

B 6723 no 1: witch 107, Mengette femme Jean Cachette de Flin

5 June 1602; informations préparatoires

Taken by Symon Charier, maître echevin in prévôté of Azerailles. She was accused by Jean Belat of Flin 'partie plaindante et formelle', and substitut for PG de Lorraine at Lunéville had authorised production of witnesses on 1 June.

(1) Jean de Gonville, du Mesnil de Flin, 64

Reputation went back even before her marriage 18 years earlier. 9 years before his late wife Fleuratte became mortally ill; said she had expected to outlive him, but had been prevented by Mengette. Latter visited her a day before her death, and she complained to witness, asking why he had allowed her in the house. After death could not help revealing her suspicions, and father of accused, Bartremen le Comte, came to house with Mengette to make furious protest. Witness replied that wife had always maintained 'qu'il n'y avoit personne que sache mieulx la verité qu'elle prevenue et qu'elle luy avoit fait ung grand tord s'elle en estoit cause'.

(2) Le maire Demenge Mareschal, du Mesnil de Flin, 62

Reputation only.

(3) Jehenne femme Demenge Didier Ydatte, 26

Reputation as long as she could remember, like her mother. Had small boy named Blaise, aged 3, who was lively and sometimes caused children of accused to run off crying during play; around St Martin previous winter fell ill. Complained of stomach pains and an animal moving towards shoulder which tried to strangle him, then lost use of legs and had to be carried, finally a lump appeared on his back. 3 weeks earlier Mengette had come to house and passed hand over his head and body, then said to witness 'Taise toy garde le bien il mourrira quelque jours'. On way out took down a cheese, then put it back; suspected she had given him the illness and come either to kill or to cure him. Also claimed that some 8 years before her daughter Jehenne, now 18, had told story of going out with her mother and grandmother into a wood where they danced with calves and black dogs - was then called away by her grandmother Laurence, leaving others saying 'a dieu nous commande elle nous fera tantost morir', meaning the grandmother whom they feared greatly.

(4) Seville femme Jean Belat (plaindant), 40

Reputation 26 years (residence). Witness had not known good health since her husband accused Laurence mother of Mengette, who had been imprisoned at Azerailles; trouble with different parts of body, most recently arms, and unable to work and earn living for last 7 weeks. Believed that if she was witch as reputed this was her doing in revenge for action against mother. Daughter Jehenne had also been unable to walk properly for 12 weeks. The two of them had sometimes questioned the daughter of the accused while they were spinning at poisle, but she had watched 'de travers et avec des gros yeulx'. Had been in their house 8 years earlier that Jehenne had told story that her grandmother Laurence 'avoit par fois une chatte qu'avoit ung couvrecoup et mectoit de l'eau dans le pot, puis prenoient ung

ramont et montoient en hault d'ung Gramet et descendant alloient entre deux terres jusques derrier le bois de la grande haye, ou elles dansoient, avec des veaux rouges, et des petits chiens, ayant sa mere grand ung cotillon drap gris et la prevenue sa mere ung cotillon rouge.' Laurence then came calling loudly for girl, as far as their door, which was some way from her house, and gave her great telling off.

(5) Jean Choion le viel, 66

Reputation more than 10 years.

(6) Anthoine Brocuelat laboureur, 70

Reputation since her youth. Previous year he had a fine foal which they envied, and if they were witches as reputed thought she or husband had caused it to become blind, so he had to sell it at great loss.

(7) Jean Vannier, 30

Always reputed witch, like her mother. Previous year witness bought foal at fair of Rambervilliers, and her husband admired it. When he returned from ploughing the foal wandered off from in front of his house to that of Cachatte, and 2 or 3 days later became ill; was very hot, went from side to side, could not settle in stable. Died in another week, and thought either Cachatte or his wife were cause. 3 years earlier had bought a cow, and Mengette admired it as his wife took it to pasture; within a few days became ill, unable to stand properly, but recovered after 7 or 8 weeks. Believed this had been her witchcraft (if she was a witch). Had heard from Jean Marchal, then lieutenant of prévôt, that during mother's imprisonment she had asked to be told if there was bad news so that she and her husband could flee.

(8) Demenge Purel, laboureur, 30

For 18 years had heard from father and others that she was a witch. Some 3 years earlier, when several men were talking outside their houses, Cachatte had remarked that witness had good horses which turned more earth than others. Next day one of them went lame, and was only cured after 7 weeks. Wife was greasing it with 'viesoien', and after some 3 weeks Mengette came up as she was doing this; offered to give her some more of her own, since she was running short, and duly sent her daughter Fleuratte with some. Believed that if they were witches as reputed they had made horse sick then cured it.

