

Luke Theophilus WATTS & Louisa Emily CHAPMAN

Luke Theophilus WATTS

3rd child of John WATTS & Ann Nancy AVERY

Luke Theophilus WATTS was born 23 Aug 1842 at Hindmarsh town (now Hindmarsh). The family lived on the banks of the Torrens River on the corner of what was later named The Port Road and Adam Street at Hindmarsh Town

In 1857, John & Nancy WATTS and their children Joseph, Sarah and Luke packed up and travelled to the district of Nairne. For most of their life their residence was Dawesley. It was reported that John started making bricks at Scott Creek in 1858, mostly fire-bricks for the smelters of the Kanmantoo mines and clinker bricks for general building. John WATTS ran the brickyard at Scott Creek for many years with the help of his sons.

On 23 Dec 1862, Luke married Louisa Emily CHAPMAN at St. James Church, Blakiston. Louisa was born in 1839. Her father was Edward CHAPMAN. Her mother was possibly Elizabeth STEWART. She possibly had a sister Laura, born 26 Nov 1856.

Louisa was born in London in 1837 and emigrated to South Australia in 1854.

<http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/warrenhastings1855.shtml>

(perhaps '*Warren Hastings*' arriving 12 Sep 1855 with father Edward (45), Elizabeth (40), Amelia (9), Alfred (3), Elizabeth (16), Louisa Ann (18) all from Finchley, Middlesex). Edward CHAPMAN may have died in 1894

Louisa conducted a day school at Little Hampton which she relinquished in 1862 when she married Luke. She assisted Luke in his business and was the organist at the Primitive Methodist Chapel. She had ill health for the last 12 years of her life (tuberculosis). She died 13 Jun 1896 at Little Hampton and was buried at St. James, Blakiston.

Researching Luke Theophilus WATTS is complicated by the fact that he named his son Luke Theophilus WATTS also. Luke jnr. Also named his son Luke Theophilus John WATTS.

Luke senior was often referred to as L.T. WATTS.

Luke jnr. Was often referred to as Luke WATTS,

His son was called Jack WATTS.

Be that as it may, please forgive me if I assign some of the events to the wrong one.

I have no evidence to back it up, but my thought is that as a young man, L.T. would most likely have worked for his father in the family brick-making business at Scott's Creek. In Dec 1862, Luke was about 20 years old when he married Louisa Emily CHAPMAN at Blakiston. Their first child, Louisa Emily WATTS was born at Native Valley on 12 June 1865 but died soon after (at 3 weeks).

In 1884, Luke was issued with a Hawker's Licence.

By 1866, L.T. WATTS was featuring in the Littlehampton area regularly, winning tenders for road works, embankment works and the supply of road metal for road construction and maintenance. In 1870 and 1871, he won tenders for the construction of road bridges. Luke jnr was born at Littlehampton 26 Jan 1868.

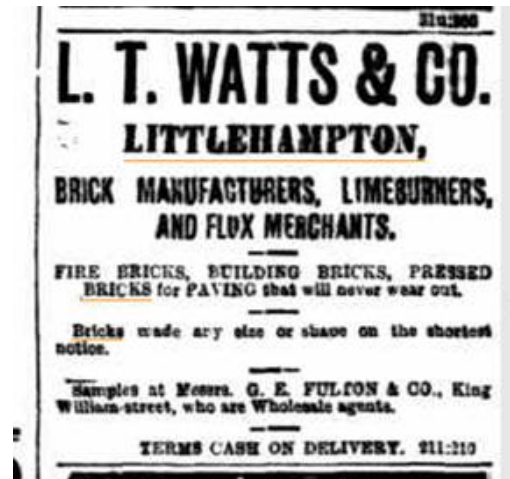
L.T. WATTS was active in the Mount Barker Council as a councillor from 1876 for more than 10 years and it was around 1876 when he established a Jam Factory. He applied for a slaughtering licence in 1880 and was soon killing around 200 pigs per year. I would guess that he would have been helped in the ham and bacon curing business by his brother-in-law Elias DAVIES who had started one of the earliest meatworks in South Australia in 1877 at Dawesley. He was also producing honey and tomato sauce for his shop in Littlehampton. By 1883, his was reported to be making up to 30 tons of jam per year (in a good season), which he was selling to Adelaide merchants.

