

B 8535 no 3; witch 135, Zabel femme Olry Go de Rozieres

18 December 1603; confronted with Ydatte Vaultrin veuve Demenge le Moyne, who maintained her accusation. Zabel denied it, saying she did not know what she said 'et qu'elle est bien avengée'.

22 December 1603; informations preparatoires

(1) Jacquatte femme Francois Atiatte de Rozieres, 30

After quarrel over 'un fardeau de train' they had lent her some 5 years earlier they had lost a cow, ill for 15 or 16 weeks and had eventually to be put down.

(2) Martin Cugnin couturier de Rozieres, 36

Some 3 years earlier his wife had been in labour for 24 hours, and since then had been unable to control bladder. Various treatments by surgeons had done no good; neighbour suggested that Zabel was responsible (she was near neighbour), and that they should get her to make some 'estuves'. Wife begged her to suggest remedy, and witness hid to listen. Heard her ask if he was still having sexual relations with wife, and suggested that she should encourage him; perhaps 'il repouzeroit ledit mal en hault' if he did so.

(3) Chenne femme Martin Cugnin, 34

Repeated husband's testimony. Said that Zabel had told her that her husband had forbidden her to suggest remedies, but then suggested that she should encourage her husband to resume sexual relations, and perhaps if she could have children she would recover.

(4) Claude Micquel de Rozieres, 38

6 years earlier his wife had been very ill for 10 days, hardly able to eat, and Zabel had often visited her to tend her. When she drank some soup made by Catherine Bernel Zabel told her she should only take food she made for her. Then recovered, some time later became pregnant, and Zabel told her (touching her stomach) that if anything happened in the night she should knock on wall, and she would go to help her - should call no-one but her. After this she had a miscarriage.

(5) Barbeline femme Claude Micquel, 40

Repeated essential of husband's deposition, although miscarriage had been 8 years before, preceding illness. Had another miscarriage at start of second illness. Heard her reputed witch by wife of Jean Vosgien marchal, who thought she had killed her child, and for that reason they had moved to Vilacourt.

(6) Jehenne femme Estienne Haxaire de Rozieres, 32

7 years earlier lived next to her, and put clothes to dry on hedges between property; next Sunday she put on a shirt and immediately felt as if she was being eaten by ants, looked as if she had smallpox. Ill for 6 weeks, husband became angry and was on point of leaving house. Zabel came to see her next day and talked of this, then made her an 'estuve', after which she started to recover, and was completely better in 2 days. Some time later when Baliasse la Cresseniere was to be burned Zabel asked witness if she was going to watch, and she replied no, 'et qu'elle s'en porteroit mal'. Then told her she had obtained herbs for her 'estuve' from la Cresseniere, who was her commere; she had added something from a paper by chimney, and perhaps she had made her ill. Witness replied that she had never quarrelled with her. Suspected her over loss of several animals, and had left house on account of this - had seen her behaving strangely near drinking trough.

(7) Estienne Haxaire de Rozieres, 34

Could only support wife's deposition by hearsay, but had certainly left house on her account.

(8) Annon femme Mengin Regnault le jeune de Rozieres, 40

Two years before had seen her lying in vineyard with head between hands for some time; did not know what she had been doing.

31 December 1603; interrogation

Said she was Zabel Tozel, aged 48 or 49, native of Rozieres, daughter of Demenge Tozel and Chenne Viary. Married to Olry Go of Housseville for 22 years. Knew she had been accused by Ydatte.

Agreed to some instances when she had offered help, but denied any wrongdoing, and several incidental details.

1 January 1604; confrontations

No real results; did not reproach witnesses, repeated much the same minor admissions.

6 January 1604; deposition

Jean Lonard jeune fils de Bar-le-Duc, in prison on charge of stealing from a purse, attested that in 'fond de fosse' with her, had heard mysterious scratchings on 3 or 4 consecutive nights, while she was muttering and he heard something like stones fall - had been terrified. Confronted with her, she said it had been pigeons.

Also confronted with Mengin Lamourou, who had now confessed witchcraft and claimed to have seen her at sabbat; she denied this and said he was a wicked man.

19 January 1604; Rémy asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

24 January 1604; Change de Nancy agrees

27 January 1604; interrogation under torture

No details of torture; at first resisted charges, then asked to be taken down. Said she had been seduced 6 or 7 years earlier after her husband was angry with her in their vines and called her witch. Ran off on her own, and a big man dressed in black approached her. Usual seduction scene, except that she claimed she had refused to have intercourse, and he had taken her by force. Met her in vines 4 days later and gave her black and white powders to harm and heal, but she threw them away when he had gone. Returned again 8 days later and gave her more, instructing her not to throw these away; she used some to kill her cat. Later encountered Ydatte (who had denounced her) and Catherine widow of Claudon Aubert, on their way back from begging; Persil appeared and took them off to sabbat, where they danced and feasted with 7 or 8 others. Had been 7 or 8 times in all. Was beaten when she refused to go; then described making hail.

Confessed various maléfices attributed to her. Had caused Martin Cugnin's wife to miscarry because her cat had been killed at his wedding. Denied having made Estienne Haxaire's wife ill, however.

Identified as accomplices Ydatte and the widow of Claudon Aubert, but had known no others. Had been 'une grande qui sembloit estre une bonne bourgeoise', but those present wore masks and gloves.

29 January 1604; Rémy calls for death sentence, and Change de Nancy approves.

9 February 1604; definitive sentence by court at Rozieres