

'Bad character of James Pilling of Deadwencloough'

All wch is certified against the sd Pilling to be true, and more particularly hath playd the theif at Haslingden and other places and stole John Whittakers work looms and used to keep his cattle and horses uppon other mens pastures hauving none of his owne (and now keeping in a house contrary to the will of the owner) and the 17th of this instant May rescued his horse or mare and violently tooke her out of the hands of the servants of Alexander Howorth uppon whose grounds the sd Mare was taken trespassing, and wounded one of the servants of the sd Alexandr and used violence against all of them, is asserted by Tho. Saunders minister at the New church in Rossendale

In a word he is a lawless person and cares not so what he doth speakes or sweares

Tho Saunders

James Piccop

Adam Bridg

These may certify his majesties justices of this parish and all others whom it may concerne that James Pilling of Dedwencloough in the forrest of Rossendale and County of Lancaster woolen webster¹ is and for diverse years last past hath been an idle dissolute persen and of bad name fame credit after [extremes] and ~~reports~~ repute that he hath been suspected to have committed diverse petty theft and felonies and is a grabbing² quarrelsome fellow very abusive and much disquiete troubles and wronging his neighbours that he is a [pa—er] [broaser]³ and guilty of divers and sundry other misdemeanours all of which we may bid to cerfity this 22th day of May Anno II Jacobi [] [] and [] ⁴1686

Churchwardens

James Piccop

Jon Ashworth

Robert Ashworth

Edmund Ashworth

Olliver Pilling

Richard Holland

Thos Saunders

Jas Nuttall

John Hoult

Edw Couper

James Ashworth

Henry Hargreaves

George Ashworthe

Tho Miller

¹ = weaver

² Looks like it says brabbling – possibly a dialect or archaic word

³ bruiser?

⁴ Think this is Latin along the lines of King of England and Scotland

John Heaton
James Hey
Richard C-anis—y