

# Illegitimacy and Bastardy Bonds



Accepted

OR



Rejected?

# What is the connection?



# Name the father

- 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Monmouth
- 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Plymouth
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Cleveland
- 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Grafton
- 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Northumberland
- 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of St Albans
- 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Richmond

# What defines a bastard?

- England's Statute of Merton (1235) stated, regarding illegitimacy: "He is a bastard that is born before the marriage of his parents."  
This definition also applied to situations when a child's parents could not marry, as when one or both were already married or when the relationship was incestuous

- In medieval Wales, a "bastard" was defined simply as a child not acknowledged by its father. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, that were acknowledged by the father enjoyed the same legal rights, including the right to share in the father's estate.

# Adulterine Bastards

- Both English and European law followed the Roman law principle that *pater est quem nuptiae demonstrant* – ‘he is the father, whom wedlock declareth’. There was a presumption that the child born to a married woman was the legitimate offspring of her husband;
- Indeed under common law the legitimacy of a child born within wedlock could only be rebutted – even if the wife had clearly had a lover – if there was proof of the husband’s impotence, his separation from his wife by a judicial decree or his absence from the realm at the time of the child’s conception.

- The rule was successfully challenged in the Banbury peerage case, a case which had begun in 1661 and was only settled in 1813. By deciding that the presumption was a factual one, rather than a legal one, and one which could be dislodged by evidence, the House of Lords smudged the bright lines which the common law had sought to draw for adulterine bastardy.

# Is a bastard child legitimised by the subsequent marriage of its parents?

- In Scotland – yes
- In England and Wales –
  - Under church law - yes
  - Under civil law not until 1926



# The missing father

- If a father's name is missing from a birth certificate, it could just be that the father failed to turn up to register the birth and came up against a particularly immovable official. And if the father's name is missing from a marriage certificate, it could conceivably be that he disowned his child or that some major feud resulted in a blank space where his name ought to be. So it is a good idea to obtain both of these documents.

# Joseph Swindale 1821 - 1869

- My great-great grandfather
- Baptism at Ninebanks, West Allen 7<sup>th</sup> January 1821



– Joseph, illegitimate, son of Sarah Swindle single woman of Small Burns

# Sarah Swindle 1799 - 1867

- Daughter of Peter and Nancy Swindle, baptised 27th May 1799 at Ninebanks, Northumberland (from Black Cleugh)
- Illegitimate son **Joseph**, baptised 7th January 1821 at Ninebanks, Northumberland (from Smallburns)
- Married Robert Hetherington on 26th April 1823 at Ninebanks, Northumberland (from Smallburns)
- Children
  - Hannah, baptised 8th August 1824 at Carrshield, Northumberland
  - Ann, baptised 13 August 1826 at Carrshield, Northumberland
  - Robert baptised 9th November 1828 at Carrshield, Northumberland
  - Ann, baptised 5th December 1830 at Carrshield, Northumberland
  - Elizabeth, baptised 20 January 1833 at Carrshield, Northumberland
  - Thomas Albert, baptised 10 May 1834 at Carrshield, Northumberland <sup>1</sup>
  - John, baptised 25th June 1837 at Carrshield, Northumberland
  - Robert, born 1840
  - William, born 1843
- Died on the 3rd of September 1867 at Carshield



Application Number 1694B

Registration District <i>Hexham</i>								
1840 . Marriage solemnized at <i>the Chapel of Ninebanks</i> in the Parish of <i>Allendale</i> in the County of <i>Northumberland</i>								
No.	When married	Name and surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Residence at the time of marriage	Father's name and surname	Rank or profession of father
34	<i>June 6th</i>	<i>Joseph Swindle</i>	<i>of full age</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>miner</i>	<i>Dyke Nook</i>	<i>William Williamson</i>	<i>Labourer</i>
		<i>Mary Watson</i>	<i>minor</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	-	<i>Dyke Nook</i>	<i>William Watson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
Married in the <i>Chapel of Ninebanks</i> according to the <i>Rites and Ceremonies</i> of the <i>Church of England by Banns by me</i>								
This marriage was solemnized between us		<i>Joseph Swindle</i> <i>Mary Watson</i>	in the presence of us		<i>Thomas Swindle his mark X</i> <i>Alice Millican</i>		<i>Jno. Scurr</i> <i>Sub. Curate</i>	
CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Marriages in the District above mentioned.								
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the <i>3rd</i> day of <i>June</i> 19 <i>75</i>								
<i>B 139102</i>		<p>This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 65 of the Marriage Act 1949. Sub-section (3) of that section provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the Seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to be given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.</p> <p>CAUTION: - Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate as true knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.</p>						



Transcript of copy of marriage certificate Note I have viewed a microfilm of the original entry in the parish register and Joseph signed his name 'Swindale' and it was witnessed by Thomas Swindale (though the entry was for Joseph Swindle).

Joseph remarried in 1865. This time Joseph did not name his father.

# How common was illegitimacy?

- Illegitimacy was a common occurrence in Western Europe in the 1700 and 1800s, although rates varied widely. Children conceived before marriage were much more common. For example, while only two to four percent of births in England in the late 1700s were illegitimate, thirty-seven percent of first births to a couple followed pre-marital conception.

