

B 8684 no 5; Witch 192, Barbelline veuve Demenge Mareschal, de Saulceray

16 December 1599; informations preparatoires (following accusation by Marion veuve Demenge Arnoulx).

(1) Colas Mariatte, 47

Reputation more than 20 years.

(2) Jean Willaume, 34

Reputation 16 years. 2 years earlier a fine ox became ill, and believing she had bewitched it called on her to visit it - before seeing it she said it was in great danger, 'et que le mal le tenoit au devant', and it died next day. She said to him 'qu'elle [alloit] aulcunefois veoir des bestiaulx mallades pour leur donner guarison, mais que les gens estoient sy mal parlant que rien plus, parce que quant elle les auroit ainsy guary l'on prendroit quelque mauvais soubçon contre elle'. 4 years before, when Colas Durand of La Vacherie had a strange illness, he told witness she had bewitched him to death. Became ill after refusing to lend her a bill-hook; went to her house to call her witch and demand healing, but she said several times 'Eornormibus domine', then said if he did not leave she would kill him. Languished some time, maintaining until death that she had bewitched him.

(3) Marguitte femme Colas Demenge Anthoine

Quarrel when witness and her husband had not waited for her to go sowing, after which he fell strangely ill for 3 weeks. During this time accused said 'qu'il en avoit pour son année entiere', then came to see him, and handled his head; next day he began to recover, eating after week of only drinking. Recovered completely in 3 days, and both believed she had caused this - long reputation. Had told witness 'que sy elle ne craindoit le peché, elle devineroit aussy bien sur ce que on luy demanderoit comme souloit faire cy devant la devineresse de Herbaillé, et useroit de mesurer comme elle faisoit'.

(4) Jennon femme Michiel Galdrimey, 35

Long reputation.

(5) Claudatte femme Simon Gelyat, 23

In present year, working in fields with Barbelline, latter told story of how she had been beaten by husband, then visited by a tall old man, who told her she was unhappy because of beating, but she should continue to do her duty as before, and God commanded her to do so. Asked him to come and see her again, but he said she would never see him again - she reckoned it had been a message from God. Long reputation as witch.

(5) and (6) Missing

(7) Catherine femme Jean Mandray

Damaged - story about her knowing something about animals of previous residents? Long reputation.

(8) Mariatte femme Jean Girardin de la Vacherie, 50

Reputation 12 years.

(9) Jennon veuve Ydoulx Grand Didier, de la Vacherie, 60

12 years earlier she had a bad arm for 6 weeks, which she believed to be witchcraft; Barbeline came to see her unasked, and told her she would soon recover, and as soon as she had touched her she recovered, which made her suspect she was cause.

(10) Claudatte femme Colas Bataille de la Vacherie, 35

Reputation 18 years, since residence of witness. 6 years before had asked her for a basin of barley to sow, but she refused, saying she only had enough for herself, and had had to buy that. Went off saying 'de par dieu', and a few days later a sow which had 6 piglets sickened and died - had always suspected she had done this.

(11) Catherine veuve Colas Durand de la Vacherie, 31

Story of refusal of loan of bill-hook, and death of husband. Long reputation.

(12) Colas Demenge Anthoine de Saulceray, 44

Repeated wife's story about dispute when they did not wait for her to come sowing, his illness, and her visit and cure.

(13) Michiel Ratonge de la Vacherie, 60

More than 20 years before her late husband Demenge Mareschal had contracted to buy house from him next to Colas le Maire of St Dié, paying by instalments on condition that if these were not met the house would revert to him. Failed to make second payment, so he sold it to Colas - damaged - loss of animals?

(14) Claudon Hennemant de la Vacherie, 42

12 years before she had always been in his house, and he said to her 'qu'avant qu'elle ne desrobe quelque chose en son losgis, qu'elle prendroit plutost les cendres de son aistre'. She was angry, and he then had strange illness for 4 weeks, until his neighbour Michiel Rattonge visited and asked if he suspected anyone, pointing out that she frequented his house, and he alternated between being friendly and telling her off. She was at door and heard them, after which she did not come for a week, until his wife begged her to visit him - gave him some 'laictuaire' and he recovered. Long reputation.

