

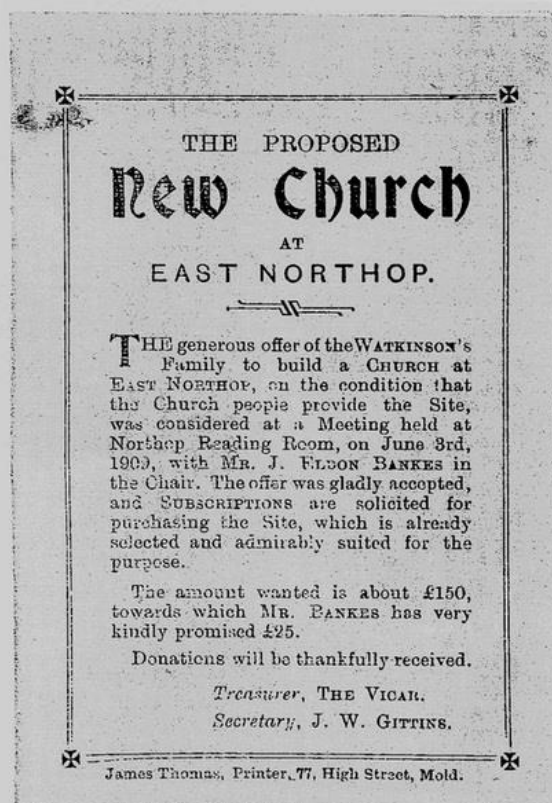
2. The family of John Watkinson and his wife Mary Anne nee Sutcliffe of Brook Park, Northrop, Flintshire

The second son of George Watkinson (GW2), John, moved to Flintshire to look after the coal interests of the family business Geo Watkinson & Sons. Although he obviously maintained links with the family back in Lightcliffe, returning there for the baptisms of at least two of his children.

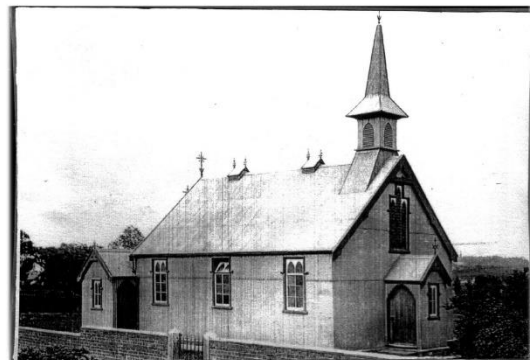
By the time of his death in 1907 he was a very wealthy man who made a bequest to replace an "Iron Church" with a new building at East Northop, Flintshire.

WATKINSON John of Brook-park Northop Flintshire died 26 May 1907
Probate London 1 August to Mary Anne Watkinson widow Herbert Watkinson
J.P. Arthur Watkinson and Richard Kershaw gentleman Effects £274 789 19s 7d.
Resworn £275 891 11s 7d

There is also an Irish Probate record dated 17 August 1907 in London, but "Re-sealed" in Dublin, granted to the same family members, giving John Watkinson's effects in Ireland as £3484 10s.



East Northop Iron Church



Mr John Watkinson, of Brook House (now Northop Hall Country House Hotel), local mine owner and churchwarden, shared the general concern over the increasing unsuitability of the "Iron Church". He made a bequest on his death in 1908 [should be 1907] to fund the building of a new church to serve this population, provided that the Church provided the ground.

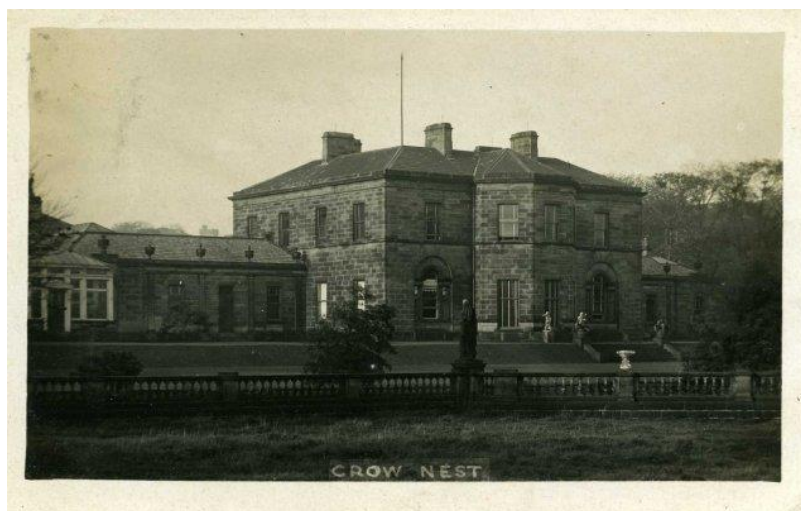
On 2nd April 1911 widow Mary Ann Watkinson was a guest at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, London along with her daughter Fanny. It was recorded (and then crossed out) that Mary Ann had had seven children of which three had died. Baby Maud died aged just eight months, but it appears that both John Watkinson and Frederick Watkinson also died relatively young before 1911.

