

**The 1723 oath rolls in England: an electronic finding list**

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## **Acknowledgments**

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I am particularly grateful to Dr Simon Dixon, now of the University of Leicester, for his suggestion that a finding list of these returns could be valuable. It was Simon's pioneering work on the Devon returns, in conjunction with the Friends of Devon Archives, which first fully opened up the potential of these records for historians. Simon and Pete Seaman kindly looked over an early draft of the list. Any remaining errors are, of course, the fault of the compiler.

I would also like to thank the many other historians, local archivists and genealogists who have helped with this project. I have acknowledged their assistance individually in the finding list itself.

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## **Introduction**

The oaths of allegiance to George I, tendered to the nation in the autumn and winter of 1723, represent the last exercise in mass public oath-taking and individual county returns can feature thousands of names (the largest so far identified - the Devon returns - feature some 25000). However, unlike similar documents such as the [Protestation of 1641](#) (in the House of Lords Record Office) or the Association of 1696 (in the National Archives), the returns for this oath were not collected centrally. Instead, oath rolls are most often found in quarter sessions records as the oaths were subscribed at special Midsummer and Michaelmas sessions in 1723.<sup>1</sup>

These name-rich documents are of obvious value to family historians but they have some distinctive features which set them apart from other similar oath returns. First, about 3 in 10 of those subscribing the Devon returns were women and high numbers of female subscribers have also been noted in other county returns that have so far been examined (Norfolk and Worcestershire). Second, some returns also include details of occupation and social status (for men), and marital status (for women).<sup>2</sup>

The oaths of 1723 were connected to the dynastic outcome of the Revolution of 1688 which had seen the Catholic James II replaced by his Protestant daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange. Initially, in order to accommodate those who had conscientious objections to the manner in which this dynastic change had been effected, the new oaths of allegiance to William and Mary effectively required that swearers recognise them only as *de facto* monarchs: [“I A B doe sincerely Promise and Swear That I will be Faithfull and beare true Allegiance to Their Majestyes King William and Queene Mary Soe helpe me God &c.”](#)

Even this modest promise proved too much for some: 400 Anglican clergymen, the so-called non-jurors, refused the oaths leading to a schism within the Church of England. The loyalties of significant sections of both the church and the Tory party remained suspect and with the supporters of the exiled Catholic Stuart dynasty, the Jacobites, continuing to contest the outcome of the revolution by force of arms in Ireland, Scotland and at sea, there were repeated attempts in Parliament to produce a more stringent test of loyalty.<sup>3</sup>

That was finally secured in 1696 in the wake of the discovery of a Jacobite assassination plot in which a deadly assault on the king's coach on his return from hunting at Richmond would be followed by English risings, a French invasion and the restoration of James II. The uncovering of the plot was a coup for William's government which, at the time, was mired in

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<sup>1</sup> Finding lists exist for both the Protestation and the 1696 Association: Jeremy Gibson, *The Hearth Tax and other later Stuart tax lists and the Association oath rolls* (FFHS, 1996); Jeremy Gibson and Alan Dell, *The Protestation Returns and Other Contemporary Listings* (FFHS, 1995).

<sup>2</sup> See here the information on the Devon oath rolls website: <http://www.foda.org.uk/oaths/intro/introduction16.htm> (accessed 28 June 2013)

<sup>3</sup> For the Non-jurors see J. C. Findon, 'The Non Jurors and the Church of England c. 1689-1716', (unpublished Oxford University DPhil thesis, 1979)

a deep financial crisis. The threat to national security persuaded Parliament to agree to a new sworn 'association' which would bind those taking it to defend William against further attempts on his life. The association was consciously modelled on the Elizabethan 'Bond of Association' of 1584 which had been formed after the Catholic Throckmorton Plot to kill Elizabeth and replaced her with Mary Queen of Scots.<sup>4</sup>

However, the 1696 association, which required those taking it to acknowledge William as 'rightful and lawful King', represented a far more significant undertaking than its Elizabethan predecessor. Whereas the 1689 oaths to William and Mary had only been tendered to officeholders, the association was imposed on the public at large, not only in Britain but in its colonies as well. The London Gazette reported that in Suffolk some 70,000 people had taken the association – to put this in perspective, the population of the entire county has been estimated at around 125,000 in the 1670s. In Middlesex, the press reported, five hundred skins of parchment had been prepared with the text of the Association at the top to be sent out to petty constables so that the oath could be tendered to 'every House-keeper and Lodger' (*Post Man and the Historical Account*, 17-19 March, issue 134). In all, the [National Archives at Kew holds nearly five hundred separate rolls for the Solemn Association of 1696](#).<sup>5</sup>

The 1723 oaths do not appear to have matched the 1696 association in scale and scope but they were prompted by similar concerns and also represented a significant administrative undertaking. Jacobitism represented a significant threat to the Hanoverian regime. There was widespread anti-Hanoverian rioting at the accession of George I and, in 1715, a major armed rebellion. In 1722, a major Jacobite conspiracy was uncovered, the so-called Atterbury plot (named after Francis Atterbury, bishop of Rochester, one of the plotters). Once again, conspiracy provided the justification for testing the nation's loyalty and while the individual rolls for these oaths don't seem to have been of the size of those of 1696, they demonstrated a greater interest in securing the loyalty of women and occasionally provided much greater information about the subscribers themselves.<sup>6</sup>

It is not completely clear why the practice of tendering oaths to the English public en masse was abandoned after 1723. Certainly, some contemporary commentators viewed the enterprise as an exercise in futility and it was a commonplace that oaths of loyalty only caught the scrupulous, not the politically suspect. However, observations of this kind had

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<sup>4</sup> For the Elizabethan bond see [Patrick Collinson, 'The Monarchical Republic of Elizabeth'](#); *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, 69 (1987), 394-424; David Cressy, 'Binding the Nation: The Bonds of Association 1584 and 1696' in *Tudor Rule and Revolution: Essays for G. R. Elton from his American friends*, ed. D. J. Guth and J. W. McKenna (Cambridge, 1982), pp. 217-34

<sup>5</sup> For these figures, taken from contemporary press reports see [D. Cressy, \*Literacy and the Social Order\* \(Cambridge, 1980\), ch.4](#); for the population of Suffolk see J. Patten, 'Population Distribution in Norfolk and Suffolk during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 65 (1975), pp. 45-65; for a recent discussion of the Association see Steve Pincus, *1688: The First Modern Revolution* (Yale, 2009), pp. 437-74.

<sup>6</sup> On the Atterbury plot see E. Cruickshanks and H. Erskine-Hill, *The Atterbury Plot* (Palgrave, 2004)

been made for over a hundred years. Perhaps a better explanation lies in the growth of voluntary political associations in the eighteenth-century which lessened the need for direct state intervention and which also created a better impression of public support for the British state.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> P. Clark, *British Clubs and Societies 1580-1800* (Oxford, 2000).

