

Witch 003, Claudon Bregeat 1

B 2192 no 2, witch 003, Claudon femme Jean Bregeat, de Sallonne

9 July 1612; Jean Sernay, bouchier of Sallonne, makes formal request for her arrest, and promises to bring forward witnesses against her.

10 July 1612; procureur d'office for 'église primatiale de Lorraine' (N-D at Nancy) orders that depositions be taken.

10 July 1612; informations preparatoires

(1) Chrestofle Austien, 36

Reputation 5 or 6 years. At that time had dispute and evicted them from house which they shared, at which she said they would repent. Son aged 9 then became ill, so he went to see her and accused her of being witch and having caused this; she denied charge, and said she thought child would recover, as he then did. Within 2 weeks wife fell ill, and he again suspected Claudon. She did not come to visit despite requests, so he fetched her himself, shut her in room, and said he would rather she had left his child ill than that she had made his wife ill. She put hand of wife's head and said she would recover, which contented him so that he let her go, although original intention had been to beat her with a stick. When they lived together she and her daughter Claudette would go out at dusk saying they were collecting rushes from by the bridges, but never saw them bring any back, so followed them. Saw them go into meadow and heard voices, but could not tell what they were doing; then found they had returned when he got home, although only way was that along which he had passed. Sometimes said she had cut rushes and left them.

(2) Aubert Demenge, 40

6 or 7 years earlier had been sharing house with them, and she was angry when his wife took in servant girl of Mr le Boutts who was ill, saying she would repent. On way back from Marsal his wife was thrown several times into a spring in a meadow, and was nearly drowned; believed this had been her witchcraft. Reputation 17 years (residence).

(3) Jean Tanaire, 50

Reputation 25 years. Wife was now very ill, and before this Claudon and her daughters had been coming daily to their house asking for milk, cream, and cheese, until his son told them they did not have any and sent them away. He had employed Magdelaine femme Humbert Houbin to ask Claudon if she knew any remedies for his wife, and she had said it was nothing and she would not die.

(4) Françoise femme Abraham Simon, 53

Reputation 3 or 4 years, but no quarrel with her.

(5) Benoiste femme Didier Bruant, 30

Reputation more than 6 years. 3 years earlier she had wanted witness to take her daughter Claudatte to look after her small child, but she told her she would be

employing child of her mother-in-law. After this did not speak to her any more, and child immediately fell ill. 3 months later they met at mill and Claudon said that if she had taken her daughter the child would not have sickened. Promised to send her herbs, and asked her to keep this secret since husband had forbidden her to do so. Witness sent girl back home, and presumed Claudon had made child ill - was so for 4 months in all.

(6) Magdellaine femme Humbert Houbin, 37

Reputation 7 years, but no quarrels and had seen no harm in her.

(7) Jennotte veuve Gerardin Rodeans, 33

6 years earlier she had wanted her son Jean to be apprenticed to late husband to learn trade as 'relieur'; agreed on payment of 12 francs, but she also wanted a pair of shoes made for him. After this a woman appeared mysteriously in workshop, then vanished; when husband and his workers went off to Erbeville he fell on his head and felt something prick his right thumb, after which he was unable to work. Woman appeared twice more, but workers could not catch her - witness thought it had been Claudon. Husband asked her to go and see Claudon, and she went twice, the second time taking pears and begging her to suggest remedy. Claudon said herbs would be no good, and he would not have had trouble if he had done what she asked - assumed she was talking about the shoes. Witness then held poisle, to which accused came, and she held husband by bad hand, repeating earlier remarks - he immediately felt better, and was soon back at work. 4 years earlier husband had agreed to make a bench and dresser for Jean Bregeat, but was slow because he did not have enough wood, and she threatened him several times. Shortly after was on way to church at 3 a.m. when attacked by a wolf which threw him to ground - saw it had a white belly. Two days later saw a strange black animal in garden, which could not be driven away when they threw stones at it, and when husband went out that evening to his vines he became ill, with legs so weak she had to help him home with a stick. He then took to bed and died, saying that Claudon was cause of his illness.

