

B 4500 no 3 Witch 085, Jacquotte Gardeux et Marie Canot

17 September 1586; on the accusation made by Jean Rouyer, prisoner at Holbecourt on charge of witchcraft, the prévôt of Chatenois has arrested Jacquotte wife of Florentin Gardeux of la Neuveville, whom he believed to be about to flee. Now begins to take depositions from witnesses produced by Claude Utchin, substitut for PG des Vosges.

(1) Nicolas Gegoult hostellier de la Neuville, 40

Told how his wife had died 3 years before after an illness of only a week, claiming to her death that it was Jacquotte's doing. She had sold her some wine for feast of Notre Dame, and then gone to collect 'devancier' she had been promised. Jacquotte was long time finding it in a chest, and on return home his wife fell ill. Her death was followed in another week by that of her son aged 13.

(2) Jean Vanyer de la Neuville, 30

Said that his mother-in-law had died last Easter believing herself bewitched by Jacquotte; was suffering from 'un chaleur brulant'. Had been sharing a house with accused, but they got on badly and were always quarrelling. Was also commonly reputed to have killed Nicolas Gegoult's wife Cathin. Reputed a witch and feared in la Neuville.

(3) Ysabeau femme à Jean Villaume témoin précédent (!), 30

Repeated account of deaths of two women mentioned above. Cathin had told her that something which smelt had come out of the 'devantier de taffetas' and gone round her head. As for her mother, she had been visited by Jacquotte, who asked if 'elle ne vouloit pas dire qu'elle estoit engenauchée aussy bien que les aultres'; when she said she was, Jacquotte was angry and left saying 'le diable vous puisse embismer'. They had also had three cows dead just after calving, which she believed to have been work of Jacquotte.

(4) Barbe femme d'Andreu Basle de la Neuville, 50

Told similar story of Cathin's sickness and death; Jacquotte commonly reputed a witch.

(5) Halbix veuve Florentin Mongenot bouchier de la Neuville, 60

Cathin had been her daughter; she had heard her accuse Jacquotte.

(6) Jannon femme de Jean Waulthier de la Neuville, c. 33

Said she knew nothing about the accusations.

18 September 1586; at Houecourt, where Jean Rouyer and Mathieu Amand were about to be executed for witchcraft, the prévôt of Chatenoy, Claude Bossuet, interrogated Rouyer about denunciations he had made. He confirmed these, in the presence of four he had accused - Estienne fils Alaphe Renard Violeur de Chatenois,

Jacquotte, Marie femme de Francois Canot of la Neufville, and Mongeotte veuve Gerard Aubry of la Neufville. Disregarded protests that they were not such, and that he was damning himself - said that there were many others in the prevote, 'comme à Mandres sur verre', and added accusations against le grand marchal Jean de Paret and Thiebault Brochet, both of Mandres, and Pierot Pastenier of Mourroy.

19 September 1586; prevot orders that Jacquotte and Marie should be held prisoners in chateau at Chatenois, while Mongeotte and Estienne are to be under house arrest.

19 September 1586; informations

(7) Didier Bouvard, paistre des bestes blanches, de la Neuveville, 50

Some at la Neuveville thought that Jacquotte and Marie were witches; had never heard any harm of Mengeotte.

(8) Ysabel femme de Jacquot Gudine de la Neufville, c. 34

Had heard no harm of accused other than Jacquotte, who was reputed a witch in the village.

(9) Jehan Thouvenel, laboureur de la Neuville, 36

Some 3 years before, when he had been maire, Jacquotte's husband had brought a case for 'injure' on her behalf against Claudet Cabled in the name of his son Claudet; he and other members of local court had ruled against her, and he had been told afterwards that she threatened he would repent. Had 4 horses dead soon afterwards, although did not think she had been seen near them, and his suspicion was based only on her threat. She was generally reputed a witch. Some 14 years before he had been asked to do some carting for her; refused several times, then when he finally did it, had an illness in the head which lasted 6 weeks, and which he believed she had given him. Knew nothing against Marie and Mengeotte apart from accusation by Rouyer.

(10) Cathin femme à Jehan Thouvenel, c. 28

Repeated husband's suspicions over horses, and added loss of a sow and 4 piglets. Some 3 years before she suspected Jacquotte of having given her a three-week illness when she was in childbed, after refusing her some barley she asked for. Did not suspect other two women.

(11) Claudet fils de Claude Cabled de la Neufville, c. 20

Suspected Marie of having caused death of a horse previous year; he and his brother Simonin had seen her near it on her own when they found it dying, and she was angry with them and their father because they had contracted to bring her some hay with their cart, and had not wanted to unload it. As for Jacquotte, told of an occasion in stormy weather 2 years before when she stopped her husband sounding his trumpet to recall sheep, saying storm would do no harm. Had no suspicion of Mengeotte.