In September 1882 , construction started on the Mount Barker & Strathalbyn Railway. The section called McGrath's Cutting at Littlehampton was sub-contracted to L.T. WATTS. He also had a contract on a section of the Nairne Railway line in Nov 1882. He employed quite a large number of men on these construction projects. By July 1883, his railway construction projects were finished and he sold his horses, bullocks, drays, tools and harnesses. In August 1883, L.T. WATTS advertises for sale three large shops, cellarage, a bakehouse, a 10 roomed house, two acres of land and one hundred and fifty fruit trees. He was still advertising for fruit from growers, so it seems as if his jam making business was still in operation.

The first post office in Littlehampton was most likely in L.T. WATT's shop on the main road. I have found references to that being as early as June 1884, when, a fire ravaged the store and post office causing considerable damage. By August 1885, L.T. WATTS was in financial difficulties, and he assigned his estate to creditors.

In September 1885, L.T. WATTS opened a new store about 80 yards away, nearer the Railway Station. This building is still standing on the corner of Childs Road and Princes Highway. It was a Post Office and General Store with drapery, grocery and ironmongery. He was offering to sell at Adelaide prices or exchange goods for dairy produce, fruit or poultry. He was also advertising Lime and Bricks at moderate prices. He continued with his bacon curing business in this shop, presumably with his son Luke, who had been granted a slaughtering licence in Nov 1885. It is entirely likely that the shop was actually in the name of L.T.'s son Luke, who himself had financial difficulties in Jan 1886, when he assigned his estate to creditors to be paid 3 shillings to the pound. In Feb 1888, Luke was running a shop at the City Market (shop 9), when there was a fire in his shop. He was required to pay damages.

L.T. WATTS was still running the shop at Littlehampton in 1889, when his father, John WATTS helped him set up a brickyard further up the hill from the shop. John WATTS was 77 years old at this time and was a very experienced brickmaker, having made bricks at Hindmarsh from about 1838. He then moved to Scott Creek in 1857 and ran the WATTS family brickyard there, making mostly firebricks for the Kanmantoo smelters.



L.T. WATTS and Co. at Littlehampton advertised themselves as brick manufacturers, lime burners, flux merchants and paving bricks that will never wear out.

Prior to the opening of the railway through Littlehampton, it was not economical to manufacture bricks in the hills for orders in Adelaide or further afield. English fire bricks were coming in free of duty (in many cases as ballast in ships) and the cartage of locally made bricks from the hills to Port Adelaide by dray cost more than shipping from England. In 1883, the railway line from Adelaide to Strathalbyn and Nairne was laid and the cost for carting bricks to Adelaide and Port Adelaide was reduced by 75%. Also, a protective tariff was put in place to protect the fire brick industry from cheap English imports.

In the South Australian Register – Wed 19th June 1889, it was reported that L.T. Watts contracted with the West Port (West-phalia) & Port Pirie Coke Company to supply 250,000 fire bricks for the construction of 40 furnaces, the order to be completed in 16 weeks. In 1891, the brickyard received a contract to supply firebricks to the Railways Department for 2 years ending 30 June 1893.

Late in 1891, a Mr. G. THOMPSON entered into a partnership with L.T. WATTS in the firebrick and flux business, but by 1892, he was dissatisfied and asked to be paid out. L.T. partially paid out G. THOMPSON and had a valuation done on the property, plant & stock. L.T. was unable to raise the 550 pounds to pay out G. THOMPSON, who then purchased L.T.'s share for 700 pounds. After paying off the mortgage, overdraft and debts, L.T. claimed he was at a loss of 170 pounds and unable to pay it.

