

B 4500 no 2 Witch 084, Marguerite Gallier, Hanriotte des Boeufs, Claudin Clerget, et Ambroise Gillot

7 July 1586; prévôt of Chatenoy has been asked by various inhabitants of La Neuveville sous Chatenoy to act against the witches who were causing many deaths and sicknesses among their animals. They named two; Marguerite veuve Jean Gallier and Hanriotte veuve Jean des Boeufs. Prévôt had therefore gone to La Neuveville and interrogated Marguerite in the house of Claude Uthin, hostellier and substitut of the PG des Vosges. After making 'quelque difficulté', Marguerite confessed that she was a witch. She had been seduced at last St. Remy, when she had been angry after quarrelling with her children, and had gone to collect some wood. Mre Parsin appeared to her, promised that he would make her happy and ensure that she did not want. He removed something from her forehead, hurting her, and then told her that in future she must not worship God or use holy water. Gave her grey and white powders, to harm and to heal.

A week after this she used powder to make Claudon daughter of Jean Cabled ill, after she had refused her alms; now wished to heal her, but her master had not given her the necessary white powder. Later she had been spinning for Cabled's wife Catherine, and the latter had told her off for not producing enough, although she paid her as normal. Angry at this, she had lifted cover over cradle of the baby, asking how it was, and put a 'malediction' on it. Said she could sometimes kill people and animals like this, and that the baby died 4 or 6 weeks later. Asked why Claudon had not died, said that at that time she did not have enough power to kill.

Admitted going to sabbat, where she had seen Hanriotte her neighbour, Claudin Clerget marechal, and Ambroise wife of Gillot Gillot, all of La Neufville. Later met Persin again and had more powder from him; put some on a cow belonging to Claudon daughter of Jean Limosin, who had refused her alms, and it soon died. Had made Catherine Cabled ill when she refused her alms, but cured her a fortnight later.

Asked if she still had any powder, said it was in a 'chapeau d'estain' on windowsill in barn. This was brought, and found to contain two little packets of cabbage seed, and an empty packet from which she said the powder must have escaped.

7 July 1586; interrogation

Hanriotte now produced for interrogation. When told of accusation by Marguerite she denied it and said she was a wicked woman. Then was 'fort remonstrée', but without threats except for suggestion that she think of her salvation and make a full confession. Responded with confession that she was a witch, and had been seduced 8 years before, when looking for a lost cow near woods. Devil had appeared and promised to make her 'trop riche et heureuse', then removed baptismal 'cresme' from forehead. Said he had taken her to sabbat, where she had seen Marguerite, Claudin Clerget (who had been 'le plus brave estant cuysinier'), and Ambroise wife of Gillot Gillot.

(8 July) When Hanriotte was brought back to continue interrogation, she started to call on God, saying she was not a witch, and had never done any harm. Prévôt

remonstrated with her, and she promptly renewed admissions, some 15 minutes after being taken back to prison. Would only admit, however, to killing one of her own geese; claimed that when she saw she had been deceived she refused to return to sabbat or to serve Mme Persin again.

8 July 1586; informations

Witnesses were apparently sought against all 4 suspects imprisoned at Chatenoy - Margueritte, Hanriotte, Claudin and Ambroise.

(1) Claudon femme de Jean Ferry de Neufville, c. 32

All were suspected and feared, but only specific accusation was against Claudin. Her mother Barbe and her stepfather Marisot Gauthier had died some 6 years before within 15 days, after drinking water from bucket brought by Claudin. They had heard him drop something in it after drinking himself, and her mother had claimed until her death that he had done so.

(2) Barbe femme à Anthoine Bon Jean de la Nenfville, c. 24

Sister of previous witness. Told of incident with bucket; according to her testimony it was something white in a paper. Later Claudin had asked her what her mother was saying - she said nothing had been said, then he made her a soup, in which she thought he had put something to cure her. He was regular visitor to house, since he had married the widow of the witness's brother.

