



James Watt

(19th of January 1736 – 25th of August 1819)

James Watt was born into a poor, yet educated family. After some training as an instrument maker, he worked for the university maintaining and repairing scientific instruments.

When he was asked to repair a model of an engine by Newcomen he started experimenting on how to use steam as a source of motive power.

He managed to improve Newcomen's engine greatly and constructed a powerful steam engine which was used for pumping water out of mines and later for grinding wheat and other purposes.

The unit of the physical quantity «power» is named after him.