

B 3327 no 2; Witch 038, Barbelline femme Jean Goudot, de Domjevin

18 December 1603; informations preparatoires

(1) Didier Thirion de Domjevin, c. 60

Said that about 4 years before his son had been bathing in river with Barbelline's son, and latter had accused him of stealing his purse. Angry at this false accusation, witness had given Barbelline's son a beating with some 'verges' - she had seen this, and threatened him, saying 'qu'il rendroit ladite bourse et que ce seroit une chere bourse'. Two years later a daughter 'preste a maryer' became ill and 'toute forcenée et troublée d'esprit'. After a month and on advice of friends, made a pilgrimage himself to St Athanase at Vergaville. While there 'consulta ladite maladie au Conjurateur dudit lieu', who blessed a handkerchief for him to place on head of afflicted girl - but it did no good and she died day after his return. Some neighbours asked if he had quarrelled with Barbelline; said he had, but long before, and in any case she came to see daughter during illness, along with many others, and he believed that if she had given sickness she could remove it. Reputation 12 years.

(2) Jennon femme Jean Mongeot de Domjevin, 35

Long reputation - since her arrival from Embermesnil on marriage 12 years earlier. Told of dispute some 12 years earlier over weight of some flax which Barbelline had spun for witness. 3 or 4 years earlier lost 2 fine cows - accused had offered her some feed for one of them during illness, which it wouldn't eat. At same time had a small child sick; Barbelline brought an egg and some flour for him, and 'faisoit semblant estre fort faschée de leurs adversités'. Same day her daughter-in-law Jehenne Cherrier brought some soup for the child - witness and husband were then poor - and asked if they suspected anyone, and said that her mother-in-law 'avoit fort poeur qu'on ne luy soupconne telle chose'. This made her suspicious, but she did not want to affirm it positively, only as an opinion, that Barbelline had been responsible for their troubles.

(3) Yzabel femme Didier Doyen de Domjevin, c. 40

Some 12 or 13 years before, when Barbelline was first reputed a witch, she had a little daughter in cradle. Went out to fetch water, and on return found she had fallen in fire; thought her dead, but escaped with a burn on the arm. For next two years had trouble in using arm freely, then one day witness wanted to go to market at Ogreviller, and asked Barbelline, as neighbour, to look after child, which she willingly agreed to do. Heard from curé's servant on return that child had cried loudly when Barbelline had pulled her arm, and in fact found her cured. Remembering that Barbelline had been in house on day of accident, and that they had quarrelled over 'fournitures' for soldiers, believed her to have caused accident.

(4) Jean Claudon de Domjevin, c. 60

Reputation 12-13 years. Some 4 years before his late wife had become ill 'toute troublée et altérée d'esprit'. Constantly asked him to persuade Barbelline to visit her, since she suspected her - while spinning with other women 'au poisle' in winter, had sometimes got in her way, and knew no other reason for hostility. He never dared to do this, fearing that it would be taken amiss; wife died after a year.

(5) Catherine femme Didier Thirion, c. 40

Repeated husband's deposition.

(6) Zabel femme Didier Pierson de Domjevin, 40

Reputation more than 20 years. Remembered incident more than 14 years before when the late Maire Mongenot had reproached Barbelline with causing death of his horses; to her knowledge had never sought reparation.

(7) Annel veuve Virion Bergier de Domjevin, c. 60

Reputation 12-13 years. Had heard accusations by Jean Claudon's wife during her sickness, and had told her it was not good to speak in that way.

(8) Jehenne veuve Jean Colas de Domjevin, c. 70

Reputation more than 20 years. Some 14-15 years before she had a son who was returning from guarding horses, and passed through Barbelline's garden. Outside house fell to ground complaining of pains in body. Told mother that Barbelline's son had recently had similar complaint and been cured, so she called her in - said it would be nothing serious, and that she should warm his clothes by fire, then put them on him again. Within an hour began to recover. 3 or 4 years later another son, Jean, having saved some money in service, asked his father to buy some foals which he could use in future - but they died after 18 months. Blamed Barbelline, who had said to the son that he would be 'beaucoup plus prisé que le sien ad cause qu'il avoit des grands chevaux'.

(9) Bastienne femme Nicolas Simonatte de Domjevin, c. 30

Reputation more than 20 years, and especially since execution of Mengin Lours 12 or 13 years before. Repeated contents of her nother's deposition as above, concerning death of brother's foals (accused had been wandering about behind house saying she was looking for herbs) and illness of smaller brother.