(8) Tante Libar veuve Claude le Boeuf, 60

General reputation only.

(9) Jacquemin Maire Gerard, 35

4 years earlier, on way home after Mass and game of quilles, saw her son Jean who started to whistle; when he asked what he was doing Jean said he was whistling to the birds, and witness replied 'je t'auray filz de sorciere'. A lawsuit followed. 3 years earlier had gone out harvesting, and passed her reaping in field with others; she said he was joyful, but would not be so in 3 days. As soon as he started reaping was surrounded by whirlwind, seemed to lose use of right side, and had to be helped back home. Was ill for 3 weeks, until he heard she was coming back from vines, and went out with help of wife to confront her in street. Told her to take off illness she had given him, or he would shoot her dead, while his wife beat her with stick, also threatening to kill her and calling her witch. She said they did her wrong, and the illness was 'fait Dieu', but she would soon cure it. Next day he

was recovered, and did not need surgeon he had summoned - was sure she had given him illness.

(10) Jennatte femme du precedent, 36

Same story as husband. He had been bleeding from nose for more than 2 days, and they fetched Mr François, apothecary of Vic, who said it was witchcraft and he would not touch it, but they must act quickly or he would die. With help of Jacques Aubert and his wife they went out to meet her on road, and this was where she beat her, threatening to have her burned. After this husband was as if dead for an hour and a half, but recovered within 2 days, so she maintained his illness had been Claudon's doing - reputation 12 years.

(11) Françoise femme Chrestofle Austien, 31

About 6 years earlier had been frightened by noise in early morning, and Claudon, who was neighbour, claimed it had been a red dog and some cats fighting. Her husband, however, denied her story that he had driven off dog when it attacked her; since then she had always hated them, without giving any sign of this. Later was going to Vic, and did not wait for Claudon as she asked; on way back was surrounded by a whirlwind, so that she was confused in her mind and had to take to her bed. Her husband could only presume illness was Claudon's work, so called her and threatened to have her burned, at which she put hand on head of witness and said she should be quiet and she would soon recover - this happened and confirmed suspicions. Also told story of quarrel between her and Jacquat and Anne Ynaulx, with whom she shared house, stemming from dispute over cradle she had on loan. Their child developed a horribly swollen leg, which they accused her of causing, threatening to have her burned if she did not cure it. She then handled it, saying it would recover, and it duly did so.

(12) Alix femme Jean Jerome, 24

3 years before had eaten with her in her house, and was given 2 pears which she was exhorted to eat - but did not want to do so, and threw them in stream on way home. Next day Claudon asked her crossly why she had not eaten them, and she feared something had been wrong in view of reputation. Had also witnessed incident with child of Didier Bruam. Reputation 12 years.

(13) Zabillon femme Nicolas Remy, 37

Had lost a cow more than a year earlier and suspected she had caused this - not sure why, but had refused her various things, because she was always round houses, and had also found a missing chicken in her house with throat cut. Reputation 12 years.

(14) Enguel femme Aubert Demenge, 49

6 years earlier, living with them, found her children were stealing food of 2 pigs; said they were bewitched, and they were angry. On way back from Marsal was surrounded by whirlwind, and then tried to refresh herself at spring and nearly drowned, feeling something trying to push her in. Called on two passing women for help, and was then ill for 6 weeks, believing Claudon had given her this. 5 years

earlier had been harvesting near Marsal and became all swollen, bedridden for 22 weeks, sure that Claudon had given her sickness after their quarrels. During this time thought she saw her in room, but she left like a wind when she called out. Had also seen her in stable with some medicine in a pot, but she hid this when she saw witness, who was sure it was something evil. Reputation 17 years.

(15) Margueritte femme Simon Thieriet, 33

5 years earlier had asked to place her daughter Catherine in their poisle, and she had said it was already full, but she could ask her husband - he then refused. 4 or 5 days later went to take food to husband in saline, but a wind surrounded her head and she felt chilled, having to return home. Had to take to bed, burning inside and cold as marble on outside, and next day women who came to poisle said she would have been healthy if she had accepted Claudon's daughter, and that they would make room for her. Told her she could come, and 2 weeks later she did so, then told mother witness was in danger of death. Next day accused brought her some 'laictuaire', pork pâté, a pear, and an apple, after eating which she recovered, and had always suspected she had made her ill. Reputation 25 years.

