

B 8687 no 2; witch 200, Marguittre femme Jean Jacquot, de la Vacherie

7 February 1601; confrontation with Jean Grand Didier, alias Remeguey, of la Vacherie, who maintained accusation against her. She then admitted it was true, saying she had been seduced by Persin 14 or 16 years earlier, during first marriage. Was in time of great famine, and when fetching wood near Sauceray he promised her a lot of money so she would no longer be hungry, so she agreed to renounce God. Had given her black powder, but would not say what she had done with it. Named Margo femme Grand Colas and ? femme Colas Melline as accomplices. Then said she had tried powder on one of her hens, which died, but had not used it again.

9 February 1601; informations preparatoires

(1) Colas Moullot, 40

Before previous Christmas she had entered house, and without a word gone to look over animals one after another. His wife had been very alarmed, and asked what she was doing, to which she said she was just looking to see if they had any cows in calf. 2 days later a young cow in calf died suddenly, so they had always thought this had been her witchcraft - reputation several years.

(2) Mengeon Claude Mariatte, 25

3 years earlier had taken Jean Grand Didier to court seeking reparation for execrable words against his late father, and had summoned her as witness, since she knew most about it. She refused several times, until forced to do so by the court, and conceived hatred against witness. Then lost several animals in strange fashion, which he imputed to her witchcraft. Reputation several years, and had heard Jehenne Michiel, executed previous year, say that she was a witch and had killed late maire Jean Parmentier of Sauceray.

(3) Colas Jean Mengenot le vieux, 60

Reputation several years, no personal suspicion.

(4) Demenge Didier le Moullat, 62

Reputation several years, and he had lost so many animals he had been reduced to poverty. but could not say she had been cause.

(5) Jean Claude Jean Mengenot, 80

Had heard her reputed witch since accusation by Jehenne Michiel, but no personal suspicion.

(6) Claudon Hermemant, 50

Reputation several years, and had heard that on deathbed Jean Parmentier claimed she had bewitched him.

(7) Jennon femme du precedent, 36

Same story as husband.

(8) Marguittre veuve Claudon Claude Jean Mariatte, 60

More than 2 years earlier had heard Jehenne Michiel say she was a witch, and had killed Jean Parmentier - witness told her it was a great sin to say such things, but she replied she could say it because she knew the truth. Long reputation.

(9) Mengeotte femme Demenge Didier le Moullo, 50

2 and a half years earlier had been in their house spinning, and started to talk of witches, so witness told her of general rumour that she had killed Jean Parmentier. She admitted she had heard of this, but said it was 'ung bien gros coup pour elle' without making any very clear denial. Previous Wednesday, before confrontation, had come to see witness, hugged her, and said she came to say adieu. This time she would not return, and did not care, except for shame she would bring on her relatives by being burned in public. Witness tried to say that if she was good woman she would come home, but she insisted this would not happen. No personal suspicion against her.

(10) Claudatte femme Mengeon Grand Michiel, 30

Had been in her house frequently, and her mother-in-law Jehenne Michiel, recently executed, told her 5 years before that she went too often since she was 'une parfaite sorciere' and intended to do her some harm. Then had 2 stillborn children in successive years, which she suspected had been her witchcraft. Reputation more than 10 years.

(11) Jennon femme Colas Moullo

Same deposition as husband.

(12) Didier Thiebault, 40

Reputation more than 10 years. No personal suspicion, but his late mother had told him 12 years earlier how Marguittre said to her one day in fields that a great black man had met her and frightened her, after which she had been ill.

10 February 1601; interrogation

Said she was about 50, daughter of Colas Martin of le Paire in ban de Moyenmoustier. Repeated story of temptation in time of first husband Didier Rattonge; Persin had asked her if they were so poor that they had no animals to carry wood, but had to carry it on shoulders, to which she replied that they were poorer than one could say. Money was oak leaves, powder was black/kill animals, yellow/kill people.

Had killed cow of Colas Moullo previous Christmas, on orders of her master - did not know reason. Two and a half years earlier had been lawsuit in which she was summoned as witness against Jean Grand Didier and did not want to testify, and Jean Parmentier as maire had threatened her with punishment. Persin came to urge her to kill him with yellow powder; she resisted. saying she had no means to do

this, and he was a good man, but Persin insisted, saying that if she gave consent he would do it himself. She finally agreed, and Parmentier died a week later.

Some 8 years earlier had been angry with her son Ydoulx, aged 12, and put powder in bowl of milk for him. Died within a week, 'et depuis elle en a eu moult de regret, et en fut tellement despitée que jamais depuis, elle n'a voulu user de ladite poudre a l'endroit d'aucunes personnes que ce soit'.

Had been to sabat more times than she could say. Had seen Georgeatte femme Jean Grand Didier, Marguitte femme Colas Jean Mengenot le vieux, and Jehenne Michiel, all of la Vacherie, and the late Jean Gelyat, Barbeline and Marion veuve Demenge Arnoulx of Sauceray (last 2 executed). Had not seen others clearly, because she had lost an eye at birth, and sight of other was poor. Jean Grand Didier and Jean Gelyat were the principal members of the sabat. Usual description, was taken and brought back in air by master.

After first accusation by Jehenne Michiel thought she would not be arrested, because she had always been careful to avoid quarrels. After second had decided to confess freely once arrested.

Repeated confessions later same day.

12 February 1601; further reiteration, and taken before inhabitants to be handed over to justice of duke.

19 February 1601; death sentence from Change de Nancy