## The oaths

1723 Oath Act required that all persons failing to take the oaths of allegiance, supremacy and abjuration by 25 December 1723 had to register their names and real estates in court. Failure to comply with this deadline would result in the forfeiture of their estates. The Oath Act was combined with the Catholic Taxation Act which looked to raise some £100,000 from a levy imposed on all Catholics aged 18 and over. An explanatory text accompanying published texts of the Oath Act made clear that the women as well as men over the age of 18 were to take the oaths if they had not done so before. One implication here was women property-holders would, like men, need to register their estates if they would not swear the oaths. However, as the returns already examined clearly indicate, many married women took the oaths who would not have owned property in their own right. A subsequent act, passed in March 1724 explained that women did not need to take the oaths or register their property. By this point, however, mass public subscription to these oaths, including by large numbers of women, had already taken place. Given the consistency with which large numbers of women subscribers appear on the roles, administrative confusion alone seems to be an inadequate explanation. It seems more likely, as suggested by Simon Dixon, that surveying the loyalty of women have been deemed necessary given the prominence of women in anti-Hanoverian rioting. Some of the ways in which family groups and even office-holders and their wives swore together suggest that re-affirming the traditional patriarchal order (ironically through action requiring feminine political participation) was one aim of these oaths.<sup>8</sup>

## Administration

The oaths were administered at special Midsummer and Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, often held in inns in market towns or larger parishes –consequently taking the oaths involved sometimes considerable travel for those subscribing. The method of administration therefore poses a further problem for those wishing to use the returns for genealogical research as, unlike the Protestation or Association rolls, oaths were not necessarily tendered in the subscribers' parish or hundred of residence. Once they had arrived at the place of subscription, it is unlikely given that hundreds often subscribed on the same day, that individuals would have read out the whole oath (or had it read out to them) before subscribing. To add to the general inconvenience of taking these oaths, the legislation also required a small fee (three pence) to be paid upon making your subscription.<sup>9</sup> The Lydd borough return for Kent offers a possible example of these payments being recorded on the return itself.

The text of the three oaths required under the legislation is reproduced here:

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<sup>8</sup> For some contemporary reflections on women's involvement in politics at this time, see *Secret Comment: The Diaries of Gertrude Savile, 1721-1757* (Kingsbridge History Society, 1997) and see below entries for Norwich and Sussex for families swearing together.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.foda.org.uk/oaths/intro/introduction5.htm>

<http://www.foda.org.uk/oaths/intro/appendix2.htm> (accessed 27 June 2013)

### **Rationale, method and approach**

The aim of this project has been to attempt to identify all the surviving returns of the 1723 oaths in England. I have not attempted to identify any returns which may survive for any other parts of the British Isles or its colonies, though I would welcome any information concerning such returns.

Local record offices in England were contacted via e-mail and requested to provide information concerning any possible returns. The key information that was requested, and is supplied in this list, was a document reference and any other available details concerning the nature of the oath roll (size, date, presence of women subscribers and other information – occupation/status).

The calculations of the numbers of subscribers remain approximate even in the instances of smaller rolls where all names were counted rather than in the case of the larger documents where a figure was typically extrapolated from counting the subscribers on one membrane. This is a result of the nature of these sources. These are distinctly ‘early modern’ documents: although names are often arranged in columns, these are not usually neatly delineated – names run in to each other, some are very faded, others obscured by the stitching and only legible by dismantling the whole roll. Even identifying whether a subscriber was male or female can be a difficult task given the vagaries of early-modern handwriting.

In some instances, the initial e-mail approach supplied all the key information. Where archive catalogues do not have a fuller description, document searches were paid for in order to supply these details. In a number of cases I have visited the archive myself to examine the rolls.

In the case of a number of English counties, an initial search indicates that no returns survive. This is not surprising given that English quarter sessions records, where these rolls are usually located, are often incomplete. However, the survival of certificates testifying that individuals had taken oaths in counties where no rolls are extant does suggest nationwide administration.

It is hoped that through mounting a version of this finding list on the web, local researchers with their own knowledge of the archives may be able to fill in the gaps further. As the finding list indicates, a number of rolls have already been transcribed by local and family historians and there may be others out there. Perhaps this list may also encourage others to transcribe some of the rolls identified here. As with the information already supplied, any further knowledge contributed about these rolls will be gratefully acknowledged.

## **The website**

The project website and blog can be found at:

<http://1723oaths.org/>

An older version of list which can be commented upon is available at:

[http://www.historyworkingpapers.org/?page\\_id=373](http://www.historyworkingpapers.org/?page_id=373)

Both sites live as of 13/3/14.

I also welcome information supplied via the website or via e-mail. I can also be contacted via twitter [@TedVallance](#)

### **Further reading**

The main resource for understanding these documents is the Devon Oath Rolls Project:

<http://www.foda.org.uk/oaths/intro/introduction1.htm> (accessed 27 June 2013)

Apart from this website there are also some helpful references to the oaths in the following books:

Mark Knights, *Representation and Misrepresentation in Later Stuart Britain: Partisanship and Political Culture* (Oxford, 2005), pp. 159-60

P. Langford, *Public Life and the Propertied Englishman* (Oxford, 1991), pp. 104-5.

Hannah Smith, *Georgian Monarchy Politics and Culture, 1714-1760* (Cambridge, 2006)

E. P. Thompson, *Whigs and Hunters: The Origin of the Black Act* (New York, 1975), pp. 199-200

Those interested in researching how this legislation affected English Catholics should consult

Bro Rory, FSC, 'A Project to Index Pre 1837 Catholics', *Catholic Ancestor*, 11, (2007), pp. 299-310

References in the secondary literature to specific county or borough returns are included in the finding list itself.

## **List of Returns by County**

### **Berkshire**

No returns identified – information from Lisa Spurrier, Archivist, Berkshire Record Office

### **Bedfordshire**

No returns identified – information from Kathryn Faulkner, Archivist, Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service

Additional info: Possible oath certificate of Ric. Hartwell, ref. X 272/67, dated 1 November 1723.

Source: [Access to Archives](#)

### **Buckinghamshire**

Repository: Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

Reference: Q/RRo/10; Q/RRo/11

Physical description: c. 8000 names, Q/RRo/11 includes Quaker affirmations

Additional info: Published as [Buckinghamshire Sessions Records Volume VI, ed. W. Le Hardy \(1953\)](#). The list for Sherington is available online: <http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs/oath.htm> (accessed 27th June 2013)

Source: Access to Archives & Chris Low, Archivist, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

### **Cambridgeshire**

Repository: Cambridgeshire Archives

Reference: Q/S3/1.

