

witch 287, Jacote Marechal 1

B 8717 no 4; witch 287, Jacote femme Antoine Jean Marechal, tavernier de l'Hote du Bois, commune de la Salle

Extract from trial of Jean Claude Mathieu of village of la Bourgonce, at Etival, 28 July 1614, when he maintained his accusation against Jacquatte to her face.

14 June 1616; depositions

(1) Marguitte femme Colin Choppat, marechal de la Bourgonce, 50

Some 9 or 10 years before her husband and Jean Dieudonne had leased property of Colas Mareschal, living at Pierrepont, nephew of accused. She was very angry, and uttered various curses against husband, including wish that devil should break his neck. Fell on way home and broke main bones in neck; took 17 weeks to recover, still had great pains at times. Blamed this on witchcraft by Jacquotte; long reputation.

(2) Barbon femme Jean Claude, demeurant a la Bourgonce, 51

Some two years earlier she had also been keeping 'hostellerie' at village of l'Hoste du Bois, and Jacquotte was very envious at competition. Had come to house without any need; immediately afterwards two cows lost milk, so that young calves died, and other animals then became sick. Left village because of her suspicions of the accused.

(3) Colin Choppat marechal de la Bourgonce, 60

Repeated wife's story, adding that the property was all mixed up with Jacquotte's own.

(4) Claudatte femme Colas Henry de l'Hoste du Bois, 40

6 or 7 years before her husband bought a field from Demenge Galdrimey; accused had wanted it because it adjoined hers. Husbands quarrelled and nearly came to blows. 4 or 5 days later their best horse died in strange manner - thought this was witchcraft of accused. 6 years before she had bought another field from Galdrimey, but he decided price was too low and used retreat; borrowed money from Claudatte wife of Demenge Fallay, aunt to accused's husband. Jacquotte furious, said 'que le diable avoit bien tant laisse vivre icelle Claudatte pour prester de l'argent'; soon after she became mortally ill, died in a few days, claiming that accused had bewitched her. 3 years ago last Christmas eve Jacquotte asked for loan of peas from them, but her husband refused because she had not returned a similar loan previously. Witness was frightened she might cause them some harm, so offered them nevertheless, only for them to be refused. Then came back and asked to borrow 'alandre de cordonnier'; took it, promptly brought it back saying she didn't need it after all. A few days later her husband became very ill, bedridden for 10 weeks, still not fully recovered. Finally claimed that her son Colas (11) had told her of children's dispute in which Jacquotte's youngest son Curien was arguing with

another boy about which had been further. Anthoine Claude said he had been to Ramberviller, whereupon Curien said he had been to the Devil with his mother, where he had eaten 'oysillons', and a man dressed as a gentleman in black had danced with his mother.

(5) Jennon femme Jean Rolbey de l'Hoste du Bois, 23

Dispute between husband and herself and the household of the accused over a spring on witness's land, which husband and children of Jacquotte were in habit of diverting into their meadow; quarrel followed by death of two pigs.

(6) Jennon femme Jean Galdrimey de l'Hoste du Bois, 46

Dispute when geese belonging to witness did some damage in meadow of accused; followed by death of a horse, two pigs, one 'naxon' and two 'genisses'. Believed this to proceed from her witchcraft.

(7) Jennon femme Mengeon Galdrimey de l'Hoste du Bois, 30

10 years before her husband had sold garden to Jeanotte's husband out of necessity, then decided price was too low and reclaimed it. Jeanotte had been furious, wanting to beat witness, stamping foot on ground and saying 'que ses affaires se porteroient bien tout ainsy droict comme une faucille', and making her bring 3 pence she said were missing. They lost 7 or 8 cattle, which were all they had, which she believed was witchcraft by accused; also a horse.

5 years before, when many soldiers were billeted in village, they killed a cow and some smaller animals belonging to them. After they left she was cooking tripes in a cauldron, when accused came in, turned them over several times with something in her hand, asked if they were 'le reste des soldats', then left. After eating tripes she, her husband, and 4 children became very ill for 13 weeks, as if rabid; put this too down to witchcraft, and thought accused had poisoned the food. While they were convalescing one called Epnotte from village of Saint Remy, now a fugitive accused of witchcraft, had assured them that Jeanotte and no other was responsible.

