

Witch 064, Claudate George 1

B 3792 no 3; witch 064, Claudate femme Jacquat George, de Dompierre

8 December 1615; PG des Vosges, having been informed that Claudette femme Jacquat George and Thomasse femme Jean Poirot, both of Dompierre, are greatly suspected and feared as witches, orders prévôt of Bruyères to carry out investigation.

12 December 1615; Prévôt notes that witnesses have been summoned for 22 December at 8 a.m.

19 December 1615; informations against Claudate femme a Jacat George de Dompierre.

(1) Demenge Antoine de Dompierre, c. 60

Had quarrelled with Claudate, and spoken 'paroles aigres' to her, after she had taken wood from one of his fences. Soon afterwards, ploughing with 4 horses, a crow flew down and settled on one of them. Took this for a 'mauvais presage', and indeed 3 of the horses died the next week. Had also lost other animals, and blamed this on Claudate.

(2) Nicolas le Maire le Vieux alias Petit Homme, de Dompierre, c. 60

Had lost various beasts, and suspected Claudate because of bad reputation, and because her husband and she were guardians of 'bestes rouges'.

(3) Nicolas fils au precedent temoin, c. 30

Some 15 years earlier, when he was living at home before marriage, had been a quarrel because Claudate and her husband had left a bull belonging to them in fields. Could not be found until next day, and died soon after; believed she had bewitched it.

(4) Dieudonnée veuve Jean Baulche, 52

7 or 8 years before a cow had fallen sick, and she suspected Claudate, so asked if she could cure it. Claudate asked for an egg laid on Good Friday, put it on ground and trod on it, then gave it to the animal; it promptly recovered, and was sold for 22 francs.

(5) Claudate femme a Didier Borion de Dompierre, c. 33

About a year before Claudate had come to her house and asked to buy 'un chennon de lin'; had not wanted to sell it, but for fear of her she agreed. She was holding her baby in her arms, and the accused took hold of its leg; the child, previously quite well, then sickened and died, beginning with leg becoming twisted. She and her husband suspected Claudate of being cause.

(22 December 1615)

(6) Florentin Cole de Dompierre, c. 50

About 12 years before he had lost a cow, which had been killed by a wolf through negligence of Jacquat George; had reproached him, and when Claudate tried to intervene, he called her 'sorciere', since she was commonly reputed such. She told him to proceed against her, and he would have done so 's'il eust esté aucunement secondé'. Had subsequently endured losses of animals and illnesses of children; one of latter had died.

(7) Adam Micquay de Dompierre, c. 50

Some three years before had some difficulty with Claudate after 'un rapport de bestail' which he made against her; one of his cows died. Later on his daughter Jannon, aged 15 or 16, was given a drink of picquette by Claudate, which tasted strange; was still ill, and believed this to have been accused's doing (but said it was 6 years before ?)

(2 January 1616)

(8) Jennon femme de Dieudonne Alix de Girecourt, c. 30

5 years before, when still living with first husband, Georgeon George de Dompierre, he had a debt of 15 francs at the tavern, and his brother Jacot George had to help him. Claudate was angry, and shortly afterwards he became ill with 'apostumes' on hand and arm, dying 6 months later. Had heard from another woman that Claudate had uttered threats 'qu'il ne tiendrait pas toujours le bon bout'.

(9) Jean Vaulthier de Dompierre, c. 40

Some 20 years before his mother had died, and he had several times heard her claim that Claudate had made her ill by touching her on shoulder and back as they were returning from Vadeville.

(10) Bastien Phulpin de Dompierre, c. 24

Had come to live in village on marriage 3 years earlier. Following year inhabitants had divided up some communal woodland, and by mistake he had felled and taken away some belonging to Jacot George. Claudate, named la Braitie, heard of this and came to reproach him; he knew her reputation and for fear of her took her out in front of house, keeping her away from his family. A fortnight later he fell ill; on advice of wife of Jean Gerardin made offering to St. Blaise at Bruyeres, and recovered.

8 January 1616; PG orders that Claudate be arrested, and that case proceed.

(1 February 1616)

(11) Adam Colas Antoine de Dompierre, c. 50

Having had some dispute with Claudate, and knowing her reputation, suspected her of causing losses in past two years of a cow, some horses, and some pigs.

29 January 1616; interrogation

Said she was Claudatte, wife of Jacot George, paistre du troupeau rouge, aged about 66. Had never had any children. She was daughter of Claudon Vaulthier of Girecourt. Denied all accusations.

1 February 1616; confrontations

No result at all; simple denials of virtually every claim against her.

4 February 1616; PG des Vosges asks for question ordinaire.

6 February 1616; Change de Nancy approves.

9 February 1616; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews on hands and racked. Called on Jesus, Virgin, and various saints for aid, but confessed nothing. Torture obviously unusually short; she was released in consideration of her 'debilité et son vieil age'.

16 February 1616; Procureur General asks that she be banished for 10 years, with confiscation of one third of her goods.

18 February 1616; Change de Nancy orders renvoy jusqu'a rappel.

In fact she had died in prison on 15 February; costs of case (including those of burial) came to 33 francs 11 gros.