

B 8702 no 3; witch 242, Marie femme Gabriel Ozelle, de Raon

21 July 1609; informations preparatoires (on common repute)

(1) Alizon femme Demenye Mathiat, 46

Reputation 20 years.

(2) Thomas Jean Jacat, 70

Reputation 12 years, no personal suspicion.

(3) Jehenne veuve Honn homme Claude Brabant, tabellion, 50

Her husband had died from strange illness 7 years earlier, after quarrel with Marie's husband, to whom he had refused some grain. She had gone around cursing him, and if she was a witch as long suspected thought she had caused death. Never came to see him during illness, but did come early on morning after death. Also suspected her of designs on herself; had passed behind her several times while she was washing laundry in river, then fell in and had to be rescued.

(4) Saulmonatte femme Martin Sachot, 30

Had long hated witness because she would not marry her son Nicolas; since then had two children ill, one 9 years before, other 6 months before, who had languished then died. If she was witch as reputed believed she was responsible for this, also for illness from which witness had been suffering for 7 years.

(5) Margueritte femme Adam Rocq, 53

Had recently heard her say that there had been 15 or 16 children stillborn over previous year. Long reputation.

(6) Anthoine Arnoul, 36

Reputation 15 years; no personal suspicion.

(7) Marie femme Estienne Jacques, 26

Some 2 years earlier witness was with her mother (widow of Joseph Marchand) when daughter of accused came to ask for some wine - refused it on grounds of quarrel between sons-in-law. Soon after mother sickened and died after 11-week illness, saying she thought she had been bewitched by her, is she was witch as reputed. Witness and her late father had also believed she was a witch.

(8) Mongeatte femme Honnest Homme Nicolas Huel, 26

A year earlier had quarrel over some hay, and she used threats, saying her husband would see what he gained, and next day a fine ox died suddenly. At St Martin had come into house, then gone into stable on pretext of looking for grandson who had come with her - another ox died next day without warning. Witness told her son-in-law to warn her not to kill any more of their animals, or they would use whatever means they had to get her arrested. He replied 'qu'il n'y pouvoit empescher, qu'il scavoit bien que ce n'estoit pas grand chose, qu'elle avoit faict desesperer sa mere de Blamont.' Had lost a third ox after asking her for some money during Lent; long reputation as witch.

(9) Colatte veuve Idoul Vigneron, 60

Some 4 years before her husband and son-in-law had quarrel with son of witness, who was in same trade as son-in-law, and beat him up. She used various threats, and told her daughter Martine that she would repent as she passed before house; in that hour she became strangely ill, and remained so for 3 months before starting to recover. Her son also had his arm out of use for some time, and both illnesses were very costly to witness, who had to support her children. If she were witch as reputed believed she had caused these and other misfortunes.

(10) Barbon femme Mre Pierre Barbas, chirurgien, 34

Some 5 years earlier they had baby son aged 4 months, and the daughter of the accused was coming to work in house, sewing. Frequently had her rock the child, but she became angry and said she would not do this much longer. Soon fell ill and died next day; shortly before death accused came to see him, and threw ashes from fire over stomach and around cradle - died as soon as she left. If she was witch as long suspected believed she had caused this. had heard her called witch several times by her daughter-in-law.

(11) Martine fille Idoul Vigneron, 20

Told of quarrel between her brother and son-in-law of accused; Marie threatened witness that she or the devil would have her. Followed by illness lasting 3 months which she suspected her of causing.

(12) Fleurence femme Anthoine Sachot, 18

Previous year had quarrel with her daughter Jennon, and had since gone in fear of her. Heard that she said, in respect of a fine and expensive horse, that they would not keep it long. The horse sickened and became very thin, so they sold it for half the 45 ecus it had cost, but it had since recovered and was in fine state. If she was witch believed she had caused this - common repute.

