

B 8702 no 4; witch 243, Plaisance veuve Claudon Toutblanc du Grand Faulbourg de Raon

Denounced by Jennon femme Jean Petit and Marie femme Gabriel Ozelle, who both maintained accusations when confronted with her.

6 August 1609; informations préparatoires

(1) Jean Masson bouchier, 50

During her husband's lifetime he had chased her out of house saying she was a witch, and she had to take refuge for 2 or 3 nights in house of witness. Long reputation.

(2) Jean Canot, 70

Reputation 7 years, called witch by husband, no personal suspicion.

(3) Nicolas Piernille, marchal, 28

5 or 6 years earlier was working in forge and she passed nearby; same day he started trembling so much he could not stand, and was in this state for some time. If she was witch as she had long been reputed believed she had caused this.

(4) Maurice Mongeon, 50

Some 10 years before her husband and she had urged him to go to haut ban, where husband often went on Sundays, but he refused - day after she spoke to him lost a fine sow worth 20 francs. 8 years before was in front of her house - were neighbours - and said there was intention to take Jehenne Rocq as a witch. She struck him on shoulder, and next day was strangely ill, unable to move about without help. If she was witch as reputed, believed she had caused this illness, which lasted a week. When he had been at fair of Baccarat she offered him a pear, but he feared she meant to kill him, and refused to take it. Also believed she had bewitched his stable, because as soon as he had a horse it started to decline, despite all the trouble he took.

(5) Demenge Potier, 36

Husband had driven her out, and told witness she was a witch; had heard her called such without seeking redress.

(6) Nicolas Sellier, 57

Husband's belief that she was witch, and long reputation.

(7) Lucas Jean Peltre, 50

Had heard from late Colas Jean de Haulz that he believed she had caused his wife's death; long reputation, but no personal suspicion.

(8) Demenge Lucas Mongin, 29

6 months before heard she was saying he had not paid her a debt, and told her it would have to be set off against what she owed him. Was angry, and said that their daughter aged 12 months would not live long - suddenly became ill and died after 3 weeks. Called her to see child, and she said she would not die immediately, but did not want to live. If she was witch as long reputed believed she was cause.

(9) Thoussaint Piernille, 22

Bought a pig from her 18 months earlier, but a few days later she told his wife she heard it was ill, and it died shortly afterwards. Believed this had been her doing if she was a witch as reputed, and she told his wife that it was better for the pig to die than one of them.

(10) Jean Carillon, 48

3 years before her son had broken window of their poisle, and he followed him home and told her he must pay. She did so, but soon after his son Jean, aged about 20, fell ill - was still afflicted with falling sickness. Believed that if she was witch as reputed she had caused this strange illness.

(11) Margueritte femme du precedent, 40

Repeated husband's deposition.

(12) Jean Vatin, 45

General reputation; had heard her say that if she was a witch she ought to have killed her husband, so suspected that she had been cause of his death.

(13) Jean Rimbault, 40

Had threatened them several times when he asked her to pay debts, and several animals had died; if she was witch as long reputed believed she had caused this.

(14) Colas Magnien, 24

Previous Easter he quarrelled with her nephew, and she was very angry; then he became very ill. Finally recovered, but did not know how - believed this was her doing if she was witch as reputed.

(15) Jean Sachot, 36

Around last St Jean had summoned her to pay debts; later she spoke with his wife in market, saying they should take care not to threaten them. A week later his wife sickened, and died in 3 weeks from strange illness; believed she had caused this if she was witch as long reputed.

(16) Marie femme Thomas Jean Jacat, 36

Reputation 12 years; no personal suspicion.

(11 August 1609)

(17) Lucas Mongin, marchal, 48

Had quarrelled 15 years earlier, and she was very angry; soon after his son Nicolas, aged one, became simple minded and hideous to look at, with feet all twisted - was still in this state. Believed this was her doing if she was witch as reputed.

(18) Barbellon veuve Colas Jean Peltre, 30

2 years earlier she was in childbed, and accused visited her. Damage here - some discussion about a nephew, after which witness lost use of legs for 3 weeks. Suspected that if she was witch as reputed she had caused this.

12 August 1609; interrogation

Said she was about 48, native of Raon; father was François Adam, mother Barbellon sage femme. Had been married some 24 years before. Said she did not know why she was accused, and it was pointed out that she had been confronted with other witches. Said they did her wrong, asked to be allowed to go, and she would leave to live elsewhere. Admitted quarrels with Maurice Mongeon, her neighbour, and if anyone had called her witch around the town it was him. Then agreed that Demenge Potier had also calle her witch - claimed to have had reparation by 'accord amyable'. Said Colas Jean Peltre had been great friend (he was brother-in-law) and she had never done his wife harm.

