

B 8979 no 1; witch 324, Jacqueline Manouvrier, femme Didier Martin, de St Nicolas

7 August 1609; interrogation

Said she was native of St Nicolas, aged about 45, daughter of Nicolas Manouvrier and his wife Justienne. First husband was Urbain Lamouleur, who had been hung about 15 years before; married to Didier Martin, cordonnier, for 12 years. No children by second marriage.

Said she had been arrested because Didiere femme Chrestofle Arnoult Cuieffre had called her 'sorciere et double sorciere', accusing her of bewitching one of her daughters. Asked to say if this was true:

'A dict estre la verité qu'ayant eu quelque querelle avec lesdits Arnoult et sa femme pour se venger de ce elle print d'une pouldre que le malin esprit luy avoit baillé, et en espendit au porche de la maison dudit Arnoult a intention de rendre sa fille en extremité de maladie et dequoy elle fut perclue de ses membres.'

Asked for how long she had given the illness, said it was for 2 months. As for how she had removed it:

'A dict que deux mois apres qu'elle eust donné ledit mal elle fut visiter ladite malade et esmeue de compasion de la veoir ainsy tourmentée et de crainte qu'elle avoit d'estre accusée elle fait un pottage luy fait manger, puis apres la frotta avec de l'huile provenante du couvent des Peres Ambrosiens, et usa d'une pouldre blanche que luy avoit esté donnée par ledit malin esprit, ce qu'ayant faict commença ladite pauvre malade a recuperer sa santé.'

Said that some 6 years after execution of first husband had been in despair because of this disaster and her poverty. Decided to take her child and go around country begging; as she approached Nancy she met man in black on black horse. Offered to give her money if she would serve him, and when she said she would not do this of it was for any harm promised her it was not. Then normal seduction scene, after which Persin took her to sabbat. Here others in masks danced back to back, played cards, and decided to ruin the grain crop. She and the other poor people did not want to agree. Widow of Nicolas Piccard, whom she recognised by her large hands and her coat, said that she would have enough.

Had also seen wife of Humbert Vaulthier, chartier of St Nicolas, and 3 from ban of Rozieres. These were a beggar (who normally wore a white hat) and his wife who had been chased out of Remereville on suspicion of witchcraft, and a big man with a 'rochat', whose name she did not know - was father of 'la passementiere'. Also wife of Mre Jean Simon, schoolmaster of St Nicolas, one known as Jehanne Patteate, aunt of la Gueriatte, and one called la Remenderesse of rue des Estuves, mother-in-law of Simon Gallois, chartier.

Asked if master had asked her to give him her child, said he had not. On return found that money was oak leaves. Also had 3 kinds of powder - black/kill, unspecified/languish, white/heal - which she was told to place on thresholds of those she wanted to harm. Denied having used these on any other occasion than the one already admitted; had thrown rest in river.

Claimed she had never been to sabat again, but was often beaten by her master for refusal. He tried to prevent her taking holy water in church, but she did so.

Asked about using napkins to 'deviner la maladie' or find lost goods:

'A dict estre la verité qu'ordinairement estante advertie de la maladie de quelques enfans elle prenoit une serviette, et en la mesurante avec le bras Invocquant plusieurs Saints en apres conseilloit aux peres et meres desdits enfans d'aller en pellerinage en plusieurs lieux, Mesme que sy quelqu'un ayant perdu aucune

chose s'adressan a elle afin de descouvrir celluy ou celle qui l'avoit prins apres leur avoir demandé s'ilz avoient soupçon sur quelqu elle profferoit et disoit que sy ledit soupçonné avoit prins ladite chose perdue que le diable l'emporte (s'entend elle prevenue) et que sy ledit soupçonné l'avoit prins elle estoit emportée, et quand il estoit innocent du fait elle n'estoit emportée dont au moyen de ce elle descouvroit les choses perdues.'

Asked again about going to sabat, thought and then said that 3 years earlier Persin had found her around dawn, beaten her, and taken her to sabat. Danced to sound of violin and flute, then ate bread, meat and salt which were both black, and water which seemed to be wine - all tasted bad. Then most of them played cards, and agreed to waste crops - she again opposed this.

Denied that she had tried to persuade her husband to join her. Asked if she had any children living, said not; the child mentioned earlier had died of smallpox 18 months after her seduction.

11 August 1609; PG (C.M. Rémy) asks for death sentence, after confrontations with those she has accused. Any of the accused who had no fixed abode, or were likely to flee, should be arrested.

Sentence approved by Change de Nancy.

29 August 1609; formal death sentence from court at St Nicolas.