

B 8691 no 12; witch 223, Mongeatte femme Thoussaint de Leuce, de la Neuville-les-Raon

20 January 1603; informations preparatoires

(1) Didier Dauphin, 50

Reputation 16 to 18 years, when she was arrested on suspicion of witchcraft. Had heard from Didier Maillé, then servant in her house, that when she and husband were quarrelling she said 'que sy elle estoit prinse pour une sorciere, que luy seroit prins pour ung meurtrier'.

(2) Jean Gerardin, 50

Long reputation, earlier arrest.

(3) Demenge Jean du Paire, 65

Reputation 22 years. Had had disputes with husband, one of which was still in course over some goats which latter was claiming, although they belonged to witness. Had lost an ox shortly after servant guarding animals called daughter of accused 'fille de sorciere'. Also suspected her of causing loss of other animals.

(4) Chretien Brandecq, 37

3 years earlier was taking cow to drink near her house when she saw him and said 'voila une belle vache, dieu la veulle garder' - within an hour or two became ill and died. Reputation 18 years.

(5) Jean Pieron Gelliat, 46

Reputation 9 years (residence).

(6) Jennon femme Colas Blasat, 40

9 years before, on way to woods, had passed by garden of accused; 2 or 3 days later became strangely ill, and for some time could only go on all fours - had never fully recovered use of legs. During previous illness 16 years earlier had thought the accused and the late Catherine femme Georges Ganat (herself suspected) had come into house, then disappeared when she made sign of cross. Had always suspected this was her witchcraft; later sent her some milk, and although she could not remember if she drank it, later started to recover.

(7) Catherine veuve Henry Claude, 60

19 years earlier her husband refused to serve as maitre valet to husband of accused 'pour mener des voiles' [take rafts of logs on river], because he did not want to leave service of Demenge Jean Mercier - husband of accused was very angry. 3 days later he was sleeping on bench by oven when a great cat jumped out of oven and on him; within the hour began to shiver and took to bed, dying a week later. During illness maintained he was bewitched by means of the cat, speaking of refusal to serve her husband; was so fearful of her that he forbade them to buy wine she was

then selling. Had always believed this was her witchcraft. 16 years earlier she had been nursing 6-month-old daughter of Hanry le Maire, which died in 3 days - thought this had been her witchcraft, because she had been angry when witness deposed against her before. Also said that late Claudatte Godat had said Mengeotte had bewitched her, and maintained this to death; claimed she had been struck in face by a wind as she crossed bridge. Said that her husband (late Claudon Estienne) had not visited daughter of accused when she was eligible for marriage.

(8) Nicolle femme Colas Mathiat, 35

Reputation 16 years (residence).

(9) Jennon femme Jean Gelliat, 46

Reputation 18 years - earlier arrest after accusation by la Faillée. The late Demenge Jean Mercier had openly called her a witch, along with others now dead. Later he attributed his fatal illness to witchcraft, and gave accused a blow which knocked off her 'coiffe'.

(10) Demenge Bibelat, 46

Earlier arrest.

(11) Colas Charier, 40

5 years earlier had dispute with accused because she had beaten his daughter, having found her taking young beans from her garden. When he asked why she had beaten her and not others, she said she would beat her again. He then implied indirectly that she was a witch. Child fell ill for 3 weeks soon after, and thought this was her witchcraft. Long reputation.

(12) Claudon Barbier, 30

Reputation 16 years (residence).

(13) Didier Pescheur, 60

14 or 15 years earlier found 9-year-old son Estienne naked; the boy told him that Mengeotte had done this after finding him in her garden. Since then he had become troubled in mind, wandering away for days at a time without knowing where he was. Remained in this state for some 10 years, needing constant watching, and had always suspected this was her witchcraft.

(14) Colas Brabant, 50

9 years before had been ploughing with 8 oxen, which he found after dinner had escaped into her meadow. She chased them out, and they were jumping in a strange fashion, so he said to her 'qu'elle se donne de garde qu'il n'en advient quelque chose, et qu'il y prendroit soigneuse garde, laquelle feit response qu'il n'en ait doubté, mais que par la mere dieu qu'il montreroit ces propos là, et qu'elle en donneroit advertisement a son marit et qu'il les mangeroit.' In fact took no action, while he did not think any misfortune followed, unless it was loss of several animals

in strange fashion some time later - did not know whether to suspect her witchcraft.
Had been officer at time of previous arrest.