(3) Jeannon femme à Nicolas Deny de la Neufville, c. 40

Reported rather mysterious incident some 10 or 11 years earlier, when Claudin had shown special knowledge of movement of duc Casimir's troops who were lodged in village. 5 or 6 years before had heard him swearing and blaspheming in the street because Mengin Badel had taken back a field, saying that 'la premiere fois qu'il y yroit jamais n'en retourneroit pas sante'. When Badel went to sow field, as he later told her, he met Claudin, who gave him an illness so serious that he had to crawl back home; was ill on and off for two years before he died. Knew nothing about the women accused.

(4) Claude femme de Nicodemus Utchin, porte enseigne de la prévôté de Chatenoy

Testified that accused were commonly reputed as witches. Also told of Mengin Badel's illness; he told her that Claudin had given him a 'loppin' he carried in his body, and of which he would die. When she said that perhaps 'il s'abusoit' and it was not true, he replied that he was sure.

(5) Claudon femme de Vincent Badel de la Neufville, c. 38

Reputation of all. Told of illness of her brother-in-law Mengin Badel, and how he repeated suspicions even on his deathbed.

(6) Phelippa veuve de Mengin Badel de la Neufville, c. 24

Told story of her husband's illness. On his deathbed he told her that Claudin had offered to make him a drink to cure him, and asked her to go and seek it. Claudin told her it was too late, and her husband was 'corrompu dedans luy'; finally yielded to further persuasion at husband's instance, and made him a drink, promising to heal him for 'les fontaines' - but he died 2 days before these. Knew nothing about women accused.

(7) Nicodemus Utchin, porte enseigne de la prévôté de Chatenoy, c. 60

General reputation and fear of all accused. Told of Mengin Badel's illness and suspicions, also of death of Barbe and Marisot Gauthier. While on deathbed after husband's death Barbe had told him of finding a packet with something twisted inside it in the bucket of water. 9 years before Claudin had stolen a pistol from his house, and he found out from his brother-in-law Claudon Ferry that he had sold it at Frain. Bought it back for 4 francs, plus 2 francs of wine to find out who was thief.

(8) Mengin Gardeme de la Neufville, c. 40

Told of incident with troops, and of illness of Mengin Badel. Latter had asked him to have supper with them when he invited Claudin, and suggested he should make sure he had plenty to drink, in hope of obtaining cure. Did indeed make 'grande chere', but Mengin died about a week later. Had nothing to say of women.

(9) Jean Ferry de la Neufville, laboureur, 40

General suspicion and fear of women, on account of threats they made, and of animals which died. Also story of death of Barbe and Marisot Gauthier.

(10) Florentin Moictessier, c. 26

All accused were strongly suspected of being witches and using poisons. Some 4 years before he had bought a fine mare at St. Dié, and had been ploughing for his brother-in-law Utchin. Latter's wife Thomasse told him to take a small amount from the adjoining land of Claudin, who had taken too much. Quarrel with Claudin followed, during which latter smacked mare on rump, saying it was a fine mare. Seemed to have difficulty with back legs, and two days later servant could hardly get it back from fields; shortly after had to be killed. 18 months later had another horse ill, and Claudin told him he should obtain 'goutte de cheval', and bring 'fremis' from 'une champagne'. When he objected that this was too difficult, Claudin said it was only way to cure horse - it soon died. About 3 weeks before Claudin had asked him to do some ploughing for him; while helping had told him that Jean Ferry was 'un mechant homme' because he had not reciprocated the help Claudin had given him in ploughing, and 'par la mort dieu qu'il s'en repentirot qu'il avoit ja un cheval boiteux et qu'il s'en trouveroit mal'. On another occasion some 2 years earlier he had a sick horse, and his mother asked Ambroise about it. She advised making it walk around church and giving it holy water, but he refused this advice, saying he would not give a horse treatment suitable for people, and preferred that it should die - as it shortly did.

(11) Nicolas Denys de la Neufville, c. 60

Reputation of all accused.

