

Witch 105, Sibille Vacquaire 1

B 5757; witch 105, Sibille femme Jean Vacquaire d'Einville

5 July 1606; informations preparatoires

(1) Didier de Fer, d'Einville, 25

Some 3 years earlier his mother-in-law Blaisotte was ill, and told his wife she felt as if her stomach was full of frogs, without suggesting she blamed anyone. Soon the accused spoke to him, saying his mother-in-law and his wife had accused her, and mentioning the frogs, although there was no way she could have known what was said between them. Asked if he had heard of any other illnesses she had given, said some 4 years ago Jacot Bernard le vieux was very ill; when witness visited him he said Sibille had caused it. Subsequently heard that one of his sons had threatened to have her imprisoned as witch unless she cured him, and that he had recovered.

(2) Nicolas Marlier masson d'Einville, 30

She had been suspected as a witch when she and her husband lived at Valhey 10 years earlier. Had lost a cow suddenly 6 years earlier, which he believed had been her work. Some 5 years before on return from Rozieres his wife told him two of his cows were lost in woods; went to find her husband, who was herdsman, and threatened to have her arrested as a witch, after which his cows soon returned. Also believed she had caused death of a fine pig; had often called her witch without any reaction.

(3) Bernard Jacquot d'Einville, 34

General reputation; told story of illness of his father Jacot Bernard, which followed 2 days after quarrel with her, and his belief that she was responsible. Had heard from Maurice Jan de Crion, living at Valhey, that she had killed his father 10 years before.

(4) Nicole femme du precedent, 34

Same story; illness had come on as if father-in-law was pricked between shoulders as he left house.

(5) Estienne Goudat d'Einville, 61

Reputation since residence. Demenge Goguette had told him he had lost a cow, and she had said this would not have happened if he had put it in herd with others. Also told of Jacot Bernard's illness.

(6) Demenge Goguette d'Einville, 40

General reputation. Some 5 years before had put young cow in herd, but was light and often strayed, so that she often cursed and beat it, so he told his wife

to keep it at home. Died 2 or 3 days later; she made remark cited by previous witness when wife told her of death.

(7) Claudon Villermin d'Einville, 45

Reputation since residence - 10 years. Similar story to that of previous witness about another cow of his own; became ill, she and husband cured it, put it into another herd of young animals and it died in a week. Story of Jacquot Bernard's illness.

(8) Aubertin Tripa d'Einville, 30

Some 6 years before his wife was suckling small child, and Sibille asked her to be wet-nurse for her niece; she refused, saying she did not have enough milk, and witness backed her up, saying she should keep milk for her own child. She replied that his wife would repent, and 2 days later went to river to wash clothes, where Sibille was, and fell violently ill, being bedridden for 8 or 9 months. Finding Sibille in street, he accused her of having made his wife ill, saying that unless she cured her he would have her burned, and had 50 francs to use for the purpose. Next day she came to house, and he threatened to kill her or have her burned; she asked if they had made pilgrimage, and when told they had not advised one to Bel Bernard at Vic. Had wife taken there on cart, and within a few days she recovered - believed illness had been work of Sibille.

(9) Jacquot Bernard d'Einville, 60

Some 4 years before had dispute with her when she demanded payment for keeping animals, and he reproached her that they had not been taken out by eight in the morning, and were dying of hunger; then regretted speaking so strongly, since she told him he would repent and he feared her. Three days later as he left house in morning to pee, thought of her threats and immediately became ill, so that he thought he would die and sent for priest to confess. Recovered after 10 or 12 weeks, but at that moment a fine pig died; thought all this was her work.

Added that Jean de Crion of Valhey had told him on sickbed that they would not drink together again, and that he was bewitched to death, because as 'gouverneur de ville' he had deprived her husband of the herd of Valhey - died a few days later.

(10) Caterine femme Jacquot Bernard, 58

Repeated essentials of husband's story.

(11) Margueritte femme Gregoire Marchal d'Einville, 30

Some 2 years before husband had let a garden to husband of accused, in return for free herding of his animals; Sibille had been dissatisfied, and come to ask for payment, which she was refused. Soon after met her coming back from oven,

and she gave piece of bread to child aged 2, which promptly fell very ill, dying 3 days later; witness believed this was her work.

(12) Agnes femme Nicolas Herbel d'Einville, 35

Had taken no harm from her.

(13) Jehenne femme Aubertin Tripa d'Einville, 40

Repeated bare essentials of husband's deposition.

(14) Barbe femme Didier Pinel d'Einville, 27

10 years before one of the cows of her father Jean de Crion had leg broken in herd at Valhey, and he said they would pay for it; was immediately stricken by illness from which he died, which he believed she had given him. Also said she believed that Sibille wished her ill on this account, and had killed several of their horses and cows.

(15) Alizon femme Claudon Villermin d'Einville, 46

Had lost a cow 3 years earlier, and suspected Sibille because she had said this would not have happened if it had been in their herd.

(16) Didier Pinel d'Einville, 36

Repeated wife's accusations, saying he had lost 10 animals, and adding that he believed Sibille was 'cause de sa ruine totale, dont il est presentement reduit en pauvreté'.

