

B 8724 no 5. Witch 305, Didiere veuve Nicolas Failly, de Raon

9 December 1619; confronted with Jean Colin, who maintained his accusations. She denied them strongly. Said she was about 50, a baker by profession. Put under oath to return when called on to do so.

10 December 1619; informations préparatoires

(1) Jennon femme Nicolas Bars, 47

2 years earlier had heard her son-in-law call her witch in public. She herself had been seriously ill after a quarrel with her - if she was witch then thought she had caused this.

(2) Didier Bandeça, 18

Around last St Luc his wife's sister had quarrel with Didiere, who called her 'fille de sorciere'; then became seriously ill, as she still was. Believed that if she were a witch she was cause.

(3) Charles Conninc, 50

6 years earlier had heard her neighbour Nicolas Bars accuse her of being witch and causing death of his pig, to which she replied that he lied like a wicked man.

(4) Jennon femme Didier Bandeça, 30

Repeated husband's story of quarrel and sister's illness. He had taken part in quarrel and said that witches should be burned, to which she replied that one ought to know the daughters of witches.

(5) Margueritte femme Charles Conninc, 55

Repeated husband's deposition.

(6) Claudon femme Gabriel Ozelle, 32

Previous summer she had said to other women that wife of Nicolas Bars had killed child of Adam Vaulthier in her name.

(7) Le Sr Nicolas de Lusse tabellion, 37

8 years earlier had quarrel with her, and struck her with his fist, for which she made a complaint. Shortly afterwards went towards Domjevin on business, and twice fell from horse in unaccustomed manner; then horse refused to obey at river, so they were both covered in mud, and had to lead it to stable. Had further trouble with it on way back, and it became wild when he approached it, finally dying in strange fashion, leaving him to make way to nearest village. Believed that if she was a witch she had caused this.

(8) Marie femme Jean Baccon, 30

7 or 8 years before, when husband of accused died, heard women talking at burial who said that her children could hardly love her much, since she was the cause of their father's death.

(9) Claudotte femme Didier Vaultrin, 43

8 or 9 years before their servant Nicolas Bailly, charpentier, had been courting her daughter, but in the end the match was broken off. Witness went to get some chaff from her, and she said angrily that they had been hostile to the marriage, and her servant was saying around the town that her daughter was 'gastée', whereas it was he who was. Later he fell strangely ill and died; many of those who saw him judged that in view of her reputation it was by witchcraft. In view of hatred she bore them thought that if she had the power she would have done them great harm.

(10) Bastienne femme Nicolas Poulain, 35

4 years ago had heard Nicolas Parisot call her witch during a quarrel.

(11) George Grand Colas, 27

Had heard both Parisot and her son-in-law call her witch.

(12) Nicolas Bars, 44

Some 9 or 10 years before had been quarrelling (after previous disputes with husband, when they were neighbours), and she said 'que s'il le pouvoit jamais tenir qu'ilz le mettroient plus bas que dedans une cave'. Previous year her son had asked him to go for a drink, and when son asked her to give his cousin a drink she said 'je donneray le diable qui vous emportera', then took an iron pan and struck him. Later denied she was cause of injuries about which others were asking, to which he replied that if she had not, then the devil had done it for her. Also remembered that the officers had found that her baker's oven was unsafe, with risk it would cause a fire, and ordered a mason to demolish it. She said whoever did this would repent, and later the mason became ill, dying after 18 months of illness; believed that if she was witch she had caused this.

(13) Jennon femme George Grand Colas, 30

At time of her husband's death many suspected her; also thought she had killed daughter's suitor. Called witch by son-in-law.

(14 December 1619)

(14) Babillon veuve du Grand Colas, 58

As neighbour had seen quarrel 2 years before between accused and wife of Nicolas Bars. She accused latter of telling people she had killed Adam Vaulthier's child, which she denied, while saying she suspected her of this. Didiere said she had lied like a witch, and she responded that she was no witch, but Didiere was.

(15) Didier Vaultrin, 43

Told story of courtship of her daughter by his servant; believed she had caused his death if she was witch as reputed..

(16) Claude Lhuillier, 40

Had heard her called witch by wife of Nicolas Bars.

(30 December 1619)

(17) Catherine fille Demenge Remy, 18

Around last St Luc she claimed witness had called her witch, and threatened to take her before the maire; she replied that she had not called her witch. Next day was very ill, and remained so to present, believing that if she were witch as reputed she had caused this. General belief that she had killed husband and suitor of daughter.

(18) Idotte Paulus, 33

At time of arrest told witness that if she did not return and it went ill with her, she should take her skirt and coat, but if she was released would like them back.

28 December 1619; interrogation

Said she was from Fontenoy near Baccarat, where she had kept animals. Agreed that her son-in-law had sometimes called her witch. Nicolas de Lusse had struck her, but she had not pursued case in the end, because it would have had to go before bailliage, and cost too much. She had been called witch by Nicolas Parisot, but had taken him before Mre echevin, where he had apologized.

Agreed she had struck Nicolas Bars, because he had gone into her house without any reason. Had refused to admit this in public in case he decided to make a complaint. Asked about child of Adam Vaulthier, said that wife of Nicolas Bars had killed it in her name if she was a witch - judges evidently puzzled about meaning, and she finally said she wanted to reject accusation against herself. Said that Bars' wife was accustomed to insult others.

30 December 1619; interrogation

Asked about additional deposition by Catherine Remy, agreed they had quarrelled, but denied causing her illness. Also agreed to remarks about her clothes.

30 December 1619; confrontations

No reproaches, and merely admitted some circumstantial details. Said that wife of Nicolas Bars was a witch - but this was in answer to another witness, and she did not reproach her when confronted (she was first witness).

4 January 1620; Change de Nancy approves question ordinaire et extraordinaire.

7 January 1620; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews, and after some time said she would confess. Seduced by Parsin about 10 years before, when angry because wife of Nicolas Bars accused her of causing death of Adam Vaulthier's child. Offered her money so that she would not need, and she agreed. Gave her both money and powder, which turned out to be leaves in each case. Returned 3 weeks later and asked if she wanted to do evil; she said no, but still gave her powder. Tried it out on a hen and a pig.

Had been to sabbat about 10 times, carried on her master's shoulders. Usual activities; asked if she had given him payment to be excused, said she had, either a pig or a hen. Had only recognized Jean Colin and Jennon femme Demenge le Maire, already executed; the others were masked.

Denied several charges, but said she had made Jennon femme Nicolas Bars ill, and that her master had killed servant of Didier Vautrin. Then said she had killed her husband because he beat her (earlier she denied this).

Repeated confessions freely same day, and again the next day.

10 January 1620; Change de Nancy approves death sentence

11 January 1620; formal death sentence from court at Raon.