

Witch 249, Jennon Geliat 1

B 8702 no 10; witch 249, Jennon femme Jean Pieron Geliat, de la Neuveville-les-Raon.

19 November 1609; informations preparatoires

(1) Didier Chottey, 50

Reputation 12 years.

(2) Didier Couresier, 40

Some 6 years before had quarrelled with her when she took some 'terrasses' his wife had collected; soon after his son Jean became very ill, and remained so for long time before finally recovering. If she was witch as reputed believed she had caused this.

(3) Zabel femme Demenge Ganaire, 33

Had called her witch several times after her husband used threats against them, without any action following.

(4) Barbe femme Didier Couresier (witness 2), 35

Repeated husband's story about son's illness; added that when she met accused the latter told her that she suspected her, and made further threats.

(5) Catherine femme Jean de St Pierre, 40

Long reputation; had heard accusations by witness (3).

(6) Chretien Brandecq, doyen en la justice, 42

12 years earlier his son had been strangely ill for some 3 months; accused visited him when witness and wife were out, after which he seemed to be 'troublé de son esprit' - but next day was suddenly quite recovered. If she was witch as reputed believed she had been cause, particularly as she had never been in house before or since, and had never explained her business that time, although she chose to enter when she knew they were out.

(7) Margueritte femme Claudon Forgeat, 28

Strong suspicions she was a witch. 7 years earlier, when there had been some executions, had asked witness, whose husband was doyen in the court, to tell her if any of the women convicted named her as an accomplice.

(8) Margueritte fille du maire Toussainct de Leuce, 25

4 years earlier they had a number of calves sick together, of which at least 8 died suddenly; suspected this was witchcraft of accused, and witness had spoken to daughter of accused when animals were sick. Angry because she realized she was suspected, and husband threatened witness, after which deaths took place. Suspected that if she was witch as reputed she had been cause.

(9) Clemence femme Colas Viriat, 24

6 years earlier accused had told her off because she did not want to go and cut grain with them; immediately after this she was 'saisye d'un mauvais air au visage', which became swollen and 'tout remply de grosse bouteille'. Ill for some time, and thought that if she was witch as reputed she had been cause.

(10) Mengeon Jacat, 32

7 years earlier had quarrel with her at mill, and called her witch without reparation being sought; she had threatened him, but he had no suspicion against her.

(11) Jennon veuve Touvein Recepver, 65

Some 10 years earlier her daughter-in-law Marie had been told that accused had stolen some children's sheets from her; went into house, where she found them and took them. Then became strangely ill and died; if she was witch as reputed believed she had caused this

(20 November 1609)

(12) Margueritte veuve Claudon Estienne, 40

7 years earlier her husband had dispute with them over a fence; later accused gave her daughter Catherine, aged 12, some soup when she was 'saclant des miletz' in fields. Immediately became strangely ill for 6 weeks, unable to walk without help; if she was witch as reputed believed she had caused this.

(13) Jennon femme Demenge des Boeufz, 65

4 years before had asked husband of accused to cart some grain, but he was not sure he could do this, so they found another carter, then his servant came to say he was ready to come. Soon after lost 2 cows, which they suspected was doing of one or other of the accused. Now not sure what to think.

(14) Demenge Ganaire, 30

Same story as he told against husband; disputes followed by losses of animals which he attributed to one or the other if they were witches as reputed, also death of maid some 12 weeks earlier.

(15) Colas Charey, 40

Reputation 12 years.

(16) George Colin Mongeat, 40

Reputation 12 years.

9 December 1609; Change de Nancy approves arrest and interrogation (same day as death sentence against husband, not mentioned here).

22 December 1609; interrogation

Said she was about 50, widow of Jean Pieron Geliat, who had just been executed. Was native of le Paire, daughter of maire Villaume and his wife Catherine; mother executed as witch at St Dié. First marriage to Colin Jalley had brought her to la Neufville some 30 years earlier. Had been accused of witchcraft 7 or 8 years earlier by wife of Didier Pescheur and la Hardiere, executed at that time.

Admitted she had been called witch, by wife of Demenge Ganaire after accusation by Didier Pescheur's wife, and wife of Demenge Colin. Asked why she had not taken them to court, said 'qu'ilz n'avoient la puissance pour se venger a cause des grands moiens qu'ilz ont'. Agreed that she had been to see son of Chretien Brandecq when he was ill - had been with wife of Jean Poulain. Also agreed that she had asked wife of Claudon Forget about accusations; this was to know truth after she had been told by others.

Agreed she had been angry when she learned she was suspected of causing sickness of animals of Toussaint de Leuce, but denied being responsible for this or for deaths. Denied all other charges, although she agreed she had given soup to daughter of Margueritte veuve Claudon Estienne.

Brought back again that afternoon, she began to confess. Had been seduced by Parsin 7 years earlier, when upset about accusation by wife of Didier Pescheur. Approached her in garden one evening, promising to ensure that charge would be withdrawn, but vanished when she said she only wished to believe in God. Succumbed when he returned 2 days later - normal seduction scene. Given three kinds of powder (grey/kill, red/languish, white/cure), and money which proved to be nothing. Tried powder out on one of her calves, which died.

Was very angry with her nephew Jean, fils Claudon Villaume, because he was not content when she went to visit relatives at le Paire 6 or 7 years before, so used powder to kill him. Was angry because her brother Colas Villaume of la Trouche would not give her share of iron pot, so killed his cow 2 years earlier. Said she had not committed any other witchcrafts that she could remember, and had not wished to do harm when she saw herself 'sy pauvrement abusée'.

Master had visited her 2 weeks after seduction, telling her to take vengeance on all those who displeased her; she did not want to do this, and threw powder away in fields. Had only been to sabbat twice, carried in the air by her master, but had been so frightened she was not very sure what went on. Had seen feasting and dancing, but recognized no-one; gave master a hen each year to be exempt.

23 December 1609; interrogation

Now denied previous confessions. Said 'qu'elle avoit esté surprinse sur plusieurs remontrances, et tellement eschauffée, qu'elle ne pensoit ce qu'elle disoit'.

29 December 1609; Change de Nancy asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire.

?, interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews, then racked, she made fresh confession. Now said she had been seduced 12 years earlier, when made angry and distressed by her children. Confessed to same group of maléfices, then added others. Had killed 10-year-old girl after quarrel with father (name damaged) over hay (date also missing). 7 years

before had killed wife of her brother Claudon Villaume of le Paire, because they hated her, claiming she always took something from house when she left. Had been angry with first husband, who told her off for spending too much money at Raon; Parsin persuaded her to give him black powder, and he died after languishing for a year. She regretted this and wanted to use white powder to heal him, but was prevented by Parsin - also by fact he had taken sacraments. Added confessions of killing calf of Jean Gerardin, and another of maire Toussaint de Leuce.

Now said she had been to sabbat 3 times a year, where there were more people than she could say. Had seen Françoatte femme Jean Ravielle of la Neufville, and the widow of Demenge Bontemps of Raon, who was the cook, but no others because they were masked. Had made hail 3 times, but this was rendered ineffectual by prayers.

Confirmed her confessions same afternoon.

5 January 1610; death sentence from Change de Nancy

7 January 1610; execution takes place.

Expenses were 116 francs, shared between duke and abbé of Etival.