

**THE STATHAM FAMILY OF OSGATHORPE  
AND THEIR FUTURE HOME - 'LEAS COTTAGE'**



**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - JANUARY 2024**

## **PREFACE**

The front cover photograph of 'Leas Cottage', once the home of the Statham family, would have been taken post 1939 when Osgathorpe would have still been a working village.

The property which currently occupies the site has retained the name of 'Leas Cottage' but is not easily recognizable from this photograph. It was situated at the bottom of what used to be referred to as "Toad Hole" but is now called Armett's Lane. In their lovingly tended garden are four Statham family siblings, details of which are given at the end of the publication. None of them ever married and they all lived together in their latter years, only leaving the village on the occasional day trip. We know from the 1939 register that they were still living at Leas Cottage at that time.

Until mains water was supplied to the property, later than the rest of the village, they had to continue using the hand pump shown in the photograph to obtain their water, presumably from a well. The beautiful garden which surrounded the property would have been typical of many found around the village at that time when people grew their own produce.

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St. Mary's church, Osgathorpe marriage records show that a William Statham, aged c.23 (who we will refer to as senior) and Mary Woodcock, aged c.23 and both of Osgathorpe parish were married by Banns license on 26th May 1831 at St. Mary's church by consent of their parents. William was a servant at the time. As there are no records of Stathams in Osgathorpe prior to this marriage it is possible that William came to Osgathorpe to work as a servant (possibly for the Woodcocks') and that is presumably how the couple met. Mary was the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Woodcock (nee. Handford, a widow), who were married at St. Mary's church on 13th July 1792. Mary Woodcock was baptised at St. Mary's church on either 21st August 1807 (church records) or 20th September 1807, the latter date being recorded in the Bishop's transcripts.

William Statham senior and his wife Mary's eldest son Joseph was baptised at St. Mary's church, Osgathorpe on 10th June 1832. This was followed by two further children baptised there - George on the 4th July 1834 and John on 20th September 1835.

In the **1841** census, there are no Stathams shown as living in Osgathorpe as they had moved to Worthington just before the 1841 census was taken. Their last three children were recorded in the **1851** census for Osgathorpe, as being born in Worthington; the oldest of the three, William Wilson (Christian names) being 10 years of age which confirms the previous statement..

The 1851 census confirms that the Stathams had moved back to Osgathorpe. William Statham senior, aged 43, recorded as being born in Breedon is now living in Osgathorpe with his wife Mary, aged 43 also, who was born in 1807 in Osgathorpe. William was employed as an agricultural labourer and his wife Mary is given as a baker, presumably making and selling bread from home. Their two eldest sons Joseph and George are not living at home now. They now have two sons and two daughters at home - John aged 15 (baptised in Osgathorpe); Hannah, aged 12; William Wilson, aged 10 and Mary Ann, aged 6. **Hannah, William Wilson and Mary Ann are all recorded as being born in Worthington.** The 1851 census records father as being born in Breedon and mother in Osgathorpe. However, the 1861 and 1871 censuses both record William Statham as being born in Osgathorpe. Breedon is thought to be the correct version.

The 1861 census records John (35), William Wilson (20) and Mary Ann (17) as still living at home, all unmarried. John's employment is given as a cordwainer (boot and shoe maker) and his brother William Wilson is an agricultural labourer like his father.

In the 1871 census, William Statham senior, aged 63, is still given as an agricultural labourer living with his wife Mary, aged 63. Their son William Wilson Statham, aged 30 is still unmarried and living at home. His employment is given as agricultural labourer. Interestingly, they have a grandson Joseph, aged 13, living with them now who is given as being born in Kirtley, Nottinghamshire.

The 1881 census doesn't record either the above William Statham senior or his wife, as they had died and were both buried in St. Mary's church graveyard at the ages of 76 and 80 respectively. The dates of burial were 23rd Dec 1883 and 11th Oct 1887 respectively.

Their son William Wilson Statham junior, aged 40, and still an agricultural labourer is now married to Ann, aged 36 who was born in Coleorton or Thringstone dependent on which census is consulted. Just to confuse matters even more, William Wilson Statham is now given as being born in Thringstone instead of Worthington as

previously recorded. They have 2 daughters and two sons - Mary H, aged 5; **Sarah A, aged 4**; Joseph W, aged 2, and William aged 5 months.

By the 1891 census, William Wilson Statham junior, aged 50, (still an agricultural labourer) and his wife Ann, have 5 children living at home - Joseph, aged 12; William, aged 10; David, aged 5; Elizabeth, aged 3 and Anne, aged 2. Neither Mary H or Sarah A are now living at home. **Their father was recorded as being infirm with 'diabetes'.**

By the 1901 census, William Wilson Statham junior had died, presumably due to his diabetes affliction, leaving his wife Ann, a widow, with 5 children still at home - **Joseph, aged 22, a limestone labourer; William, aged 20, an agricultural labourer**; David, aged 18, a coal miner; **Elizabeth, aged 13**, a domestic servant and Annie, aged 12.

**If we now return to the front cover photograph, the 1939 register lists the following Statham siblings at 'Leas Cottage'. These are the 4 people shown in the photograph with Sarah A (the oldest) standing under the tree in the centre.:-**

**William Statham – b. 22.11.1880 - Unm (Roadstone quarrier)  
Joseph W Statham – b. 24.10.1878 – Unm (Roadstone quarrier)  
Sarah A Statham – b. 02.03.1877 – Unm (Unpaid domestic duties)  
Elizabeth Statham – b. 09 04. 1887 – Unm (Houskeeper)  
Living with them was Raymond A Whitworth aged 2**

**When one considers the jobs held by the males in the Statham family - agricultural labourers, a cordwainer and roadstone quarrier's (limestone) - it is difficult to understand how they came to own a property of this standing**

The people in the photograph are coloured **red** in the preceding text.

