

B 8721 no 7. Witch 299; Babelon femme Mongeon Voirin de Moyenmoutier

20 October 1618; confrontation with Catherine femme Jean le Maire le jeune, who persisted in accusation that she had seen her at sabbat.

Same day procureur asks for informations to be taken, and for her to be arrested if there is sufficient evidence.

22 October; informations préparatoires

(1) Marguitté femme Claudon Johel le jeune, 30

Reputation 8 years (residence); had heard that her mother had already been executed as a witch. 5 years earlier, while in childbed after birth of son Francois, had been visited by Babelon and late Claudatte le Lieffre, and were talking of illness of Jennon, first wife of Nicolas Barthelemin. After saying that several doctors and apothecaries had been called in to treat her, Babelon added that since Nicolas believed she had given her the sickness, if he had called her in she could have healed her. This made witness suspect that she had caused it. Previous Chandeleur husband of accused had wanted to buy two bulls from them, but they refused, intending to keep them and then sell them at a profit, One subsequently died, other behaved strangely and had to be sold cheaply. If she was a witch believed she had caused this. As immediate neighbour had been outside house one Sunday when she heard a great noise in Bebelon's house, although she had seen husband, little daughter and servant all leave earlier. Later went out and asked through window if she did not want to come into street, and she pretended to laugh, although earlier she had heard her crying and lamenting. When she had been accused by Mongeatte femme Jean Michel Johel (already executed) she had blamed witness for not telling her, to which she replied 'qu'elle n'avoit osé prendre la hardiesse'.

(2) Claudatte femme Colas Valtin, 50

A year earlier had dispute when they were building a wall between latrines behind their houses, because accused said witness had better earth for the purpose than she had. 6 weeks later a fine calf sickened and died in 2 days, and she had always imputed this to her witchcraft. Reputed witch since she lived at St Blaise 7 or 8 years earlier, and before her marriage; mother executed. 3 years earlier when her sister-in-law Barbelline femme Colas Poirson was ill she was sent for to visit her, and met Babelon on way. Asked where she was going, then told her that Barbelline should send for milk to make a soup. An hour and a half later was called from church with news that she was dying; accused was among those who rushed to house, and then told her to eat half an apple she gave her after it had been cooked. Did this and made almost instant recovery; later told witness Babelon had been angry with her because she did not want to guard animals any longer, so believed she had given illness. Finally suspected her of causing problems with her garden, where nothing came properly into fruit despite care she took.

(3) Antoine Robert, 50

Reputation 7 years, execution of mother.

(4) Babelon femme Demenge Barbouiller de Raon, 40

Some 8 years earlier her first husband had been herdsman at St Blaise, where they both lived then, and found animals licking 'saumeure' under carts of salt. Threw this away against her wall for fear that they would come to harm, since they were liable to burst when they did this; she was very angry, saying she had already lost one of her own cows this way. Same day he became ill, and was bedridden for 3 weeks with stomach swollen, saying she had bewitched him. Eventually made gradual recovery, and accused said to witness that she need not have made a pilgrimage to Vic. After this illness she was in garden when she was attacked by a group of birds which tried to take her bonnet, then next day she was attacked by 3 women, among whom she recognized accused. One was saying they must kill her, another drown her, a third tear her apart. Called out and Humbert Drappier's wife and a servant came and found her. Unable to speak for a day, ill for 3 more, on account of fright and beating. Babelon heard of her story, and husband took action, so that she and husband hd to commit much of their property in their defence, and moved to Raon in fear of worse evils. General reputation, execution of mother.

(5) Idoul Jannel de St Blaise, 40

Reputed witch since her childhood, mother executed. Some 6 or 7 years earlier had been carting wine from Allemaigne with her husband, and she had been angry because he had bought horse she had wanted her husband to buy. Horse then went blind, so he sold it to husband for much lower price, but she was angry, demanding that he take it back. Also had quarrel with husband after he had bought another horse for 19 ecus, and this promptly sickened and died, he believed through her witchcraft.

(6) Claudon Thonnere de Moyenmoutier, 60

Told story of illness and death of his daughter, wife of Colas Barthelemin. This followed failure of her husband to pay promptly for a horse he had bought from Colas and a resulting quarrel primarily between the wives. Daughter then became very ill, and after 6 months given last rites; Babelon came in and asked if there were any 'estouppes' - then went to fetch them, angry when they had already been used on her return. Despite expenditure of more than 100 ecus no cure could be found, but strange lump found on thigh with marks as if of 5 claws. Some of this cut away on advice of doctors, who said it was witchcraft and there was no other cure. Died believing herself bewitched by accused.

(7) Idoul Jean Martin de St Blaise, 40

Reputation 9 or 10 years, execution of mother.