A year before a horse had become ill while grazing; had to bring it back on a cart, and it was 3 weeks without eating. Went to house of accused and 'dit plusieurs fois haultement qu'il falloit brusler toutes les sorcieres pauvres et riches qui luy faisoient mourrir ses bestiaulx, et vouloit demander permission a Monsieur d'Estival d'aller apres d'ung devin pour scavoit qui estoit la sorciere que luy faisoit tant de maux'. Within 3 days horse had completely recovered.

(8) Henry Colas Henry mareschal a l'Hoste du Bois, 50

Long reputation; no personal suspicion.

(9) Colas Henry mareschal a l'Hoste du Bois, 28

Some 5 years before had quarrel over 'ung battant'; he was at wheel under house to sharpen hatchet blades, when she came in for no apparent reason, then left without speaking. At same moment he fainted, and if God had not preserved him would have been dragged under wheels and risked death. Believed this had been her witchcraft; long reputation.

(10) Jennon fille de Henry Colas Henry de l'Hoste du Bois, 30

Told of building of 'battand' under house, by permission of M. d'Etival, after accused had done all in her power to stop this. A week after it was finished, as she lay on her bed, something seemed to take her by the throat and try to strangle her. Unable to move, but eventually managed to call out name of Jesus, and obtained instant relief. About 18 months earlier Jacquotte had been angry when witness refused to sell her some eggs; 3 or 4 days later she suddenly fainted in woods, and hurt her leg which became so swollen it was thought it would have to be amputated. Was unable to walk for 7 weeks; had made her suspicions public without any reaction from accused.

Told of Jacquotte's anger over 'battand' 5 years before. Had said repeatedly 'qu'elle donnoit au diable ledit battand, et celuy qui avoit donné la permission de le bastir, qui l'avoit basty, et celuy qui y travailloit' - then accident to her brother. Previous May her father was chosen to make 'la tracte des mois' for village, and accused was very angry that one of her sons was charged an extra 2 blancs; next day one of her father's cows became ill, and died in 24 hours.

(11) Jean Rolbey de l'Hoste du Bois, 28

Had quarrel with her son Jean, when they fought, and he called him 'fils de sorciere accusée', about which she was very angry. Year ago last Chandeleur he was preparing animals to cart planks by river when she came and asked him if he was going to do this, 'ne scait ce qu'elle fait a l'entour de ses bestiaux, sy esse que pour le mesme temps ilz deviendrent tous mallades'; one of oxen, worth 21 escus the pair, died. Suspected witchcraft by accused; long reputation.

(12) Colas Mengeon Henry de l'Hoste du Bois, 50

Told of visit to house to ask for peas on Christmas eve, and refusal, followed by his illness with stomach pains. During his illness heard from neighbours that her husband had said he would have 'de la peine' if he died, since he would be obliged to be guardian for children, to which she had replied that he would not die, but would shortly recover. As he was recovering she came and asked if his legs had been swollen yet; he replied they had not, then she rubbed them with her hands several times. Then became swollen and extremely painful for three weeks.

Told story of how his late mother had lent money for repurchase of field, then died believing herself bewitched. He had also lost great numbers of animals, in a strange manner, which he believed to be witchcraft by accused, with whom he had many disputes.

(13) Colas fils du precedent, 11

Told of boasting by Curien son of accused that he had been beyond Saulceray, carried in air with his mother and Jean Mareschal his brother, then attended what was clearly sabbat, though not named.

(14) Jean Galdrimey de l'Hoste du Bois, 63

Told of dispute over geese; she called him 'vieux loup' and he called her witch. Further told her, in presence of her husband and others, that 'jamais il n'avoit heu querelle contre elle qu'il n'ayt perdu quelques bestiaux, et que c'est qu'elle luy vouloit encor faire mourrir plus qu'il n'en avoit plus guiere'. Subsequently lost geese and other animals including 6 horses, so that he had been reduced to poverty. Believed this was witchcraft by accused; long reputation.

