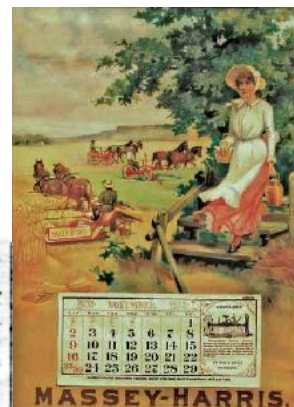


William Marshall Watts, an exceptionally clever man

Isaac Watts was born in 1812 in Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. His namesake, **Isaac Watts**, born in 1674, was a Congregational minister and prolific hymn writer, credited with some 750 hymns including 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'^[ph1]. The two Isaac Watts had comparable lives. Our Isaac was a stalwart of the Congregational Church and moved to Altrincham, Cheshire as an independent minister with his wife, **Dorothy Scott** and three sons during the 1850s. In that period of history the supply of cotton for the mills had been brought to its knees by the American civil war. In 1860 there were 2650 cotton mills in Lancashire employing 440 thousand people and producing half the world's cotton and so Manchester was known as 'Cottonopolis'. Getting a new supply was critical and political. Isaac was at the centre of this as Secretary of the Cotton Supply Association and Editor of its Journal 'The Cotton Supply Reporter' throughout its existence from 1858 until 1872. By then a cotton supply deal had been settled with India. He wrote a paper, 'The Origin and Progress of the Cotton Supply Association', following a visit to India for the Association.



Isaac and Dorothy's eldest son was **Walter Angus Watts**, his middle name being Dorothy's mother's maiden name. Walter completed his degree at Queen's University, Belfast in the same year that his father retired [1]. He even won a Science scholarship of £24, 'the only English student who has obtained a distinction in this college' [2].



We understand that the Rev. Isaac **Watts**, minister for many years of the Independent chapel in Grove-street, and subsequently of Red Lion street chapel, has resigned his charge. Mr. **Watts** eldest son, Mr. **Walter Angus Watts**, student at the Queen's University, Ireland, obtained his degree of B.A. at the examination of the students on the 14th inst., before the Lord Chancellor & the Lord Lieutenant.

Queen's University, Ireland.—We have much pleasure in hearing that Mr. **Walter Angus Watts** eldest son of the Rev. Isaac **Watts** of this town, has just obtained one of four Science Scholarships in the Faculty of Arts (value 24l. each), awarded after examination to the most distinguished students of the first year in Queen's College, Galway. Mr. **Watts** is, we believe, the only English student who has obtained a distinction in this college.

Soon after his 21st birthday Walter set sail for Durham, West Canada, working as a school master and congregationalist minister and lodging with the Massey family. **Daniel Massey** was the founder of Massey-Harris of Toronto which manufactured farming equipment [ph2].

Funnily enough, in 1867 in Altrincham, Walter married **Aretta Desdomona Massey** and they had two daughters and four sons including twin sons, one of whom, **William Scott Watts**, died an infant. Their children **Henry Herbert Watts** and **Ida Frances Maud Watts** had their photo taken at the Horner Studios in 1880 [ph6]. At the time of the following census Walter was employed by a 'chemical and alkali works' in Widnes. Then



Mrs Watts children 1880, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

Settle Graveyard Project

Walter resorted back to teaching in Moss Side, Manchester. Any ministerial leanings seem to have been lost.

Walter's world changed completely when Arletta died in 1884, aged 40 [ph3], when their youngest surviving child was just four. She died in Giggleswick, probably visiting her sister, as we shall see, of an abdominal aneurism. This is a swelling and rupture of the aorta. Dr **James Walker Edgar** certified the death and **William Field Hook** was the registrar. Walter was there at her death but was resident in Widnes at the time. Arletta was buried in Giggleswick graveyard and the inscription reflected the American style, including her maiden name.

