

Witch 093, Anon veuve Didier Vosgien 1

B 5312 no 3; witch 093, Anon veuve Didier Vosgien de Bassing

9 May 1594; information preparatoires

Taken after denunciation by la vieille mairesse de Biderstorff.

(1) Jenon femme Claudin Peletier, vigneron, 26

Reputation 10 or 12 years.

(2) Agnelle femme Petter Lorre, 32

She and Catherine suspected for 16 years. Had lost many animals, and did not know cause. Did suspect her over death of a mare 9 months earlier, after there had been some dispute when her son Klein Hans wanted to reclaim garden sold to them.

(3) Jenon femme Jean Denys, 39

Reputation 23 years. Used her to treat sick animals, because 'elle scavoit bien signer le bestial'.

(4) Marie femme Moritz manouvrier, 25

10 years earlier had been called witch without taking any action.

(5) Barbe femme du maire Francois, 20

Reputation 5 years (residence).

(6) Claudin Haman, 52

Reputation 10 or 12 years.

(7) Petter Boulangier, laboureur, 40

Reputation 12 years; no personal suspicion.

(8) Petter Lore, 53

20 years before had been thought a whore, when she frequented the then curé.

(9) Loys Melenicque, 40

Reputation 20 years.

(10) Morise manouvrier, 30

Reputation as witch, had heard her called whore.

(11) Claudin Peletier, vigneron, 33

Reputation 15 years. Had heard story from Stoffel about how she and Catherine had come into his room trying to kill him; also believed they had made witness ill previous Lent. All same deposition as he made against Catherine.

(12) Francoys Melenicque, 36

Reputation 20 years.

(13) Schlosspetter, Mre echevin de Bassing, 50

Reputation 20 years as witch and whore. Great losses of beasts, and he suspected her and Catherine, who 'se mesloient toutes deux de signer le bestial malade'. Her daughter had told him that after attending execution at Bidestroff previous week she had asked her mother if she were a witch, since she had been denounced as such, begging her to leave if she were. She asked if the wife of Gros Jean of Bassing had been named, saying that if she were not there were none in the village.

(14) Noel Waultrin, vaintre aux salines de Dieuze, de Bassing, 40

Reputation 24 years (residence). Told of great losses of horses, including loss of 7 in 6 weeks, and of visit to Dom Jean at Niderhoff, who said it was witchcraft - in view of reputation of Anon and Catherine had always blamed them.

(15) Bernhard Humbert, manouvrier, 40

Long reputation as witch and whore; frequented Catherine, and they often ate together.

10 May 1594; interrogation

Said she was about 60, native of Bassing, daughter of Hanns Blomstein and his wife Fralloline. Knew she was accused of witchcraft; her daughter had come to tell her she brought 'de tristes nouvelles', and told her of accusation. Suggested that she should flee, but she said she was no witch and would remain. Also asked her if Evatte femme Gros Jean was accused, to which she said no. Agreed that she had been suspected for about a year, along with Catherine and Evatte.

Agreed that she cured animals, using prayer taught her by her mother, and also swollen legs and feet of people in hot weather. Asked about immorality, agreed she had offended with the late curé Messire Wirich. Asked about what she had said of wife of Gros Jean, said she held her as much a good woman as herself - then added that she had heard story that she had made hail.

12 and 17 May 1594; confrontations

No reproaches, but only admitted those facts she had already conceded. Said that she and Catherine had taken action against Stoffel and obtained apology at Domnon.

20 May 1594; Rémy says there are not sufficient indices to torture her, and she should be renvoyée if she does not confess anything more. Catherine should be

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asked if she is accomplice, and if she says so then more deposition can be taken on facts alleged.

26 May 1594; interrogation

Would confess nothing, and was then confronted with Catherine, who accused her of being her accomplice. After this said she saw she must die, but she was not a witch. Handed over to executioner (but not tortured), said it was Catherine who had persuaded her to become a witch. Asked about malefices, said it was Catherine who had committed them with her assistance, but would not be specific. Said her lover was called Persin, and had given her a coin which was worthless, but would confess nothing else.

1 June 1594; interrogation

Now denied she was witch, saying they could make her guilty and kill her, but she was innocent.

3 June 1594; Rémy protests that they had presented her to the torture 'precipitamment' without taking his advice as 'principale partie'. Asks for further confrontation with Catherine and more information.

8 June 1594; Change de Nancy approves

11 June 1594; confrontation and depositions

Anon was confronted with Catherine, who was to be executed that day, and who maintained her accusation to the last.

(16) Clemence, femme Petter Berker, basle de Bessing, 60

Told of affair with curé. Reputation as witch 12 years. 6 years ago her husband had been very ill for 18 weeks, believing Anon and Catherine had given him this after complaining that they could not pay tax assessment he had made. Also suspected them over some losses of animals, one of which followed occasion when Anon took some wood from their field and was obliged to return it.

(2) Catherine veuve Francois Cousturier, 30

Reputation 12 years (residence). Previous year her husband had rented some land from Anon, but there was dispute over rent later because he alleged it was not as large as she claimed. At Christmas his mouth became all swollen, and he died in a week - suspected Anon and Catherine, and had heard that Anon was pleased about death, saying the devil had taken him.

(3) Mengin Finel, couturier, 50

Affair with curé, and general belief in village that she and Catherine were witches. Previous Easter day, as marlier, he took chalice to Anon, but she did not drink at all.

11 June 1594; confrontations and interrogation

Copnfronted with the 3 new witnesses, agreed to some circumstantial detail, and that she had been angry with Francois Cousturier. Over chalice, claimed it was not the witness who presented it to her.

Short interrogation, in which she said she had done much harm with her companions, but could not say what until she was led to the fire.

29 June 1594; Rémy asks for torture

30 June 1594; Change de Nancy agrees

1 July 1594; interrogation

Said that 11 years before had been very unhappy after loss of 5 horses, and Catherine Gratte Teste said she should not be so sad, telling her she knew someone who would give her money to buy more horses. Went to woods to pick strawberries, where she was seduced by Bellzebock; gave her pot of money which turned out to be horse-dung. A week later was ordered to go and beat water; she and Catherine were seen by 'pasturelz', who called out that there were witches trying to bring up a cloud. Her valet Anthoine was among these, and when he told her about it she asked if he had identified the witches, but he said it had been too misty. Had been to sabbat some 3 months later, where she had seen la Tarillonnesse, Catherine la Heysseysen, and Clemence la basle of Bassing. Would confess nothing more.

4 July 1594; interrogation under torture

Began by denying her previous confessions. When racked started to confess afresh. Said accomplices had been Catherine Gratte Teste, Clemence la Bourguignotte, and Demel femme Welsch Antoine of Cutting. Later added Jennatte la Tarillonnesse. Mounted respectively on a fork, a broom, and a pick, had ridden high in clouds to do harm, but because bells were rung there was only heavy rain. Confessing making powder from ashes after burning still-born child, with which they killed two calves belonging to Schlosspetter. Had tried to kill Martin maire Anthoine, but frustrated because he had made sign of the cross. She and her accomplices were beaten by their devils when they refused to do harm. On one occasion would not waste crops because there was already a dearth, and they themselves would starve - Jennatte was so badly beaten when she took back this answer that she was in bed for a week. Had been angry at accusations by Stoffel, and planned to kill him, but again prevented because he had crossed himself. Masters again furious, beating them, and they finally killed a foal they found, after being unable to get into stable because it had been locked up and recommended to God.

7 July 1594; Rémy asks for death sentence

8 July 1594; Change de Nancy agrees