(13) Plaisance veuve Claudon Tout Blanc, 50

Some time before her son Colas had been their apprentice as blacksmith, but left before expiry of contract, over which they had some dispute, and afterwards she and her

husband feared her. Husband then seemed to go into a despair, and was constantly beating her for no reason that she knew. Marie came into house on one occasion and told him he should not torment her, but he treated her even worse after she left - believed she had caused this. he had died 2 years earlier after strange illness, and both he and the witness believed she had been cause of this.

(14) Adam Vaulthier, 30

If she was witch, as generally suspected, believed she had caused death of his father-in-law 6 or 7 years earlier, and of a child a year later. Had been very angry when he refused to sell her some wheat, then did not come to house during illness, but next morning after death. After death of child had asked chambermaid if they blamed her for that as they had for death of father-in-law.

(15) Margueritte femme Chrestofle l'Huillier, 50

5 years before was taken by a strange illness which lasted a long time, then Marie touched her on arm in market, saying she was very ill. A week later vomited up some 50 little creatures, then began to recover; if she was witch as reputed, believed she had caused the illness.

(16) Nicolas Moictrier, 35

Long reputation, no personal suspicion.

(17) Demenge Potier, 40

When his late father was ill she came to visit him, but he immediately asked that she leave, because he suspected her; then became frightened he was mad, and died miserably. Believed that if she was witch as suspected she had caused his death.

(18) Mre Anthoine Clauderot, 46

Some 6 or 7 years earlier her daughter had dispute with his wife, after which witness asked Marie why she made threats about those who had taken part in play in town, of whom he was one. Another quarrel followed, with threats from her, and within a few days he fell ill, as if out of his mind, and despite great expenses could find no cure, until he finally recovered without knowing how. Believed that if she was witch as long reputed she had been cause.

(19) Claudon femme Nicolas Clement, 24

2 years earlier her mother, wife of Joseph Marchant, had quarrelled with daughter of accused, then became strangely ill and died. Believed that if she was witch as reputed she had caused this, particularly since she had refused to visit her when chambermaid asked her to do so.

(20) Annon femme Mre Anthoine Clauderot, 45

Repeated essential of husband's deposition.

(21) Pasquatte femme Adam Vaulthier, 30

From 6 years back had hated her father, always complaining about some business he had transacted as tabellion, and about refusal of some grain. He then fell suddenly ill and died; believed that if she was witch as reputed she had killed him and small son who died following year.

(22) Anne femme Nicolas Leusse tabellion, 22

Told of death of her mother 2 years earlier after a quarrel over some wine; if she was witch as reputed believed she had caused this.

(23) Pierre fils Demenge Piernille, 20

Previous year she gave him an apple at the mill, after eating which he became ill for 6 weeks, unable to walk. Believed this had been her witchcraft.

(24) Chrestail Potier, messager, 28

If she was witch, as long suspected, believed she had caused death of his father. Came to visit him during illness, but he made sign for her to leave - then needed several people to hold him before he died miserably.

28 July 1609; Change de Nancy approves arrest and interrogation

3 August 1609; interrogation

Saiud she was about 53, native of Raon; husband was 'kiesfre'. Father Clement Adam, mother Barbellon Henry Chrestien. Knew she had been arrested as witch, but was not one; knew she had been reputed such for 25 years and more, but could not stop evil tongues. Admitted quarrels with daughter-in-law, who had called her witch, but had no witnesses.

Asked about accusation by Jennon femme Jean Petit, said she had accused her out of hatred - she was whore and wicked woman.

Admitted hatred for late Claude Brabant, over 'ung obligation qu'il avoit passé', and that she might have cursed him. Also agreed she had made remark about 15 stillborn children - had heard this from various women, and was fault of midwife.

Agreed that she had thrown ashes on child of Pierre Barbas - hd learned from others that this was good for 'la maladie de St Chrestofle'. Admitted remark to chambermaid, asking if she was not being blamed for death of child of Adam Vaulthier. Otherwise kept insisting she was not a witch, and denying charges against her.

4 August 1609; confrontations

No reproaches to witnesses, and simple denials that she was responsible for misfortunes.

