

B 5312 no 4; witch 094, Senelle femme du jeune Enguers, de Guinzeling

? 1584; informations préparatoires

Taken at request of the hardier des porcs of Guinzeling, who had made himself partie formelle against her

(1) Le vieux Haman, 60

Reputation 20 years. Had lost animals to value of 300 florins after several disputes with her husband.

(2) Rictel Schoullen, 60

Reputation 12 years, no personal suspicion.

(3) Andreu Gralp Kopff, 60

Reputation 6 years. Her husband did not attend when community assembled, and no-one dared fine him for fear of his wife.

(4) Le jeune Haman, 42

Reputation 15 years. Story about husband not attending assembly - while watching them from tavern window. Earlier that year had been taking cartload of wood to salines at Dieuze, when she (as neighbour) made remark to his servants, saying that some still had to cart their wood from the woods, while hers was already at the salines. Feared she would cause him losses, and struck her in stomach; horses had been unable to plough that year, and one of them died.

(5) Thomen Senuiet, 32

Story about community, and how her husband mocked them. As lieutenant of maire had been sent to maire at Domnon to ask advice, who said they should go as group to fine him. Reputation 7 years.

(6) Arnolt Mengin, 40

Reputation as 'paillarde' and witch.

(7) Hannes Hanns

Long reputation

(8 & 9) Adlouphe Michel, 30, and Lorentz Schneider, 32

Same as witness 3; Adlouphe suspected her over loss of animals worth 100 ecus.

(10 & 11) Fiacres Thomen, 32, and Thoma George, 42

Same as witness 3; had heard from servant of Gros Jehan, when they were guarding animals, that her master and mistress suspected her over death of a horse.

(12) Pfaffs Hanns, 46

Had not dared fine husband for fear of her.

(13 &14) Claudon Waultrin, 50, and Bernard Mathieu, 43

General reputation. Bernard added that she had reputation as 'ribaulde' 18 years earlier, and told of his threshing companions going off with her.

(15) Jehan Mathieu alias Gros Jehan, 35

Reputation 18 years. Previous year had lost horse after his animals strayed, and her boy threatened his niece.

(16) Colla Symeon, 25

Long reputation. Had heard from Didier Waultrin that he suspected her over death of two horses after occasions when he had found her in his stable.

(17) Diedrich Waultrin, 30

General reputation only (no mention of horses as above, and was same man as mentioned there).

(18) Quentin Le Roy, 40

Reputation 20 years.

(19) Demenge Sellier, 50

Reputation 20 years. Previous year she had taken his horse, which she found in her field of oats; he sent his wife to recover it, since she spoke German, but accused would not accept his caution. Finally took his son with him (since witness did not speak German), and recovered horse, but it died 2 days later, and he suspected her of causing this.

(20) Benedic Tixeran, 47

Reputation 15 years (residence).

(21) Didier Braunschwicks, mulnier, 34

Long reputation

(22) Le petit Frantz, 60

Thought she was good woman, and had only seen 'tout plaisir et amitie' in her.

(3 November 1584)

(23) Marie veuve Steff, 60

Had been ill 12 years earlier, and on porch, when accused visited her and said she should seek a remedy - did not respond to this because she feared her, then as she moved away a sudden wind assailed witness, who 'sortit de son bon sang', and had to be taken to feste at Vergaville. Another occasion when her husband refused to sell them some grain, and same night a foal died - suspected her over this.

(24) Engel femme au Schouller, 40

General reputation.

(25) Elizabeth femme au vieulx Haman, 52

Some 5 years before had gone to marriage feast at Domnon and left servant in charge of house. Accused came asking for some 'picatte', but servant said she did not have keys to cellar. Witness returned to find servant ill, claiming that Senel had climbed through window, jumped on her bed, and given her a drink - kept lips tight, but had taken a little of it, and now thought she was dying. Mistress told her it was a dream, but when she went to make her some soup came back to find she had vomited up black matter which she said was the drink. Also told of occasion 10 years earlier when they lost a horse, and 'escorcheur' who had come to deal with it called her witch as she passed. Suspected her over various losses of animals.

(26) Alyson femme au jeune Haman, 50

General reputation; suspected her over loss of 3 sows 10 years earlier, which died at same time vomiting strangely.

(27 & 28) Keth femme Symet, 38, and Marie femme Hannis Hans, 25

Long reputation.