Previous Lent her father-in-law Gerardin Cachatte was selling his horses to take mortmain, and at her suggestion he thought of buying one, but could not agree price. Soon after lost a foal - 'escorcheur' found it was full of venom. Also suspected her of trying to cause accident to child aged 2 by fire.

(9) Dieudonnée femme Jean Vannier, 29

Reputation 8 years (marriage). Repeated husband's story about cow; lost milk after giving birth, so calf had to be sold when small. Also story about foal; added that Jean Cachatte had, according to their servant, touched it with his 'serpette' while pointing out it had trouble with an eye. If they were witches as reputed believed one or the other responsible.

(10) Nicolle femme Demenge Puel, 30

Repeated husband's story about treating sick horse with grease provided by accused - had previously been using some he had got from smith at Rambervilliers. Also story of foal which died.

(11) Jean Guerin, 36

Reputation 20 years. Some 12 years earlier one of his stepsons accidentally struck a cow belonging to her on head with a flail he was using for threshing; next day became very ill. After 3 days were advised to get bread and salt from her house to make him a soup, and he recovered within 2 days - was still alive. Later her husband was one of those taken before bailliage at Lunéville for stealing wood belonging to witness and associates; lost a cow at this time, which he suspected had been in revenge for this.

(7 June 1602)

(12) Nicolas Harman, bourgeois, 40

Long reputation. Believed if she was witch she had caused death of 2 horses 6 or 7 years before. This followed quarrel when she tried to give him less grain than he demanded for damage done by their horses, and he told her she had a bad reputation and ought to be burned.

(13) Claude Harman, 40

Long reputation. Some 5 years earlier had dispute with husband over damage done while ploughing, then a horse sickened; finally had to be killed after a year. Had 'fantaisie' that if she was witch as reputed then she had caused this, and when he met her told her if she did not cure horse he would have her taken to be burned, or would beat her. She replied 'qu'elle scavoit ja bien qu'il la menassoit, que le diable ait part que tant dargoit, s'il pansoit qu'il n'en y eut point d'autres qu'elle, et que tout aussy bien languissoit elle sur terre.'

(14) Jean de Frambois, laboureur, 30

Reputation 11 years (marriage). Had heard her called witch by Claudine, servant to Jean Chatton, then vicaire at Flin, two and a half years before. Told her husband that if he did not seek redress it would be said openly, but had not heard that he did anything.

(15) Claude Moictrier, charier, 60

Reputation 12 years.

(16) Jehenne veuve Jean Deran, 50

Reputation 12 years. At that time her daughter Claudette was in service in their house, and was sent to buy pears from witness (her mother). Were still on tree, and since she had 5 or 6 small children, and little means to feed them, she sent back a refusal. Within 2 weeks daughter had such pain in thigh that she could not walk,

and had to come home. Sent small boy aged 7 to follow plough, while she herself went in evening 'bracquer du lin', hoping to appease them and to secure healing for her daughter, since in view of reputation believed Mengette might have bewitched her. Latter then came to house and asked girl to return; at first she said she could not, but witness persuaded her to try, saying that by grace of God she might be healed. Within 3 days recovered completely, and witness sent some pears as a gift. 5 years earlier Mengette had met her daughter Jehenne and said to her 'grosse truande, qu'elle ne feroit que d'aller au bois toute sa vie', after which there was a quarrel. A year later lost her only cow, worth 30 francs, on which she relied to feed her children; 6 week illness, with 'vilenie' coming from mouth, and everyone said it was bewitched. After this Jehenne quarrelled with her again, then fell and broke leg in a place where there was no cause for this - could not testify herself because she was 'inocente'.

(17) Jehenne femme Michiel Hanry, 26

Long reputation. Her mother had believed she was cause of her death, and had not wanted her to come to house during illness; had told witness that she had come, and touched her near her feet, 2 or 3 days before death. Witness might have said something about this (was small then), and later accused and her father came and upbraided her father Jean de Glonville.

(18) Jean Mengin, cousturier, 50

Long reputation, although he had seen no harm in her. Had guarded her mother when she was taken to Azerailles, and she had instructed him to tell Mengette and her husband to leave when he got back to Flin - thought this was because she feared they too would be arrested.

