

B 8724 no 2. Witch 302, Jennon femme Demenge le Maire de Raon

14 November 1619; information préparatoires

Taken at request of Jean Rimbault of Raon, partie civile; her husband said to be potier de terre.

(1) Francoise femme Nicolas Jean Aubry, du petit faubourg, 40

3 years before gave her some chaff, but witness said she had no need of it. Soon lost a piglet she had never seen again - if she was witch thought she had been responsible.

(2) Nicolas Coupechausse, 35

Reputation 3 or 4 years.

(3) Pierre Pernille, 30

General reputation.

(4) George Fusselier, 33

Knew nothing

(5) Curienne veuve George Jean George, 50

Ditto

(6) Nicolas Jean Aubry, 40

Same story as wife - she had wanted to exchange chaff for wood.

(7) Aubertin Polain, 46

2 years before she told him as he passed that he was going to woods too early, and would be wise to stay in the town. Fell ill so that wife had to fetch him home, and was bedridden for 6 months; believed this was her doing.

(8) Alizon femme Nicolas Coupechausse, 20

General reputation

(9) Clemence femme George Fusselier, 30

Reputation 4 or 5 years.

(10) Alizon femme Lucas Massic, 30

18 months earlier her husband called her witch, then had a very painful leg, with which he was in bed for 3 weeks. Both suspected her. A year later came to house on pretext of getting fire, and said they had a lot of milk; witness said they did

not have much, but shortly afterwards her cow died. They thought that if she was witch she had been cause.

(11) Claudon Lhuillier, 33

18 months before, when living in house next to her, she told him those who lived in his house were always ill. Then fell ill, and in view of her reputation was advised to get bread, salt and ashes from her house - his wife did this and made soup, after drinking which he began to recover. Believed she had caused illness if she was witch.

(12) Margueritte femme Aubertin Polain, 42

Reputation 2 or 3 years.

(13) Demenge Potier du grand faubourg, 50

6 or 7 years earlier he and others were in her house (she was keeping tavern) and she disappeared for more than an hour, all dishevelled and with face bruised, as if coming back from sabbat - since then had thought her a witch.

(14) Didiere femme Gros Demenge, 40

Knew nothing

(15) Claudatte femme Demenge Barbonnier de Raon, 46

Ditto

(16) Nicolas le Clerc, charpentier, 31

Reputation 7 years.

(17) Nicolas Jean de Flin, tailleur, 30

Reputation 1 year. About 3 months earlier his wife had quarrel with her in market when she asked for payment which was due for some grain she had sold to accused. Next week she hit her in the back, and since then she had been very ill - they believed that if she was a witch she had caused this.

(18) Marie femme Nicolas le Clerc, 30

Reputation 5 or 6 years.

(19) Zabillon veuve Nicolas Sellier, 60

Reputation 12 years.

(20) Catherine femme Honnble Lucas Mercier, 40

General reputation.

(21) Anne femme Claudon Lhuillier, 28

Repeated husband's story of illness and cure. Some 7 or 8 years before she had quarrelled with her mother-in-law about place in church, after which latter sickened and died. If she was witch as reputed, believed she had caused this.

(22) Jennon femme Demenge Durand, 18

Long reputation.

(23) Marie femme Claude Lhuillier, 37

3 or 4 years earlier when she was keeping tavern her husand had often been there, so that she had to go and fetch him. Had great illness - if she was witch thought she was cause.

(24) Demenge Gros Demenge, 45

Knew nothing

(25) Sybille femme Nicolas Dejo, 50

Reputation 8 years.

(26) Claudette femme Claudon Quentin, 50

Knew nothing

(27) Claude Lhuillier, 36

Reputation 9 or 10 years, that she was witch like her mother, who had been executed. Some 7 or 8 years before, complaining to her that her husband earned nothing, she replied that when she needed anything she went up the chimney and brought back enough - made her suspect she was a witch.

(15 November 1619)

(28) Demenge Jean Colin, 30

Knew nothing

(29) Marie veuve Demenge Parisot, 40

After quarrel 3 years earlier lost a cow, and believed that if she was witch as reputed she had caused this.

