

East Overton Protestation Returns 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."

Thorn. Atkinson, *vicar*.
George Browne, *churchward*.
John Smith, *churchward*.
Thorn. Steuens, *ouseer*.
Robt. Kingsman, *ouseer*.
Thom. Mason
Edrd. Clifford
Thom. Templer
Thom. Smith, sen.
Thom. Smith, ju.
Wm. Kinge
Thom. Cooke
Ralpe Deere
Thom. Clifford
John Andrewes
Robt. Popejoye
Thom. Popejoye
John Collins
George Webb

John Brendye
Wm. Trueman
Thom. Andrewes
Robt. Popejoye, sen.
Thom. Ladd
John Smith
Wm. Smith
John Streach
Thom. Streach
Edrd. Ladd
John Streach, sen.
Alexandr. Dysmore
George Browne
Robt. Browne
Thom. Browne
Thom. Popejoye
John Mortimer
Wm. Scory

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John Goddall
John Brunsdall
George Dobson
Wm. Merryvall
Wm. Phillipps
Thom. Mason
Wm. Andrewes
John Smith
Wm. Earle

Thom. Martin
Andrew Smith
Thom. Dismore
Wm. Collins
Thom. Streach, sen.
Thom. Streach, ju.
John Streach
Jerom Streach
Thom. Steuens.

(source: W. N. & Q, Book 7, journal June 1913)