(19) Bernard Didier Symonin, laboureur, 50

When mother was in prison he had been echevin in prévôté, and she had begged him to tell her if mother confessed anything; he had chased her away and told her to seek advice elsewhere.

(20) Dieudonné Demenge Alix, 40

Long reputation. His first wife Alix had been sister of Jean Cachette, and there had been arrangement whereby they lived with her father Gerardin Cachette and did ploughing, in return for third of profits. Lost 2 horses in second year, and believed this was her doing because she was envious; also believed that she had caused death of his wife and their son aged 3, and wanted to ensure she rather than the witness would inherit the property.

(21) Anthoine Vannier, laboureur, 40

Long reputation. Some 3 years earlier Claudon femme Jean Cachette le saulnier, her neighbour, had called her witch, and her husband had told hers to make her shut up, or he would do it himself. 4 years before had taken her son Bartremin into service for ploughing, but sent him home as unsuitable after a week, paying him by the day. Soon after a cow died suddenly, and his wife quarrelled with her by the river, calling her witch and blaming her for death of cow, to which

she replied 'que s'elle estoit Jenache pourquoy on ne la faisoit prandre qu'on la faisoit languir sur terre'. Had been persistently ill himself, but suspected her husband over this, since he believed he had heard his voice near him while he was bedridden. Believed he had been afflicted by a 'lezarde' which entered body through boils on his side; cured after neighbour advised him to eat bread, salt, and yeast from her house. Around last Christmas cats came into house fighting, and had great trouble driving them out; believed this had ben accused and husband, seeking to harm them, but that they had been prevented by God's grace. Had made pilgrimage to Sainte larme at Vendome on frontiers of Normandy, and on return just after wife's death servants told him that during 3 weeks of illness they had been frightened by great cries of cats.

(22) Jean Grand Jean, laboureur, 40

Reputation 14 years. Before detention of mother came to house asking for some lard, but his wife refused, saying they only had enough for themselves. She said a day would come when they would remember this, and 3 years later wife fell so badly ill she feared she would die. Illness lasted a month, during which time Mengette visited her and brought plums sent by her mother Laurence from Merviller, urging her to eat them, and saying she would get more when they were finished. Lost voice after eating these, but 4 days later Mengette brought her apples, which she ate and began to recover - completely better after another month. In view of reputation believed she had given illness, then cured her.

(23) Jean Bocquel, 48

Reputation 26 years. 7 years before incident when he found their horses in his meadow, took one of them home, then went to fair at Moyon, instructing wife to make sure she took a pledge before releasing it. Mengette left cauldron, which at first he refused to return until she paid for damage; wife finally let her have it, but next day found 3 piglets dead, and in view of reputation suspected her.

(24) Claudon le Court, 60

She was his niece; had heard she was suspected as witch, but knew nothing against her.

(25) Catherine femme Jean Puel le charier, 40

Reputation as long as could remember. At time of marriage 16 or 18 years earlier had lived next to her, and been much in her house. Jean Marechal, lieutenant de prévôt at Flin, had been very ill, and she obtained bread and salt from house on his behalf. He recovered after eating these, but for her part had seen no evil in her.

(26) Zabel fille de feu Nicolas le Comte, 28

Long reputation. Her father had believed that she and husband had bewitched him to death, after lawsuit over some property had been won against them by Messire Demenge Bollengier. 3 or 4 days before Mengette had asked witness to accompany her on pilgrimage to St Nicolas, but had been prevented by 'ung arrest personnel'. Had heard them quarrelling, and Mengette told husband he had as much reason to keep quiet as she did. As relative had warned her of rumour

she was to be arrested, and same night sleeping in stable was terrified by noise which she thought was the devil coming to visit her.

(27) Demenge Guanat, laboureur, 36

Reputation 7 years.

(28) Jean Purel du chauffour de Flin, 50

Reputation 7 years. Previous Wednesday heard her say 'qu'il y a plus de 14 ou 15 ans qu'elle languist', and supposed she was speaking of reputation as witch.

(29) Jean Mareschal, lieutenant du prévôt, 50

Reputation 18 or 20 years. 17 years earlier had very painful knee, and was advised to get bread, salt and yeast from house. Took this as soup, and gradually recovered. Believed she might have been angry because he had been with cartload of 'repou' to repair bad place in road outside her house, and she had glared at him as he did this. During imprisonment of mother had come to ask him to tell her if they were to be arrested, so that they could flee - this made him think they were frightened and 'n'estoient assurés qu'ilz ne fussent sorciers'.

