

B 5769; witch 106, Babillon femme Claudon Girard de Bathelemont-les-Bauzemont

23 July 1610; on this day Claude Pieton of Bathelemont was executed at Parroy as a witch, and maintained his accusation that he had seen Babillon four times at the sabbat, where unlike others she wore no mask.

25 August; C.M. Rémy orders taking of evidence.

10 September 1610; informations préparatoires

(1) Nicolas Barbellin de Bathelemont, 27

Reputation as long as he could remember.

(2) Jean Richard de Bathelemont, 56

Her sister or cousin and her mother Alix had long ago been executed as witches; accusation by Pieton.

(3) Jean Barbellin de Bathelemont, 50

Reputation over 20 years.

(4) Jean Frocquel de Bathelemont, 50

Long reputation, as had her father.

(5) Jean Barbellin le jeune de Bathelemont, 24

Reputation also in Arracourt, Juvrecourt, Ley, and other villages; brother living at Ley also suspected.

(6) Laurent Maurisse de Bathelemont, 40

Reputation 6 years; had often been in company but seen no harm in her.

(7) Michel Barbellin de Bathelemont, 60

Long reputation; aunt living at Juvrecourt had been executed, brother at Ley was suspected.

(8) Demenge d'Arracourt, de Bathelemont, 33

Long reputation.

(9) Agnes femme Jean Loys de Bathelemont, 24

Had heard nothing against her.

(10) Claudon Anthoine de Bathelemont, 32

Long reputation. Had found her taking cherries from his tree 5 years earlier, but had not dared to have her fined for fear she might harm him.

(11) Marguerite femme Jean Fercquel de Bathelemont, 50

Long reputation; father and mother already suspected.

(12) Agnel veuve Noel Gaidat de Bathelemont, 50

Reputation 30 years; when witness lived at Juvrecourt 34 years earlier mother was reputed witch, and had heard that an aunt named Alix had been executed at Hermonesnil.

(13) Agnel femme Laurent Masruy de Bathelemont, 28

Long reputation.

(14) Sybille femme Pierron Goudat de Bathelemont, 40

Had heard nothing about her.

(15) Girard Husson de Bathelemont, 50

Long reputation. Believed she had caused death of several of his horses when he was maire in seigneurie de la cour, and lived in the maison de la cour; she had told him he was only a 'caman', and had wanted to be maire, not allowing her husband to remain in the post. Had heard her mother was already suspected.

(16) Catherine veuve Anthoine Menzier, 40

Long reputation.

(17) Catherine veuve Claude Pieton de Bathelemont, 42

Long reputation; accusation by her late husband before execution. One day 2 or 3 years before had seen her with face all bruised, and asked if her husband had beaten her. Babillon said he had not, and one day she would tell her who had, but never did. Reported conversation to husband, who told her to drop subject. When husband had fled in fear of arrest, her son aged 12 was helping her take 'pesseaux' to vines, and she said 'Bastien je suis bien aisé de ce que ton pere s'en est allé Il n'accusera pas personne', so witness thought she was frightened he would accuse her. Reputation of mother, and had heard of execution of aunt Alix. When husband was in prison asked witness if she had spoken to him, and on hearing she had said 'lors bon dieu mais qu'il n'accuse point de gens de bien'.

(18) Anthoine Epvre de Bathelemont, 60

Long reputation.

(19) Jean Mengin de Bathelemont, 60

Long reputation; suspicions of mother.

(20) Jacotte veuve Claudon Goudat de Bathelemont, 30

Had heard suspicions over 3 years.

(21) Catherine femme Jean Mengin de Bathelemont, 50

Knew nothing about her.

(22) Jeanne femme Gerard Husson de Bathelemont, 50

Reputation 30 years. Told of dispute with husband over mairie 9 years earlier and loss of horses; Babillon had said 'que les poulleur et camans estoient maire et que les bons bourgeois ne l'estoient'.

(23) Nicolas Barbellin de Bathelemont, 40

Long reputation.

(24) Barbelline femme Claudon Vatrin, 40

Long reputation.

