

B 5344 no 3; witch 100, Synnelle femme Schneyder Hanns d'Amange (Insming)

13 September 1608; René de Villier, who is in prison after calling the accused witch, and being charged by her husband in consequence, asks to be made partie formelle against her. Fluent signature. Substitut for PG asks court at Dieuze to have her arrested and information taken against her. Accuser to stay in prison or offer good security.

23 September 1608; informations preparatoires

(1) Thiebault Cordonnier, sergent en la justice d'Amange, 50

When she was on cart to be brought to Dieuze she said 'que si le fils de ribaulde pouvoit tant faire qu'elle fut bruslée (combien qu'elle espere en dieu qu'il n'y poulra advenir) qu'il y en y aura encore d'aultres plus riches qu'elle qui seront bruslées.' Reputation as long as he had been resident (25 years). Had told him was was not 'ung bon compère' not to have warned her of her arrest.

(2) Jacob Moitsch, 60

Reputation even at time of her first marriage. 4 years earlier had servant who told him several times that he saw her sitting in willow tree early on autumn mornings; told him to say nothing or harm might come to him, and went quickly into house himself.

(3) Jehenne veuve Adam Marchal d'Amange, demeurant à Büdersdorff, 60

5 years earlier her servant dropped bucket in well, and they asked Sennelle for loan of a rope, which she refused. Next day her daughter came to their house asking to borrow iron hook to recover their own bucket, which had suffered similar fate. Lent it, but remarked on their previous refusal; Sennelle later came to return it, and asked where 'la mauvaise femme de ceans' was. Witness replied that she was the only evil woman around, and later same day fell ill; was in such a state that she received sacraments that evening. Next day accused brought her a soup, on taking some of which she immediately began to recover, and was better in 2 weeks; believed she had made her ill.

(4) Luc Reyss, 50

Reputation 18 years (residence); remark on cart that others with greater means would follow her.

(5) Hanns Cordonnier, 50

His late brother-in-law Nicklass Cordonnier had suffered great losses, and come to him crying, saying 'O dieu mon aymé beaufreere je suis ruyné, car j'ay totalement point de chance, mes bestailles a cornes se meurent, mes enfans se meurent aussy, je ne scay plus ce que je doihs commencer.' Decided to keep watch by night in his 'boutticle', and saw accused come with a pot in her hands which she threw against the stable door. Called out to her that she was a witch and caused deaths of children and animals, so he would have her burned. She replied that he

should say nothing, and he would have no more losses; he had wanted to shoot her with arquebus, but after these words let matters be.

After arrest had called accuser 'roman, laron et meschant, et qu'il ne pouloit jamais faire paroistre sur elle de ce qu'il la chargeoit qu'elle soit une sorciere, et que s'il peult trouver ung article sur Rooles ou Registre qu'elle soit esté accusée ou puisse estre sorciere qu'on la brusle, et qu'on la menoit à Dieuze parce qu'elle estoit pauvre et laissoit on les riches en la maison.' Added that executioner of Puttelange, who had burned witches at Altorff, had told him she was 'une sorciere manifeste'.

(6) Fritsch Spoule, 30

In youth had heard that someone was throwing water against their stable door; mother later told him that father had caught Sennelle doing this. First time he called out to her would not reply, second time said it would not harm him. Ran off to her house; father thought of taking her before maire, but was advised to leave her alone, 'car l'on ne scauroit rien gagner à elle'. Remark about leaving rich alone when she was on cart.

(7) Fiacre Barbier d'Albestorff, 30

4 or 5 years earlier the late Adam Marchal had sent for him to help cure his wife; brought a drink for her, but found that Adam had also sent to Sennelle, with message that he suspected her and she should come to heal his wife. She had replied that she heard there was a barber there, and she could not help his wife if she had already been given something. Told she had taken nothing yet, made her a soup; when she came Adam told him to go out quickly so she did not see him - went off to dine with baker, and later the victim recovered.

(8) Barthel Weisskopff d'Albestorff, 36

Some 14 or 15 years earlier, before marriage, his late wife Magdelaine went with father's maid Sabine, sister of the accused, to fête at Amange. Dined in Sennelle's house with Clemence, daughter of the patissier of Amange, after which the two girls fell ill. Magdelaine had to stay a week in priory before being brought home. Her brother Hannezo Tambach threatened to kill Sennelle if she did not cure his sister, and she made her a soup. Was not cured even so; he married her, but was unwell during 5 years until death, always suspecting her of being cause. Long reputation.