- Illegitimacy in England was never common, the number of such births in the past usually being under two per cent. That number increased to three per cent between 1590 and 1610. It rose to three per cent again about 1750, slowly increased to seven per cent in the 1840s (when about a third of women were pregnant at marriage), and then declined to about four per cent in the 1890s.

# Bastardy .. In a Cheshire Town during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

**Table 3** Comparative bastardy rates: percentage illegitimate baptisms of all baptisms

	98 parishes	Nantwich
1680-9	1.5	3.6
1690-9	1.8	2.2
1700-9	1.8	2.8
1710-9	2.1	5.2
1720-9	2.2	3.5
1730-9	2.7	3.4
1740-9	2.9	2.2
1750-9	3.4	2.6
1760-9	4.2	6.6
1770-9	4.5	4.9
1780-9	5.0	6.2
1790-9	5.1	7.2
1800-9	5.3	6.5
1810-9	4.8	6.8
1680-1819		4.8
1680-1759		3.2
1760-1819		6.4

**Source:** Laslett, *Family*, p.125; Nantwich parish registers. Laslett, *The World we have lost – further explored*, p.159.

- 1588-1600          None  
1601-1650          .69%  
1651-1700          1.35%  
1701-1750          1.96%  
1751-1800          9.97%  
1801-1835          6.18%

(Bastardy or Illegitimacy in England: Richard Price 2004)

- Note: these will only be births that can be identified as illegitimate. This will lead to serious underestimates in early years.



*Table 3* Illegitimacy Rates per 100  
 births (1845/50–1865/70)

COUNTRY	1845/50	1865/70
Bavaria	20.5	19.3
Saxony	14.8	15.1
Württemberg	11.8	15.7
Denmark	11.4	10.8
Austria	11.3	14.7
Scotland	9.8	9.6
Norway	8.3	9.2
Sweden	8.8	9.3
Belgium	8.1	7.2
France	7.4	7.6
Prussia	7.5	8.3
England	6.7	6.3
Netherlands	4.8	4.0
Spain	–	5.8
Italy	–	5.0
Sardinia	2.1	–

