

B 9554 no 2; witch 332, Denisatte femme Nicolas Humbert du Grand Rombach

13 January 1581; informations préparatoires

Statement that she had already been interrogated after denunciation by Appoline femme Balthazar Belz, but had refused to confess anything.

(1) Jehennon veuve Remy Couppebois du Grand Rombach, 30

Said her late husband had told her several times, and maintained until his death, that Denisatte had caused his fatal illness.

(2) Barbelline femme Jean de Barrois du Grand Rombach, 36

Some 18 months before her child, passing through garden of accused's husband, picked up a fallen plum, but was seen by both of them and threatened by husband, while she chased child so that it hid. When mother found it had become ill, and died a year later 'etique' and with something hard around neck. Also told of occasion when she had replied to question from others about how much grain they had left, saying that by grace of God they had enough for the year. Accused heard this, and said 'qu'ilz pouvoient bien faire bonne chere, et que de longtemps ilz n'en auroient tant', since when their wheat had never done well, and she suspected her of being the cause.

(3) Bastien Riotte bourgeois de Sainte Croix, 46

Some 2 years before, in house of Lienard l'Hoste, several of them were talking about late Remy Couppebois, and Denisatte said he 'avoit tant faict que jamais n'yroit par chemin', at which Andress Huraldei gave her a blow with a cutlass, saying 'meschante genoxe fault il qu'a ton occasion l'homme de bien la n'aille plus par chemin'.

(4) Andress Huraldei bourgeois de Sainte Croix, 30

Told of scene when he struck her with cutlass; had been when Remy Couppebois had been ill, and when he started to speak of him her husband Colas Humbert said 'Quiconque vouldroit parler dudit Remy que c'estoit des schelmes et des meschantes hommes', to which she added 'que jamais ledit Remy Couppebois n'en auroit aultre jusques a la mort'.

(5) Guillaume Tarrat de Sainte Croix, 58

Some 16 years before her husband had owed him money (as he still did), and he summoned him before maire in effort to get payment. Denisatte told him he would repent, and next year his crops in plot adjoining those of her husband were laid waste by a storm, while theirs were unharmed; suspected her of causing this. Some 7 or 8 years earlier he had hired a garden at Grand Rombach where her husband had some rights to fruit, and on finding him taking cherries she told him

'que le Diable soit a ses bras, jambes et a son corps'. When he came down from tree he was as if rabid and out of his senses, and this lasted 2 years during which he was unable to earn by working. About 8 years before she had said to Jeanne femme Joliat 'Caigne, je te feray manger des chiens et des porcs'; she died after languishing a long time 'soubs ladite assuée', and if it had not been prevented would have been eaten by animals, as many could still testify.

(6) Henry Maigrat le jeune du Grand Romberg, 25

Some 2 years ago she had threatened that he would repent if he continued to take horse to woods behind their house; took no notice, and soon horse sickened, becoming thinner the more it ate, dying after 5 weeks. Lost a cow and a calf in same manner, and suspected her of being cause.

(7) Jean Joliat de Sainte Croix, 30

When mother was lying ill she called out 'Commere Denisatte' as she passed, hoping she would do her some good. Instead she said 'qu'elle n'avoit pas encor assez lainguy et qu'il la convenoit davantage lainguir tant que les chiens piseroient contre elle', as many could testify had happened.

13 January 1581; interrogation

Said she was native of Housseray near Ramberviller, aged about 70, resident in val de Lievre for 36 years. Said that since marriage had 'beaucoup d'ennuys et fascherie' because husband haunted taverns in Sainte Croix, where he would spend up to 2 days leaving her alone; many times went in search of him, but sometimes had to return alone late at night. Had been seduced by maitre Folland some 8 years before on one of these occasions, although she tried to say she wanted to keep right to return to God later. Promised to give her money, but after intercourse with her in field left without giving her either money or powder. Agreed that on a later day he had taken her to feast with other accomplices. Otherwise did not want to confess anything, and was sent back to prison.

17 January 1581; interrogation

Was read depositions of witnesses; said she held them for gens de bien, but was not guilty of charges they made against her.

Asked about occasion when witnesses had seen her and Jeanne, femme Allois Humbert, spinning in a field at dusk some 18 months earlier, she said that Folland had appeared to them, wanting to have intercourse with them and give them herbs, but they refused and he went away. Would confess nothing else, so sent back to prison with threats of later torture.

26 January 1581; interrogation under torture

Denied at first, but when torture began begged to be set down so that she could confess. Now said her master had given her herbs to do ill, which she had

hidden in back wall of house. Had put herbs in apple which she gave Remy Couppebois when he asked for something to refresh him - was sitting outside her house saying he had become hot running and felt ill. Asked about motive, was unable to supply one. Said that Jeanne Joliat had told her that her husband had been to the devin and on his return 'avoit dict beaucoup de mal d'elles', so she gave her herbs in bread with intention of making her languish and die. Had made Guillaume Tarrat ill with powder her master gave her, which she threw over him. Did not want to confess anything else.

3 February 1581; formal death sentence

10 February 1581; sentence to death by burning alive