

THOMAS & ELIZABETH KING OF OSGATHORPE



THE FORMER THATCHED COTTAGE ADJACENT TO
DAWSON'S LANE BRIDGE - c.1900
It has been converted into a modern property over the years

FIRST DRAFT - ONGOING PROJECT

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - NOVEMBER 2023

PREFACE

This publication about one of the many King families that resided in Osgathorpe during the 1800's has been researched and written by the author to further add to our social and industrial history of this once ancient working village of Osgathorpe in NW Leicestershire.

Below is an extract from the 1861 Osgathorpe census showing 4 King families who were virtually living next door to each other including Thomas and Elizabeth King and their 7 children who are the main subject of this publication. There were a further 2 King families living in Osgathorpe in another location at this time. All these families would have been relatively poor, and life would have been really hard in those times. It is difficult to establish where these 4 families lived in Osgathorpe but interpreting the direction of the census enumerator's walk, it suggests that they would have lived in cottages in the area almost opposite the Storey Arms.

It is hoped that this publication will also assist genealogists researching this particular King family history

OSGATHORPE	JOSEPH	KING	HEAD	62		MARRIED	AG LAB	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	WIFE		48	MARRIED	SEAMSTRESS	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	GEORGE	KING	SON	14			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	WILLIAM	KING	SON	12			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	JOSEPH	KING	SON	9			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
OSGATHORPE	UNINHABITED								
OSGATHORPE	JOSEPH	MOORE	HEAD	74		MARRIED	RAT CATCHER	WORKER	THRINGSTONE, LEICS
	HANNAH	MOORE	WIFE		61	MARRIED			COLEDORTON, LEICS
OSGATHORPE	THOMAS	KING	HEAD	38		MARRIED	GAMMON CURER	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	WIFE		38	MARRIED			HORTON, LEICS
	JOHN WILLIAM	KING	SON	13			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	SARAH ANN	KING	DAUGHTER		11		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	MARY	KING	DAUGHTER		9		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	THOMAS	KING	SON	7			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	PETER	KING	SON	5			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	DAUGHTER		2		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	HANNAH	KING	DAUGHTER		5M				OSGATHORPE, LEICS
OSGATHORPE	EDWARD	KING	HEAD	55		MARRIED	AG LAB	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	MARY	KING	WIFE		50	MARRIED	SEAMSTRESS	WORKER	TONGE, LEICS
	SARAH	KING	DAUGHTER		15		SEAMSTRESS	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZA	KING	DAUGHTER		11		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	WILLIAM	KING	SON	8			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
OSGATHORPE	JOHN	KING	HEAD	70		MARRIED	AG LAB	WORKER	BREEDON, LEICS
	MARY	KING	WIFE		62	MARRIED			ASHBY D LA ZOUCH, LEICS

**“THOSE WITHOUT PROPERTY AND WEALTH
SERVED THOSE WITH IT AND WERE DESERVING OF
CHARITY”**

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According to the Osgathorpe Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts, Thomas King, a son of John and Mary King, was baptised at St. Mary's Church, Osgathorpe on the 12th May 1822. He married Elizabeth Harrison (of full age) on the 23rd November 1846 at St. Mary's Church by Banns License. In the marriage records, Thomas King is recorded as being a labourer (Agricultural most likely) and Elizabeth as being a servant. Thomas's father John is given as being a labourer and Elizabeth's father John Harrison, a labourer also.

A John King (labourer) of Osgathorpe married Mary Newton of Belton at St. Mary's church, Osgathorpe by Banns on the 11th October 1819. John King is identified in the 1851 census as being born in Tonge and Mary in Blackfordby. This is thought to be the mother and father of Thomas King above. There is a record in the registers for a John King being baptised at St. Mary's on the 6th August 1797 and this is almost certainly Thomas King's father, although there is a conflict with the census regarding age, which needs further investigation.

