

B 7137 no 3; witch 117, Margo femme Jean Georges, de Parey-sous-Montfort

13 November 1626; informations préparatoires

(1) Adrian le Blanc, 40

Some 14 or 15 years before, during storm, found her and her sister Claudon (now dead) in field; were bending down with heads to ground. Said to them it was not without cause that they were sometimes suspected of doing harm - replied that they were gathering grass for children, but saw none in their hands and they were not wetted by storm.

(2) Mengeotte femme du précédent, 45

4 or 5 years earlier had heard from Mengeotte fille Jean Forgeot, during fatal illness, that it had begun after Margo touched her on shoulder at veillée in house of witness, and she believed she was cause.

(3) Jean Forgeot, 66

Death of daughter, aged about 20, after languishing for a year; essentially story as above.

(4) Thomas Forgeot, 30

Same story.

(5) Nicolas Forgeot, jeune fils, 20

Same story.

(6) Liegey Prout, 36

Story of illness of his brother-in-law Mengon Francois 3 years earlier; he had obtained bag of ashes from Margo and her mother with which he treated him, and he soon recovered.

(7) Mengeotte femme Jean Forgeot, 60

Story of daughter's death; suggestion that Margo had been pretending to be sleepy, put hand on daughter's head, then when asked why she beat her said she would have fallen otherwise - after which she fell other way.

(8) Dieudonné femme Thomas Forgeot, 22

5 years earlier her husband was ploughing with Margo's husband Jean George, and one day in a temper she wished that their horses might die rabid. That winter a horse did die in such a manner, and thought this might have been her doing - long reputation. Story of death of niece Menette after blow given at veillée.

(9) Mengin François, 52

Story of his illness previous year, as already told in case of Margo's mother, with cure after using sack of ashes they provided. Also loss of many animals.

(10) Jeannon femme du precedent, 30

Story of getting Margo to come and visit husband - she promised he would recover in 3 days.

(11) Claudon fille François Pernot, de Vittel, 22

Had been servant of Mengeon François 6 or 7 years earlier, and had been at veillée, where other women annoyed her by throwing things among flax she was preparing. Said she would hit the next one who did this, then Margo threw sabot into it, so she struck her lightly on skirt, and received blow on cheek herself. This became very painful, and she was ill for 2 weeks; only cured after master persuaded her to eat something obtained from house of Margo and her mother.

3 November 1626; interrogation

Said she was about 30, had been married about 12 years. 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls, of whom first boy had died.

Asked about what she and sister had been doing in field, claimed they had been colected a herb with yellow flowers which was good for 'la rumpure des enfans' when mother and children all ate it. Said they had not been wet because it was not raining at that time.

Agreed that she had given Mengin François 'une estuve' when he was ill. Half admitted striking Claudon Pernot, but insisted she had done her no harm. Denied all charges.

4 November 1626; confrontations

Only reproach she made was that she had heard neighbours claim Mengin François had been found stealing from houses - he denied this. Otherwise simply maintained innocence on all charges.

27 November 1626; interrogation under torture

Pricked for mark - claim that needle was inserted a good way into mark on head without drawing blood, then she cried out. Given thumbscrews on hands and feet, then racked. Finally prepared for strappado, with 6 pound weight attached to feet - not quite clear whether she was actually given this. Continued denials throughout; only thing she added was that herb she and sister gathered was for wife of François Morquin to give to her child.

28 November 1626; PG des Vosges (Dumenil) approves release.