13 August 1609; confrontations

No serious reproaches - said Nicolas Magnien was drunkard. Otherwise simply denied charges.

19 August 1609; Change de Nancy approves torture.

21 August 1609; interrogation under torture

Was given thumbscrews, then racked. Note that she became strangely swollen at throat - judges supposed this was her master trying to suffocate her. Was rolling her head, and said she would say nothing, but they were trying to make her damn herself. Then saw she was about to confess, so she was drawn a little more - said her master was called Jolybois, and asked to be put down.

Said she had been seduced 12 years earlier, when in misery because of beatings and ill treatment by husband, of which everyone knew. Jolybois found her behind house, promised to comfort her. Usual seduction scene, gave her money which proved to be peas, and powder - black/kill, grey/languish.

Tried out powder on her goat, which died. Then was angry with Jean Carillon, who had made her a pair of shoes which only lasted 8 days - made his wife ill. Then killed own sow, so that she might not be suspected when she had misfortunes herself. 9 years earlier had killed little daughter of the late Demenge Barbe, who went drinking with husband, after which latter maltreated her. Was so pitiful to see little daughter of Didier le Monset - whose illness was not her doing -

that she used powder to kill her. Had made wife of her nephew François Thomas ill for a time with grey powder, since she did not help her to live, despite her poverty, and had not even asked her to childbed like other relatives.

Had killed goat belonging to Demenge Potier, who was always insulting her when he had been drinking. Had given bad hand to Jean Vatin, who went drinking with her husband. Was angry with Lucas Estienne, who was married to her niece, because he did nothing for her, so killed his daughter, who was already ill, and a calf. Jean Poresson, married to another niece, treated her similarly, so she used grey powder to give him fever for 5 weeks - if he had not yet recovered, he would do so. Also killed a pig belonging to him.

2 years before Gabriel Mercier had caught a pike in ditch by gate, which should have been hers on account of contract made by husband - since then had borne him particular hatred. Had sworn to kill one of his children, but had not found opportunity. Was very angry with Mre Hango, chirurgien, some 2 years before, because after bleeding husband he spent a week drinking with him; Jolybois suggested she kill him, and undertook to do this for her; during illness she regretted this, since he was very expert, but master would not do anything to cure him. Once spell was given it could not be taken off, as she had found by experience.

Had hated Didier Villemain because he pressed for payment after selling them house, and took vengeance by making him languish - then had pity on him, and took him some peas on which she put black powder to kill him. Asked about some other allegations, denied them.

Asked about sabbat, said that there had been more than 50 persons present, and sometimes many more - some of them masked. Carried up chimney by master like a wind, usual dancing and feasting. Before leaving had to kiss backside of a great devil. Said she had recognized the 2 who accused her, and Didier Grand Claudon, baker of Raon. He had been the greatest dancer, and they had made compact not to accuse one another, whichever was made prisoner first. Asked about making hail, told of occasion 6 years before when they had decided to spoil vines at Viller, with only modest success.

At sabbat there was usually discussion of harming crops, but she did not consent because she was poor and pitiful. Saw that it was nothing but 'tout abus et illusions diaboliques, et au vray dire ce n'est rien'. Did not go often because she gave hen or goose every year to be exempted. Master spoke obscurely, always dressed in black, had claws on hands and feet like an ox. Asked if he had intercourse with her again after first seduction, said he had done so 6 times.

22 August 1609; interrogation

Confirmed earlier confessions. Added that 2 years before met Jennon Petit, who said she was very angry with wife of Jean Menusier le viel, who had called her witch. Made her ill by putting grey powder on some grapes, then seeing her in pitiful state gave consent for Jolybois to kill her. Previous winter made Didier Vautrin's daughter ill because she made so much fuss of her children. Had also made wife of Colas Jean Peltre ill, because she had been invited to dinner, but there was nothing left when she arrived.

Had intended to kill wife of Raimbault, and also Demenge Potier, but had not had time to do so. Asked if master had given her any grease to use in her maléfices, said that 10 years before had given her grease; when she rubbed this on her hands she was transported to sabbat, but had not had any more for long time.

10 years before Jolybois comforted her when she was regretting she had been abused, and touched her to hide insensible mark so that it could not be found (was

on back of head). Had been beaten several times because she did not obey when he told her not to perform Easter duty, or to bring him part of the host.

Asked if master had visited her in prison, said he had, and promised to help her endure torture, but she had found the contrary.

27 August 1609; Change de Nancy approves death sentence.

29 August 1609; sentence carried out.

Costs were 110 francs, shared between Duke and Abbey of Moyenmoutier.