**Figure 1: Births outside Marriage(per 1000 births) and General Fertility Rate (per 1000 women aged 15-44)**

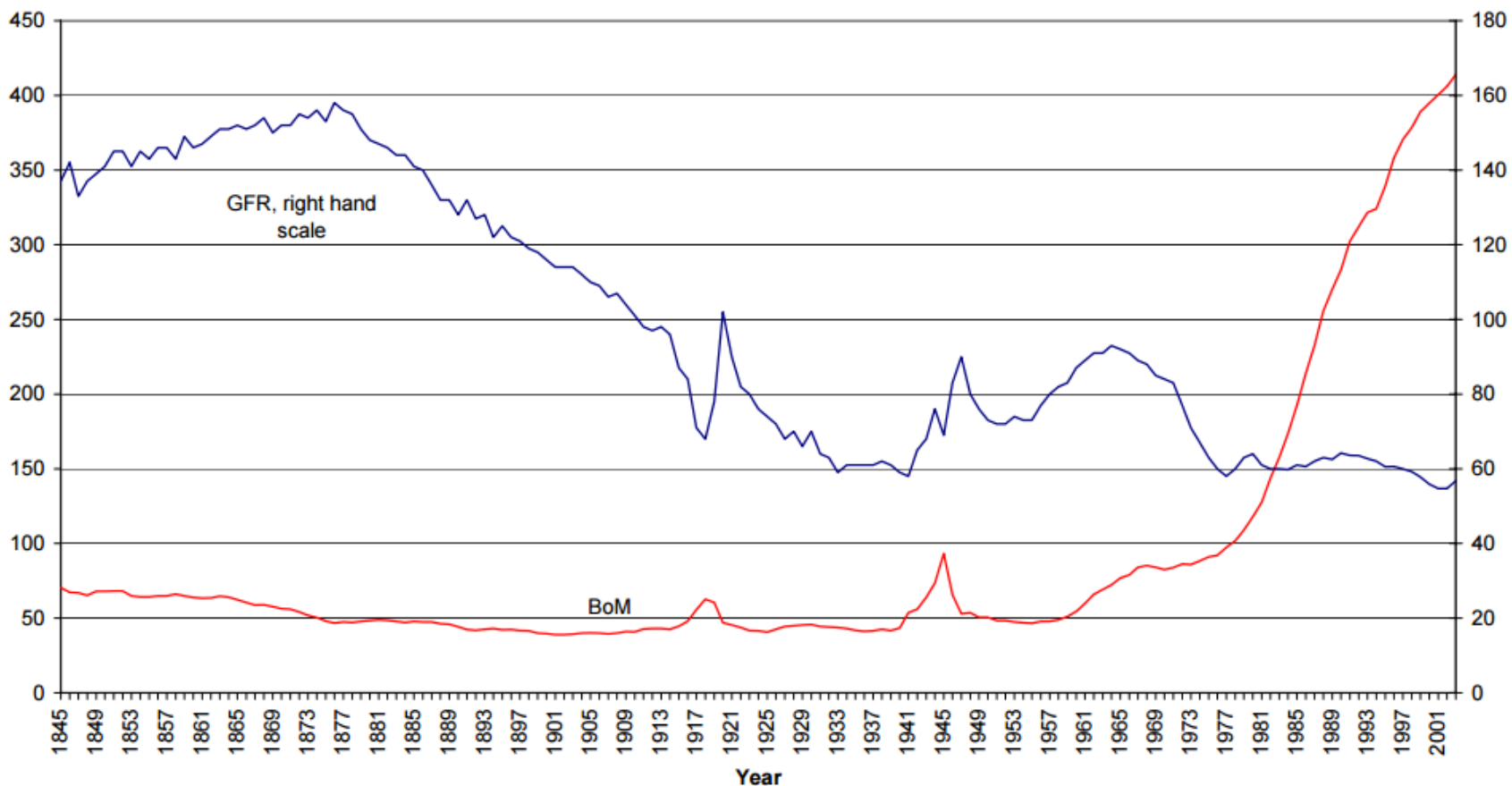
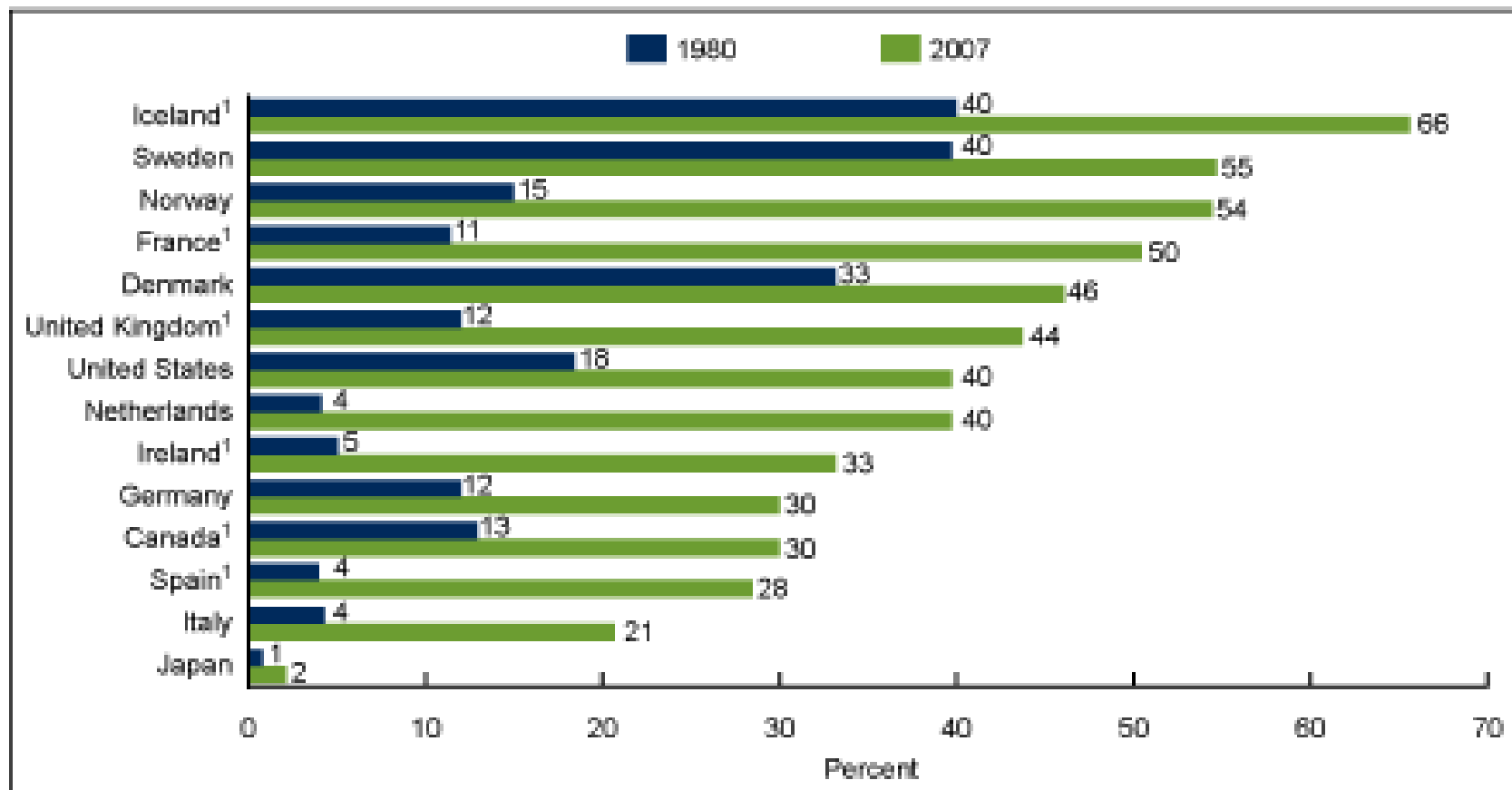


Figure 6. Percentage of births to unmarried women, selected countries, 1980 and 2007



<sup>1</sup> Latest data are for 2006.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System; Stat Canada; Population Statistics of Japan; European Commission, Eurostat. Accessed 3/11/2009.

- As of 2012, the proportions of children born outside marriage, taking the median across countries, range from some 66% in Latin America to 40% in the United States and the European Union, and some 5% in East Asia. In addition, the illegitimacy rate in Western societies is increased slightly by 1-2% of children who were ostensibly born to couples but were in fact covertly conceived by a different biological father.

