

**'BROOKSBY' / 'BRIDGE COTTAGE'  
AND  
'MEADOW VIEW' COTTAGE,  
DAWSON'S ROAD, OSGATHORPE**



**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - JANUARY 2024**

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**THE EVOLUTION OF BRIDGE COTTAGE, 4  
DAWSON'S ROAD - FORMERLY KNOWN AS  
'BROOKSBY COTTAGE'.  
ADJACENT TO DAWSON'S ROAD BRIDGE**



**Early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph of single storey thatched cottage**

It has been pointed out that the walls of the original part of this cottage were made from "Wattle and Daub" and possibly dates the original core of this property back to the 16th century.



Note the tracks made by the carts into the brook to facilitate the wetting of the wooden cart wheels to help prevent them drying out from age or during dry weather. This would cause the outer band of iron called the tyre to become loose and wetting the wooden wheels would cause them to swell, thereby tightening the tyre on the rim of the wheel. This was really a temporary fix as the making of new wheels by a wheelwright was very expensive. Osgathorpe had its own wheelwright.



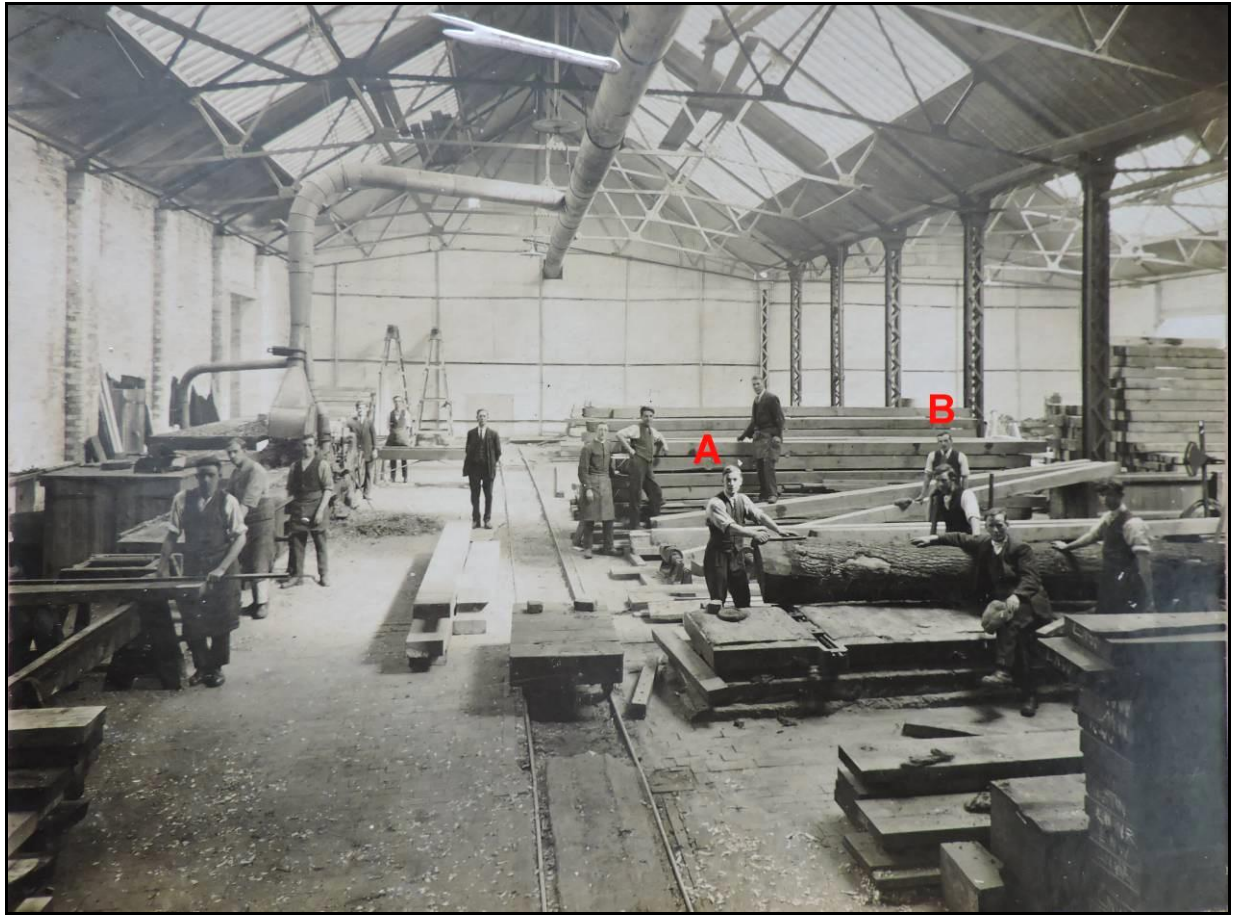
Photograph after the thatched cottage was replaced by a two storey brick building with a tiled roof. See photograph below taken from the other side of the bridge.





**Now an extended modern residence**

In 1939, Charles King, who was born on December 29<sup>th</sup> 1892 lived at Bridge Cottage. Charles was born to Joseph and Mary King and in 1891 / 1901 the family were living at 'Snarrows Barn', 'The Snarrows'. In 1901 he had 4 siblings - George (12), John (10), Georgiana (5) and Albert (7mths). In later life, and whilst living at 'Bridge cottage', Charles was a wood sawyer and machinist. On the next page is a photograph of the interior of the Price & Irons sawmill, Coalville, where he worked and which was situated on Mantle Lane, Coalville and subsequently taken over by Harlow Bros who continue to run the business there. Charles King is the person marked **A** and his brother marked **B** is standing at the end of a large ash log they are about to quarter.



## MEADOW VIEW COTTAGE



**Meadow View Cottage – c. 1920**

Meadow View was situated on Pol Matchet's Lane, now named Dawson's Road. It is still there on the sharp bend after the Council Houses with a large well tended vegetable garden. The lady in the photograph according to local information is Lillian Allard who was born on the November 17<sup>th</sup> 1885.

**In the 1939 register the following people are listed:-**

**John Edwin Allard – born 1885 – Head (Wheelright and joiner)**

**Lilian Allard – born 1885 – Wife (Unpaid domestic duties)**

**John P Allard – born 1914 – Son (Plumber)**

There were several Allard families in Osgathorpe and the author has come to the conclusion based on the 1911 census that John Edwin Allard and his wife Lilian were living at Meadow View Cottage at that time with a son James Edwin aged 1. Lilian is recorded as having been born in Osgathorpe and her husband John Edwin originated from Derby. They had a grandmother Hannah Davies, a widow aged 70, born in Belton living with them. By 1920 they had further children - James Edwin, John Edwin, Lilian and one other.



**Meadow View – Date earlier than preceding photograph as older windows are shown in the property. The buildings to the right were demolished at some point**

**One of Osgathorpe's carriers with his pony and trap is shown to the right**