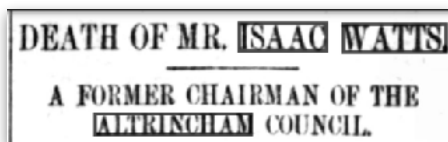
I.H.S. In loving memory of Arletta D Massey, wife of Walter A. Watts born August 11th 1843 died June 2nd 1884. B8/39



Second June 1884 Settle N.S.B.	Arletta Resdemond Watts	41 years	Wife of Walter Angus Watts a Teacher	Abdominal aneurism Certified by James Walker Edgar M.D.	Walter A. Watts widower of the Deceased Resident at Widnes	fourteenth June 1884	William Field Hook Registrar
--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------	-----------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------------

In 1885 Walter married again. His new wife was **Emma Knight** from Brighton and Walter's eldest daughter, **Mary Arletta Watts**, was a witness. From then on Walter and Emma and their daughter **Dorothy Katherine Watts**, lived in London and Walter made a living as a 'private tutor'. What about all those children from his first marriage? The remaining three sons, including the other twin emigrated to Canada where they had plenty of relations. They made their livings through science, engineering and farming. The two daughters remained spinsters in England making some money from work as schoolmistresses.

Isaac and Dorothy's second son **Isaac Watts** started life as a maker-up and packer at **S & J Watts** (seemingly unrelated) which was the largest single-occupancy textile warehouse in Manchester. However, Isaac inherited his father's political leanings, becoming the Secretary of the local Reform League, a full-time job, in 1887. Intriguingly he took over from **Dr John Watts**. The Reform League had been established in 1865 as a nationwide movement to campaign for male suffrage and the legal establishment of trade unions. Isaac became a Councillor in the first Altrincham District Council in 1894 and was twice elected Chairman. Isaac married **Sarah Jane Percival** in 1869. They didn't have any children of their own and so niece **Ida Frances Maud Watts**, daughter of Walter Angus Watts, lived with them for many years. Isaac died of a severe cold when he was 70 [3]. Ida was the beneficiary of their estate when Isaac and Sarah Jane died and used it to retire to Devon where she lived with her older sister, Mary Arletta Watts who happened to be a talented pianist.



This left Isaac and Dorothy's youngest son, **William Marshall Watts**, a very bright lad. He was educated at Owens College, Manchester obtaining first class Honours in Chemistry and natural Philosophy. Whilst there he was the secretary to the revamped Owen College Union, renamed the Student Debating Society 'for the discussion of controversial subjects, which must exclude politics and religion'. It had 62 members. William studied at the University of Heidelberg for his doctorate.

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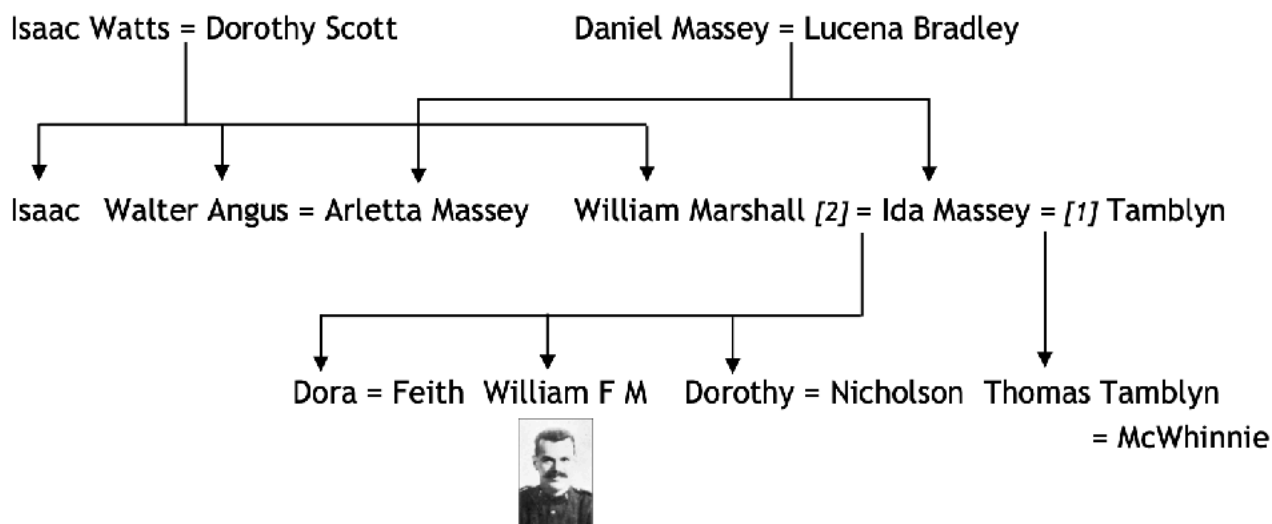
He won numerous scholarships in a wide range of subjects along the way; Maths, Language and Literature of Greece and Rome, History, Chemistry (Lecture and Laboratory). However, his main passion was Chemistry, known as *'the great authority on Spectrum Analysis'*[4,5]. Watts returned to Owens College in 1864 to work as an assistant and then became an assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow in 1866. After all this it seems incredible that, in 1868, he became First Science Master at Manchester Grammar School before moving to take the same position at Giggleswick School in Settle. He was assisted by **James Butler**. Giggleswick School were certainly aiming for the best! William had several papers published in *Philosophical Magazine* and the *Journal of the Chemical Society* and a 'An Essay on Lighthouses' appeared in *Boys' Own Magazine* that same year. His books included *Index to Spectra*, *Organic Chemistry*, *A School Flora for the use of elementary botanists*, *A Practical Introduction to the Elements of Chemistry* and *An Introduction to the Study of Spectrum Analysis*.