(12) Lucrette femme de Gaspard de la Neufville, c. 24

Told how some 2 years or more before Jacquotte had been angry with the maire when his court found against her, and told him they were 'faulx juges en leur justice et que par le nom de dieu il s'en doneroit de garde et s'en repentiroit quand il penseroit qu'elle l'eust obligé'. Soon after she told the witness 'qu'elle avoit mal parlé contre ledict maire de luy avoir dict qu'il s'en repentiroit, que s'il luy arievoit quelques choses on dirroit qu'elle l'auroit faict, la priant de n'en rien dire'. Had nothing to say against other two.

(13) Jannon femme à Claude Cabled de la Neufville, c. 60

Repeated son's story about death of horse. Jacquotte was reputed a witch, but knew nothing against Mengeotte.

(14) Andreu Baille de la Neuiville, 50+

Knew nothing against accused other than Rouyer's charges.

(15) Barbe femme d'Andreu Baille de la Neufville, 50

Some villagers suspected Marie and Mengeotte, but she did not - had already deposed against Jacquotte.

(16) Thierry Toussaint de la Neufville, 40

When she heard of accusation by Rouyer, Marie was 'fort estonnée comme aussy son marit, qui luy avoit demandé permission de la tenir en cachotte secretement en sa maison, ce qu'il deposant ne voulut faire. L'avoit ja mis le marit d'elle en une autre maison proche de celle de luy deposant et l'avoit prié de n'en rien dire. Ce mesme jour ladicte Marie vint au porche de la maison de luy deposant ou estoit Jehan Thouvenel son beau frere laquelle leur dict comme elle estoit en peine de ladicte accusation elle leur en demanda conseil mesme disoit qu'elle ne vouloit aller parler audict Rouyer accusateur pour ce qu'elle le connessoit mauvais guerson, qu'il luy soustiendrait qu'elle estoit sorciere et qu'on la prendroit, encore que luy deposant et le dict Thouvenel lui disoient de ce faire mesme qu'on ne luy savoit rien faire sy elle n'estoit sorciere elle respondant sur ce disoit que sy elle estoit prinse qu'on luy donnoit la question et qu'il luy faudroit dire sur ce parce qu'elle estoit de petite complexion.' Knew nothing against other two, apart from general suspicion of Jacquotte.

(17) Claudot Cabled de la Neufville, c. 56

Knew of his wife and sons' suspicions over death of horse, but did not share them.

(18) Ysabel femme de Jehan Vanyer de la Neufville, c. 30

Added to earlier deposition that some three years before, when they and other women 'carregeroient', Jacquotte declared 'qu'on la suspitionnoit d'estre genoiche et d'avoir faict mourir Cathin la femme Nicolas Gegoult mais qu'on verroit et cognoisteroit on cy apres ceux qui estoient genoiches'. Saying this she struck three

blows on knee of Cathin Cabled, who told witness the same evening that her knee was hurting badly, and she suspected Jacquotte of causing this. Nothing against other accused.

(19) Janotte femme de Jehan Vastron de la Neufville, c. 27

Previous year Jacquotte had bought a garden from Matheu Varrin, and had borrowed scales from witness to sell cherries. Had agreed to give her 2 pounds of cherries; when she went to collect them, told her she was 'bien hative', and she became ill before she got back home. Was ill 3 days, and believed this to have been Jacquotte's doing. Knew nothing against others.

(20) Thomasse femme à Claude Utchin substitut, de la Neufville, c. 50

Believed that Mengeotte, who was then guarding village sheep, might have caused death of two of her calves after she refused her some 'lait de fromaige'.

(21) Cathin femme de Jehan Cabled de la Neufville, c. 31

Believed Jacquotte had caused death of her son aged 7 some 3 years earlier; had been in her house on day he fell ill, and during 9 days of illness said she had caused it. Nothing against others.

(22) Cleron femme de Claude Thouvenel de la Neufville, c. 23

Believed that Jacquotte might have caused death of four new-born calves, which had occurred when they were neighbours 3 years before.

(23) Symonin Cabled fils de Claude Cabled de la Neufville, c. 26

Suspected Marie of having caused death of two horses.

