

Witch 174, Barbelline Jean 1

B 8680 no 4; witch 174, Barbelline femme Mengeon Jean de Mandray

21 December 1596; informations preparatoires

Note that she had been accused by Jehenne femme Demenge Claude Martin

(1) Dieudonné Jean, 50

Had already deposed against her when she was accused before, then saw that she bore him ill will. As he went out reaping gave her good-day, but she did not reply at all, any more than she did to his daughter who was carrying his small son on her shoulders. A great hailstorm began as soon as they reached fields, and they had to return home for shelter - found that boy had mysteriously lost an eye, and suspected this was her doing. Long reputation.

(2) Claude veuve Bastien Mathieu, 40

Had deposed against her before, and had nothing to add, except that rumour she was witch had continued.

(3) Colatte femme Colin Mathiatte, 40

General reputation.

(4) Jean Colas Voignier, 40

Had heard from late Bastien Mathieu that when Lucie femme Didier Anthoine was at point of death she had maintained that accused had bewitched her. Long reputation.

(5) Claude Pierrat, 50

12 years earlier Bastien Mathieu, brother-in-law of accused, had a bad knee; very painful and he could find no cure. Suspected her, and finally sent for her, finding that after her visit he recovered in a few days. Long reputation.

(6) Demenge Claude Cuginin, 30

Reputation 12 years.

(7) Claudatte femme Jean d'Espinal, 30

Had entered Barbelline's service 12 years earlier, and remained for 3 years, until she went to service of Claude Pierrat, at which she was angry. A week later became ill, feeling she had something in her stomach like a wooden plate, and this lasted 6 weeks. Did not know if she was cause, but if she confessed she might say something about it.

Witch 174, Barbelline Jean 2

(8) Jean Claude Cuginin, 40

Reputation had continued after release as before.

23 December 1596; confronted with Jehenne, who maintained her accusations

27 December 1596; interrogation

Said she was about 45, wife of Mongeon Jean for 20 years, all spent at Mandray. Was reminded that she had already been tried 7 years earlier, and only shown the tortures, but this time unless she confessed she would surely have to undergo them. Finally agreed she had used a prayer taught her by Bastien Mathieu's mother to heal him; this was only such prayer she knew. Otherwise denied charges.

28 December 1596; confrontations

No reproaches, but continued denials.

28 December 1596; procureur for chapter asks for question ordinaire

30 December 1596; Change de Nancy approves presentation to the torture only, with threats; if she seems about to be confess the thumbscrews may be used moderately.

4 January 1597; interrogation under torture

Started with threat that this time she would be made to feel the torture. Was then confronted with Jehenne's son Jean, who had also accused her and maintained charges.

Was then given thumbscrews, and said she would tell the truth if they were removed, and if necessary confess things she had not done. Were removed, and various similar statements followed. Finally she admitted she had been once to sabat, and seen the mairesse of Mandray and her son Jean, who had accused her.

Said that Percin was her master, but would say no more; was then racked. Said that 12 years before she had been severely beaten by her husband, and was weeping under a tree when a man in black appeared, and persuaded her to renounce God by 'belles promesses'. Had intercourse with her and gave her powder. Tried it on one of their own calves, which died, then on a goat of Grand Colin which was in their garden.

Had given it to Lucie, her husband's sister, in a plate of milk, not because of any hatred, but to discover how it worked on people. Had also used it in milk to kill Blaise, son of Bastien Mathieu, aged 4 or 5, because he beat her children.

Had been to sabat about a dozen times, carried by her master; danced to sound of 3 musicians. Saw Jehenne and Jean, who had accused her, also Jacques Gabourel, Barbelline veuve Claude Colriot, and Jacquatte femme Claude Grand Claude (her sister-in-law), all of Mandray.

7 January 1597; interrogation

Witch 174, Barbelline Jean 3

Confirmed previous confessions. Claimed that after previous arrest she felt such regret that she returned to God, saying she had not been to sabat again - then must have added that she had been on the one occasion when Jehenne and Jean saw her (marginal addition).

8 January 1597; procureur asks for death sentence

10 January 1597; Change de Nancy approves, subject to reiteration of confession

13 January 1597; confirmed earlier confessions

4 February 1597; sentence carried out