L.T. claimed that he had sold his share of the brickyard, stock and plant, but not the 'business' and maintained that the Railways contract was not part of the deal and also that they had not purchased the goodwill of the company. It was L.T.'s intention that he would start up again in a month, managing for his son (Luke) who had the means to start up where he did not.

John CHAPMAN took over from G. THOMPSON and the brickyard was called 'The South Australian Firebrick Co.' For more on this and other local brickyards, see other document.

Louisa died 14 Jan 1896 at Blakiston

L.T. WATTS died 17 Jan 1914 (age 71) at Adelaide S.A. Res. Littlehampton

Timelines:

- Jul 1866 Won a tender for side cutting at Littlehampton
- Dec 1867 Won a tender for making an embankment at Littlehampton
- Jun 1868 Won a tender for the supply of road metal
- May 1869 Won a tender for the supply of road metal
- Mar 1870 Won a tender for the supply of road metal
- Oct 1870 Building a bridge across a creek at the foot of Maidment's Hill
- Feb 1871 Building a bridge and making approaches at Back Valley Creek, Inman
- Jul 1876 Councillor - Mount Barker
- In 1876 L.T. WATTS establishes a Jam Factory and by 1883, is reported to be making up 30 tons of jam per year (in a good season), which he sells to Adelaide merchants. He also starts a curing factory for about 200 pigs per year. He is also reported to be making honey and tomato sauce.
- Jun 1877 Luke was described as being a market gardener.
- Nov 1879 Agent for 'Christian Colonist'
- May 1880 Slaughtering Licence granted to Luke WATTS
- Jul 1880 Nominated for councillor - Mount Barker
- Jan 1881 Committee of Mount Barker Agricultural and Horticultural Society
- Jul 1881 Councillor - Mount Barker
- Oct 1881 agent for India & China Teas (multiple adverts up to Aug 1883)
- Sep 1882 Construction Started on the Mount Barker & Strathalbyn Railway. The section called McGrath's Cutting at Littlehampton was sub-contracted to L.T. WATTS.
- Nov 1882 Contractor on construction of part of the Nairne railway line
- Feb 1883 Councillor - Mount Barker
- Jul 1883 L.T. WATTS sells all of his horses, bullocks, drays, tools and harnesses, as his contracts are finished.
- Jun 1883 Councillor - Mount Barker
- Aug 1883 L.T. WATTS advertises for sale three large shops, cellarage, bakehouse, 10 roomed house, two acres of land and one hundred and fifty fruit trees
- Nov 1883 Advertises for fruit from growers.
- Jun 1884 On 20 June 1884, a fire ravaged the store and post office run by L.T. WATTS causing considerable damage.
- Aug 1885 Luke WATTS has assigned his estate to creditors.
- Sep 1885 On 25 Sep 1885, L.T. WATTS advised that he was moving the Littlehampton Post Office to a new shop about 80 yards away, nearer the Railway Station. Also a General Store with drapery, grocery, ironmongery. Will sell at Adelaide prices or exchange for dairy produce, fruit or poultry. Also Lime and bricks at moderate prices.
- Nov 1885 Slaughtering Licence granted to Luke WATTS
- Dec 1887 Slaughtering Licence granted to Luke WATTS
- Jan 1886 Luke WATTS has assigned his estate to creditors to be paid 3 shillings to the pound.
- Feb 1888 A fire in Shop No.9 (Luke WATTS's Shop) at the City Market
- Feb 1889 Advertising Fire Bricks, Fire Clay, Marble Limestone
- Mar 1889 Slaughtering Licence granted to Luke Theophilus WATTS
- Jan 1891 Produced Marble Flux at his Mount Barker Springs Quarry (used in smelting)
- Jul 1894 L.T. WATTS (brickmaker) declared Insolvent
- Jun 1896 13 June 1896, Louisa died of consumption

Jun 1911 Luke T. Watts advertising Butter, Bacon, Cheese, Fresh Eggs, Onions, Pickles, Vinegar, Potted Beef at 47 Gouger Street, Adelaide.



