

Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton

Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton, PC (27 October 1774 – 12 May 1848), of The Grange in Hampshire, of Ashburton in Devon and of Buckenham Tofts near Thetford in Norfolk, was a British politician and financier, and a member of the Baring family. Baring was the second son of Sir Francis Baring, 1st Baronet, and of Harriet, daughter of William Herring.

Early life

Alexander was born on 27 October 1774. He was the second son born to Harriet Herring (1750–1804) and Sir Francis Baring, 1st Baronet (1740–1810). Among his siblings was Maria (the mother of Francis Stainforth), Sir Thomas Baring, 2nd Baronet, Henry Baring (a Member of Parliament for Bossiney^[1] and Colchester),^[2] and George Baring (who founded the Hong Kong trading house of Dent & Co.). His father, alongside his uncle, John Baring, established the London merchant house of John and Francis Baring Company, which eventually became Barings Bank.^[3]

His paternal grandparents were Elizabeth Vowler and Johann Baring, a wool merchant who emigrated to England in 1717 from Germany and established the family in England. His maternal grandfather was merchant William Herring of Croydon and among his mother's family was her cousin, Thomas Herring, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Career

Alexander was brought up in his father's business, and became a partner at Hope & Co. He was sent to the United States for various land deals, and formed wide connections with wealthy American families. In 1807 Alexander became a partner in the family firm, along with his brothers Thomas and Henry, and the name was changed to Baring Brothers & Co. When Henry Hope died in 1811, the London offices of Hope & Co. merged with Baring Brothers & Co.^[4]

Political career

The Right Honourable
The Lord Ashburton
PC



Portrait of Lord Ashburton by George Peter Alexander Healy, 1842

President of the Board of Trade

In office

15 December 1834 – 8 April 1835

Monarch William IV

Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel,
Bt

Preceded by Charles Poulett Thomson

Succeeded by Charles Poulett Thomson

Master of the Mint

In office

23 December 1834 – 8 April 1835

Monarch William IV

Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel,
Bt

Preceded by James Abercromby

Succeeded by Henry Labouchere

Baring sat in parliament for Taunton between 1806 and 1826, for Callington between 1826 and 1831, for Thetford between 1831 and 1832 and North Essex between 1832 and 1835. He regarded politics from the point of view of the business man and opposed the orders-in-council for "the restrictions on trade with the United States in 1812," and, in 1826, the act for the suppression of small banknotes as well as other reform. He accepted the post Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Duke of Wellington's projected ministry of 1832; but afterwards, alarmed at the men in parliament, declared "he would face a thousand devils rather than such a House of Commons."^[5] After the Panic of 1847, Baring headed an external bimetallist movement hoping to prevent the undue restriction of the currency.^[6]

Baring was Master of the Mint in Robert Peel's government and, on Peel's retirement in 1835, was raised to the peerage as **Baron Ashburton**, of Ashburton, in the County of Devon,^[7] a title previously held by John Dunning, 1st Baron Ashburton. In 1842 he was again sent to America, and the same year concluded the Webster–Ashburton Treaty. A compromise was settled concerning the north-east boundary of Maine, the extradition of certain criminals was arranged, each state agreed to maintain a squadron of at least eighty guns on the coast of Africa for the suppression of the slave trade, and the two governments agreed to unite in an effort to persuade other powers to close all slave markets within their territories. Despite his earlier attitude, Lord Ashburton disapproved of Peel's free trade and opposed the Bank Charter Act of 1844.^[8]

Ashburton was a trustee of the British Museum and of the National Gallery, a privy councillor and D.C.L. He published, besides several speeches, *An Enquiry into the Causes and Consequences of ... Orders in Council* (1808), and *The Financial and Commercial Crisis Considered* (1847).^[8]

Slave holder

Baring was the recipient of compensation when slavery was abolished in the 1830s.^[9] He received compensation for nearly 500 slaves across four estates. He was compensated at Spring Garden in British Guiana to the tune of over £3,400. He was also compensated to the tune of more than £6,500 on three estates in St Kitts.^[10]

