

Burthenstall Protestation Return of 1641/42

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Branch and Dole Hundred.

A settlement called Burden's Ball, had been added to the parish by the 16th century, although approximately 40 acres of the meadows attached to this settlement were included in Wilton parish in the early 19th century. The name of Burden's Ball is associated with the Burdun family, noted in the inquisition post-mortem of Robert Burdun in 1263; the element 'Ball' probably signifies 'boundary mark'.

The Protestation Returns relate to the years 1641/42, around the start of the Civil War. It was an Oath of loyalty to the King.

The incumbent of each parish was to read the protestation to his parishioners and all men over the age of 18 had to sign the oath but the women were not usually asked to sign.

The Protestation itself runs in the following terms :—

"I (A. B.) doe, in the presence of Almighty God, promise, vow, and protest to maintaine and defend, so farre as lawfullie I may, with my Hfe, power, and estate, the trne Reformed Protestant Religion expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England, against all Poperie and Popish Innovations within this Realme contrarie to the same Doctrine and according to the dutie of my Allegiance [to] his Ma'ties Royall person, honor, and estate. As also the Power and Privileges of Parliament, the lawfull rights and Liberties of the subject, and every person that maketh this Protestation in whatsoever hee shall doe in the lawfull pursuence of ye same. And to my power, and as farre as lawfullie I may, I will oppose, and by all good waies and meanes indeavor to bring to condigne punishment all such as shall either by Force, Practise, Counsells, Plotts, Conspiracies, or otherwise do anie thing in this present Protestation contained. And further, that I shall in all Just and honorable waies endeavor to preserve ye Vnion and Peace between the three Kingdomes of England, Scotland, and heland. And neither for hope, feare, nor other respect, reliquish this promise, vow, and Protestation."

Francis Mathewe
Nicholas Mathewe
Mathewe Amer
Willm. Amer
Edward Powell

Thom. Dawkins
Willm. Fulford
John Springford
John Longe

(source: W. N. & Q, Book 7, journal June 1911)