(12) Vincent Badel de la Neufville, c. 40

Reputation of all accused. Told of brother's death, and suspicions.

(13) Mengeon veuve de Claudot Moictessier, c. 60

Told of advice Ambroise gave her son Florentin over sick horse, and of his refusal to follow it, since it was not 'chose decente ny propre à une beste de donner ce qu'apartient aux personnes'.

(14) Cleron femme de Florentin Moictessier de la Neufville, c. 25

General suspicion of all accused, Believed that Claudin had caused death of a horse 2 years earlier. Ambroise had come to house some 3 years before asking for alms to help her make a pilgrimage, saying that every night something was pushing against her ear. Witness told her 'que c'estoit une meschante femme et que le diable la seduisoit ou la vouloit seduire et qu'il failloit prier Dieu elle luy respondit qu'elle ne scavoit ses paternostres et qu'elle se les feroit recorder par son marit. Et sur ce qu'elle luy dict que c'estoit une meschante femme elle luy respondit qu'elle estoit telle qu'elle pouvoit estre.' Around same time had a cow sick, which she believed to be Margueritte's doing; called her to see it, and she put something in its mouth, but it still died.

(15) Yzabel femme d'Adam Varin de la Neufville, c. 28

Ambroise had done some weaving for her, and she had accused her of keeping back some of the yarn supplied to her. Ambroise was angry, and 'luy donna malédiction en disans Je prie que jamais tu ne puisses enfanter'; she was pregnant at time, and subsequent labour was very painful. Later when she was pregnant again Ambroise touched her stomach as she stood talking to Jean Cabled's wife in the church, and she gave birth to a dead child - firmly believed this had been her doing.

(16) Didiere veuve de Jean Grinsenot de la Neufville, c. 36

Told how 8 years earlier, before her marriage, she had been servant to Adam Varin. Claudin had been angry because when ploughing they turned their plough on his adjoining land; she told him it was normal for neighbours to do this, but he replied 'Par la mort dieu que les gros guaroient tousjours les petits mais qu'ilz ne gaigneroient tousjours'. Some 3 or 4 days later she took horses to pasture, where Claudin looked at them and remarked how well they were eating. On return one fell ill, and although Claudin was sent for and gave it something it died 3 days later. Also claimed that Claudin had committed a murder, and his goods had been confiscated by officers of duke; he had leased some sheep of hers, and they were taken too. Agreed with them that his rights were worth 5 francs (not clear who paid this); when he returned to village he wanted her to pay him this, but she refused, and heard later from others that he had made threats against her. Had serious chest illness after childbirth, and was only cured after making a pilgrimage.

(17) Jalby femme de Jean Willaume le jeune, c. 28

Some 4 years before had heard Ambroise say that the Devil pushed part of her head every night, and she threw quantities of holy water at him to drive him off; also that she believed one called Claudon Cottelier, now absent from La Neufville, and suspected of witchcraft, wanted to lead her with her 'et la faire perdre'.

(18) Esdeline femme de Mongin Ferry de la Neufville, c. 26

Said that previous year her husband had bought some lard, and Ambroise came asking if she would sell her some. Refused, saying they needed it themselves, but gave her a good piece. Returned next day and repeated request, but was refused absolutely. Next Sunday on way to church she met Ambroise, who said she had not wanted to sell her any lard, but it would not profit her. About 8 days later lost a calf, and believed she had caused this. Later had a cow sick, and called in Ambroise, who said they must send an offering to St. Genens; cow recovered after this was done. Also claimed she herself had been bewitched, losing her milk and having her body all twisted; went to see Ambroise and asked if she could suggest any remedy. She told her to spin a whole reel of thread at one go without speaking, then to wrap it around herself for 24 hours (?), make an offering to St. Genens and promise a pilgrimage. Did this and was healed; did not know whether it was Ambroise or Claudon Costelliere, also suspected of witchcraft, who had been responsible.

