

Witch 185, Agathe Jobay 1

B 8682 no 7; witch 185, Agathe femme Colas Jobay du Faing

Accused by Claudette femme Jean Parmentier, of Ste Marguerite.

8 May 1598; informations preparatoires

(1) Jean Prevost, 40

Previous year had told him that Berthremin Michiel suspected her of stealing something from his house, but 'elle luy feroit du mesnage, et en tireroit bien sa raison et s'en repentiroit'. Witness told Berthremin, who then started to lose animals of all kinds, which he was sure was her doing; long reputation.

(2) Berthremin Michiel Flandrey, 35

18 months earlier some bread and other goods had been stolen from his house, and he suspected Agathe, so they quarrelled. Then heard of strange threats; she had also said 'qu'il y avoit deux hommes audit Faing, que sy elle vivoit encor ung peus de temps, elle les auroit a sa cordelle'. Followed by heavy losses of animals, so that within 6 months he was reduced to poverty, and was sure this had been her witchcraft - long reputation. A year earlier they had already wanted to arrest her and take her to St Dié, and she threatened him, saying he was cause - next day a fine mare died as if rabid.

(3) Marion femme Claudey Michiel Flandrey

Had been refused pastries from house on Christmas Eve, then son became ill, and remained so for about a year, until her neighbours advised getting bread, salt, and ashes from her house. After eating these he quickly recovered. Suspected this had ben her witchcraft - long reputation. Had heard her say 'qu'il estoit bien employé des grandes pertes que faisoit Barthremin Michiel, et que c'estoit Dieu qui le payoit'.

(4) Marguitte femme Barthremin Michiel Flandrey, 34

Custom was to give her husband, as herdsman, a tart and 2 eggs on Easter Day, but previous year had no eggs, so only gave Agathe a tart. Followed by losses of animals (damage here). Story of how she blamed them for move to arrest her 6 months earlier, threatened they would repent, and they lost a mare.

(5) Benite veuve Claudon le Bailly, 46

General reputation, no personal suspicion.

(6) Mengeon Didier Henryat, 30

Long reputation.

(7) Vincent Henryat, doyen de Ste Marguerite, 50

Long reputation - rest is lost.

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(8) Colas Henryat, 36

Long reputation, had heard her called witch several times without seeking reparation.

(9) Jean le Clerc, de Ste Marguerite, 40

Long reputation, and previous year he called her witch, threatening to have her arrested, without reparation being sought.

(10) Claudon le Clerc, 40

Long reputation, had heard her called witch several times.

(11) Marion femme Claudey Flandrey, 30

Previous year Agathe said she would kill cock of witness if it continued to stray into her garden; seems to have sickened, then recovered (damage here) - witness suspected her witchcraft.

(12) Jehenne femme Claudon le Clerc, 30

Long reputation, no personal suspicion.

(13) Claudette femme Noel Ferry, 28

Around previous Christmas she sent a small girl to their house asking for some bread, but they did not have much cooked, so she refused. Next day their best cow became ill, so that she feared they would lose it. A few weeks later Agathe asked her why she was so sad, and she replied that 'les meschantz sorciers' had caused them to lose animals worth more than 100 écus, and that their best cow could not eat, so was in danger. Added that she would pay dearly for refusing her some bread, and she replied that 'il conviendrait bien mal' if they lost more animals. Damage here - suggestion that cow recovered.

(14) Colatte femme Vincent Henryat, 50

Her mother had already been reputed a witch, and she too had been suspected for many years. Had heard her quarrelling with her sister-in-law, wife of Colas Cunin, previously arrested for the same crime, and calling her witch; latter replied that all she knew about witchcraft was what Agathe had taught her.

(15) Nicole femme Colas Henryat, 36

Reputation several years.

(16) Colin Guidot, 32

Reputation several years.

(17)

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Occasion when she had taken horse by neck, and husband of witness told her off, asking why she did this. Horse died same evening, and although she could not be sure Agathe was cause, if she came to confess she might tell truth about it; long reputation.