(10) Jehenne fille Jean Claudon de Domjevin, c. 28

Reputation 12-13 years. Some 7 or 8 years before, when house of maire Jean du Pont had burned down, her father was among those who rushed to help with vessels full of water. Later discovered that Barbelline had a 'chaudron' they had lost, and her mother took it back from her. About 6 months later mother became ill, believing herself bewitched, and begged her children to fetch Barbelline, believing

'que luy ayant donné le mal, elle luy pouvoit oster. Ce qu'ils n'osarent faire Craindant que ladite prevenue s'en mouveroit par quelque suspicion et qu'ils ne seroient suffisans en moyens pour y assister en cas qu'elle les en poursuyve par plainte'.

(11) Jean Henry de Domjevin, c. 72

Long reputation. Some 5 or 6 years before, fishing on river at Domjevin, had seen accused seated by a 'buisson' for three hours. Some young children were gathering herbs near her, so he asked who it was. They replied that it was Jean Goudot's wife, who was crying bitterly, and at times saying 'Oye Oye Tenez vous vous me faicts mal', although there was no-one near her.

(12) Nicolas Simonatte de Domjevin, c. 50

Reputation 12-13 years. Some 9 years before, working behind father's house, had been overtaken by 'ung mauvais air', which came with a red light and a noise, and struck him below pourpoint. Affected his legs, so that he couldn't stand; after being ill for 8 days 'allant consulter son mal aupres d'une femme de Hardouviller', was taught to make 'fomentations' which cured him, although he still felt occasional pains. Blamed Barbelline, because he had been afflicted the day after a quarrel over the sharing of some wood between his father and her husband - they had mistakenly taken some bark which should have gone to Jean Goudot.

(13) Catherine fille au maire Jean Odediat of Domjevin, c. 20

Reputation as long as could remember. Some 7 years before, in company with another girl (next witness) had seen Barbelline behaving strangely in a field, sitting and banging one hand into another, giving cries. Asked what she was doing, answered that she was guarding horses - but they were a quarter of a league off. She was near a 'pertuis' with water in it, and face was all wet.

(14) Barbelline fille a Colas Goudat de Domjevin, c. 16

Repeated previous deposition. Incident had been at 3 or 4 p.m.

(15) Roze veuve de feu le maire Mongenot Estienne de Domjevin, c. 60

Reputation some 16 years. Around that time her husband had lost two fine horses 'ne sachant d'ou procedoit telles infortunes Sinon que s'advisant d'aller aupres de feu Domp Jean de Xanrey pour scavoir sy c'estoit par art sortiligue Il y alla et le trouvant luy dit que ce faisoit une femme de leur village ad cause que les chevaulx dudit feu son mary mangeroient l'herbe d'un de leur jardin proche celuy de ladite prevenue qu'elle desiroit d'avoir par louage, Qu'asseurant que celle qui causoit ceste perte yroit souvent en leur logis conforter sa femme pendant qu'il estoit absent Ce qui fut faict, et dit ledit deposante que pendant que sondit mary estoit aupres dudit Domp Jean, ladite prevenue se trouva aupres d'elle la reconfortante luy disans qu'ilz avoient beaucoup de pertes Et apres peu de temps retourna derechef

aupres de ladite depposante et luy demanda ung certain bassin a faire des fromages qu'elle luy presta'. Added that horses had died 'enragés'.

(16) Eve femme Nicolas Bon Demenge de Domjevin, c. 60

Had suspected accused and her sister for more than 30 years. Had quarrelled with her some 13 years before; had seen her husband wearing a shirt which Anne's husband had lost, and told accused this. Shortly afterwards Barbelline came to her house to protest; she was so angry that she took a 'petit paillon d'airain' in which she was making 'bouillies' for her children, and gave her good beating with it, finally driving her out with 'Va t'en au diable'. Later, when there were some soldiers in the village, Barbelline came to borrow some butter (although witness thought she had some of her own). Offered a whole pot, only took a spoonful; when she later came to return it witness refused, saying it was unnecessary for such a small thing. Nevertheless she left it, and leant a long time against a stall in the stable, which the witness was sweeping - next day cow in that stall died.

(17) Catherine femme Jean Loure de Domjevin, c. 36

Long reputation. 16 or 17 years before her father had been mortally ill, and had been visited by accused, who was 'quelque peu sa parante'. As she left he called out 'Oh la meschante femme', which made witness suppose he blamed his sickness on her.

(18) Colas Mongenot de Domjevin, c. 36

Repeated essentials of story of death of two of father's horses and visit to Dom Jean de Xanrey at Niderhoff.

23 December 1603; interrogation

Said she was native of Domjevin, daughter of Mengin le Xeru and his wife Allison Loure. Was over 50, a year older than her sister Chrestienne.