(19) Barbe femme de Mongin Michiel de la Neufville, c. 40

General repute of all suspects. Told how she had heard Ambroise talk to her husband 4 years earlier, saying that something pushed her behind her head when she lay in bed; she was unable to say paternoster or make sign of cross, and often when she reached for holy water was thrown to ground.

(20) Jannotte femme de Mongin Ferry de la Neufville, c. 40

Told of Ambroise's stories 4 years before about being pushed (in back this time), inability to say prayers, holy water, and being thrown to ground. Around that time her husband had trouble with his leg, which was 'toute gastée', and she had suspected Claudon Costelliere; when she accused her she exculpated herself, but said that Ambroise had done it by putting poison next to his bed. 'Et pour tant mieux se justifier luy dict ces motz regarde sy ne t'ay enseigné ce qu'elle t'a enseigné de faire d'aller au saictz ca et la.' Indeed, after seeing her husband's leg several times, Ambroise advised various pilgrimages, to St. Gement, St. Loup, and Beau Bernard, after which he recovered.

(21) Francois Marchal de la Neufville, c. 60

Very full account of incident which preceded deaths of Morisot Gauthier and his wife Barbe (sister of witness) six years earlier. Claudin had come to house on Wednesday of Holy Week, and asked to buy a bichot of barley. Morisot refused, saying he had already had two, but asked him to dine with them. Claudin said at first he would only do so if he had his barley, but finally sat at table near water bucket. Morisot then asked for two drinks of water, after which he was suddenly taken with a fever and had to be put to bed. Barbe threw away rest of water, fearing that Claudin had poisoned it, and found a little 'drapeau' with something white

inside it, which she showed to witness; they put it on the fire, and it blazed up fiercely. Claudin had already left, after Barbe had given him his barley; Morisot died in 8 days, Barbe 4 days later. During Barbe's illness Claudin came to house, and sick woman asked that he be driven out, since he was responsible for state she was in. He heard this, but pretended not to have done.

(22) Catherine femme à Jean Cabled de la Neufville, c. 30

All accused were reputed witches and feared. Particular suspicion against Margueritte; around last Easter had given her alms, and immediately afterwards fell ill, spending a month in bed. At end of this time Margueritte came to visit her, and said she was sorry to see her ill. Asked if she had any spinach seed to give her, and was told she had not; put her hand on the bed with her mouth all twisted up, 'faisant hideux regard', while her hand seemed to become white and shining. Said to her 'meschante femme qu'est ce que vous me faitz retirez vous arriere de moy vous m'engenoche'; she replied that she had not bewitched her, then left. When husband returned she told him of her fears that she had been bewitched, but he said Margueritte had done something to heal her, and indeed she quickly recovered. Also believed that she had killed one little girl of hers, and made another ill, as she still was.

(9 July)

(23) Mongin Tonnerel laboureur de la Neufville, c. 36

General reputation of accused. Some 3 years earlier Margueritte had come to tell him that his mother had fallen in her kitchen as if dead. She had been ill for 8 days, then recovered, and claimed that Margueritte had given her the illness.

(24) Adrienne femme de Mongin Tonnerel, c. 36

Repeated husband's story about his mother's illness, adding that she had never been really well afterwards, and had died previous winter.

(25) Jean Willaume surnomme Brancquebourg, de Sendaucourt, c. 30

Told how 7 or 8 years before his uncle Anthoine Willaume had called Claudin to see a young horse which was slightly injured. Afterwards he went to drink in tavern with witness and uncle, and asked to buy 3 resaulx of oats, which his uncle refused. Did this 2 or 3 times, then Claudin told him he would repent. He visited horse again before leaving, and it died later same day. Uncle was astonished, and regretted refusing him the oats, believing that he had killed the horse.

(26) Mengin Michiel mainouvrier de la Neufville, c. 40

A year before, when he had been neighbour of Ambroise, she told him 'qu'on parloit fort d'elle mais qu'elle scavoit bien quand on en parloit en mal et en bien.'