... William Marshall Watts (the great authority on Spectrum Analysis) survive. In the first

Some interesting observations on the spectrum of the Bessemer furnace flame have recently been made at the works of the Barrow Hematite Steel Company, by Dr. W. M. Watts. He finds that certain lines in the spectrum, not coincident with known lines of any elementary substance, and hitherto an enigma to the spectroscopist, are due to the presence of manganese.—*Athenaeum*.

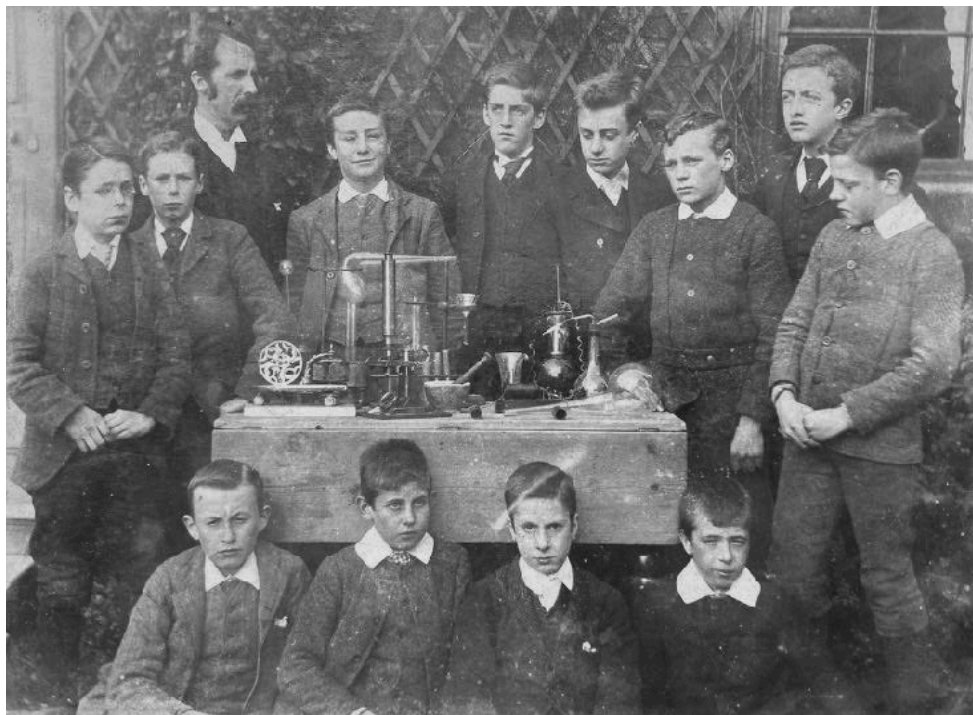
Arletta Desdmona Massey had a sister **Ida Henrietta Massey**. In 1871 Ida married **John Tamblyn**, an assistant bank manager, whose parents had emigrated to Canada from Cornwall. They had a son, **Thomas Massey Fisher Tamblyn** before John died of tuberculosis, aged 28. Two years later, in 1877 Ida and her son were in Chorlton, Manchester, probably visiting her sister, where she married William Marshall Watts. Unlike his brother, William was quite happy to bring up his wife's child as his own and, more than that, young Thomas wrote additional material for one of his step-father's books and shared an interest in both spectroscopy and botany.