(8) Colas Barthelemin de Moyenmoutier, 40

Story of death of wife, some 3 years earlier. Repeated details as in (6), adding that in view of her suspicions his wife sent servant to Babelon's house to ask for milk, but she refused, saying 'que sy elle luy en donnoit, qu'on diroit qu'elle luy avoit donné le mal'.

(9) Laurant Periny, 50

Previous year had dispute because she and husband refused him ancient right of passage across garden; during resulting quarrel he said that he only feared witches, and that if any misfortune befell him she was the one he would blame. Soon became very ill, all swollen, unable to eat for 4 days but drinking incessantly, feeling he was burning. Remained ill for 2 months before gradual recovery, and believed that if she was witch as reputed she had made him ill.

(10) Thienatte femme Demenge Ganaire, 27

After quarrel over debt of 18 gros owed by accused, had told witness she would repent. 9 or 10 weeks ago had become ill, unable to eat properly, and still in wretched state. Believed firmly this was her doing, in view of threats and long reputation.

(11) Alison femme Gregoire Xeuxel, 35

Quarrel 3 years earlier over damage to field allowed by husband of accused, when witness threatened to have damage assessed. Next day they lost a sheep and could not find where it had gone; she said the evil spirit must have taken it, to which husband of accused replied the devil was not responsible, but they had eaten it, which was untrue. If she were a witch as reputed, believed this had been her doing.

(12) Claudon femme Dieudonné François de Moyenmoutier, 32

Some 6 years before, when she lived at St Blaise, her husband had supplied them with wine for tavern. Wanted to be godfather to her child, but had already asked someone else. While she was holding baby by fire Babelon came in and touched him, saying she should hold him well; witness shuddered with fear, and child became ill, dying in 2 or 3 days. Suspected her in view of long reputation.

(13) Catherine femme Claudon François, 40

(Damaged page) Story of a man now dead who had seen her crouching by stream; could not hear reply when he asked what she was doing, and found her in same position when he came back from Raon. Long reputation.

(14) Catherine femme Mengeon Bouray de St Blaise, 40

Some 8 years earlier, when her husband had been drinking with husband of witness, Didier Charier, and others, she had gone angrily to fetch him, swearing at them all. At her husband's request the two of them pushed her out, and she said to Mengeon that he would repent. Two weeks later lost a fine cow, which she had always blamed on her - long reputation.

(15) Claudon Johel de Moyenmoutier, 45

Repeated wife's story of two bulls, and suspicions against her.

(16) Jean Henry de St Blaise, 46

Reputation only.

(17) Mengeon le Clerc de St Blaise

Did not suspect her, although he had lost animals, and she had already been suspected as a girl.

(18) Barthelemin Husson de Moyenmoutier

Reputation several years, execution of mother, had been called witch by several without seeking reparation.

(19) Claudatte femme Colas Noel de Moyenmoutier, 27

After quarrel in summer of previous year she fell out of a cherry tree and hurt herself. In bed for 6 weeks, while small daughter also fell ill; Babelon visited and sent some milk, after drinking which child promptly recovered. Told her just to rest, and she also recovered. Had always suspected her of causing these accidents - long reputation.

(20) Claudon Curien de St Blaise, 30

Told story of her anger when her husband was drinking at Christmas time, and how witness said 'que s'il avoit une telle femme qu'il luy donneroit l'allée et la venue'. His wife than came in, and Babelon asked her 'Sy c'estoit le diable de bonne femme qui mectoit son marit a la farsatte', which caused a quarrel. Next day cow became ill, and died in a week; imputed this to her witchcraft - long reputation.

(21) Mengeon Bouray de St Blaise, 40

7 or 8 years earlier lost a fine cow, and had always believed that if she was witch as reputed she had been cause. Then told story of dispute over husband drinking.

(22) femme Henry Mongeay de St Blaise

6 years earlier first husband Mongeon de la Voeuvre had been maire, and had been called on to arrange arbitration in a dispute between Babelon's husband and Colas le Clerc. She came to ask about result; he was already ill, and quickly sickened and died. Later heard they hd been dissatisfied with speed of arbitration, and they asked for return of 7 gros, half of their 'escot'. When she had been arrested thought back on affair, and thought that if she were witch as reputed she might have caused his death.

(23) Claudon Tontelat de Moyenmoutier

18 months earlier had exchanged a horse with her husband, after which she was angry and said 'que le diable le puisse emporter'. Horse promptly sickened, and died in 3 or 4 weeks; had always blamed her for this, if she were witch as reputed.

(24) Nicolas Simeon de Moyenmoutier, 45

18 months before he and her husband had carted some building stone, but she had been dissatisfied with amount of payment, because they had deducted a

debt for wine. She said that the devil could take all innkeepers; later his wife reproached her, saying that she had had wine during illness, and they could have found others who owed them money to help them. Soon wife fell ill with strange sickness, and died after 23 weeks, although he spent much money seeking cure. Was judged not to be a natural sickness, but to be witchcraft - emaciated and 'frenetique'. She believed accused had been cause, and sent for her several times to see if she could aid her. He also believed that if she were witch as reputed she had been cause.