(27) Adam Varin de la Neufville, c. 36

Some 5 or 6 years before, when they were in fields haymaking, his wife had reproached Ambroise because her husband, who was a weaver, had not kept 'fidel compte' of yarn they had given him. Ambroise had told his wife, who was pregnant, 'qu'elle ne peut jamais enfanter ce qu'elle portoit'; on hearing this, witness told her that if anything came of her words he would have her taken to Chatenoy to answer for them. Wife did have long and painful labour, but it finally pleased God that she was delivered safely. Also told of incident with Claudin, already reported by his servant Didiere, when he had been angry because they turned plough on his land, later admired horses, and one of them died a few days later.

(28) Jean Villaume le Jeune de la Neufville, 38

General reputation of all accused. Previous year his mother-in-law Jannotte Boubier had been ill, and when her children were gathered around bed she told them that she had been so ill she expected to die, but Margueritte had cured her. Did know that Margueritte had been much around the house during her illness.

(29) Mathieu Varin de la Neufville, c. 40

General reputation of all accused. Had lost many animals, and believed they had been bewitched. Some 6 weeks earlier one of his horses had a bad leg, and Ambroise had advised his wife to obtain holy water from St. Genove at Dollaincourt, with which she should wash the leg. When she did so it fell off just below the knee as if it had been cut.

(30) Dedier Liermey demeurant en l'armitaige de Saint Remy, c. 60

Told how some 5 years earlier he had been harvesting at Sendaincourt, about an hour after dawn, when he had seen Claudin sit by a spring, and strike water several times with a stick. He then threw something in it as if he were sowing, taking it from his hat. After he had left a mist began to rise from the spring, then formed into a great cloud, from which it hailed heavily. He told many other people, and no-one dared use the spring for more than a year. Did not dare talk too much about what he had seen, however, since his wife was related to Claudin, who was 'un mauvais guarson'.

10 July 1586; interrogations

Margueritte confirmed earlier confessions, but would add no more, and now denied having killed small daughter of Jean Cabled.

Ambroise then interrogated. Said she was about 46, native of Raymoix, daughter of Noel Thiebault, and had been married to Gillot Gillot for some 17 years.

Agreed that she had quarrelled with Ysabel wife of Adam Warin over yarn, but denied threats. Agreed reproaching Esdeline wife of Mengin Ferry for not selling her some lard, but had not threatened Esdeline (who was her 'commere'). Had however told her that if she conceived a child 'qu'il en eust porte les enseignes'. Denied killing Esdeline's calf, which she herself had allowed to die from cold and hunger. Also denied giving her remedies for loss of milk, but said that one day Esdeline complained she was suffering from blows her husband had given her, and she

advised her to bathe herself using 'bonnes herbes de St. Jean.' Asked specifically about use of yarn, then agreed that she had told her to use this remedy, which she had previously tried herself, but denied giving her the illness. She had been taught this by a widow named Martinotte who lived at Houecourt.

Agreed that Claudon Coustellier had accused her of causing illness to Mengin Ferry's leg, but did not know she had claimed she had used powder. Denied causing illness, but agreed she had advised using holy water from St. Genot. Had also advised pilgrimage to St. Loup, but not to Beau Bernard. Had also advised Mathieu Varin's wife to use holy water from St. Genot on horse's leg.

Questioned about strange pushings at night, agreed that these had happened, and had frightened her, although she did not know whether devil or 'bon ange' was responsible. Had used a cloth soaked in holy water, which she had put on forehead to preserve 'cresme' she had from baptism, for a fortnight, and this had helped. Had been unable to cross herself or say paternoster, but she asked her husband to cross her, at which pushing stopped.

Finally confronted with Margueritte, who repeated her accusation of having seen her at sabbat, which she denied.