(30) Jalnon femme Nicolas Jean de Flin, 30

Reputed husband's story about quarrel and her illness.

(31) Claudon Quentin, 45

Knew nothing

(32) Margueritte femme Nicolas Cordier, 41

Reputation 3 or 4 years.

(33) Jean Polain, 50

Knew nothing

(34) Nicolas Didier Laurent, 37

Reputation 5 years.

(35) Dion femme Honnble Bastien Sachot, 45

Reputation 2 or 3 years, and heard her called witch in public.

(36) Claudatte femme Jean Hoult, 36

Reputation 6 or 7 years.

(37) Sebille femme Nicolas Didier Laurent, 35

2 years before she sent her son to buy milk from witness, but she told him she had none. Later had a calf sick, and when she herself came to ask for milk a week later told her she had only a little but she could take it. Mentioned illness, since she was suspicious, and she said calf was 'moult esveillé', after which it recovered in 3 days.

(38) Claudon Chapouyat, 35

Reputation 4 or 5 years.

(39) Babon femme Demenge Voinesson, 28

Reputation 10 or 11 years.

(40) Collette veuve Idoux Vigneron, 60

Reputation 3 years.

(41) Margueritte femme Demenge de Hurbache, 30

Reputation 4 years

(42) Jennon femme Claudon Chapouxat, 50

Knew nothing

(43) Catherine femme Jean Hachon, 50

Reputation 3 years.

(44) Jennon femme Demenge Roussé, 30

Knew nothing

(45) Demenge Roussé, 36

Reputation 7 or 8 years.

(46) Bastien Sachot, marchand drappier, 50

Reputation 3 years.

(16 November 1619)

(47) Nicolas Cordier, 44

Reputation 4 years.

(48) Demenge Gros Demenge, 30

Knew nothing

(49) Martin Sachot, 45

Reputation 4 or 5 years. His brother, who died after great illness, held her in great fear, but did not know cause of illness.

(50) Symonete femme Martin Sachot, 45

Knew nothing

(51) Marie femme Bastien Fournier de la Neufville devant Raon, 25

2 years earlier her late husband had been in bed with illness from which he died, and wanted to try bread and salt from her house, but was too ill to eat them. Did not know whether illness was her doing. 3 years earlier had asked for milk, and angry when told they had none, after which their cow lost milk - if she was witch might have caused this.

19 November 1619; Change de Nancy orders that she be arrested, interrogated, and confronted.

26 November 1619; additional depositions

(52) Demenge Mongeon, 32

3 years earlier had owed her 15 gros, and she was pressing for payment. Promised to bring her two cartloads of wood, but when she asked again for these made remark about using them to burn her. She was angry, called him thief and

other names, saying 'qu'elle l'aura ou le diable l'aura'. About 2 weeks later became ill with a fever which lasted six months - if she was witch as reputed thought she had caused this.

(53) Didier Ferry, hostelain, 30

General reputation

(54) Idion veuve Jean Menusier, 40

Long reputation

(55) Lucas Mathis, 40

Had called her witch during qarrel 4 or 5 years earlier - no reply.

(56) Jehenne veuve Claude Brabant, tabellion, 60

Knew nothing

(57) Jennon femme Demenje Jean Mathieu, 30

Reputation 7 or 8 years.

(27 November 1619)

(58) Margueritte femme Chrestofle Lhuillier, mre echevin en la justice de Raon, 60

Knew nothing

(59) Margueritte femme Noel Roch, 26

5 years earlier had told witness that her mother and Jennon femme Jean Petit (both executed as witches) had talked of playing quilles at sabbat, using heads of stillborn children as boules and limbs as quilles. Witness said she must have known her mother was a witch, but she said not. Had overheard them talking by the bridge, and they had not seen her.

(60) Pasquatte femme Adam Vaulchier, 36

7 or 8 years before she and her husband were going to St Dié when she suddenly felt frightened as she was about to mount horse. As soon as she mounted looked back and saw accused, then fell off horse. Accused fell behind at an obscure and cloudy corner, after which witness did not dare remount. As she went was complaining of pain in arm, and accused asked what was wrong with her - replied that she had seen her fall from horse. In view of bad reputation thought she had caused this.