(9) Philippe Bouleman de Nelling, 26

Long reputation. Had been guarding her at Amange, and heard her say there was no-one who could show she was a witch, and that if she was she would denounce all her accomplices. Said to him and companion 'qu'une partie couroient fort et qu'ilz pouloient bien estre fichéz plus avant en l'affaire qu'elle.'

(10) Fritzen Hanns de Nelling, 22

Also testified to remarks when she was under guard, and long reputation.

(11) Demenge Schweytzer, 56

About 12 years earlier late Niclass Cordonnier had complained to him about way she had wetted his doorway. 10 years before, as banward, had fined her for damage done by cattle, leading to quarrel after which he had horses and cattle dead. Did not know who was responsible, but she had long reputation.

(12) Contzen Nickel, 40

Long reputation, and threat that if she was burned bigger people than her would also be burned.

(13) Mariette femme Thonius, 55

First husband had been Niclass Cordonnier; told of how he had caught Sennelle wetting his doorway, and threatened to throw a stone at her.

(14) Jean Laiffer, prévôt d'Amange, 40

Had returned from business at Nancy 3 years earlier to find his small son was ill, producing foul-smelling excrement, and he soon died. Had always suspected she was cause - long reputation.

(15) Jean Tixerand, 40

Reputation 30 years, story of her having been seen in willow tree.

(16) Mongeatte femme Clement Thiebault, 50

Story of quarrel over loan of hook by wife of Adam Marchal (this witness said it could not be found when asked for). Then illness, summoning of surgeon, also of Sennelle. Latter told victim she did not know she was ill, and she should be quiet, then would soon recover. Asked for an onion to make a soup, while getting all the other women to leave. After recovery witness and victim found they shared suspicion that Sennelle had given her the illness.

(23 September 1608)

(17) Clement Thiebault, paticier, 50

Reputation 20 years. 15 years before her husband had been guarding wife of Bitscher Symet, who told him 'qu'il s'en alle garder ceulx qui estoient en sa maison et qu'il y en trouveroit des jeunes et des vieilles'.

(18) Jean Cailla, 28

That year had rented some pasture rights she had previously held, and she told him he would not profit; 3 weeks later had a horse dead, and suspected no-one but her. Long reputation, and her 2 daughters also suspect.

(19) Synnelle veuve du feu maitre d'école, 60

Long reputation.

(20) Daniel Melon, de Lauviler, 34

13 or 14 years earlier had been guarding another woman accused of witchcraft, when she tried to escape, and was caught by gate by husband of Synnelle. He said to her 'sorciere, tu t'en veulx fuir pensant nous couster notre bien', to which she replied 'qu'il regarde derrier son feu ce qu'il y avoit et qu'il n'avoit que faire de tant mener de bruyt'.

(21) Mariette femme du precedent, 30

Similar story about remarks made to him by accused - witness was servant to prévôt at time.

(22) Odile femme de Henry Cousturier, 65

Sennelle had told her how after Adam Marchal's wife refused to lend her something she became ill, and she had been told to make her a soup. Had also said that when she had a sick child another woman told her to take urine and throw it against doorposts of neighbour.

(23) Clemens Hanns, 57

Since he exercised retraite on a house bought by husband of accused had lost two mares and their foals; suspected this might have been her doing.

(24) Thomas Tourneur, 70

Story about how she said 'que l'on prenoit les pauvres et laissoit on les riches, et qu'il falloit qu'elle porte le bain sur elle'.

(25) Wilmens Thomas, 40

Similar testimony.

(11 October 1608)

(26) Catherine Fogel, femme du prévôt d'Amange, 30

4 years earlier her son, aged about 21 months, had gone into neighbouring house where Odile la Schwoberesse and the accused were spinning. Was kissed by both, then became ill; Odile put him on her bed, where he slept briefly, then fouled himself. When Odile brought him back to witness, latter said it was not a natural malady, and that she suspected Sennelle in view of kiss - told all those who came to visit him about this. Excrement was black and stinking. Sennelle came to see him and rubbed his face with her hand - others said she should not have done this. Curé came to see child, and said 'votre enfant est malade d'une mauvaise air chose assurée qu'il en mourra'. Did indeed die within a few days. Had heard from her servant Caspar that Sennelle had been asking whether they were not going to take back the house in which she lived.