(15) Mengeotte femme Michiel Ratonge, 40

Same story as husband - sale of house followed by loss of animals - already reputed witch then. Returned later to say she had remembered that 12 years earlier

Barbelline asked her for 'praindant' to make cheese; refused at first, then gave it to her because she did not have much need of it herself. Shortly afterwards husband bought 3 cows, so she asked for it back - did not know if she was angry, but 2 of the cows died within days, which she believed had been her witchcraft.

(16)

Damaged - had caused misfortune because husband had caused her to leave house where she was living. Long reputation.

(17) Demenge Thieriat de Saulceray, 35

3 years before had made her leave house she was renting, and she was very angry. Then had experience of waking at night and feeling he was being attacked by people around bed - heard one woman speak to another, and believed they were Barbelline and Marion Arnoulx. When wife lit candle was no-one in room and door was closed. (Same deposition as against Marion - mentioned that she had confessed to this episode).

17 December 1599; interrogation

Said she was about 40, and had been widow for 10 years. Had lived in Saulceray for 4 or 5 years, after living at La Vacherie and Herbaville for 12 years; native of La Croix. Assumed she had been arrested because of false accusation by Marion Arnoulx. Agreed to remark about suspicions roused by attempts to heal - had been frightened people would say she was a witch. Knew that Colas Durand had visited devin to find out who had bewitched him, and on return blamed her, even going to her house to accuse her.

Agreed that she had visited Colas Demenge Anthoine, who told her he had been 'frappé d'ung mauvais aire', and asked her 'de le seigner, si elle scavoit le remede'. Lifted his head and said 'Les deux tout fenelz, les trois te feneront, ce fera le pere, le fils, et le benoist saint esprit'. Asked about following practices of devineresse, explained principle of taking a tape, measuring three times from elbow to end of fingers, and naming appropriate saint with whose sickness one thought the patient was afflicted. If this was right answer the tape would be shorter next time, if wrong longer. Had learned this from devineresse of Herbaville and a man called le vieux Durand.

Agreed that she had spoken of strange visitation by an old man, adding that clothes were all torn, and that he told her she had been forced to marry husband against her will. Judges suggested it had been the devil, but she said she did not know.

18 December 1599; Confrontations

No reproaches, but also no admissions - declared herself innocent of causing any harm to anyone.

24 December 1599; Change de Nancy approves torture

? 1600; interrogation under torture

As soon as she felt the thumbscrews she offered to confess. 12 years before, in lifetime of husband, was keeping flock of sheep at La Vacherie, when Persin appeared. Told her she had great difficulty earning livelihood, but if she would believe in him would give her so much money she would never want. Had intercourse with her, gave her money which turned out to be oak leaves, and black powder to kill people and animals.

Tried powder out on cow belonging to Laurent Jean Mengenot, which had damaged their oats, and bull of Jean Mandray, which was getting away from herd she was guarding to do damage. Admitted causing death of Colas Durand and illness of Colas Demenge Anthoine. Had also killed a soldier during time of war 7 years earlier, who had beaten her when she had no eggs to give him, by putting powder on piece of bread. Had given Jennon veuve Ydoulx Grand Didier abscess on arm by touching her with powder between fingers, then cured her with different kind of powder.

Said she had been to sabbat many times. List of those accused damaged, but includes Jean Gelyat, Jean fils Marion Arnoulx, le gros Mathieu Claude Mathieu, and the wife of Jean l'Huillier (both of La Bourgogne), and la vieille Mouratte de Nompatelize - last 3 were dead. Jean Gelyat and Mathieu Claude were leading witches at sabbat, and Gelyat was always sat next to Persin, wearing 'gippe' of grey cloth and a red shirt. He was first to propose doing harm, notably the great hailstorm which wasted farmland of Herbaville. Sometimes carried to sabbat on master's neck through air, other times walked there. Were some 60 persons present, 'et sembloit que ce fut une grosse feste ou nocce de village'.

Interrogated again later, added story of attack on Demenge Thieriat in form of cats - this was identical with story as told by Marion Arnoulx, which she had heard during earlier stages of trial. Judges expressed some doubt that Devil had power to perform such transformations, asking if this was not dream or illusion, but she insisted it had happened, although she did not know how.

Among names of accomplices was also that of Catherine femme Demenge Thieriat.

13 January 1600; confirmed confessions. Maintained all accusations except that against Mengeotte femme Michiel Rattonge - said she had accused her so that she could speak to her.

15 January 1600; Change de Nancy confirms death sentence