# Illegitimacy and the Poor Law

- After suppression of the monasteries by Henry VIII, a 1536 statute made the parish responsible for the care of its poor.
- 1601 act restricted relief to paupers only in their parish of legal settlement.
- 1662 ... a child who was illegitimate and born in the parish
- Single pregnant women often 'removed' to neighbouring prior to child-birth – forbidden after 1732/3
- 1743/4 Illegitimate child's parish of settlement to be that of his mother

# Illegitimacy and the Poor Law

- 1576 Act empowered Justices to examine the circumstances of an illegitimate child who was (or was likely to become) chargeable to the parish and order the father, by a bastardy order, to pay maintenance.
- 1723/4 Act required that an unmarried woman who was pregnant should declare herself and name the father.
- The named father could be committed to gaol until he provided security to indemnify the parish against its expense.

- The deceived maiden, unable to support herself and the coming child, probably under pressure from her family, might well come to the attention of the parish overseer of the poor. By seeing the father and bringing further pressure to bear, a marriage might be arranged, the parish even paying for a marriage licence if there was urgency. Any incidental costs involved would be entered in the account books and explain the situation.

# Diary of a Village Shopkeeper

## Thomas Turner

- 1757 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of February

This day Ann Durrant was brought me (being big with child) by an order from Luke Spence and George Copeland Esqrs dated today and delivered to me by one of the officers of Laughton Parish ...

- 19<sup>th</sup> Saturday

... In the morn walked up to Jn Durrant's and informed Ann Durrant (who yesterday declared to me and Mr French she would swear the father at any time) that I would go with her today to Mr Courthope's, to which she readily agreed. ...

she had had her examination and taken her oath, which was that she was actually with child and that the man who begot the child was Geo. Hyland, a labourer and who now liveth in the Parish of Laughton. ...

(Thomas Turner and others 'staked out' Geo. Hyland's house that evening but there was no candle lit. Again on Monday.)



- 22<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday
- When we came to the house, the man and Ann Durrant were both in bed, but he soon came down and opened the door. And then we came away to Hoathly ... and G. Hyland, A. Durrant, R. Hook, Goad and myself came to Hoathly about 12 o'clock and sent for J. Watford. We went into Jones's and stayed past 2. We spent 3s. 2d., viz 3s. Charged to the parish and 2d. I paid, though for the parish. [The group] came up to our house where we supped, or rather breakfasted on the remains of yesterday's dinner. We sat up all night ...
- 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday
  - .. Tho. Cornwell and Tho. Durrant watched the man all the morn and about 8.30 Mr Will. Shoemith and Mr Goad the Laughton overseers came and offered security for the child, viz., 18d a week and 40s. for her lying in. But our people... thought it proper to have the man before Mr. Courthope before they took the security, thinking he might be persuaded to marry the girl. ....

- 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday

... found the man, instead of going to Uckfield today, being of a mind of marrying the girl (for Mr French had agreed he should have £5, a ring value 10s., a wedding dinner and marriage with a licence). About 6 o'clock, I arose and went down to see if the man was in the same mind, when I found he was not, then I again went home to bed, and about 7.30 I was again sent for. I accordingly arose and went, and the man then declared if I would get the licence, he would then be married. [Thomas Turner goes to Lewes for the marriage licence, unsuccessfully]. After dinner, the man being very sober, it was agreed we would go with him to Lewes to get a licence ... we came as far as Mr Spence's, when the man declared he would go no further but would send for Mr Dicker to be bound for him ... his mind altered, and he would marry if we would advance 40s. more. .. Jos. Fuller gave him a note of hand for 30s. and 5 stone of beef to be paid on the day he was married to Ann Durrant.

- 25<sup>th</sup> Friday
- ... disappointed by the man's declaring he would not be married.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Monday
- ... About 9.30 Geo. Hyland sent word to us that he would be married today if the parish stood to their agreement as before ... they were married by 11.35. I paid Mr Porter for :
 

Mr Shenton's fees	10s. 6d
Do. The clerk	2s. 6d
Do. The ringers	2s. 11d
- March 1<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday
- .... Mr Courthope examined the man and he swore his parish was Laughton ... the overseers of Laughton, who received them without any dispute.
- Turner had succeeded in getting Ann Durrant off the liabilities of his parish of East Hoathley!

# Thomas Stokoe, St Oswalds, Durham Bastardy Bond 1751



I know all Men by these Presents That I do Thomas  
Stokoe of the parish of Saint Oswalds in or near the  
City of Durham Stay Maker (Charles Douglas of the  
same) Stay Maker and Thomas Coarson of the same  
Inkshoper are hitherto and firmly bound to John Wood  
of the same place Glover and Thomas Matter -  
of the same place Joinder  
----- Overseers of the Poor of the said  
parish of Saint Oswalds in <sup>Twenty</sup> pounds of good  
and Lawfull Money ~~of~~ of Great Britain to be  
paid to the said John Wood and Thomas Matter  
or either of them or their Certain Attorney Executors  
Administrators or assigns for the true payment whereof  
we bind our selves and every of us our and every of  
our heirs Executors and Administrators Jointly and  
Severally firmly by these presents sealed with our  
seals dated the fourth — day of October In the  
Year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred  
and fifty one.