(28 November 1619)

(61) Mongeon Jacquot, 40

Knew nothing

(62) Anthoine Maurond, 35

Ditto

26 November 1619; interrogation

Said she was 31, native of Raon. Knew she was suspected as witch. Admitted that she had been in court before, for her part in stealing a piece of cloth. Had been married for 15 years; husband had 'faict moult mauvais mesnage et qu'elle a heu beaucoup mal avec luy'. Asked if she had caused illness of Aubertin Polain said no, and she was not 'une devineresse de maladie'.

Said that cow of Lucas Mathis had licked 'saumure', then drunk too much; his wife was 'une meschante femme et une desdisse'. Denied causing illness of Marie femme Claude Lhuillier, but described how she had come to house and said it 'n'estoit qu'un bordeau, et qu'elle cachoit son marit dedans son lict' - she rushed out and struck her, knocking off her bonnet, after which she fled. Had caused her no other harm, but if she had been witch would have killed her on the spot.

Said Demenge Pottier had called her witch, but her husband had reached an accord with him. Denied making Jean Sachot ill, and said he had been 'un fort bon homme'.

(28 November 1619)

Agreed to remarks she had overheard from mother about game of quilles at sabbat, but denied this meant she must have been accomplice. Claimed that she went to remonstrate with mother, who said 'Meschante, il ne faut que toy pour m'en scandaliser', and drove her out of room with a broom. Asked why she had not reported remarks, said she was not 'sy fine'.

27 November 1619; confrontations

Marie femme Claude Lhuillier added story about how 15 or 16 years earlier she heard accused tell of seeing a big black man behind house of Joseph Marchand - may have said it was the Devil. Accused (who alleged she had seen Marie stealing some grain, which she denied) said she had told story to frighten children, since the master of the house had given instruction they should not go out at the back, where the river was. The man had actually been Jean de Ramberviller, carrying some leather.

(28 November) Agreed to remarks she had overheard about quilles, adding that Jean Petit's wife had been local midwife. Otherwise no reproaches, and merely admissions of some incidental detail.

4 December 1619; Change de Nancy approves question ordinaire et extraordinaire

5 December 1619; interrogation under torture

Withstood thumbscrews, but started to confess when racked. Had been seduced by Mre Persin 6 years earlier, on road to Baccarat, when angry that her husband sent her out against her will. Told him she was angry and her children

were very hungry. First time she refused him, although he offered money; second time she agreed. Money was only leaves and straw; gave her powder (black to kill, yellow to heal, grey to make languish) 7 weeks later. Asked about having intercourse with him, claimed she had always refused.

Had been to sabbat 7 or 8 times, taken by master around midnight. Had seen as many as 700 people there, mostly masked, who feasted and danced. Those she had seen were the wife of Jean Bontemps of La Neuveville devant Raon, wife of Demenge Maiseteste of Moyenmoutier (previously executed), and Jean Colin Porchier of Raon.

Admitted making wife of Nicolas Jean de Flin ill, but said she would not die and would recover once baby was born. Had also made Claudon Lhuillier ill, and tried unsuccessfully to heal him with yellow powder. Master had brought her some grease which she put in an eggshell - used this as he told her, then vanished and found herself at sabbat. Denied some other maléfices, confessed one or two, including killing an ox belonging to Claudon Noisette of St Blaise, after he rebuked her for chasing off his pigs - no accusation here. After quarrel with wife of le Grand Colin of Moyenmoutier over a faulty pot she had sold her, master urged her to drown her, but she would only agree to making her fall in the river. Had wanted to give illness to Dom Barthelemy at abbey of Moyenmoutier because husband had not been paid for some work, but he did not come out and she was unable to use powder on him. Had also killed an ox belonging to maire Bastien of la Neufville, after being sharply refused alms at his house (milk and straw) - this was at master's suggestion, which she rejected at first.

6 December 1619; repeated earlier confessions. Added that once when returning from St Dié with her husband, who had beaten her, she thought of making him fall in the river, but changed her mind.

7 December 1619; further confirmation

12 December 1619; Change de Nancy approves death sentence

14 December 1619; formal death sentence from court at Raon