

Thomas Watts

1851 census, 3 Wilkins Cottages, Bristol St Phillip and St Jacob

<i>Thomas Watts</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Steam Engine Maker</i>	<i>Gloucestershire</i>
Jane Watts	Wife	31		Newport
Sarah E Watts	Daughter	6	Scholar	Bristol, United States
Walter J Watts	Son	4	Scholar	Wiltshire

1861 census, Eight Bells, Carisbrooke

<i>Thomas Watts</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>Victualler, Engineer & Machinist Dursley, Gos.</i>	
			<i>employing 2 men & son</i>	
Jane Watts	Wife	44		Newport, Hampshire
Sarah Elizabeth Watts	Daughter	16		United States
Walter James Watts	Son	14	Scholar	Swindon, Wiltshire
James Warner	Lodger	21	Gentleman	London

1871 census, Lukely House, Carisbrooke Road, Carisbrooke

<i>Thomas Watts</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Engine Maker & Machinist</i>	<i>Dursley, Gos.</i>
			<i>employing 4 men & 1 boy</i>	
Jane Watts	Wife	54		Newport, Hampshire
Walter James Watts	Son	24	Engine Maker & Machinist	New Swindon, Wiltshire
Fanny Mary Watts	D-in-law	29	Engine Maker's wife	Shorwell, Hampshire

Hampshire Advertiser - Wednesday 21 July 1869

NEWPORT

NOVEL VELOCIPED RECREATION. — In our advertising columns appears an announcement of a novel velocipede recreation, the invention of Mr. Thomas Watts, of Carisbrooke-road, engineer, which has been set up in the pleasure grounds of Carisbrooke Castle Inn, in the village of Carisbrooke. On Monday evening the novelty attracted numerous visitors, and all, adults as well as children, who mounted the new hoppy horse were delighted with the recreation. The bicycle is worked round a circular level tramway, and is attached to a shaft which turns on a pivot in the centre post of the circle. Of course the larger the circle, in reason, the better, and the difference in expense of a large circle as set against that of a small one would be represented by the additional length of shaft and tramway. Mere boys and girls can drive it with ease and perfect safety. Doubtless we shall soon hear of its introduction in the Crystal Palace grounds at Sydenham. The Watts' here as engineers are not unknown to fame. One of the three velocipedes at the International Exhibition of 1851 was the handiwork of Mr. Charles Watts, of the Isle of Wight.

THE NOVEL VELOCIPEDE RECREATION
invented by Mr. T. WATTS, of Carisbrooke-road, engineer, adapted for gentlemen's pleasure grounds and school recreation grounds, has just been brought out in the pleasure grounds of Cantelo's Carisbrooke Castle Inn, in the village of Carisbrooke. The bicycle is rapidly worked round a level circular tramway, and is attached to a shaft which turns on a pivot in the centre post of the circle. The larger the circle, in reason, the better. This most exhilarating recreation for young men and women, as well as youths, may be soon set up at the cost of a very few pounds sterling.

Kelly's Directory 1898

Watts Thos. & Sons, engineers, machinists & agricultural implement mas. Lukely machine works, Carisbrooke rd.

Isle of Wight County Press – 16 February 1901

CARISBROOKE.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS WATTS. – Another link with the past has this week been severed by the death on Wednesday of Mr. Thomas Watts, of Lukely House, at the age of 79. The deceased was a mechanical engineer of considerable repute, being prominent in early days in the manufacture of velocipedes as well as, in later years, of the modern cycle, and he also displayed marked inventive genius, directed latterly towards the realisation of the idea of self-propelling vessels and vehicles by an arrangement of weights. He was also, it will be remembered, a manufacturer of artificial ice. Deceased was well known and much esteemed in the Island, and his genial presence and cheery manner will be much missed.

Research & Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

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