

Witch 344: Vosges G563, Jehennon Colin, femme Jean Poirson, de Giriviller, 1594

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7 October 1594; informations préparatoires

Noted that she had already fled on hearing that her trial was about to begin.

(1) Nicolas Alexis, laboureur, 60

3 years earlier had lost an ox, and suspected either the accused or Jehennon femme Jean Perrin, who were both long reputed witches.

(2) Françoise veuve Nicolas Micquel, 40

Reputation 7 or 8 years; suspected she had killed a horse after a quarrel previous year, and that she might have caused other losses of animals.

(3) ? (damage)

Her late husband had been going as soldier for duke 3 years earlier, and 'desbaucha' the husband of the accused to go to the war with him. She was very angry about this. and since then the witness had lost many animals, which she believed had been her doing, in view of her reputation. 4 years earlier her father had been on his deathbed, and witness wanted tabellion fetched from Magnieres; asked daughter of accused, but she was not ready to go immediately, so she sent a boy instead. Jehennon was annoyed when she heard of this, and then witness's small child aged about one, 'le plus joly et esveillé qu'on eut sceu souhaiter', died in 24 hours after becoming ill on day of dispute. Losses of animals meant that she was 'quasy reduicte à pauvreté'.

(4) Claudatte Beat, 30

When in childbed 3 years earlier called in midwife and neighbours, but did not call Jehennon (who was neighbour) because of her bad reputation. This was followed by threats, and her husband sickened and died. She also had no milk to feed baby, and was advised to take it round to show neighbours, in hope that Jehennon might offer cure; she did touch her breast, after which she had plenty of milk.

(5) Georgeatte femme Claudon Ganat, 50

10 year earlier husband had acted as procureur for Nicolas Serrier, Mre Echevin of Ramberviller, who bought some vines from husband of accused. Latter had right to repurchase within specified term, but Serrier appears to have evaded this (damage here), and accused was angry with Ganat, making threats. Since then they had lost many animals, which they were almost certain was her witchcraft.

(6) Jehennon femme Jean Gaultrin, 35

One evening 2 or 3 years earlier, as animals were coming home, Jehennon 'vint demander l'aumosne à leur huis, elle deposante empeschée à l'entour de ses enfans et de son bestail. luy respondit que deux de ses filles nagueres y avoient ja esté, et que comme elle n'estoit des plus aysés il n'y avoit moyen, qu'elle puisse tant faire d'aulmosnes. Lesquelles propos entendus par ladite Jehennon Colin, elle s'en alla aussy tost. Elle deposante, la voyant ainsy s'en aller, se recorda, du mauvais bruict et de la reputation qu'elle avoit d'estre sorciere, et se craignant de quelques maladventure, print une escuelle de laict, et un loppin de pain, et sortit incontinent, et l'appella par plusieurs fois, pour luy donner l'aulmosne, Mais elle fit la sourde aureille, et fit semblant qu'elle n'ouyroit pas, toutesfois les femmes voisines, luy escrierent, qu'elle oyoit bien mais qu'elle n'avoit intention de respondre, que fut la cause, qu'elle eut bien grande crainte, que quelque chose du sinistre, ne luy pouvoit faillir Le lendemain, elle eut ung beau veau morte . . .' Same day her small son, who was guarding animals with his father, became ill and died after languishing for some time. In view of reputation believed that this had been her witchcraft.

(8) Demenge Ganat

Repeated wife's deposition. Added that she had said to his children 'qu'elle s'esjouysoit de les veoir encor porter le bissac, et demander l'aumosne'.

(9) Collatte veuve Jean de la Court, 60

Some years earlier Jehennon asked her daughter-in-law for a cheese, but she had none to give her; soon after developed pain in hand which tormented her for 5 weeks, until she gave accused some lard, and she touched most painful place, saying she would recover. Immediately felt better, and in view of great reputation both witness and victim had always thought this was her witchcraft.

(10) Bietrix, femme Jacques Lolbiat, 30

Damage here - essential part of deposition illegible.

(11) Jean Jacot, 60

10 years earlier his wife refused accused the loan of 'ung levain', and was told she should watch out. Soon after he brought back a load of grain which was not dry, and put it to dry in sun before church - but it was scattered by a violent whirlwind. Managed to gather most of it together again, but thought this had been her doing, with aid of the devil her master.

(12) Nicolle femme du viel maire Nicolas Grillat, 75

3 years earlier had bought 'une selle' from Jehennon's husband, and she told witness she still owed them 'ung os de chair'. Replied that it was not yet the season to kill pigs, but then fell and injured her foot - was still limping, and in view of general reputation suspected this had been her witchcraft.

(13) Missing - very short.

(14) Catherine femme Colas Pairel, 32

Some years earlier her husband had been one of 'chastoilliers' in church. Custom was for them to make offering of flax on Monday when mass for the dead was celebrated, then to sell this afterwards. Jehennon wanted to buy some, but witness told her it was already promised elsewhere, and saw from her face that she was angry, after which they soon lost a cow. In view of reputation thought this was her witchcraft.

(15) Claudatte veuve George Micquel, 40

Husband had died after she quarrelled with Jehennon, and in view of reputation she suspected this was her doing.

(16) Le maire Jean Thierry, 60

3 years earlier his son-in-law (now at Serainville) was living in same household with him (damage here); suspected her of causing death of a horse, since she was reputed witch throughout the village. Had also lost 3 calves, and a fourth had a broken leg, over which he also suspected her 'Mouvant ledit soubçon de ce, qu'elle demandoit trop souvent et trop obstinement l'aumosne, et luy advint par apres l'occasion de la battre et luy dire, qu'elle advise de ne plus retourner à son huis aultrement qu'il la tueroit, mais quant à ses enffans, il n'empeschoit qu'ilz y vinssent, pour l'amour du pere.'

After this her house was searched, but no trace found of her. Husband said he had not seen her for 10 or 12 days, and would not fail to hand her over if she reappeared, so that case could be decided one way or the other.

15 October 1594; Change de Nancy approves arrest, or banishment if she cannot be found.

Four visits made to house; once said there were 2 children aged 14 and 16 there, another time 2 small children. Final sentence of banishment (unless she returns to purge herself within the year) from Change de Nancy on 2 January 1595.