

B 8724 no 4. Witch 304, Anthoinette femme Didier Chaudron, de Raon

9 December 1619; Jean Colin maintained accusation against her. She denied being witch; said she was about 60. Refused obstinately to renounce devil, saying he was not her master.

12 December 1619; Change de Nancy approves taking of depositions, interrogation and confrontations

10 December 1619; informations

(1) Mongeotte femme Claudon Estienne, 46

Long reputation

(2) Jennon femme Nicolas Bars, 47

Had come weeping to her house a year earlier, saying they wanted to arrest her as a witch, asking what she should say, to which she replied that she must tell the truth.

(3) Margueritte femme Honnble Gabriel Mercier, 33

2 years before her son had come to buy some cheese, and she told him that he must first pay the sol he owed her. He alleged he had given it to a servant who had now left, which she knew to be false. Later met accused at mill, who said she was sorry her son had not given her the money; replied that it did not matter, and she gave it her for honour of God, but he should bring money in future. Few days later accused came early to house asking to buy milk, and she told her she had none. Next day her daughter became ill, 'toutte fantasque', and died in 2 days - if she were witch as reputed thought she had caused this. Also suspected of giving the servant concerned the illness from which she died, after she had complained about what son said and they quarrelled.

(4) Honnble Gabriel Mercier, 34

Had returned from Blamont 2 years earlier to find his daughter very ill, and was crying over this when wife called him aside and told him of her suspicions. He had said in various places that he would have her burned, and she had known of this; after that never came to seek alms at house, and when his maid offered her alms in street refused, saying 'que son maitre luy en avoit bien donné une grosse des aulmosnes'. If she was witch as reputed believed she had caused death of child.

(5) Margueritte femme Jean Baccon, 30

The servant who had supposedly taken money from her son had passed into her service, and went to reproach her over claim. Then fell ill and died in a week - did not know if she had caused this or not.

(14 December 1619)

(6) Babillon veuve du Grand Colas, 58

2 years before had asked her if she knew that Gabriel Mercier wanted to have her arrested; replied that she did, and accused said that Claude Lhuillier's wife had told her of this. A week ago she had asked her if Jean Colin had been arrested, but she said she did not know.

(16 December 1619)

(7) Idoulx de Maille, 23

About 8 years before had been outside house at night, and saw her in middle of road, moving about and raising arms above head. Having heard she was suspected of witchcraft, he took fright and fled inside.

14 December 1619; voluntary confession

Judges were called to prison to hear her confession, and took her to town hall. She said she was a witch, and now renounced devil freely. Seduced some 12 years earlier by Mre Navé, when on way to woods at côte de Repy, angry that her husband was drinking in the tavern. Promised to give her so much money that she would not want, but it turned out to be leaves (seems to include second container of powder). A fortnight later gave her white powder; tried this on hen which died, then threw rest in fire. Went to sabbat once a year on côte de Repy. Asked if she gave him anything not to go more often, said no, but he had intercourse with her and for this reason did not require her to go so often.

24 December 1619; interrogation

Now said that earlier confession had been false, and she had made it to get out of prison. Had taken details from other trials she had heard read. Asked about some specific accusations, she denied them, but then started to confess again. Now confessed she had killed daughter of Gabriel Mercier, after minor dispute, on her master's instructions. Repented afterwards, when she found herself suspected. Had also killed the servant. Had been waving arms in street because husband was drinking in the tavern.

Confessed she had killed cow of David Roch, at master's instigation, after his wife refused her milk. had killed child of Barnard Huel after a similar refusal of milk. 7 or 8 years before Henry Virion's child was so ill it was a pitiful sight; spoke of this to her master, who advised her to kill it, which she did. 2 years earlier Didier Peirson, tailleur, promised to help her with sewing, but when he put this off she was angry, and at master's persuasion killed his child. Had given Claude le maire illness from which he died 3 years earlier, after he forgot to give her lard he promised at Easter; also killed one of his calves when she was refused milk.

Said there were many at sabbat, even small children in cradles, but had only recognized Jean Colin. Had made rain and bad weather by beating rivers, but she had never made hail because she feared dearth. Said she had killed cow of Jean Raimbault 6 years earlier; he was a drunkard who persuaded her husband to join him and run up debts by drinking.

30 December 1619; repeated earlier confessions

4 January 1620; Change de Nancy approves death sentence