



Non- Conformist News

West Kington

Census of Faith 1676

Henry Compton, youngest son of the Earl of Northampton, Bishop of Oxford in 1674, and Bishop of London from 1675-1713, was conspicuous in the reigns of Charles II and James II, as a supporter of the protestants against the encroachments of Roman Catholics. He was preceptor to the two daughters of James II, the Princesses Mary and Anne, who both became Queens regnant. In them he instilled the principles of the Protestant faith, both of them he confirmed, both of them he married, the elder to William, Prince of Orange, and the younger to George, Prince of Denmark. For his opposition to the King's support of Roman Catholics, Bishop Compton was suspended for two years. In June, 1688, he was one of the seven men who signed the invitation to William to take possession of the throne. April 11th, 1689 he crowned William and Mary. As soon as he became Bishop of London, he formed the project uniting all protestants, of whatever denomination, against Papists. For this purpose in 1676 he caused a census to be made in each parish of persons over the age of 16 years, under the three heads of Church, Nonconformists, and Roman Catholics.

No Roman Catholics were recorded from the parishes near Chippenham

| PARISH | CHURCH | NON CONFORMISTS | ROMAN CATHOLICS | TOTAL |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Castle Combe | 252 | 8 | | 260 |
| Coleerne | 278 | 22 | | 300 |
| North Wraxall | 117 | 7 | | 124 |
| West Kington | 140 | 3 | | 143 |