Pike County Bastardy Bonds

In cooperation with the Kentucky Historical Society's America250 celebration, the Pike County Historical Society has transcribed the archival Bastardy Bonds from the Pike County Clerk's records.

The Bonds are written according to Kentucky law of the nineteenth century, which stipulated that every child shall be deemed a bastard within the meaning of this legal title, who shall be begotten and born:

1. out of lawful matrimony;
2. while the husband of its mother continued absent out of this state, for one whole year previous to such birth, separate from its mother, and leaving her during that time and continuing and residing in this state;
3. or during the separation of its mother from her husband, pursuant to a decree of any court of competent authority;
4. the reputed father and the mother of every bastard shall be liable for its support; in their default or inability, it shall be supported by the county or town in which it shall be born, as hereinafter provided;
5. such justice shall, by examination of such woman on oath, and upon such other testimony as may be offered, ascertained the father of such bastard, or of such child likely to be born a bastard, and shall thereupon issue a warrant, directing any constable of the county, commanding him to apprehend such reputed father.
6. If the reputed father shall reside in any other county or state, than in which such warrant issued, the justice issuing the same shall in writing then direct the sum in which any bond shall be taken of the person so charged.
7. Upon the person so charged being apprehended, he shall be carried before the justice who endorsed the said warrant, or some other justice of the same county, who may take from such person bond to the people of this state, with good and sufficient sureties in the sum so directed on the said warrant, with condition to indemnify the county, and town, or city, where the said bastard shall have been born.

The rules are many in such bastardy causes and above are only seven. In Pike County as in any county court of Kentucky, the records usually tell who the suspected father might be by having the Justice of the Peace issue a warrant for the county bastardy charge. Both paper filings suggest the father and his appearance in court (also naming his sureties) to answer the charges against him. These records should not be used as 100% positive proof of fatherhood. If there is a charge, use Y-DNA to prove the charge, if possible. These records can offer other advantage as to lineage, such as where and when the carnal deed happened. In addition, they give court testimony in some cases. These records give you the chance to prove who the father might be by looking in the county which the mother lived. It was her right to secure funding from the father to raise her child, sometimes a one-time payment and other times a yearly sum.

In the specific case of Nancy Anderson, a married woman, the supposed baby father, Hiram Cantrell, contested the oath made by Nancy given to the justice of the peace. In this instance, Nancy told who she had relations with and the approximate date. Nancy Anderson was much younger than of her unnamed Anderson husband, who had been missing for quite some time when Nancy came about in the maternal way. Hiram Cantrell in court said the mother had been, but about a short time prior to the birth of the child, a married woman, and though she had abandoned her husband, she was still his wife, unless he was

dead, and there was no proof of his death. She inferred his death only from his great age, but other witnesses proved negative circumstances, and upon the whole there was no evidence as to the fact of his death. Consequently, as the bastardy statute applies only to single women, the judgment of filiation and the consequence order against the plaintiff. Hiram Cantrell pointed his finger in court of fatherhood to John Hargis and not himself. Hargis was the court attorney prosecuting Nancy's case against Hiram. Hargis made his own affidavit, swearing he was not the father. In this case, Nancy Anderson did not prove her case (as to any of the three men) as to the father alleged in court on October 23, 1835.

In 1839, Andrew Akers was named the father of a male child in the county court book. The woman was Sarah May, per a summons found in the Pike archives. Years later, in his estate, Andrew named George W. Harrison, Minnie Belle, and Mary Akers as his children by Elizabeth Ray, and James Akers as his only son by his wife Mary. Other researchers have named some Clay children belonging to Andrew, but unproven. One document exists, telling in 1831, when Andrew was young, the court allowed him bond for the raising of Lydia Clay. Andrew was not shown in a bastardly bond for the Clay children thus far. Andrew raised the Clay children, as well as Adeline and Moses Sword. In 1849, Adeline Sword was also bound to Andrew, being the sibling of Moses. Moses' father (unnamed in documents) had died in 1849.

These Bastardly Bonds are just a few found amongst the old papers of Pike County. Year represents the year of the suit; name of the father and mother; the child if named and/or date of the birth; and the date of the court document which this information is taken.

