

B 4998; witch 090, Gillette veuve Bastien Jean Page, de Condé (Custines)

5 August 1626; on information that Gillette was commonly reputed a witch, and that everyone feared her on account of her behaviour, substitut for PG de Lorraine asks for depositions to be taken.

12 August 1626; informations préparatoires

(1) Francois Naville paistre des menues bestes de Condé, 37

Around last St Jean, when they were both living in hospital at Condé, had heard great noise of cats on roof over her room around midnight, followed by thunderstorm. Reputation as witch.

(2) Claudon des Chiens femme Jean Genereux de Condé, 42

Reputation 10 years.

(3) Mengeon Francois femme Nicolas Chardin de Condé, 36

Reputation 10 years, since witness was resident. One day at the oven heard other women reproach her, telling her she was suspected as a witch, 'et que sy elle estoit telle qu'il failloit qu'elle s'en accuse et que sy elle ne l'estoit qu'il failloit avoir patience'. She was angry, putting hands on knees and stamping as she said 'que l'on la voulois faire enrager', to which witness thought she added 'sy le diable ne la voulois emporter'. Had had children 'chacques' and suspected this was witchcraft.

(4) Claudon Vincent femme Jean Pieron de Condé, 70

Reputation 7 years. Suspected her of causing death of her daughter Simonette, wife of her son Claude, whom she had treated badly, telling her son off for not beating her often enough.

(5) Jean Renesson Vigenberg de Condé, 44

Had heard her reputed witch for 3 or 4 years, and she had said she was not, but that she had been a whore.

(6) Jean Vaulthier paistre des bestes rouges de Condé, 50

Reputation since he was resident, 6 years. Believed she had caused death of his niece aged 7, to whom she had given cherries; child had died 2 weeks earlier, with a lump in throat which prevented her eating or drinking. Wife had told him that she had previously quarrelled with Gillette, who told her she would repent.

(7) Marguerite femme Barthelemin Francois serrurier de Condé, 30

Reputation 5 years, since marriage and residence. Some 2 years before husband was having supper at house of Martin Mengeat (hostelain), and sent witness some bread, meat, and wine. Gillette, who was neighbour, came in and suggested they ate it together, but witness, who had 5-month-old child in arms, said 'qu'elle aymoit mieux achever son enfans qu'elle'; replied 'Hola hola je vois bien que vous me tournez le dos, nous ne serons plus guiere ensemble'. Within quarter of an hour baby became very ill, and next day she came to house again, touched it, and said they should make a neuvaine to St Lieger. Offered to undertake this herself, but witness and husband refused. Child died 3 days later, all dried up; just before death she came back and told husband that if she drew some milk from her breasts and put it on his lips to refresh them 'il passeroit incontinent'. Did so and he immediately died; suspected this had been her doing because of refusal of food. Also told of incident on All Saints Day 2 years before, when she heard her consigning her children to the devil, and told her she should pray God for them. Gillette then said that people of Condé were good, showing her 17 gros she had received as alms for the dead in the cemetery; said again they were good 'et qu'elle ne leur feroit jamais mal sy elle devroit estre tuée tourmentée et foudriée', then added 'mais' without going further. On another occasion she and her husband spoke of witchcraft to accused, who said 'Hola hola sy je suis prinse il y en aura encor des autres'.

(8) Mengin Bailly de Condé, 68

General reputation; had heard her called witch by wife of Francois Naville.

(9) Claude Louis vigneron de Condé, 40

General reputation.

(10) Noel Roussel, 50

Some 16 years earlier she had been looking after a vineyard for him and his wife Claudon, since they lived at Rogeville; she had done this for some years, and they came to gather grapes. She said to his wife that 'elle s'estonnoit bien' that they had brought nothing for her as they had been accustomed to do, then gave her a grape to taste, insisting when she tried to refuse. Wife felt as if something pricked her head, and died 4 or 5 days later, saying that she suspected Gillette; asked him to come back to Condé and give her something, which he did, but could not find her. Had heard her say that her daughter-in-law suspected her of causing death of her child, and that she had gone into house with some fish, putting one fish into hand of child in cradle. Said child was crying when she went in, then later said perhaps it was already dead.

(11) Jean Genereux de Condé, 50

Reputation more than 20 years. When wife of Claude Valois had been drowned in the river some 9 or 10 days earlier, he had said it was impossible that the witches had not drowned her, to which she replied that he was speaking to her. He

said 'qu'il parloit a celles que scavoient faire et que scavoit esté elle ou quelqu'un de sa race'; her response was 'que l'on ne scauroit tenir les gens de parler et qu'elle n'estoit sur l'eau lors que ladite femme fut noyée'.