(17) Didier Caillot d'Einville, 50

Some time before his wife had quarrelled with her after cow died in herd, saying they had no beasts left, after another had been drowned. Sibille asked if she thought she was the cause, to which she said 'qu'elle n'en scavoit rien'; within 3 days lost 2 horses and a foal, which he believed had been her work.

(18) Barbe femme du precedent, 45

Repeated husband's testimony.

(19) Didier Malgray d'Einville, 23

Some 2 months before she had asked to borrow money off him, but he had told her he had none to lend, and she was annoyed. Then asked to hire a barn, which he said he wanted for his own use; she said he would repent. Later they had a cow which was lost for 3 or 4 days, and she told both him and his wife that they

need search no longer, for she had seen a wolf which would strangle it that day - this duly occurred.

(20) Mengeatte femme Claudin Patenotte moictrier de la Borde proche Einville, 40

Already reputed witch 20 years before at Valhey, but no personal suspicion.

(21) Claudin Patenotte moictrier de la Borde, 40

Reputation 20 years; common opinion that she had killed Jean de Crion.

(22) Gregoire Marchal d'Einville, 28

Repeated wife's story over death of child.

(23) Didier Cognient masson d'Einville, 40

4 years before she wanted to buy some hay, but there was difficulty over price; seeing she did not want to pay for collecting, told her she could have it if she fetched it, but she refused. Soon after his small child died, and presumed this was her work. 6 years before he and other masons were working on house of Jean Blaison when she came and sat on a piece of stone alongside him; he was frightened, and immediately after she left became so ill that he fell to the ground.

(24) Claudon Fourestier d'Einville, 38

Reputation since residence. Some 5 years before he had agreed to take her son as apprentice draper, but after a month the boy left. She brought him back, but witness refused to take him; was then very ill for a month. She met Demenge Aulbry and asked how witness was, to which he replied that he was in danger of leaving his wife and children, to which she responded that he would not die but would recover in 2 or 3 days. This made him believe she had given him the illness.

(25) Pieresson Roy le jeune, laboureur d'Einville, 30

At Whitsun previous year she had asked for payment for guarding animals, saying that if he did not pay he would see what happened, and he had asked her to wait a little, promising to pay soon. 3 days later had a foal strangled, although he saw no wolf, with marks on throat like those of teeth of a wolf; believed this to be her work, on account of threats and reputation.

6 July 1606; substitut for procureur général de Lorraine at Lunéville orders her arrest and interrogation.

12 July 1606; confrontations

No useful results; made no reproaches, admitted some incidental details, but denied all wrongdoing.

12 July 1606; interrogation

Said she was daughter of Demenge Jan Collatte and his wife Catherine of Deuxville; had lived with them until she was 17, when she went into service at Herviller (1 year), Lunéville (2), faubourg de Lunéville (1), Marches (4), Baptemont (1). She left last of these to marry Jean Vacquaire, and was now about 50. Knew she had been arrested as a witch, but denied this.

Judges asked why in that case she had asked for a priest so that she could confess, and had told Messire Philbert that she had been seduced a year earlier by a man in green with cloven feet; she had told him her husband was ill, and he had promised her 3 or 4 francs. She said she had made confession to be removed from the 'fond du fosse' where she was, and it had been untrue. Claimed that previous night she had seen light in form of candles held by a shadowy figure, and figures like angels, but they had not spoken to her.

Sent back to prison and fetched out again in afternoon, now said man in green had appeared four times to her, and was called Persin. He had offered her powder, but she had always refused to take it. Judges reproached her that she had heard depositions, but she would confess no more.

15 July 1606; substitut asks that before proceeding further she be closely questioned about her confessions concerning the man in green.

17 July 1606; interrogation

Repeated story of meeting man in green; was lamenting husband's illness, believing he would never recover, while she was having great difficulty guarding herd. Promised to bring money, but did not do so, and she made sign of cross at which he disappeared. Had refused to take powder, and had realized he was the devil, so wanted nothing to do with him.

20 July 1606; substitut asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

21 July 1606; Change de Nancy approves

24 July 1606; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews on hands and feet, now said she had been to sabbat four times. Confessed to killing cow of Nicolas Marlier because he called her witch and threatened to have her burned; had made Jacot Bernard ill with black powder, cured him with yellow - same for wife of Aubertin Tripa. Had killed Jan de Crion. Confessed to killing some animals, but not all - sometimes depositions were read out to her.

Said that at sabbat she had seen Jan Blaison, Jan des Boeufs, le Gascon, and l'Ardoisiere, all of Einville; also said her daughter Claudon was a witch, and had seen Michiel Hadol and Le Grand Mengin of Deuxville there. At this point was warned that she must not accuse anyone wrongly or out of hatred, which would be a great scandal, but she persisted.

Witch 105, Sibille Vacquaire 6

27 July 1606; Rémy asks for death sentence

27 July 1606; Change de Nancy approves, if she repeats confessions freely

31 July 1606; formal death sentence from court at Einville