(30) Nicolas Moictrier, laboureur, 36

Long reputation; no action after public accusation by Claudine, servant of Messire Jean Chatton.

(8 June 1602)

(31) Jehenne femme Nicolas Mengeotte, 33

Long reputation. About 18 months earlier horse had strayed behind her house, and she had approached it; died next day after behaving wildly in stable. When she heard of likely arrest began to think this might have been her witchcraft.

(32) Claude femme Jean Symon, 36

Long reputation. During first marriage to Didier Symonin heard that accused said 'qu'elle estoit trop aisé avec luy et qu'elle en estoit envyeuse de ce qu'il estoit trop bon pour elle'. He died after 4 years, and she heard suggestions this had been work of Mengette, who was her 'belle soeur paternelle'. This put her 'en fantaisie' that if she were witch as suspected she had done it; had also heard she was envious because witness stayed in house of father-in-law after husband's death.

(33) Nicolas fils feu Estienne Prieur, 26

Long reputation only.

(34) Jehenne fille feu Estienne Prieur, 20

Ditto

(35) Nicolas du Martinbois, 60

Had always heard she was 'une parfaite Jenaxe'. 3 years earlier had borrowed her cart for some hay, which mysteriously fell off. They were discussing whether it was bewitched when she suddenly appeared and told them off for accusing her - this made them think she might really be responsible. Had felt she bore him hatred since he testified against her mother, although she appeared friendly; suspected she might have caused him to lose use of right side of his body over last 2 years, which had prevented him earning his living.

(36) Nicolas Masson, laboureur, 45

Long reputation only.

(37) Jean Thieriat, laboureur, 40

Ditto

(38) Sebille femme Jean Thieriat, 50

Reputation 30 years. Some 15 years before her husband had decided to end arrangement under which he shared ploughing with Jean Cachette; latter was angry and said 'tu ne veulx plus mectre a la charue avec moy, nonpas, mais tu sera tost comme moy'. Some 8 days later had a horse 'margolé' by a wolf, although none was seen, and it died a week later; if she was witch as reputed, suspected she had taken form of wolf to attack the horse.

(39) Sabel femme Nicolas Hanry, 41

Suspected since arrest of mother; witness had deposed then, and since been 'disgraciée' by Mengette, who was her cousin, but whom she did not frequent. Because of this believed that if she was witch had given her serious illness 3 years before; was bedridden for 3 weeks, then husband made soup with bread, salt, and butter from house of accused, on eating which 'luy sembloit que le mal apres s'en alla comme une grande muraille qui tumba parmy son corps'. During convalescence a cat tried to get on bed, with loud cries, attacking her and son aged 3; called on her mother to get an image she had from the 'prescheurs Monsieur Saint Esprit', but she could not find it. Finally her daughter found it, and cat left like a wind, knocking over everything in the stable. Felt sure that if accused was a witch she had taken form of cat. Next day sent daughter to tell her she must cure her or she would have her burned; on return girl became even more ill than she was, all red between shoulders. Sent son aged 3 to tell her to heal the girl; all children seem to have been ill for a week. Had previously reckoned that her mother Laurence had given her great illness 10 years earlier, which lasted 15 weeks; one day Mengette had come to see her and rubbed her body, after which she recovered, believing this too had been witchcraft. Had called her witch several times.

(40) Jehenne veuve Jean Margueron, 60

Long reputation. Told of attack on previous witness (her daughter) by cat, which she believed had been accused, if she was a witch.

(41) Jehenne femme Nicolas Martinbois, 46

General reputation only.

(42) Chrestienne femme Jean Grand Jean, 36

Reputation 18 years. After refusing her some milk because she was busy was told she would remember this, and 4 or 5 days later butter she was making was spilt on fire. 5 years later was sowing when Jean Belat asked her if it was true that tante Laurence had told her that her brother Martin Eulriat (?) would not recover from his illness, but her bad knee would get better. Said yes, then was frightened to see Laurence standing beside her. Became ill same evening, and remained so for 6 weeks; recovered after being given plums, then apples, by Mengette. Believed that if she was witch as reputed she had cured her by witchcraft.

