

Witch 102, Jennon femme Lux Barquel 1

B 5354 no 1; Witch 102, Jennon femme Lux Barquel de Blanche Eglise

27 June 1613; substitut for PG de Lorraine at Dieuze states he has sufficient information about her reputation - threats and effects, much feared - and asks for depositions.

28 June 1613; informations preparatoires

(1) Mathieu Thiery, manoeuvrier, 40

2 years earlier he became herdsman for calves when she had charge of cows, and they had a quarrel during which she told him he would not have charge of the big ones for long. 2 weeks later 15 or 16 of them died, and he suspected her. 18 months earlier quarrelled over some shared plums, and called her witch, saying he would have her burned. Pretended not to hear him, but her daughter told her he was calling her witch, and she replied they should leave him. Reputation 20 years - driven out of Chateaux Houé as such.

(2) Double Hans, laboureur, 50

Reputation 7 years. 3 years earlier had refused her some wine, and next day his best horse fell ill and died within day, over which he suspected her.

(3) Francois Adam, manoeuvrier, 47

Reputation 15 years. Somne 7 years earlier had been keeping horse belonging to her husband with his, but finally returned it when he bought another - this latter promptly died, and he suspected her. Also told how previous year he saw her coming up path from river far from her house; when he asked her what she was doing said she had been looking at a sheet she had put on a hedge, but he saw none and suspected she had been to sabbat.

(4) Dieudonné paistre des vaches du moctrier de Boreche, 17

7 weeks earlier his animals became mixed up with those she was guarding; she called him 'fils de putain', her husband called him 'fils de sorcier'. She struck one of his cows on the back with a stick - later became ill, and was still in danger. 2 weeks earlier she had come to stable and asked after the cow; servant girl said she wished those who had given the sickness might have as much themselves, to which she replied 'Par dieu tu n'est guerre sage d'ainsy souhaiter mal a une personne dieu l'en veuille bien garder'.

(5) Collas de Chazaille, paistre des rouges bestes, 34

3 years earlier the large calves had been dying in numbers, and when he expressed his regret to her husband he said it was because they were not getting enough water. Witness objected that in this case the little ones should be dying as well. Over next 3 days lost two small ones and one large - suspected her of causing this. Reputation 11 years (residence). 14 years earlier had met her when guarding animals, and she told him she knew a 'recepte' to prevent wolves getting nearer than 9 paces from animals. When he asked to be told it, she said he would not understand it because it was in German.

(6) Jean Granchier, laboureur, 40

Reputation 7 years (residence). 4 years earlier her husband had beaten two of his young bulls which strayed into their garden, and he told him they ought to have it properly fenced off. Animals died soon after, and he suspected her. 3 years earlier had fined her calves as 'bangard', after which his best horse died strangled - again suspected her.

(7) Clemance femme Collas Moictrier, 60

Always reputed witch, and had heard her called so by her husband's nieces. At veillée previous winter had asked her why she allowed herself to be called witch, and she tried to cry but shed no tears.

(8) Bastien veuve le Gros Feltien, 40

Always reputed witch. 3 years ago had asked her if she wanted to send 2 large calves to herd; she said no, because others did not do so, and they died soon after, over which she suspected her.

(9) Meclon veuve Didier Lhuilier, 34

Was husband's niece, and 6 years earlier had quarrel with her, after which her husband fell ill and died in 3 months, saying he was sure she had made him ill. Had heard others blame her for deaths of horses.

(10) Adloff Collin moictrier à Boreche, 45

General reputation; suspected her over illness of cow as described by his herdsman (witness 4)

(11) Colas Chalain le jeune, 23

Reputation 3 years; called witch by Gros Claude previous year without taking action.

(5 July 1613)

(12) Claude Cloppestein bouchier de Marsal, 40

4 years earlier had bought 2 pigs at Blanche Eglise, but when he went to kill second one found it was dead; suspected she had killed it because he had not payed her the 'vin'. 2 years ago bought a cow and an ox in village, but former died same day, and ox became ill. Sent for her husband to cure it, promising to pay well, and it recovered - believed she had caused this for same reason as before. Reputed witch for 5 years he had known her.

(13) Colas Cuisenier, laboureur, 33

Reputation 3 years (residence); general belief that she had been responsible for deaths of calves some 2 years earlier.

(14) Zenelle femme du precedent, 30

Reputation 6 years. 2 years earlier had told witness that she was suspected over calves and might be arrested, saying that if she were a witch 'je me feroy prendre et diroy tout ce que je sauroy pour estre hors du monde'.

(15) Henry Lorentz serviteur à Colas Lenfan de la Basse Lindre, 28

Knew nothing against her.

30 June 1613; substitut orders arrest and interrogation

1 July 1613; interrogation

Said she was about 50, daughter of Pierron Beublait and his wife Jeannon of Chateaux Houé. Had gone into service at age of 8 or 9, and continued until she was 28. Then married Mengeon from Pont--à-Mousson, who went into garrison at Marsal, then left with other soldiers 6 weeks after marriage - never saw him again, heard he had been killed. After 6 years of widowhood married present husband when they were both in service at Blanche Eglise, and had been married 18 years. First year of marriage husband had been baker, ever since herdsman. Admitted that his parents had been hostile to her, claiming that her parents had been chased out of La Motte as 'mauvaises gens', and that while husband had property she had none.

Asked whether she had been sought by anyone for 'paillardise' until marriage, said only once by first husband before they were married. Agreed to various minor details of accusations, but explained everything in very reasonable manner. Admitted that 7 weeks earlier she had called boy 'fils de putain' but said she had been laughing. Denied conversation with servant about illness of cow, and comments about illness of calves, as well as declaring herself ignorant of spell to keep off wolves. Admitted quarrel with husband's niece; said her husband had been 'taillé' and that surgeon said he went back to work too soon. Agreed to conversation with Zenelle - Hanzo Buisson had told her to leave because they were going to arrest her.

6 and 9 July 1613; confrontations

No reproaches. Said that if everyone called her witch this was because she was not 'mauvaise pour s'en venger'. No admissions of more than the odd dispute.

12 July 1613; substitut for PG (at Nancy) asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

20 July 1613; Change de Nancy agrees

26 July 1613; interrogation under torture

Was given torture, during which she was asked if she agreed there were witches in the world - replied 'de par sa foy qu'elle n'en scait rien'. Otherwise would confess nothing - torture seems to have been version of strappado, given for 2 hours. Critical note in margin (apparently in hand used by substitut at Nancy) saying that some jolts given by executioner were contrary to advice of Change.

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27 July 1613; interrogation under torture

This time appears to have been racked. Marginal note here 'ceste reiteration de question est contre le droit et la pratique'. Would still not confess, saying that she prayed God that she were a witch, and that she would say so but could not damn her soul.

6 August; substitut at Nancy proposes that she be renvoyée

Same day Change de Nancy approves, with firm note that in future the court at Dieuze should not repeat torture without new indices, and approval from Change.

17 August 1613; note that she has been released.