

B 8687 no 3; witch 201, Claudette femme Claudon Jacquemin, du Vieux Marché

7 June 1601; confronted with Penthecoste femme Georgeon Didier Miette, who had accused her (as wife of Claudon Bandeça); she maintained accusation despite denials. Then second confrontation with Mengeatte femme Jacot Blaise, who also stuck by her charges.

25 June 1601; informations préparatoires

(1) Plaisance femme Thoussaint Waultrin, de St Dié, 48

5 years ago had to take accused to court over debt of 2 francs for some bread, after which she was very ill, losing use of limbs. Still not fully recovered, and had always believed this had been her witchcraft - long reputation.

(2) Catherine femme Fleurent Bazelaire, 40

A month earlier had quarrel over payment for keeping animals, because she wanted a gros for each animal even though she was not keeping theirs. After this a fine cow sickened and died in 10 days, which she had always blamed on her witchcraft - long reputation.

(3) Billon femme Jean du Sal, 40

12 years earlier her husband had rented a room in house they occupied in faubourg of la Rochatte to husband of accused; at end of year latter rented whole house, so they had to move out, and some angry words passed. 2 weeks later she gave 2 sons of witness, aged 5 and 7, some milk, and they died within the week - they had always suspected this was her witchcraft, in view of long reputation. 2 years before had preferred to work for someone else, so refused invitation to work for her, then became ill for whole year, and still not wholly recovered; suspected her over this too.

(4) Claudon Besson, de la Rochatte, 54

12 or 13 years earlier she and her husband had guard of herd of cows at St Dié, and they damaged his field, which led to a sharp quarrel, and next day he lost a fine cow. Believed this had been her witchcraft - long reputation.

(5) Jennon femme du précédent, 50

Repeated husband's story. Added that after another quarrel 10 years earlier had great pain in feet, and was unable to walk for 2 years; still suffered to some extent from this, and thought it had been her witchcraft.

(6) Claudon du Haut, 46

4 years before, when he was herdsman of cows, she complained they had damaged her garden, and was very angry when he denied this. He then fell ill with strange sickness, unable to eat for 9 weeks, until she met his wife and asked after him. Wife said he looked likely to die, to which she replied that he would not die,

but would be ill for 6 months. This turned out to be accurate, and thought it had been her witchcraft - long reputation.

(7) Mengeatte femme Colas Lorion, 40

Previous May had quarrel with daughter of accused; she did not make much of it, and told witness to fetch some verjus from her house, but immediately developed bad leg. Still had this, unable to find remedy, and believed that it was her witchcraft - long reputation. Had heard late sister of accused, wife to Jacquin Thiebault, claim that she had bewitched her and was cause of her death.

(8) Jacquin Thiebault, 43

Long reputation, but no personal suspicion.

(9) Honn homme le maire Claudon Meschot, de St Dié, 52

Had quarrel previous year because a cow which she and husband were guarding in herd died, and he deferred payment until they swore they had not harmed it. A few days later she passed as he was sitting outside his house, and he had great pain in both knees; still unable to walk without great difficulty, and had always believed this was her witchcraft - long reputation.

(10) Mengeatte fille de feu Anthoine Abzey, de la Bolle, servante à Lienard Aymé, 20

She and husband had come round to get traditional Easter present from those who had animals in herd, but she was angry when her mistress only gave her 2 eggs. Within 2 weeks 3 bulls died strangely, and master and mistress suspected, as she did, that this was her witchcraft. She had told witness that her mistress had given her just 2 eggs although they had more than 12 difficult animals in the herd, and one of them was already dead, which strengthened her suspicions. Reputed a witch as long as she could remember.

(11) Mengeatte femme Colas Hidoulf, 40

A year earlier accused had been very angry because one of their cows kept leaving herd and going back home; same day called her to see it, and found it was dead - suspected this had been her witchcraft.

(12) Colas Martal, 30

Previous year a bullock failed to return with herd, so he told her and she set out to look for it - then he ran after her to say it had finally come home. She was angry and muttered things he could not hear, then next day it sickened and died. Had always suspected this was her witchcraft.

