

Witch 205, Georgeatte Grand Didier 1

B 8687 no 7; witch 205, Georgeatte veuve Jean Grand Didier, de la Vacherie

4 December 1599; confronted with Marion veuve Demenge Arnoulx, of Sauceray, who maintained accusation that she had seen her at sabbats

12 February 1601; confronted with Marguitte femme Jean Jacquot, of la Vacherie, who maintained accusation that she had seen her at numerous sabbats

8 March 1601; informations preparatoires

(1) Didier Thiebault, 50

Reputation 12 years. 3 years earlier Jean Taxerant had courted one of her daughters, but gave her up and was betrothed to servant of witness named Mengeotte. Immediately after this he died, and Mengeotte also became ill, suspecting accused, who visited her and gave her some milk, saying it would cure her. She drank it, but died within two or three breaths; witness and his wife had always suspected this was her witchcraft.

(2) Colas Charpentier, 50

6 or 7 years before schoolmaster named Claude le Blanc suddenly became ill, and died after languishing 3 or 4 months; heard him say illness began after he ate some millot given him by accused. Long reputation.

(3) Colas Moullot, 30

Long reputation. Recently he had returned from deposing against her husband Jean Remeguey, executed as a witch, and heard her say that if husband was found to be a witch they would find many others, but named no-one.

(4) Jean Demenge Villaume, 49

Reputation 10 or 12 years; no personal suspicion.

(5) Demenge Didier le Moullot, 60

Illness of schoolmaster 6 or 7 years earlier, who told witness he believed she had bewitched him, and if he became convalescent he would have her arrested - died a few days later. Had lost animals after quarrels with her, so that he had been reduced to poverty - believed this had been her witchcraft.

(6) Michiel Ratonge, 50

Reputation 12 years, her late mother already suspected; no personal suspicion.

(7) Claudon Hennemant, 50

Reputation 20 years, no personal suspicion.

(8) Claudon Jeandey, 50

Reputation 12 years, no personal suspicion.

(9) Colas Jean Ferry, 50

Reputation 20 years, no personal suspicion. 18 years before, while guarding animals, heard Jehenne Michiel (later executed) call her witch without any reparation being sought.

(10) Mengeon Claude Mariatte, 25

Reputation 16 years. He and his mother had disputes with her about a well, and for insults, after which they lost a horse and other animals - suspected this was her witchcraft.

(11) Jennon femme Claude Hennemant, 44

Reputation 22 years (residence); no personal suspicion.

(12) Jennon femme Colas Moullat, 30

A year earlier, when she was accused, heard her say on way back from church that if she was arrested 'elle accuseroit aussy d'autres soyent femmes de bien ou non', and was reproached by Halbix femme Demenge Colas Girard of Brehimont that she would do great wrong if she accused good women. Made no reply; long reputation.

(13) Mengeotte femme Demenge Didier le Moullot, 57

Story of suspicions by schoolmaster. Also story as told by last witness; long reputation.

(14) Marguitte femme Colas Jean Mengenot le jeune, 26

2 years before her son aged two and a half had been in house of accused 3 or 4 times a day, although she would have preferred to prevent this because she feared her. Returned home one Sunday, vomited up stinking matter, and died 2 days later; had always suspected this was her witchcraft, long reputation.

(15) Marguitte femme Didier Thiebault, 44

Story of betrothal of her servant, after accused had sworn she would do her best to make Jean Taxerant marry her daughter, but he would not because of reputation for witchcraft. He had told witness that he feared he and fiancée would not be together long before she bewitched them. Wedding feast was already being prepared when he fell ill and died within a week, claiming this was her witchcraft. When the girl also fell ill she asked witness to get Georgeatte to come and visit her, and died suddenly on taking milk accused gave her. Suspected this had been her witchcraft.

9 March 1601; interrogation

Said she was widow of Jean Grand Didier alias Remeguey, executed just before as a witch, aged about 50. Recognised she had been arrested because of allegations of witchcraft, but insisted she was innocent. Agreed that Jean Taxerant had wanted to marry one of her daughters, then changed his mind; denied giving milk to his fiancée. Vigorous denials of other charges.

Claimed that Virgin had appeared to her, so was questioned about this. Had been when she was in childbed some 16 or 17 years before, and labour had lasted 4 days; called on Virgin for aid, then figure in white appeared and spoke to her. Thought Jesus had also been there, but not sure how he was dressed, and shortly afterwards gave birth, although child died a few years later. Also claimed that she had appeared to her again in prison previous evening, telling her that Jesus would soon come to her aid.

10 March 1601; confrontations

No reproaches to any witnesses, and continued denials of all charges. Did weaken a little over milk taken to servant girl, saying she could not remember doing this. Claimed to have had another visit from Virgin previous night.

13 March 1601; Change de Nancy approves torture

15 March 1601; interrogation

As soon as she was threatened with torture started to confess. Had been seduced 15 or 16 years earlier, after her husband had fight with young man called Colas Jean Moullot at a wedding feast, and latter died a few days later. Husband had to flee and seek pardon from duke, with 'grandz frais et poursuites'; she was complaining to herself one evening in kitchen, after rest of family were in bed, when Napnel appeared. Promised he would help them out of difficulties, so that husband would soon return, and also give her money so that she could meet costs and all other needs. Gave her money and black powder, then took her up in air and carried her to sabat. Saw late Jean Gelliat, and Barbeline and Marion veuve Demenge Arnoulx of Sauceray, both already executed; also Henriat Mathieu of la Bourgonce, who was still alive. Others were masked; danced and feasted, but did not make hail that time.

Tried powder out on a cat, a hen, and another animal (damage here), which all died. Had been angry with schoolmaster because her son did not want to go to school with him, so sent him plate of millot in which she put powder. Had killed the servant Mengeotte who had attracted Jean Taxerant away from her daughter, with powder in milk. Had killed Collatte femme Claudon Jean Mongenat some 12 years earlier, giving her bread with powder on it when pretending to make up quarrel - said no-one had accused her of this, but she wanted to clear her conscience. Also killed cow of Didier Thiebault 5 years earlier, because it damaged their meadow, and calf of Claudon Claude Mariatte after lawsuit.

Had been to sabat more times than she could remember. When she went again she met her husband there, who was angry and asked her who had brought her, to which she replied that it was Napnel, and that husband was cause of her misfortune, because it was his absence which had caused her to be seduced. Never knew whether they would meet at sabat, since they had different masters (husband's was Persin), and they carried out maléfices independently of one another. Said she had still some powder left, which was in paper in hole in wall behind house, but was not sure whether it would still be there.

Added to names of accomplices Mengeon Claude Perrin of Brehimont (already executed), Marguite femme Colas Jean Mengenot le vieux of la Vacherie, and Claudon Jean Arnoux and Catherine femme Jean Mandray, both of Herbaville. Had given a chicken to master every year at first sabat near St Jean to be excused from going more often, and this was sometimes eaten at sabat. Sometimes served as cook, but could not 'faire cuysine qui vaillent' because there was no salt.

16 March 1601; interrogation

Repeated earlier confessions. Added to accomplices Meline femme Colas Jean Charpentier of la Vacherie. Now said it had been her master who had visited her in prison, urging her not to confess. On last occasion had found her naked in prison, since she had taken off her clothes because of vermin, and wanted to have intercourse with her. When she refused beat her on back with his claws and forced her to obey him. Back was then inspected, and scratches found in groups of 5, which might have been made with a razor.

16 March 1601; inhabitants hand her over to duke for sentence; followed by confirmation of death sentence from Change de Nancy (date missing).

27 March 1601; executed at St Dié