19 September 1586; interrogations

Jacquotte said she was over 30, daughter of Anthoine Perrin of Chatenois and his wife Epnotte (from Parey-sous-Montfort). Had lived with them, with exception of 10 weeks in house of Didier Mathiot of Noaillancourt, until marriage to Florentin Gardenx of la Neufville. Her father was 'violeur' and she and her mother had supported household by spinning and undertaking usual kinds of day labour done by poor. Had been married 18 years, during which time they had both done day work, but had also kept sheep of village for about 9 years. Admitted that some 12 years earlier her husband had been caught stealing some grain, whipped and banished for 6 weeks, with confiscation of property, but this crime had been committed 'par necessite et pauvreté'. Asked if she had been an accomplice, said she had begged him not to do it.

Said she knew that some villagers called her witch, but they did her great wrong, Asked if her late mother had been suspected of witchcraft, said she had never heard this. Told of slander case 3 years before, when Symonin Cabled had called her witch, but the maire and his colleagues had made her husband pay a fine; however she

denied threats afterwards, while admitting she had been angry and called them false judges.

Agreed that when Cathin Gegoult had been ill her mother had sent for her, and she had made a soup for her - but had been no suggestion of counterpoison. Otherwise denied charges or represented incidents in harmless light.

Marie said she was 60, daughter of Claude Mengel of Parey-soubs-Montfort, wife of Francois Canot of la Neufville. Had spent some time in service, then returned to parents' home before marriage. Had been married some 22 years, of which they had spent the first 4 at Parey, then come to la Neufville. Knew she was under arrest because of accusation by Rouyer, which she totally denied.

Said of this accusation 'qu'il fault bien qu'il fut esté poussé et incité de ce faire par aucuns que luy veult mal pour ce que ledict Rouyer accusoit ung chacun qu'on vouloit mesme par apres les deschargeoit comme on a veu qu'il a faictz de plusieurs elle a oppinion que sa esté a la poursuite de Claude Cabled qu'on dict collotte qui est parent à Ferry Boyart procureur des seigneurs audict Houecourt lequel Cabled et ses gens la hayssent et l'ont battu et outragé l'appelle genoiche disant qu'elle leur avoit faict morir un cheval et pour ce qu'ils sont pauvres gens elle et son mari sont esté contrainsts d'endurer ledict tort d'eux qui sont riches et forts'.

Went on to say that she had been gleaning nearby when the Cableds' horse had become ill, which was why they had suspected her, and his sons had attacked her. Repeated that she believed the accusation by Rouyer had been prompted by this family.

22 September 1586; confrontations

Jacquotte called Jehan Thouvenel a thief, while his wife Cathin was 'putain et parjure' - had paillardé with Messire Dominique Utin. Lucretia wife of Gaspard Vannier had a bastard daughter by Messire Pierot Gueniot of Neuveville. Cleron Thouvenel had stolen a 'couvrechef' from her. Halbix wife of Matheu Varrin (witness 5) had been found 'paillardant' with Claude Rigault - witness was so angry that she took a stick and tried to beat Jacquotte at this point. Ysabeau wife of Jehan Vannier was a thief and a whore, and her first husband had died of grief at this. Ysabel wife of Jacques Gudine was a thief and a whore, and had had a bastard daughter. Thierry Toussaint was a thief, as was Claude Cabled, who had stolen a ploughshare. Cabled's wife Jannon was 'une babillarde'. When it came to Andreu Balle, who was miller of Neufville, she said she had nothing to reproach him with, but it was said that all millers were thieves, and as a miller he was like all the others. Objected to virtually every witness, and denied all charges.

Marie was then confronted. Said that Claudet Cabled was a personal enemy, and had unjustly called her witch - repeated story over death of horse. Made similar objection to his brother.

10 October 1586; PG des Vosges suggests that both Jacquotte and Marie should be tortured, while admitting that charges against former are the stronger. Says that no heed should be taken of their objections to the witnesses against them, in view of 'l'atrocité du crime duquel elles sont prevenues, a la qualité d'iceluy que toutes

personnes indifferement soient de bonne fame ou non, sont admises et receues à déposer valablement, tant tel crime, qui est de lèse majesté divine et humaine a toujours esté, et est en horreur'.

11 October 1586; Change de Nancy advises that Jacquotte be tortured 'mediocrement', and Marie merely shown instruments of torture and interrogated.

18 October 1586; interrogation under torture

Jacquotte was tortured for an hour and a half. Thrown four times into cold water, then racked. Also had water poured into mouth while racked. Stubbornly denied all charges, and was finally released.

Marie was placed on rack, but not tortured. Noted that she denied charges 'fort constamment', and that she did so with tears and groans.

31 October 1586; Change de Nancy declares that Jacquotte should be renvoyée jusqu'à rappel.

3 November 1586; court at Chatenois releases Jacquotte with injunction to behave 'plus modestement' in future. No further mention of Marie, but presumably released as well.