

Petition to the King Presented at the Assizes of York (28 July 1640)

Gentry of Yorkshire

Transcript

British Library, Harley MS 4931, f. 64r

64r

To the Kings most Excellent Ma[jes]ty The Humble Petition of [th]e Gentry in yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties County of Yorke now assembled at [th]e Assizes of Yorke Jul. 28. 1640.

May it please yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty.

Yo[u]r most humble subj[ec]ts show to yo[u]r most sacred Ma[jes]ty, [tha]t in all humility this County hath endeavoured to fullfill yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties Com[m]ands w[i]th the forwardest of yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties Subiects, & [th]e last yeare in the execution of yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties royall com[m]and about [th]e military affaires did expend 100000 l to o[u]r impoverishm[en]t & farre about the propor-tion of other Counties, w[hi]ch, although at [tha]t time we w[e]r[e] willing out of o[u]r desires to serue yo[u]r ma[jes]ty to doe, yet for the future the burden is so heavy [tha]t we neither can, or are able to beare it; now upon this o[u]r cheerfullnes to serue yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty we hoped to haue had equall favour w[i]th other Counties.

But so it is (most Gracious Sovereigne) to o[u]r greate grieve, & as we conceiue to the greate disservice of yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty, we finde o[u]r selues oppressed with the billeting of unruly souldiers, whose speches, & actions tend to the burning of o[u]r villages, & houses, & to whose vio-lence, & insolencies we are daily subiect, as we cannot say we possesse o[u]r wiues, children, and estates in safety.

Wherefore we are emboldned to pr[e]sent these o[u]r complaints, besee-ching yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty [tha]t as the billeting of soldiers in any of yo[u]r Subj[ec]ts houses a-gainst [thei]r will, is contrary to the ancient lawes of the kingdome confirmed by yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty in the petition of right; We most humbly desire yo[u]r m[ost] sacred Ma[jes]ty, [tha]t this insupportable burden may be taken off from us, least by their insolencies some such sad accident may happen, as will be much displeasing to yo[u]r sacred Ma[jes]ty, & yo[u]r loyall, & obedient Subiects.

Who will humbly pray &c.

Phill. Wharton. Fer. Ferfaix. Henry Belloses. Wm Savill. Fran. Wrothley. Thom. Gower. Io. Hotham. Ed. Stanhop. Hen. Griffith. Wm Sheffield. Rich. Dartey. Io. Ramsden. Hen. Cholnely. Hen. Bechell. Wm Strickland. Phil. Stapleton. Geo. Wentworth. Thom. Rennington. Thom. Mecham. Io. Hotham iu. Th. Power iu. Rob. Strickland. Io. Legann. Geo. Butler. Fra. Mounton. Hen. Cholmley. Geo. Trotter. Hen. Darly. Rich. Rennington. Wm Frankland. Tho. Hubblewaite. Chris. Peachphay. Io. Peeresey. Br. Stapleton. Ing. Hopton. Hen. Anderson. Geo. Crutbey. Geo. Marwood. Thom. Hesech. Io. Auloby. Chris. Ledgend. Wm Mallery. Io. Inglebey Ed. Gower. Mar. Necchefe. with others.

Other manuscript witnesses

- British Library, Additional MS 22959, ff. 63r–64r

- British Library, Additional MS 28011, f. 68r
- British Library, Harley MS 7162, ff. 45x–50x
- British Library, Lansdowne MS 1232, ff. 67r–v
- British Library, Lansdowne MS 489, f. 120v
- Beinecke Library, OSB MSS 28, Box 2, Folder 25, item 38, 518r
- Beinecke Library, Osborn File 6183, ff. 4–5
- Beinecke Library, Osborn b297, item 10
- Bodleian Library, MS Clarendon 19, f. 41r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, f. 39r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, ff. 134r–v
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.a.192, ff. 51r–52r
- Inner Temple Library, Petyt MS 538/27, ff. 114r–v
- Kent Archives, U269/O294, item 19
- Northamptonshire Record Office, IC 3557
- Northamptonshire Record Office, IC 3576
- Surrey History Centre, 1248/1, item 6
- Surrey History Centre, 1278/1, f. 6r
- The National Archives, SP 16/456, /72 [f.152v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/461, /38 [ff.57v–58r]

Modern print exemplars

- *Somers Tracts* (2nd ed.), vol. 4, pp. 128–129

© 2017–2026 University of Birmingham, University of Bristol. Provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence.

<https://mpese.ac.uk/t/YorkshirePetition1640v2.html>