111

WHEREAS Susannah Probert of the said Parish of Saint Oswalds  
Single Woman was on <sup>or about</sup> the fourth day of September last delivered  
of a Male Bastard Child in the said parish of Saint Oswalds  
which said Male Bastard Child is become Chargeable to the said  
parish of Saint Oswalds And the said Thomas Stokoe is reputed  
to be the Father thereof Now His Condition of This obligation  
is such That If the Above Bearer Thomas Stokoe Charles  
Douglas Thomas Pearson or any of them their or any of their  
Executors or Administrators shall and do from time to time and  
at all times hereafter Acquitt Discharge save keep harmless and  
Indempnify as well the Above named John Wood and  
Thomas Mathers ——— and either of them and their Successors  
for the time being as well every other the Inhabitants and Parishioners  
of the said Parish of Saint Oswalds of and from all Costs Charges and  
Troubles whatsoever which they or any of them shall or may sustain  
expence or be putt to for or by reason of the maintainance providing  
and bringing upoff the said Male Bastard Child and of and from all other  
suits Charges Troubles and Demands whatsoever Touching or  
Concerning the same Then this obligation to be void or else to remain  
in full force.

Signed Sealed and delivered  
(being first duly stamped)  
the presence of ———  
Jm. Gilson  
John Burdoy

Thomas Stokoe  
Chas. Douglas  
Tho. Pearson

# The Opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway 27 September 1825



# George Stephenson



# Ignatius Richard Frederick Nemesius Bonomi 1787 - 1870

- He was the son of an architect and draughtsman, Joseph Bonomi (1739–1808), who had worked with Robert and James Adam, while his brother Joseph Bonomi the Younger was a noted artist, sculptor and Egyptologist.
- Bonomi was Surveyor of Bridges for the County of Durham, and his works included one of the first railway bridges in Britain, over the River Skerne, near Darlington, for the Stockton and Darlington Railway, in 1824 (hence he is sometimes referred to as 'the first railway architect').
- He was also responsible for a number of church buildings (including commissions at Durham Cathedral). Other historic buildings, in Gothic and neo-classical styles, included Durham Castle, Lambton Castle (continuing the work started by his father), Durham Prison, Elvet Hill House (1820), Burn Hall and Eggleston Hall.
- Married Charlotte Ann Fielding on 27 December 1837



# Ignatius Bonomi, St Nicholas, Durham Maintenance Order 1810

(No. 31.)

R. B.

*Charles Spearman Esquire and Edward Garrison*  
DURHAM } The Order of \_\_\_\_\_ two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the  
(TO WIT.) }  *Clerk* \_\_\_\_\_ said County, one whereof is of the Quorum, and both residing next upon the Limits  
of the Parish Church within the Parish of *Saint Nicholas*  
in the said County, made the *Nineteenth* Day of *October*  
in the Year of our Lord, 1810 concerning a *Male* Bastard Child,  
lately born in the Township of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Parish of  
*Saint Nicholas* \_\_\_\_\_ aforesaid, of the Body of *Margaret Shafto*  
\_\_\_\_\_ single Woman. *Then under a*

*Certificate from the Township of Elvet in the said County.*

WHEREAS it hath appeared unto us, the said Justices, as well upon the  
Complaint of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Town-  
ship of *Elvet* \_\_\_\_\_ aforesaid, as upon

the Oath of the said *Margaret Shafto* \_\_\_\_\_ that, she, the

said *Margaret Shafto* \_\_\_\_\_ on the *fourth*

Day of *September last past* was delivered of a *Male* Bastard

Child, at the Township of *Parish of Saint Nicholas* \_\_\_\_\_ aforesaid, *Under the*

*said Certificate*

and that the said *Male* Bastard Child is now living, and chargeable

to the said Township of *Elvet* \_\_\_\_\_ and likely so to

continue; and further, that *Ignatius Bonomi* \_\_\_\_\_ of the

Township of *Elvet* \_\_\_\_\_ in the said County,

*Gentleman* \_\_\_\_\_ did beget the said Bastard Child on the

Body of her, the said *Margaret Shafto* \_\_\_\_\_

and whereas it hath been duly proved to us upon Oath, that the said

*Ignatius Bonomi* \_\_\_\_\_

hath been duly summoned to appear before us the said Justices, to the End

that we might examine into the Cause and Circumstance of the Premises;

and whereas he the said *Ignatius Bonomi* \_\_\_\_\_

hath neglected to appear according to the said Summons.

We, therefore, upon Examination of the Cause and Circumstance of the

Premises, as well upon the Oath of the said *Margaret Shafto* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ as otherwise, do hereby adjudge him the said  
*Ignatius Bonomi* \_\_\_\_\_  
to be the reputed Father of the said Bastard Child.

to be the reputed Father of the said Bastard Child.

And thereupon we do order, as well for the better Relief of the said Township of *Elvet* as for the Sustentation and Relief of the said Bastard Child, that the said *Ignatius Bonomi* shall forthwith upon Notice of this our Order, pay or cause to be paid to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Township of *Elvet*

*Shillings* or to some or one of them, the Sum of *one Pound Ten* for and towards the Lying-in of the said *Margaret Shafto* and the Maintenance of the said

Bastard Child, to the Time of making this our Order.