(25) Margueritte femme Anthoine Epvre de Bathelemont, 56

Long reputation. Previous April, as trees came into blossom, was planting beans in garden when a sudden wind blew under her clothes, and she called on God and St Nicolas. Looked around and was no other wind, but did see a mist around top of a plum tree, which 3 or 4 days after started to dry up from the top. Babillon later came to garden and asked to see tree, then said 'que l'on avoit pensé donner cela sur elle deposante mais parce qu'elle s'avait bien signée et qu'elle estoit bonne chrestienne l'on n'avoit eu puissance sur elle et partant l'on avoit donné cela a l'arbre.' Asked by judges if she suspected her of causing it, said she did not.

(26) Jean Harricquel de Bathelemont, 50

Reputation 36 years.

(27) Symonin Barbellin de Bathelemont, 70

Reputation 25 years; had several times heard her called witch without taking anyone to court.

(28) Didier Parmentier de Bathelemont, 30

Long reputation; had never suspected her of doing him any harm, although he had often worked in her house.

(29) Barbe femme Demenge Mengin, 35

Suspected since arrival of witness 5 years earlier; believed she had caused fatal fall of their horse in moat of chateau at Bauzemont. Had told her husband he would repent after he took over a gage against her son Nicolas.

(30) Demenge Mengin de Bathelemont, 32

Repeated wife's story; added that he had also been threatened by her son, who said he would repent within 8 days.

(31) Jean Estienne de Bathelemont, 48

Long reputation.

(32) Marguerite femme Nicolas Olry de Bathelemont, 32

Long reputation, but she and her children had often been in house, and had suffered no harm.

(33) Girard Toussaints de Bathelemont, 47

Long reputation; mother had said she feared her after she refused to allow marriage between his sister and Babillon's nephew, but did not know they had suffered any harm.

(34) Jean Sainctrey de Bathelemont, 32

Long reputation.

(35) Nicolas Olry de Bathelemont, 32

Long reputation.

(36) Annon femme Didier Parmentier de Bathelemont, 40

Long reputation. Had heard yesterday from Demenge Marchal's wife that her mother had suspected her of giving her a fatal illness.

(37) Didiere femme Demenge d'Arracourt, de Bathelemont, 26

Long reputation.

(38) Nicolas Estienne de Bathelemont, 35

Reputation.

(39) Claudon Mengin de Bathelemont, 25

Long reputation.

(40) Nicolas Goudat de Bathelemont, 67

Long reputation; said her son Humbert had quarrelled with her and called her witch several times.

(41) Mengeatte femme Jean Barbellin de Bathelemont, 45

Long reputation; those who called her witch only did so without her knowledge.

(42) Ysabeau femme Claudin Anthoine de Bathelemont, 33

Long reputation. Had heard Elizabeth femme Nicolas Rebossel say she suspected her of making her ill after refusing her loan of 6 gros; illness lasted 2 years, cured after Babillon gave her some bread as they returned from market at Vic.

(43) Perrise femme Jean Hauricquel de Bathelemont, 46

Long reputation.

(44) Hellebix femme Nicolas Ferry de Bathelemont, 40

Long reputation; had heard her quarrelling with various other women, who had told her to go and hide herself.

(45) Pieresson Girard de Bathelemont, 28

Long reputation.

(46) Bastien Pierron de Bathelemont, 46

Long reputation. His wife had been very ill after a quarrel with her, and they suspected her of causing this.

(11 September 1610)

(47) Mengeotte femme Claudon Thirion de Bathelemont, 40

Some 18 years before Babillon's husband had rented field from Nicolas Didie, whose widow had been unable to get any rent from him, and had reassigned it to husband of witness, through persuasion of her mother, sister of the widow. Some time later, as her mother was cutting grass by the field, she was suddenly taken ill and died in 3 days, saying that she suspected Babillon. Had asked witness and her sister to get some soup from Babillon, but they could not find her.

(48) Claudon Thirion de Bathelemont, 38

Long reputation. Backed up wife's story more briefly.

(49) Elizabethe femme Nicolas Bouchier de Bathelemont, 35

Long reputation. Some 17 or 18 years before was serving in house of her aunt, wife of Claudon Toussains; it was she who had arranged reletting of field. Was around St. George, and next Whitsun she fell ill and died, suspecting Babillon.