(16) Françoise femme Nicolas Brunquart, 60

One day when working in vines for her she cried all the time, and said she was abandoned by her children and the world. General reputation.

(17) Jehenne femme Jean Sernay, 30

Said they had dispute with her because they had possession of rooms from Mr Dattel of which she was envious, because they had lost them. About 9 months earlier had illness with thighs and an arm all swollen, unable to walk for 2 weeks. Claudon then passed and asked if she wanted to come to woods; husband invited her in and told her to take pears and nuts. Passing by she said she had a large vermin on shoulder, and knocked it to floor, after which she suddenly recovered, and was able to go to Vic next day. 2 days later sent son aged 8 to borrow axe, but accused told him theirs was no good. Next day he was burning hot, and during illness Claudon advised them to make pilgrimage to Saint Villago, asking him to cure child or break his neck. Gave him cake and dried pears, but child remained ill for 5 months, saying always that she had made him ill, until he finally died. Thought she had caused death, but only reason was that child had said 'voire la grosse velousse, elle seroit content de prendre tous nos poires et nos noix.'

(18) Mongeatte femme François Tanaire, 40

Knew nothing.

(19) Zabel femme Dieudonné Cardillon, 50

General reputation only.

(20) Claudon femme Nicolas Gerardin, musnier, 50

One day had asked her to go and see her daughter Margueritte at Château-Salins, but she replied she would not go because Margueritte's husband Jean des

Vaulx would beat her - he had earlier beaten her son and she had been angry. Margueritte had given birth to stillborn child, and was now very ill herself; later died, maintaining to the last that Claudon had caused her death. Reputation 8 or 9 years.

(21) Jennon femme Thomas Gerardin, 37

Long reputation only.

(22) Claudon veuve Jean Munisier, 45

Long reputation. Previous year husband had refused to let a room to her, then got thorn in hand when pulling out roses, fell ill and died. Claudon had talked about this at mill, but this was only suspicion she had against her.

(23) Enguel Enguel, moictrier, 36

Reputation 8 years. 3 years earlier had been told by Margueritte Didon and others that she had chased his bull out of her garden with threats, after which it died as if rabid.

(24) Thomas Gerardin, laboureur, 36

Reputation 12 years, no personal suspicion.

(25) Colas Vallentine, 36

Reputation 12 years. 10 years earlier were both living in cloister at Sallonne, and his wife was very ill, so that he was crying bitterly. Asked Claudon to visit her, and she touched her arms and body, then told him she would live, by the grace of God. Within 2 days she recovered, and had always thought Claudon had healed her.

(26) Jean Jennat, 31

Reputation 10 years; at that time his father Jacquemin Bon Mathis was very ill, with a swelling by his neck like half a 'boule'. Claudon offered to treat him, and used ointments and plasters, but swelling did not burst or decrease. Then became angry with her and called in Mr Jullien from Vic, who treated him for some time, but finally said it was witchcraft and he could not cure it; father died a few days after treatment ceased. Believed this had been work of accused. 6 years earlier witness had a 'fievre quart' which lasted for 2 and a half years, and without being asked she offered him a packet of herbs to tie around right arm, later similar packet to go round neck. First did him no good, while he became worried about second and threw it away unused; next day she told him he had not worn them, and would have been cured if he had, although she had no way of knowing this. Suspected that such acts were witchcraft.

(27) Jehenne femme du precedent, 28

Reputation 6 years. She was often asking her for salt, flour, and other things. When witness and one of her children had fever gave them herbs, but they were not

cured; on third occasion she did not bother to use them, and then Claudon reproached her with this. Thought only her evil spirit could have told her.

(28) Symon Thieriet, 33

Reputation 7 years.

(29) Aynel veuve Jean Abriat, 57

Long reputation. Told story about figure of woman which had appeared in house of Gerardin Rodeans, who was her son-in-law.

