



## *Berwick St. John 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
Amie	Lawrence		
Baker	John		
Bennett	Willm	Gent	
Biddlecombe	John		
Bishopp	Walter		
Bowles	John		
Budden	James		
Burcombe	Henrey		
Euans	John		
Evans	Robt		
Foote	John		
Goald	John		
Hibb't	Bartholomew		Collector
Hollman	Thom		
James	John		
Lodge	Francis		

Lodge	Nich		als Robinson
Lodge	Thom		als Robinson Jun
Lodge	Thom	Sen	als Robynson
Lucas	Nicholas		Churchwarden
Lucas	Nicholas	Sen	
Lucas	Robt		
Lucas	Thom		
Lucas	Thom		
Luffman	Robt		
Luke	Thom		
Lush	Wm		
Mayo	Francis		
Meryweather	Robt		
Monke	James		Collector
Monke	Willm		
Norman	Walter		
Norton	John		
Perry	Thom		
Phillipps	Willm		
Randoll	John		
Randoll	Thom		
Selwood	John		
Snelgar	Willm		
Thorne	Francis		Churchwarden
Thorne	John		
Vincent	Edward		
Vincent	Francis		
Vincent	John		
Vincent	Tristram		
Warvild	Thom		
Wells	John		
Yeard	Thom		Rector

## 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

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