

The Military Oath Offered at York and Refused (August 1639)

Robert Greville, Lord Brooke and William Fiennes, Viscount Saye & Sele

Transcript

British Library, Harley MS 4931, f. 38r

38r

A Military Oath. An[no] 1639. Aug.

I doe sweare before the Allmighty, & Everlasting God, that I will beare a faithfull Allegiance to my true, & undoubted Sovereigne Lord King Charles, who is lawfull King of this Iland, & other his Kingdomes, & Dominions both by Sea, & Land, both by the Lawes of God, & man, & by lawfull Succes-sion. And that I will most constantly, & cheerfully even to the uttmost hazard of my life, & fortunes constantly oppose all Seditions, Rebellions, Conspiracies, Covenants, Conjurations, & Treasons whatsoever against his royall dignity, Crowne, or Person, raised, or sett up under what pretense, or colour soever, And if it shall come vailed under pr[e]tense of Religion I hold it more abominable before God, & men. And this Oath I take voluntarily in the true faith of a good Christian, & Loyall Subject w[i]thout any Equivocation, or mentall reservation whatsoever. From w[hi]ch I hold no power on earth can absolve me in any part./.

This Oath was putt upon all the Nobles of England, who were in the North (Anno 1639) attending the king, when he went against the Scotts; And my Lord Say, & my Lord Brookes only refused this Oath at first, whose example drew on others.

Other manuscript witnesses

- Alnwick Castle, MS 14, f. 259r
- British Library, Additional MS 35331, ff. 72v–73r
- British Library, Additional MS 12191, f. 137r
- British Library, Additional MS 72432, f. 151r
- Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 800, f. 56r
- Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 830, f. 223r
- Bodleian Library, MS Nalson 19, f. 10r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 395, f. 42r
- College of Arms, MS W&, f. 436r
- Durham University Library, MSP 9, reversing the volume, 131
- Kent Archives, U269/O297
- Parliamentary Archives, HL/PO/JO/10/1/38
- Queen's College, MS 135, f. 100r

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<https://mpese.ac.uk/t/MilitaryOath1639v2.html>