

B 8687 no 5; witch 203, Dieudonnée femme Pierre Chrestien de Moriviller

26 July 1601; informations préparatoires

(1) Jean Barrier, 30

Occasion 2 and a half years earlier when she had brought milk for their child, but he saw small blue marks in it, and they threw it away. Next day came with small cake, and asked if they had given milk to child; they said they had, but she replied she had heard they did not. Then admired child; did not know if she did anything, but as soon as she left it sickened, and died next day. About a year earlier had dispute over payment for dyeing a coat for her; as soon as she had left his wife felt something prick her foot, and then became as if possessed. Remained in this state for a week, and he then said in public that if she did not recover by the Sunday he would go to St Dié to make formal charge. Wife became so ill that she was thought to be dying, but Dieudonnée came and advised them to rub herbs she brought on the place, after first lancing the abscess. Wife then made instant recovery and was in fields next day. They had always suspected her over these misfortunes - long reputation.

(2) Annon femme du précédent, 28

Story of child as told by husband - this followed occasion when accused was angry because she would not help her. Also own illness.

(3) Thoussaint Gomay, 41

Just before Christmas had been at a 'confrérie' she had made, and he made first offering; only gave 3 francs for himself and his wife, which example was followed by everyone else, and she was angry with him over this. After this developed pain in shoulder, so that he was virtually crippled for 6 months, and still not wholly recovered. Believed this had been her doing if she was witch as reputed.

(4) Le maire Claudon Chadat, 60

Had no suspicion against her.

(5) Poiresson Mareschal, 36

3 years before was often in their house without invitation, and a sow and 4 piglets died as if rabid; suspected this was her witchcraft and complained to her, at which she said he should be patient, and when she was newly married she lost animals in same way. Also suspected her over sudden death of a cow the previous year; long reputation.

(6) Barbon femme Lienard Jean Lienard, 30

10 years before had made a 'craigne' before house to hold veillée, as was customary in villages, and she was angry because they had also made one, but no-one wanted to go there. After this they started to lose animals which died strangely, to value of more than 300 écus; was sure this was her witchcraft - long reputation. Also occasion when their children fought over pears from a tree they were supposed to

share; some of these given to pigs, and 5 or 6 died, which again she thought was her witchcraft.

(7) Didier Claude Phillippe, 32

Some 3 years earlier his wife had been in childbed, and they did not invite Dieudonné to feast as they had done on some previous occasions. She was angry, and his wife's arms and legs became all swollen, until after 6 weeks they took her outside to get some air and accused spoke to her, suggesting she came to craigne, and looking at her hands. After this quickly recovered, and they suspected it had been her witchcraft. A year earlier had dispute with her son about small piece of meadow, and would have fought if they had not been 'comperes'. After this fell from a plum tree, and injured his shoulder so that he had to go to surgeon at Magnieres, but could get no relief. Was sure it was witchcraft, and on advice of surgeon himself asked her for some barley to make a soup; she said she had none ready, but sent him some 'carange' and some apples. Felt much better after eating these, and was fully recovered next day, which confirmed his suspicions. Long reputation.

(8) Le maire Colas Brouvellant, 40

Previous Christmas he had hired servant who was previously with her, and she was angry, telling him to go where he would have better horses. Immediately two fine horses became ill, and he was suspicious of her, so put it about that he would have her arrested if she did not heal them. She heard of this, and same day they recovered, which increased his suspicions - long reputation.

(9) Colas Jean Badorat, 50

4 years earlier the devil had fallen in her house and killed an ox, so he went to see this. She told him he had come in by chimney, was all black, and she had not had any fear. Long reputation.

(10) Colas Cuguin, 36

Previous year had been on way to Magnieres to fetch a surgeon for Didier Claude Phelippe when he fell twice from his horse on a good road, and feared he would be killed. Suspected this was her witchcraft; reputation 7 or 8 years.

(11) Demenge Brouvelant, 30

Same story as father about hiring servant and illness of horses; reputation 5 years.