Personal life

On 23 August 1798, Ashburton married Ann Louisa Bingham (1782–1848), daughter of Ann Willing Bingham and William Bingham of Philadelphia, who served as a U.S. Senator and was one of the richest men in America, having made his fortune during the American Revolution through trading and ownership of privateers.^[11] Her maternal grandfather was Thomas Willing, the president of the First Bank of the United States. Together, they had nine children:^[12]

- Bingham Baring, 2nd Baron Ashburton (1799–1864), who married Lady Harriet Mary Montagu, eldest daughter of George Montagu, 6th Earl of Sandwich.^[13]

Personal details	
Born	27 October 1774
Died	12 May 1848 (aged 73) <div> <u>Longleat</u>,<div> <u>Wiltshire</u>, <u>England</u></div></div>
Nationality	 British, English
Political party	 <u>Tory</u>
Spouse	 <u>Ann Louisa Bingham</u> (m. 1798)
Children	9
Parent(s)	 <u>Sir Francis Baring</u> , <div> <u>Bt</u><div> <u>Harriet Herring Baring</u></div></div>

- Francis Baring, 3rd Baron Ashburton (1800–1868), who married Hortense Maret (c. 1812–1882), daughter of Hughes-Bernard Maret, 1st Duke of Bassano, Prime Minister of France.
- Harriet Baring (1804–1892), married Henry Thynne, 3rd Marquess of Bath.^[14]
- Frederick Baring (1806–1868), Rector of Itchen Stoke, married Frederica Ashton on 24 April 1831.^[12]
- Anne Eugenia Baring (died 1839), married Humphrey St John-Mildmay.^[12]
- Alexander Baring (1810–1832), who died on board HMS *Alfred* in the Mediterranean.^[12]
- Arthur Baring (1818–1838), who died unmarried.^[12]
- Louisa Emily Baring (died 1888)^[12]
- Lydia Emily Baring (died 1868)^[12]

Ashburton died on 12 May 1848 at Longleat, in Wiltshire. His widow died several months later on 5 December 1848.^[12]

Descendants

Through his eldest son, he was a grandfather of Mary Florence Baring (1860–1902), who married William Compton, 5th Marquess of Northampton.^[15] Through his second son, he was a grandfather of Alexander Baring, 4th Baron Ashburton (1835–1889), and Maria Anne Louisa Baring (1833–1928), who married William FitzRoy, 6th Duke of Grafton.^[16]

Quotes

Of this great mercantile family the Duke of Richelieu wittily remarked; "There are six main powers in Europe; Britain, France, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Prussia and Baring-Brothers!" (Vicary Gibbs, from the "Complete Peerage" 1910).

References

1. "leighrayment.com House of Commons: Bodmin to Bradford East" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090810231554/http://www.leighrayment.com/commons/Bcommons4.htm>). Archived from the original on 10 August 2009. Retrieved 29 August 2019.
2. "leighrayment.com House of Commons: Clonmel to Cork County West" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20091220042059/http://www.leighrayment.com/commons/Ccommons5.htm>). Archived from the original on 20 December 2009. Retrieved 29 August 2019.
3. Debrett's (1916). *Debrett's Peerage, Baronetage, Knightage, and Companionage* (https://books.google.com/books?id=Ujg4TVs_3RkC&pg=PA670). Kelly's Directories. p. 670.
4. Titcomb, James (23 February 2015). "Barings: the collapse that erased 232 years of history" (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/banksandfinance/11427501/Barings-the-collapse-that-erased-232-years-of-history.html>). *The Daily Telegraph*.
5. Chisholm 1911, pp. 729–730.
6. É. Halévy (1961) *Victorian Years*. London: Ernest Benn; p. 201.
7. "No. 19257" (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/19257/page/699>). *The London Gazette*. 10 April 1835. p. 699.
8. Chisholm 1911, p. 730.