Luke Theophilus WATTS

Luke Theophilus WATTS & Louisa Emily CHAPMAN had 2 children:

Louisa Emily WATTS

b. 12 Jun 1865 at Native Valley S.A.

d. 2 Jul 1865 (age 3 wks) at Native Valley S.A.

Luke Theophilus WATTS (jun.)

b. 26 Jan 1868 at Littlehampton S.A.

m. Frances OSBORN 9 Jan 1888 at Res Mr. Watts, Adelaide, S.A.

Apr 1927, Luke WATTS was a greengrocer and fruiterer at Murray Bridge.

Luke died 28 Mar 1930 (age 62) at Monteith. Res. Monteith

possibly 4 children

One was Sgt. Major Norman WATTS (he was at Gallipoli then France)

Luke Theophilus John WATTS

b. 1 May 1900 Little Hampton

d. 22 Aug 1975 (75yrs) Semaphore

m. Dora Cecelia Mary WRAY

Her parents Joseph WRAY & Louisa Amelia POWELL

Dora b. 3 Oct 1899 Mobilong

d. 26 Oct 1983 (84yrs)

possibly 3 children

Luke WW1 AIF S/N 6664 (Motor Driver)

DESTRUCTION OF MR. WATTS' STORE.

Early on Monday morning, June 16, a destructive fire occurred on the premises of Mr. L. T. Watts, storekeeper, jam manufacturer, and post-master, at Little Hampton. At about 2 o'clock Mr. Watts—who had retired about four hours previously—was awakened by a sound as of something falling, and he at once got up for the purpose of discovering whence the noise proceeded. As he passed the window of the parlor behind the shop he saw a dull red glare, which at once convinced him that the place was on fire. He immediately aroused the other inmates of the house, and despatched his son and his storeman for assistance. In a very few minutes help was at hand, but it was found to be impossible to save anything from the main shop, in which the flames were then raging furiously. Stock and furniture were however rapidly cleared from the rest of the building, and the mails and other contents of the post-office were removed to a place of safety by one party of workers; while others turned their attention to the task of confining the fire to the shop in which it started. Fortunately the shop was enclosed with 18in. stone walls, and there were but two doors between it and the rest of the house. Water being plentiful and convenient, and willing helpers being many, success attended their efforts; and although nothing is now left of the shop, and the cellar beneath, but the bare and blackened walls the remainder of the building has suffered little or no damage from fire. On one side of the shop is a wing containing the post-office and two other rooms, while on the other is a large pollard store. Behind the shop is an extensive dwelling-house, and there are two doors leading to it. Access to the post-office and pollard store is gained by separate entrances, and so the chance of the fire spreading to them—except by means of the roof—was not so great as it would otherwise have been. The origin of the conflagration is shrouded in mystery, for although it is alleged that the shopboy was careless in his use of matches, and although it is known that one of the inmates entered the drapery

department with a lighted candle on Sunday evening, no sufficient reason can be advanced for connecting these circumstances with the fire. Mr. Watts advances the theory that the beginning of the blaze was caused by rats nibbling at matches, but as no matches are kept on the drapery side, and he is pretty certain that the fire started there, it will be seen that the theory admits of doubt. The stock and building were well insured, and both the police and the insurance agents have done their best to clear up the mystery, but it cannot be said that the in-quest held at their instigation has had a very profitable result. The news of the catastrophe spread very quickly, and, within a very few minutes of its discovery by Mr. Watts, most of the able-bodied residents of Littlehampton—both male and female—were busily engaged in saving goods or battling with the flames. By their exertions much property was kept from injury and both Mr. Watts and the Insurance Companies are much indebted to them because of their disinterested efforts. Several explosions took place during the course of the fire as some gunpowder and a large quantity of kerosene were stored on the premises, but fortunately the thick walls resisted the shocks, and they had no hurtful effect on the rest of the building.