Physical description: 'In QS3/1, pp. 25-154, there is an overall figure of approximately 3708 names. Of these people, there are approximately 2639 men and 1069 women. Most of the people are simply listed by their name and parish, although there are a few exceptions. Of the men: 1 is listed as a labourer, 23 are listed as residing in Cambridge colleges, 29 are listed as 'Sir', 'Knight', 'Gent', 'Esquire' or other notable titles, 4 are from different counties (Norfolk, Yorkshire and Suffolk), 1 is a vicar. Of the women: 45 are listed as widows, 11 are listed as spinsters, 9 are noted as being 'Lady', or married to gentry, 152 are listed as being the wife of a man in the list.'

Source: Research undertaken by Emily Rumble, Archives Assistant, following up information supplied by Sally-Ann Greensmith, Archives Assistant, Cambridgeshire Archives

## **Cheshire**

Repository: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

Reference: QDR3

Physical description: 353 pages, c. 10500 names, approx one fifth women, written in one clear hand, so presumably a scribal 'fair copy'. The return gives subscribers' place of abode, as well as social/marital status (for women subscribers) and occupation. In this respect, the Cheshire return is the most detailed of all those examined so far.

Additional info: Transcription of QDR3 made by Bertram Merrell. A copy of this, re-organized alphabetically by subscriber surname, is held at Cheshire Record Office (Central 2463). QDR4 contains presentments of papists in 1723 (also indexed by Merrell in Central 2463) and there is a certificate of John Lach of Kinnerton taking the oaths in Nov 1723 (DDX416.22).

Source: Caroline Picco, Archivist, Cheshire Archives and Local Studies and Access to Archives. A photocopy of QDR3 and scans of Central 2463 were examined by Edward Vallance.

## **Cornwall**

Repository: Cornwall Record Office

Reference: No significant returns but reference to a John and Aurelia Rogers taking the oaths Dec 1723 at Penryn, RP/1/79-80 and also to act requiring papists to register their estates, AR/28/27

Source: Jennie Hancock, Archivist, Cornwall Record Office and Access to Archives.

## **Cumbria**

Cumberland

Repository: Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle

Reference: QRR 5/3

Physical description: c. 9000 names, simply dated 1723

Source: Tom Robson, Senior Archivist, Cumbria Archive Centre

Westmoreland

Repository: Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal

Reference: WQ/J/2

Physical description: 12 membranes, the last blank, dated from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1723 to Nov 1723. Place of subscription listed – ‘Appleby’, ‘Kirkby Kendall’, p. 11 declarations of Quakers. C. 4500 signatures and marks. Some women subscribers, (roughly 10-15% of signatures).

Source: Kate Holliday, Searchroom Supervisor, Cumbria Archives Centre, Kendal. Digitization undertaken by Francesca Halfacree, Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle

Additional information: Return for Ambleside at sessions 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October, 1723 WD/TE/II/4-7 and certificate at II/8, Cumbria Record Office, Kendal.

### **Derbyshire**

No records – information from Karen Millhouse, Duty Archivist

Additional info: A number of 1723 oath certificates have been identified through Access to Archives: D5557/19/8, certificate that Sarah Pole, wife of German Pole, took the oath of allegiance to George I 15<sup>th</sup> October; D5430/28/1-2, certificates that Jane and John Wright took the oaths, 8th October; D3155/WH2517, certificate that Thomas Dawson has taken the oaths 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Source: Access to Archives

### **Devon**

Devon county

Repository: Devon Record Office

Reference: Full document index at <http://www.foda.org.uk/oaths/index/documents.htm>

Physical description: 59 separate oaths rolls featuring c. 25,000 names. Full description at <http://www.foda.org.uk/oaths/intro/introduction12.htm>

Source: Simon Dixon and Friends of Devon Archives.

Additional info: Full details and transcriptions of Devon oaths can be found on Devon oath rolls website: <http://www.foda.org.uk/oaths/intro/introduction1.htm>. Access to Archives - note concerning the taking of the oaths of allegiance, 1723, Salcombe Regis baptisms, marriages and burials, 3232A/PR1.

Exeter

Repository: Devon Record Office

Reference: See document index link above

Physical description: Two rolls, 1<sup>st</sup> c. 228 names, 2<sup>nd</sup>, c. 1367

## **Dorset**

Wareham Borough

Repository: Dorset History Centre

Reference: D/RWR/X25

Physical description: Six sheets of parchment, beginning with the text of the three oaths to George I, then followed by the Latin preamble recording the date and location of the special sessions of the peace at which the individuals listed on the roll subscribed. Most of the sessions were held at the [Antelope Inn, Wareham](#) and they range in date from 7th October 1723 to Christmas Day of that same year. There are a combination of signatures and marks, and the names of both men and women are visible. Total approx 399 signatories with c.102 of those women. Four of the six signatories at the last session appear to be members of the same family (surname Clarke). Jo Hearton at Dorset History Centre supplied scanned images of this roll.

Poole Borough

Repository: Dorset History Centre

Reference: DC/PL/B/10/1/9 -14 - Five sheets of parchment, each one headed with the texts of the oaths in English followed by Latin preambles announcing the date and place of subscription (usually the Guildhall, Poole). The subscriptions start on 9th Sept 1723. The latest is possibly 24th December, though some of the preambles are very faded. The total number of signatures and marks on the roll is approx 354 of which 111 were identifiable as women (so just under a third). Besides one note identifying an individual as notary public there are no other descriptions by names. In a number of places, women's subscriptions seemed to be bunched together so that on some lists they represent the majority signing. Document images supplied by Jo Hearton of Dorset History Centre.

Additional info: Although Dorset History Centre holds two volumes of 18<sup>th</sup> century oath books (Q/Oaths/1a and 1b) covering the period within its records these do not contain the large rolls dedicated to recording public subscription to these tests. Information on the oath books courtesy of Dr Mark Forrest, Dorset History Centre. Digital images of the books were examined by Edward Vallance.

## **Durham**

No surviving county returns – info Liz Bragazzi, County Archivist, Durham Record Office

Additional info: There are some references to the oaths in Durham Diocesan Records, now kept in Durham University Library -

Greenslade Deeds: Co.Durham/Barnard Castle/109-110 = writs relating to taking oaths of William Hutchinson of Barnard Castle, July 1722 and August 1723 (listed at <http://reed.dur.ac.uk/xtf/view?docId=ead/ded/grnslade.xml#GRN-BC-109>)

BAK 8/55 (Baker Baker papers) = certificate that John Conyers Esq, of Layton has taken oaths, September 1723 (<http://reed.dur.ac.uk/xtf/view?docId=ead/fam/baker.xml#BAK-8-55>)

Source: Andrew Gray, Assistant Keeper, Durham University Library

## **Essex**

Essex County

Repository: Essex Record Office

Reference: Q/RRo1/6; Q/RRo1/7

Physical description:

'Q/RRo 1/6 Oaths of Allegiance, Abjuration and Supremacy subscribed by persons over 18 September 1723

1 roll (11 membranes)

Subscribed at Quarter Sessions and adjournments in various towns.

