

Witch 283; B 8715 no 6, Annon femme Jean Clauderat de Raon

3 November 1615; voluntary confession

Annon wife of Jean Clauderat, of Raon, appears before judges at her own request to make full confession. Was in prison, since Demenge Polier had constituted himself partie civile against her, claiming that she had long been reputed a witch.

Said she was 42; her father had been a maréchal of Raon, and her mother Jehenne had been executed for the same crime. Had been seduced some 6 years earlier, when upset because her husband had sold their house in the faubourg; she feared he would spend the money instead of turning it to profit. Mre Navel appeared and promised her money; later gave her powder. First two malefices she confessed were making wife of Jean Bietrix ill, and killing her cow - she did this to try powder, and because she had 'une volonté délibérée', but had 'aucune hayne ny Inimytié' against her.

Killed child of Colas Piernille because she was angry at not being asked to baptism. Gave her neighbour Gabriel Mercier a two-month illness because he often 'repoussoit' her children; eventually felt pity for him, and cured him. Later when at veillée in his house was asked to move and make room for others; in anger at this made his small child ill, then seeing it was languishing obtained more powder from her master with which she killed it.

Her master tried to persuade her to kill her husband, alleging that he was causing her much harm; she would not, pointing out that she had many children to provide for. Also sought to persuade her to kill wife of her neighbour Humbert Bastien, on grounds that she came too often and importunately into her house - she objected that she was a good neighbour and had done her no harm. For this she was beaten, as she was on other occasions. Another suggestion she rejected was that she kill Nicolas de Leusse, who was disputing over money with her husband; she objected that he had been good to her in taking one of her children into his house. Had killed one of her own pigs a few weeks earlier so that they should be thought subject to misfortunes like others.

Claimed to have thrown rest of powder away; judges pressed her to confess to other acts of malefice, since she must have committed more, under influence of Satan who sought 'la ruyne de tous'.

Said she had only been once to sabbat, and had recognised no-one, since they were all masked. After this had agreed to give her master a hen every year in order to be dispensed.

During renewed interrogation that afternoon, said that at last St. Luc she had been to get meat from Mongeon Failley, butcher at Raon, but he had refused because she had no money. Had then agreed to kill him, and used powder for this; felt pity for him, and intended to cure him, but had been arrested on the Friday before All Saints, which prevented her, and he died that same day. Some 5 years before had killed wife of Demenge Lucas, who had annoyed her by coming to complain that her husband, who had been levying aides, had overtaxed them. Had made Toussaint Piernille Charier ill because he damaged her corn, but then pitied him and cured him. Had killed small daughter of Jean Piernille after a quarrel over rights to gather plums, about 15 months before.

4 November 1615; interrogation

Added that recently, when numerous adults and children were suffering from dysentery, she had thought that Claudette wife of Didier Vaultrin 'faisoit tant de

ceremonie d'un sien petit fils'; since she 'print envyee sans autre subject' she gave him a little illness. On another occasion had sent one of her children to house of her sister, wife of Jean Marond, and had been angry that they gave nothing; killed a small pig in revenge.

4 November 1615; witness depositions

(1) Jean Bietrix of Grand Faubourg de Raon, c. 45

Agreed that his wife had sometimes been ill, and that they had some quarrels with accused, but had no suspicion over illness mentioned, nor specific memory. Had lost a cow around the time stated.

(2) Nicolas Piernille of same, c. 32

Three years earlier had lost small son Demenge aged some 16 weeks. On day he became ill the accused had approached him outside door as he was holding child, and come close without speaking; fear of her made him take refuge in nearby shop, and then child gave a loud cry. Died some 2 weeks later, since when they had always believed it was through witchcraft of accused.

(3) Gabriel Mercier of same, ?

Agreed to her account of his own illness, and of death of his small son aged 9 months. Also agreed that Mongeon Failley had become ill and had died at dates she gave.

(4) Demenge Lucas of the same, c. 36

Agreed that 5 years earlier his wife had died of a strange illness which only lasted 8 days.

(5) Claudatte wife of Didier Vatrin of the same, c. 30

Agreed that her small son had recently been ill, and was not yet fully recovered; didn't know cause of his illness, so it might well have been as accused said.

6 November 1615; Change de Nancy approves death sentence

9 November 1615; execution takes place.

Costs, from arrest on 30 October to execution, came to 74 francs, half of this falling on the duchy.