

Vosges G 710: witch 339, Jeannon femme Georgeon Grand Didier, de la Rochatte (faubourg de St Dié)

5 June 1630; informations préparatoires

(1) Jacques Simon, laboureur, 60

Had called her witch and said she should be burned without any reparation being sought. Previous winter was renting house from her to store grain, and was warned that she was stealing oats. When threshing told his daughter Claudatte to stay and watch grain while he went for dinner, and accused asked her angrily why she was staying. Soon after she became ill with pain in her side, and died after a year, saying that she had been bewitched by Jeannon, who was generally reputed a witch - he believed this had been the case.

(2) Nicolas Honin, tisserand de St Dié, 30

Repeated story told by previous witness; Claudatte had been his own wife.

(3) Nicolas Grand Simon, de St Dié, 32

Had been in her service 4 years earlier, taking animals out to pasture on fallow. When collecting cherries a white cat came 3 times to foot of different trees, and he thought this had been the accused trying to cause him harm. Had called her witch several times without any reparation being sought.

(4) Marguerite femme Durand Demenge Durand, 30

5 or 6 years before, when they were neighbours, witness had refused her request for loan of horse to bring in crops because it was busy elsewhere. She was angry and said 'sy le diable ne t'emporte, tu ne le menera guere avant', and during same week it died suddenly. Was worth 23 écus, and she believed this had been her witchcraft - she was feared as a witch. Same year they quarrelled over collecting dung in front of houses, and accused wished 'que les fiebres quatres la puisse tenir sept sepmaines'; she had long illness which started next day, and believed this too had been her witchcraft.

(5) Epne femme Demenge Thiebault, de St Dié, 35

3 years earlier she had quarrelled with her daughter Catherine, claiming that their cows had strayed into her garden, and wished that 'les fiebres quatres te puisse tenir', after which she had long illness which began next day. When she used same threat again later the witness warned her that if this happened as it had the previous time harm would come to her. Believed the illness had been her doing if she was a witch as reputed.

(6) Anne femme Jacques Simon, de St Dié, 50

Story of illness and death of her daughter, as told by husband.

(7) Demenge Jean Didier, de St Dié, 50

3 years earlier had negotiated for sale of 2 asses by Didier Courald to her husband, but this broke down and she was angry. Was told that as she saw him pass with asses she said 'que le mal loup les puisse estrangler et tuer', and next day one of them was killed near the town by wolf which the dogs refused to chase. He thought she had turned herself into a wolf to do this. After quarrel with his wife the accused told her she would bear her a grudge as long as she lived, and later she fell in the vines and thought she had broken her leg. Doctors and surgeons could find no remedy, nor were they sure if leg was broken. One day he said to accused 'Il y a des sorciers, il fault que j'en face brusler, voila ma femme qui ne peult travailler', to which she replied that he should have patience and she would recover. Was now able to get about with a stick, and he thought this had been her doing.

(8) Jannon femme Claude Louys, de St Dié, 27

9 years before had been winnowing in fields with another girl, next to where accused was working, and a flock of crows came down into hedge, making a great noise. Her companion caught one, but the others forced her to release it, and they fled towards the town. They asked her if she would come, but she refused - then they found her on the way before them, and she asked if they had seen one of her asses. Thought it was only by witchcraft that she could have reached this point.

(9) Barbe femme Demenge Jean Didier, de St Dié, 60

After various quarrels accused had wished that the wolf might kill her asses, and eat them; next day one was killed by a wolf (same story as husband). Also story of fall in vines and bad leg.

(10) Marguitte femme Jean Charpentier, de St Dié, 27

Just before previous Christmas had quarrel because her cows ate cabbages in garden of accused; gave her some beans, but she said she would not eat them. 2 weeks later went out of house at night and was frightened by an animal like a wolf, so made sign of cross and it went towards porte de la Rochatte; thought this had been the accused transformed into a wolf, trying to do her harm. Was pregnant at time, and never well afterwards, until child was stillborn, which she believed had been her doing, in view of her reputation.

(11) Anne femme François des Rivaulx, 24

2 years earlier she had been angry with her mother, who went out earlier than her to cut wheat, and mother came back very ill. They were advised to get salt and ashes from her house to make a soup; after this mother became worse for a week, but then recovered. Believed this had been her witchcraft, and also suspected

her over loss of her milk, when she did not take milk from cow of accused for her child. Milk returned after drinking lentil soup which accused made for her.

(12) Marie femme Jean Couraille, 23

When they came to la Rochatte 3 years earlier had thought of buying her house, but finally bought another and she was angry, wishing them bad luck, as she was told. Had been ill with intermittent fever for more than a year, and believed this was her witchcraft; had frequented witness before illness, and hardly spoken to her since.

(13) Durand Demenge Durand, 35

Story about loss of horse after refusal to cart for her.

(14) Marie femme Demenge Bazel, 35

18 years before she had wished husband of witnesss ill luck, because as herdsman for pigs he was late taking them out, then put hand on her shoulder, after which she immediately fell ill for 7 weeks. Was telling Jean Marlier of suspicions when accused passed and said 'dieu vous garde', to which she replied by calling her witch. Later sent message that she would have her burned if she did not cure her, after which she recovered - was sure this had been her witchcraft.

(15) Jean Couraille, bourgeois de St Dié, 50

3 years before was carting for her when she told him she was angry with Demenge Jean Didier over purchases of asses, and wished he might have as little profit from them as she had had. 2 or 3 days later saw one of them killed by a wolf; in view of reputation suspected this had been her witchcraft. Also thought she had made him ill, and given wife sickness she still had, because they did not buy her house.

(16) Mongeatte femme Demenge Andreu, de St Dié, 40

A month earlier had been in garden around 6 in the evening when she heard sound like wolf howling; looked up to see accused, and a great black dog just leaving her side. Was very frightened, and thought this had been either her in form of dog, or her master.

7 June 1630; procureur d'office asks for interrogation and confrontations

8 June 1630; confrontations

No reproaches to witnesses, but denied all charges. Said at the end 'qu'elle a juré dieu maudit, l'un et l'autre, en querellant, disant le diable te puisse prendre, le diable ait ton ame, n'a faict autre mal, suppliant a Justice d'abreger le plus promtement qu'il sera possible son proces.'

10 June 1630; procureur asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

14 June 1630; Change de Nancy approves

27 June 1630; execution takes place at St Dié. She had confessed under torture on the 17th.