(15) Mengeon Galdrimey de l'Hoste du Bois, 45

Since he had kept tavern in village he and wife had various disputes with accused, and had even been to law over insults. Told story of 'troupes de Juliers' passing four years before, then incident with tripes and sickness of family. Then said that 3 years before had purchased 6 resaulx of oats and same of barley on credit from Rembault Jean Girard of Ramberviller; drank to deal in her house, but she was angry that he had been given credit. On leaving he became ill suddenly, almost losing his sight, and for almost 10 weeks thought to be on point of death. Hearing that Rembault's servant was at her house, managed to get there to ask if he would still deliver the grain. She offered him some lentil soup, 'disant qu'il preigne peine de la manger'; instantly felt better, went back to work, and believed she had removed illness which she had given. Also blamed her for several subsequent deaths of animals.

(16) Demenge fils du precedent, 12

Told story about Curien boasting about going to sabbat; when she heard of this his mother prevented him frequenting other boys again.

(17) Mengeon fils de Catherine Gelyat de l'Hoste du Bois, 12-13

Short version of same story.

(18) Anthoine fils Jean Claude demeurant a la Bourgonce, 9-10

Same story.

(19) Demenge Fallajeux le Jeune de l'Hoste du Bois, 30

5 years earlier had sold Henry Colas Henry place to build battand and wheel; was then threatened by accused, who had wanted place. Then an ox became ill; some 7 weeks later was cutting hay when accused made further threats. 'En fin il dit que c'estoit trop luy mener la guerre pour ledit battand, et ne craindoit que les

sorcieres que luy puisse faire desplaisir'; next day his ox began to recover, so he believed she had bewitched it then cured it.

Signed by tabellion, mark of Nicolas Colin Dentandt.

15 June 1616; interrogation

Said she was about 50, native of la Bourgonce; father was Nicolas Grand Demenge and mother Alizon, both long dead. Had been married to husband for 27 years, and had always lived with him in his native Hoste du Bois. Knew she was accused of witchcraft; claimed she had known nothing of this until accusation by Dieudonné Jean Thierion of Brehimont some two years earlier, followed by that from Jean Didier Mathieu.

Generally denied all accusations, although sometimes said she had no memory of incidents. Was greatly taken aback by story about Curien's boast, said she did not believe he had said this, but if he had 'que la malle morte le puisse tuer'. Seemed to become angry later, and said about death of Jean Rolbey's pigs 'la rage que ledit Rolbey et sa femme seront enragez', and of death of Jean Galdrimey's geese 'qu'elle a faict mourir ses fiebvres cartaines'; of his other animals 'qu'elle a faict mourrir le feu que ledit Galdrimey sera bruslé'. Admitted that Galdrimey's wife had called her witch; she replied that she was speaking of herself.

Over story of lentil soup given to Mengeon Galdrimey said 'qu'il ne fault plus faire de bien puis qu'en faisant des aulmosnes on y trouve a redire.'

16 June 1616; confrontations

Generally uneventful. Said of Claudatte femme Demege Fallajeulx 'elle estoit desja vieille et ne pouvoit tousjours vivre'. Called Jennon femme Mengeon Galdrimey 'une ribaulde et une meschante femme', Jean Galdrimey 'un larron', Mengeon Galdrimey 'un larron et meschante homme'

16 June; procureur d'office asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

18 June; Change de Nancy agrees

22 June 1616; interrogation under torture

No reaction to thumbscrews, which judges seem to have seen as sign of diabolical interference. When she was racked her throat became swollen and black; she asked to be released so she could tell of her maléfices, only to say she was no witch when this was done. The second time she did start confessing. Had been seduced some 24 or 25 years earlier by devil called Jolybois, who promised her gold and silver in garden behind her house. Instead gave her three kinds of powder; black to kill, grey to make sick, and yellow to cure. Confessed to range of maléfices, very much as suggested by witnesses, and with some promptings from judges. Denied causing harm to Colas Henry, Jennon fille Henry Colas Henry, or Jean Rolbey.

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Said she had taken her son Colas to sabbat once, about 2 years previously; did not believe he had been marked or abused by devil there. Could only identify Dieudonné Jean Thierion of Brehimont and Jean Claude Mathieu of La Bourgonce, both already executed.

23 June 1616; interrogation

Repeated essential of previous confessions. Claimed she had only been to sabbat twice, as result of paying devil a hen each Martinmas in lieu of attending.

Procureur asks for execution

25 June 1616; Change de Nancy approves

28 June 1616; execution takes place