(43) Jennon femme Claudon Hursieu, 40

Long reputation. Had heard her say that if her mother was executed 'qu'il en y auroit des plus grosses et ses voisins au plus pres'; neighbour had married her father, and after being told reproached Mengette. Latter then told witness 'qu'on luy donnoit tous du doeil assez et qu'aautres en auroient apres elle'. Within a week her son Demenge became ill, letting himself fall down, and had since been quite simple-minded. If she was witch believed she had caused this, also that in form of a wolf she had killed a horse they lost at same time.

(44) Alison femme Nicolas Gerardin, 38

Reputation since mother's arrest.

(45) Jehenne femme Estienne Saigeant, d'Azerailles, 40

Her daughter Jennon had been on way back from Flin when she was told off by Mengette because her father had been involved in lawsuit over chapel won by Messire Demenge Bolengier. Soon after daughter became all swollen, and unable to speak since previous Christmas; before this had told her she thought Mengette had given her the illness.

(46) Pieron Purel, charier d'Azerailles, 25

Long reputation. 5 years before, when he was working for his father at Flin, had some trouble with her children as they passed to get water. Thought she might have ben angry about this, and soon after became very ill for 5 or 6 weeks; recovered after eating 3 eggs she sent him, and suspected she had given and taken off the sickness.

(10 June 1602)

(47) Jean Cachette le saulnier, manouvrier, 40

Long reputation. Neighbour for 16 years, had lost various animals, and suspected her because of envy he thought she bore him. Late wife had died of strange illness, always claiming she thought Mengette had given her this at funeral



of her father; ill for 6 months, and could not be brought to bed of child she was carrying. Had several times quarrelled with her, told her she was a witch and that he would risk his goods to have her burned. She replied 'que le diable l'emporta tant tardoit on et qu'on la faisoit tant languir. Que sy elle estoit prinse il y en auroit des plus grosses du villaige qui coureroient mesme fortune'. When he was asked whether she need have been cause of deaths of animals, he replied 'que l'estrangeté de leurs morts luy faisoit et faict croire que s'a esté par venefice' - had died as if rabid, banging heads against wall. Losses included 6 or 7 pigs, 1 or 2 goats, 3 or 4 horses.

5 years earlier second wife was ill for 14 weeks a month after marriage, and he suspected she had given this because she was not invited to marriage feast. Begged her three times to visit her; first two she replied that she would recover, third time agreed to come. Spoke as if she was very sorry, and touched her face, but wife demurred; then asked if she could touch her knees to see if she was cold. This was allowed, and she pressed them so hard that marks of all her fingers were visible afterwards. After this wife gradually recovered; had sometimes called her witch since. 'Deplus a dict que dieu luy veuille pardonner s'il faict faulte Mais qu'il estime ny avoir sorciere au monde sy celle la ne l'est'.

(48) Claudon femme Jean Cachette, 20

Told similar story, but claimed she had been given illness shortly after marriage, when they were both working in their fields, and Mengette asked to take a drink from her 'cruche'. Did not refuse, so she did this, then witness drank from it herself, and immediately felt ill. After a week trying to fight off illness took to her bed for 14 weeks. Mengette finally visited her, brought piece of tart she did not want to eat, and told her she would not die. Then touched her knees; after this illness was worse for 3 days, until she began to recover. Showed the court the marks under her knees. Said that subsequently she had several times called her witch, and she had taken witnesses, but never acted. Also thought she had caused loss of a horse, and said that when her late mother had been servant to Messire Jean Chatton, vicaire of Flin, he and she both thought she had killed a cow which died pitiaibly.

(49) George Mengeotte, 50

General reputation only.

(50) Didie femme Jean Purel du chauffour de Flin, 45

Reputation 25 years. Told how when her husband was ill he suspected this was work of her mother Laurence, herself, and Claudon veuve Demenge Demengeon of Flin, who he thought had gathered around bed to strangle him. Sent her to ask Laurence and Claudon to visit him; latter said she did not want to do so because he would reproach her, but 'que pour le soulager qu'elle face ung gasteau de farine bled seigle mouillé de l'urine de son marit puis qu'elle le mette a la ruelle de son lict, dela qu'elle le porte sur leur fumier devant l'huis qu'il y viendroit ung petit noire chien qui l'emporterait et qu'en apres il se porteroit bien ce qu'elle fist et que son marit guariroit ce qu'est advenu.'

