

The speed with which Widow Heath applied for a license demonstrates how closely folk were watching for royal policy shifts and suggests that here was a community which was worshipping clandestinely, ready to formalise its position the moment it was safe to so do. Her action also reflects how female householders played a quiet but crucial role in sustaining dissent during repression.

She showed remarkable personal courage and conviction by taking this step of early expression of local Nonconformity - many dissenters hesitated to register their meeting houses because they distrusted the government's motives and doubted the durability of royal indulgence.

The scarcity of such early applications across Hertfordshire reinforces the impression that Widow Heath was acting at the forefront of local religious dissent and that her action was a landmark moment not just in the county, but in the whole of England.