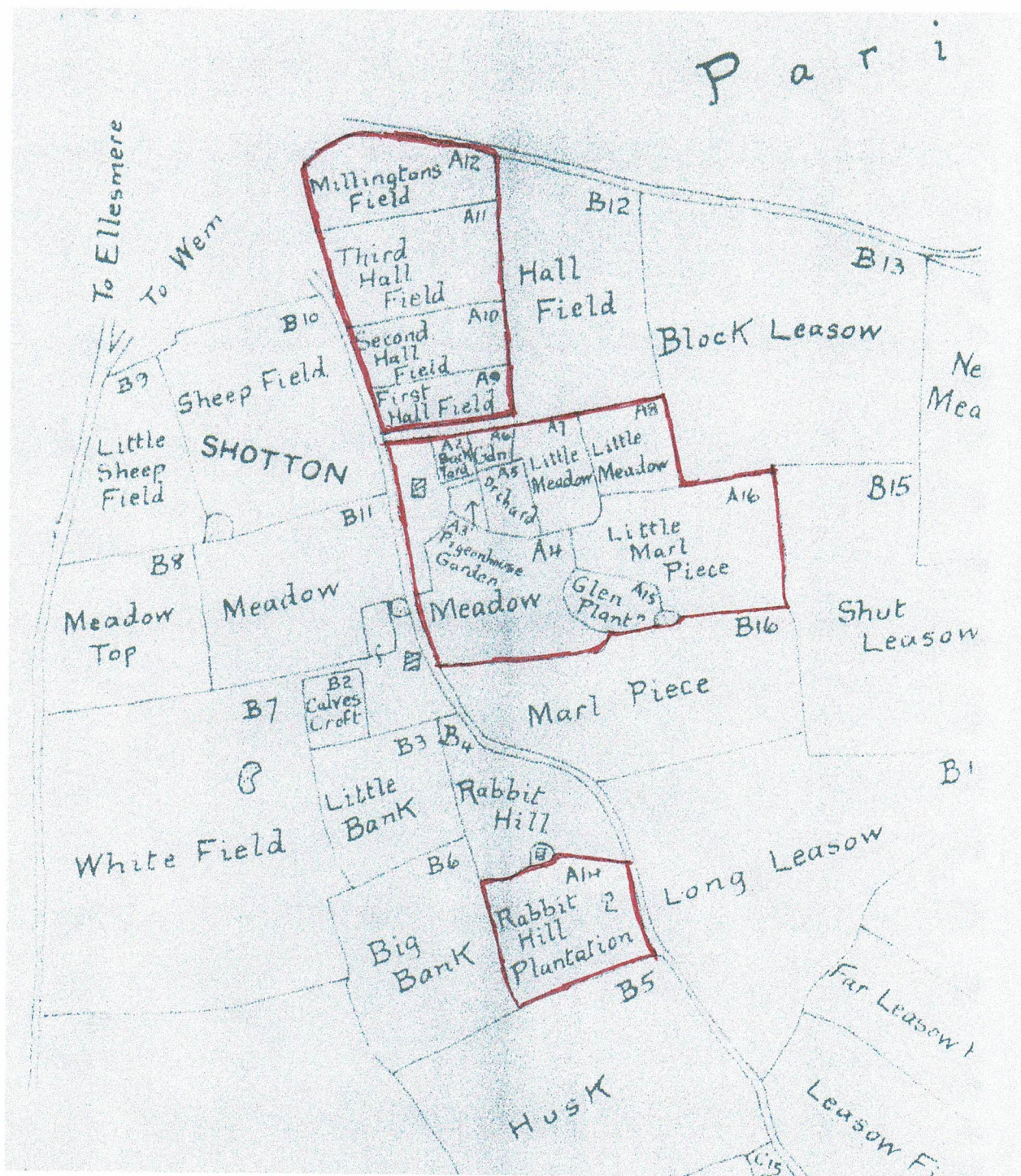
Field No.	Field Name	Use
A1	House buildings garden	
A2	Back Yard	Old Pasture
A3	Pigeon House Garden	Garden
A4	Meadow	Mown
A5	Orchard	Orchard
A6	Garden	Garden
A7	Little Meadow	Wheat Stubble
A8	Little Meadow	Wheat Stubble
A9	First Hall Field	Potatoes
A10	Second Hall Field	Wheat Stubble
A11	Third Hall Field	Lay [?] and Vetches
A12	Millington's Field	[Unreadable]
A13	Rabbit Hill House and Garden	
A14	Rabbit Hill Plantation	Plantation
A15	Glen Plantation	Plantation
A16	Little Marl Field	Turnips

Shotton Farm and its fields is listed separately and is shown as in the occupation of William Groom.

The tithe Map of 1839 shows that that the Shotton Hall estate was compact, consisting of four fields stretching back from the house to the road to Wem and a collection of fields to the north and east of the house. There was one detached field (A14) on Rabbit Hill. The fields attached to Shotton Farm were located between the Shrewsbury road and Shotton Lane, extending to the south of Rabbit Hill.

Mary Ann Watkins married at Myddle on 18 Jan 1825 her second cousin Lieut. Col. James Watkins of Calderbank, Lanarkshire. He served in the Bengal Army. James Watkins was the son of Mary Ann's great uncle Thomas Watkins born 1737. Shotton Hall was left by Watkin Watkins in his will of 1849 to James Watkins his son-in-law whose wife Mary Ann had died without offspring before 1843.





***Tithe Map of Shotton Township 1839***

*Copyright: Shropshire Archives*

*The fields outlined in red formed the Shotton estate. The remaining fields formed the Shotton Farm estate. Both belonged to the Watkins family at this time.*

James Watkins remarried in 1843 to Helen, daughter of John Buchanan. Helen's mother was Helen Yuille born in 1776 at Port



Glasgow, Scotland. Their daughter Helen Yuille Watkins was born about 1845. James Watkins inherited Shotton Hall on the death of Watkin Watkins in 1849.



*The Watkins memorial window in Myddle Church*  
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