THE INQUEST

was held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Littlehampton, before Mr. T. J. S. O'Halloran, S.M., at 12 o'clock on, Tuesday, June 17th. Messrs. Stephenson, J.P., (foreman,) Cornelius, Atkin-son, Wilton, Sexton, Macarty, Freeman, Wigzell, Wiedemann, Paltridge, Tonkin, Monks, and Lyon comprised the jury, while the Insurance Companies were represented by Mr. J. Gordon Young (National) and Mr. S. Parsons (Guardian); Mr. L. von Doussa watched the case on behalf of Mr. Watts; and Sergeant Field appeared on behalf of the police. After the jury had viewed the scene of the fire the following evidence was taken :—

Luke Wafts, storekeeper, Little Hampton, deposed—Went to bed on Sunday, June 15, between 10.30 and 11. Did not go round building The last thing I did before going to bed was to see if the back door was locked. Heard some one (believed it to be my servant) come in and go down stairs just after I was in bed. I woke up about 2 o'clock and heard sounds as of something falling in post-office. I thought it might be a dog locked up. Woke up Norah Cotter, who was sleeping with my niece (Gertrude Fleet) in the room between me and the post-office. Asked her to see if there was anything in the post-office. She got up and went in there and replied " No." I immediately got up and started to go to the shop, and when as far as the glass window of parlor behind shop I saw what was wrong. Then ran back to my room and told Norah the house was on fire, and asked her for a match to light the candle. I ran down to my son, who was sleeping underneath in the lower bedrooms. Woke him and Harry and then went back and dressed my-self. Went immediately to my books, and as soon as I got them in my hands Weller and Stuart came up. Told them to put the books under my father's verandah. Then went to the post-office and cleared out the pigeon holes and letter box and all the valuable books connected with the post-office, and sent them over to my brother in-law (Alfred Chapman), who lives opposite. By this time there were 30 or 40 persons present. I directed them to clear the whole of things out of the post-office and dwelling-house and also the pollard shop adjoining. All this was done with my assistance. The fire had burst through the top of the building by the time this was completed. Reported the matter to the police. After clearing the goods out we tried to stop fire from spreading.

Gertrude Fleet was the last person in the store Sunday night. she went in at 8.30 for a sheet of notepaper. She had a candle. She was not away more than a minute. I was sitting in the parlor (where I slept) all the evening. No other person went in to my knowledge. My stock is insured in the Guardian Office for £1200 and the building in the National for £650. The furniture is insured in the Guardian for £100, and the jam for £300 in the same office. I estimate damage to stock at £1300, and the furniture and household stuff is all slightly damaged. The jams insured were in another store, but there were £130 worth in the shop. Cannot account for the fire except on the supposition that the mice got at the wax matches. We had a fire in the shop about fire weeks ago. It started under the counter on the grocery side at about 7 o'clock at night. Harry Wills, the shopman, called my attention to it. I was in the post-office writing letters. Went to the fire and kept it down with my hat till water was brought. It was then put out. Reported matter to Mr. Parsons. Believe the fire originated on the drapery side.

By Mr. Parsons—From 8.30 to 11 I was in the parlor. The books were kept in the dining-room on the safe. There was no possibility to save anything from the shop when I first saw fire. It had been burning some time before I discovered it. If I had opened shop door a volume of flame would have come out and consumed the whole building. Had losses on railway contracts last year, but this year have done very well.

By Mr. Young—The roof of centre portion of building was shingle, the rest is galvanized iron.

The reason I believe the fire started on the drapery side is because the floor was burnt through there first. I saw this through the hole of the baking cellar. The floor was dropping through in a sheet four feet wide. The noise I heard in the post-office was as if something was falling off the shelves. A stack of papers under the counter caught fire about five week ago without any apparent cause. Until then I kept books in the shop, but afterwards removed them to the dining-room. The stock sheet is in the post. office. We took stock about a fortnight ago. It was three weeks after the first fire. The stock sheets are saved. The total value of stock, exclusive of jams, is about £1.500. Furniture and effects are worth between £200 and £300. If everything had been burnt I should have been a considerable loser. The goods in the pollard store are worth about £200. Have made more than £300 in the last month or two. Have seen matches dropped about the floor, as the shopman is rather careless.