(18) Nicolas Miette, procureur à St Dié, 58

7 years earlier had leased a cow and a heifer to her husband Colas Jobay for 3 years, but was not satisfied with way he treated them, and withdrew them early. Placed them elsewhere, with 4 calves in addition, then all but 2 of them died, which he had always suspected of being her witchcraft - long reputation.

(19) Claude Malramey, de Ste Marguerite, 34

12 years earlier she and her husband, guarding sheep of Le Faing, allowed a lamb belonging to his father to be taken by dogs. Dispute followed, then their best cow died, which he blamed on her witchcraft - long reputation.

12 May 1598; interrogation

Said she was about 40, had been married to Colas Jobey for about 18 years, which had all been spent at le Faing. Knew she was accused of witchcraft, and had been confronted with Claudette, who maintained charges, but insisted she was innocent.

Asked about illness of Claudey Michiel Flandrey's son, said she was not responsible, and had been ill herself. Denied remarks made to her by Noel Ferry's wife, but under pressure admitted they had been made. Otherwise continued denials of any wrongdoing.

13 May 1598; confrontations

No reproaches, simply continued denials.

13 May 1598; procureur for canons asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

17 May 1598; Change de Nancy approves, subject to provision that she should not be tortured so hard that she suffers 'perclusion de ses membres'.

20 May 1598; interrogation under torture

When prepared for torture, started to confess, saying she had been seduced by devil a year earlier. Told they were sure she had been a witch for several years, and placed on rack, promised to tell truth, and was set down. Said that 15 years earlier had gone to fetch some wood, at time when she was very poor, and great black man appeared, sympathising with her poverty and promising to make her rich if she would renounce God for him. This was Mre Navel, who had hideous great claws, as she only realized after yielding. Gave her powder - black/kill, grey/languish - a piece of bread, and envelope supposedly containing money. After he disappeared bread turned to dust, and she found there was nothing in the envelope.

Claimed she had not done much harm, because she repented so greatly. Killed her own cat, and a dog which did damage in their house. Admitted killing

cow of Claude Malramey, and two calves of Colas Cayel le jeune, who had refused to fetch her a cartload of wood. Had made child of Claudey Michiel Flandrey ill after she was refused pastries, and killed animals to reduce Berthremin Michiel Flandrey to poverty. Was angry when Noel Ferry's wife refused her bread, so made cow ill, then cured it with grey powder. Had consented to suggestion by Mre Navel that he should kill animals of Nicolas Miette.

Had been to sabat many times, where they danced and feasted, but did not make hail. Had seen Mathieu Blaise and Demenge Simoney of Ste Marguerite, then group of those already executed; Demenge Milan, Catherine Malranney, Laurence Jean Parmentier, la femme Colas Viney, la mairesse Masson, and la femme Guillaume le Boullengier of St Dié. Then added second list; le vieux Colas Cayel of le Faing, Claudette femme Jean Parmentier (her accuser), Claude Malramey, his brother Colas, Jennon femme Claude Bonipaire of Ste Marguerite, Jacot from le Paire, brother of la Malreannatte (already executed), Jacotte fille Michiel Hault Rue of Viel Marché, Jennon fille Guillaume le Boullengier, Claude Tendon du Chanoy (gap here - damage). Those who were keenest to make hail (now admitted) were Mathieu Blaise and Demenge Simoney, but Mathieu was 'le plus mauvais, et ne parloit d'aultre chose que de gaster les biens de la terre, et estoient lesdits Mathieu et Simoney tousjours les premiers en l'air pour conduire les nuées et tempettes'.

Repeated confessions and names of those seen at sabat that afternoon.

22 May 1598

Further confirmation of confessions.

23 May 1598; procureur asks for death sentence

25 May 1598; Change de Nancy approves, subject to final repetition of her confessions

9 June 1598; final reiteration of confessions, followed by execution.