

Witch 137, Margueritte Forget 1

B 8535 no 5; witch 137, Margueritte veuve Claudon Forget de Rozieres

18 December 1603; confrontation with Ydatte veuve Demenge le Moyne, who declared she had seen her at sabbat; denied this, but was sent to prison.

29 December 1603; informations preparatoires

(1) Catherine femme Jean George de Rozieres, 45

Some 7 or 8 years before had dispute with her because they were both selling salt, and she said 'qu'elle l'auroit soit au champ ou a la ville'. Next day she and her son beat witness and her daughter severely, although they could not see them because of fog.

(2) Annon femme Mengin Regnaude le jeune, 40

Told how three years before, when she was 4 months pregnant, accused had struck her in stomach when reproaching her for talking to Laurence Viart about how Annon's husband had reproached Margueritte on her behalf. She denied this, but accused would not agree to suggestion that they visit Laurence together to determine truth. Same evening she went into labour.

(3) Alizon femme Michiel le Geay de Rozieres, 33

Some five and a half years before had quarrel over some money she held for her daughter. One Friday she attacked her, saying 'Viensa par le nom Dieu putain je t'auray, por ce que tu ne me veux donner l'argent que tu a de ma fille'; struck her great blow in left eye, so that eyelid was torn and she was with surgeon for 6 weeks. Continued to threaten her that she would die by no hands but those of herself and her son. Some two months later she and her sister were selling salt when her son Charles, who was fetching four oxen in service of marchand bouchier de son altesse, came across them, and attacked them with his sword, injuring her head. Complained to the bailli.

(4) Thierry Racine de Rozieres, 60

Knew they had to leave Metz, Vic and other places because of her reputation as a witch.

(5) Mengeotte femme Villermin Grillat de Rozieres, 30

Told of odd episode 6 years before last summer, when she had met her near place where witches were executed, a musket shot outside the town, and she had asked witness where she was as if lost.

(6) Damoiselle Anne Magnien, femme Abraham Clignotte tailleur aux salines de Rozieres, 28

Witch 137, Margueritte Forget 2

Said that during fatal illness of her father, controlleur des salines, 14 years earlier, accused had said that a pilgrimage should be made to St Claude for him and he would recover his speech.

(8 January 1604)

(7) Jehenne femme Claude Pulligny, 34

Some 5 years earlier she and her late husband Nicolas Gontiere were selling salt at Haussonille, and when accused arrived to sell some herself was angry to find they had preceded her. Said 'Nicolas tu n'y viendra plus guieres'; on next visit he asked her if she wanted to return with him, but she refused rudely, and as soon as he arrived home he became ill, losing use of limbs; had to be fed like child for 2 years until his death.

(8) Catherine femme Demenge Chevallier de Rozieres, 22

Repeated story of death of her father Nicolas Gontiere; said that during illness he always claimed she was responsible.

(9) Jennatte fille Nicolas Gontiere, 24

Same deposition as sister.

7 January 1604; interrogation

Said she was aged 50, native of Vic. Father was maitre Charles hacquebutier of the late cardinal, mother Jennon (whom she had never seen); married to Claudon Forget cuffre de Rozieres, widow since his death 10 or 11 years earlier. Knew she had been accused by Ydatte Vaultrin, and that same day by Mengin Lamourou, but they were 'aveuglez du diable'. Les Sochattes, la Paurasse, and wife of mre Michel had called her witch, but wrongly.

Asked why she had removed goods from house a week or two before arrest, denied this, but said she had hardly any, since she had been fined three times in last year by 'les chevalcheur de saline' for selling salt in villages.

Admitted some quarrels, but not doing any harm. In case of Alizon femme Michiel le Geay, said it was her daughter who had struck her in eye; as for her son, he had attacked her and sister because they were always calling her witch, and had hit them with a stick.

8 January 1604; confrontations

Said she held Catherine femme Jean George 'pour putain pour avoir servy les pretres'; also said that Alizon femme Michiel le Geay was 'putain'. When confronted with Mengon Lamourou denied claims she had been at sabbat, said she saw she must die as result of false accusations made against her, but she was innocent of witchcraft.

Witch 137, Margueritte Forget 3

19 January 1604; Rémy asks for torture

24 January 1604; Change de Nancy approves

27 January 1604; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews, but continued to deny. Said that her husband had brought 'bonne certification' about her residence at Vic and Metz. Not clear whether she was then racked, but finally asked to be released from torture, and started to confess.

Had been seduced when angry at having to repurchase clothes of her son-in-law, who wanted to go to the war. Was on way to sell salt at Damelievre and Blainville when she met big man dressed in black who offered her money, then persuaded her to renounce God. Gave her black and red powder to kill women and animals, then had intercourse with her - not only cold, but unnaturally small. Had killed various dogs which made it difficult for her to sell salt. At sabbat there were 8 to 12 people, some well dressed with taffeta or satin masks. Had made hail on three occasions, although none of these had affected Rozieres; under questioning admitted a fourth which had. Had also killed a cow and a foal belonging to those who refused to pay her what they owed for salt.

29 January 1604; Rémy asks for death sentence, and Change de Nancy approves

31 January 1604; interrogation

Confirmed earlier confessions. Asked about accomplices, said there were two from Blainville, one already executed, did not know name of other, but she had previously been midwife. Also one from Roumain whose name she did not know, but lived in middle house of 'la petite rue'.

3 February 1603; formal death sentence from court at Rozieres