(30) Betrix femme Jean Didier, 27

Reputation 4 or 5 years. Often came asking her for cream, and she might have refused her something. Told of occasion 4 years earlier when she 3 times found child out of cradle, then herself fell to bottom of bed and was unwell for 2 days - believed this had been her doing.

(31) Didier Bregeat, 56

Reputation 4 years.

(32) Anne jeune fille, 34

Reputation 4 years.

(33) Françoise jeune fille, 24

2 weeks earlier had been in fields when Claudon passed by and went to weed some nearby vines; was followed by a big man dressed in black. Marginal note that this was later found to have been the receveur of the priory, and witness had said she thought it was him! Had heard various people say she was a witch.

(34) Saulfroy Poirsin, 50

3 years earlier his wife had dispute with Claudon when they found their children fighting, and she threatened them. Next day his wife twice fell down as if dead, and suspected this had been her doing. Reputation 12 years.

(35) Claudatte George femme Nicolas Marchal, 50

Knew nothing.

(36) Dedie veuve Prins Barheur, 60

Long reputation, and had stolen some napkins from them.

(37) Jehenne femme Didier Bregeat, 51

Despite various quarrels, did not think she had done her or family any harm. Recently had an illness which lasted 5 months, and suspected her, but was treated

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by 'une femme appoticaresse' who explained cause of illness, so she no longer blamed her. Had heard her called witch in her absence.

(38) Jennon femme Cesar Jennat, boulengier, 50

6 years earlier had been neighbour, along with Chrestofle Austien and Jacquat Ynaulx, and they were talking and quarrelling about a large dog which had been around before dawn. Witness was frightened, and persuaded Ynaulx' wife to share bedroom for 6 weeks. Also told story of refusing to wash for her when she had made a tub, then falling very ill within 2 or 3 days; finally recovered after Claudon made her a drink, and suspected she had given her both illness and cure.

(39) Perise femme Nicolas Gaspard, 26

10 years before, when in house of vieille taillesse, forgot to make a 'chaude' Claudon had asked for; next day was out in vines when she was troubled in her mind, and called out to crows, wind, and cherries. 2 or 3 days later took her a chaulde, and asked her for some herbs; she said she would gather them next morning, but she was already cured, which made her have some suspicion. Reputation 12 years.

(40) Nicolas Gerardin, musnier, 60

Reputation 9 years (residence).

(41) Toussaint Friche, 30

2 years earlier had accident at work, when piece of equipment fell on his legs, and she came to visit him, saying she would have cured him if he had not already called in the surgeon, but did not suspect her. Reputation 7 years.

(42) Barbe femme Jean Bregeat, 23

Had married her son previous year, and had many disputes with her, but had come to no harm.

(43) Cesar Jannat, boulengier, 74

6 years earlier had dispute over quality of some wheat he was to pay to her, and she threatened they would pay for it. Within days his wife became very ill, constantly burning, and remained so for 9 months despite all the remedies he tried, including pilgrimages, and saying always 'le mal quart de blé'. Then asked Claudon to treat her, and she brought her cherries, strawberries, and drinks, but these did no good, and she said he had been too slow sending for her. Said until end that she thought Claudon was cause of her death. Reputation 16 or 18 years.

(44) Didier Demenge alias le Parle, 35

5 years earlier he had a serious illness which lasted 2 months; felt as if he was burning, then had continual fever. Was being treated by apothecaries and surgeons, but also by Claudon, who promised to heal him, and he begged them not to chase her away, although he sometimes called her witch. She asked 7 gros a day and her

keep; made him drinks with roots and herbs. Finally recovered, although he was weak for another 6 months, and suspected her of having made him ill - he often saw her foraging in gardens. Was not sure whether she had cured him, because of simultaneous treatment by others. Also suspected her over death of small daughter, who died in 3 days at end of his illness. Reputation 6 or 7 years.

(45) Françoise femme du precedent, 48

Story of husband's illness. Added details that he could only get rest when Claudon made bed, and that when they sent for apothecaries and surgeons she said this was a waste of money. Believed she had given him the illness; had stolen some onions and other things while she was in their house.