And we do also hereby further order that the said *Ignatius Bonomi* shall likewise pay or cause to be paid to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Township of *Elvet*

for the Time being, or to some or one of them the Sum of *Two Shillings & Sixpence* weekly and every Week, from the present Time, for and towards the Keeping, Sustentation, and Maintenance of the said Bastard Child, for and during so long as the said Bastard Child shall be chargeable to the Township of *Elvet*.

And we do further Order that the said *Margaret Shafto* shall pay or cause to be paid to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Township of *Elvet*

for the Time being or to some or one of them, the Sum of *one Shilling & Three pence* weekly and every Week, so long as the said Bastard Child shall be chargeable to the said Township of *Elvet* in Case she shall not nurse and take Care of the said Child herself. Given under our Hands and Seals, the Day and Year above-written.

*Shurman*

*D. W. Davison*

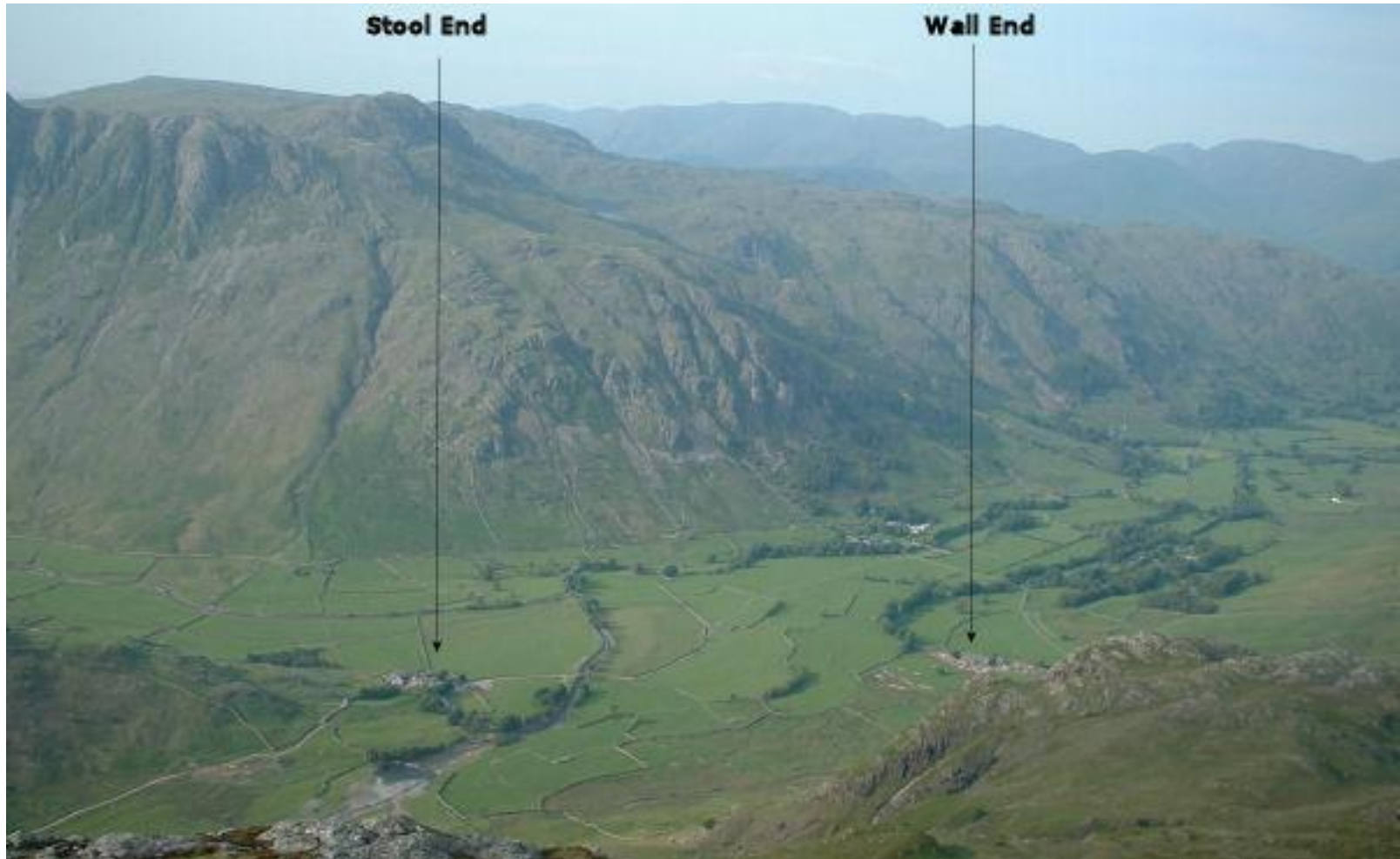
EP/Du SO 42/4/128

# Looking for records

- **Joseph Swindale**
  - Illegitimate son of Sarah Swindle and William Williamson born at Smallburn, Ninebanks and baptised 7th January 1821 in Ninebanks, Northumberland
- **Ninebanks**
  - Chapel of Ease built in Allendale parish 1864
  - District parish from 1767
  - 1858 - The chapelries of Ninebanks and Carr Shield, now in the district of the County Court of Northumberland, holden at Hexham, shall be in the district of the County Court of Cumberland, holden at Alston
  - Part of Hexhamshire, in the diocese of York.