(12) Nicolas Mathelin vigneron de Condé, 40

Reputation 8 or 9 years. Had heard her called witch by her sister Francoise, wife of Jean Gros Jean, to whom she replied that in that case she was one too. Had seen her asking for 'paste, bois et braise' at oven, sometimes taking it without asking 'disans que sy on ne la craignoit on ne luy donneroit rien'.

(13) Odille femme Mengin Bailly de Condé, 50

Reputation more than 5 years; had heard her say 'que l'on disoit qu'elle estoit sorciere, et que sy elle l'estoit qu'elle ne se feroit desrompre, et que sy elle l'estoit qu'il y avoit deux femmes a l'hospital dudit Condé qui n'y fussent prins'. When she had come to hospital, where witness lived, same night there was great noise of cats; had heard this 3 times, but never since she left. When witness was praying before going to bed had said to her 'qu'elle ne scauroit tant dire de paternostres'.

(14) Bastienne femme Francois Naville de Condé, 40

Reputation since residence (3 years); one day asked Mengin Bailly why he bought 'eschades' from accused, since she had bought one and found a vermin in it, and he later told Gillette. 2 or 3 days later one of her children became ill, and passed out two live worms; still ill more than a year later, and she suspected her. Had herself been ill for 3 months, and husband said near Gillette's room that she was bewitched, to which she replied that he should be quiet and she was not going to die, so she suspected her over this too. Had heard her say 'que ce seroit bien daventure sy l'on vendangeoit et seilloit a Condé et a Malleoy ceste année'; when Mengeon Bailly's wife asked her what she had said she replied 'ne te chaille tu n'en a point d'affaire'. Also told of noise of cats at hospital.

(15) Gegoult Gandremel passager de Condé, 40

Reputation more than 20 years. Some 5 years before, when he was running four banal, she was accustomed to come there to beg, and asked him to put in 'un eschande' she had been given, but he refused because oven was already full. Was angry and told him he would repent; soon after his child aged 18 months died after 3 week illness. Suspected her, and his brother-in-law Nicolas Francois threatened her that he and the witness would have her taken as a witch if she did not heal child, to which she replied that he should be quiet and the child would not die.

(11 August 1626)

(16) Francoise femme Claude Bracconnier, bouchier de Condé, 30

Reputation more than 7 years. Some 3 years ago was helping to harvest flax, and she sent her daughter aged 12 in front of her to pick smaller plants. She complained that daughter called her 'vieille sot' after she told her off for messing up the flax; witness sent girl off to fetch a 'serpette', but when she returned she was 'estropiée' in one arm, and could still not use it, over which she suspected the accused.

(17) Barthelemy Francois serrurier de Condé, 30

Repeated essentials of wife's deposition; added that he had beaten her on various occasions, also that when she showed money she had been asking him to go and dine with her.

(18) Claude Bracconnier bouchier de Condé, 36

Told story of daughter's illness after dispute harvesting flax; he had reproached her with causing it, and she had said they must have patience and it would be nothing.

(19) Maizon femme Jean Vauchier paistre des rouges bestes de Condé, 55

General reputation; reported remark about sowing and harvesting.

(20) Marguerite fille Claude Bracconnier, 13

Told story of dispute over flax; Alizon Chambrey, who was working with them, told mother that she had not said 'vieille sot' and should not be beaten, but mother still did beat her.

12 August 1626; substitut asks for arrest and interrogation

14 August 1626; interrogation

Said she was Gillette Ticquet, widow of Bastien Jean Page, aged about 70. Knew she had been arrested on charge of witchcraft, but she was innocent; several people had called her witch, but had been unable to avenge herself because of her poverty. Said she had not left to avoid arrest, but because her brother-in-law Gros Jean had told her that her children at Bouxieres-aux-Dames had asked for her.

Denied whole series of charges, including many circumstantial details. Did admit statement that if she were witch she would not allow herself to be broken.

18 August 1626; confrontations

Denied asking for son to beat daughter-in-law, but agreed she had often told her off when she was at fault. Admitted cursing Marguerite Francois' children, and getting husband to count alms. Said she had heard remark about reaping and harvesting at the oven one day, but did not know who had made it. Otherwise no reproaches, but she sustained all her denials.

20 August 1626; substitut asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire. Change de Nancy agrees, with moderation suitable to her age.

25 August 1626; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews, rack, and tortillons, but firmly denied everything alleged against her.

2 September 1626; substitut (Maimbourg at Nancy this time) asks that she be banished.

4 September 1626; Change de Nancy recommends that she be renvoyée jusqu'à rappel

7 September 1626; court of Val de Faulx orders her release