By Mr. Parsons—The wax matches were kept on the top of the window on the grocery side:

By Police—The first fire was a mystery to me. It originated in a space under the counter on the grocery side. About 1 cwt. of newspapers were destroyed by water and fire. Thought it might have been started by vermin nibbling a match. The notepaper, for which Gertrude Fleet went, was ; kept in a drawer on the drapery side. She would have to pass the whole of the drapery to get to the drawer.

By Mr. von Doussa—My stock has been insured for five years for the same sum as at present and in the same office. The insurance on the building has been decreased from £800 , to £650 lately. Only a small portion of jams were in the building, the rest were on the oppo-site side of the road. I had a very full stock. Received a wagon load of goods on Saturday night. They were placed in the shop. I keep boots and shoes in the post-office, and there is a ton of wire and some fruit there. All goods in the two wings were saved from fire.

Every effort was made to secure stock. Goods were taken first and furniture last. It was impossible to get anything out from the main store. My first view of the fire showed me it was useless to attempt to attack the fire single-handed. The fire may not have started on the drapery side, although it was there it first burnt through to the cellar. Reported the first fire to the agent of the Insurance Company. It was a very small affair. Have no suspicion that anyone set place on fire. Could pay my debts twice over.

By Jury—Was in the shop on Sunday for some tobacco. Have not been pressed by creditors. Had no choking sensation when I woke up. Have expostulated with the shopman for carelessness with matches.

By Mr. Young—Never said I was losing money by store after I had taken stock. Never said I was woke up by a choking sensation in consequence of smoke.

By Mr. Parsons—Saw the fire through a glass window, a vacant room, and a glass door.

Norah Cotter, domestic servant, deposed— Remember Sunday, June 15. Went to bed about 10 o'clock. Did not go into the store that day. Mr. Watts, Harry Wills, young Watts, Gertrude Fleet, and I slept in the house that night. Young Watts went to bed about 7.30 and Wills at about 10 o'clock. Gertrude Fleet went into the shop at 8-30. Between 1 and 2 o'clock Mr. Watts woke me and told me to get up and light the candle and see if there was a dog in the post-office. Went to see, but there was nothing there. When I opened the post-office door I heard a noise. Mr. Watts was in the parlor. He asked me if I heard a noise. I said, "Yes." He said, "There must be someone in the front trying to get in." I gave him matches and he lit his candle and went out. When he came back he said the place was on fire. He was absent two or three minutes. We got up and dressed and went outside. We were about five minutes. When I got outside I saw smoke in all the rooms. We then began to clear the things out. Know nothing of the origin of the fire.

By Mr. Young— Have known dogs to be locked up in the post-office.

By Mr. Parsons—No one was about but Mr. Watts and his son when I got out. Wills and young Watts went out to alarm the neighbours.

Luke Watts, junr., deposed—Went to bed at about 8 o'clock on Sunday night. Slept in the room next the shop-cellar. Was in the store just before dinner. Got up in the night as I dreamt the shop was on fire, but went to bed again. My father woke me afterwards and told me the shop was on fire. Dressed and went up the street and woke George Weller and others. Did not look at the fire. I was away about 15 minutes. When I got back the fire was in the grocery shop. About half an hour afterwards

looked through the manhole of cellar and saw the fire falling through the floor towards the drapery side. I then helped to save the things.

Have no idea how the fire occurred.

By Mr. Parsons—Do not know how long I had been in bed when I dreamt the place was on fire. It was before my father woke me.

By Mr. Young—We could have got in at the front if we had broken the front door open.

By Jury—My father sent me for assistance. No attempt was made to get goods out of the cellar. Wills went for police when he had called neighbours.