11 July 1586; interrogation

Claudin Clerject said he was about 50, native of Frey, son of Didier Clerject, and a blacksmith by trade. Had lived with parents until he was 10 or 12. Then went to Nancy where he spent a year in the service of a baker, some 9 or 10 months with a blacksmith, 6 months as 'chartier'. then went as 'pallefrenier' to Mirecourt for 14 months, and on to Mattaincourt where he returned to blacksmithing for 5 months. There he married a widow called Barbon, daughter of Jean Nacquart, with whom he lived for 12 years, supporting themselves by smithing and what other work he could find. Had a daughter by her who was now in service at Vallerois le Secque. After wife's death joined company of M. de Clermont d'Antraigues near Paris, and went to Poland with Henri III, serving as a smith. Returned 3 or 4 months later to Mattaincourt, where he met Jean Gilbert and Jean Ferry of La Neufville. He and Ferry accompanied Mr. de Bouzey and other gentlemen on an 'entreprisne', without knowing what it was, until they were arrested at Chaumont. After this Ferry persuaded him to come back to La Neufville with him, and marry his sister Margueritte, widow of Jean Lietard. This had been 10 years before, and he had since lived at la Neufville with his wife, by whom he had 4 children.

Asked about any crimes he had committed, said that some 6 years earlier he had become involved in a quarrel between Claudin Gardeme dit Harbel of Bouxey and Claudon Chrestien of Vomecourt; latter had been determined to attack him, and in self-defence he had thrown a stone which struck him on the forehead, from which wound, to his great regret, he had died 2 days later. Had petitioned duke for remission, which had been granted after enquiry by M. Petitgot, lieutenant general des Vosges. Said that letters patent were in hands of his uncle Demenge Clerject, living in faubourg of Nancy.

Systematically denied charges, saying that those who made them were liars. Agreed that at request of Mongin Padelt's wife he had placed some herbs against

fevers she had given him on Badel's arm, and that he had been to dine in house, but had not made him ill. Said that Florentin Moitessier was best friend he had in world. As for 'pistolle' of Nicodemus Utchin, he had borrowed it from Utchin's wife, then used it as surety for a debt, but had later redeemed it and taken it back.

Confronted with Margueritte, she maintained her accusation and he denied it - although judges noted that she seemed the more sure of herself. He said to her 'qu'elle mesme ne se damnat et qu'elle n'y estoit esté'.

11 July 1586; Margueritte was confronted with Hanriotte, who now denied that she was a witch, saying that her earlier confessions had been made out of fear. Rejected Margueritte's claim that she had been at sabbat.

12 July 1586; confrontations.

Claudin claimed that previous year Vincent Badel had made a false report to the substitut Claude Utchin that he was taking unfair advantage of some meadows he held for wards; witness claimed it had been a true report. Also reproached Vincent's wife Claudon that she had previously served her father-in-law Claude Badel who 'paillardoit' with her, then married her to his son - she denied this.

Said that the curé of la Neufville had 'tenue et paillardé' Claude wife of Nicodemus Utchin; she denied this. As for Nicodemus himself, he had made an 'esgout de chaulette' which fell on the roof of Claudin's house and damaged it.

Reproached Nicolas Denys with being 'homme querelleux'. As for Jean Ferry, he had been called thief by wife of Denys. Said that Philippe widow of Mengin Badel had taken some of his hay. Didiere widow of Jean Grinsenot had not paid him what she owed for sheep he had looked after for her. Accused Claudon wife of Jean Ferry of keeping property belonging to her wards.

Barbe wife of Anthoine Bon Jean added to her deposition. She had been desolated at death of her mother and stepfather, since she had married a man less well off than herself, who had consumed her inheritance, so that she was dependent on her mother. Said she wished someone would kill her; then Claudin came and offered to give her something to put beneath her husband's pillow, so that he would be dead as suddenly as her mother and stepfather. He then said that he wanted to have her, and if she would give him her body he would kill her husband. He accused her of stealing a shroud and a shirt, and of having taken property belonging to her nephew after her mother's death.