9. *Legacies of British Slave-ownership* University College of London <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/-1411131717> Retrieved 25 May 2020.
10. *Legacies of British Slave-ownership* University College of London <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/-1411131717> Retrieved 15 September 2021.
11. Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums (1970). Doris A. Isaacson (ed.). *Maine: A Guide 'Down East'*. Rockland, Me: Courier-Gazette, Inc. pp. 381–382.
12. "Ashburton, Baron (UK, 1835)" (<http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/ashburton1835.htm>). *www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk*. Heraldic Media Limited. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20131230234613/http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/online/content/ashburton1835.htm>) from the original on 30 December 2013. Retrieved 29 August 2019.
13. "Sandwich, Earl of (E, 1660)" (http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/sandwich1660.htm#SANDWICH_1660_6). *www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk*. Heraldic Media Limited. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20101105225747/http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/online/content/Sandwich1660.htm#SANDWICH_1660_6) from the original on 5 November 2010. Retrieved 29 August 2019.
14. "Bath, Marquess of (GB, 1789)" (http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/bath1789.htm#BATH_1789_3). *www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk*. Heraldic Media Limited. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20131231055436/http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/online/content/bath1789.htm#BATH_1789_3) from the original on 31 December 2013. Retrieved 29 August 2019.
15. "Northampton, Marquess of (UK, 1812)" (http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/northampton1812.htm#NORTHAMPTON_1812_5). *www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk*. Heraldic Media Limited. Retrieved 29 August 2019.
16. "Grafton, Duke of (E, 1675)" (http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/grafon1675.htm#GRAFTON_1675_6). *www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk*. Heraldic Media Limited. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20190427001827/http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/online/content/grafon1675.htm#GRAFTON_1675_6) from the original on 27 April 2019. Retrieved 29 August 2019.

Attribution:

- "Baring pedigree" (<http://www.stirnet.com/HTML/genie/british/bb4ae/baring1.htm>). Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070105205103/http://www.stirnet.com/HTML/genie/british/bb4ae/baring1.htm>) from the original on 5 January 2007. Retrieved 22 January 2007.
- This article incorporates text from a publication now in the public domain: Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Ashburton, Alexander Baring". *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Vol. 2 (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. pp. 729–730.

External links

- *Hansard* 1803–2005: contributions in Parliament by Alexander Baring (<https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/people/hon-alexander-baring>)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alexander_Baring,_1st_Baron_Ashburton&oldid=1118190633"

Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton

1774 - 1848

This person is the subject of ongoing research. We have started by researching their relationship to the enslavement of people.

Biographical notes

Politician and financier.

National Gallery Trustee (1835–1848).

Summary of activity

Alexander Baring was the son of Sir Francis Baring (1740–1810), merchant and banker and founder of John and Francis Baring Company, influential in the East India Company, and Harriet (1750–1804), daughter of merchant William Herring of Croydon. In 1794 he worked for Hope and Co., merchants in Amsterdam with important West Indian connections. In late 1795 he was sent to America to purchase land from Senator William Bingham; he stayed there until 1801, and in 1798 married Bingham's daughter Ann Louisa, a union which was to increase his own personal wealth. In 1800 the firm's name changed to Francis Baring and Co., and in 1807 to Baring Brothers. From 1805–17 he became director of the Bank of England. In 1830 he retired from the firm. He was also an MP, from 1806–1826 for Taunton, and also for Callington, Thetford and North Essex. In 1835 he entered the House of Lords when he was created 1st Baron Ashburton.

In 1817 he acquired The Grange and its estate at Northington in Hampshire. He also acquired many other estates, and in 1821 bought Bath House, Piccadilly. Baring's father, Francis Baring was a member of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa, and made his first profit from the slave trade aged 16. Alexander was a member or president of the Board and Trade and Plantations.

The Baring firm (of which Alexander Baring was a partner until 1830) was entangled in heavy lending in the 1820s to a slave-owner in Berbice named Wolfert Katz. Baring Brothers were counter-claimants and beneficiaries to the Katz estate (Belair) in Guyana (former British Guiana) (claim of 24th October 1836), although Alexander himself was not a beneficiary. Barings was also a lender to the American merchant and owner of enslaved peoples Burrill Carnes and took security over slave-property. It was also a participant in the loans to Manning & Anderdon described under Jeremiah Harman (q.v.). In addition, the firm made other claims: an unsuccessful counterclaim (after Alexander's retirement) of 24th October 1836 for the Spring Garden estate in Guyana (former British Guiana) (to the creditors of Burrill Carnes), including 64 enslaved people; a claim of 23 January 1836 for Spooners estate (on St Kitts) including 126 enslaved people, by Chas. Bosanquet and James William Freshfield the younger, trustees for Sir John Bosanquet, Alexander Baring, Jeremiah Harman, Sir Edward Hyde East and John Pearse; and a further claim of 23 February 1836 for Spooners (now 164 enslaved); for both of these he was listed as a beneficiary.