(50) Claudon Holbat femme Holbat Claudon de Bathelemont, 40

Long reputation; had been called witch by daughter-in-law Barbe during quarrel over damage done by animals,

(51) Marcques Paris de Bathelemont, 25

Reputation.

(52) Jennon femme Didier Lorrique de Bathelemont, 43

Long reputation; had heard her father Jean Girard, 'frere non germain' of Babillon's husband, say that if he had listened to him he would not have married her, since she was already suspected like her parents. Believed she had killed her father after quarrel with her husband, when she had said 'qu'il s'en donneroit de garde'; about a week later fell ill and died in another week. Had also said to witness 'qu'elle luy ravalleroit son quoquet', which added to her suspicions. Had made same threat after another quarrel with witness, who suspected she had killed a horse in consequence.

(53) Jennon veuve Nicolas Olry de Bathelemont, 80

Long reputation; parents of Claudon Girard had not wanted him to marry her because of this and suspicions of her own father and mother.

(54) Claudon femme Marc Paris, 24

Long reputation.

(55) Jean Thirion de Bathelemont, 30

Long reputation; since recent accusation had been told by Nicolas Adam that her son Humbert had called her witch.

(56) Toussaince femme Jean Bridey de Bathelemont, 23

Long reputation; had heard at second hand that Mengeatte femme Nicolas Thirion believed she had given her fatal illness.

(57) Margueritte femme Nicolas Adam de Bathelemont, 29

Long reputation. 14 years before when serving maire Symonin his wife quarrelled with her, then a hen died; wife remarked that they had argued with Tante Babillon, and now had a hen dead.

(58) Bastienne femme Gerard Toussains de Bathelemont, 44

Long reputation.

(59) Idotte femme Jean Thirion, 27

Long reputation.

(60) Jeanne femme Nicolas Estienne de Bathelemont, 38

Had never heard her suspected witch, but heard her called so by her son Humbert a year earlier, when Jean Richard had said that if he were her son 'il l'assommeroit d'un paulx'.

(61) Jeanne femme Francois Husson de Bathelemont, 30

Long reputation; had dispute with her about chickens which witness drove out of a field, killing a cock in the process, and after this lost several cattle, which she suspected was her doing. Had heard from her brother-in-law Abraham Goudat that when keeping animals with her son Claudon latter had said that his mother had 'ung pot de pouldre caché en terre en ung meix'.

(62) Mengeotte veuve Jean Vaultrin de Bathelemont, 60

Long reputation; had heard Mengeatte femme Claudon Thirion say her mother thought she had given her illness from which she died.

(63) Margueritte veuve Nicolas Vaultrin de Bathelemont, 68

Long reputation; suspicion of parents at Juvrecourt.

(64) Belatte femme Michel Barbellin de Bathelemont, 64

Long reputation. Believed she might have caused her various illnesses after quarrels, including a miscarriage.

(65) Nicolle femme Bastien Pieresson de Bathelemont, 46

Long reputation; believed she might have given her 7 week illness some 21 years before after dispute about who should go first at fountain.

(66) Elisabeth femme Nicolas Cabosse de Bathelemont, 32

Long reputation. Some 3 years before had refused to lend her 6 gros, after which was ill for 2 years, and suspected her of being cause, also of healing her, since she recovered after Barbelline gave her bread on way back from market at Vic. Also suspected her about occasion when she and other girls were spinning, and they were made ill by a sudden smoke, although there was no fire in the oven; thought this might have been because she did not want to marry one of her sons, 'qui estoit amoureux d'elle'. At recollements added that 2 years before had dispute when her husband bought land from husband of accused, then she persuaded him to buy them back. Went to court, and husband developed trouble with thigh until he agreed to allow repurchase of land.

(67) Didiere femme Demenge Danguille de Bathelemont, 36

Long reputation; then told story of mother's death after the releasing of field.

(68) Claudon femme Nicolas Barbellin de Bathelemont, 40

Long reputation; had heard from Jennatte femme Didier Loricque that she had called her witch but she took no action.