This John King was registered in the baptism records as being the son of Thomas and Sarah King, and there is a record in the parish marriage records for a Thomas King of Whitwick marrying a Sarah Brown of Osgathorpe parish at St. Mary's church by Banns License on 7th December 1781, indicating that they were most likely the grandfather and grandmother of Thomas King

OSGATHORPE CENSUS RECORDS

1841 CENSUS

The **1841 census** below records what is thought to be Thomas King's mother and father John and Mary living in Osgathorpe with two daughters Elizabeth and Sarah aged 20 and 10 respectively. There is no mention of Thomas King.

OSGATHORPE	JOHN	KING	HEAD	48	MARRIED	AGRICULTURAL LABOURER	WORKER	LEICS
	MARY	KING	WIFE		40 MARRIED			LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	DAUGHTER		20			LEICS
	SARAH	KING	DAUGHTER		10			LEICS

1851 CENSUS

If we now move forward to the Osgathorpe **1851 census**, this confirms Thomas and Elizabeth King are married and living in Osgathorpe. By this time they have a son William aged 3, a daughter Eliza aged 2 and a daughter Ann aged 9 months. The census records Elizabeth as being born in Newton, Leics, and Thomas's employment as a common carrier.

Thomas's mother and father John King, an Ag Lab, born in Tonge, and Mary King (nee. Newton), born in Blackfordby and is a lace runner working from home, have a granddaughter Sarah Black aged 6 living with them.

OSGATHORPE	THOMAS	KING	HEAD	28	MARRIED	COMMON CARRIER	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	WIFE		27 MARRIED			NEWTON, LEICS
	WILLIAM	KING	SON	3				OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZA	KING	DAUGHTER		2			OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ANN	KING	DAUGHTER	9M				OSGATHORPE, LEICS

OSGATHORPE	JOHN	KING	HEAD	58	MARRIED	AG LAB	WORKER	TONGE, LEICS
	MARY	KING	WIFE		50 MARRIED	LACE RUNNER	WORKER	BLACKFORDBY, LEICS
	SARAH ANN	BLACK	G. DAU		6	SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS

1861 CENSUS

By the **1861 census**, Thomas and Elizabeth's daughter Eliza is missing, presumably she had died, but they have five more children making a total of seven living. However, Elizabeth is now recorded as being born in Horton instead of Newton as shown in the previous census. Interestingly, Thomas is recorded as being a 'Gammon Curer' although we know from Trade Directory records he is listed as a carrier.

Thomas's mother and father, John and Mary, are living alone.

OSGATHORPE	THOMAS	KING	HEAD	38		MARRIED	GAMMON CURER	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	WIFE		38	MARRIED			HORTON, LEICS
	JOHN WILLIAM	KING	SON	13			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	SARAH ANN	KING	DAUGHTER		11		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	MARY	KING	DAUGHTER		9		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	THOMAS	KING	SON	7			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	PETER	KING	SON	5			SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	DAUGHTER		2		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	HANNAH	KING	DAUGHTER		6M				OSGATHORPE, LEICS

OSGATHORPE	JOHN	KING	HEAD	70		MARRIED	AG LAB	WORKER	BREEDON, LEICS
	MARY	KING	WIFE		62	MARRIED			ASHBY D LA ZOUCH, LEICS

1871 CENSUS

By 1871, Thomas is still being recorded as a carrier. He and Elizabeth have 3 children at home, Thomas aged 16 who is recorded as a carriers son, Elizabeth aged 13 a scholar, and a new daughter Selina aged 6, a scholar. This makes a total of nine children born to Thomas and Elizabeth.

John and Mary King are still living on their own, but Mary King is now recorded as being born in Ashby and her husband John in Breedon.

OSGATHORPE	THOMAS	KING	HEAD	48		MARRIED	CARRIER	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	WIFE		49	MARRIED			OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	THOMAS	KING	SON	16		UNM	CARRIER SON	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	ELIZABETH	KING	DAUGHTER		13		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	SELINA	KING	DAUGHTER		6		SCHOLAR		OSGATHORPE, LEICS

OSGATHORPE	JOHN	KING	HEAD	81		MARRIED	AG LAB	WORKER	TONGE, LEICS
	MARY	KING	WIFE		76	MARRIED			ASHBY, LEICS

1881 CENSUS

The 1881 census records Thomas King as a carrier still and living with Elizabeth on their own. However, the burial records for the parish of Osgathorpe record that Elizabeth King was buried in St. Mary's church graveyard on October 24th 1884 aged 63.