10 June 1602; substitut orders her arrest and interrogation

17 June 1602; interrogation

Said she was 41, daughter of Bartremin le Comte of Flin; husband Jean Cachette was laboureur, had been huillier before marriage. Denied she knew why she had been arrested, then said it was on account of evil tongues of those who said she was a witch. Did not know if her mother was still alive, as she had left after her arrest. Asked if she had been afraid then, said not, and that she would have desired mother's death if she were a witch. Admitted she had enquired whether she had confessed, but this had been at instigation of her brother, the prior of Meraville. Admitted saying to 'oncle Jean Mareschal' that if she knew she and husband were to be arrested 'j'aymeray tout aultant quicter le villaige et m'en aller parmy les champs mendier ma vie'. Said 'qu'elle n'estoit pas saige' to decide this, while in respect of pilgrimage to St Nicolas this was 'affin qu'il l'aidast a ses adversité et tristesse' over 'le mauvais bruit qu'on luy donnoit par le villaige'.

Asked about accusation by Fleuratte, first wife of Jean de Glonville, claimed she had reproached him for going to the devin. Agreed she had visited child of Demenge Didier Ydatte; had suggested he had mal St Curien, and they should make pilgrimage, but mother said this was not what he had. Asked how she knew this, said it was suggested by others.

Asked about illnesses of Jean Belat's wife Sebille and daughter Jehenne, said 'que sy elles sont malades que s'a esté par les froidures et pauvreté de ce qu'elles couchoient sur la paille parmy l'hiver.' As for viesoin she had given to Demenge Purl's wife, this had come from her own house.

(18 June 1602)

Horse mentioned above had already been getting better when she gave viesoin, which was not cause of recovery. Asked if she had first said she would not dare to give her any, replied that she could not remember 'et que sa bonté luy couste beaucoup'. As for death of Jean Vannier's horses, 'les infortunes arrivent comme il plaist a dieu signamment sur les chevaux quand ils sont mal conduit et qu'on leur fait faire plus qu'ilz ne peuvent'. Demenge Purl had lost a foal because he put it to work too young; was already dead or dying when question of buying her father-in-law's horse arose. If she had known people took bread and salt from her house would have taken them to court.

Some of those who called her witch were so poor that she would not have been able to recover expenses if she had sued them. Nicolas Harman was a poor man, who bought cheap horses which did not last. Asked why she had asked sergent who brought her food to tell husband to sell some goods and solicit officials on her behalf, that she would sell her own small property to recompense him, and that it was for his good as well as her own. Said this was not from fear in her conscience that she would be convicted, but to persuade then to treat her well 'et qu'ilz ne la facent desrompre'.

Agreed that Claude Harman had accused her of bewitching horse and threatened to have her burned, but said he had already blamed several others. Asked about accusation by late mother of Jehenne femme Michiel Henry, said she was not to be believed, and had been imprisoned in chateau of Deneuvre for theft.

Asked about supposed message from mother that she should flee, denied receiving this; if mother had said it, was because she feared she would also be imprisoned. Words she had admitted earlier about taking to fields had been product of fear, and she had been 'sy esperdue' by mother's arrest that she had not known what she was saying.

Claimed that wife and son of Dieudonné Demenge Alix had died from 'esprinsons', which was prevalent in village at the time. Also said that father-in-law had chased him out of his house as cause of his ruin.

(19 June 1602)

Asked about giving plums and apples to wife of Jean Grand Jean when she was ill, said she had given her some plums in return for tripe she had brought when she was in childbed. Had been cured by pilgrimage to St Humbert at Aultrey, according to story in village. Said that Nicolas le Comte had been great liar, and easily persuaded by others, who had made him believe she had bewitched him. Admitted that her husband had sometimes cursed her lineage and the hour he had married into it. As for claims by Sabel fille Nicolas le Comte about noises after warning of arrest, she was not 'fille de bien', but 'faisoit plaisir aux pretres et aux bons compaignons'.

Said that complaint to Jean Pural that she had languished on earth for 15 years was 'pour l'amour de ses freres, qui se sont entretué'. Denied killing Didier Symonin - many others had died that year. As for overturned cart of Nicolas Martinbois, this was a common accident, and had happened to her without her blaming anyone. In his case might not have happened if he had taken someone stronger than his wife, who was very weak, to help him.

Asked about Sabel femme Nicolas Hanry, said that 'elle est de telle ymeure et sy soubsonneuse qu'a moindre mal qu'il luy arrive, elle juge dez aussy tost que c'est mal donné par sortileige comme sy les maladies ne pouvoient arriver par aultre moyen.'

