

Witch 225, Jaulne Curien 1

B 8691 no 14; witch 225, Jaulne femme Claudon Curien, de St Blaise

17 February 1603; informations preparatoires

Noted that she had been accused by Claudette, widow of Chrespaille le Maire, on 26 February 1599, then by Jennon veuve Nicolas Bresson, Babellon femme Henry Jean Hanry, and Jean Marion, all of St Blaise.

(1) Claudon Piernille, 60

Reputation 25 years, no personal suspicion.

(2) Idoult Jané

Some years earlier had taken 2 calves worth 5 francs each from Thoussaint Chapelle of St Blaise, with profit to be shared at the end of 3 years, in customary fashion. Passing before house of accused a week later, 'elle commença se prendre a luy de bonne fason, disant qu'il avoit accomencé d'ung nouveau droit, d'avoir prisé cinq francs piece les deux veaux qu'il avoit ainsy retenu de maitre que ce n'estoit la coustume d'ainsy les priser et que ce seroit ung mauvais droict pour les enfans qui viendroient apres eulx, le tout avec propos de colere, en fin continuans sa colere dit que peut estre ne seroient ils empeschez les partager au bout du terme.' Calves were lost from common herd 2 weeks later, and subsequently found dead in field of oats; also lost one of his own, which sickened suddenly. Believed this had been her witchcraft - long reputation. 2 years earlier heard the then Prévôt of Moyenmoûtier call her witch in public, but neither she nor husband sought reparation.

(3) Claudon Bresson, 35

Reputation several years, no personal suspicion.

(4) Claudon Jacqué, 35

Reputation 12 years.

(5) Catherine femme Mongeon de la Voeuvre, 35

Reputation 14 years (residence). Had heard Jaulne say of Claudatte Chrespaille 'qu'il eust mieux valu qu'elle l'eust fact mourir que de l'avoir ainsy accusé, au rest que de sa part elle ne s'en donnoit point de peine, parce qu'elle avoit le bon Roy de son costé, toutesfois que sy elle la racusoit de ce qu'elle luy disoit, qu'elle diroit qu'il n'en est rien et que seroit une meschante femme.' If her reputation as a witch was correct she was 'l'une des plus fines et fort couverte'.

(6) Claudatte femme Colas le Clerc, 35

5 years earlier Jaulne had come by back of house to ask her for some milk, but she refused because she had none. Husband said she had been foolish to do so in view

of her reputation as a witch; next day a fine cow sickened, dying 2 days later. Had always suspected this was her witchcraft - long reputation. Had also heard her make threats against late Jean Chapelle, who suspected her of stealing goods from him; witness warned him to be on his guard, but did not know if anything happened to him.

(7) Adrian Idoult, 35

Reputation 10 years (residence).

(8) Jennon veuve Colas Lallemand, 50

Reputation 15 or 16 years; around that time had been taken before la Valentré, imprisoned at Moyenmoûtier and later executed at St Dié.

(9) Hanry Jean Hanry, 50

Long reputation. 5 years earlier his son and hers were guarding animals together; his pig ate her son's bread, and died next day, which made him suspect that if she was witch she had caused this. Incident 13 years earlier when he and Mongeon Bourard were carting hay; kept on falling off cart on a good road, and finally left it until morning. She was at Bourard's house unloading more hay, and said they would not be back quickly, so there was no point waiting for them - yet she knew nothing of what was happening. Therefore suspected her over this too. 6 years earlier had been drinking with others, including his sister Catherine, wife of Didier Anthoine of Raon, when Jaulne gave her drink in a cup from which she herself had already drunk. After initial refusal sister was persuaded to drink, but then became ill, and had always blamed Jaulne for this.

(10) Fleurance femme Claudon Viberat, 46

Reputation 20 years.

(11) Mongeatte femme Jean le Maire, 28

20 years earlier Jaulne had been servant in house of her father Claudon de la Voivre, and became pregnant by present husband Claudon Curien. Everyone was against marriage, and one day in despair she went to her room and was heard saying 'Vien diable, vien moy querir, Je seray sorciere avec toy'. Her mother sent her to fetch an aunt of Jaulne's to reprimand and punish her - reputed witch ever since.

(12) Idoult Jean Martin, 25

Reputation 16 years; if she was a good woman would not have fled as she did before arrest.

(13) Sebille femme du precedent, 30

Reputation 11 years (residence).

(14) Babellon feme Claudon Bresson, 35

18 months earlier she and other women had been around spring, when some small children started to fight. One of her daughters, aged 18 months, picked up some 'ordures' to throw, and Jaulne said angrily that if she had such a child she would punish it. Witness did take child to beat her, after which she became strangely ill, with limbs paralysed. Still had one arm much shorter than the other, and she and her husband blamed this on her witchcraft; also thought she had wanted to enrage them, since child was burning and they had to get up 50 times a night to give her drink.

(15) Mengeon le Clerc, 35

Reputation more than 20 years, no personal suspicion.

(16) Marguitte feme Claudon Piernille, 40

Previous autumn her children had found Jaulne's calf in their garden; she was angry when they drove it out and threatened them. Next day her daughter had an accident while spinning; distaff went into hand, and had to be treated by surgeon at Raon, losing use of hand for some time.

(17) Georgeatte feme Mongeon ?

Long reputation, no personal suspicion.

(18) Colas le Clerc, 50

Story of death of calf, as already told by wife (witness 6).