The building of the new church for which her husband had left a bequest was finished in 1912. The family then helped again with furnishing it as detailed below.

180. NORTHOP.—Northop Hall Village, New Church consecrated, April 23rd by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, and dedicated to St. Mary. Choir provided with Cassocks and Surplices by the Vicar; Chalice and Paten given by Miss Smart, in memory of her father, who was a former Vicar of the Parish, and Archdeacon of St. Asaph; Iron Safe given by Mr A. Watkinson; Choir Stalls, Pulpit and Reredos given by Mrs Watkinson; Altar Cloth given by Mrs Vaughan; Chairs provided by the congregation; Petrol Gas installed by Mr Herbert Watkinson, also ground laid out and planted with trees and shrubs by Mr H. Watkinson; Altar Desks and Vases by the Vicar; Lectern Bible and Desk Prayer Books and Altar Books given by S.P.C.K.; 2 Oak Vestry Cupboards by the Congregation; Cassocks and Surplices (complete set) given by Canon and Mrs Atkinson for the Parish Church Choir; Chair for Sacrament at St. Mary's, given by Mrs Randles. Addition to the Churchyard consecrated on May 26th.

WATKINSON Mary Ann of Brook Park Northop Flintshire widow died 24 March 1925 Probate St. Asaph 25 May to Herbert Watkinson barrister-in-law and Arthur Watkinson gentleman. Effects £3196 8s

- (a) **Marian Watkinson**, born 20th November 1875, had married Richard Kershaw of **Crow Nest, Lightcliffe** (pictured below) in 1897 in Wales.



Maud (13th November 1898 – 12th January 1984) was presumably named after her mother's little sister. She was baptised by her mother's cousin Rev George Watkinson (GW4) on 16th May 1899 at St. John's Coley when "Silk Spinner" Richard lived at Elm Wood, Brighouse. This was the family's abode when their last four children were born, Marian (4th March 1902 -), Richard (19th March 1904 – 19th August 1931), Muriel (24th January 1906 – 1913?) and Evelyn (9th January 1908 -). After that this Kershaw family moved to Warwickshire.

1911 census

Richard Kershaw	Head	46	Private Means
Marian Kershaw	Wife	35	
Marian Kershaw	Dau	9	
Richard Kershaw	Son	7	
Muriel Kershaw	Dau	5	
Evelyn Kershaw	Dau	3	

5 servants
Address Riplingham, Leamington Spa, WAR

Eldest daughter Maud has not been found in 1911; she was alive, so probably at boarding school. Marian Kershaw nee Watkinson died in 1913 but it took nearly seventy years for her probate to be finally settled – it is interesting to speculate as to why. Her daughter Muriel was probably the 12-year-old Muriel Kershaw who died in Warwickshire in 1918. Another son, Arthur Watkinson Kershaw (20th June 1912 – 2005) was the nephew who inherited his grandfather's home, Brook Park, after the death of his uncle Herbert Watkinson. By then Arthur Watkinson Kershaw had moved to Australia where apparently most of the contents of Brook Park were taken.

KERSHAW Marian of Riplinghm Leamington Warwickshire (wife of Richard Kershaw) died 26 March [1913] Administration London 13 November 1913 to the said Richard Kershaw of no occupation. Effects £549 14s 4d Further grant 12th February 1943 Further Grant Winchester 15 December 1982

Kershaw Marian of Riplingham Leamington (wife of Richard Kershaw) died 26 March 1913 Administration Llandudno 12 February [1943] to Maud Mason (wife of Dermot Rice Mason) Effects £9692 0s 10d. Former Grant P.R. 13 November 1913 Further Grant Winchester 15 Dec 1982

KERSHAW Marian of Riplingham Leamington died 26 March 1913 Administration Winchester 15 December [1982] £67 839 G G PR 13 November 1913 and PR 12 December [should be February] 1943

KERSHAW Richard of 7 The Embankment Bedford died 7 February 1925 Administration London 21 August to Maud Kershaw spinster. Effects £154 16s 7d Resworn £6743 11 – 6

After the death of both parents the Kershaw children resided with their uncle Herbert Watkinson at Brook Park, Northrop, Flintshire

- (b) John Watkinson** born 1877 has not been found after the 1881 census so it has been assumed that he died between then and 1911.
- (c) Frederick Watkinson**, born 9th August 1879 in Northop, Flintshire but baptised at St Matthew;s Church Lightcliffe on 23rd October 1879, was a boarder at Arnold House, Chester Cathedral School in 1891. He attended Downton Agricultural College, near Salisbury, where he died aged 19. His funeral and burial took place at Northop on 28th October 1898.

