



Birtford and East Harneham 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
Adames	Nicholas		
Bachelor	William		
Baker	Thomas		
Bamfeild	Tobias		
Bayly	Nicholas		
Blake	Thomas		
Bungy	Richard		
Burcombe	Robert		
Burgis	Arthur		
Canes	John		
Carpenter	Ambrose		
Carpenter	William		
Carter	Nicholas		
Champion	William		

Colcell	John		
Cooke	Solomon		
Coxe	Thomas	Jun	
Coxe	Thomas	Sen	
Dann'es	Anthony		
Dickenes	Edmond		
Eatom	John		
Eaton	Edward		
Edmonds	Robert	Gent.	
Edmonds	William		
Elliott	Thomas		Churchwarden
Elliott	William		
Fawconer	Edward		Vicar
Flamburne	John		
Fower	Steven		
Fraunces	John		
Frend	Nicholas		
Frye	Richard		
Gauntlett	John		
Gillowe	Richard		
Gillowe	Thomas		
Gillowe	Thomas		Churchwarden
Gillowe	William		
Goald	Thomas		
Goodfellowe	Alexander		
Goodfellowe	Francis		
Goodfellowe	William		
Grove	Thomas	Gent.	
Grumbleton	Robert		
Gumbleton	Edmund		
Gumbleton	John	Sen	
Harrison	Giles		
Harrison	William		
Hecson	Thomas		
Hell	Edward		
Hell	Robert		
House	William	Jun	
House	William	Sen	
Jarvis	Thomas		Collector
Jellycos	John		
Kent	Michaell		
Kinge	Edward		
Kingman	John		
Kingman	William		
Lawrence	Thomas		
Lenton	Alexander		
Loone	Edmond		
Luke	Walter		
Marton	William		
Minsted	Michaell		
Moody	Richard		
Morris	William		
Naj'se	Alexander		

Naylor	John		
Naylor	Thomas		
Newman	Robert		
Ogle	Lancelott		
Parisse	Hugh		
Parry	William		
Poope	Henry		
Poope	Martha (sic)		
Poore	Arthur		
Poore	Thomas		
Prewett	John		
Prewett	Thomas		
Raglon	Thomas		
Russell	John		
Sanders	Bartholomewe		
Selwood	Edmond		
Senior	William		
Sheppard	Robert		
Sheppard	Roger		
Smith	Robert		
Sooper	John		
Sooper	Thomas		
Sooper	William		
Stanford	John		
Tarvin	Anthony		
Tomlinson	William		
Tonges	Thomas		
Trott	Nicholas		
Turite	John		
Vosse	John		
Walter	John		
Whitmarsh	William		

(Source: W. N. & Q, Book 7, Journal March 1911)

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