

B 8704 no 2. Witch 252: Georgeatte femme Demenge Jean Chopat, of La Neuveville-les-Raon.

16 March 1610; informations preparatoires

States she had been reputed a witch for many years.

(1) Margueritte femme Claudon Forgeat de la Neufville, 32

7 years before, when taking possession of house, she had driven out wife of Colas Blasat, leading to quarrel, in which she heard the accused say 'qu'elle disoit qu'elle estoit une sorciere, qu'elle voudroit qu'il fut ainsy, et que sen faulte elle ne failliroit de les faire acabler' - since that had always had poor opinion of her. General reputation.

(2) Chrestien Brabant, 34

Reputation 6 or 7 years; no personal suspicion.

(3) Jennon femme Colas Blasat, 47

Told of quarrel with her 7 years earlier, when she had threatened her with 100 knife wounds, then said she wished she were a witch 'pour faire de la foudre'. (Damage here - possible suggestion of misbehaviour with husband). No suspicion of harm, although they had experienced 'plusieurs fortunes'.

(4) Margueritte veuve Claudon Estienne, 46

Husband had become ill four and a half years earlier with strange malady, becoming paralysed although eating a drinking normally, and died after 2 years. Believed her responsible, because she had been told that Georgeatte had said she would hate him always on account of an 'ayde' he had levied.

(5) Demenge Aubry paitre, 50

Dispute previous year over payment to him for herding her animals, when she had seemed to threaten him, and he warned her not to do so. Subsequently lost an animal (damage here).

(6) Clemence femme Colas Viriot, 25

Some 5 years earlier she had asked her father to repay 5 gros he owed her, and he said he would only do so when she repaid him some grain. Said 'va ils te seront bien cher conté', and following night he died suddenly. If she were witch as reputed, believed she had caused his death.

About a month before her husband had quarrelled with Georgeatte, and they were warned she had said 'qu'elle les auroit ou le diable les auroit'. When in bed with her new baby, she was attacked by a cat which tried to suffocate her. Could not drive it off, and had to call husband, who found her with face very badly scratched, as if cut with a knife. Child then languished and died; believed she was responsible if she was witch as reputed.

(7) Annon femme Antoine Clauderot de Raon, 40

Told of how 4 years earlier, on way back from festival of St Gergonne, she and her husband saw accused behind hedge. Seems to have been storm, and she excused herself with claim of gathering nuts.

(8) Annon femme Jean Mourrat, 24

Some 4 years earlier she and her husband had been to St. Nicolas with accused; on way she had her 'cornet' broken, and there was quarrel when she wanted one of theirs. Near Luneville witness became so ill she could hardly walk, and believed that if she were witch as reputed this had been her doing.

(9) Annon veuve Claudon Barbier, 50

Told of quarrel some 6 years earlier when her husband was levying ayde. She then had trouble with eyes which lasted 2 years, daughter aged 2 died, and finally husband died after 6 week illness. If she was witch believed she had been cause, since she had always hated them.

(10) Annon veuve Bastien Piernille, 25

Some 2 summers before had dispute when husband of accused had fined their oxen for causing damage; some 6 months later she came to house to buy milk, then said twice 'que Dieu luy veuille garder d'avoir chance'. Told of how horse she was leading went wild after passing her house, and when she rode it carried her off before throwing her in ditch. Believed that if she was a witch she had caused this and other misfortunes, including death of husband; had always hated them since their marriage, although she did not know why.

(11) Nicolas Viriat, 26

Told of attack on wife by cat (though did not mention death of baby). Said she bore him a grudge because she believed he had beaten her son at a festival, although this was untrue.

(12) Barbeline femme Demenge Jacat, 30

General repute; husband had called her witch, but she had taken no action.

(13) Colas Blasat, ?

She had threatened him 'qu'il le couroit sur leur voitures, mais qu'il n'iroit plus guiere, qu'elle l'auroit ou le diable l'auroit'. If she was a witch believed that she had sought to cause him various misfortunes; had several times called her witch without any action following.

(14) Jean Colas Peltier, 32

Told of dispute with Colas Blasat 7 years earlier, when she had said 'qu'elle voudroit estre sorciere quelques trois heures et qu'elle ne failliroit de l'accabler luy et sa maison deans'. Had suspected her since, but suffered no harm personally.