Baring made a number of speeches in parliament on the subject of slavery. On 14 and 20 April 1826 he presented petitions (from the council and assembly of Antigua and the London West India merchants) protesting against attacks on property from anti-slavery campaigners, and calling for change 'by moderate and well digested measures'. In addition, 'He cautioned the House not to interfere with government policy towards the slaves of Demerara and Berbice', at that time gradually preparing the enslaved peoples for emancipation. On 5 March 1828 he spoke against the abolitionists' denial of a person's right to own enslaved people, and maintained that the impression that the condition of such people as one of 'cruelty and abomination' was wrong. On 15 April 1831 he again opposed the immediate abolition of slavery, arguing that as no free person would work on the plantations, Britain would have to buy foreign sugar, thus encouraging slavery and the slave trade. Instead he advocated gradual change. Again, on 24 May 1832 he opposed the immediate abolition of slavery. (Terry Jenkins, 'BARING, Alexander (1773-1848), of The Grange, nr. Alresford, Hants and 82 Piccadilly, Mdx', in History of Parliament Trust (ed.), *The History of Parliament: British Political, Social & Local History* [online], London, 1964 -, 1820-1832 <<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/baring-alexander-1773-1848>> accessed 7 December 2020.)

Baring was a Trustee of the National Gallery from 1835–48.

Slavery connections

The Baring firm (of which Alexander Baring was a partner until 1830) was entangled in heavy lending in the 1820s to a slave-owner in Berbice named Wolfert Katz. Barings was also a lender to the American merchant and slave-owner Burrill Carnes and took security over slave-property. Baring was also a participant in the loans to Manning & Anderdon described under Jeremiah Harman (q.v.).

Abolition connections

No known connections with abolition.

Bibliography

T. L. Ingram, 'Baring family (3) Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton', in J. Turner et al. (eds), *Grove Art Online*, Oxford 1998-, <https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T006368>

Checked and found – [Item on publisher's website](#)

T. Jenkins, 'BARING, Alexander (1773-1848), of The Grange, nr. Alresford, Hants and 82 Piccadilly, Mdx', in History of Parliament Trust (ed.), *The History of Parliament: British Political, Social & Local History*, London 1964-, 1820-1832,

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/baring-alexander-1773-1848>

Checked and found – [Item on publisher's website](#)

J. Orbell, 'Baring, Alexander, first Baron Ashburton', in C. Matthew et al. (eds), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford 1992-,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/1380>

Checked and found – [Item on publisher's website](#)

UCL Department of History, 'Alexandar Baring', in UCL Department of History (ed.), *Legacies of British Slave-ownership*, London 2020,

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/-1411131717>

Checked and found – [Item on publisher's website](#)

Paintings previously owned by Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton



[A Landscape with the Judgement of Paris](#)

[Jan Both](#) and [Cornelis van Poelenburgh](#)

Not on display



[Skittle Players outside an Inn](#)

[Jan Steen](#)

[Room 16](#)

Join the conversation



The world's greatest paintings to your inbox

Sign up for emails

Sign up ▶

THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Trafalgar Square
London
WC2N 5DN

About us

NG200

Contact us

Commercial

Shop

Venue hire

Work with us

National Partnerships

Borrowing from the Gallery



[HOME \(/LBS/\)](#)

[SEARCH THE DATABASE \(/LBS/SEARCH/\)](#)

[LEGACIES \(/LBS/LEGACIES/\)](#)

[ESTATES \(/LBS/ESTATES/\)](#)

[INVENTORIES \(/LBS/INVENTORIES/\)](#)

[MAPS \(/LBS/MAPS/\)](#)

[CENTRE \(/LBS/PROJECT/\)](#)

[CONTACT \(/LBS/PROJECT/CONTACT\)](#)

Alexander Baring

Profile & Legacies Summary

27th Oct 1774 - 13th May 1848

CLAIMANT OR BENEFICIARY

Biography

Politician and financier, created 1st Baron Ashburton 10/04/1835. Member of the Privy Council from 1834.