(15) Jean Forgeat, 33

14 or 16 years before the late Claudatte femme Pierre Viat, who was living in his house, became very ill. Blamed accused and late Catherine femme George Granat for her illness, and sent daughter to fetch something to eat and drink from their houses. Reputation 18 years, earlier arrest.

(16) Didier Chotté, 40

Reputation 18 years, earlier arrest.

(17) Clemence femme honn homme Bastien Fournay, maître échevin de la Neuveville, 50

19 years earlier first husband Demenge Jean Mercier had been ill, very troubled in mind, and persistently claimed this was doing of accused, Catherine femme George Ganat, and one called la Failley, accused of witchcraft, who named Mongeotte as accomplice. Said he was bewitched because he had not wanted to be 'compagnon' of her husband 'pour mener des voiles'. During illness sometimes thought he saw and heard them saying he should be strangled in his bed. Truth about his death had been revealed by those recently executed. 6 years before her present husband had been gravely ill for 12 weeks. Went to Raon and found maire Nicolas Counresier seated outside house of Mr d'Etival with the accused; maire asked her about husband, and she replied he was still very ill. Mengoette, who had not been spoken to, interrupted 'et comme de propos fortes rudes et farouches dit que par la mort dieu ce n'estoit encor faict'; this increased her existing suspicions. Husband said during illness that he should try to obtain 'quelques viandes' from house of accused, since he suspected her, and they finally obtained bread, salt and ashes. Ate these for 9 days, while he also ate some honey she sent him unasked, then slowly recovered.

(18) Didier Mazellay, 55

Said that 14 years before his wife Alizon often went to work in house of accused, who not only made her work all day, but often kept her late, so he was angry and stopped her going. 2 or 3 weeks later became all swollen, and despite expenditure of 50 écus in vain search for cure died 2 years later. Had always believed this was her doing if she was witch as reputed (18 years).

(19) Jean Poulain, 76

Reputation 18 years, earlier arrest.

(20) Jean Raville, 80

Reputation 18 years.

(21) Colas Maurice, 27

Had always heard her suspected as witch since execution of la Faillé 18 years earlier.

(22) George Mongeat, 36

Long reputation, previous arrest.

(23) Jean Gelliat, 46

Reputation since accusation 18 years earlier.

(24) Jean Recepver, 36

Some 12 years before had quarrelled with husband of accused over damage to crops by animals, which led to still unfinished lawsuit. Soon after this had various misfortunes. Baby in cradle started to bounce around and fall over when put on table by bed as usual, wife fell ill, then after finding mysterious cat in house another child suddenly died. Some 5 years before his brother-in-law Claudon Estienne had sickened and died, claiming he had been bewitched by Mengeotte because he had withdrawn from seeking her daughter Isabel in marriage.

(23 January 1603)

(25) Anthoinette, veuve Jean Thiriart, 72

18 years earlier her son-in-law Demenge Jean Mercier had been very ill for more than 2 years, then died. Had always claimed he was bewitched by accused and by la Faillé; more than 100 écus spent in vain search for cure.

(26) Catherine femme Claudon Mathieu, 28

6 years earlier, serving in house of accused, saw a man dressed in black leave like a wind at 10 in the evening. Also claimed to have heard husband and wife quarrelling, with former saying 'qu'elle prevenue estoit une malheureuse, et qu'elle ne valoit rien que de mettre des pauvres au monde.'

(27) Jennon femme au maire Demenge Jean du Paire, 60

Suspected Mengeotte of causing death of an ox 3 months earlier after servant called her daughter 'fille de genoxe'.

(28) Françeatte femme Colas Charier, 43

Reported that 5 years earlier husband had dispute with Mengeatte after she had beaten their daughter. Girl was then ill for 6 weeks; imputed this to her witchcraft, long reputation.

(29) Claudon Estienne, 40

Arrest 18 years earlier.

(30) Agnon femme Claudon Barbier, 40

About a year earlier had told her in fury that her sister-in-law Jehenne 'avoit usé de quelques propos, mais que par la mere dieu elle l'auroit sy elle debvoit mettre sept ans, et de fait l'avoit desja battu auparavant'. In fact Jehenne moved elsewhere, and were no consequences.

