

B 3792 no 4; witch 065, Thomasse femme Jean Poirot, de Dompierre

19 December 1615; informations preparatoires

(1) Demenge Biennon de Dompierre, c. 50

Having carried out an 'exploit' against Thomasse's husband in his capacity as Doyen, he had noticed that she was resentful and less friendly than before. Soon afterwards she touched his 4 year old daughter on the head in front of his house, saying 'voila une moult belle baiselote'. Child became ill that night and died next morning; this and Thomasse's bad reputation made him believe she had been bewitched.

(2) Demenge Antoine de Dompierre, c. 60

Some 18 years before one of his sons had mounted a horse belonging to Thomasse to chase others in herd; when she was told of this, she threatened that never again in his life would he mount a horse without remembering that one. Soon afterwards developed trouble in one knee, then in the other, finally a great 'douleur de teste', so that he went blind and finally died.

(3) Nicolas Claudon Petit Homme de Dompierre, c. 30

Some 4 years before had 'gagé' Thomasse for non-payment after he had sold her some wheat. Various disputes followed, then his 6 year-old daughter developed a 'bosse' on her back; he had believed her bewitched by Thomasse, and surgeon agreed it was witchcraft.

(4) Didier Borion de Dompierre, c. 50

Previous summer Jean Poirot and Thomasse, paistres of the herd of horses, had allowed them to damage a field of flax he was growing. He had subsequently declined to pay his normal part of charges to paistre, but then two of his best horses went lame. His wife became angry with Thomasse, since she believed her responsible, and said they would be obliged 'de faire brusler de ces sorciers'; horses quickly recovered.

(22 December 1615)

(5) Antoine Paris de Dompierre, c. 50

Although he had suffered notable losses of beasts, did not know if it was through witchcraft. His wife, however, had died 3 years before after languishing for long time in a pitiful state, and his 20-year-old daughter had died at last St. Remy. Believed them both to have been bewitched by Thomasse, both because of her reputation and because she was always haunting his house and borrowing money; despite her promises, had been difficult about repayment, and he believed her to have ill-will towards his household. Illnesses of two women had been similar,

except that at Epinal his daughter had brought up 'un ploton de file cru'. Thomasse had been to see the mother during her illness when requested to do so, but had absolutely refused to visit daughter.

(6) Nicolas Jan Virion, c. 31

A year before, after a quarrel, his wife had told Thomasse not to haunt their house any longer. She nevertheless returned next day when they were both out, and same day a cow fell sick, and died two days later. Had also lost a horse around previous St. Jean after a quarrel with Jean Poirot. Sometime earlier another horse had been ill, and had recovered after Thomasse had touched it in passing; believed that if she could give the evil, she could take it off.

(7) Nicolas Pierat de Dompierre, 30

At previous St. Jean he had refused to cart some barley for Thomasse; she had been angry, and immediately afterwards his horse, worth 80 francs, fell dead. Chambriere who was driving cart fell 'a la renverse' and hurt herself, so that she could hardly be got back to village. Suspecting Thomasse, he found an occasion to send girl to her house and ask her to cure her; she made 'quelque ceremonie de sa main' on her leg, telling her that she would be in pain for two hours yet, but would then recover - this duly happened.

(2 January 1616)

(8) Jennon veuve de Claudon Pierat de Dompierre, c. 50

Told same story about refusal to cart barley, death of horse, and injury to chambriere.

(9) Didier Hanna de Dompierre, c. 72

Believed that Thomasse, whose husband was his brother, had caused death of two of his daughters, aged 11 and 13. This was because he had tried to dissuade his brother from marrying her, and various other disputes. Also 'une devineresse auroit eu dit a sa femme qu'une autre qui taschoit d'avoir leurs biens avoit fait mourir leursdits enfants.'

(10) Bastien Phulpin de Dompierre, c. 24

A year before he had lost a genisse, which had become 'comme enragée' so that he was forced to kill it. Two days before, passing to draw water, Thomasse had said to wife in front of stable 'c'estoit bel bestail'.

(11) Demenge Antoine Toussaint de Dompierre, c. 40

Two years before one of his horses had escaped from herd, and he had reproached Thomasse, since he believed she and her husband had been negligent.

She said the horse would return, but he would not need to fetch it in future; 3 or 4 days later it died 'comme enragé', as did another worth 30 ecus 2 months later. Suffered so many losses of animals that the only thing on four legs left to him was a dog, and believed she was cause of all his misfortunes.