Second son of Sir Francis Baring, 1st Baronet (1740-1810) and of Harriet, daughter of William Herring. His grandfather John Baring (1697–1748) emigrated from Germany and established the family in England.

Brought up in his father's business; became partner at Hope & Co., Amsterdam bank founded c.1720 and with, among other things, important West Indian connections. Marriage in 1796 of Alexander's sister, Dorothy, 3rd daughter of Sir Francis Baring, 1st Baronet (1740-1810) to Pierre Cesar Labouchere, partner in the firm helped to join the two firms of Barings and Hope.

Alexander sent to the USA for various land deals and formed wide connections with American houses. In 1810, by his father's will, he became head of the family firm. In 1811, when Henry Hope died, he merged the London offices of Hope & Co. into Baring Brothers & Co.

Politically: see *Political legacies*

Trustee of the British Museum and of the National Gallery; Privy Councillor; D.C.L. He published, besides several speeches, *An Enquiry into the Causes and Consequences of ... Orders in Council* (1808), and *The Financial and Commercial Crisis Considered* (1847).

Children of Alexander and Anne Louisa Bingham: Hon. Anne Eugenia Baring (died 8 March 1839), married Humphrey St John Mildmay; Hon. Harriet Baring (3 May 1802 – 2 January 1892), married Henry Thynne, 3rd Marquess of Bath; Hon. Louisa Emily Baring (d. 23 March 1888); Hon. Lydia Emily Baring (d. 28 December 1868); Alexander Baring (2 May 1810 – 12 March 1832); Bingham Baring, 2nd Baron Ashburton (1799–1864); Francis Baring, 3rd Baron Ashburton (1800–1868); Hon. Arthur Baring (8 October 1818 – 16 February 1838); Hon. Rev. Frederick Baring (31 January 1806 – 4 June 1868), married on 24 April 1831 Frederica Ashton.

Portrait, a Mezzotint, is by Charles Edward Wagstaff (Engraver, 1808-1850) after Sir Thomas Lawrence, published 1837. From the National Portrait Gallery: NPG D7396

The portrait (c.1810) by Sir Thomas Lawrence which this was based on is in the possession of ING Barings, London and is reproduced in the entry for Baring in the Oxford DNB.

Sources

T71/887 British Guiana claim no. 2282 (Spring Garden) shows the counterclaim by the then current partners of Barings. Alexander Baring had formally withdrawn from the partnership in 1830. T71/879 St Kitts claim nos. 206, 336 and 724.



(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barings_Banl

Legacies Summary

[\(/lbs/person/view/-1411131717/#summary\)](#)

[Commercial \[2\]](#)

[\(/lbs/person/view/-1411131717/#commercial-summary\)](#)

[Cultural \[3\]](#)

[\(/lbs/person/view/-1411131717/#cultural-summary\)](#)

[Historical](#)

[Imperial](#)

[Physical](#)

[Political \[2\]](#)

[\(/lbs/person/view/-1411131717/#political-summary\)](#)

Other Information

[Relationships \[8\]](#)

[\(/lbs/person/view/-1411131717/#relationships\)](#)

[Addresses \[2\]](#)

[\(/lbs/person/view/-1411131717/#addresses\)](#)

[Inventories](#)

John Orbell, 'Baring, Alexander, first Baron Ashburton (1773–1848)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004); online edn, Jan 2008 [Oxford DNB](http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/1380) (<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/1380>) accessed 06/08/2012; William D. Rubinstein, *Who were the rich? A biographical dictionary of British wealth-holders Volume Two 1840-1859* (MS) reference 1848/6; D. R. Fisher (ed.), *The House of Commons 1820-1832* (7 vols., Cambridge, Cambridge University Press for the History of Parliament Trust, 2009), vol. 4. Contemporary obituaries include *Gentleman's Magazine* (July 1848), pp. 89-91 though this says nothing of his West India interests or attitudes to slavery.

