

B 8691 no 5; witch 216, Babelon femme Hanry Jean Hanry, of St Blaise

18 December 1602; informations préparatoires

(1) Jean Magdelaine, 40

Reputation 5 or 6 years. Two years ago last summer she had found his son, aged 8, taking wild plums from tree in her garden, and told him he and his brother would not do it again. Soon after both children fell ill and died within a week; believed this had been her witchcraft. Later his wife talked to neighbours about buying cow to provide milk for her children, and Babelon said they would get little profit from it - cow died, and suspected her over this too.

(2) Anthoinette, femme du précédent, 33

Repeated essentials of husband's deposition.

(3) Idoult Jean Martin, 30

18 months before one of his calves strayed into her garden, and she kept it shut up all day. He was angry and threatened she would pay if anything happened to it, but it died a week later - thought this had been her witchcraft.

(4) Idoult Janel, 26

3 years earlier quarrelled with his sister, then came unasked to see sick pig; said it was not serious, but animal died within 2 or 3 days. 6 weeks before had asked for payment for wages of husband as 'garde de pareage', and he offered to pay in grain because he had no money, but she refused and threatened he would repent. 3 days later a pig sickened, dying as if rabid 3 days later. Told Babellon that her threats had led to this death, and that she must be a witch. Reputation 5 years.

(5) Jean Bresson, 30

Suspected her of causing death of an ox around last harvest, shortly after she had said 'que comme elle avoit eu faict des plaisirs au deposant d'autant luy vouloit elle faire des desplaisirs'. Had heard from brother-in-law of accused that his late mother suspected her of giving her fatal illness.

(6) Claudatte fille feu Vatrin, 20

3 weeks before in Babelon's house latter told her there was rumour she was to be arrested as witch; she did not think there would be any witnesses for deaths of people, but might be some for deaths of animals. Also said that Jean Marion had been passing her without saying a word, so perhaps he was afraid that if she was arrested she might accuse him, but she had seen no harm in her.

(7) Jean Hanry, 35

Told how 2 years earlier when his late mother had been in house the accused (his sister-in-law) had come in unasked, after not being there for 2 years. Gave mother 2 apples, and after eating these she fell ill, dying 18 weeks later. Previously

was in excellent health, and during illness claimed Babellon had bewitched her. Reputation several years.

(8) Marion fille feu Jean Henri, 26

Similar account of mother's illness.

(9) Sebille femme Idoult Jean Martin, 30

Same story as husband about death of calf.

(10) Mongeatte femme Idoult Janet, 30

Repeated husband's story about quarrels and death of pigs, but said she had asked Babellon to come and see first sick animal. Reputation several years.

(11) Demenge le Clerc, 36

2 years earlier had dispute with her son over keeping of pigs, after which pig died. Suspected this was her doing, and that she had caused other losses if se was witch as reputed.

(12) Valentin Janet, 40

Reputation 6 years.

(13) Nicolas le Clerc, 40

7 years earlier his wife Claudatte had found one of their pewter plates at Babellon's house, and after altercation took it home. Shortly after wife went into labour, and remained so for a week- nearly given up for dead when witness heard that Babelon was saying it was result of their quarrel. Sent for her, and she put hand on wife, who promptly gave birth, although child died. Believed this had been her witchcraft - general reputation.

(14) Nicolle femme Jacquat Jean Adam, 60

Reputation 5 or 6 years.

(15) Honn homme le maire Claudon Biberat, 40

Numerous animals died in village previous summer, among them one of his cows, and believed she had caused this if she was witch as reputed. Suspicion arose because those animals she visited survived. wheras those like his she did not die.

30 December 1602; interrogation

Said she was about 47, native of Moyenmoustier. Father Didier Vaultin, mother Jennon Vallier, both dead so long she could not remember them. Resident at St Blaise for 14 years, since second marriage to Blaise Vatrin, who had died a year later, when she married present husband. First marriage to Didier Clement of Moyenmoustier had lasted 14 years.

Agreed that Mongeon Bourard had called her witch previous year; complained to her sister, who said 'qu'elle estoit bien venue a la malheur audit St Blaise pour y avoir acquis le bruict d'estre sorciere'. Agreed she had spoken as reported about calf of Idoult Jean Martin, and had been to see sick pig of Idoult Janet, but it was already dead. Agreed she had quarrelled with him about husband's wages, and that he called her witch; could not take him to court because there were no witnesses, and denied threats. Had not killed his pig, although he had always claimed she had.

Agreed she had spoken about possible arrest, but thought she had only made remark about difficulty of finding witnesses to deaths of persons to her husband. Contradicted herself over pig belonging to Idoult Janet, saying she had looked under its tongue to see if it would die - would not reply when inconsistency pointed out to her.

Asked about Claudatte femme Nicolas le Clerc, said she was the only person she had ever hated, and that if she was a witch as reputed she would surely have caused her death.

30 December 1602; confrontations

Agreed she had made statements alleged by Claudatte fille feu Vatrin about fears of arrest; when told she had denied it that morning could only say 'que sy on la brusle que par dieu, et sy elle est sorciere que la trouverons bien'. No reproaches to any witnesses.

31 December 1602; procureur d'office for Mgr de Verdun asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

2 January 1603; Change de Nancy approves

10 January 1603; interrogation under torture

Resisted thumbscrews, but confessed as soon as she was racked. Seduced by Persin 9 years earlier, when she could not obtain rye on credit at Raon for lack of money, and was returning home with empty sack when she met him on road. Told her he would make sure she never wanted, made her renounce God, and gave her grey powder.

Tried powder out on her own hen, which died. Confessed to killing one of Idoult Janet's pigs, but not the other. Killed Jean Bresson's ox because he called her witch, also her mother-in-law, who failed to give her 'paire de chausses' she wanted. Begged God's pardon for killing her for so little reason.

Denied killing children for stealing plums. Had tried to kill Claudatte by sprinkling powder on path, but this did not work, either because she did walk over it, or because she had no power over her. Was not responsible for her long labour.

Had been to sabat 5 or 6 times, and had recognised Jean Marion, marchal, Jaulne femme Claudon Curien, and Jennon veuve Colas Bresson. Usual description of sabat; danced back to back to sounds of flutes and an oboe, and ate small birds. Had not made hail, but had consented to making rain to spoil grain 3 or 4 years earlier. Said 'a cause qu'elle est pauvre l'on ne tenoit grand conte au sabat et y avoit bien peu de credit, mais que les riches y ont tousjours plus de credit et sont les plus avant a la besogne. Qu'il y avoit encor ung autre maitre qui avoit plus de credit que ledit Mre Persin et estoit assis dans une chayre au hault bout d'une table comme de deux plats ainsy que l'on use en une Confrarie, et que les plus riches estoient

aussy du costé du hault bout et avoient plus de viandes que ceux qui estoient au bout en bas.'

11 January 1603; repeated confessions and accusations

13 January 1603; another repetition of confessions

14 January 1603; procureur asks for execution

16 January 1603; Change de Nancy approves