

Vosges G 708 no 1; witch 338, Marion femme Claudel Flandrey du Faing de Ste Marguerite

2 June 1608; informations préparatoires

Followed confrontation on 31 May with Claudatte femme Bastien Delat of St Dié (witch 239), who maintained accusation.

(1) Mengeatte femme Anthoine Jacquat, 25

5 years earlier her husband had rented part of meadow from husband of accused, to raise some calves. Thought she might have been angry because he did not enter into another deal with husband, and one day was leading 2 calves to the meadow when they got into a stream. Marion appeared, barefoot from taking animals to pasture, so witness asked her to drive calves out of stream, which she did, taking her stick in her left hand and striking one, which died same day. Suspected this might have been her witchcraft, in view of reputation and fact that she had already been arrested, and that when she took stick in left hand she might have put some powder or poison on its end - she had already been worried when she saw her do this.

(2) Claudatte femme Gregoire Vincent Henryat, 29

A year earlier her husband owed Claudel Flandrey some money which he had borrowed from him in his capacity as guardian of children of late Barbay. Was asked to repay it or sell him 2 animals, but he refused on grounds that he wanted to sell all his animals, then lease them back from purchaser. Flandrey could not afford to perform this 'charité' for him, so they were sold to the Sr Flamant, secretary to chapter. Then had various losses among the animals, which she suspected her doing of Marion, who had already been arrested once and was said to have been accused again.

(3) Marie femme Colas Demenge le Roy, 48

Had not suspected her at time of first trial, but since then had been keeping village sheep, and when these were under guard of her daughter a wolf killed 3 belonging to Colin Humbert, now of Grattain. Left 2 lying there, and carried off third into trees, but daughter followed and found wolf resting; was able to carry third sheep back to village unhindered. Believed this had been her witchcraft, particularly since she had a dispute with Humbert over a 'roye' (stream) in front of her house. Witness was bemoaning loss, thinking that Humbert would make her pay, but he said he bore her no 'mauvais gré', reserving this for accused whom he believed to be a witch. Witness 'commença à semer le bruict du mauvais gré qu'elle luy en scavoit', and soon afterwards lost a cow and a calf, which she believed might have been Marion's witchcraft. Reputation, and was relative of Demenge Milan and of wife of Demenge Simonel, already executed.

(4) Marguitte femme Bertremin Flandrey, 46

3 years before an ox died after she passed in front of animals in stable, so suspected she had caused this, although there had been no quarrel. Previous autumn had dispute over apple tree, also over trespassing by horses of accused's husband; then witness was in a hurry and took animals through Marion's garden. She said nothing, but 6 cattle to value of 50 écus later died, which she suspected had been her witchcraft.

(5) Marie femme Jean Demenge le Roy, 50

Had nothing to depose this time, having said what she knew on previous occasion.

(6) Mengeatte femme Mengeon Demenge, 55

6 or 7 years earlier, during her widowhood, a brother of the accused named Claudel (who lived in her house) had been fishing for crayfish by night, and pushed his torch into window of witness's house. She was frightened of fire, and called her son to help, who caught Claudel. They were going to take him to court, but were persuaded to drop this; still thought Marion was angry, and soon after a mare escaped into her meadow, then died after she cursed it. If she was witch as reputed, thought she had caused this.

(7) Beniste femme Mengeon Henryat, maire de Ste Marguerite, 40

Around time of last Jubilee her son aged 5 was caught taking apples from Marion's garden, and witness went to punish him, saying 'que le diable ayt part des enfans'. He then became all swollen, and died after a year, which she suspected had been her witchcraft, in view of reputation.

(8) Colin Humbert Guidat, de Grattain, 36

Story of dispute over stream, and subsequent killing of sheep. He claimed that wolf carried one off into meadow belonging to Marion, adding that he had heard that witches sometimes transformed themselves into wolves, and that in view of reputation he suspected her.

(9) Mengeon Girompaire, 30

A few years earlier had been maire of le Faing, and heard that Marion had threatened his wife after quarrels; after marriage they lost a mare worth 100 francs, which in view of reputation and threats they suspected was her doing.

(10) Bertremin Flandrey, 45

Repeated essentials of wife's deposition.

(11) Jean Demenge le Roy, 68

Previous year he had passed across her field to reach his garden, and husband had obtained court order that he should stop doing so, but he continued because he had yet to make another way in. The fruit trees in the garden, which had set excellent fruit, then lost them all, so he suspected that if she was witch she had caused this. Had heard from someone he could not name that her husband had said she should be burned, because she killed his horses.

