

B 8700 no 3; witch 238, Marguitte veuve Jean Digard, de Raon

1 May 1608; informations preparatoires

Note that she had been accused by Jennon femme Claudon St Remy, already executed.

(1) Alix veuve Idoul Odniat, 55

Long reputation. 16 years earlier had heard from Perin Hanriat, paistre, that he suspected her of causing eye trouble since his wife had taken her place working in house of Didier Villemin. Previous year her daughter Mongeatte, femme Colin de Celle, had strange illness, during which she was generally expected to die, and no remedy could be found. Suspected this was her witchcraft, if she was as reputed. Lived together, but she said that if she gave salt and bread it might be said she was a witch. Had been envious because witness and daughters found more work here and there than hers did, saying 'qu'elles vouloient trop embrasser'.

(2) Mongeatte femme Colin de Celle, 30

Previous year had been ill for 8 or 9 weeks, with 'ung gros morceau a la gorge'. Despite living in same house, accused had not come to visit her. When she had relapse, after threat and remark about wanting 'trop embrasser', husband threatened Marguitte, who then visited her. Made remark about there being devils in the cellar of their house, which she amended to say they were rats. Then made her a soup, after taking which she suddenly recovered. Felt certain that if she was witch as reputed this had all been her doing; had also told her all content of confession she had made in private to the priest.

(3) Nicolas Johel, 26

No suspicion she had caused them harm, although they had lived together for several years, except that after accusation by wife of Claudon St Remy some 6 years earlier had been to his father and told him, crying, that she feared she would be arrested, asking him to look after her daughters. 3 years before had threatened Jacquat Louy after a quarrel, saying that within a year he would not be in same state as he was; fell ill and languished for some years (?) before death.

(4) Maclon femme Michel Gros Jean, 35

Some 4 years earlier her sister had done day's work for the late François Vichart, and accused (near neighbour) was angry, muttering against her throughout the day. Were frightened she might harm husband or children, and next day one of her daughters was holding her son, aged 2, when accused gave him an apple. As soon as he had eaten this became very ill, and died in 3 days. Also gave the girl apples which she said were for her sister Marie and her brother Nicolas, insisting in particular that she give one to Marie. Immediately the girl fell ill, unable to hear, see, or walk; husband demanded bread, salt, and ashes from her, threatening that if he did not have them and his daughter did not recover he would have her burned. She gave them, and as soon as she had eaten them the girl started to recover, and was healed in a few days. In view of reputation believed she had been responsible

for these illnesses. Had called her witch, adding that if they had further misfortunes they would behave differently, but she had sought no redress.

(5) Catherine veuve Nicolas Johel, 65

Long reputation, particularly since accusation 6 years earlier. Told of dispute with Jacquat Louy and his death; at his request had been to ask Marguitte for bread and salt, but she was very angry at this, and they had 2 goats which died suddenly, which she had always blamed on her witchcraft.

(6) Sebille femme Jean Noel, 26

Story of illness of Mongeatte femme Colin de Celle; husband had demanded bread and salt from her, saying that if he could not have them by consent he would have them by force, but she refused, saying they must suspect her of giving the illness. Later called in witness and gave her soup for the sick woman; swelling in throat suddenly disappeared after she took this, which made witness suspect her - general reputation.

(7) Alizon femme Demenge Barbouiller, 60

Long reputation; had heard her called witch by late Jacquat Louy and wife of sergent Michel without seeking redress.

(8) Martin Sachot, drappier, 30

2 years earlier he and his brothers had sold a room behind house, where she was living, so that she had to leave. Soon afterwards his daughter Barbelline, aged 8, became very ill, as if paralyzed, and died after some 2 years despite all their efforts to find a cure. Became greatly swollen in week before death; suspected that if she was witch as reputed she had been cause. Daughter had told him that just before illness Marguitte had met her on way from baker and demanded to see loaf she was carrying.

(9) Jennon femme Jean Gelliat, de la Neufville, 45

2 years earlier her daughter Barbeline was living in house of Mongeon Virion; had to bring her home when she became suddenly ill, and was as if 'troublée en son esprit' for a week. Marguitte had been to speak to her outside barn where she was working, after which a wind seemed to strike her. If she was witch as reputed, believed this had been her doing.

