Nunton & Bottenham 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 Almightie 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."

Samuell Maynston, curate

Abraham Pinhorne, churchwarden

Wm. Humber, churchwarden

Richard Luke, *ovseers* George Garner, *ovseers*

John Bampton

John Whitm'sh

Ambrose Coxa Barnaby Dyer

John Welsteed

Mathewe Chubb

John Chubb

John Hord Thom. Cray

Henrey Bacon

Wiilm. Fleminge

Thom. Randoll Simon Coward

Wm. Etkins

Steven Woods

Wm. Newman

Thom. Pressey

Nicholas Luke

John Pressey Richard Moodve

John Hollier

Mathewe Dallerye

Wm. Still

Wm. Perrior, sen.

Wm. Perrior, jun.

Wm. Bolden

Wm. Gifford

Wm. Barnes

John Stonege

John Bland

Henrey Polton

Thom. Luke

Walter Bayley

Richard Barfoote

Andrewe Bayley

Charles Hartshorne

Simon Monday

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John Longe Richard Blauchard Henrey Ward Walter Luke Thom. Browne Wm. Gifford Waiter Eastman Wm. Warden Wm. Antill Ambrose Antill Wm. Bolden, jun. John Butler

(source: W. N. & Q, Book 7, journal June 1912)