

Witch 036, Jennon Friot 1

B 3325 no 3; witch 036, Jennon femme Gerardin Friot de Domjevin

16 September 1603; informations preparatoires

(1) Nicolas Bon Demenge de Domjevin, 60

Accusation by Mengin Lours 12 years before; no personal suspicion.

(2) Sebille femme Nicolas Estienne de Domjevin, 30

Mengin Lours had been first husband. Shortly before his execution she had been brought to bed of a son (still living); the midwife of Dompgevin had been ill and unable to attend her, so asked Jennon 'comme femme ad ce cognoissante' to stand in for her. Husband, who had previously quarrelled with Jennon, said he did not want her since she was 'une vraye sorciere', but they had no choice. Once she had got up Jennon left and did not return. Reputation since then, but no personal suspicion.

(3) Demenge Niclas de Domjevin, 50

Reputation 12 years, since accusation.

(4) Vaultrin Loys de Domjevin, 52

Had been present when she had been taken to execution of Mengin Lours, to see if he would discharge her at the last, which he did not do.

(5) Jean Henry de Domjevin, 72

Mengin Lours had been his son-in-law; repeated daughter's story about birth of child. Jennon had heard what he said, left house, and not returned.

(6) Nicolas Godat de Domjevin, 70

Reputation 12 years, since accusation.

(7) Henry Mulnier de Domjevin, 32

Reputation 12 years, since accusation.

(8) Jean Colin de Domjevin, 30

Had returned to village 3 years earlier; since then had heard her reputation.

(9) Colas Masson de Domjevin, 35

His late father Estienne Masson had exchanged a horse with Jennon, and since his was a fine one she complained that he had gained from deal, and walked behind horse, which died shortly afterwards. Suspected she had done it out of envy.

(10) Fleuratte fille de Nicolas Simon de Domjevin

Usual story of reputation Some 4 years before had quarrel with Jennon over matter of no importance; 3 months later fell ill with pains in thigh and leg, although no outward signs - these were still troubling her a little. Believed Jennon might have caused this; following year she also quarrelled with mother of witness, and told her that Fleuratte was ill after disputing with her (said she only knew this by hearsay from mother). Had not dared to reproach her directly, 'mais au contraire qu'elle luy faisoit bonne myne et se rendit affable a elle par le conseil de ses amyes pour veoir sy elle luy osteroit ceste malladie'.

(11) Annel femme Henry Mulnier, 26

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. Witness 'ne luy ayant rien soupçonné du monde, et pensoit que se fut une bien bonne femme.'

(12) Henry Goudot de Domjevin, 70

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. Jennon had been taken to supplice with 2 others since executed. After this he thought that she had previously caused death of a horse and a sow, because of a quarrel over share which her daughter Barbelline had in a house which he bought, and over a golden ecu he had lent her husband, but which was returned as not being 'bon liortte'. She had also wanted garden produce from house reserved, which witness had refused.

(13) Claudatte fille de Nicolas Godat de Domjevin, 22

Reputation since accusation.

(14) Demenge Wannot de Domjevin, 28

Reputation 12 years, since accusation.

(17 September 1603)

(15) Zabey femme Demenge Pierson de Domjevin, 40

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. Had been very fearful of her as neighbour, and 6 years ago had quarrelled 'et se chousarent tres bien de maniere que ladite Jennon defferée respondit qu'elle parloit trop parce qu'elles se chousoient souventefois, et fut raporté a ladite depposante qu'elle dit qu'il luy falloit quelque chose.' Later, during winter when it was custom for women to gather in poisle, a group of them decided to play a trick on members of another poisle, throwing hair and old cloth on fire to make a bad smell and force them to leave. The witness,