(31) Jennon veuve Thouvenin Recepvier, 50

Long reputation, earlier arrest. Reported suspicions of Claudatte femme Claudon Estienne and Demenge Mercier, during final illnesses.

(32) Dieudonné Marond, 45

Long reputation, earlier arrest. Had heard her 16 years before, in quarrel over straying animal, say to a girl (now dead) 'que le diable soit de ton dieu'.

(33) Claudon Charier, 30

Previous year she had been angry about damage done by 2 of his horses, and said he would be forced to have them killed; this duly happened, and had always suspected this was her doing if she was witch as suspected.

(34) Didier Mercier, 28

Father had always maintained that she had bewitched him during fatal illness 18 years earlier, and that she was 'de la menée' with others now executed or dead.

(35) Jennon femme Jean Petit, 60

30 years earlier she and her husband had great disputes with Mengeotte's husband over some hay he had taken from them. Shortly afterwards lost 3 cows and 2 calves, which they suspected was her doing if she was witch as long reputed.

(36) Gerardin Marquis, 54

Some 10 years before had refused to 'mener des voiles' with her husband, after which 4 oxen sickened and died within a week; had always imputed this to her witchcraft, in view of long reputation.

(37) Georgeatte femme Didier Maillé, 46

Had been servant in house of Demenge Mercier 19 years earlier; during illness he blamed her along with la Viat, la Faillé, and wife of George de Magnieres (all now dead).

24 January 1603

(38) Lucas Brandecq, 40

Some 4 years earlier heard late Jean Mathieu claim she had killed his wife Dédie after quarrel over 'sarrasse' in front of their houses. Reputation 18 years.

(39) Noel Gerard, 30

Had heard Demenge Charton of Moyenmoûtier call her witch 9 years earlier.

(40) Jean Villemin, 30

3 years earlier he and others were drinking in her house, and after quarrel between her husband and Demenge Saffrois she called them 'cocquins'. Witness said they were better than her, calling her witch and threatening to have her burned - no reparation sought. Shortly after this he had arranged for son-in-law to cart some fish, but she came to tell him he was busy elsewhere and could not come. Immediately afterwards was overtaken by strange 'desespoir' as he left house, so that he did not know what he did, and thought of killing his brother Villemin, but God preserved him from this. Suspected this had been her witchcraft, and thought she was a witch or there were none in the world.

(41) Claudatte femme Didier Villemin, 67

Despite great care on their part, had lost numerous animals over the years so that they were much worse off. Had suspicions because some years earlier servant who was ill went to devin; on return he said 'que ladite prevenue avec quelques autres presentement dececées estoient cause de sesdits fortunes et avoient volonté de le ruyner ce qu'est advenu'.

(42) Jean Petit, 70

18 years earlier was her neighbour, and lost 2 oxen and a cow after disputes, which he imputed to her if she was witch as long reputed.

(43) Didier Villemin, 70

10 years earlier had lost 5 oxen suddenly, which he suspected had been her witchcraft. Repeated wife's story of servant who consulted devin, and was told that Mengeotte and 2 others wanted to ruin him; 'et qu'apres que tous ses moiens seroient perdus, qu'elles le mettroient sy bas qu'il demeureroit sur son dos, ce qui est advenu de plusieurs fortunes que luy sont survenues, la ou il a exosssé beaucoup de ses moiens, encor qu'il ait pris peine a possible.' Had called her witch without reparation being sought. When la Faillée was being taken to execution 18 years earlier she said 'que ladite prevenue a cause de ses richesses eschapperoit, mais qu'elle estoit plus pire qu'elle pour cedit crime, et de faict elle l'accusa'.

27 January 1603; interrogation

Said she was about 60, native of la Bourgonce; father had been le Petit Girardin, mother Isabel. Agreed she had been accused by Demenge Jean Mercier some 16 years earlier, but said that if she had done him any harm she would not have gone so readily to see him. Had also been accused by la Faillée, who had done her wrong.