(12) Catherine veuve Jean Pelisson, 40

3 years before had declined invitation to work for her, and saw her glaring at small child she was carrying; became ill and died in a week. Suspected this was her witchcraft; general reputation.

(13) Sibille femme Demenge Brouvellant, 26

Lived with father-in-law, who held 'moictresse et maison franche' by lease from canons. Previous year had summoned subjects for labour duties, and she had offered 3 gros to be remitted from reaping, but they would not accept this and she was forced to work. Gave witness some plums, but she feared to eat these, and then asked her why she had not eaten them, giving her two more. Immediately afterwards had abscess on thigh, which lasted 2 or 3 weeks, and had always suspected this was her witchcraft, in view of general reputation.

(14) Jean Gerardat, 38

Reputation 12 years (residence), but no personal suspicion.

(15) Estienne Brouvellant, 50

Occasion when devil fell and killed ox; she did not seem astonished, and showed him little hole by which he had left. General reputation.

(16) Lienard Jean Lienard, 43

Suspected her over death of his first wife Mengeatte 15 years earlier, who quarrelled with her when about to give birth, and died 3 days later. Then told of anger over 'craigne', and subsequent deaths of animals. Another occasion 6 years earlier when they had dispute over meadow and he called her 'vieille larronnesse', after which he lost several horses. Also suspected her over death of a cow which she had cursed, saying the devil take it.

27 July 1601; interrogation and confrontations

Said she was about 60, daughter of Demenge Aulbert of Serainville; had lived at Moriviller since marriage 38 years earlier. Had been told of reputation at time of arrest and execution of Jean Pelisson 3 years earlier.

Denied all charges vigorously, including suggestions of healing in some cases. Did agree she had sent some 'carange et pommes to Didier Claude Philippe, but had been in friendship. Also conceded some of story about devil falling on house.

Now agreed she had given milk for child of Jean Barry; had forgotten this before. Said to his wife that she had been pregnant when she married, which she agreed, saying it was by her husband. In reply to Barbon femme Lienard Jean Lienard, said she herself had lost beasts, so it must be the case that this has been witchcraft. Now agreed to having given plums to Sibille femme Demenge Brouvellart, which she had also forgotten that morning. Claimed that Lienard Jean Lienard had given false witness, but he indignantly denied this. No other reproaches or admissions.

27 July 1601; procureur for canons asks for torture

28 July 1601; Change de Nancy approves

3 August 1601; interrogation under torture

Before she was tortured executioner found a small shining mark on shoulder, in which he was able to insert a pin without any reaction, or drawing blood. When racked started to confess. Had been seduced by Persin and would tell truth - but on release denied she was witch. Put back on rack and given tortillons, she gave way and confessed. Seduced 12 years earlier, when angry because husband had told her off without good cause; was on way to craigne when Persin met her, promising to prevent husband mistreating her in future, and to give her money. Money was oak leaves, powder black/kill and white/cure.

Tried powder out on hen, which died. Had killed calf belonging to Lienard Jean Lienard, Catherine wife of maire Jacot Grimon, and a horse belonging to Nicolas Cugnin, who had accused her wrongly over his fall from horse. Denied causing other misfortunes attributed to her.

Had been to sabat many times, where she had recognized the old maire Claudon Chadat, Parisot Goeury, and Didielle Masson, of Moriviller, and Jean Gerard of Franconville. Were many others present, but they were masked. Had danced, feasted, and made hail - but she never consented to last. Went on foot on Thursday, at hour of Mass.

6 August 1601; confirmed earlier confessions and accusations, but now said she was not sure about Jean Gerard, although she thought she had seen him.

7 August 1601; further repetition

8 August 1601; procureur asks for death sentence

9 August 1601; Change de Nancy approves, subject to final confirmation by accused

16 August 1601; final interrogation at which she confirmed her confessions, except that she now said she had not caused death of Jacot Grimon's wife.