Further Information

Absentee?	British/Irish
Spouse	Anne Louisa: daughter of US statesman William Bingham, of Philadelphia, 23 August 1798
Children	William Bingham Baring, 2nd Baron Ashburton (1799-1864), Francis Baring, 3rd Baron Ashburton (1800-1868), Harriet (1802-1892), Louisa Emily (1804-), Frederick (1806-1868), Caroline (1808-), Alexander (1810-1832), Lydia Emily (1814-1868), Arthur (1818-1838)
Wealth at death	£350,000
Occupation	Banker and politician
Rubinstein	1848/6
Oxford DNB Entry	Visit Oxford Dictionary of National Biography site (http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/index.html)

Associated Claims (4)

British Guiana 2282 (Spring Garden) (/lbs/claim/view/8556)	£3,421 16s 4d	Other association	DETAILS (/LBS/CLAIM/VIEW/8556)
St Kitts 336 (Spooners) (/lbs/claim/view/23754)	£2,243 17s 2d	Beneficiary	DETAILS (/LBS/CLAIM/VIEW/23754)
St Kitts 724 (Spooners) (/lbs/claim/view/23771)	£2,422 14s 5d	Beneficiary	DETAILS (/LBS/CLAIM/VIEW/23771)
St Kitts 206 (Priddies Mornes (?)) (/lbs/claim/view/25677)	£2,004 7s 10d	Beneficiary	DETAILS (/LBS/CLAIM/VIEW/25677)

Legacies Summary

Commercial (2)

SENIOR PARTNER	Baring Brothers Merchant Banker	DETAILS (/LBS/COMMERCIAL/VIEW/842217432)
	Hope & Co. Banker	DETAILS (/LBS/COMMERCIAL/VIEW/2146007499)

Cultural (3)

TRUSTEE	British Museum.....	DETAILS (/LBS/CULTURAL/VIEW/-134728390)
TRUSTEE	National Gallery.....	DETAILS (/LBS/CULTURAL/VIEW/1123252019)

COUNCIL MEMBER

University of London (University College, London).....

[DETAILS \(/LBS/CULTURAL/VIEW/-1885092360\)](/LBS/CULTURAL/VIEW/-1885092360)

notes → *Statement by the Council of the University of London, Explanatory of the Nature and Objects of the Institution* (London, Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green / John Murray,...

Political (2)

GOVERNMENT

[DETAILS \(/LBS/POLITICAL/VIEW/1241243893\)](/LBS/POLITICAL/VIEW/1241243893)

office → **President of the Board of Trade and Master of the Royal Mint**
Dec 1834 - April 1835

MP

Whig later Conservative
[DETAILS \(/LBS/POLITICAL/VIEW/-1640841492\)](/LBS/POLITICAL/VIEW/-1640841492)

election → **Taunton** Somerset
1806 - 1826

election → **Callington** Cornwall
1826 - 1831

election → **Thetford** Norfolk
1831 - 1832

election → **Essex Northern** Essex
1832 - 1835

Relationships (8)

Alexander Baring (/lbs/person/view/-14111317) 17)	FATHER → SON	Francis Baring (/lbs/person/view/1299741814))	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/858133493/-1411131717)
Alexander Baring (/lbs/person/view/-14111317) 17)	BROTHERS	Henry Baring (/lbs/person/view/-140487839) 4)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/947659865/-1411131717)
Alexander Baring (/lbs/person/view/-14111317) 17)	BROTHERS	Sir Thomas Baring 2nd Bart. (/lbs/person/view/1813221728))	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/1105172332/-1411131717)
Alexander Baring (/lbs/person/view/-14111317) 17)	FATHER-IN-LAW → SON-IN-LAW	Humphrey St John-Mildmay (/lbs/person/view/832232611)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058759890/-1411131717)
Alexander Baring (/lbs/person/view/-14111317) 17)	UNCLE → NEPHEW	Thomas Baring (/lbs/person/view/1014723079))	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058760725/-1411131717)
Alexander Baring (/lbs/person/view/-14111317) 17)	UNCLE → NEPHEW	John Baring (/lbs/person/view/-193771647) 4)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058760731/-1411131717)
Alexander Baring (/lbs/person/view/-14111317) 17)	SON → FATHER	Sir Francis Baring (/lbs/person/view/2146661913))	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058790587/-1411131717)
Alexander Baring (/lbs/person/view/-14111317) 17)	BUSINESS ASSOCIATES	Henry Hope (/lbs/person/view/2146665491))	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058795979/-1411131717)