Nearly 6000 signatures or marks, but half now illegible.

Neither abode nor description is given, but as the majority took the oaths locally many persons can be identified. Perhaps one-fifth are women.

Membrane Place of adjournment

1a (column 1) White Horse in ?Rayleigh

1b (column 3) Illegible. ? South Essex [judging by names]

2b (column 1) Illegible Justices include Francis Gardiner who lived at Tollesbury. ? Maldon

3a (column 3) Illegible. Justice's name Creffield. ? Colchester district

3b (column 3) ?

4a (column 4) South-west Essex ? Ongar or Epping [Judging by names on 4b]

5a (column 3) Crown Inn, Epping

6a (column 1) Rose and Crown, [Saffron] Walden

6b (column 2) Royal Oak, Great Dunmow

7a (column 1) House of Henry Stane, Great Dunmow [very short list]

7a (column 2) Royal Oak in Great Dunmow [short list]

7a (column 3) Royal Oak, Great Dunmow

8a (column 4) illegible

9 ? North-west Essex [judging by names]

10a (column 3) George in Halstead

11 ? South Essex, Romford district [judging by names]

This covered one roll of 11 membranes.

Q/RRo 1/7: Oaths of Allegiance, Abjuration and Supremacy subscribed by persons over 18  
August 1723

1 roll (3 membranes)

Supplementary roll signed at Quarter Sessions adjournments at

m.1a (column 1) Angel, Great Ilford (19 August)

m.1b (column 1) Crown, Brentwood (22 August)

m.2a (column 3) Cock and Bell, Chelmsford (26, 27 August.)'

Additional info: Note that F. G. Emmison and R. E. Negus, *Guide the Quarter Sessions and Other Official Records* (Essex Archaeological Society, Colchester, 1946) give different numbers for the above roll, identifying c. 8000 names, of which 3000 were now largely illegible and suggests that around one fifth are women, see pp. 42-6.

Borough of Colchester

Reference: D/B 5 Sr134

Physical description: '7 October 1723 1 roll

This roll, described as 'Sessions Roll Midsummer 1723' on the British Museum vellum wrapper, has been reassigned to the Michaelmas session of that year

Item 18 (oath roll endorsed '22 April 1723') relates to Easter Session, items 1 and 19 (latter an oath roll) to Midsummer, but all others to Michaelmas, 1723'

Borough of Maldon

Reference: D/B 3/3/173

Physical description: contains an oath roll for December 1723

Source for all references: [Seax](#) and ERO archivist (no name supplied!)

### **Gloucestershire**

No significant returns – information Sarah Aitken, Archives Assistant, Gloucestershire Archives

Additional information – The press reported that c. 3000 individuals had subscribed the oaths in Gloucestershire - *London Journal* (1720), Saturday, October 26, 1723; Issue CCXXII. A number of certificates of individuals taking the oaths of allegiance in 1723 are recorded in the catalogue (see below)

JF9.361GS	These are to certify whom it may concern that at the general Quarter Sessions of the peace, held in and for the county of Gloucester, before Sir Richard Cocks, ... William Purnell of Dursley ... did in open court take the oaths of allegiance, supremacy and abjuration ..., dated this 6th of Novmeber 1723		1723
D1086/T60	2 tenements, formerly one messuage, garden and orchard (1a.), Collins' Ground (8a., abuttals), all at Nind	Includes copy wills of John Wilkins of Nind, yeom., (1698), and Dan. Collins of Kingswood, yeom. (1725, pr. 1727); and certificate of Oath of Allegiance of Dan. Collins, 1723  Original bundle	1666-1770
D1086/F77	Miscellaneous papers	Includes certificate of oath of allegiance, 1723, admission to chambers at Lincolns Inn with bills for dinners, duties and chamber, 1727, and solicitor's account, 1733-35	1723-1735
D2462/17	Papers re Charfield including glebe terrier, 1721; 2 certificates for taking oath of allegiance, 1723; bills for repairing bells, 1779; agreement for prosecution of felons, 1781; detailed bills and accounts for building a new poor house, 1784-5		18th cent
D3365/13	Cottage called Badham, close called Old Sodbury Mead, close called Corland and land (15a)	Includes oath of allegiance of Eliz. Tanner, 1723; quitclaim, 1417 (no details)  (Adey)	1714-1723
D9125/1/11118	Certificate of the oath of allegiance taken by Elizabeth Clarke, of Tewkesbury, at the Tewkesbury		1723

quarter sessions held 13 December  
1723

## **Hampshire**

Hampshire county

Repository: Hampshire Record Office

Reference: Q25/1/5

Physical description: Length of roll 70 feet or 21.33 metres. C 7,000 names on the whole roll. Includes women's names/signatures.

Includes signatures taken at adjournments held at the Chequer Inn, Winchester; the house of John Foyle, Winchester; The Kings Head, Hursley; The Red Lion, Fareham; The Rising Sun, Gosport; The Crown, Bishops Waltham; the Bugle Inn, Titchfield; The White Hart, Whitchurch; the house of the Hon George Brydges, Avington; the George Inn, New Alresford; The Maidenhead, Basingstoke; The Blue Anchor, Redbridge, being the house of Ralph Street; The White Hart, Ringwood, being the house of William Bound (?); the White Swan, Fordingbridge, being the house of Edward Dowding; the Dolphin Inn, Christchurch, being the house of Peter Dove; The Nags Head, Lymington; the George Inn, Winchester; the White Hart Inn, Petersfield; Stockbridge; the house of the Hon John Merrill, Lainston; The White Hart, Alton; The White Swan, Kingsclere; the George Inn, Newport (Isle of Wight); the house of Hannah Dillington, Knighton [Niton], (Isle of Wight); The White Hart, East Cowes (Isle of Wight); The Red Lion, Gosport.

Source: Carol Linton, Archives and Local Studies Assistant, Hampshire Archives and Local Studies. Oath roll examined by Gina Turner, Archives and Studies Assistant.

Borough of Romsey return

Repository: Hampshire Record Office

Reference: 97M81/III/3

Physical description: 192 names total of which c. 100 female

Additional information: Transcription of the roll has been made by Barbara Burbridge and Pat Genge of the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Study Group (LTVAS). I am grateful to Pat Genge for sending me a copy of the transcription. An early 19<sup>th</sup> century transcription of the roll was also made by the ornithologist and archaeologist Dr. John Latham and forms part of volume 6 of his 'Collections for a History of Romsey', British Library Add MS 26774-26780.

Source: Pat Genge/Access to Archives

Borough of Southampton

Repository: Southampton Archives Service

Reference: SC 9/1/124a

Physical description: roll around 267cm long, dating 17th October to 24th December 1723. Estimated 487 names (about 189 women and 298 men)

Source: Joanne Smith, Archivist, Arts & Heritage, Southampton City Council.