being 'joyeuse et de bonne humeur' at time, was persuaded to have her hair cut for the purpose, and Jennon insisted that she should cut it, 'qui rendit la depposante thimide et effroyable parce qu'elle la craindoit', but she did not want to go back on her word. After cutting hair accused put hand on her head, saying 'tu es bien, vat en'; day or two afterwards became ill and had to take to bed. Lost child she was carrying, which she had only conceived some 5 weeks earlier, then arms became all twisted below elbow. Husband reproached her 'qu'elle se prenoit tousjours a telles gens et qu'elle n'en gagnoit rien, mesmes autres personnes qui luy dirent que ladite defferée luy avoit dit qu'elle auroit quelque chose'. Husband finally spoke to Jehenne wife of Demenge Jean Jean (now dead), 'qui leur enseigna une chose par le moien de laquelle ilz cognoistroient celui, ou celle qui luy avoit donné le mal et qu'elle viendroit aussy tost en leur logis.' They did as they were told, and same hour (late) Jennon came to house and asked how she was; then told her she only had 'crampe' and manipulated her arms. Immediately felt warmth returning, and they were cured in 3 days.

(16) Demenge Boulengier de Domjevin, 50

Reputation 12 years, since accusation.

(17) Le maire Mongenot Estienne de Domjevin, 66

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. 3 years earlier his niece Fleuratte had quarrel with her followed by trouble with leg, still not fully cured. About two and a half years ago accused had a pig which according to her had died strangled by his dog; later dog had something in its throat, could not bark, rolled around, and died after 5 or 6 days, which he believed to have been her doing.

(18) Zabel femme Colas Claudat de Domjevin, 40

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. Some 9 years before her late husband had asked to borrow their cart and horses to bring in grain, which they had refused. Shortly afterwards they were on way to fields with cart when accused asked if they would take 'garderobe' to her daughter (who was then working for them) because it looked like rain, and readily agreed. Horse then became ill on way to fields, very difficult to get it back, and in stable was 'merveilleusement farouche' before dying, which they blamed on her.

(19) Claudon Crollesier dit le Grand Claudon de Domjevin, 51

Long reputation. Before she had been taken to Blamont for confrontation with Mengin Lours he had plough-sharing arrangement with her husband. Horses were young, and he did not want them 'estellé a main droite', but only 'a main gauche'; had various quarrels with accused and husband over this. Finally he ended the arrangement because they would not do as he wished; she said 'qu'il demeureroit bien avec eulx, et qu'il s'en ressentiroit'. 3 or 4 months later lost two of his horses after they were ill for 2 weeks, for which he suspected her; reminded her of her remarks, but she said nothing.

(20) Jean Marchal de Beaumesnil, 45

Had often heard rumours she was a witch.

(21) Demenge Marchal de Domjevin, 40

Reputation 12 years, since accusation; he himself as sergent of village had taken her to Blamont.

(22) Colas Claudat de Domjevin, 40

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. Repeated wife's story of refusing loan of cart and death of horse.

(23) Jehenne femme Colas Simon de Domjevin, 42

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. Believed her to have caused illness of daughter Fleuratte, and had herself quarrelled with her in fields over this, saying 'qu'elle avoit desja donné le mal a sadite fille, et qu'il eust mieulx vullu qu'elle l'eust fait mourir, qu'elle l'eust plustost oublié. Laquelle respondit que sy l'on l'avoit menée a Blamont, l'on l'avoit renvoyée femme de bien, et que dieu scavoit tout, et qu'elle estoit aussy femme de bien que ladite depposante, laquelle retorqua et luy dit que non et qu'une femme qui estoit accusée et menée au hault de Trion n'estoit sy femme de bien qu'elle.'

(24) Mre Jean du Pont, maire à Domjevin pour Mgr de Vaudemont, 48

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. Had quarrelled with her late husband Gerardin, because he had not put his flock of sheep with others of village in Gerardin's care, on account of dispute over how much he should pay. This caused 'un inimitié' between them, and later Gerardin accused him of encroaching on boundary between their meadows. Witness defended his rights, and Gerardin told him he would repent; replied that he did not fear any damage, although his wife was a witch. Went off still grumbling, and 3 or 4 months later his wife was taken with a sudden illness, dying after 3 weeks. During these she said it was 'd'art sortilegique'; both she and witness suspected the accused. After this was so afraid of her that because her husband was 'paistre des bestes a cornes' he sold all his animals except one cow.

