

Stapleford 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."

Humfry Wall, *vicar*
Peeter White, *churchwarden*
John Baker, *churchwarden*
John Helme
Tristram Pearson
Michell Millward
Thom Jordan
John Singer
Andrewe Luke
Tristram Biggs
James Baker
John Skarlett
Nicholas Hoofe
Richard Milles, sen.
Richard Mills, jun.
Henrey Gage
Christofer Hulett
Wm. Biggs
Austine Helme
Thorn. Luke
George Collins

John Collins
Henrey Turner
John White
Thom. Aldridge, sen.
Thom Aldridge, jun.
John Harris
Ambrose Brother
Thom Burgis
Thom, Butte
Nicholas Willis
Hierome Monday
Willm. Burte
Willm. Bryant
Thom Pavye
Willm. Sanders
Christofer Sanders
George Sanders
Wm. Waulkes
Wm. Mills
Christofer Goale
Willm. Burgis, jun.

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Thom. Collins	John Richards, sen.
Charles Baker	George Harris
Elias Baker	George Marshmant
Austine Burgis, sen.	Austine Burgis, jun.
Willm. Burgis, sen.	Wm. Ellis
Thom Gilbert	John Maulton
Thom Netton, als. Gilbert	John Beamonte
John Atkins	Nicholas Beamonte
John Atkins, jun.	Wm. Beamonte
Miles Northover	George Beamonte
Henrey Luke	John Selfe, sen.
Edmond Laurence	Wm. White
John Richards, jun.	Edward Hulett
Edward Collier	Henrey Marley

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