

Witch 092, Catherine Lhuillier 1

B 5312 no 2; Witch 092, Catherine veuve Jean Lhuillier de Maizieres, demeurant à Domnon

3 June 1594; informations preparatoires

Taken at Cutting after accusations made by Engel and Christienne de Bidestroff, recently executed.

(1) Mengeotte femme du maire Hannel, de Domnon, 32

Told how previous year Appel femme Mathis Hannel was about to give birth; accused was summoned as 'basle' at Domnon, and advised that they should use force, but witness and another woman were opposed to this. In fact baby was born a day later, but thought if they had followed her advice both mother and child would have perished.

(2) Colin Oudenot manouvrier, 60

Knew no harm of her, except that over last year there had been talk of reputation.

(3) Hamans Petter, 40

Knew nothing against her.

(4) Barthelhans Huyllier, 52

Had heard nothing against her until recent execution.

(5) Nickels Petter, laboureur, 30

Had never heard her suspected of witchcraft.

(6) Britz, 30

Called her when horses were ill; sometimes she cured them, other times not. Previous week, while he and wife were on pilgrimage to St Nicolas, she had come early one morning bringing her personal possessions, and saying they had given her permission to store them in the house. This was untrue; later she returned with 2 bichots of grain, and this time servants would not accept them in absence of master and mistress.

(7) Jean Mathieu manouvrier, 33

Had heard nothing against her, except for a vigneron who told her she would not be arrested until after execution of those held at Dieuze or Biderstroff.

(8) Mathzen Hanns, 36

Had been appointed to guard her, since she had tried to flee several times. She had said a vigneron had told her she would not be arrested until after executions at Dieuze or Bidestroff; if she had known she would have taken 'la clef des champs'.

14 June 1594; interrogation

Had been transferred to prison at Dieuze on 9 June, after she had admitted she was a witch.

Said she ws about 50, native of Hennamesnil, daughter of Didier Noirel, vigneron, and his wife Claude. Had lived at Bordenay about 4 years, then at Maizieres, where she married Jean Lhuillier, with whom she was for 19 years. After his death she went begging around villages with a sick child she had, before coming to Domnon, wher she had a sister-in-law, and had lived for 9 years. Had married Christman, manouvrier and hardier des bestes a cornes.

Had heard that Agnelle femme Gros Hans de Bidestroff had accused her as accomplice. Said that she had been witch for 2 years. Owed 19 francs to youth named Petter Britze, and his brother Britze was demanding payment so that he could arrange marriage. Did not know how she could pay, and went out to cut firewood while lamenting. Approached by man in black who promised her money if she would renounce God; she agreed, saying she was forced to do so. As she turned to pick up bundle he threw her down and had intercourse with her; told her not to look at money until she got home, when it turned out to be cinders. Said his name was Nischt.

Revisited her next day, and beat her when she said she would not obey him. Returned 3 weeks later, speaking mixture of German and French, and gave her a white stick, telling her to mount it in the name of the devils, at which she was carried off to fields, where she found 5 others. These were Scherre Austien of Loudrefing, Demelle femme Welsch Anthoine and Catherine la hardiere of Cutting, and Christienne and Engel of Biderstroff. Danced to sound of 'fiffre', then master told them they must go and waste corn, but when Agnel replied 'Jesus nous mourrions de faim' 3 of them were carried off (on paale, fourche, and baton), while she and Engel had to return home on foot, all wet (it was raining hard). 3 weeks later told to go again, in same fashion, and beat water to make snails and other 'reptiles venimeuses'. This time accused said Jesus, and everything vanished.

After this was given good beating by her master for not obeying him. Said she had not killed any children or animals.

23 June 1594; substutut for PG de Lorraine asks for further interrogation, followed by death sentence Change de Nancy agrees, but with requirement for torture.

27 June 1594; interrogation under torture

Asked to be treated gently, saying she was feeble, and a poor creature who had little flesh on her body. Put on rack and tied, but not clear if actually racked. Now confessed to killing a few animals, using drink made from body of stillborn child, burned and reduced to powder; group of them would hold animal while this was administered. Added that la Vosgienne had been with her on another occasion when they attacked crops. Also said that at similar meeting she had seen Ketherine la basle, but withdrew this later (marginal note). It was a vagabond with a limp who played fiffre, but did not know his name.

29 June 1594; Rémy asks for death sentence

30 June 1594; Change de Nancy agrees.

Witch 092, Catherine Lhuillier 3

2 July 1594; execution carried out