### **Herefordshire**

Repository: Herefordshire Record Office

Reference: Q/RO/2

Physical description: 'Described on the outside as " Oaths of allegiance from Trin: Sessions 1723 held by adjournment the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1723 to an adjournment of Mich: Sessions 1723 inclusive held at Bromyard the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.'" The document forms a continuous roll of 25 stitched membranes, 'each being about 16 inches wide and 30 inches long. Oaths were sworn at the city of Hereford, the major towns – Ross, Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury & Leominster and various other suitable localities.'

Each membrane has five columns of signatures. No information besides name is given in the document. Approx total signatories for the whole roll = 4725 of which just over 25%, approx. 1650 names, are female.

Source: Research conducted by John Harnden, Archive Researcher following up information supplied by Philip Bouchier, Archivist, Herefordshire Record Office

### **Hertfordshire**

Repository: Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies

Reference: QS MISC 1150

Physical description: C. 6050 signatures/marks. 20 large sheets of parchment sewn together at the top and rolled up. There are signatures on either side of the pages; some are faded and some of the pages are damaged.

Source: S Williams, Hertfordshire Archives

Additional info: Alphabetised transcription and index in *Hertfordshire County Records: Calendar to the Sessions Books, Sessions Minute Books and Other Sessions Records with Appendices 1700 to 1752, Volume VII*, ed. W. Le Hardy (Hertford, 1935), pp. 477-563.

### **Huntingdonshire**

No returns identified – information Alexa Cox (Mrs), Archivist, Huntingdonshire Archives and Local Studies

## **Kent**

Kent County

Repository: Kent History and Library Centre

'Kent Quarter Sessions

Reference: CKS-Q/RRo/6/8

Physical description: Two rolls c.610cms in length taken before the Kent Quarter Sessions. One records oaths taken by Quakers on 21 December 1723. The first roll (for Quakers) contains thirteen names (5 women), and the second contains 48 names (all men).

Queenborough Borough

Repository: Kent History and Library Centre

Reference: CKS-Qb/JQo/2

Physical description: Includes 3 rolls, approximately 830cms in length. One roll covers oaths made 31 March 1720-22 July 1723. The rolls predominantly list the names of naval crews and their roles onboard. The entries for 22 July 1723 and 17 September 1723 include 11 names.

Borough of Lydd

Reference: Ly/6/4/6/6

Physical description: One small sheet recording oaths taken 26 October-21 December 1723. Contains 84 names (35 women), along with what appear to be payments made (3d and 15d are recorded alongside each name). The text of the oath is not included on the sheet.

Faversham Borough

Reference: CKS-FA/JQo6

Physical description: One folded sheet, about 720cms in length, containing oaths recorded at the sessions of 1723-4. The text is written on both sides of the sheet, although part of it is very faded on the reverse. Approximately 230 names are recorded, of which about 60 are women.'

Source: Research undertaken by Dr Helen Wicker, Researcher, Kent History and Library Centre; initial information from Ms C M Russell, Collections Development Officer, Libraries, Registration and Archives; Kent online catalogue ([www.kentarchives.org.uk](http://www.kentarchives.org.uk))

Additional information via Access 2 Archives: roll for Tenterden **TE/JQO/2** signatures of the inhabitants of Tenterden who at the sessions held on 11 November 1723 took the oath of allegiance, and oaths against the pope and in support of the Hanoverian succession

## **Lancashire**

Lancashire County

Repository: Lancashire Record Office, Preston

References: QSJ 6/10; QSJ 6/11

Physical description: '2 bound volumes with the oaths written out at the beginning: they relate to the oath of allegiance, abjuration of the Pope and Pretenders, and to support the Act of Settlement. The thousands of names included are organised, it seems, geographically, presumably as the Sessions moved around the towns of Lancashire where they were held. They include males and females, literate and illiterate. The smaller volume (QSJ 6/10) 25 Jul - 12 Nov 1723 appears to have around 25 names per page, and contains at least 240 pages c. 6000 names. The larger volume (QSJ 6/11: 30 x 400pp) 11 Nov - 23 Dec 1723 c12000 names'

Source: Neil Sayer, Archive Access Manager

## **Leicestershire**

No county or borough rolls but some subscription certificates.

Additional information: Some subscription certificates available - DG6/C/131 certificate of the oath of subscription of William Grubb of Kilby, a papist, at Quarter Sessions, Leicester, 23 Dec. 1723.

DE6584 certificate of Richard Children at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1723.

DE107/32 Certificate of Arthur Woolley of Throgmorton Street, London, 10 Sep 1723.

Source: Keith Ovenden, Archivist, Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

## **Lincolnshire**

Parts of Lindsey

Reference: 'LQS/D/Oaths and Declarations/Oaths of Allegiance, 1703-1744'

Physical Description: Within this bundle the items relating to the oath of 1723 are two very large single sheets of parchment (one of which is damaged).

Lincolnshire, Parts of Kesteven Quarter Sessions

Reference: 'KQS/D/Oaths/Registers of oaths of allegiance and against transubstantiation, 1689-1830'

Physical description: Within this bundle the items relating to the oath of 1723 are sixteen sheets of parchment which are fastened together at the top to form one roll (some damage).

Source: James Stevenson, Collections Access Officers, Lincolnshire Archives

## **London**

Repository: London Metropolitan Archives

Reference: CLA/047/LR/02/04/028

Physical description: C. 6500 names of individuals who took the loyalty oaths at the Guildhall between Aug and Dec 1723. The same document contains about 200 Quaker affirmations as well. A list of Catholics registering their estates is at CLA/047/LR/02/04/059. Both documents include significant details of subscribers – occupations, parish, precinct and even road address. Subscriptions are accompanied by contemporary indexes of subscribers and, for later returns, lists of 'Queries'. Non-subscription is indicated on some returns by the initials N. S. and payment also indicated by names.

Source: S. Dibbs, 'Catholics & Non-Jurors in the 1723 Loyalty Oath Rolls of the City of London', *Catholic Ancestor, Journal of the Catholic Family History Society*, 12, no. 2 (2008), pp.84-92. I am grateful to Simon Dixon for bringing this article to my attention. Returns examined by Edward Vallance.

Additional information: CLA/047/LR/02/01/016 also lists fees payable for subscription to the oaths (3d for subscription 15d for subscription and certificate). The papers include tallies of income.