29 June 1601; interrogation

Said she was about 44, daughter of Hanns le Mareschal of St Jean, and had come to St Dié with husband 13 years earlier. Had mostly kept herds, or done day

labour. Knew she was accused as witch by two women already convicted, but said she was innocent.

After denying all charges, only admitting some quarrels, seemed to be on point of confessing, talking about great shame she would bring on her relatives if she was burned, and saying she could not remember if she had been tempted. However she then repeated that she was innocent, and continued to deny additional points made to her.

30 June 1601; confrontations

No reproaches to witnesses, but continued denials of doing any harm.

30 June 1601; procureur for canons asks for question ordinaire

4 July 1601; Change de Nancy approves

23 July 1601; interrogation under torture

Put on rack and given tortillons, she immediately started to confess. 20 years earlier they were living at Marzelay, and husband beat her badly for no good reason. Went to get water from spring outside village, crying and lamenting, when Persin appeared and seduced her. Promised her so much money that she would never want, gave her money which was horse dung, and black powder.

Tried powder out on own cat, which died. Then killed Catherine femme Chretien Claudon Michiel of Mazelay, who had stolen her cherries. 18 years ago had killed Catherine femme Jean le Rouyer of same village, because she often said that she and all the other poor ought to be driven out of the village - put powder in her soup.

After coming to St Dié conceived great hatred for Jean du Sal and his wife, for no real reason, and killed their 2 sons as alleged. Had killed her sister Benitte, wife of Jacquin Thiebault, 4 years earlier because she demanded payment of 2 francs she had earlier said she could keep - had since regretted this bitterly. 8 weeks earlier had been angry with Mengeotte femme Demenge Voirotte, bouchier, because they did not pay her enough for keeping animals, and threw powder on her hands as she was cutting meat, intending just to make her ill, as she still was - did this at Persin's command. Asked if she could heal her, said that before imprisonment she could have done so with assent of her master, but now she would have to rely on God's grace.

Had wanted to make Jennon femme Claudon Bresson ill after quarrels over animals, but could not find way, so Persin did it by putting powder in spring from which she took drinking water. Similar treatment for Claudon du Haut 4 years earlier, who would not pay her money he owed - did not know how he had been cured, since master would never allow her to cure illnesses. Had been angry with Claudon Meschot, who blamed them unfairly for death of his cow, and wanted to have all he owed them for the year deducted as compensation. Had thrown powder on his knees, but had no means of healing him. Had also killed cow of Colas Hidouf.

At sabats when she was at Marzelay had seen Grand Demenge and his wife Didielle, also Marion du Prey, all of village and now dead. When at la Rochatte, faubourg St Dié, had seen Jean Gaixotte le vieux, Guillaume Thevenin alias Bonnetier, both of St Dié, Jean Larmithe of Trois Maisons, le gros Mathieu Blaise de Ste Marguerite, Colas Cayel of le Faing, wife of Loudevic Thoussaint of la Rochatte,

all still living. Those executed included Mengeotte Lienard, Penthecoste, and Dion femme Colas Babey. At Vieux Marché had seen Mengeotte des Woedz, just executed, Jean la Roinxe and his wife Catherine, and Marguitte veuve Mengeon Jean Parmentier, all of Vieux Marché and still living. Mathieu Blaise had told her he had already been arrested, and would be so again if accused afresh - promised her some grain if she would not accuse him, but she had never asked for this or received it. Guillaume Bonnetier had promised her stockings in same way.

Sabats were usually held around 10 or 11 on Wednesdays in season before harvest; danced to sound of bombarde and ate oysillons, and sometimes made hail. In spring 2 years earlier had made caterpillars in earthen pots with Persin to eat flowers and leaves of trees; Penthecoste and Mengeotte Lienard had been in charge of this, but she did not consent and upset a pot, for which she was well beaten..

24 July 1601; interrogation

Confirmed previous confessions, but now discharged Marguitte veuve Mengeon Jean Parmentier. Repeated this again later in day.

25 July 1601; procureur asks for death sentence

27 July 1601; Change de Nancy approves