Asked 'Sy elle n'a le bruit d'estre sorciere, et depuis quel temps', replied 'qu'ouy, et qu'elle scayt bien qu'elle en a le bruit parmy la ville mais que pour cela elle n'a jamais oublié Dieu (et y a fort longtemps). Agreed that she had a dispute with the maire Mongenot some 14 years before, because he suspected her of causing the death of one of his horses. Agreed to essentials of story about 'petit chaudron'; she had found it after the fire, and returned it willingly when it was recognised. Had not heard that Jean Claudon's wife suspected her of causing her fatal illness, but knew that she 'se mit en fantaisie et fascherie de ce que le maire Pierron s'estoit remaryé parce qu'elle n'inheritoit pas son bien.'

Agreed that she had been twice to house of maire Mongenot on day of his absence, but had done no harm; her sister Chrestienne 'la tansa' afterwards, asking why she had been there, saying that 'ilz disoient merveilles' and suspected her of causing death of horses.

30 December 1603; confrontations

Generally denied all accusations, while accepting most of circumstantial detail surrounding them, or simply saying she couldn't remember. Made objections to some witnesses, including accusing Zabey wife of Didier Doyen of having stolen some wheat. Called Annel widow of Virion Bergier 'Annel ma tandre soeur', which led to some questioning - first explanation was that she was close neighbour, but when this was rejected she said it was because they went 'filler au poisle par ensembles'.

3 January 1604; procureur fiscal asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

4 January 1604; Change de Nancy agrees

9 January 1604; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews on hands and feet, rack, and tourtillons - denied everything. Judges remarked that she was 'fort robuste'. Released after about two hours of torture, and ordered to be shaven before next day 'pour la presumption qui resulte pour le sort taciturne'.

10 January 1604; interrogation under torture

This time hesitated and expressed fear that she would not be able to endure torture; started to confess as soon as she was lightly pulled on the rack. Said she had only been a witch for 5 years, and people had done her great wrong to suspect her earlier. Had been seduced when angry after a quarrel with her neighbour Zabey Pierron, whose cause she couldn't remember. Admitted killing a few animals with diabolical powder; it was twice suggested to her that she must have done more, and she responded with story of another meeting with Mre Persin, at which he gave her more powder, followed by maléfices she had committed with this. On second occasion she was exhorted as follows: 'qu'il estoit impossible qu'elle l'eut tout employée a faire mourir le bestail susdit pour estre en trop petit nombre, et que le propre du diable est d'estre liberal de choses pernicieuses et meschantes Comme de distribuer a ses ministres et personnes seduictes de la poudres, graisses, herbes, et autres choses (qui peuvent nuire a la Creature humaine) tant qu'ilz en veulent, et de faict alors qu'ilz sont reffusans d'en accepter et d'en faire ce qu'il leur commande, les bat et tourmente, Tellement qu'ilz sont contrainctz d'adherer a sa volonté, estant chose certaine qu'ainsy est.'

Said she had been to sabbat twice, and had been 12 witches present on first occasion, 8 on second. Had recognised Chrestienne wife of Jean Diez, Margo Bergier, Clemence widow of Claudon Marchal, and Jehenne de Frumesnil, all already executed at Domjevin or Blamont. Although given strappado in an effort to extract more confessions from her, little resulted - said she had been trying to make hail when two girls found her in field. Otherwise no more accomplices, and only avowed a couple more acts of maléfice against animals.

13 January 1604; procureur fiscal asks for death sentence

14 January 1604; Change de Nancy approves, subject to confirmation of avowals without torture or sight of instruments.

29 January 1604; interrogation

Now denied being a witch, and said her confessions had been made 'de peur de la question'. Sent back to prison.

10 February 1604; interrogation

Asked why she had revoked confession, said it had been 'parce qu'ayant demandé a son pere confesseur familièrement sy ayant confessé chose non veritable elle en recevroit peine en l'autre monde lequel luy dit qu'il ne falloit dire que la verité, Qu'il fut la cause qu'elle avoit renyé le tout et qu'elle avoit bien mal faict de renyer le tout.' Now admitted that she had been a witch. When whole confession was read out to her she denied numerous articles, but not all. Eventually given a formal remonstrance to think of her soul and not be held back by shame, but to make a full confession 'd'aautant que le crime est sy oculte que le Juge n'en peult sainement juger qu'apres la pure et simple confession de celui ou celle qui en est coupable.' Still didn't add to confession, and was sent back to prison.

12 February 1604; procureur fiscal asks for death sentence.
Approved on same day by Change de Nancy.

Executed 16 February 1604