5 August 1609; Change de Nancy approves torture

7 August 1609; interrogation under torture

Resisted thumbscrews, but offered to confess when racked. Some 22 years earlier had been very sad because she had young children to support, and was too poor to do so with wheat at 30 francs the resal. Bewailing this in garden one evening when she was approached by Parsin, who promised to help her so she would no longer be in need. Gave her money which turned out to be leaves, and powder - black/kill, white/heal. No sexual element mentioned.

Used powder to kill a cat of her own, then about a year later to kill child of Didier Lassus, who refused her some grain. Very angry with first husband, who went drinking without regard for her and 4 small children when grain was so costly; master suggested she kill him, and could feed herself without him, so she used powder to do this. Had also killed her small daughter a year later.

15 years before had been angry with Lucas Mongin le viel, who refused her late husband a horseshoe (were both smiths), and killed him. After quarrels with Claudon Tout Blanc over apprenticeship of son, had killed him 2 years earlier. Some 18 months before killed Sebille dite la Brodée and her sister Jennon, who both lived at hospital, after they refused to help her with a washtub. Another victim was Demenge Potier le viel, who had called her witch when he was drunk - threw powder over him as he sat outside house.

A year earlier her husband had been drinking in house of Nicolas Bernard, hostellain; she was angry over some deals they were making about land. Master appeared to her in form of little dog when she was alone in kitchen, and suggested they kill one of Bernard's oxen, which died next day.

Said these were all her maléfices, and expressed great regret at being 'sy pauvrement tantée et abusée'. Had prayed to God, Virgin, and St Anne for help in resisting constant demands from her master that she do evil.

Asked if she had killed Claude Brabant, insisted she had not. Then questioned about sabbat, said it was on côte de Repy - first time master took her up chimney on his shoulders like a wind. More present than she could estimate - more women than men. Danced and ate unsalted meat, then master took them home.

Had seen Didier Grand Claudon, Barbeline la Bertrichaude his mother (currently fugitives), Francois Marion, Plaisance veuve Claudon Tout Blanc (prisoner), Babelon her mother (dead), Jennon femme Jean Petit (executed), Alixe veuve Demenge Marond, Melline dite la Poirchesse (both fugitives), and Jennon femme Jean Colin, all of Raon. Many others she could not recognize because they were masked. Asked when she had first seen them, said 12 years for Didier Grand Claudon, his mother, and Jennon Petit, 8 or 9 for others. Didier was always the master, and the first to dance and jump.

Asked about making hail, said she had never agreed to her master's urgings, because she feared dearth, and had been beaten as a result - had seen others making hail. Had given him a chicken every year so that she did not have to go so often. Had been given powder 3 times, but had thrown last of it away because she wanted to do as little

harm as possible. Master sometimes appeared as little dog and spoke to her, urging her to do harm and take vengeance.

Asked if she had intercourse with him, said she had not, although he asked her on day of temptation. Asked if he had visited her in prison, agreed that he had promised to help her resist torture, but justice had been stronger than him, and he was 'ung trompeur et abuseur'.

8 August 1609; interrogation.

Repeated earlier confessions, except for causing death of first husband. Maintained accusations except for that against Jennon femme Jean Colin. Said that 17 or 18 years before had been very angry with present husband for not doing enough to feed them in time of war, and thought of killing him, but repented of this idea.

6 years earlier had also thought of killing her daughter-in-law, after various quarrels; gave herself pretext that son would be better off with another, and threw black powder on her, 'neanmoins elle n'eust le pouvoir sur elle, et ne devient aucunement malade'. Reckoned that either there had been too little powder, or she was 'en bon estat pour lors'. Explained that if someone made sign of cross, used holy water and committed themselves to God's care in morning, witches had no power over them.

11 August 1609; death sentence from Change de Nancy; to be strangled after feeling fire.

14 August 1609; sentence carried out.

Expenses of trial came to 116 francs - shared between Duke and Abbey of Moyenmoutier.