John and Mary King do not appear in the 1881 census as John died on the 18th of February 1875, recorded as being aged 82. It is thought that Mary died in the Union Workhouse, Ashby de la Zouch and was buried in St. Mary's graveyard on the 6th of June 1889. Due to inconsistencies in recorded ages for John and Mary in the various censuses, certain educated assumptions have been made.

OSGATHORPE	THOMAS	KING	HEAD	60	MARRIED	CARRIER	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
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1881 Osgathorpe Census

Address	First Name	Surname	Relationship	Age		Married Single	Occupation	Employer Worker	Place Of Birth
				Male	Female				
	ELIZABETH	KING	WIFE		60	MARRIED			OSGATHORPE, LEICS

1891 CENSUS

Following the death of his wife Elizabeth, Thomas was remarried to Hannah Harrison who was born in Norton Juxta (Twycross ?) and is recorded in the 1891 census as a grazier. Thomas died on 11 January 1893 in Osgathorpe.

OSGATHORPE	THOMAS	KING	HEAD	70	MARRIED	GRAZIER	WORKER	OSGATHORPE, LEICS
	HANNAH	KING	WIFE		66	MARRIED		NORTON JUXTA, LEICS

RELEVANT TRADE DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Melville & Co Directory & Gazetteer of Leicestershire 1851 records Thomas as being a 'Carrier' so he had achieved some status in the village.

The Post Office Directory of Leics & Rutland 1855 also records Thomas as a carrier.

In the Commercial Directory of Leics 1861, 'King & Varnam' are recorded as carriers to Ashby de la Zouch and Loughborough.

In the History, Gazetteer and Directory of Leics & Rutland 1863, Thomas King / John Billing are recorded as carriers to Loughborough and Ashby (Thursdays and Saturdays).

In Harrod & Cos. Directory for Leics & Derbys 1870, Thomas King does not feature.

In the Post Office Directory for Leics & Rutland 1876, Thomas reappears as a 'Carrier'.

He does not feature in further Trade Directories.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

The Kings' of Osgathorpe regularly appeared in local newspapers for committing minor public offences. The author has decided not to include these here as it is difficult to attach these to the various individuals with any certainty. However, the reader can download the authors publication entitled 'Asgotporp to Osgathorpe' on his website samuelstewart.com and go to the newspaper section where these feature.

EXAMPLES

Derby Mercury – August 16th 1882

Thomas King was charged with stealing £32. 7s. in money and a watch chain, valued £8., the property of Thos Johnson, at Belton, on the 7th inst.- Mr. Deane appeared for the prosecutor, who is a farmer at Osgathorpe, and stated that he had sold a horse on Monday and took the

money with him to Belton, where he saw the prisoner at a public-house. At night, the prosecutor and prisoner proceeded home to Osgathorpe, and when they got part of the way they sat down by the side of a ditch, and the witness fell asleep. When he awoke he missed his property, and the prisoner was gone. - **Remanded for seven days.**

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – August 22nd 1885

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS. SATURDAY, AUG. 15 - "Before Major Mowbray, A. E. Smith, Esq., and the Rev. W. B. Beaumont.

Thomas King, carrier, and Eliza Hinds, wife of George Hinds, labourer, both of Osgathorpe, were charged with having assaulted Mary Ann King, at Osgathorpe, on the 29th July. From the evidence, it appeared that on the day in question Thos. King assaulted the complainant, his wife, and on her leaving home to go down to her mother's, Mrs. Hinds met her and said, "now I will finish what he began," and she caught complainant by the hair of her head and struck her in the face several times.—King pleaded guilty, and several witnesses were called to prove the assault by Mrs. Hinds. Mr. Musson appeared for Mrs. Hinds.—**Fined 10s. 6d. each and costs, or 14 days' hard labour.**