



## Non-Conformist Meeting House Certificates

The Toleration Act of 1812 made several alterations to the procedures for registering meeting houses. Registration became compulsory for any religious assembly, 'at which there shall be present more than twenty persons besides the immediate family and servants of the person in whose house or upon whose premises,' the assembly was held. Arrangements were also made for the registering authorities to notify each other annually of all registrations relevant to each other's jurisdiction made during the previous year. The fee for procuring a license was to become two shillings and sixpence; and the penalties imposed on an occupier for failing to register were set at between £1 and £20, at the magistrates' discretion.

The following are extracts from records held in The Wiltshire Record Office.

8 December 1840 (14 December 1840). Little Bedwyn. A dwelling house and premises now in the holding and occupation of James Wentworth, labourer. William Bell of St. Mary's parish, Marlborough. **(WRO D1/9/2/1)**

30 December 1843. Little Bedwyn. A house and premises now in the holding and occupation of Frederick White. Primitive Methodist. Job Bodman of St. Mary's parish, Marlborough. **(WRO D1/9/2/1)**

18 November 1846. Little Bedwyn. A chapel and premises now in the holding and occupation of the Primitive Methodist society. Primitive Methodist. George Obern of Marlborough, minister. **(WRO D1/9/2/1)**

11 April 1828 (15 April 1828). Chisbury in Little Bedwyn. A dwelling house now in the occupation of Thomas Hopgood. Wesleyan Methodist. Henry Vyvyan Olver of Hungerford, Wesleyan minister. **(WRO D1/9/2/1)**