- (d) **Fanny Watkinson**, born at Brook Park but baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 2nd September 1881, married reverend Charles Campbell Wright Randle in 1912. They had a son John Reginald Charles Randle (23rd April 1913 – 1987).

RANDLE the reverend Charles Campbell Wright of 15 Malmsbury Park-road Bournemouth clerk died 30 November 1934 at 6 Wellington-road Bournemouth Administration London 19 March to Fanny Randle widow and John Reginald Charles Randle motor engineer. Effects £17 209 8s 4d

RANDLE Fanny of Englemere Lodge Ascot Sunninghill Windsor widow died 21 November 1953 at Five Trees Ascot Probate Chester 12 March [1954] to National Provincial Bank Limited, Effects £24 603 13s 9d

- (e) **Herbert Watkinson**, born 2nd July 1882, was at Rossall School, Lancashire with his brother Arthur in 1901. By 1911 as a "Barrister at Law" he was the only Watkinson at Brook Park, Northrop with 5 servants. As previously noted, apparently his Kershaw nieces and nephew resided with him at times after their parents died. Bachelor Herbert of "Private Means" was still at this Watkinson family home in 1939 when he was convalescing after an operation when the register was taken.

WATKINSON Herbert of Brook Park Northop Flintshire died 11 May 1949 at The Royal Infirmary Liverpool Probate Chester 29 November to The National Provincial Bank Limited and John Kenneth Dickin Roberts solicitor. Effects £127 788 14s 4d

Sixty-six-year-old Herbert was cremated on 16th May 1949 and it was recorded that his ashes were interred in the (family) vault.

- (f) **Arthur Watkinson**, born 21st March 1884, was at Rossall School, Lancashire in 1901. Then on 17th July 1907 he married Mary Healey at St. Peter's Church, Harrogate where Mary's address was the Majestic Hotel. Arthur was a 23-year-old "Gentleman" of Brook Park. Thirty-year-old Mary was possibly the Madeline Mary Healey born 2nd July 1876 to "Gentleman" Christopher and Mary Healey (nee Mullen) of Navan, County Meath, Ireland, the birthplace given for Mary on the 1911 census. If this was the case, then she had a Catholic baptism on 4th July 1876. By 1911 Arthur and Mary had moved to Gloucestershire where he is thought to have converted to Catholicism. Another convert, new comer to Chipping Campden (in 1912) and a friend of the Watkinsons was F.L. Griggs (Frederick Landseer Maur Griggs) an "*English etcher, architectural draughtsman, illustrator, and early conservationist, associated with the late flowering of the Arts and Crafts movement in the Cotswolds*".

1911 census

Arthur Watkinson Head 27

Mary Watkinson Wife 34

4 servants

Address Mickleton Lodge, Campden, GLO

These Watkinsons were patrons of the Arts and Crafts movement, the Catholic church and the local community donating money to local causes and land for the building of a leisure centre including a swimming pool. His birthday was a cause of celebration for the local school children as one young girl remembered.

“Another happy event at School was the party given by Mr. Watkinson for his birthday at Maidenwell, Broad Campden. After a lovely tea, we always had a firework display and our photographs taken.”



Mr. Watkinson's party for the schoolchildren at Maidenwell

Mrs Mary Watkinson must have predeceased her husband as he appears to have remarried but no further information has been found.

WATKINSON Arthur of Maidenwell Broad Campden Chipping Campden Gloucestershire died 21 May 1941 at 96 Lower Leeson-street Dublin Probate Llandudno 24 September to Catherine Watkinson widow. Effects £9380 18s 3d Resworn £12 930- 7 - 1 Reworn £13 923 - 3 - 1

- (g) **Maud Watkinson** was on born 17th July 1885 and baptised with her brother Arthur on 3rd August 1885 but eight months later she died. She was buried on 23rd March 1886 in the Northop church where she had been baptised.

D.M.Barker
October 2018

**Have you also read about the other Watkinson sons,
sisters and parents?**