(25) Nicolle femme Anthoine Sabel, 20

Some 30 months earlier was told that Babelon had said her husband should be imprisoned, on report that he had injured Perine femme Denis Bologne, and witness said it was not worthy men but witches who should be imprisoned. Later met her in street and she said 'Ha comment languarde tu dis qu'il faut mectre les genox et genoxe en prison, mais tu t'en repentiras, et qu'elle auroit mieulx avoir perdu le bras que de la ressembler'. Witness too astonished to reply; soon her small son (15 months) became strangely ill, continuing to eat but not developing, and was still in pitiful state. Suspected accused and implied as much to her; reply was advice to quarrel with people, which made her still more suspicious. Long reputation,

(26) Jennon femme Nicolas Marchal, 46

Repeated story told by daughter Collatte about falling out of cherry tree; quarrel was because they found Babelon picking fruit on her own from tree whose produce they shared.

depositions signed Nicolas André, maire

13 November 1618; interrogation

Said she was 31, wife of Demenge Voirin laboureur. Native of St Blaise; father (who died when she was a baby) was Chrestail, did not know surname, came from Lalarmont in county of Salm. Mother was Claudatte Neuxat - agreed she had been executed as witch some 20 years earlier. Had lived at Moyenmoutier for 4 years, previously at St Blaise. Recognised she was accused of witchcraft, following confrontation with Catherine. Admitted some quarrels, notably with wives of Claudon Johel and le viel Poirson. Knew she had been reputed witch for some 6 years, since lawsuit by her husband against the late Colas le Clerc on account of his wife Claudatte.

Claimed she had only known of being called witch otherwise by hearsay, or she would have taken action. Asked about noise in house, agreed she had been lamenting because she had heard of accusation by Mongeatte femme Jean Johel (executed), but denied there had been any noise. Asked about this accusation some 18 months before, said she had heard of it, but also that Mongeatte subsequently discharged her. Said when accused of killing calf of Colas Valtin that she did not, 'et sy les fortunes que Dieu nous envoye, on vouldroit dire que ce fust tous de sortilège, qu'il conviendroit bien mal.'

Agreed she had been angry about purchase of horse from Idoult Jannel, but denied causing him any harm. Agreed she had refused milk when asked on behalf of wife of Colas Thonere, and apparently for reason given, but denied having given her illness. Said of Thienatte Ganaire that she 'peut bien avoir ung tel chapeau sur

la teste qu'elle, et toutesfois qu'elle ne luy a causé mal ny desplaisir'. Agreed to quarrel when her husband was drinking, but denied any ill will.

Asked about arbitration and Mongeon de la Voeuvre - became plain this was about accusation that she was a witch - said he had been 'ung fort bon homme'. Had loved him too much to do him any harm, and had watched over him for 3 nights during illness. Agreed to dispute with Colas Simeon, but denied using words about Devil - if she had it would not have been with evil intent. Also agreed to remark attributed to wife of Anthoine Sabel, but denied rest of this charge. Otherwise straight denials.

19 November 1618; confrontations

Said of Demenge Barbouiller's wife that she had perjured herself in previous case, and was cause of her present imprisonment; she had been to 'devineresse' to find out about husband's illness. Alleged that Claudon François had had a child by a priest. Otherwise no useful results, with simple denials.

21 November 1618; procureur asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

24 November 1618; Change de Nancy approves

29 November 1618; interrogation under torture

Withstood thumbscrews and rack, but finally given tortillons on arm and leg, and started to confess. Approached by Mre Navel 3 years earlier, when very angry after being beaten by her husband; he offered to comfort her, but she said she wanted to serve God and he vanished. Two weeks later he returned, and this time she yielded to honeyed words; given money which was pieces of wood. No powder this time, but later gave her black powder, which she tried on a hen and a calf of her own. Had killed horse of Claudon Tontelat, but no other maléfices - pressed hard by judges, continued to deny any others. Had only been to sabbat once, carried in the air by her master; had not eaten anything, nor recognize anyone. Yearly payment of a hen to be excused.

1 December 1618; interrogation

Repeated earlier confessions on two occasions; asked to be executed as soon as possible.

3 December 1618; interrogation

News now received that she had retracted her confessions, and had managed to escape from her room. When questioned said she wished to die, but not as a witch; confessions had been forced by torture.

5 December 1618; procureur asks for renewed question ordinaire, and death sentence if she renews confessions.

7 December 1618; Change de Nancy approves

10 December 1618; interrogation under torture

Denied at first, but when racked repeated original confessions.

11 December 1618; procureur asks for death sentence

13 December 1618; Change de Nancy approves