Agreed that her husband had dispute - still running - with Demenge Jean du Paire about some goats. Asked about illness of Jennon femme Colas Blasat, replied 'qu'elle n'en est point cause, et qu'elle void bien que tous ceulx qui ont mal diront

que c'est faict de sorcerie et que dieu n'envoyeroit point a faire ainsy.' On same subject, said she had never done harm to anyone, 'et qu'il ne fault plus faire de bien au monde, qu'elle a donné plusieurs fois de la viande a laur porcqz craindant de ne la donner aux pauvres, a cause qu'on y poulroit penser de mal s'il arrivoit quelque chose.'

Admitted she had been angry with Catherine Henry, because she had testified against her, but denied doing her any harm. Admitted that Demenge Mercier knocked off her coiffe when she went to see him - she had reproached him with remarks he had made, saying she would not have gone to see him if she had been responsible for his illness. Also agreed to dispute with Colas Charier after catching his daughter stealing beans.

Court reproached her with having started with general denial of disputes with neighbours, but now admitting individual ones; replied 'qu'il faudroit bien vivre sy on ne vouloit avoir disputes avec quelques personnes, mais pour tout cela elle ne porte aucune hayne'.

Denied giving bread, salt and ashes for cure of Bastien Fourney, although she had sent a glass of honey for which one of his daughters asked. Admitted threats to Jehenne soeur Claudon Barbier, and beating her. In respect of losses of Jean Petit, said he should ask his sister la Jacquée, executed as witch at St Blaise. Admitted disputes with wife of Jean Mathieu, but said she had died in childbed. Demenge Charton had called her witch, but he was drunk.

Denied killing oxen of Didier Villemin, adding 'qu'elle craind bien que chacune mettra sur elle, au rest que s'y a esté au devin qu'il a esté au diable.'

28 January 1603; confrontations

Said she was a good woman, 'et que durant sa vie elle a tousjours eu crainte de faire honte a ses parens'. Reproached a few witnesses; Demenge Jean du Paire had allowed himself to be called thief. Jennon femme Colas Blasat had had intercourse with Nicolas Menusier and one from Allemaigne before her marriage. Catherine femme Claudon Mathieu was a thief, while Didier Villemin had long been accustomed to defame people. Denied all charges.

1 February 1603; Change de Nancy approves question ordinaire et extraordinaire

6 February 1603; interrogation under torture

Withstood thumbscrews, but when racked asked to be put down, promising to tell truth. Then asserted innocence, but was reckoned to be on point of confessing, and racked again. Confessed she had been seduced by Persin 20 years earlier, when angry with Nicolas Brabant after dispute over straying animals. Promised to make her happy, gave her money (leaves) and powder - black/kill, yellow/languish, white/cure. Tried powder out on one of own sheep, which died.

Confessed to killing Alison femme Didier Mazelle, who refused to work for her (12 years earlier); also Alizon veuve Jean Brandecq, a year earlier 'et ce que luy print envie de ce faire, estoit de la pitye qu'elle estoit reduicte en pauvreté, et qu'elle avoit beaucoup de peine de gaigner sa vie'. Also admitted killing oxen of Nicoals Brabant. Denied various other alleged maléfices against people and animals. Agreed she had made daughter of Colas Charier sick, and Estienne son of Didier Pescheur lame (in latter case unwillingly, persuaded by Parsin, who actually used powder himself when she consented). Killed Claudon Estienne because he took knives to her daughter Sabel.

Had been to sabat 3 times a year; carried on master's shoulders through the air. Usual feasting and dancing, but claimed she kept apart. Were about 20 present, but recognized none of them because they were all masked.

7 February 1603; interrogation

Now said seduction had followed incident when husband returned from Thiaville and struck her in back with a stick, so that she had to take to her bed. Admitted some further maléfices, including killing Demenge Jean Mercier some 18 years earlier with the other three witches named in the depositions; they danced round his bed, and were others present she could not see because it was dark.

Asked again about accomplices, gave list of 6 women already executed, and one (la Viat) who had died. Gave master a chicken each year to be exempted from going more often. Made hail and rain in usual fashion to spoil crops.

8 February 1603; interrogation

Confirmed earlier confessions. Said that she felt a great burden off her soul since she had confessed her crimes, and that she believed god would be merciful to her.

10 February 1603; Change de Nancy approves death sentence

12 February 1603; sentence carried out