(46) Nicolas jeune fils, 20

Reputation 4 or 5 years.

(47) Noble Nicolas Regnault, bouttanant aux salines, 44

Reputation 18 years. 5 years earlier his daughter Elisabeth, aged 2, had died after illness of only 3 days; suspected Claudon because she had been in house on day illness began, and since then had forbidden her to enter house.

(48) Demenge Blancpieds, de la Basse Bargerie, 58

3 years earlier she met him on road, and asked her why she had said he would never make anything from his vines - Nicolas Gerardin's wife had told him of this. He called her witch, and when she threatened to seek reparation he told her he would give his best horse to have depositions taken against her, and she did nothing. Reputation 10 years.

(49) Didier Grand Didier, de Château-Salins, 60

6 years earlier was very ill, and wife suggested that they consult Claudon. Put herbs on arm and gave him others to make drink, after which he recovered, and he believed she had cured him. Was often around town doing such things. Had heard of reputation as witch from son-in-law Jacques Aubert some 7 years earlier.

(50) Jean des Vaulx, de Château-Salins, 38

7 years earlier her son Jean had been in his service, and he was teaching him trade of baker and pastrycook, but he was unsatisfactory - selling goods without keeping record. Beat him for this, then mother appeared and took him away. Wife of witness, who was heavily pregnant, ran after them and objected that he was in their service, so he had no right to leave, while they could punish him. Women quarrelled and pushed one another; same day wife had stillborn child, and was ill for more than 3 months before she died, always saying that Claudon had made her sick. Reputation 10 years.

(51) Claude Jacquat, laboureur de Burthecourt, 24

She had used herbs to cure fever he had as a child. Reputation 9 or 10 years.



(52) Jehenne femme Pierre Vigneron, de Chambrey, 32

10 years earlier, when in service of vieille tailleresse, had bad thumb and was advised to consult Claudon, who said it was 'mal de saint Gigou et de Saint Anthoine'. Told her to treat it with vinegar and some leaves, on doing which she recovered. Did not suspect her of having given or taken away the sickness. Reputation 10 years.

(53) Margueritte Didon, 40

Knew her for 25 years, and had often been with her reaping and otherwise; had never seen any harm in her. Had heard some suspect her as witch, but had seen no evidence. Asked about suspicions of wife of Jean des Vaulx, said she had spoken about a woman from Sallonne, but never named the accused.

(54) Mathis Jacquart, moictrier de la Hazelle, 29

5 years before had trouble between fingers, and she gave him an ointment, but this was so painful he could not use it. Went to surgeon at Vic, telling wife and servants not to let her in house, and threatening to beat her. At same time baby of 6 or 7 weeks became ill, black in face and always asleep. Claudon's daughter came to house for a cheese, and told his wife to go and see her mother on Friday, but because of his views wife did not go. On Easter Day wife told him about this, and he said she should go, after which Claudon came to see child, said he would not die. After she touched child it recovered; when she came to get some wheat as reward she said to his wife 'Ors sus ton enfans se porte bien, mais s'il eust mourut tu m'eusse bien hay non pas', which made him suspect she had given the illness.

(55) Catherine femme du precedent, 24

Explained that trouble with husband's hand was result of cut from a sword. Account of recovery of child much as by husband, but said that Claudon asked for 13 eggs which she would place as was necessary, and came to see child for 3 days. In her version words she said were 'si votre enfant heust mouru vous m'en eussies sceu maugrey'. Suspected she had caused illness and cured it, because husband had chased her away and not paid her. Reputation 8 years.

(56) Anne Caillet, femme Jacquat Hinaulx, 40

Reputation 20 years. Story of argument over cradle 6 years earlier, and illness of baby, as told by 11th witness. Husband called Claudon witch, and she would not come to see child, but when he was absent witness showed it to her, promising to give her daughter Claudatte 'une cremie col' if she could do something. She handled swollen leg, and told her to put baby down and it would be well, after which it recovered next day. Believed she had given sickness and removed it. Also story of dogs and cats, and denial by her husband, after which her brother-in-law Didier Bregeat wanted to make her confess she was a witch.