- Ninebanks – part of Hexham Poor Law Union
- Records at Northumberland Archives – guardians' minutes from 1836, Ledgers from 1836
- Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections DDR/EA/PBT/2/195 1841-1857  
Ninebanks High West Allen Parish Register transcripts are available to search free online at FamilySearch Historical Records and additionally for Carr Shield or high West Allen  
DDR/EA/PBT/2/49 1842-1852 .
- Durham Diocese

# Langdale



# Ephraim Grigg of Wall End, Great Langdale

- **A2A** - <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
- **Cumbria Archives Centre**
- **WQ/SR/174/24 1744 Contents:**  
Affiliation order, 16 June 1744 against Ephraim Grigg of Wall End, Great Langdale, reputed father of bastard female child of Agnes Rig of Great Langdale born on or about. 42s. expenses awarded and 8d. a week maintenance. Agnes Rig to pay 4d. weekly. Order discharged.
- **WQ/SR/174/20 10 July 1744 Contents:**  
Recognizance for appearance of Ephraim Grigg of Longdale, yeoman, alleged father of female bastard child of Agnes Rig of Longdale singlewoman. Appeared and discharged.
- Mary, daughter of Agnes Rigg, baptised on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1744 at Grasmere.
- Ephraim Grigg of Langdale in the parish of Grasmire. husbandman & Sarah Fearon of Bank in the parish of Brigham, spinster by Mr Ritson's licence, married 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1744 at Brigham.

- Bastardy Bonds, Removal Order, Settlement Certificates, Pew Rentals, parish accounts, including parish relief payments, and all manner of other church paperwork apart from the PRs are often found on the LDS catalogue of Films listed under Church Records then as Parish Chest Material.

Make a place search of the LDS FHL Catalogue for the place name that interests you then look under Church Records and see if Parish Chest Material is listed.

- Did you see, under the heading of Church Records, a film containing Vestry Minutes? If so then you may find that the Vestry Minutes includes Bastardy Bonds. Vestry Minutes include things like parish relief payments and accounts for the upkeep of the church and money collected and such like too.

# Peter Birtles

- Baptised at Astbury, Cheshire 1765 Oct 13 Peter, s.o. Elizabeth Birtles. Later known as Peter Swindells
- **Mottershead Swindells** married Elizabeth Birtles (c1743-1810) on the 24th of November 1765 in Astbury, Cheshire
- Children
- Peter <sup>1</sup> (Birtles) baptised on the 13th of October 1765 at Astbury (Congleton) (nb before marriage)
  - John, baptised on the 14th of October 1767 at St Michael (died 1773)
  - Margaret, baptised on the 1st of January 1770 at St Michael (died 1770)
  - Mottershead, baptised on the 3rd of May 1772 at St Michael
  - Thomas, baptised on the 2nd of October 1774 at St Michael (died 1778)
- Buried on the 3rd of June 1817 at St Michael aged 73, a 'twister'
- In Mottershead the elder's will he leaves a property to his eldest son Mottershead on Barn street and to Peter he leaves the Mermaid pub on Barn street.



# Bastardy Orders and Bonds

- Bastardy Orders
  - The **Order** by the Justices of the Peace obliged the putative father to pay for the child's maintenance or face a possible prison sentence.
  - Also known as maintenance orders or, after 1844, affiliation orders.
- Bastardy Bonds
  - The **Bond** was an acceptance by the father to pay the maintenance offering security in the form of a bond.

- General Account of the Poor Rates collected in Hexham, with the expenditure of the same, between March 25th, 1833, and March 24th, 1834; and also of money paid and received for other parishes and bastard children.  
By Francis Bell

# Some other clues

- John Thomas Swindale married Alfreda Meen on 15 August 1903 in Blakenham Magna, Suffolk.
- Alfreda's mother was Caroline Meen but there was no father listed on the birth certificate 1883.
- Full name was Alfreda Stroyan Bixley Meen.
- **Alfred Stroyan** in the 1861 Census, the son of Robert and Jane Stroyan, aged 7 months. Born and living at **Bixley**, Norfolk