## **Middlesex and Westminster**

Westminster

Repository: London Metropolitan Archives

Refs: WR/R/O/014-022

Physical description: 'Oath roll signed by those persons who took the oaths of allegiance, supremacy and abjuration, and subscribed to the declaration against transubstantiation ... there is also a calendar of those persons who took oaths of allegiance, supremacy and abjuration, listed alphabetically and numbered; the numbers relating to oath rolls WR/R/O/019, WR/R/O/021 and WR/R/O/022 which has the reference of WR/R/O/013'

Middlesex:

Repository: London Metropolitan Archives

Ref: MR/R/O/034, 036-037

Physical description: 'Oath roll signed by those persons who took the oaths of allegiance, abjuration and supremacy 1723 Aug-Dec'

Ref: MR/R/O/033

Physical description: 'Draft returns register of the name, parish and occupation of the 401 persons who took the oaths of allegiance, abjuration and supremacy 1723 Oct-Dec

Quakers

ref: MR/R/O/035

Physical description: 'Quakers' affirmation roll with signatures of those persons who took the oaths of supremacy, abjuration and allegiance 1723 Aug-Dec'

Additional information: 'Register book of the names (sometimes including parish and occupation) of those persons who took the oaths of allegiance, abjuration and supremacy, and subscribed to the declaration against transubstantiation ref: 1715 Oct-1770 Jan ref: MR/R/O/029'

Source: David Luck, senior archivist, London Metropolitan Archives; initial references supplied by Louise Falcini, University of Reading. I am grateful to Louise Falcini for bringing the Middlesex and Westminster returns to my attention.

### **Monmouthshire**

No returns – information from Mrs Neta P Whitehead, Records, Information and Data Manager,  
Gwent Archives

## **Norfolk**

Norwich

Repository: Norfolk Record Office

Reference: NCR Case 13/d4

Physical description: c. 1600 names . c. 300 identifiable as women. Subscriptions taken 24 July 1723 to 16 Dec 1723. Roll is not in strict chronological order. Only place of subscription identified Norwich Guildhall. Single roll made up of three membranes with signatures and marks on both sides.

Source: Edward Vallance

Additional info: For a transcription of the preamble to this document see the archived [Virtual Norfolk Website](#)

Norwich Cathedral Precinct

Repository: Norfolk Record Office

Reference: DCN 82/13

Physical description: 152 signatures, 75 women can be identified. Single roll made up of three membranes. Sessions taken 7<sup>th</sup> October 1723

Source: Edward Vallance

Additional info: As Norwich Cathedral had its own probate court, it is possible to compare some of these signatories to information in Norwich Cathedral wills. See for some examples NRO PRDC 1/2/8 and NRO Microfilm MF 477.

Great Yarmouth

Reference: Y/S/7/1

Physical description: Roll of three membranes containing oaths of supremacy and abjuration of the House of Stuart under Statute of 1 Geo. I. Many signatures 12 Aug. - 24 Dec. 1723

Source: Access to archives

Additional information: P. Gauci, *Politics and Society in Great Yarmouth 1660-1722* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1996), p. 252n. states that the Yarmouth roll contains 1,234 subscriptions taken between 19 Sept and 24 December 1723 but that 'unlike the Association

of 1696, over a quarter of the subscribers were women'. A loyal address accompanying the roll can be found at Y/C19/11.

### **Northamptonshire**

Repository: Northamptonshire Record Office

Reference: Miscellaneous Quarter Sessions Records Box 401 (quarter sessions records not fully catalogued so lack individual document references)

Physical description: 'Two rolls, both are several metres in length and clearly contain hundreds of names, including those of a significant number of women.'

The first roll, which represents the earliest period of subscription dating from 13 August 1723, is around 6 ½ metres long and consists of 8 parchment membranes stitched together ... An estimate for the total number of names on the roll might be around 4200...

The roll is clearly identified by an original endorsement, which notes that it contains a list of those who took the oath from the Thomas Becket and Michaelmas sessions of 1723. The following places (some appear several times) and dates of signing are recorded:

Wellingborough 11 Sep, Northampton 24 Aug, Easton Maudit 17 Aug, Northampton 14 Aug, Wellingborough 18 Sep, Winwick 17 Sep, Kettering 20 Sep, Higham Ferrers 21 Sep, Thrapston 24 Sep, Kettering 27 Sep, Towcester 1 Oct, Towcester 30 Sep, Kettering 28 Sep, Brackley 2 Oct, Preston Capes 4 Oct, Brackley 3 Oct, Northampton 5 Oct, Ashton 7 Oct, Northampton 7 Oct and Kingsthorpe 7 Oct.

The second roll represents subscriptions of a slightly later date and is larger, running to over 10 ½ metres. It consists of 14 membranes, each of which is one average 75cm long and 69 cm wide. Each membrane has 9 columns of names... an estimate of the total number of names on this roll would be around 7000.

The document is simply described by its endorsement as 'rolls upon the General Swearing Act', together with the date of the 10<sup>th</sup> regnal year of George I. The following places and dates of signing appear: Northampton 10 Oct, Maidwell 11 Oct, Northampton 19 Oct, Northampton 12 Oct, Wellingborough 23 Oct, Kings Cliffe 24 Oct, Oundle 25 Oct, Oundle 26 Oct, Apethorpe 24 Oct, Thrapston 28 Oct, Daventry 30 Oct, Daventry 29 Oct, West Haddon 31 Oct, Crick 1 Nov, Northampton 2 Nov, Kettering 7 Nov, Towcester 5 Nov, Horton 6 Nov, Kettering 8 Oct, Northampton 9 Nov, Byfield 12 Nov, Dodford 11 Nov, Dodford 10 Nov, Thorpe Mandeville 13 Nov, Wellingborough 20 Nov, Wellingborough 21 Nov, Northampton 23 Nov, Northampton 30 Nov, Northampton 14 Dec, Great Harrowden 10 Dec, Weldon 11 Dec, Northampton 21 Dec, Kettering 20 Dec and Northampton 24 Dec.

Both rolls consist almost entirely of names or marks, including those of women, with no additional detail. I saw no evidence of occupations and only a few, very rare, instances of a signatory describing himself as 'of' a particular place. The identifying terms 'junior' and 'senior' are sometimes encountered. The places represented in the rolls feature an odd mixture of the predictable main towns and focal points in the county with some much smaller rural villages; but the geographical coverage seems to be quite thorough. The one notable exception to this point is the absence of any representation for the Soke of Peterborough, historically part of Northamptonshire, but often distinct in administrative terms; presumably, this absence is to be accounted for by the fact that Peterborough held its own sessions.'