(15) Demenge Mathieu, echevin en la justice, 40

Some 9 years earlier had ben sharing ploughing with her husband, and she claimed that he always took more than his share. One day when she was with other women at mill she saw him passing with his cart of logs, and said 'qu'elle voudroit que le diable luy puisse rompre le col'. Was told of this an hour later by his cousin Barbe, wife of Didier Couvresier; as he passed mill his horse and cart tipped up and fell on him, so that he was afraid he had a broken leg, and was injured for a fortnight. If she were witch as reputed believed she had caused this.

(16) Jennon femme Demenge des Boeufs

Some 4 years before accused had a quarrel at the mill with her niece Mongeatte, who was living in their house, after which the girl immediately became ill for a fortnight. General reputation, no other personal suspicion.

18 March 1610; Change de Nancy approves arrest and trial.

23 March 1610; interrogation

Said she was about 50, wife of Demenge Jean Chopat. Was native of la Neufville, daughter of Jean Dauphin; parents dead about 20 years. Married for 9 years, spinster before; had spent 4 years at Raon and also time elsewhere. Admitted quarrel with Colas Blasat over sale of some hay Said she knew she had been reputed witch for 6 years; Blasat had called her such, but there had been no witness, so she could not take action.

Asked about wishing she were a witch to take vengeance on him, denied, then suddenly agreed that she had said 'qu'elle voudroit qu'elle fut ainsy, ce que dieu ne veuille, et qu'elle luy feroit ung tour pour prendre vengeance le leur dispute.'

Asked about wishing he was hung at Ban Bois, so that she could go and give him a hundred blows with a knife, and that she could bring down lightning to strike his house - denied these threats. and causing him any harm.

Asked about death of Jean Poulain, father of Clemence Viriat (6), replied 'qu'elle void bien qu'on dira d'autres menterie, et que dieu payera ses tesmoings de dire ces choses la.'

Denied all other charges, insisting that they were all lies.

24 March 1610; confrontations

No significant results; did not reproach any witnesses, except with lying about her.

26 March 1610; Change de Nancy approves use of torture.

14 April 1610; interrogation under torture

Withstood thumbscrews, started to confess when racked. Had been seduced by Parsin some 20 years before, when in service with Jean Anthoine of Hellienne, ban d'Etival. Bringing back wood on cart one day when it fell off, and she was angry to be alone without help. Man in black appeared, saying that if she would believe in him 'il la soulageroit en tous temps', and she agreed. Usual seduction, gave her

horse dung and powder in four colours (black to kill people and animals, yellow to make ill, green to cure, and blue to kill anything). Tried powder on cow belonging to master, which died, then killed his 4-year-old daughter, who had refused to fetch water when asked. A year later was angry with Jean Coichar of Hellienné, who said that 'elle entretenoit son fils'; killed him by putting powder in his soup.

Bastien Pernille, son-in-law of maire Bastien, had called her husband 'old witch' for putting his animals out of his garden, in hatred at which she put powder on pavé outside his house where he would pass. To conceal deed she spoke with master, and it seemed that he had 'la veine du coeur rompu' while carrying a sack on his shoulders. Used black powder to kill daughter of Claudon Badel who had taxed her. Similar reason for making Claudon Estienne ill, then after quarrel between his wife and her nephew Jean Dauphin at mill she decided to kill him. Master had suggested that she cause Demenge Mathieu to have his neck broken, but she had only agreed that his cart should be upset, as happened.

Had killed Jean Poulain, who had been bothering her asking for some barley, and daughter of Demenge Ganaire; was 'estranagement faschée' against him because his father was asking for a cartload they did not owe.

Went to sabbat on côte de Repy some 3 times a year. First time Parsin took her on shoulders, and were over 140 people there, more women than men. Danced back to back to sound of drum, then ate foul-tasting meat and oysillons. Had recognized Georgette femme Didier Malley of la Neufville, and Alix veuve Demenge Bon Temps of Raon, who had both been there on every occasion over last 7 years. Others wore masks, so did not know them. Told of making hail 7 years earlier to spoil grain on finage of Thiaville, but she 'ne vouloit aucunement y condescendre parce qu'elle estoit pauvre et craindant qu'elle n'en ait de nécessité.' Before leaving sabbat had to go and make reverence to maitre Navel, and kiss his arse.

Parsin had promised to help her endure torture, and had been present in her body, but had left her 'quand il a vu la force et contrainte'.

Interrogated again without torture same day, said she had wanted to kill Colas Blasat for speaking ill of her, but had not carried out intention. Also said she had agreed to her master harming Clemence Viriat.

Confirmed confessions following day.

16 April 1610; change de Nancy approves death sentence. Note that it has been carried out on 17th.

Costs 108 fr 6 gr, shared between abbot and duke.