As for death of first wife of Jean Cachette le saulnier, this had been his own fault, as she had heard from the midwife, because he insisted on having intercourse with her while she 'avoit ses douleurs et mal d'enfant'. Admitted taking piece of tart to second wife, but not to rest of charges about illness; they hated her so much they would willingly have torn her into a thousand pieces.

19 June 1602; confrontations

Claimed that Jean de Glonville and his wife had been imprisoned in château of Deneuvre over affair of baggage of Nicolas Choian, although could not give details or assert that they had stolen this. Said that Sabel fille Nicolas le Comte was 'ribaulde', to which she replied 'que sy quelquefois elle s'a oblié dieu luy a faict la grace se retirer et vivre en fille de bien et qu'elle pretend contynuer en seste bonté de vie le rest de ses jours sy dieu luy en faict la grace.'

(20 June 1602) Jean Mengin said that when he had told them about her mother they had been in 'grenier' putting grain in a sack; she said nothing, husband said 'la meschante femme elle nous fera grand honte'. Jean Pural added story of how three women had tried to strangle him at night during illness 14 years earlier. Had been accused, her mother, and one he would not name because she was dead 'affin de ne charger sa renommée et qu'il ne mesdise des mortz'. They vanished when he called out to his son Demenge (now away in Allemaigne). Also repeated wife's account of cure by cake made with urine.

Jehenne veuve Jean Margueron added that during his fatal illness her brother Nicolas le Comte insisted repeatedly that illness had been given by Jean Cachatte, the accused, and her sister Sabel wife of maire Hanry of Hardonviller, out of hatred

because he had given his 'droit de ressignage' on chapel of Flin to Messire Demenge Bollengier, priest at Flin.

In case of Nicolas Harman she said that he had stolen flax seed from Jean Cachatte le saulnier; search was made of his house and his chest in the church, and it was found in latter - he denied this. As for Jean Cachatte le saulnier, claimed he was a thief, and that 7 'pieces de couvrechef', including two of hers, had ben found in his house. He denied this, saying that if they had been found in his house he had not taken them. Accused his wife of being 'ribaude' who had abandoned her husband 2 or 3 times, which she denied.

(22 June 1602) In case of Didié femme Jean Purrel alleged that she had been arrested for theft of some small pieces of cloth, and was about to be taken to Azerailles when Jean Cachatte and Jean Comte, brother of accused, then lieutenant of prévôt, intervened to have her released. Didié said she had bought the cloth not knowing it was stolen.

No other results from confrontations - does not appear to have been any discussion of content of depositions, apart from some straight denials by accused.

27 June 1602; substitut for P.G. asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire. Change de Nancy approves.

6 July 1602; interrogation under torture

Withstood thumbscrews, but when racked said she had been witch for 2 years, and master was Persin. Said that one day husband beat her, saying everyone in village said she was a witch, so that he was dishonoured. Went to lament behind house, and Persin approached her; promised to make her happy, and ensure her husband would not beat her. Usual seduction, but no sexual element, gave her powder (black/kill, white/cure) and money (horse-dung). Returned next week and beat her when she tried to refuse compliance; hands were like paws of bear, feet like those of horse. Used powder on one of their horses, which died, although she tried to cure it with white powder.

Persin had persuaded her not to confess, saying he would bear pain for her; had been in throat, but left when she was made to drink holy water. Said she was 'bien joyeuse et contante d'avoir confessé son cas'. Had refused to use powder again, and to attend sabbat, despite frequent beatings.

Judges said this was incredible, and threatened her with more severe torture. Now admitted having killed Fleuratte femme Jean de Glonville; this was because she had 'palliage' in her house, where women went to spin, and did not want to make place available to her. Had sat next to her on 'cairalle', where she was with other women on Sunday afternoon, and thrown black powder on her.

Confessed other maléfices; had made her cousin, the wife of Nicolas Hanry, ill then cured her, because her children called her witch as she passed. Asked why she had replied as she did to charges of witchcraft, said she endured such 'fascherie' from both her master and her husband that 'elle aymoît mieulx mourir que vivre.'

Asked about idea of taking to fields when mother was arrested, and now said she had become witch herself that year - judges pointed out that according to records of case this was 9 years earlier. Said that her master reproached her with being 'une boiteuse et une langarde', but he was 'de moindres d'entre les malins esprits qui se trouvoient au sabbat, qu'il n'avoit sy grand credit que les aultres, et qu'on ne luy faisoit faire d'honneur'.

