

Witch 081, Margueritte Vaultrin 1

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18 July 1553; trial of Margueritte, daughter of the late Parisot Mongenot of Rebeufville, before Noble Homme Loys Ogier, prévôt of Chatenoy.

Brought from the prisons, Margueritte made a free confession without any constraint. Said to be about 60; she claimed she had been to sabbat so many times she could not remember. Had become a witch some 36 years earlier, when married to Didier Collard of Theleuf (?). He seemed to think more of his little son Claudot, from a previous marriage, than of his wife, and she often told him she was discontented about this. She invoked the devil to her aid, and soon after a man in black appeared to her in the fields. He asked if she wanted vengeance on her husband and stepson, and she offered him gold and silver if he would obtain it. He refused these, but persuaded her to give him her soul, and her 'cresme de baptesme'. Next day took her to sabbat and told her he was the devil and was called maistre pantouffle. At the sabbat the witches danced while devils prepared powder to kill men and beasts. With consent of her master she used this to kill her stepson - caused him to fall off horse into water, where he was drowned.

After this she had gone more than 7 years without attending sabbat, but had eventually been taken back. Asked if she had killed her husband, denied this; he had died of plague after she had five children by him. When she was a widow she quarrelled with Ysabeau wife of Mengin Pelletier, called la Royere, over division of some pears, and used powder with intention of killing her; she was ill for a long time, and had died some 2 years ago.

Admitted making hail and mists by usual method of beating water with sticks. Said that 16 years before she had used powder to kill Poirisson Jean Poirisson of Rebeufville after quarrel over a garden.

Had remarried some 17 years earlier with Anthoine Vaultrin, with whom she still lived; he knew nothing of her crime.

Asked about other crimes, said that one Saturday she had been to market at Neufchateau, and had taken a sack (which she thought she had lent) from house of Jacquemin Malwauret. His wife and daughter-in-law chased her and took it back, so she put powder on it and they both died soon after. On another Saturday at market she was selling pears, peas and nuts when the wife of Monsy de la Hure said 'la genoche de Rebeufville est elle icy'; angry at this, she put powder on pears she bought, and she died afterwards.

Also told of making powder in drink to make Parisot Poirisson very ill, after he had annoyed her in some obscure way over a book. Some 2 years before had wanted to buy a horse from Demenge Waultrin of Chatenoy for 4 francs, but had not enough money, and asked him to take rest next week; was angry when he refused, and threw powder over him saying 'va t'en au diable' - he was still ill. Also claimed that some 22 years before she had used powder in meat when her brother Thouvenin Parisot asked her to dinner, because he was keeping some land that should have been hers; he died after 3 month illness.

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Said that on her master's orders, and under threat of being beaten, she had many times taken host at Easter, but kept it and burned it at home.

Also confessed that her master often had intercourse with her; was more 'rude' than a man and cold as ice.

Once when she had been waiting for her husband, who was in tavern, and talking to Marie wife of Jehan Brayette of Nuufchateau, she had been angry when Marie went away; used powder in attempt to kill her, and she became very ill.

Asked about accomplices, claimed that she had taken her son Mengin, aged about 14, to sabbat from 3 years earlier, and he had also been seduced by her master. He had killed two horses in revenge for being beaten by Henry Nicolas for passing over oats, but some 18 months before, after being taken to church by his parrain when the suffragan was blessing a chapel, he had refused to attend sabbat again. Suggestion that he had been 'recramé'.

Told of another incident at market 2 years before, when she had sold some milk to Claudon wife of Anthoine Greffien of Nenfchateau; Claudon brought it back saying it was bad, and she was angry. Assured her it was good to give to her children, but put powder in it, and 2 children had long illness from which they finally died.

Asked if she had not confessed her witchcraft to the priests who had heard her confessions over this long period, she said she had not done so, although to herself she had begged God's mercy. Several times she had wanted to confess, but when she was before confessor something between her throat and her stomach prevented her doing so; this was her master.

Asked whom and how many she had seen at the sabbat, she said there had been many, but she had only recognised Mongea of Rellamville and Mariotte of Landaville, already burned.

8 August 1553; death sentence in normal form (seems to have been carried out that day), but no reference to Change de Nancy.