Source: Research undertaken by Andy North, Research Assistant. Initial information from Scott Pettitt, Customer Access Supervisor

### **Northumberland**

No county records – information, Paul R Ternent, Senior Archives Assistant

Newcastle

Repository: Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums

Reference: QS NC/1/4

Physical description: contains a reference to making the act known and provides for adjourned sessions on 6th and 20th November, 4th and 18th December 1723 for those wishing to take the oath, but there is no actual record of the sessions

Source: Rachel Gill, Archives Enquiry Team

### **Nottinghamshire**

Repository: Nottinghamshire Archives

Reference: C/QS/O/18-20

Physical description: 'C/QS/O/18: July - October 1723. The width of the roll at its top edge is 38.2cm approx and is 895cm approx in length, c. 1442 names, of which c.229 are women. One membrane includes place of residence; C/QS/O/19: August 1723. The width of this roll as its top edge is 37.5cm approx and its length is 610cm approx. c. 967 names, approx. 107 women. This roll is very fragile, and the bottom membrane has become detached from the remainder. In addition there are some lacunae along the edge of the roll and so some

names are partial or missing; C/QS/O/20: October - December 1723. The roll measures 39cm approx in width along its top edge, and 583cm approx in length. Approx 852 names with approx. 402 of these women. Again this roll is fragile and there are some lacunae on the edge of the roll, although less than in C/QS/O/19, above. Total from all three rolls: 3261 names of which approx. 738 are women.'

Source: Peter Lester, Archivist, Nottinghamshire County Council and Peter Hammond, Research Assistance, Nottinghamshire County Council.

### **Oxfordshire**

No returns – information, Hannah Jones, Archivist

### **Shropshire**

Bridgnorth Borough

Repository: Shropshire archives

Reference. BB/F/2/3/13/43

Physical description: 1 large parchment sheet approx. 80 cm x 33 cm

Flat, folded

Dates 8 Aug, 2 Sept, 16 Sept, 30 Sept, 4 Oct, 28 Oct, 31 Oct, 18 Nov, 25 Nov, 20 December 1723

Ludlow Borough

Repository: Shropshire archives

Reference. LB11/4/150 {Quarter Session Files}

Physical description: 'One very large parchment sheet in poor condition. 84cm x 75 cm

[sheets dated] 6 Oct, 9 Oct, 19 Oct, 22 Oct, 29 Oct, 12 Nov 1723'

Shrewsbury Borough

Repository: Shropshire archives

Reference 3365/2468

Physical description: 'Seven parchment sheets very tightly rolled 70cm x 35 cm

Sheet 1

11 Oct 1723

Sheet 2

10 July 1723, 20 Aug, 16 Sept, 28 Sept, 1 Oct, 11 Oct, 15 Oct, 22 Oct

Sheet 3

22 Oct, 29 Oct, 5 Nov, 11 Nov, 12 Nov, 19 Nov.

Sheet 4

5 Dec, 10 Dec

Sheet 5

17 Dec,

Sheet 6

19 Dec, 23 Dec. 24 Dec

Sheet 7

24 Dec, 25 Dec 1723'

Source: Alison Healey, Researcher, Shropshire Archives Team

### **Somerset**

Repository: Somerset Record Office

Reference: Q/RROA/3/23/19-20; Q/RROA/3/24/5-6

Physical description: Returns cover July-December 1723. No women subscribers recorded. These are single sheets and the largest Q/RROA/3/24/5 has only 18 signatures on it. As in Devon, clerks made two versions of the rolls, one with original signatures and marks and another fair copy.

Source: Jane de Gruchy, Archivist, Somerset Record Office

Additional info: Somerset also holds two individual oath certificates, reference DD/MT/24/19/2, for Mary and Joan Southwood of Churchstanton, under Act of Succession, 1723.

### **Staffordshire**

Repository: Staffordshire Record Office

Reference: Q/RRo/2/1-5; Q/SPr/1/33,35

Physical description:

‘Q/RRo/2/1 - Oaths of allegiance taken at Burton on Trent, Michaelmas session 1723

‘Consists of signatures on multiple strips of paper, followed by a duplicate alphabetical list of names, followed by a copy of the oath with what appears to be the same signatures as those on the paper strips (they have been cross-referenced at intervals). No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status (other than one entry for ‘Lady Burdett’). I have used the alphabetical list to make the tally. The numbers are roughly: Males: 144, Females: 55’

Q/RRo/2/2 - Oaths of allegiance taken at Wolverhampton, Michaelmas session 1723

Consists of alphabetical list of names followed by lists of signatures. No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status. I have used the alphabetical list to make the tally. The numbers are roughly Males: 1009, Females: 228

Q/RRo/2/3 - Oaths of allegiance taken at Leek, Michaelmas session 1723

‘Consists of alphabetical list of names followed by lists of signatures. No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status. I have used the alphabetical list to make the tally. The numbers are roughly: Males: 281, Females: 56’

Q/RRo/2/4 - Oaths of allegiance taken at Eccleshall, Michaelmas session 1723

‘Consists of alphabetical list of names followed by lists of signatures. No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status. I have used the alphabetical list to make the tally. The numbers are roughly: Males: 61, Females: 23’

Q/RRo/2/5 - Oaths of allegiance taken at Stafford, Michaelmas session 1723

‘There is no alphabetical list, only lists of signatures over two pages. The second page is headed ‘Cheadle September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1723’. Counting was made more difficult by the fact that many of the signatures are over two or more columns and some are illegible or consist of initials and surnames only. No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status. The numbers are roughly: Males: 385, Females: 44’

Q/SPr/1/33 - Recognisances, 1721, includes oaths of allegiance: Michaelmas 1723

'Consists of one page of signatures marked 'Newcastle' on the reverse, followed by an alphabetical list of those who took the oath at Newcastle on 28 October 1723 and then followed by another list of signatures (both pages were cross-referenced at intervals and the signatures checked were all in the alphabetical list). No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status. I have used the alphabetical list to make the tally. The numbers are roughly: Males: 144, Females: 33.'

Q/SPr/1/35 - Recognisances, includes lists of persons who took the Oaths of Allegiance and Repudiation of the Old Pretender at Alrewas, Michaelmas 1723

'Consists of lists of signatures followed by an alphabetical list of those who took the oath at Alrewas on 17 October 1723. No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status. I have used the alphabetical list to make the tally. The numbers are roughly: Males: 234, Females: 56'

Q/SPr/1/36 - Recognisances, includes oaths taken at Uttoxeter, Michaelmas 1723

'Consists of an alphabetical list of names of those who took the oath at Uttoxeter on 23 October 1723, followed by two pages of signatures. No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status. I have used the alphabetical list to make the tally. The numbers are roughly: Males: 403; Females 112'

Q/SR/520 - Sessions roll, 1725, includes Oaths of Allegiance at Shenstone, September 1723

'Consists of a list of signatures only, there is no alphabetical list. Some of the signatures have initials and second names only. No details are given for occupations, place of residence, marital or social status. The numbers are roughly: Males: 150, Females: 27

Although there are no indications of age for signatories of the oaths referred to above, there are occasional entries for the same surnames followed by 'senior' and 'junior' which obviously suggests that some fathers and sons signed the oath at the same time. '

Source: Research undertaken by Joanna Peck, Archives Assistant on the basis of information supplied by Rebecca Jackson, Duty Archivist, Staffordshire Record Office