# Case Study – John Bowes



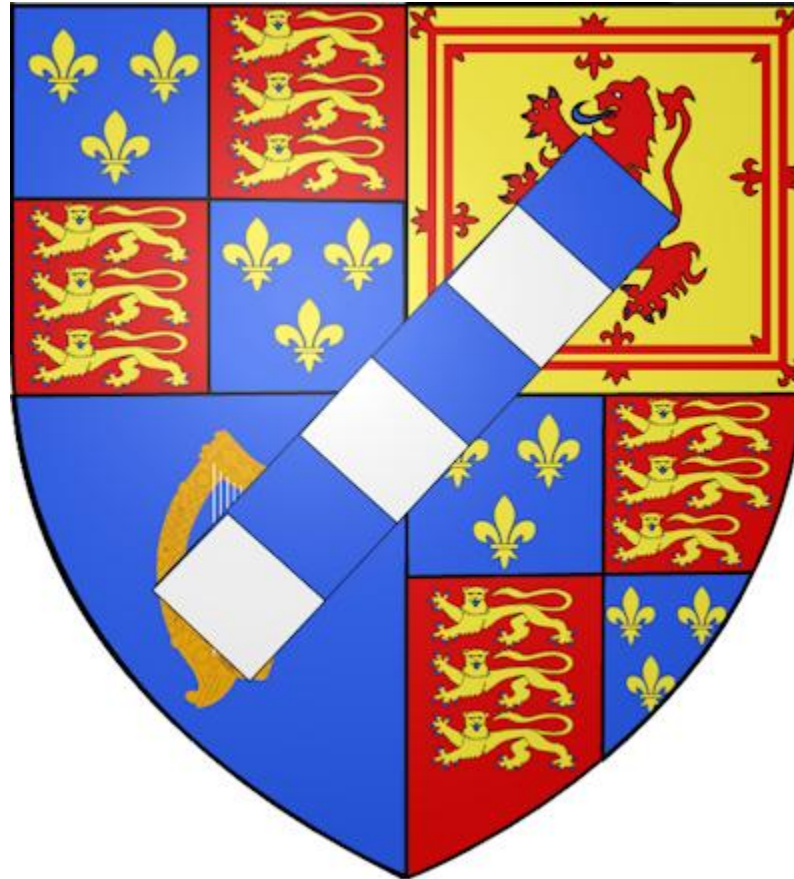
# Case Study – John Bowes

- John Lyon, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Strathmore, married Mary Eleanor Bowes on 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1767 and took the additional surname Bowes in accordance with the will of her father, a major landowner. They had 5 children, the eldest son being John Lyon Bowes born 1769. He succeeded to the title and from about 1790 had an affair with Lady Tyrconnel, wife of the second Lord Tyrconnel, until she died at Streatlam Castle in 1800. Around 1809/10 he commenced an affair with Mary Millner and an illegitimate son John Bowes was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1811. From the age of two he lived with his father, the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Strathmore, and his mother at Streatlam Castle. In 1817 The Earl of Strathmore made young John the heir of all his English estates. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1820 the earl married Mary Millner and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July he died.

# Bend Sinister

- There is no standard heraldic symbol for illegitimacy. The baton or bend sinister was used in this way in some places and times, but in other places and times it was completely innocent, and some other indicator was used — or, depending on the cultural norms, no indicator at all. For instance, in Scottish heraldry, the arms of a bastard were marked by a border around the shield, usually a pattern of alternating white and some other colour, while the French rules varied from region to region, and the Germans rarely ever bothered differentiating arms at all.

# Baton Sinister



Earl of Euston (Duke of Grafton) coat of Arms – remember early slide of the illegitimate children of Charles II ?

# Earl of Euston's Coat of Arms



Earl of Euston's coat of arms: the Royal Standard defaced with a bend sinister (In other words, the first Earl (a.k.a. the Duke of Grafton) was the illegitimate offspring of the King).

The design has been used to brighten up some parts of Euston underground station



# The Connibears girls

Between the four of them they produced 9 illegitimate children - Elizabeth (Betty) - 2, Ann - 1, Mary - 3 and Grace - 3.

DEVON } THE ORDER of *Richard Hippisley Tuckfield Esq. and John*  
(to wit) } *William Esq.* two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and  
for the said County, one whereof is of the Quorum, and hath resided next unto  
the Limits of the Parish Church within the Parish of *Colbrooke*  
in the said County, made the *6<sup>th</sup>* Day of *April* 18*th* in the  
*Seventh* Year of the Reign of his said Majesty King George, the *Fourth*  
concerning a *Male* Bastard Child, lately born in the Parish aforesaid, of the  
Body of *Mary Cunnebear* single Woman.

# Catherine Jackson

- Possibly the Katheren Jackeson baptised on the 2nd of February 1598/9 at St Michael, Macclesfield, Cheshire. No parent named.
- Children
  1. Anne, illegitimate daughter of Thomas Harrop (of Macclesfield?), baptised on the 20th of January 1616/7 (buried 25 March 1617)
  2. Alice, illegitimate daughter of Philip Swindells of Rainow, baptised on the 21 of July 1623 at St Michael
  3. William, illegitimate son of William Swindels of Rainow, baptised on the 11th June 1629
  4. Thomas, ditto
  5. Elizabeth, illegitimate daughter of Robert Allen, baptised April 1634
  6. Maria, illegitimate daughter of Robert Allen of Rainow, baptised on the 27th of October 1639
  7. Edward, illegitimate son of John Harrup of Tytherington, baptised 22nd April 1640
- A Catherina Jackson of Rainow was buried on the 2nd of June 1648 at St Michae

- [Illegitimate Ancestors](#) (Who do you think you are?)
- [Illegitimacy in England](#) (Family Search)
- [Scottish Law Commission – Family Law : Illegitimacy](#) (Consultative Document)
- [Illegitimacy and illegitimates in English history](#) Alan Macfarlane
- [An Economic History of Bastardy in England and Wales:](#) John Ermisch 2006
- [Bastardy or Illegitimacy in England](#) Richard W Price 2004
- [Illegitimacy](#) – Norfolk Record Office Information Leaflet

# My Ancestor was a Bastard