Addresses (2)

82 Piccadilly, London, Middlesex, London, England

[DETAILS \(/LBS/ADDRESS/VIEW/2389/-1411131717\)](/LBS/ADDRESS/VIEW/2389/-1411131717)

Further Information

[Project overview \(/lbs/project/\)](#)
[Context \(/lbs/project/context/\)](#)
[The Database \(/lbs/project/details/\)](#)
[Staff \(/lbs/project/staff/\)](#)
[Advisory Panels \(/lbs/project/advisorypanel/\)](#)
[Links \(/lbs/project/links/\)](#)
[Events & Workshops \(/lbs/project/events/\)](#)
[Media Coverage \(/lbs/project/media/\)](#)
[Get in Touch \(/lbs/project/contact/\)](#)
[Contribute \(/lbs/contribute/\)](#)

People of Interest

[John Stewart \(/lbs/person/view/8816\)](#)

1789 - 14th Mar 1860

Possibly the first 'ethnic minority' MP to be elected (in 1832) to the House of Commons.

[Visit the people of interest section \(/lbs/people/\)](#)

Documents of Interest

[Occupations of enslaved women on Buff Bay Plantation, 1819 \(/lbs/media/view/255\)](#)

The Buff Bay plantation was a sugar estate next to the Buff Bay River, south of Charlestown in Jamaica. By 1839, the estate was 840 acres.



[Visit the document of interest section \(/lbs/documents/\)](#)

© Copyright [Legacies of British Slavery \(/lbs/\)](#) - UCL Department of History 2023

CITING THIS RECORD:

'**Alexander Baring**', *Legacies of British Slavery database*, <http://www.depts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/-1411131717> (<http://www.depts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/-1411131717>) [accessed 11th February 2023].



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

(<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/>)



Hutchins Center
for African &
African American
Research

(<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/>)

(<http://hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu>)

Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton

1774 - 1848

This person is the subject of ongoing research. We have started by researching their relationship to the enslavement of people.

Biographical notes

Politician and financier.

National Gallery Trustee (1835–1848).

Summary of activity

Alexander Baring was the son of Sir Francis Baring (1740–1810), merchant and banker and founder of John and Francis Baring Company, influential in the East India Company, and Harriet (1750–1804), daughter of merchant William Herring of Croydon. In 1794 he worked for Hope and Co., merchants in Amsterdam with important West Indian connections. In late 1795 he was sent to America to purchase land from Senator William Bingham; he stayed there until 1801, and in 1798 married Bingham's daughter Ann Louisa, a union which was to increase his own personal wealth. In 1800 the firm's name changed to Francis Baring and Co., and in 1807 to Baring Brothers. From 1805–17 he became director of the Bank of England. In 1830 he retired from the firm. He was also an MP, from 1806–1826 for Taunton, and also for Callington, Thetford and North Essex. In 1835 he entered the House of Lords when he was created 1st Baron Ashburton.

In 1817 he acquired The Grange and its estate at Northington in Hampshire. He also acquired many other estates, and in 1821 bought Bath House, Piccadilly. Baring's father, Francis Baring was a member of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa, and made his first profit from the slave trade aged 16. Alexander was a member or president of the Board and Trade and Plantations.