(57) Jean Sernay, partie formelle, 30

Essentially same deposition as his wife (witness 17). Added that when she came to see his sick wife he said that if he knew a witch had done it he would cut off her arm. Believed she had given her sickness and cured it; only reason he could give was that she had been refused some salt. Also story of son's illness, which he had claimed until death had been given by her. Had told him that handle of axe was broken, then held him tightly around chest.

28 July 1612; court at Sallonne transmits documents to procureur d'office

4 August 1612; procureur orders interrogation of accused

7 August 1612; interrogation

Said she was Claudon Kreufre or Thonnellier, about 52, native of Harracourt near St Nicolas. Father was Demenge Kreufre, mother Marie. Father had died at Droville, mother at Basse Linde; father's death left them as 5 small children. Was in service at Sallonne with Nicolas Pinneguel, Claude Gerardin, and Cesar Jennet, after which she married Jean Bregeat, vigneron. This had been 27 years earlier; were 6 children living.

Had heard imprisonment was on suspicion of witchcraft, but she was innocent and her only master was God 'le vray roy des ciel'. Asked if she had seen any spirits or 'phantosmes', said she had not, although on rumour that a spirit was to be seen at night on way to Chambrey in form of a goat she had gone there 4 or 5 times alone, only to see nothing.

Asked about quarrels, said only one was with brother-in-law Didier, who was never content, and had evicted them from house they shared. Jacquemn Maire Gerard had called her son Jean 'fils de sorciere', and they had taken him to court. Claimed she had never threatened anyone. Asked if she had been called witch, and threatened with burning if she did not heal someone, denied this, except that Didier Demenge and Demenge Blancpied had called her witch.

Asked about giving cures to sick, denied this, saying she had only taken them what they asked for. Was asked whole series of questions based on depositions, but not naming those involved, which she generally answered with straight denials, making only minor admissions. Agreed that Jacquemin Maire Gerard had threatened to kill her if she did not heal him, but had not promised to do so, saying instead that it was for God to heal him.

(8 August 1612)

Agreed she had taken various things to sick, but had never said they would recover if they ate them. Agreed to remarks about St Villago, which she had learned from the late Tante Dyon Thirion; believed saint was in a hermitage near Metz, but had never made pilgrimage.

Agreed to touching a sick woman and telling husband she would not die. Claimed she had never made ointments, but agreed she had suggested herbs worn around arm or neck. Only two sorts; verbeine or mort de diable, and roots of beurdine for jaundice, and had done this with intention that healing would be by grace of God. Claimed she had never given any drinks.

Agreed she had treated Didier Demenge, and indeed that she had given him herbal drink made with vereleine; admitted he had called her witch, because he was impatient with his illness. had not said that money was wasted on surgeon and apothecaries, merely that herbs were good for his illness. Knew about death of baby,

but thought it had not had enough milk, and knew they had been seeking wetnurse everywhere.

Asked if sieur Bouttament had forbidden her his house, said he had once done so, but she still went there, and was sent for if she did not go. Asked about remark that vine would give no yield, said this had been Blancpied; all she had done was tell servant that it did not look as if it would be much good for a time. He had called her witch when he was dead drunk, to which she replied that God had not avenged himself like us.

Agreed she had visited sick man at Château-Salins and treated him with herbs. Might well have treated servant of vieille tailleresse for bad thumb in manner suggested. Agreed she had visited sick child of moictrier of la Hazelle; told mother to make it kiss a coin in name of God and all the saints, then give it to first beggar who came to door. Had given her wheat, but not full measure, and thought she had made remark alleged, but 6 months later.

Admitted telling Mathis Jacquart how to make ointment with cider, oil of chaneves, and old hay, but had not given him any. Had not asked for 13 eggs when she visited sick chld, but wife gave her 6. Agreed there had been problem with Anne Caillet over cradle, but no quarrel or threats; had looked at sick child, but Anne had not promised her anything for daughter, being as needy as they were. Had not touched child, and far from recovering it had later died.