(25) Henry Goudat le jeune de Domjevin, 34

Reputation 12 years, since accusation. Some 9 years before she had brought some pears to be dried in oven at his father's house, but one of their sows broke into place where they were and ate them, dying next day; his parents had always suspected her on this account.

(26) Catherine femme Jean Colin de Domjevin, 24

Reputation 12 years, since accusation.

(27) Jennon femme Jean Henry de Domjevin, 60

Reputation 5 years, since witness had come to village on remarriage.

17 September 1603; record of payment of 21 francs 9 gros for expenses of taking depositions.

19 September 1603; interrogation

Said she knew she had been accused by Chrestienne, recently executed. Was native of Frumesnil, daughter of Jean Andre and his wife Catherine, aged about 50. Had lived at Domjevin since her marriage some 30 years earlier. Accusation by Mengin Lours had started reputation; proceeded from hatred, both that they had quarrelled and that she had deposed against him. Agreed that she had been to help his wife, since women should not refuse to help one another at such times. Admitted quarrels with Fleuratte and her mother, but said she had injured herself by falling off a plank while carrying manure.

Asked if she had quarrelled with Zabey wife of Demenge Pierson, replied that Chrestienne had confessed to making her ill. Judges said she had not been asked about this yet, so perhaps it was her conscience suggesting that she was really responsible. Agreed to story about women and trick at poisle, but said she had not gone with them, and denied cutting Zabey's hair. Admitted that Jehenne Simon had called her witch.

23 September 1603; confrontations

Said to Zabey femme Colas Claudat that 'sadite fille ayant heu dispute contre ladite deposante luy dit que sa mere avoit fait mourir ledit cheval.' Fleuratte Simon said she had been present at poisle when accused had cut hair of Zabey, femme demenge Pierson. This caused judges to reproach her 'qu'elle respondit mallicieusement et avec pertinacit e pensant cacher son crime qui nous occasioneroit de luy faire donner de grand tourmentz et tortures pour luy faire dire la verit e'.

25 September 1603; procureur fiscal asks for question extraordinaire

26 September 1603; Change de Nancy approves

8 October 1603; interrogation under torture

Almost at outset said 'qu'elle vouldroit estre sorciere depuis six sepmaines ença affin de mieulx cognoistre ses faitz, et qu'on ne la recherche plus tant pour neant', which judges naturally interpreted as sign that she really was a witch. Withstood thumbscrews, but started to confess when racked. Had been seduced by Parsin 14 years before, when angry that Henry Goudot had bought portion of house belonging to her daughter; she was in garden when he appeared and promised to

make her happy. Had been to sabbat at côte de Repy near Raon, where there were perhaps a dozen others; could not recognize them because they wore masks. Pressed to name accomplices, would only name three already executed - Mengin Lours, Chrestienne femme Jean Diez, Margo femme Colas le Comte. Racked again, still would not name anyone else. Confessed to series of malefices; reason she had killed various animals 'estoit par la persuasion dudit Parsin son maitre, qui la provoquoit et par fois luy donnoit des soufflets pour la contraindre de donner le mal ce que toutefois elle ne faisoit trop volontiers.' Now agreed to having made Zabey femme Demenge Pierson ill, but had not been by cutting hair - shortly before she had used powder on her hand. Later took pity on her and cured her by using yellow powder when she manipulated her arms; also said her child had been baptised, but judges noted this was false. Still denied some charges - killing horse of Nicolas Godot, and those of Claudon Croumesnier, had not yet been a witch at time latter died. Judges finished by warning her not to be obstinate, and that she might still be tortured again.

9 October 1603; interrogation

Confirmed earlier confessions. Was asked in more detail about sexual relations with her master and about sabbat. Series of conventional replies; did say that they danced back to back, also described hailmaking. Witches had to say what harm they had done, and were beaten if they had not carried out their master's orders.

10 October 1603; procureur fiscal asks for death sentence

11 October 1603; Change de Nancy approves

15 October 1603; execution of sentence