The Baring firm (of which Alexander Baring was a partner until 1830) was entangled in heavy lending in the 1820s to a slave-owner in Berbice named Wolfert Katz. Baring Brothers were counter-claimants and beneficiaries to the Katz estate (Belair) in Guyana (former British Guiana) (claim of 24th October 1836), although Alexander himself was not a beneficiary. Barings was also a lender to the American merchant and owner of enslaved peoples Burrill Carnes and took security over slave-property. It was also a participant in the loans to Manning & Anderdon described under Jeremiah Harman (q.v.). In addition, the firm made other claims: an unsuccessful counterclaim (after Alexander's retirement) of 24th October 1836 for the Spring Garden estate in Guyana (former British Guiana) (to the creditors of Burrill Carnes), including 64 enslaved people; a claim of 23 January 1836 for Spooners estate (on St Kitts) including 126 enslaved people, by Chas. Bosanquet and James William Freshfield the younger, trustees for Sir John Bosanquet, Alexander Baring, Jeremiah Harman, Sir Edward Hyde East and John Pearse; and a further claim of 23 February 1836 for Spooners (now 164 enslaved); for both of these he was listed as a beneficiary.

Baring made a number of speeches in parliament on the subject of slavery. On 14 and 20 April 1826 he presented petitions (from the council and assembly of Antigua and the London West India merchants) protesting against attacks on property from anti-slavery campaigners, and calling for change 'by moderate and well digested measures'. In addition, 'He cautioned the House not to interfere with government policy towards the slaves of Demerara and Berbice', at that time gradually preparing the enslaved peoples for emancipation. On 5 March 1828 he spoke against the abolitionists' denial of a person's right to own enslaved people, and maintained that the impression that the condition of such people as one of 'cruelty and abomination' was wrong. On 15 April 1831 he again opposed the immediate abolition of slavery, arguing that as no free person would work on the plantations, Britain would have to buy foreign sugar, thus encouraging slavery and the slave trade. Instead he advocated gradual change. Again, on 24 May 1832 he opposed the immediate abolition of slavery. (Terry Jenkins, 'BARING, Alexander (1773-1848), of The Grange, nr. Alresford, Hants and 82 Piccadilly, Mdx', in History of Parliament Trust (ed.), *The History of Parliament: British Political, Social & Local History* [online], London, 1964 -, 1820-1832 <<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/baring-alexander-1773-1848>> accessed 7 December 2020.)

Baring was a Trustee of the National Gallery from 1835–48.

Slavery connections

The Baring firm (of which Alexander Baring was a partner until 1830) was entangled in heavy lending in the 1820s to a slave-owner in Berbice named Wolfert Katz. Barings was also a lender to the American merchant and slave-owner Burrill Carnes and took security over slave-property. Baring was also a participant in the loans to Manning & Anderdon described under Jeremiah Harman (q.v.).

Abolition connections

No known connections with abolition.

Bibliography

T. L. Ingram, 'Baring family (3) Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton', in J. Turner et al. (eds), *Grove Art Online*, Oxford 1998-, <https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T006368>

Checked and found – [Item on publisher's website](#)

T. Jenkins, 'BARING, Alexander (1773-1848), of The Grange, nr. Alresford, Hants and 82 Piccadilly, Mdx', in History of Parliament Trust (ed.), *The History of Parliament: British Political, Social & Local History*, London 1964-, 1820-1832,

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/baring-alexander-1773-1848>

Checked and found – [Item on publisher's website](#)

J. Orbell, 'Baring, Alexander, first Baron Ashburton', in C. Matthew et al. (eds), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford 1992-,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/1380>

Checked and found – [Item on publisher's website](#)

UCL Department of History, 'Alexandar Baring', in UCL Department of History (ed.), *Legacies of British Slave-ownership*, London 2020,

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/-1411131717>

Checked and found – [Item on publisher's website](#)

Paintings previously owned by Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton



[A Landscape with the Judgement of Paris](#)

[Jan Both](#) and [Cornelis van Poelenburgh](#)

Not on display



[Skittle Players outside an Inn](#)

[Jan Steen](#)

[Room 16](#)

Join the conversation



The world's greatest paintings to your inbox

Sign up for emails

Sign up ▶

THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Trafalgar Square
London
WC2N 5DN

About us

NG200

Contact us

Commercial

Shop

Venue hire

Work with us

National Partnerships

Borrowing from the Gallery