Asked if any of her relatives had wanted her to confess she was a witch, denied this, but said that Didier Bregeat had asked her why she did not act against those who called her witch; she replied 'le bon dieu avoit bien enduré la mort et passion pour nous sen en prendre vengeance et qu'elle ne s'en vouloit venger non plus.'

Denied whole story told by Jean Sernay and wife; had not visited her, or received pears and nuts.

At this point the photographer has turned over 2 pages, and missed end of interrogation and beginning of confrontations.

10 August 1612; confrontations

Agreed she had given Jean Jennat (26) herbs, but not that she had told him he had failed to use them. In reply to Beniste femme Didier Bruant (5) admitted that she had said she would have done better to take her daughter, because she had heard that the other girl had allowed child to cry too much. Agreed she had touched both Françoise femme Chrestofle Austien (1 & 11) and her child, but this had been without any evil intent. Agreed to deposition of Anne Cailley femme Jacquat Hinaulx (56), but had not done harm to anyone.

Claudon veuve Jean Menuisier (22) was not confronted when she said her only suspicions came from remarks at mill.

(11 August 1612)

Agreed to content of deposition of Didier Demenge (44), but not to having made him or his daughter ill. Similar reaction to Cesar Jennot (43), Jean des Vault (50), and Didier Grand Didier (49). In case of Alix femme Jean Jerosme (12) denied telling her she had not eaten pears, but agreed she had been at house of Didier Bruant and had given his wife a small round stone in shape of a heart to put on arm of sick child. Also agreed to deposition of Jehenne femme Jean Jennot (27), but said witness herself had told her about not using herbs third time.

In reply to Jehenne femme Jean Sernay (17) denied most of deposition, but agreed she had advised making offering to Saint Villego, as she had done for her own children. In case of Mathis Jacquat and his wife Catherine (54 and 55) said she had only asked for 3 eggs.

16 August 1612; interrogation and confrontation

Claudatte, daughter of the accused, confirmed that her own previous confessions were true. Was then confronted with her mother, and they were read out; she denied them with great cries. Said she had taken her to the meadow to talk with her on some occasions, also that her son had an owl he had reared himself, which she sometimes chased away. Had sometimes given her pastry or pâté at night, but only because she was cooking then.

16 August 1612; procureur d'office asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

17 August 1612; interrogation

Court had report from goaler that she was ready to confess, so she was brought from prison. Said she was a witch, and had been seduced 18 years ago during great dearth. Forced to eat oatmeal bread 'qui lui revient au coeur', she had gone to woods to collect wood so that she would have money to buy a loaf. A black man like a gentleman accosted her, but moved away when she had doubts and prayed to God. Then came close again, persuaded her to have intercourse with him and to renounce God. Before he vanished gave her money which proved to be oak leaves; fell to ground praying for God's forgiveness, and did not see him for another 2 years.

Found her in vines, said he was not Satan but name was Monsieur Bruyerre; gave her powder with which to avenge herself, but she called on God, so he vanished and she threw powder away. Did not see him for another 6 years, although she sometimes thought she saw a kind of shadow. Then appeared to her in garden and gave her white powder to avenge herself. This time tried it out on dog which died, but did not take money she was offered, feeling it must be false.

Appeared on several further occasions, saying he was not an evil spirit, but a good gentleman who wanted to take her to a feast. Finally 3 years earlier she had consented, and he took her to a plain where a great assembly was dancing back to back, and he made her join in for half an hour, then took her back as he had promised. A year later took her off through woods when she was gathering nuts, and found similar assembly, but she made sign of cross and it all vanished.

Asked about what happened, said 'qu'il n'y avoit rien que des menestriers qui fleuttoient sur des buches de bois comme sur des siefflectz et qu'au reste que personne ne disoit mot ne saichant quelle branle ni quelle chansons ilz jouoient qu'au milieu de la dance, il y avoit quelcun qui prenoit garde a iceulx qui dansoient et que si tost qu'ilz appercevoient que quelcun jectoit la veue aux aultres il le pousoient et a ce moien l'empechoit d'envisager les aultres ne de tourner de costel ny d'aultre, ce qu'il ny a moyens de ce reconnoistre tant pour la cause que dessus et obscurité qui y est que pour ce qu'ung chascung ait des masques, des hunes ou du linge ou des coiffes mesmes, et chappeaux avalez fort bas sur le visaige.'