(10) Catherine femme Colas de la Chambre, 31

Some 6 years before her daughter, aged 3, had been taken by accused to cut cabbages in garden, after which she became very ill. Was finally cured, but witness imputed illness to her witchcraft; 'adjoustant de plus que de sa part elle a des grandes infirmitéz en son corps que ne cesse de la tourmenter journellement, toutesfois ne sait a qui les soubçonner'. Had several times heard from Alizon femme Jean Viertel, who begged in the town, that Marguitte had touched her on the shoulder, after which she became as if paralyzed, and all swollen, dying some 9 months earlier, always claiming she had bewitched her.

(11) Claudatte femme Mongeon Virion, 25

Some 3 years earlier, when in childbed, had been to see maid who was working in barn. Marguitte came in, although door was partly closed, and asked if she could help them. Witness was startled by this, since she did not usually visit house, and left. Maid later told her she had said 'qu'elle couroit bien', after which she lost use of her legs - had always suspected she intended to cause harm to one of them.

(12) Idatte, servante à Nicolas Huel, 28

Occasion previous year when she had not been summoned to wash as usual, after which a heifer sickened and died. During this time she came to bring something, making determined efforts to get into house and see the animal. Did so, but passed by it without taking any notice - they had always believed this was her witchcraft, if she was as reputed.

(13) Nicolas Villemin, 70

Reputation 10 years; no personal suspicion.

(14) Marie femme Jean Thiebault, 35

5 years before her daughters were often around house, and one day were refused something by her daughter. Were angry, and after this her small son Claude had left arm paralysed, as it still was despite all efforts to find a cure. If she was witch as reputed believed this was her doing.

(15) Michel Gros Jean, 36

Story of death of son, illness of daughter, and cure of latter after he had demanded bread, salt, and ashes from her.

(16) Alizon femme Colas Liebault, 32

Had suffered various misfortunes, but had no suspicion of her.

6 May 1608; interrogation

Said she was Margueritte le petit Didier, widow of Jean Adam of Raon, aged about 70. Had been widow for some 30 years, was native of Raon. Admitted she had had disputes with le sergent Michel and others, but this had not been at her instigation, and she regretted them. Had not heard she was reputed witch until accusation by Jennon femme Claudon St Remy some 6 or 7 years earlier, who had done her wrong.

Then said that since she was 'vielle et caducq' she could not resist justice, and offered to make confession. Said that 30 years earlier her husband had been bedridden with long illness, and they had 7 children, whom it was very difficult to feed. Went out seeking wood here and there, and was approached on such a trip by a man in black, who offered to help her. Said he would give her bread and money so that she did not want, and with honeyed words persuaded her to believe in him.

Name was Navel; usual seduction scene, except for sexual element, money was dust. 4 kinds of powder; black/kill, yellow/people ill, red/animals ill, white/heal.

On master's instructions used black powder in soup for her husband, seeing she could not feed him or her children - he died a month later. Also used it to destroy crops.

6 years earlier was begging outside house of late Joseph Marchand, who scolded her and threw water in her face to drive her away. Used red powder to kill 2 of his cows. Had been angered because Mongeatte femme Colin de Celle called her witch; used yellow powder to make her ill, then felt sorry and healed her with white powder in soup.

16 years earlier had made Mongeatte, wife of herdsman, ill after she had taken her work in house of Didier Villemin.

Told it was incredible she had not done more, but she denied that she had killed Jacquat Louy. Admitted she had made daughter of Michel Gros Jean ill, using red powder in apple, then healed her with white powder on cheese, but denied killing his son. Confessed she had killed Bastienne fille Martin Sachot, some 2 weeks earlier, because she had been evicted from her room, and his wife called her 'laide diable'. Had made wife of Jean Gelliat ill because she suspected her of bewitching her daughter, then healed her by sprinkling white powder in her path.

Now mentioned sexual relations with Navel, and being to sabat 7 times. Carried in air on master's shoulders, and usual feasting and back-to-back dancing by masked participants. Gave homage to 'gros maitre' who was in his chair. Claimed to have been unable to recognise any of those present; had made pact not to go more often (details missing here).

Confirmed her confessions on 2 days which followed.

16 May 1608; Change de Nancy approves death sentence

19 May 1608; execution takes place

Expenses came to 63 francs, shared between duke and abbot of Moyenmoutier.