By Mr. von Doussa—The men were employed in other work and they were frightened of kerosine. To open the cellar would have created a draught and aided the fire.

Gertrude Fleet, niece of Mr. Watts, deposed— Remember Sunday last. Went to bed about 10 : o'clock. I went into the store on Sunday evening about 8.30 o'clock for an envelope. Asked Mr. Watts before I went. I had a candle with me. I went to the drapery side of the shop, about tbe middle of the counter. I put the candle (when I went in) on the counter, and brought it out with me. Was in the shop about two minutes. Norah woke me up on Monday morning. I don't know how long it was after I went to bed. She told me to get up as the shop was alight. The room was filled with smoke. Uncle and Luke were outside when I came out. Uncle gave me the shop-books, and I put them under the verandah on the opposite side of the road. Assisted in taking the things out.

By Mr. Parsons—Did nothing in the shop but get an envelope.

By Mr. Young—I am a heavy sleeper. Heard nothing till Norah woke me.

By Jury—Sparks might have dropped from the candle. Was careful with it.

George Weller, printer, deposed—Was awaked on Monday morning at 2.30 o'clock by young Watts, wlio told me their house was on fire. Went, over at once. Saw Mr. Watts and Luke, Norah Cotter, and Gertrude Fleet. Asked Mr. Watts where the fire was and what we had better do. Saw. the smoke in all the rooms, but could not say what part was on fire; Went round to the front and saw a light in the cellar. There were some live coals on the floor of the cellar at the north corner of the eastern side. The fire must have been smouldering a long time as there was a great, quantity of smoke.

By Mr. Young—Saw no flame. It was very hot and the house was full of smoke.

By Jury—Heard several explosions. When I got to the fire there was no light through the shutters or anywhere in front. Looked through the parlor at the back of the shop but there was no light.

By Police—Alfred Chapman, George Bolto, and others came after me, and every exertion was made to get things out of the building.

By Mr. Parsons—Wanted to go in at the back door but found it too hot. Mr. Watts told me to save the boots and not try to get into the shop.

Harry Wills, a lad employed by Mr. Watts, deposed—Went to bed about 10.30 on Sunday

night. Slept in the same room as Luke Watts. |

was not in the store that day. Mr. Watts called me at about 2 o'clock. I got up and called

Alfred Chapman and others. Did not know what was on fire ; only saw some smoke. On re-turning went straight into post-oilice to help clear out boots. It was three-quarters of an hour before I saw flames come out of the roof.

By Mr. Young—Smoke was coming out of the chimney in parlor adjoining shop.

By Police—Have been 18 months with Mr. Watts. Some paper caught fire in the shop about five weeks ago. I was then alone in the store. I called Luke, who was in the post-office, and he and Mr. Watts put the fire out. I don't smoke. No matches were kept within four yards of where the fire caught. I had been near the paper a few minutes before.

By Jury—Had not lit a match within two hours of fire. I was at a desk some yards away.

By Mr. von Doussa—As soon as I was called on Monday went straight to get assistance.

By Jury—Came by front of shop to go to bed. No one was under the verandah: Have never

been spoken to about carelessness in dropping matches about.

Matthew Pascoe; M:C., stationed at Mount Barker deposed—I was aroused on Monday morning at 3 o'clock by someone saying that Mr. Watts' store at Littlehampton was on fire. I proceeded there and found the place burnt. Asked Mr. Watts how he first became aware of its origin, and he replied, " I woke up coughing at 2 o'clock and found the room full of smoke. I at once called Norah Cotter and asked her if any one was in the post-office. She replied 'No,' and I then woke my boy who was sleeping in the lower rooms."

By Mr. von Doussa— Mr. Watts said he woke up coughing and saw the room full of smoke. Thought it strange he should have asked Norah about the post-office after knowing of the smoke. Asked him how he came to wake and he made the statement mentioned: He said later on that he heard something fall. I arrived at 4 and the roof had fallen in. Assisted to remove goods. Mr. Watts was actively assisting. The police retained possession of the premises until the Insurance Agents arrived.