Year	Fathers Name	Mothers Name	Childs Name/Sex	Court Doc.
1827	Not shown	Charlotte Johnson	Not shown	9/16/1827
1831	Asa McCoy	Elinor Burris Married abt. 1832	Male Child	7/12/1831
1832	Henry Sword	Sally May	Unknown	9/6/1832
1832	Harrison Newsome	Spicy McCown	Female child	11/23/1832
1832	Frederick Slone	Susannah Adkins	Unknown	6/28/1832
1833	Thomas Owens Jr	Nancy Ford	Female Child	9/28/1833
1833	Hiram Cantrell	Nancy Anderson	Male Child	6/15/1833
1834	Henry Smith	Rebecca McCoy	Unknown sex and date John McCoy signed the bond, child delivered at the house of John McCoy. Tho. Owens and Sim. Justice securities	2/1834
1834	Archibald Slone	Jane McCombs	Male Child	5/16/1834
1835	John Sword or John Hargis	Sally Nestor	Female Child	2/17/1835
1835	Davidson Adkins	Susannah Adkins	Male Child	3/7/1835
1836	William Pruitt	Nancy Quillen	Female Child	1/30/1836
1838	William F. Owens	Susannah Adkins	Male Child	9/18/1838
1839	Andrew Akers	Sarah May	Male Child	5/2/1839
1841	Samuel McCoy	Matilda Farley	Male Child born 5/30/1841. At the house of Matilda Farley	9/10/1841
1843	William Syck	Sarah Ann Lee	Female Child	6/1/1843
1843	Samuel Branham	Dicy Sturgeon	Female Child	8/28/1843
1844	John Hatfield	Cintha Taylor	Male Child	3/7/1844
1848	Allen Butcher	Sally McCoy	Female Child Delivered house Rebecca McCoy	9/23/1848
1850	William Ratliff	Susannah McAllister	Male Child	12/6/1850
1857	Isiah Smith	Ava West	John B. (1855)	6/12/1857
1858	William Damron	Elizabeth Branham	Male Child	10/23/1858
1859	Solomon Crabtree	Nancy Crabtree	Rebecca A Crabtree	6/21/1859

Year	Fathers Name	Mothers Name	Childs Name/Sex	Court Doc.
1859	John New	Nancy Hatfield	Female Child b. Nov. 24, 1856	10/1859
1859	John May	Elizabeth Gibson	Unknown	12/14/1859
1859	James Mainard	Susanna (Lycans) Sword	Sally & Polly Lycans	12/28/1859
1859	McGinnis Hatfield	Parlee Jane McCoy	Male Child Parlee daughter of Asa McCoy child could be Albert Smith Hatfield	2/18/1859
1860	Morgan C.W. Sowords	Priscilla Beverly	Elijah Gibson born 1/16/1860	7/16/1860
1860	Zebedee Poe	Martha Moore	Unknown	8/2/1860
1864	William Mullins	Viney Fleming	12/31/1864, Dicy Mullins and Elinor Fleming	4/2/1867
1866	John M. Scott	Causby A Walters	L.D. Walters Birth 8/2/1864	3/18/1867
1867	Henry Vanover	Huldy Bryant	Birth 1866	4/10/1867
1867	James M. Sword	Dorcas Casebolt	Birth 1867	5/21/1867
1867	Jackson Scott	Marietta Weddington	3/18/1867 - Female Child	6/17/1867
1868	Isaac E. Gray	Pricy Justice	Birth 8/12/1867	8/19/1868
1869	Stephen Howell	Fanney Burk	Birth 1/10/1869 Floyd Co	4/22/1869
1870	Abe C. Ferrell	Laurena (Raney) Ray	Birth 4/1870	
1870	Thomas Greenbury	Victory Billister	Birth 3/1/1868	2/14/1870
1871	Thomas Johnson	Jinny Mims	Birth 3/12/1869	5/6/1871
1871	Solomon Johnson	Lucinda Robinson	Birth 3/12/1869	5/23/1871
1871	Washington Cloud	Tabitha Billister	Mary Alice Billister 7/3/1869, change of name to Mattie A. Cloud	3/27/1871
1873	John H. Mullins	Margaret Flemons	Birth 6/27/1873	7/27/1874
1874	George Weddington	Sarah Hunt	Birth 10/18/1873	1/21/1874
1875	Elijah McPeek	Tabitha Carter	Birth 4/27/1875	11/22/1875
1875	Lewis G. Farley	Minty Carter	5/19/1873 Californey Carter	1/26/1875
1876	Henry Tackett	Sarah Mullins	Birth 1874	7/3/1876
1877	A.J. Auxier	Jenny Mims	Female	1876/1877
1877	Shadrick Osborne	Sarah Mullins	John H. Mullins	3/26/1877
1878	George W. Hinkle	Not named	Mary E. Ray	11/1878
1878	B.F. Kelly or T. Phillips	Selina C. Williams	Pocahontas Williams b. 4/27/1878	10/28/1878
1879	Jackson Prater	Phoebe McCoy	Female Child	8/25/1879
1879	Joseph L. Spears	Alifair Prater	Birth 1/31/1879	3/3/1879
1880	John Yates	Rachel Fields	Unknown	1880
1881	William Riley	Rachel Fields	7/14/1881 Male Child	4/27/1881
1882	Nelson Rowe	Mary J. Justice	3/4/1881 - William Jackson Justice	8/19/1882
1883	John Lee Ferguson	Cline or Botts	Unknown	10/22/1883
1884	Stephen Osborn	Louisa Adkins	2/27/1884 - Jerry Adkins	No date
1885	Henan Deskins	Victoria Blackburn	Emma Blackburn	5/25/1885
1885	Richard H. Ratliff	Betty Lewis	Robert b. 10/9/1882, James W. Lewis b. 1/9/1885	5/25/1885
1885	John Syck	Jane Carter	Birth 7/8/1882	1/27/1885
1888	Solomon Johnson	Dinah Osborne	Male Child born 12/23/1886	2/27/1888
1888	Rosecrans Delany	A McCallister	Birth 5/24/1888	7/19/1888
1889	N.B. McCoy (Napoleon)	Nanie May	Male Child born 6/18/1889 N.B. and Nanie m. 7/1889	7/16/1889
1889	Daniel Adkins	Polly Ann Thacker	Female Child born 4/6/1888	4/1889
1890	David Lockhart	Matilda Helvy	Birth 7/2/1889	5/14/1890
1890	J.B. Auxier	Orpha Wells	Jas. Blaine Auxier b. 11/8/1888	9/18/1889
1890	Kenaz Thompson	Martha Pinson	Roland Pinson b. 9/17/1890	12/4/1890
1890	Harrison Varney	Missouri Smith	Willie Varney Smith b. 12/17/1888	3/27/1890
1890	James Carter	Artensie J. Mims	Julia Mims b. 1/14/1890	10/8/1890