The late Madlaine femme Barthell Weiskopff had told witness how Sennelle had made her and daughter of patissier drink, after which they became ill, and she ultimately died. Fleisch Hanns, to whom she told story of child's illness, said she

was an evil neighbour; he suspected her of killing one of his children, but had said nothing. Long reputation, and remarks when she was on the cart.

26 September 1608; interrogation

Said she was about 56, native of Miderss (Mittersheim ?), daughter of Stockhanns and his wife Anne. After their death had been in service at Lhor, Rening, and Albestorff, then married Thomas le Baur of Amange, with whom she lived for 3 years. Widow 15 months, then remarried with present husband Hanns Glock, cousturier, 'aupres duquel elle at enduré plusieurs fortunes mauux at ennuy's', and kept house for 25 years.

Denied she had been called witch, and said her husband had never beaten her. Asked 'si elle n'a usé de paillardise aultrefois?', said many had sought after her in her youth, but she had resisted them. Denied remarks on cart, apart from complaining of sergent, because he had not given her enough warning to get properly dressed.

Admitted that after loan of hook she had been blamed for illness of marchal's wife, and had made her a soup, telling her to eat it in the name of Jesus and she would recover. This had been 'cause d'en encourir un grand danger et inconvenient', and she would not make soup for sick people in future. Said she knew Fleisch Hanns had a son dead, who had been playing with other children behing her neighbour's house, but denied she had given him a beet or anything else to eat.

Denied threats to Cailla; knew he had a horse dead, but had head this was from 'une apostume'. Admitted throwing urine from sick child against doorposts of neighbour to obtain healing. Agreed she had visited sick child of prévôt, but denied all other charges about this incident.

Confrontations

In response to Hanns Cordonnier, said it had been the late Mayette, wife of Nicklass, who told her to throw urine of sick child against doorposts (probably muddle here, since it was Nicklass who was dead). Said to Demenge Schweytzer that he should have fired his arquebus, then she would not be here in prison.

On deposition of prévôt's wife, admitted that she had touched sick child's face like other women. Added that she herself had been born on a Sunday; had never seen any evil spirits, 'et qu'elle croyt pour la sainteté du jour que mal ne luy scauroit arriver'.

No reproaches to any witnesses, but denied all charges.

18 October 1608; substitut for PG asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

21 October 1608; Change de Nancy approves

24 October 1608; interrogation under torture

Started to confess as soon as she was lifted clear of ground. Seduced 20 years earlier when out gathering wood, and 'forte desolée et affligée' because their cattle were dead. Master was Federwisch or Torcheplume; usual seduction scene, money was broken pottery.

Later taken to feast where Annchen fille Gachann de Rorbach was to be married. Others present were wife of Gros Maire, Clement Hanns (also called

Jaqhanns), Odile femme Heinrich Cousturier and her daughter Catherine, Elss and Annchin daughters of Scheck, Synnelle femme Schur Adam, the old prévôt's wife, and Bingen femme Frantz, all of Amange, with Gros Mayette femme Fritz, Mayette, veuve Moitsch Thiebolt, Dempten Heinrich and his son Hanns, and the wife of the Gro Maire, all of Nelling. Last was captain, and she was paid 3 gros by each of them on Wednesday before Lent; son of Dempten Heinrich was ensign and had flag of black silk.

Confessed to making Marchal's wife ill, giving her drink with help of accomplices. Cured her with red powder given by her master, in soup which also included armoise and morsure du diable.

Had thrown child's urine against doorposts to cause death of cattle - had powder mixed in it. Also confessed other crimes as alleged by witnesses, including killing prévôt's son - had given him drink previous night with accomplices. Had made hail with some 20 others on orders of their masters, and had burned bodies of 2 stillborn children to obtain powder.

Asked about Easter communion, said she had taken host home and put it in pot - had been burned with her house.

29 October 1608; C.M. Rémy asks for death sentence

30 October 1608; Change de Nancy approves, after repetition of confessions freely

8 November 1608; sentence pronounced in courtyard of château, confessions read out, and execution takes place