(12) Claudatte femme Colas Gerard, 40

First arrest was 9 or 10 years earlier, after which she blamed first husband of witness, Noel Ferry, for her arrest, and hated him. 6 months later was carting dung when he was surprised by 'ung aire sy vehemente' that he was brought back on his cart, and died 5 days later; she was on point of having him tied down because he was throwing himself around so much. During this period he continually repented having helped to arrest her, saying that he should have paid a fine to the seigneurs rather than become involved. She suspected Marion of causing his death, and put this about village so that she was well aware of it. 3 years earlier her present husband had undertaken too much ploughing, and asked husband of accused for help, which he refused at her instigation. An ox then became ill for 18 weeks, only able to eat what her husband pushed down its throat, after which it slowly recovered - believed she had caused this, also death of a pig which had eaten grain obtained from her husband. In latter case she had been unwilling to sell grain, fearing they would need it.

(13) Colas Gerard, 44

2 years earlier had leased a meadow, which was then sold to husband of accused. Reached agreement by which he was to have first crop of hay, but when he was cutting it something like a fly stung his arm, and he was unable to use it until Christmas. Made several pilgrimages to St Genaisse, and cursed witches in her presence - she did not react. Also story about ploughing and sick ox, as told by wife.

(14) Gregoire Vincent Henryat, 36

Had refused to sell him 2 cows previous year, then losses of animals (as told by wife), which he believed had been her doing if she was witch as reputed.

(15) Jehennon femme Colas Jobart, 50

Previous summer accused gave her some cherries she was picking in her garden, after eating which she was ill for a month. Did not know whether she gave her the illness or not, and did not suspect her.

4 June 1608; procureur orders arrest and interrogation

6 June 1608; interrogation

Said she was Marion Colas Milan, aged about 50. Native of Remomeix, daughter of Colas Milan and his wife Mengeatte; mother was relative of Didielle femme Demenge Simmonel, who had been executed as a witch. She had lived at le Faing for 19 years. Knew she had been accused of witchcraft, as she had been some 10 years earlier, but this was from envy.

Denied all charges vehemently, saying repeatedly that those who made them were 'mechants gens, traistres, et juifs'. At end said 'que sy son marit ne la veult recepvoir à sortir d'icy, qu'il le laisse et qu'elle prendra peine de se nourrir, et que sondit marit vendra son bien, et nous envoyera ses enfans pour les nourrir.'

6 June 1608; confrontations

In reply to Mengeatte femme Anthoine Jacquat, said her children came begging at her door every day, which other effectively admitted.

Marie femme Colas Demenge le Roy added that she had been employed to nurse Jean fils feu Didier Maremmeix de Barbey, who had Marion's husband as guardian, and during fatal illness he claimed she had given it to him because he beat one of her sons.

Beniste femme Mengeon Henryat added that she had heard from a German who was living with Mengeon Dion at Viel Marché that he had seen her in vines with horns hanging down behind her head; claimed he had learned this means of discovering witches from hangman of Berckain, whom he had given 2 francs for the information.

Accused Jean Demenge le Roy of stealing sheep, saying she knew this from those who had eaten them with him, and naming someone who was currently absent. Claimed that first wife of Colas Jobart, Agathe, had confessed that she had done harm in her name, and second wife might be doing likewise. Was told there was nothing about this in Agathe's trial, and she could not possibly know about it except by means of the devil.

Generally wished that God might treat witnesses as they had treated her, and denied everything.

7 June 1608; procureur d'office (Clement) asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

10 June 1608; Change de Nancy approves

16 June 1608; interrogation under torture

Was given thumbscrews, rack, and tortillons; also threatened with yet more serious unspecified torture, but would admit nothing.

25 June 1608; procureur d'office records that she had already been tortured on 4 February 1598. Suggested that she had not seemed to feel much pain during torture, so must have been protected by her master, and that she had not obeyed instructions at previous release to live better with neighbours, who feared her greatly. Therefore asked for perpetual banishment after payment of costs. Added that Claudette

femme Bastien Delat had maintained her accusation until death, and that there were more witnesses who could be produced in a fresh trial.

27 June 1608; Change de Nancy recommends that she be renvoyée, since she had sufficiently purged herself of the charges against her, subject to right of procureur to bring forward fresh evidence.