

South Newton Protestation Return of 1641/42

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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."

James Elderton
Robert Miles
Thom Elderton
Phillipp Pearce
Thom Austine
George Austine
John Blake, sen.
John Blake, jun.
Ames Durdoll
John Edmonds
Thom Shergold
Henrey Shergold
Charles Shergold

Robert Carpenter
Alexandr Pearcie
John Blake, *min.*
Peter Gynes
Peter Webb
Richard Sutton
Edward Holdway, sen.
Edward Holdway, jun.
Thom. Beckett
John Bacon
John Noyes
Alexandr Beckett
John Godwin

Jeffrey Blake
Wm. Blake
Thom. Blake
Richard Watts
John Rawlins
Thom Peirson
Edward Blake
Henry Blake, sen.
Henry Blake, jun.
John Still
Christofer Whiteare

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