(69) Mengeatte femme Barbellin Michel de Bathelemont, 29

Long reputation. 3 years ago next Ash Wednesday had suddenly become ill, and bedridden for 6 weeks, then feeble for another 3 months, with no appetite. At end met Babillon, who asked her what was wrong with her, to which she replied she did not know; did not know if she touched her, but promptly began to recover. Had previously quarrelled, and accused said to her 't'en garde tu ne seras pas tousjours sy haulte', to which she replied 'taisez vous ne me menasse poinct l'on vous cognoit bien je suis de ceste ville et l'on vous cognoist bien'.

(70) Jacotte femme Demenge Fercquel de Bathelemont, 50

Long reputation. Told how 30 years before her father-in-law Claudon Aubert had a fine horse, which one evening chased one of hers, and had to be recovered from outside her stable. Valet said that she had seen that her horse was bitten, and had said that theirs would not bite it again. Horse died next day, and valet said that 'la grosse Babillon' had done it. Had also heard Jean Gaulchier, then a

servant in house of late husband Aulbert Claudon, say that she had given him an illness which lasted a year.

(71) Pierron Joly de Bathelemon, 50

Long reputation, also suspicion of mother. 10 years before he had 'gagé' a cauldron, and refused to return it until they paid 'aide generale' they owed, despite her pleadings. Next day a foal suddenly fell ill and died, then a cow became so 'farouche' that he sold it before it hurt others; suspected her of causing these misfortunes. Had another dispute 7 years before, after her husband ploughed over boundary between their fields, and witness insisted on harvesting to proper limit. She was present during dispute and said 'qu'il n'en seroit guere plus riche'; then became ill and unable to work for 8 weeks. Suspected her of being cause of this.

23 September 1610; substitut for procureur general asks for arrest and interrogation.

26 October 1610; arrested and imprisoned at Einville

3 November 1610; interrogation

Said she was 59, daughter of Humbert Bourdon laboureur of Juvrecourt and his wife Alix, both now dead. Had lived with them until marriage to Claudon Girard when she was 19. Had then spent one year sharing household with her parents, before moving to husband's property at Bathelemon. Asked about reputation of her parents, said her father's had always been good to her knowledge, but her mother had been 'injuriée' long ago in her absence by le gros Masson, who said she was a witch. When parents heard of this they took him to court at Vic, and he had to withdraw accusations.

Agreed that in quarrels with her husband, children, and others she had used threats such as 'Je voudrois que le diable t'eust emporte, rompu le col, ou autrement'. Knew she had been arrested on suspicion of witchcraft, after accusation by Claude Pleton. Said she knew she had been suspected for some 20 years, and believed this was result of the accusation against her mother. Said that one or two had called her witch, notably the late Nicolas Biche; had taken no action against him because there were no witnesses. Others had said 'Je suis homme de bien ou femme de bien Je ne suis pas comme toy', which she had taken as charge that she was a witch, and would have taken them to court if she had witnesses. Added that she would have wished to be revenged on them; judges pursued this, asking 'sy estant en ses termes elle a heu mauvaise volonté ou désiré avoir la puissance de leur faire mal et les tuer ou faire mourir'. Replied 'qu'elle eust volontiers eu la puissance de ce faire, ayant beaucoup de peine d'endurer propos approchants ceste injure et qu'ell eust bien aimé que l'on luy eust dict haultement et publicquement pour avoir plus de moyen de se venger.'

Then asked if anyone had appeared to her offering to help, she denied any such experience, and said she had endured insult for 'l'honneur de dieu'. Asked if she had done anything against neighbours, said she might have sometimes taken fruit from gardens, as they did from hers, but was good Christian, and had communicated once or sometimes twice a year.

Asked if after quarrels with others 'elle a ehu souhaité et desire mal contre eux soit a leurs personnes ou en leurs biens, A dict qu'ouy.' Asked if any such results had occurred, said no, then said that after quarrel with Niclas Biche he had become impotent and died some time later, but did not know how this had happened. Believed others had blamed her for their illnesses; agreed to judges' suggestion that she had been told of this by her children, or other relatives and friends.

3 November 1610; confrontations.

Said that the Alix burned at Henamenil had been cousin of her mother. Said that father of Claudin Anthoine had been to sabbat in a white hat, and this had been said in home village of Athienville. Said Catherine Pieton was a liar, and that sister of Jean Mengin's wife had been executed as witch at Marsal. Said that Marguerite Epvre was liar, and suspected at Bauzemont just as she was. Said Jean Henrique was a thief, and that 20 years earlier her husband had caught him with pockets full of grain after threshing in their barn.