(29) Alyson femme Michiel, 28

Some 10 years earlier she and Kinio, femme Graveskopff, were in bed together when they saw a strange blue light come into room and then weigh down on them; Kinio tried to catch it with her hand while calling on God for help, and it vanished. Suspected it of being her trying to do them harm, after quarrel previous day when she tried to use their washing water and they protested. She had been angry, saying what they really meant was that their bodies were 'plus beaue et plus famée que le sien'.

(30) Kinio femme Engers Graveskopff, 24

Confirmed this deposition.

(31 & 32) Senel femme Hambois, 30, and Uthel femme Benedict, 25

General reputation.

(33, 34, et al,) Senel femme Arnoult Mongien, 30, Barbe femme Quentin le Roy, 40,
Reth femme Lorens Schneider, 24, Marguicte femme Holla Symeon, 25

Ditto

(35) Jehanne femme Demenge Sollier, 46

Repeated husband's deposition.

(36) Nesso femme George, 36

General reputation.

(37) Alyson femme Bernard Mathieu, 30

General reputation. 10 years before, when her mother was on deathbed, she said that Senelle was cause of death, and hated her because she had taken keeping of calves away from her.

(38) Annon femme Friederich, 30

Told how 11 years before she had come in to house where witness was spinning, and told her that her husband had beaten her and driven her out. Crying bitterly, said she had gone to cheibgartten (where community assembled), been pushed by a great wind, and seen a big man in black.

(39 - 41) Marguicte femme petit Francois, 30, Sebille femme Claudon Waultrin, 43,
and Barbe femme Jean Mathieu, 42

General reputation.

9 November 1584; confrontations

No reproaches, but constantly denied that she was a witch. Said at one point that a group of witnesses had nothing but hearsay to report, and a man should not drive his wife out for that.

12 November 1584; interrogation

Said she was over 50. Then asked about various depositions. Said that jeune Haman had killed his horses in doing carting for the salines. Said that the community 'estoit bien peu hardie de gaiger son marit pour l'amende de communauté quant il n'y sy trouvoit, redoubtant une femme, requerant a Messieurs sieurs de Justices que tous ceulx dudit Guinzeling qui la soubsonnent pour une sorciere fussent prins et constituez prisonniers tant et sy longuement qu'ilz n'avoient faict apparence suffisament a droict qu'elle soit telle, et signamment prouvé les faicts de sortilège qu'ilz luy ont veue faire.'

Continued to deny charges, insisting that they were based on hearsay. Asked why she was so feared, said she did not know, 'et que Dieu ne scavoit sceu garder des meschantes langues et qu'a grande peine s'en scauroit elle garder.' Those

who deposed against her would be damned, while if she died she would do so as an innocent.

2 January 1585; PG (Maimbourg) asks that she be presented to the torture, and if appropriate be tortured.

19 January 1585; brief record of further interrogation in prison at Dieuze; she maintained denials.

12 February 1585; Maimbourg recorded as having written from Lunéville to say that as she has twice resisted the torture she should be renvoyée. Her husband had to guarantee payment of costs of her keep and of taking records. (2 signatures and 4 very crude marks)

18 July 1594; substitut for PG asks that she be called in, according to terms of previous sentence. Has been accused by Charles Austien of Loudrefing, recently executed at Biderstroff; he asks that depositions and confrontations take place.

19 July 1594; informations préparatoires

Now stated to be widow, accused by Scherr Austien.

(1) Jacobs Haman, 80

Reputation 20 years; had heard that since previous release had been called witch by one Michiel.

(2) Engel veuve Michel Schouter, 60

Reputation 12 years, as much after trial as before.

(3) Demenge Sellier, 90

Reputation 30 years (residence). Told of 2 disputes over straying animals, followed by deaths (12 and 10 years before).

(4) Elysabeth femme Jacobs Haman, 60

Reputation 16 years. Told story of servant and drink, which she placed 10 years back - much briefer than at first trial.

(5) Alyson femme jeune Haman, 40

Reputation 25 years.

(6) Geoffroy Péroit Sellier, 33

Repeated father's story about loss of horses, but added a third case, of another foal which was attacked and bitten by a large black horse, after which it died. Also argument with husband about a mare he had bought, because he did not want to pass on foal; eventually he had to do this, but then the mare died, and he

suspected her. Said that at previous Easter her son and daughter-in-law called her witch, and for this had been excluded from church by the curé.

