

Witch 005, Jacquotte Tixerand 1

B 2199 no 1; witch 005, Jacquotte femme Nicolas Tixerand, du Bourget d'Amance

3 February 1616; informations preparatoires

(1) Demenge Anguevin dit Barbier, huillier, 60

Long reputation. 4 years earlier one of his horses had eaten some barley outside her house, until she and her husband drove it off. Next day one of his horses became ill, as if rabid, and after 3 days had it killed; believed this had been her work. 3 months earlier had wanted wife to exchange some oil for 'graines de navette', but she wanted too favourable a deal, so his wife refused, and she went off muttering. Soon after 5 piglets died within a week, and dogs would not touch bodies; believed this had also been her doing. Shortly after also lost a horse; similar suspicions.

(2) Landry Jehennel, vigneron, 40

General reputation only.

(3) Jeanne femme Michiel Godar, 30

General reputation, because of which she had not called her when she was in childbed 3 years earlier, although she was neighbour. She was angry and said she would come in any case; child was born dead, although witness had felt it move just before. Gave enough sign of life to be baptised by midwife, but was dead when taken to church. Suspected this had been her witchcraft.

(4) Marguerite veuve Claude Hersault, 50

Rumoured a witch since she had been accused.

(5) Michiel Godar, manouvrier, 31

Reputation since her residence. Repeated wife's deposition.

(6) Bastienne femme Nicolas Mercier, 25

Long reputation only.

(7) Gerard Marchal, vigneron, 60

General reputation, and much feared.

(8) Barbe femme Demenge Anguevin, 60

General reputation, and had suspected her over deaths of various animals, but not sure why she would have done this, since she did not remember quarrelling with her.

(9) Demenge Anguevin le jeune, laboureur, 22

General reputation. 3 years before had gone to collect some 'fardeaux d'estrain' they owed his father, and they complained that he took too much. Soon

after a horse became rabid and died in 24 hours; took her to see it, and she expressed sorrow but did not heal it as they expected - still believed this had been her witchcraft.

(10) George Guyart, vigneron, 34

General reputation. 5 years earlier had sold wine to one named Nicolas Colin of Monssel, who failed to pay, and finally had to get payment from her husband as caution. She was angry about this and made great fuss; soon afterwards a fine cow sickened, trying to strangle itself as if rabid, and had to be killed - thought this had been her witchcraft. Shortly afterwards his wife gave birth to son, and she refused to attend baptism because she had not been invited to childbed. Came to house a week later to collect flour and fat which husband was using to make 'toilée' which would complete payment, and went to see child, telling wife 'Garde le bien Françoise, voyla un bel enfant'. Same day child fell ill and died in a week - believed this had been her witchcraft. Had also been incident when some ropes he was using were found in her house, and she blamed her son who had taken them 'pour faire des sottises'.

(11) Jacquette femme Didier Martin, paistre, 46

Knew nothing against her.

(12) Barbe veuve Demenge Pouignon, 56

Previous wine harvest had chest trouble, and consulted neighbour called Tante Anne, who asked if she did not suspect anyone of giving her the illness. Replied that it had begun after there had been quarrel with accused over a plate she had lost in the house of the witness, and Anne suggested she should get bread and salt from her house. Did not do this, and made slow recovery in any case, but did have some suspicion she might have caused illness.

(13) Françoise femme George Guyart, 25

General reputation. Story of child as told by husband; it had become dry and black as coal before death.

(14) Urbaine veuve Demenge Hermant le jeune, 40

During husband's lifetime had lost various animals, over which he suspected her, and did not want to have her in house.

11 February 1616; interrogation

Said she was about 58, native of Menssel (?Moncel). Knew she had been accused by la Vilaume, recently executed. Denied series of charges. When asked about Anguevin taking too much in repayment of debt, said she had been angry 'mais n'avoit moyen luy faire mal, adjoustant et disant, voyla un diable de papier, qui lui fera beaucoup de mal'. Had been angry when Georges Guyart took wine, but not against him, rather the individual from Monssel, and particularly her husband. Continued to deny charges, and said that late Demenge Hermant had been 'assez gallant' to have killed his horses with beating them.

12 February 1616; confrontations

Only reproach was that Françoise Guyart had made reparation to her. Said that if she had known what Demenge Anguevin would depose against her, and had she been a witch, she would have done much more to him. His wife was 'une meschante femme', and perhaps more of a witch than she was. Otherwise denied charges again.

19 February 1616; PG (C.M. Rémy) asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

24 February 1616; Change de Nancy approves

2 March 1616; interrogation under torture

In preliminary interrogation said 'que le commun avoit mauvaise opinion d'elle une fois, retournante de la fontaine sans estre mouillée avec sa fille, et ce lors de la grande gresle arrivé à Amance il y a quelques trois annees qui degatta tous les biens, mais qu'on luy faisoit grand tort.'

Withstood thumbscrews, rack, and tortillons. Finally put on strappado, and had 50 pound weight tied to feet; when held 2 feet in air and threatened with being lifted higher, finally agreed to confess.

Said she had been seduced by Persy; at first said it was a year earlier, then that it was on being forced to pay caution to George Guyart about 7 years earlier.

Said she had been to sabat 3 times, where she had seen la Grosse Colatte, la Vilaume, and Mariette who was in prison with her. Were up to 20 present, but were masked so she could not recognize them. Had been present when they made great hailstorm 3 years earlier. Was now admitting to having been to sabat regularly.

Said she had tried powder out on her own hens, but done nothing else with it. Then agreed she had killed 2 horses of Demenge Anguevin, and cow of George Guyart, but denied any responsibility for deaths of two babies.

3 March 1616; confirmed earlier admissions.

5 March 1616; PG asks for death sentence

7 March 1616; Change de Nancy approves

10 March 1616; formal sentence from court at Amance