

### Illegitimacy and Bastardy bonds

- Parish Poor Law Overseers usually tried to establish the name of the father of an illegitimate child so that he could be made to pay weekly amounts to the mother and thus spare the Roor Rate funds. The matter was dealt with by the issue of a Bastardy Bond. Many cases are mentioned in Quarter Session records
- Under the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, mothers of illegitimate children could apply to the Petty Sessions for a Bastardy Order against the father.
- When an illegitimate child was registered (after 1 July 1837) the father's name was normally omitted
- The term 'illegitimate' was not used in parish registers until the 18th century, although the Latin *illegitima* may sometimes be found
- A 'natural and lawful son' also appeared in Latin as *filius naturalis et legitimus*.

Many other terms were used for illegitimacy:

Bantling	Chance begot
Base	Child of
Base-born	shame
Bastardus	Love begot
Begotten in adultery	Lovechild
Begotten in	Merrybegot
fornication	Misbegotten
Born extra	Scape-
By-blow	begotten
By-chip	Spuriosus
By-scrape	Whoreson
By-slip	

So far we have found only one record of a Bastardy Bond issued to a Springthorpe woman -- see below.

### KIRTON-IN-LINDSEY COURT

**Mother:** Mary MILNER, late of Springthorpe

**Putative Father:** ---

**Sex of child:** ---

**Date:** 1811

Thomas LACEY, John BINKS and Benjamin STANILAND of Springthorpe were bondsmen

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