

B 7118; witch 110, Jennon Petit Didier, d'Haréville

27 November 1617; PG des Vosges states that after arrest of Perrin and Nicolas le Petit Didier, father and son, the father's sister Jennon had escaped and hidden herself. Prévôt of Remoncourt is to carry out investigation into charges of witchcraft against her 'le plus secrettement que faire se pourra'.

28 November 1617; informations préparatoires

(1) Francois Mongeat, 60

Some 5 years earlier she had been servant in his house, and when a cow struck her in face with its tail she cut the hair off it in anger; he told her off for this, but cow subsequently died. Around same time his elderly sister, who lived with him, died - had made no complaint, so did not know if Jennon had given her sickness.

(2) Françoise femme Claudot Gillotte le jeune, 35

4 years earlier had been her chambermaid, and her small son died at age of 2 months; Jennon had been angry because she employed a small boy to rock him, and said she would not keep him long. Suspected she had made him ill, also a daughter aged 3, who had become very ill and lost her voice.

(3) Catherine femme Jean Collin, 25

Previous harvest time her mother-in-law took her daughter aged 2 to church, 'et comme cest enfen estoit joieux chacun desiroit la veoir et porter'. Jennon brought her back from church, and witness was not content; soon after child became ill, producing foul-smelling excrement, and this lasted 14 weeks. She and her mother-in-law told Jennon of suspicions as she passed, at which she only smiled, but child soon recovered.

(4) Jean Collin, 35

Same story; said he had intended to find her and beat her, but had not done so.

(29 November 1617)

(5) Philippe Voyot, 40

Had been in his service 11 years earlier, when her brother Perrin was ploughing with him. She took 4 horses out to brother, but came back to tell him one of them had broken its leg - had to be killed. Believed one of them had been cause.

(6) Marie femme du precedent, 60

Told same story as husband; other people in village said they had taken big risk by associating with Perrin.

(7) Menne femme Demenge Ferry, 60

Previous year Jennon had served her, but on two successive Sundays was not to be found when they were ready for bed, although they called for her. Returned an hour or two before dawn and knocked on door, claiming she had been with her brother, but had been beaten and driven out. Checked with brother's wife and found this was untrue, so drove her out with a good beating.

(8) Mengeotte Vassart de Haréville, veuve Nicolas Limosin de They, 35

2 years earlier had come to her after being driven out of house of Demenge Ferry, and begged her to lodge her. Gave her a room, although neighbours advised her against this, and they went reaping together. Dispute followed about value of a riksdaler received in payment; following year Jennon complaining mockingly as witness passed her on her way to the woods. Right breast and arm became very painful so that she could not work; had tried many remedies, and consulted doctors and surgeons without any result, 'aussy qu'elle a sceu que les maux donné de telz gens sont incurables'.

2 December 1617; PG des Vosges asks for arrest, further information, and interrogation - if she can be found.

5 January 1618; prévôt of Remoncourt orders further search.

22 February 1618; additional testimony

(9) Nicolas Voillot, 36

7 years before had joined forces for ploughing with Claudot Gillotte, in whose service she was, and when she brought horses out one of them needed a new shoe; he was angry over waste of time and told her off. That evening leg became tremendously painful - thought he would die. Wife spoke to Jennon, who came to see him and told him he would recover that same day, which he did.

(10) Demenge Ferry, 40

Repeated wife's story about absences at night and chasing her out.

(23 February 1618)

(11) Demenge Anthoine de Senonge, 60

Previous Tuesday she had come to beg she might stay in their house. Curé of Haréville, Messire Demenge Burton, was with his uncle the curé of Senonge, and hearing of her presence came to see witness. Identified her, and instructed him to keep her under guard. Then there were strange noises in the night, but he could find nothing when he went to investigate - she called out to him that it was nothing and she would make no scandal for him.

23 February 1618; interrogation

Said her father had been Mongin Petit Didier of Vitel and her mother Bastiene of They-soub-Montfort. Could remember seeing father in year of

processions in Lorraine; mother had died when she was 10. Father had been executed as witch at Vitel. Asked if her grandfather was also executed, said she did not know. Agreed a sister had also been burned at Vitel 7 or 8 years earlier.

Said she had fled when she heard of arrest of her brother and nephew 'sur l'avis que l'on luy donna qu'on luy prendroit pour mesme crime, et la poeur qu'elle eut d'estre tourmentée puis laisser à l'abandon ung petit enfen qu'elle a.'

Agreed to cutting something off tail of cow, but this was because it was troubling the animal. Had been in service of Francois Mongeot (le gros Francois) for 4 years, ploughing, threshing, and doing other normal work. Did not know cow had died - when pressed on this said she had spent some time at Remoncourt, which broke period of service.

She had brought child of Jean Collin back from church, and had heard from grandmother that its mother suspected her, but denied rest of story. Said she had served Philippot Voillot for 14 years; horse which broke its leg was old, and got it stuck in harness. Had not known he suspected her over this.

Admitted being absent from house of Demenge Ferry one night, to see man who had fathered her child. Said of illness of Mengeotte Rassat 'je scay bien qu'elle a eu soupçon sur moy mais je n'en peu rien'. Told that Mengeotte had maintained until death that she was cause, said this was not so.

Asked who was father of her child, said it was Claudot Gillotte le jeune.

1 March 1618; confrontations

Said that she had made remark that child of Francoise femme Claudot Gillotte would not live long, but it was already ill. No reproaches, but generally denied relevant charges. Mengeotte Rassat recorded as being dead, Marie femme Philippot Voillat very ill.

16 March 1618; prévôt orders question ordinaire et extraordinaire, following request by PG (5 March) and approval by Change de Nancy (10 March).

16 March 1618; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews, then racked. Over affair of cow of Francois Mengeot, said he had not accused her 'mais que le monde luy en faisoit avoir l'opinion'. Now admitted grandfather had also been burned. Over illness of daughter of Claudot Gillot, said child had not been ill when she lived with them. Claimed child of Jean Collin had already been cured when she passed in front of house. Denied all other charges, even when given tortillons.

17 March 1618; PG des Vosges orders that she be renvoyée.

19 March 1618; note that this has been done, and no costs charged to her.

Costs came to 171 francs - paid at Mirecourt in December 1618.