Said of Francois Marchal that he had escaped from château of Chatenois, that he had 'despendu son bien malheureusement', and that he had stolen some items from the inheritance of his sister. Suggested that he had been to tend a horse on day mentioned, and had used some sulphur, which he had then thrown away through kitchen window. It might have fallen in the bucket, and if so would have flared up when put on fire, because sulphur did this even when wet. Also agreed that he had been at table, and had asked for some barley, which he had only had about a week later.

Accused Dedier Liermey of having stolen a resal of wheat some years earlier.

Ambroise did not reproach any of the witnesses against her, and continued to make admissions of advising cures, but denied any witchcraft or harm.

20 July 1586; PG des Vosges, from Nancy, declares that Margueritte is sufficiently convicted by her own admissions, but she should be questioned again to see if she will add any further malefices, and also confronted with other three accused. These should be put to the torture, and while Ambroise was under torture Harriotte should be placed so she could hear 'les clamure des tortures'.

22 July 1586; Change de Nancy recommends that Margueritte and Harriotte should be interrogated again, and that Claudin and Ambroise be given 'question extraordinaire'.

24 July 1586; interrogation under torture.

Ambroise was racked, placed on strappado with 50 pound weight, and given thumbscrews, whole torture lasting an hour. Cried out at various times that they were killing her, that they were damaging her limbs, and that she would never be able to work again, but stoutly denied all charges. Seems to have fainted towards end of torture.

Immediately afterwards Harriotte was interrogated. Said she was about 50, daughter of Thouvenet Gardene of La Neufville, where she had always lived. Had married 33 years before with Jehan de Boeuf of Viocourt, and marriage had lasted 12 years. A son had died some 18 years ago, and two daughters still living were at la Neufville and Belcourt.

Harriotte then renewed her confessions, and said she had been to sabbat, where she had seen Margueritte and Claudon. Denied committing other malefices, and said that devil had beaten her for refusal.

25 July 1586; interrogation under torture

Claudin was racked; endured this for some time, protesting that they were tearing off his limbs, but finally began to confess. Said Mre Persin had appeared to him 5 years earlier, telling him that he was upset on account of his poverty, but he would make him rich. Had subsequently been taken to sabbat, but had taken no part and not stayed long. Had only seen devil a couple of times since. Judges objected that this was impossible, and prepared for further torture, which extracted another admission of having been to sabbat some 6 weeks earlier. Could not identify most of those present because they were masked, but had seen Jehan Rouyer of Houecourt and a woman called Jaccotte of la Neufville. Now confessed to having killed Gauthier couple with arsenic and a little of powder given by devil, which he had put in bucket. Also confessed to using arsenic to kill Mengin Badel. Had killed two horses with powder. Would confess no more, and was trembling all over with 'une fievre froide', so was released.

Margueritte and Harriotte were then questioned again, and renewed earlier admissions without any change.

Claudin having escaped on 26 July, on 7 August the PG des Vosges, Maimbourg, called for execution of Margueritte and Harriotte, and for further torture of Ambroise.

9 August 1586; Change de Nancy agreed to death sentence for Margueritte, but asked for Harriotte to be interrogated further, and for Ambroise to be renvoyée jusqu'a rappel.

13 August 1586; Ambroise confronted with other two, who maintained that she was a witch. They were then taken away and executed. After this Ambroise was tortured on rack for half an hour, but would not confess.

30 August 1586; PG des Vosges calls for Ambroise to be hanished for life.

1 September 1586; court at Chatenois approves this sentence

On 28 July the prévôt carried out an enquiry into the escape of Claudin from the chateau. He had evidently broken his chains, climbed out of a window, down the roof of a lean-to, and across the moat. General view was evidently that he could not have done this on his own, particularly since he was still suffering from after-effects of torture, and that he had probably been helped by his two guards, who were from la Neuveville, and one of whom was a close relative. Guards seem to have been Jean Jacquinot and the son of Mengin Ferry – latter would probably have been nephew of Claudin's wife.