THE VERDICT.

The Coroner having briefly summed up the evidence the jury retired, and after a short con-sultation returned the following verdict:—" That the stock and store were destroyed by fire on the morning of Monday, June 16th, but there is no evidence to show how the fire originated:"

The Coroner having thanked the jury for their attendance they were discharged.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article43476424.txt>

Mr. L. T. Watts has a little factory in rural Littlehampton, which, however, has a good prospect of increasing importance, due to the rapidly approaching railway. Mr. Watts began his jam-making business in 1876. His factory consists of a room for boiling, 28 by 18'feet, in which are fixed two coppers, one holding 2 cwt., the other 4 cwt., and four rooms for sorting fruit and labelling jam. He uses wood for boiling the jam, which is afterwards passed through sieves. Apples and quinces are also forced through fine sieves, the cores and pips' being taken out. Last year Mr. Watts made thirty tons of jam, the whole of which, was sold long before the season ended. This year he expects to make about the same quantity. He, like others, has found fruit this year scarce and dear. M^.' Watts, who turns his hands to many occupations, informs us that he would have made a much larger quantity, but that he has been engaged in other works. He has found a ready sale for jam to the Adelaide merchants. He employs two lads, who have been with him for seven years ; also two or three girls during the jam season. He has cured on an average for the last seven years 200 pigs, and by these means finds employment all the year round ; and he makes sufficient- tomato sauce to serve his own retail customers.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/48537212?searchTerm=childs%20miels%20litlehampton&searchLimits=l-australian=y|||sortby=dateAsc>

John Watts, who with his wife, both now living at Little hampton, arrived in the colony by the ship Coromandel on January 12, 1837. The area of land held for the manufacture of bricks is fifteen acres, and the clay favours the production of bricks of a fine kind, notably those of the 'blue' or 'clinker' descriptions. For these there has been a considerable demand since the advent of smelting works in this colony and at Broken Hill, supplies for which were at one time almost wholly obtained from Great Britain. The average sale of bricks of all sorts and sizes from the factory has averaged about 150,000 annually during the past three years, and the testimonials as to their quality have been favourable from all quarters. The one most prized by Mr. Watts was received from Mr. H. H. Schlappe, the metallurgist at Broken Hill, and relates to firebrick material furnished for analysis. The returns given were 74 per cent, silica, and 25 per cent, aluminium, besides iron, lime, and magnesia in lesser quantities. The formation from which these were obtained is very interesting to any student of geology. It is situated on a slope close to the railway station. The pits excavated are only of a meagre depth, but their site, as also the sites of the kilns, are convenient for business purposes, about 200 yards only intervening between them and the railway station. On the works under the sheds and other places sixteen people are employed, whereas thirty were at work when the building trade was brisk, and in use or available numbering 100. The bricks made in them range from 1 lb. in weight up to 2 cwt. For fuel stringy bark is chiefly consumed. There is not much in the way of machinery used in the factory sheds. Two mine-rollers for crushing and one mixing or pug mill are employed and are worked by horsepower. Hand-rollers are also in use. These, although of primitive construction, 'suit us better,' remarked Mr. Watts, 'than having to work the clay with our feet, as we did at Hindmarsh in the early days, where father made some of the first bricks ever burnt in this colony.' Besides the one item bricks, terracotta and other ware could be manufactured here freely. The want of water at the time of my visit was being severely felt, but the construction of the proposed reservoir above the township which is now being urged by the Mount Barker District Council and others will when carried out, obviate this difficulty and I am happy to state that the Conservator of Water has strongly recommended that the work should be undertaken by the Government. Before leaving this valuable property I was glad to be informed that the building of a new factory with accompanying sheds is contemplated by the firm. The sites for the factory have been selected at the bottom of the slope, within a stone's throw of the railway station, where, on the way, I saw a substantial stack of bricks awaiting transport to Adelaide.