Nevertheless thought she had recognised Nicolas des Vosges of Burthecourt, and a small widow of Vic whose name she did not know, but whom she might recognize.

As for her daughter Claudatte, she had never taken her to sabat, nor had her master touched her, and she would swear she was not a witch. Had taken her to the water-meadow, where master had appeared in form of a woman so as not to alarm the child, and they had passed between two willows which were very close to one another - she might have taken these for a gate. Having passed through these she made sign of cross and her master disappeared. 'Chat huant' was the owl her son had been feeding at home. Had given Claudatte some 'paste' then told her not to eat it - had been in pocket where she also had some powder, so she told her to give it to ram, which died same night. As for the 'tour a la renverse ou quibolle' she performed, did not know where she had learned this and had never seen her do it.

(18 August 1612)

Now questioned about maléfices, admitted she had given Gerardin Roydeans his hand trouble, then cured him, but had not caused his death. Had consented to master making Jacquemin Maire Gerard ill after he called her son 'fils de sorciere', then asked him to cure him - he said he would soon recover of his own accord, as did happen. Dog had been her master, and he had caused the whirlwind which attacked Chrestofle Austien's wife; a week later, 'sa collere passée', she asked him to cure her, and he told her to go and put hand on her head.

Had made Jacquat Hinault's child ill briefly, and consented to whirlwind which attacked Margueritte femme Simon Thieriet, then taken her food to cure her. Had made Saffroy Poirsin's wife ill, then cured her - was not cause of fatal illness. Had given Cesar Boullengier's wife peaches which were accidentally tainted with powder, and wanted to cure her, but was not able to speak to master and she died. His present wife had 'esprinsons', for which she gave her a mouthwash made with 'sauge', strawberry leaves, and 'la lingcaste'.

Had made Mathis Jacquate's child ill, because he ordered her out of the house, then asked master how to cure him, and was told to put him in cradle herself. Had consented to her master giving child of Didier Demenge illness from which she died, because angry at his treatment of her. Had made Jean Sernay's wife ill, then cured her by removing vermin as instructed by master. Had learned about prayer to St Villago from other women, such as late wife of Thierien Vosgien and Jennotte Tartarin.

Told it was incredible she had not been to sabat more often, and feasted and helped to make hail, insisted that she had been so full of regret that she had used prayers, sign of cross, and washing of hands in morning to keep master away. Had seen table laden with cups and plates, but at that moment felt great remorse and made sign of cross, whereupon everything disappeared. Asked if he had beaten her, said he had not, claiming this was because of using sign of cross and washing her hands. Also suggested that it was incredible she had only killed a woman, a child, and a ram in the course of 18 years; she insisted this was all, and she was prepared to endure the most cruel death in the world rather than confess more. Added that it would do her no good to conceal anything, knowing she must die, and asking that it should be as soon as possible.

At this point the court recorded that 'par forme de reprehension d'ung visage comme fasché et d'une parrolle assez rigoureuse luy avons dict pour de temps mieulx l'esprouver et recognoistre la verité que nous voions bien et crains que tout ce qu'elle avoit declairé n'estoit que toutte tromperies faintes et abus, qu'elle n'estoit poinct sorciere, et ne le fust jamais, que ce qu'elle confessoit ne provenoit que de quelque songes de quelques reveries ou illusions, et qu'elle avoit dit cella par peines de la prison et desespoir qu'elle a de vivre, et que nous ne le pourrons croire

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ny moings le persuader aultrement.' She responded by reiterating that she had told the truth, and was a witch.

18 August 1612; procureur d'office asks for death sentence, asking that she be strangled then burned

20 August 1612; Change de Nancy approves, but specifies that she should feel fire before being strangled

23 August 1612; formal death sentence from court at Sallonne