(7) Annel femme du precedent, 25

Repeated some of husband's deposition; said they had been excluded from church by curé until they forgave one another.

(8) Marie femme Hannssman, 30

Long reputation. When Gros Michiel was watering horse at well, he said to her 'Vay tu sorciere, tu m'as desja assé faict de dommage par cy devant, mais sy tu me fais encore mourir ce cheval icy, je te feray brusler ou je brusleray'. No reparation sought. Also told about exclusion from church.

(9) Sennelle femme Arnould Mengin, 40

Long reputation, exclusion from church.

(10) Barbe femme Quentin le Roy, 60

Reputation 20 years; had heard from daughter-in-law that she had called her witch when she made difficulty about giving her milk.

(11) Annel veuve Jean Thomas, 45

General reputation, exclusion from church.

(12) Alison femme Michiel, 38

Said previous deposition had been true, and they had suffered great losses since then, over which they suspected no-one but her. Told of her husband (Gros Michiel) calling her witch and threatening to have her burned, and of exclusion from church.

(13) Catherine jadis femme Laurent Parmentier (now lepreux), 36

Reputation 20 years.

(14) Quentin le Roy, 60

Called witch by her own children.

(15) Demenge Masson, 26

Reputation 8 years (residence). Called witch by Gros Michiel and own children - exclusion from church.

(16) Estienne Mulnier, 26

Long reputation, and called witch.

(17) Le jeune Haman, 50

Still called witch by several since release, no reparation sought.

(18) Symon Thomas lieutenant de maire, 42

Reputation 18 years (residence), and called witch.

(19) Adolph Michiel, 40

General reputation. 3 years earlier had passed by his window, and within a quarter of an hour a child came to tell him one of his horses was dead - suspected her (implied trespass). Then told of calling her witch when she passed him with horse - as already reported by wife and others.

(20) Engers Geusslinger, 40

Exclusion from church.

4 August 1594; interrogation

Said she was about 60; knew she was accused of witchcraft. Did not remember time of previous imprisonment, but had been on account of hardier named Stoffel. Agreed to exclusion from church, but did not remember cause of quarrel with children. Also agreed to accusation by Gros Michiel; had taken him before maire, but he had said he did not know what he had said, being drunk. (Marginal note that there were other charges on which she should have been interrogated - only one tackled was killing some horses.)

8 August 1594; confrontations

No reproaches, but denied all charges. Said Adolph Michiel could not prove she had caused death of his horses; also that she often passed his windows.

18 August 1594; Rémy asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

27 August 1594; Change de Nancy approves moderate torture only, in view of age and 'caducité'.

31 August 1594; interrogation under torture

Said she was about 60; did not know names of parents, whom she did not remember seeing. Had been in service at Guinzeling and Domnon until marriage. Denied being witch, given 2 or 3 hours to think it over, then tortured. Asked to be taken down after a time, and said she had been seduced 18 years earlier, when distressed at loss of a horse; her master was called Federbrüsch (which 'en notre langage' meant torchon de plume). Usual seduction scene - promised money to buy another horse, which turned out to be dung. Visited her again 3 weeks later and had intercourse with her again, but left when she protested that he had not given her money as promised.

Later told her to kill her pig, which she did with mixture of soot and animal fat. She and accomplices took 2 stillborn children from cemetery at Münster (6 km

away) to make powder. Kept hands to make candles - asked how they could be lit, said it was in the name of the devil. Had been carried off on spindle to make hail, but prevented by bells. On another occasion danced with accomplices, who included Hanns le hardier. Had killed Sellier's horses with drink, and tried to kill the servant at night (because she had called her witch), but could not because she had commended herself to God. Did this in the form of a cat. Her master took form of black horse to kill another horse belonging to Sellier.

Admitted killing some other horses (in response to questions), and to another sabbat (typical feast) where Scherre Austien was king. Had appeared in room of 2 girls, but could do nothing because they called on Jesus. Said she had made her Easter, but asked how she could swallow host, admitted she had kept it and thrown it away. Accomplices included Kethel de Domnon and Jean Jacquat of Dorfsviller, as well as Jean hardier du rouge bestail of Dorfsviller; had held marriage feast for Jacquat's daughter, who married a young devil. Jehenne femme du Sellier of Guinzeling was also an accomplice, and helped her kill a horse. Had discharged her because they made a pact not to accuse one another.

7 September 1594; Change de Nancy asks that she should confirm confessions freely, then approves death sentence.