

BRICK AND TILE MAKING IN OSGATHORPE

It was recorded in William White's 1846 Directory and Gazetteer of Leicestershire that Joshua Johnson was a "Brick and Tile maker" at Osgathorpe, but he doesn't appear in the 1851 census. In the 1841 census, Ann Pickard was listed as a "Brickmaker" and In the 1851 census both William (aged 76) and Ann Pickard (74) are recorded as "Retired Brickmakers". They were born in Coventry and Ravenstone respectively.

It was originally assumed that they were possibly employed at local brickworks in other villages like Griffydam and Coleorton which were operating at that time. However, the Post Office Directory for Leicestershire and Rutland 1855 states for Osgathorpe that "**Bricks are made here**", and lists John Green as a Beer retailer, **brick maker** and carrier. At this time, John Green was the licensee at the Royal Oak public house.

Apparently a small clay hole existed opposite the site of the old National School but no evidence of a kiln in that area has survived.

Brick and Tile making in Osgathorpe would have only been a small private concern and similar examples abound in local villages in the early 1800s where there was an abundance of suitable clay.

Staunton Harold is a classic example where numerous small brickworks were established in those early times due to the beds of clay found there.

Sizeable brickworks were in operation at both Griffydam and Coleorton and publications on the history of both of these feature on the author's website samuelstewart.com

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