



## *Bishopstone (Wilton)* *Protestation Return of 1641/42*

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."

### Those who took the oath

SURNAME	GIVEN NAMES	OTHER	POSITION
Barter	Wm		
Blake	Moyses		
Blanchard	Robt		
Button	George		Overseer
Coule	Wm		
Crale	Richard		
Earles	Henrey		
Farant	John		
Gibson	Xpofer		
Hackings	Nicho		
Hartford	Thom		
Hartford	Wm.		
Harwood	Wm		Churchwarden
Hellyar	Adam		
Huett	Edward		
Huett	Thom		Churchwarden

Kinge	Edward		
Kinge	Gyles	Jun	
Kinge	Gyles	Sen	
Kinge	Henry		
Kinge	John		
Kinge	Owen		
Macy	John		
Mervyn	Xpofer		Vicar
Michell	Thom		
Newman	John		
Penny	Wm		Overseer
Penny	Wm		
Randoll	Alexandr		
Randoll	Gabriell		
Randoll	John		
Randoll	Thom		
Randoll	Xpoher		
Shergall	Jesp	Jun	
Shergall	Jesp.	Sen	
Shergall	John		
Smith	John	Gent	
Sopp	Edward		
Spearinge	John		
Tallabutt	Nicho		
Tallbutt	Edward		
Tallbutt	Thom		

## About the Protestation Returns

The **Protestation Returns of 1642** are lists of males over the age of eighteen who took, or did not take, an oath 'to live and die for the true Protestant religion, the liberties and rights of subjects and the privilege of Parliaments'. These lists were usually compiled by parish, or township, within hundred, or wapentake. They are of importance to local historians for estimating populations, to genealogists trying to find an ancestor immediately before the English Civil War and for scholars interested in surname distributions