Year	Fathers Name	Mothers Name	Childs Name/Sex	Court Doc.
1891	J. Artrip	Mary E Price	Wesley Birth 6/2/1891	9/21/1891
1891	Mont McCoy	Caroline Layne	Maude Layne b. 4/1/1890 Couple did not marry	11/14/1891
1891	William Flannery	Mary J Elswick	Unknown	9/8/1991
1891	Bertram Farley	Mary Skeens	Jesse J. born 4/27/1891	9/24/1891
1891	Wayne Maynard	Mary Reynolds	Birth 5/8/1890	7/11/1891
1892	Arthur C. Johnson	Mary E. Price	Wesley b. 6/2/1891	6/27/1892
1892	George W. Coleman	Elizabeth Brown	Reuben b, 6/27/1892	8/8/1894
1892	John A Dils	Dolly Brewer	Allen Witcher Brewer b. 6/7/1892	1/1893
1893	George Osborne	Marinda Moore	Grover Cleveland born 1/1892	3/21/1893
1893	Alex Osborn	Mary Damron	Billie Damron b. 12/19/1891	11/14/1892
1893	Drew Kinney/Kinsey	Polly Brewer	Virgie Lee Brewer b. 6/13/1892	8/5/1893
1893	David Branham	Mary J. Tackett	Wm Howard b. 11/28/1892	8/31/1893
1894	James Hatcher	Nannie Sword	James b. 6/1893	1894
1894	Floyd Casebolt	Ana E. Kenny	Crittendon Kinney 3/26/1894	7/20/1894
1894	James Hatcher	Nannie Sword	James sword b. 2/19/1894	3/21/1894
1895	Crit Compton	Louisa A. Farmer	Loudy B., born Apr. 26, 1894	6/1895
1895	Lilborn Pinson	Orpha Ratliff	Cora Lee, born Aug. 1894	8/1895
1896	Wm F. Neikirk (Sp)	Allie Ford	Female 5/27/1896	
1902	U.K. Williams or George Pinson Jr (both named)	Mary Charles	Georgia Elizabeth b. 6/12/1902	9/1902
1904	J.M. Coleman	Florence Patten	Ora Patten, 5/11/1904	4/17/1905
1906	J.B. (Joey) Smith	Malinda Blackburn	Mortica born 8/5/1906	10/22/1906
1908	Bart Francisco	Belle Spears	James B Spears	3/14/1908
1908	Bill Hughes	Dollie Branham	Creed Hughes, 4 months old	10/27/1908
1909	Arthur Griffith	F. Rasnick, married Garfield Rasnick	Roy, 5/15/1908	5/5/1909
1910	Homer Moon	Ida Bevins	Female child born 1/4/1909	2/17/1910
1910	Isaac Prater	Rebecca Coleman	Hurly Prater	5/9/1910
1915	Roy Scotte	Nancy Thacker	Male child born 10/27/1915	4/18/1916
1915	Rell Maynard	Lexie Ramey	Female child born 2/4/1915	6/7/1915
1915	Massie Sword	Sis Branham	Male child born 8/30/1915	1915
1915	Alex Belcher	Clarinda Bevins	Female child born Jun. 2, 1915	1/1/1919
1915	Thomas Penix	Virgie Keel	Female child born 7/10/1915	7/30/1915
1915	Frank Slone	Minnie Slone	Matney, born 6/24/1915	1915
1916	Allen Layne	Victoria Scalf	Mary, born Aug. 28, 1916	2/25/1916
1916	Carl Dillon	L. Epling	3/11/1915	3/6/1916
1915	Grayson Phillips	Beulah Williams	Male child born 12/11/1913	11/3/1915
1917	Isaac Coleman	Mauda Yates	Male child born 4/23/1916	1/31/1917
1917	Jesse C. Stewart	Lina Mullins	Born 10/7/1916	3/28/1917
1917	John Ramey	Margaret Miller	2/21/1915, Twin Male children	1/15/1917
1926	Ballard Tackett	Myrtle Osborne	Born 9/30/1926, Male child	9/20/1927