(4 November 1610) Said that mother of Gerard Toussains had no reason to fear her, for they had been good friends and she had often confided in her. Said Heilleny femme Nicolas Fery had evil tongue, and husband was thief. Pierson Gerard was a liar. Said of Mengeate femme Claudon Virion that girls at poisile had talked of seeing her fall from a cloud. If she was a witch this would have been evident when she served as midwife for 3 days when witness was born; mother had been wrong to suspect her, and was already conscious of suspicion at time, so had only visited her once during illness. Said that mother of Claudon Virion was suspected as she was. Claudon Paris and her sister were suspected of stealing shoes at fairs and markets. Said she had not heard her son call her witch, but that when drunk he was 'sot' - would have punished him.

Agreed to quarrel with Jeanne Husson over chickens; had killed one of her cocks in revenge. As for remarks by son about pot, he was only a small child at the time, and might have meant pots her daughter used to store herbs. Bellatte Barbellin was a thief, and had been caught stealing a sheet; brother and children were also reputed thieves. Said that aunt of Nicolle Pierson had been executed at Bauzemont, and her mother had not dared to go there for fear she would accuse her. Didiere Marchal was her niece, and mother had been her great friend, so she would not have hurt her even had she been what she was claimed to be.

Made a few other accusations of theft, admitted various circumstantial details, but denied that she was a witch. Confronted with virtually all the witnesses. Described a number as 'commere', sometimes called them traitors.

16 November 1610; substitut for procureur general asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

18 November 1610; Change de Nancy approves question ordinaire

23 November 1610; interrogation under torture

Withstood thumbscrews, but started to confess when racked. Said she had been witch for 12 years, and would tell all if released. When let down, however, denied that she was a witch, and then racked again. At one point said she wished she were a witch so that she could confess, and told judges they were 'gros et durs Crestiens de ne la vouloir croire en son dire'. Finally taken down and sent back to prison, but told goaler when he took her food that she now wanted to confess, if they would take her from place where she was. Promised to tell all in the morning, and was left under guard.

24 November 1610; interrogation

Now said she had been seduced 30 years before by man in green called Vert Vestu, when angry with people of her house for reasons she had forgotten. Promised to give her money, but she refused purse he offered; did take powder (yellow to kill, green to make ill). Had used it to kill horse of Aubert Claudon; when using it had to say 'que tu puisse mourir' or 'que tu puisse languir'. Had killed horse and cow of Francois Husson because he and his people were hostile to her, and she thought they hated her. Master had beaten her when she refused to kill people and do other harm. Told her to kill Gerard Husson after quarrel, and when she would not suggested she kill his animals; told him to do it himself, and he killed a horse.

Denied killing any people, and specifically said she had not killed wife of Claudon Toussains, who had been her great friend. Admitted making Nicolas Cabosse ill, then getting master to cure him when dispute was over. Had refused to make his wife ill, but had told master to do it, and did not know how she had been cured - had given her bread in friendship. Had also made his daughter ill, then cured her with apple sprinkled with yellow powder. Had kept powder in a pot, but had no more for 7 weeks, in fear of arrest. Master had killed Nicolas Bise, who had kept money when overpaid for some cloth, and had caused Zabellat Barbelin to miscarry.

Had been to sabbat, where there were various other masters such as Persil, and danced and jumped; were no musicians, and saw no feasting. Made clouds and mists, and master beat her to force her to join in against her will. Was taken on his shoulders; would sometimes let her leave after 2 hours so as not to be discovered and beaten by her husband. Had been more times than she could remember; thought she had seen Nicolas Maire and Jean du Hault of Bathelemont, with their wives, but they were all masked and difficult to recognize.

Judges questioned her about some other specific accusations, which she still denied.

25 November 1610; substitut for PG asks for death sentence

26 November 1610; Change de Nancy approves, with proviso that she be strangled after feeling fire - probably omitted in error by substitut, to judge by wording

28 November 1610; formal sentence passed and carried out