

Newport Pagnell Garrison Town Project - John Bunyan

The Ordinance to raise funds £1000 for the building of fortifications and stationing of troops and supplies at Newport Pagnell was issued by Parliament in 1643. The earthwork defences surrounding the town were completed by 1644.

CBS - County Records Office, Aylesbury -

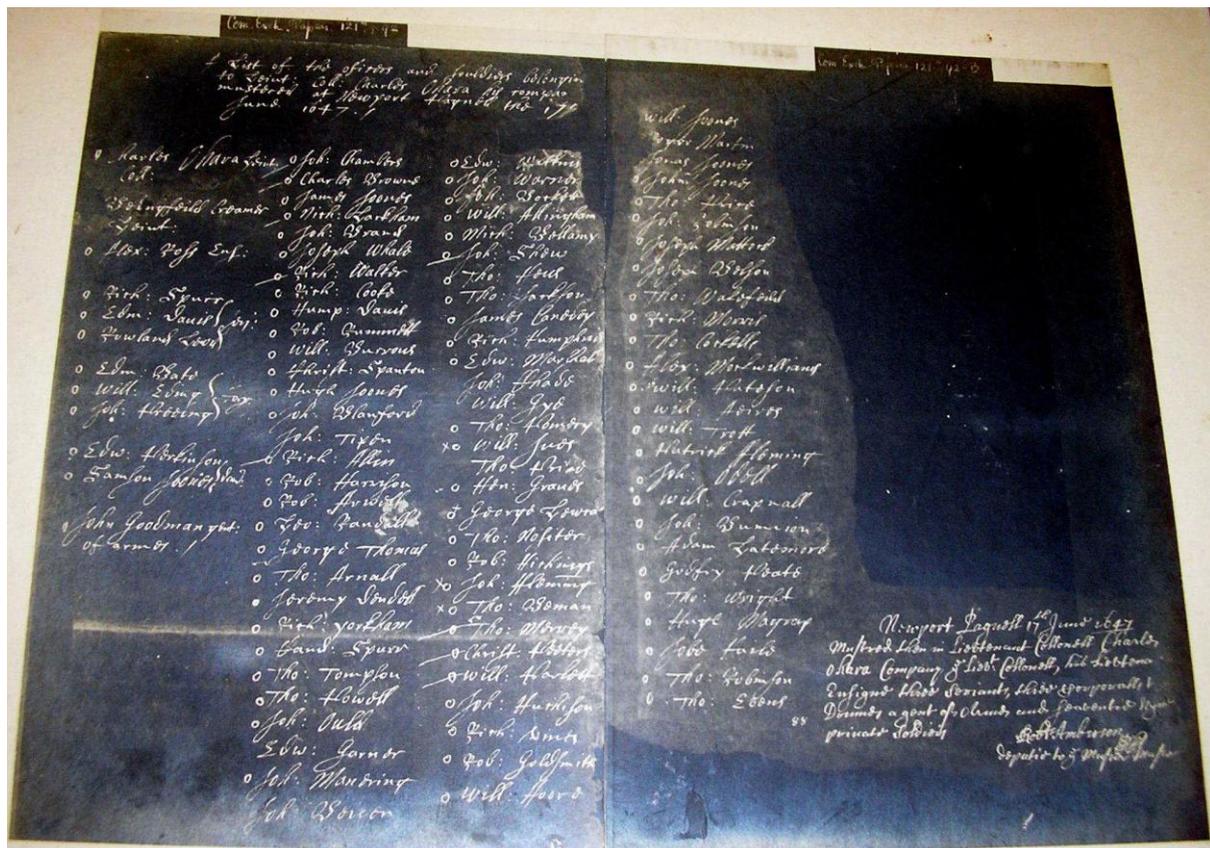


Photo of O'Hara's Muster Role with Bunyan's name attached

Regimental History of Cromwell's Army – C.Firth Vol.1. pg 350

Bunyan's name appears in the muster role first of Lieutenant-Colonel Cockayn's Company (later of Major Bolton) November 1643 and May 1645

The New Model Foot

Captain O'Hara, six lieutenants, several ensigns and about 400 men including the whole of O'Hara's company were ordered to march from Hertfordshire to Newport Pagnell and its neighbourhood.

There is in the Record Office a Muster Role of O'Hara's company taken at Newport Pagnell on 17th June 1647. Amongst seventy-nine privates is the name of John Bunnion and there is little doubt that this indicates the future author of *Pilgrim's Progress*.

Extract from Fredk Wm Bull *History of Newport Pagnell*, published 1900

It is not improbable that it was at this time John Bunyan, then about 16 to 17 years of age, was sent to Newport, and Dr. Brown in a preface to an edition[^] of the ** Holy War," remarks, " Mansoul, with its walls, gates, strongholds, and sallyport, is not unlike to Newport Pagnell at the time it was fortified according to the parliamentary ordinance of 1643, and when Bunyan was probably a soldier within its walls." Since the edition was issued, the old Muster Rolls of the garrison have been found, and conclusively show that Bunyan was one of the Newport garrison for two or three years.

While speaking of Bunyan it is, too, interesting to note that his first published work, ** Some Gospel Truths Opened ... by that Unworthy Servant of Christ, John Bunyan of Bedford, by the Grace of God Preacher of the Gospel of his Dear Son," bears the following imprint, "London, printed for J.W., and are to be sold by Mathias Cowley, Bookseller in Newport Pagnell, 1656."