

B 7137 no 2; witch 116, Jennon veuve Florentin Bouvier, de Parey-sous-Montfort

Previous case, for which papers do not survive, was that of Catherine femme Claudon Vidolot, also of Parey. She had confessed, and named Jeannon and her daughter Margueritte as accomplices. They were confronted with her, and she maintained accusations when she was executed on 5 November 1626. On 14 November Change de Nancy approved question ordinaire for both of them.

3 November 1626; informations preparatoires

(1) Nicolas Malcas, 29

Had heard his late father blame her for illness of a cow; bought some oats off her, after eating which it recovered. Later called her witch, and she took him to court, but he did not know what had happened.

(2) Marguitte femme du Sr Francois Morquin, 50

9 or 10 years earlier her husband had told her not to cross his land any more where it adjoined hers; she insisted she had rights of passage, but he denied this. Next day a fine foal worth 45 écus was brought back as if rabid and died; body was found to be full of poison, which caused them to think she was cause. 7 years earlier had been to see if she had finished making some cloth for them, and found her crying, saying there was something black 'qui la caquilloit sur le col, et ne scavoit si c'estoit ung esprit ou non'.

(3) Mengin Francois, 52

About a year before had an illness which made it impossible for him to stay still; could only lean against table. Friends advised him to send to houses of those he suspected, so he sent his wife to house of 'Jennon et Margo les Grevelz'. Came to see him, bringing packet full of ashes which they told him to heat and place on shoulders, and after doing this he recovered. Had quarrelled with them a few days earlier, so suspected they had made him ill. Had also lost horses and cows to value of 200 écus, but did not know if this was their doing.

(4) Jeannon femme du precedent, 30

Repeated husband's account; he had been ill for 3 days before visit from Catherine, who said he would recover in 3 more.

3 November 1626; interrogation

Said she was about 60; first husband had been Demenge Voirion of Parey, second Florentin Bouvier of Belmont. First marriage had lasted 10 years, second 2 and a half. 4 children by first husband, of whom 2 were living; Thiron Voirion of Parey and Margo, prisoner with her. One boy by second husband also seems to have been living.

Said that if she had been called witch it was 'par ses hayneux'. Catherine had accused her by 'malveillance', after quarrel during pear harvest that year. As for cow of Gerard Malcas, was ill because he beat it excessively, and retained limp long after she sold him oats. Said that le Grand Mengin was a worthless man, and was cause

of their imprisonment; if he had been ill it was from excessive drinking. As for losses of animals, this was because he did not treat them well, and he and his wife took little care of them.

Asked whether her crops had not been spared by hail, said they had been ruined like others. Also asked about episode 15 years before when her daughters Margo and Claudon (now dead) had been seen in field during great storm, yet had not got wet, denied knowing anything of this. Also denied taking ashes to cure Mengin Francois.

4 November 1626; confrontations

Said that Mengin Francois had been found in houses of neighbours during Mass - he denied this. No other reproaches, but denied all charges.

27 November 1626; interrogation under torture

Supposed only to be tortured if accused by her daughter or found to be marked, but was given thumbscrews moderately none the less. Denied all charges throughout.