(19) Jean Magdelaine, 40

After arrest he had escorted her to Moyenmoûtier, and she used 'propos mal sonnants' on way, saying that 'ceux qui estoient en enfer estoient bien heureux, et qu'il y faisoit beau'. There were little devils crying, and fine chairs ready (some damage here). Long reputation.

(20) Valentin Jané, 40

Reputation 13 years. Heard her called witch by prévôt without seeking reparation.

(21) Jean Hanry, 30

Reputation 20 years.

(22) Jeannon feme Dieudonné Laurent, 40

Had normally frequented Jennon veuve Colas Bresson, recently executed as a witch.

(23) Mongeon Gerard, 28

Long reputation, no personal suspicion.

18 February 1603; interrogation

Said she was about 44, native of Hurbache, daughter of Colin Jané and his wife Nicolle. Married 20 years. Admitted she had been suspected since accused by Claudatte Nauxate. Denied being called witch by Sr Sanson, prévôt at Moyenmoûtier. Agreed she had said it would have been better if Claudatte Chrespaille had killed her rather 'que de luy oster son bon fame comme elle a faict.' Also agreed she had been accused 16 years earlier by 'la Valtrate', but claimed charge had been withdrawn by her when they were confronted.

Admitted she had been angry when prevented from marrying 20 years earlier, but denied words attributed to her. Agreed that on her way under arrest she had said 'qu'il fait beau en enfer et que ceulx qui estoient la estoient bien heureuses et qu'il y avoit des belles chaises prestes', adding 'que c'est pour ceulx qui font tort aux autres comme on faict pour elle.' Asked why she had absented herself after accusation by Babellon femme Hanry Jean Hanry, claimed she had been on pilgrimage to St Nicolas and to visit relative at Donipaire.

22 February 1603; confrontations

Claimed Idout Jané had stolen some wood from outside their house, and said he was 'ung bon parent' to say evil of her. Denied remarks described by Catherine femme Mongeon de la Voeuvre, and was then shocked when judges pointed out she had admitted them that morning, saying they were trying to surprise her, but she was a good woman.

Said she had heard that Claudatte femme Colas le Clerc had been 'une tante de pretre'. No other reproaches, and denied all charges.

22 February 1603; procureur for Mgr de Verdun asks for question ordinaire

23 February 1603; Change de Nancy approves

24 February 1603; interrogation

On hearing that she was ready to confess, she was brought to hall of monastery at Moyenmoûtier to be heard. Said she had been seduced by Navel 16 years earlier, when 'les gens de guerre frequentoient fort par deça, et de la pauvreté qui estoit par le pays, il faisoit une grande cherté, et pour lors elle estoit grandement molestée a cause qu'il y avoit trois jours et nuictes qu'elle n'avoit mengé, se voyant chargée d'enfans et qu'elle n'avoit les moiens de les nourrir et entretenir, et lesquelz n'avoient mengéz sinon que des raves qu'ils alloient querir'. Met Navel in garden, and he promised to make her happy and give her much money; she was suspicious and thought of God, at which he

disappeared. Returned next day, saying he saw she was still in great need, and promising to ensure she would never want; finally gave way to 'promesses vaines qu'il luy fit, et sy amyellée'. Gave her money (leaves) and powder - black/kill, grey/languish, yellow/cure.

Had tried powder out on a chicken and 2 calves, which died. 2 or 3 years earlier had killed calf of Valentin Jané. Had been very angry with Claudon Bresson and his wife, because they were 'gens qui parlent souvent sur le fait d'autrui', so gave illness to their daughter. Had thought of killing Mongeon Bourard 'en hayne de ce qu'il parle ordinairement sur les personnes et notamment sur elle prevenue', but thought better of it.

Had made Jennon veuve Colas Lallemand ill because she was 'une mauvaise femme', then took pity on her and sent her some milk with healing powder in it. Had wanted to kill Idoult Jané, who was 'un homme fort mauvais', but much to her regret had not found an opportunity. Then said that at time of temptation her master gave her the power to harm people by wishing or cursing; this was how she caused Henry Jean Henry to fall from cart.

Master had returned to see her 2 weeks after temptation, giving her more powder and trying to have intercourse with her - but she resisted this successfully. Had only been to sabbat twice, then made pact to give her master a hen at Whitsun. Carried in air on master's shoulders, after he assured her that her husband would not wake during her absence. Were more than 100 persons there, but all masked. Usual dancing back to back and feasting. Had made hail which did damage around St Blaise, with witches in the air guiding it, but when bells were rung it stopped and they all fell to the ground - she was in fields, but master found her and carried her back home.

Only person she had recognized was Marguitte femme Claudon Piernille Charier of St Blaise; were many others, notably 'des grosses personnes', but masked. Were some great devils in chairs which had command over the others.

25 February 1603; interrogation

Added that she had killed 3 calves of Claudon Viberat, 'en hayne de ce que c'est ung homme mocqueur et ingenieux'. Had been tempted to kill Jean Henry 'a cause que c'est ung mocqueur des personnes', but did not because she feared she would be damned if she did so. Had also wished several times to make Mongeon de la Voeuvre ill because he was 'fort rude', but had decided not to harm such a good household.

Confirmed confessions later that day, and added names of 2 more accomplices; Bastienne femme Demenge le Maire, and Jean le Maire, of le Paire. Asked why she had not accused them before, said 'qu'elle craindoit fort le mauvais gré qu'ilz pouvroient porter a ses alliés'.

26 February 1603; procureur asks for death sentence

27 February 1603; Change de Nancy approves

3 March 1603; final confirmation of earlier confessions; she asked to be put to death as soon as possible