Additional information: 'Staffordshire Record Office also holds D(W)1778/I/ii/580A/1-5 - Earl of Aylesford to Lord Dartmouth. Re. Parliament affairs and family business, oath of allegiance and the effects it is likely to have, 4 letters, 7 Mch.1722/3-28 Nov. [1723];

D (W) 1778/I/ii/580 A/1, Earl of Aylesford to Lord Dartmouth, 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 1723 gives important information regarding women's subscriptions to these rolls, suggesting that it was motivated by a desire to protect legal rights (specifically over inheritance.) Letter examined

by Edward Vallance, copies supplied by Joanne Peck. See also  
<http://1723oaths.org/2014/01/14/why-did-women-swear-in-1723/>

D641/4/J/20/5 - Oath of allegiance of Susanna Bacon, 1723 (NB this is Suffolk family, not Staffordshire)

### **Suffolk**

No significant returns – information Dr Helen Band, Searchroom Assistant, Suffolk Record Office and Louise Kennedy, Archivist, Libraries, Archives & Information, Adult & Community Services, Ipswich Record Office

### **Surrey**

Repository: Surrey History Centre

Reference: QS2/5/1723

Physical description: The oaths are written on a large folio that has been attached to the sessions bundle and are followed by a list of names of both genders. In Epiphany and Easter there are 25 names and 6 names respectively but in Midsummer and Michaelmas over 100 names have been listed on each folio. Totals for Midsummer and Michaelmas = c. 258 with c. 58 women.

Source: Laura Walker, Surrey History Centre. Transcription of the roll produced by Jane Lewis, Team Leader, Heritage Public Services

### **Sussex**

Petworth

Repository: East Sussex Record Office

Reference QDR/4/EW5

Physical description: Single sheet subscriptions to oaths to George I taken at Petworth, 7<sup>th</sup> October 1723. C. 150 signatures or marks (c.20 women), some illegible.

Source: Edward Vallance

Additional info: The Winchelsea Borough Hundred Book (WINCH MS 60) contains records of a number of men and women subscribing the oaths Nov/Dec 1723. The wives of freeholders, jurors and constables are recorded as swearing, sometimes with their husbands. See f. 219-220 in this volume.

### **Warwickshire**

No records - Malcolm Boyns, Archivist

### **Westmoreland**

See under Cumbria

### **Wiltshire**

Repository: Wiltshire and Swindon Archives

Reference: (WSA) A1/240

Physical description: c10,000 signatures taken at various places in the county of those swearing loyalty to George 1. Separate rolls for Quakers making affirmations. No place of abode given in these rolls.

The roll, for the Michaelmas Sessions, also includes oaths sworn and subscribed or marked in the same year. (3 bundles).

Source: Robert Jago, Archivist.

### **Worcestershire**

Repository: Worcestershire Record Office

Reference: 1/1/110/265/1-29

Physical description: 29 separate membranes in one roll, stitched at the top making them hard to read in places. Authorised 16 July 1723. C. 2800 names and marks, c. 550 women.

Place of subscription given: 'Upton', 'at the Talbott in Sidbury', 'Tenbury Shelsl[e]y' 'Shelsl[e]y Walsh', 'Dudley', 'Denton', 'Pershore'. Last subscription listed, Kidderminster 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 1723. Subscribers' place of residence sometimes identified.

Source: Edward Vallance

Additional info: Subscriptions taken at Michaelmas sessions are listed under 1/1/110/267/1-37 – Access to archives.

### **York**

York City

Repository: York City Archives

Reference: Quarter Sessions Minute Book YCA F12/f. 140-149

Physical description: C. 1600 subscribers, perhaps 50% women. Subscriptions taken 5<sup>th</sup> Sept-24<sup>th</sup> Dec 1723. Marital/social status and occupation of subscribers listed.

Additional information: A transcription and index of the York City return has been made by Brian Jones and the archive holds a copy of this transcription. Jones estimates c. 1800 names. Further information, including others summoned to appear to take the oaths, can be found in Quarter Sessions Minute Book YCA F13

East Riding

Repository: East Riding archives and local studies service

Reference: QDR/1/6-12

Physical description: 'QDR/1/6 Oath Roll, 23 Apr-20 Dec 1723,

sessions held at Beverley, Hunmanby, York Castle and Skipwith, 80 names;

QDR/1/7 Oath Roll, 13 Aug-16 Nov 1723, sessions held at Beverley, Watton Abbey, Bridlington and Boynton, single parchment membrane 970mm x 430mm, 50 names;

QDR/1/8 Oath Roll, 13-14 Sep 1723, sessions held at Escrick and Howden, single parchment membrane 870mm x 230mm, 150 names; QDR/1/9 Oath Roll, 14-28 Sep 1723, sessions held at: Howden, Hedon, Hornsea and York Castle, single parchment membrane 660mm x 310mm, 20 names; QDR/1/10 Oath Roll 14 Sep 1723, sessions held at Howden, single parchment membrane 970mm x 300mm, 200 names; QDR/1/11 Oath Roll 16 Sep 1723, sessions held at Pocklington, single parchment membrane 990mm x 280mm, 280 names; QDR/1/12 Oath Roll 16 Sep 1723, sessions held at Pocklington, single parchment membrane 1050mm x 290mm, 280 names.'

Source: Ian Mason, Archives Manager, East Riding

### **Other returns**

Subscriptions in Court of Exchequer

Repository: The National Archives, Kew

Reference: E 169/4-28:

Physical description: (E169/4)'A clean roll of thin parchment, easy to handle. Its preamble is an oath of allegiance to King George; abjuration of the papal doctrine that excommunicated princes should be deposed; and an acknowledgment that King George is lawful king and that 'James III' has no rights thereto. Dated Michaelmas Term 1723, 10 Geo 1. It has six columns of signatures, many of them Londoners. Some give their locations, eg 'Covent Garden', 'without Aldgate', 'Chancery Lane'; but also 'of Bristol', 'of Cobham, Surry', 'Dedington, Oxon', 'Citty of Bath', 'Epsom', etc. The signatories are headed 23 Oct (in Latin), then 26 Oct.'

These rolls continue in this format up to 27<sup>th</sup> November 1723 (E169/28). The rolls consistently feature high numbers of women subscribers (occasionally as high as half of the

subscribers) and there are a number of high profile figures on the rolls. A rough estimate of total signatories on these rolls would be c. 6000 names.

Source: Pete Seaman, following up references provided by Simon Dixon. Further rolls examined by Edward Vallance

Additional info: Press reports indicate that these subscriptions, as well as those for the courts of Chancery and King's Bench took place at special sessions in Westminster Hall. As the returns indicate, not all of those subscribing were identified as London residents. I have not been able to identify any King's Bench rolls. There may possibly be one 1723 Chancery roll in TNA C214/16 but these rolls are very dirty and hard to read.