Watts family



It was soon after this marriage that William obtained the post at Giggleswick School where he remained for 36 years. It's possible the photo [ph4, below] pictures William himself, or his assistant James Butler alongside the students. William still continued to research and give lectures [4]. William and Ida lived first in Stackhouse, where they had their first daughter **Dora Mannock Watts** (who may have picked up her middle name from fellow schoolmaster **Gifford Bromley Mannock**). At the time of the 1881 census, at Stackhouse, their niece, **Ida Frances Maud Watts**, lived with them before moving

November 30—Lecture: The Spectroscope, and its application to the conduct of the Bessemer process. Dr. W. M. Watts



to live with William's brother Isaac. Perhaps the appearance of children put her off? In 1884 Ida's sister must have visited or lived nearby with her husband Walter Angus Watts at the time of her death.

William and Ida moved to 7 Prospect Terrace, a very desirable address at the time and could afford a servant at the time of each census return. Unfortunately, in 1887, one of their servants, *Mary Annie Woolerton*, was burnt to death when her (voluminous) skirt caught fire in front of the stove. She ran from room to room which probably made it burn faster. She died after 40 hours' agony [6]. This may have prompted their move back to Stackhouse where *Sally Anne Moore* worked as their servant. Sally Anne became an immensely successful leader in the local nursing profession. In 1894 William submitted an article to the 1894 Settle Chronicle [5L] which Thomas Brayshaw had tried to relaunch. It was about the occurrence of *Asarum Europaeum*, more commonly known as European Wild Ginger.

During the early 1900s William retired and the family moved to Kent, naming their house 'Ingleboro'. William died in Kent, aged 74 followed ten years later by Ida, aged 82. Their children?

On his application for the Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1899 Thomas Massey Fisher Tamblyn Watts explained he had an apprenticeship with **Mr William McWhirter** 'latterly of the *Faraday Electrical Engineering Company*' in Glasgow followed by a placement as an assistant electrical engineer in Troutbeck, Windermere. Alongside this he had done eight years' clerical
settlerearch@gmail.com

A DOMESTIC SERVANT BURNT TO DEATH AT SETTLE.

About nine o'clock on Friday morning a domestic servant named Annie Woolerton (17), in the service of Dr Watt, at Prospect Terrace, Settle, whilst engaged upon her household duties had her back turned for the moment to a gas stove. Her dress caught fire, and she ran from room to room, the flames being fanned by the rapid progression, the apartments being set on fire. The barking and demonstrations of a dog attracted the attention of the neighbours, who found the girl in the attic dreadfully burnt. Dr Edgar was soon in attendance. The girl died yesterday morning, after enduring great pain for forty hours. The fires in the rooms were extinguished by the neighbours.

To the Editor of The Chronicle.

Sir,
 I shall be glad if you can spare me a few lines of your valuable space to place on record the occurrence of an interesting and somewhat rare plant at Feizor. The plant is *Asarum Europaeum*, of which a specimen, in flower, was found by Mr. John Wilman, on May 3rd. The plant is described by Dr. Arnold Lees, in the "Flora of West Yorkshire," as an extinct alien. That it is not yet extinct is evident, and Mr. Wilman tells me that he has noticed the plant at various times during the last twenty years, though he did not know that any particular interest attached to it. The late Mr. John Tatham had a single specimen in his herbarium, which he found many years ago in an old hedge and deep dry ditch, between Grain House and Fieldgate, 2 miles West of Settle, a station long since destroyed, but the fact that it has been growing at Feizor all the time does not seem to have been recorded before. No doubt it was originally planted there. The plant is not mentioned in Windsor's "Flora Cravoniensis."

Yours truly,
 W. MARSHALL WATTS.

T. M. F. Tamblyn-Watts,



Electrician and
 Scientific Apparatus Maker.