(12) Nicolas Girard de Dompierre, c. 50

Was neighbour of Jean Poirat 'et avoir craint et redoubté Thomasse sa femme, il leur a quicté et cedé beaucoup de chose, qu'autrement il n'eut fait et qu'au surplus icelle est en mauvaise reputation.'

(13) Bernard la Gaulde de Dompierre, c. 60

During last 'troubles de guerre' the previous prévôt had required community to provide some 'pionniers'; Jean Poirat was among those chosen, and he and his wife believed witness responsible, and bore him 'quelque inimitié'. Soon after a horse became sick, and remained so for 9 months before recovering - believed Thomasse responsible, as she was already reputed a witch.

8 January 1616; PG des Vosges orders arrest and interrogation of Thomasse.

31 December 1615

(14) Bastien Lalemant de Dompierre, c. 38

A year and a half before had words with Thomasse over an obligation which she denied; shortly afterwards a mare died. Previous harvest another quarrel had been followed by death of a second mare, and he said to Thomasse 'que cela prevenoit d'elle et qu'il failloit en faire brusler, elle luy dict qu'il se taise craignant plus grand inconvenient.' (Deposition taken in Dompierre because of illness of witness.)

1 February 1616; further depositions

(15) Liebaire femme Nicolas Le Comte de Dompierre, c. 37

Her husband was miller; a year before Thomasse had come to the mill and asked to buy some corn. She had not wanted to deal with her, because of her reputation, but agreed, and had to go to get key from husband, who was in the village. Left her 6-month-old child while doing this, and when she was milling flour noticed it was upset and crying. Had been ill since as if wanting to reject something from mouth; she and her husband believed Thomasse had made child ill while waiting at mill.

(16) Demenge Masson de Dompierre, c. 36

On Christmas Day last his daughter, aged 3, had fallen ill, and died a week later. Believed Thomasse responsible, on account of disputes over ownership of

terasse of house they shared, and also because earlier she had asked his wife why various people were going to Bruyeres, and she had concealed fact that they were going to depose against her.

(17) Blaise fils Adrien Villemin serrurier a Dompierre, 24

Some 4 years before his parents had been disputing with Thomasse's sister Jennon, and he had wanted to strike her, but his father had prevented him. When he passed Thomasse later, she reproached him, and said 'qu'il ne courroit pas tousiours si fort'. Soon after fell ill, and remained so for a year.

(18) Jean la Gaulde de Dompierre, c. 32

Had nothing certain to depose against Thomasse.

30 January 1616; interrogation

Said she was Thomasse, wife of Jean Poirat, aged about 55. Had two sons, one about 20, the other 10. Father had been Claudon Jean Mongin of Girecourt.

Said she was 'une pauvre pecheresse comme autres, mais que quand au crime de sortilege elle n'en fust oncques entasché, et que c'est par hayne qu'on l'a accusé.' Later said that far from being a witch 'elle estoit remplie de la grace de Dieu, et que ceux qu'ainsy depressoient contre elle en estoient bien esloignés.'

Claimed to have visited daughter of Antoine Paris several times during illness, with other women. As for horse belonging to Nicolas Jean Virion, reason he had been unable to cart her barley was that horse was already ill. She had not touched knee of his chambriere, nor told her she would be better in two hours, but had given her a remedy she herself had previously used.

Said that Didier Hanna 'devroit craindre sa damnation' for accusing her over deaths of his daughters, and that he had already given two false oaths.

Generally denied even conversations reported by witnesses. Over death of Demenge Antoine Toussaint's animals, said that they themselves had lost four at same time. Her husband had not been chosen as a 'pionnier', but as a soldier and harquebusier.

(1 February 1616)

Further denials; astonished that Demenge Masson should accuse her over death of daughter, since she believed him to be 'homme de bien' and had never wished him harm.

Confrontations followed.

Said that Nicolas Claudon Petit Homme's daughter had been injured by a stone thrown by daughter of one Bagny. Called Nicolas Jean Virion a 'larron', alleging that he had stolen some clothes from Bastien l'Allemand. Said that Bastien l'Allemand had cheated her of 8 ecus, and had stolen some grain from the mill.

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5 February 1616; PG des Vosges asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire.

6 February 1616; Change de Nancy approves

10 February 1616; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews on hands and feet, racked three times, and moderately tortured with tourtillons. Despite much crying on Jesus, remained quite firm in denials.

16 February 1616; PG des Vosges asks that she be banished for ten years, with confiscation of one third of goods.

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

In February 1620 she was denounced again by Nicolas Adam (witch 248, B 3804 no 1), who said that she had now left her husband and fled.