'Qu'estant audit sabbat, il y avoit ung gros diable sur ung gros cheval, et se faisoit adorer par tous les sorciers et sorcieres qui assistoient, se mectans a jenoux, et que lors il leur disoit qu'ils prissent vengeance de ceulx qui leur feroient deplaisir, qu'il leur feroit bien heureulx, et que telle adoration faict ilz se mectoient a rondier a l'entour d'une table mais qu'elle ne se trouvoit a rondier parce qu'estant impotante et boiteuse les aultres la dechassoient tousjours l'appellant Beccesse, et langarde, et qu'elle seroit cause qu'ils seroient racaisé (apres laquelle dance ou rondiat, ou y avoit une Chepnee ou cornemuse) ilz se mectoient a bancqueter, mais en leur banquet il n'y avoit pain vin ny sel, et que les viandes qu'on y apportoit estoient mal agoustée, et a ce qu'elle s'estoit resouvenue presque toute chair de boeuf et vache, qu'elle ne bancquetoit avec les aultres, ains, luy jectoit on une piece a parte, que pour bancqueter les aultres ses complices ne se demasquoient ny elle nomplu, et que les masques qu'ilz avoient rassembloient a des musellieres que le sien estoit de cuyr, et que lors que son maitre la venoit prendre pour l'a porter en l'assemblée il luy apportoit son masque, et luy estoit aussy, apres le sabbat tenu et qu'il l'avoit rapportée au derrier de son logis.

A dict que pour la porter et rapporter il ne faisoit que l'embrasser et soulever en l'air avec une nuaige ou broullart, qui l'empeschoit de rien veoire et aussy d'estre venue, et qu'en peu de temps ilz arrivoient ou ilz devoient aller, et que semblablement arrivoient les aultres qu'estoient mis embas par leur maitre, et qu'il ne falloit pas que les ungs attendent les aultres parce qu'il leur falloit arriver tout a coup, ou a plu pres, que les malins esprits font beaucoup plus d'estat des riches que des pauvres qui sont mal en ordre, et prissent beaucoup plus les beaux que ceulx qui sont laitz.'

(8 July 1602) Confirmed previous confessions, but when asked about illness of wife of Jean Cachette le saulnier denied causing this. Also denied responsibility for illness of child of Demenge Didier Ydatte, adding 'et que lors qu'elle sera mort on verra bien s'il n'arrive plus d'infortune audit Flin.'

Asked about illness of Demenge fils Claudon Hursier, denied this 'mais convient luy avoir estranglé ung cheval, estant en forme de loup garou apres que son maitre Persin l'eut engraisé par tout le corps et pinsé au frond, mais qu'elle estime que c'estoit sondit maitre qui faisoit le mal et qu'il luy donnoit a entendre que c'estoit elle.'

Had cured Sabel femme Nicolas Hanry, but it was her master who had made her ill. Had not killed Didier Symonin 'et qu'on luy impose plusieurs choses auxquelles elle n'a seulement pansé.'

Asked about accomplices, said her husband was a witch like her, and she had seen him at sabbat. (Marginal note shows that she witchdrew charge when she heard she was to die, saying she had made charge in fear of torture). He had treated her as badly as the other witches, telling her to go away, and that she would be the reason they were accused. Also said he had told her to say nothing if she were arrested; if she was tormented 'elle avoit encor du bon biens pour se faire soulaiger et panser'. (This too denied later). Had also recognized sister of hermit of Flin, who was scarcely better viewed than herself, and complained to her often 'qu'on ne les veoit guere volontier et qu'on ne prisoit rien les pauvres.' (Said later she was not sure of identification). Had seen Claudon Plaisance, herdsman of Flin, 'et qu'elle le recognoistra la parole ors qu'il fut masqué disant qu'il ne vouloit consentir que par grelle, ou aultrement, on fist mal aux biens qu'estoient sur la terre parce qu'il avoit plusieurs enfans qu'il luy convenoit norir et qu'il estoit enfublé d'ung manteau noire qui luy servoit somme d'ung rochet.'

Witch 107, Mengette Cachette 14

9 July 1602; substitut for PG asks for her execution, and arrest of those she had accused. Change de Nancy approved death sentence, but said it was sufficient to confront her with those she had accused.

12 July 1602; definitive sentence from court at Azerailles