Postal Address: GOLDIELANDS, SETTLE.

TOWN PRICES FOR ELECTRICAL GOODS.



ELECTRIC BELLS, 1s. 6d and 2d each.
 WOOD PUSHES, 1s each.
 BRASS PUSHES, 3 inch 1s each.
 Do. WARDROBE, 2s each.
 BATTERIES, with requisite chemicals, 1s each.
 PEAR PUSH SWITCHES, 1s each.

Settle Graveyard Project

work for the British Association Committee on 'wavelength tables of the spectra of the elements and compounds' and began working as an electrician and apparatus maker in 1896, when he was 24.

Whilst in Glasgow Thomas met and married **Marion Joan McWhinnie**. They returned to live on Prospect Terrace, taking over the house from his parents who returned to Stackhouse. The adverts for his business would have seemed very progressive for Settle! Perhaps too progressive? By the time of the 1911 census Thomas and his expanding family had moved to London, at around the same time as his mother and step-father moved south. Whilst there Thomas wrote numerous books including *The Home Electrician* series, *A Handbook for the Student and Householder*, *Some notes on the Natural Features of Southend-on-Sea and District*, *Wonderful Plants*, *A botanical book for students*. Thomas' success is an interesting case study into the nature versus nurture debate!

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Telegraphic Address: "TAMBLYN, SETTLE."

Meanwhile, in 1909, William and Ida's eldest daughter, **Dora Mannock Watts** married **Hermann Joseph Feith**, a toy maker and engineer and the son of a German father, **Franz Joseph Hermann**, and a French mother, **Louise Duhart-Fauvet** who had arrived in England in the 1880s. Hermann's brothers were named **Adolphe** and **Franz**. Hermann was a driver with the British Expeditionary Force in France, despite being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. They all seemed to have successful careers and families travelling all over the world but there must have been some interesting conversations over the dinner table!

William and Ida's son, **William Francis Muther Watts**, [ph5] emigrated to Canada, where he had numerous relations, obviously, and worked as a chauffeur. In 1915, aged 34, he joined the Canadian Infantry as a Private. His records show that he was just 5 foot 1 inch tall with grey eyes and brown hair. William was reported missing on 26 September 1916 during the battle of Thiepval Ridge during the Somme offensive in which the Canadian forces had a major role. None of his comrades knew anything about the circumstances of his death. The Canadians suffered approximately 3,500 casualties (killed, injured and missing) and more than 700 Canadians killed in action during that battle have no known grave. William was 35.



Name	Watts Frank	Rank	Private	Reg. No.	180330
Unit	29th Battalion	Age	34	Signature	W. W. Watts
Next of Kin	Mr William Watts 199 Venner	Address	London		
Date	26-9-16	Movement	MISSING AFTER ACTION	A354	0.3563
	26-9-16		MISSING BELIEVED KILLED	A442	0.8809
	26-9-16		How for Official Purposes presumed to have DIED.	A490	12-4-17
	26-9-16		Now Killed in Action		

William and Ida had another daughter called **Dorothy Watts**. The only evidence of her existence is a newspaper article about her marriage to **Claude Nicholson**, an electrical engineer in 1913 [7]. Dorothy doesn't appear to have been brought up by her parents and so was, perhaps, was brought up by relations in Canada? She and her husband were equally elusive after their marriage.

Mr Claude Nicholson, son of Dr. Frank Nicholson, of Tickton Grange, was married on Monday to Dorothy, youngest daughter of Mr **William Marshall Watts** of Loughborough. The ceremony took place at All Saints' Church, Southend-on-Sea.

Settle Graveyard Project



This account has been compiled by Sarah Lister as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle graveyard project](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project). The 'Old Settle' family tree on Ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settlerearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Stamford Mercury, 2 – Lincolnshire Chronicle, 3 – The Guardian, 4 – Manchester Courier, 5 – Birmingham Daily Mail, 6 – Lancaster Gazette, 7 – Beverley Recorder

ph1 – credited to Wikipedia, artist unknown, ph2 – www.farmcollector.com, ph3 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username cecrowca, ph4 – kindly provided by John Reid, ph5 – credited to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph6 – Image 2022.1.68.97 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life



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