

Witch 326, Ydatte Marchal 1

B 8979 no 3; witch 326, Ydatte Marchal, femme Humbert Waulthier, de St Nicolas

28 August 1609; interrogation

Said she was 58, native of Crevic. Husband was chartier at St Nicolas; first husband had been Humbert Joulain, baker of St Nicolas. She had lived at St Nicolas for 16 years. Had 8 children by first husband, all dead, only one by second, which had been stillborn. Knew she had been accused as witch, but claimed she was innocent.

Was then confronted with Jacqueline, who had accused her, and who claimed to have identified her by her big nose. She said that if she was witch she would confess it freely, but added curious remark 'que sy elle est sorciere elle n'en scait rien, et qu'il faudroit qu'elle soit née en ceste planette.'

Then said that 4 years earlier woke up to find something like a person next to her, which was very cold. Thought it had copulated with her while she slept, and emitted substance cold as marble. Husband was in tavern as usual, and she was angry about how he was wasting his money. Visitor asked why she was sad, and she complained about her husband, who tormented her and spent her money; he said she should leave her 'gourmand de mary' and 'il y donroit ordre'. Made her renounce God and take him for master, scratched her on front. Asked why she had not confessed this earlier, said she had been ashamed to do so.

Denied receiving powder or going to sabat, claiming to have commended herself to God so well that he could not approach her

28 August 1609; substitut for PG asks for execution, after she has been interrogated under torture. Change de Nancy approves torture.

29 August 1609; interrogation under torture

Would not add to confessions, so given thumbscrews, and admitted she had received money which proved to be oak leaves. master's name was Creusson, also gave her powder, black/kill, white/heal. Used this on her own horse, which became ill but which she then cured with white powder.

A year earlier had dispute with Claude Curty, portier a la Val, who had seized some of her property; sprinkled powder before his house to make his wife ill, which she was for 3 weeks - but had not intended to kill her. Cured her when 'troutieres jeunes filles' asked her for bread - suspected this was to cure his wife, so put white powder in it.

3 years earlier her neighbour Garard Mathieu, a baker, was beating his wife, and when she went to separate them he beat her too. Master came to see her a week later and incited her to kill him, but she would not because he had many children; finally consented to his making him ill, as he still was with something like gout - did not know how master did this.

2 years earlier Curty and his wife quarrelled with her and called her witch, so she used powder to kill son aged 6, who died 2 weeks later, and a cow.

18 months earlier used powder to kill a cow belonging to François Mourel, because he chased her hens out of his garden.

Said she had been to sabat 4 times. Had seen la Petiatte, tante à la Gueriatte (recognised by her face, and was neighbour), wife of Jean Pierre, cordier a la Val, Jacqueline (her accuser), and Annon veuve du maire François Piccard de Drouville. They danced back to back, wearing masks, and spoke unknown language.

Said she was a poor sinner, asking to be put to death quickly.

31 August 1609; substitut asks for death sentence, following confrontations with those she had accused. Change de Nancy approved, with additional requirement that check be made with those she had harmed to check that misfortunes had really occurred as she said.

2 September 1609; informations

(1) Margueritte femme Jean Curty, portier, 40

9 years earlier had quarrelled with her, then herdsman came to say that cow which had been fine an hour earlier was dying. Went to see it, and found it was already dead, all swollen; he suggested it was bewitched, which made them suspect her. 3 years earlier son aged 6 or 7 suddenly became ill on return from school, and died a week or so later. Suspected her because of long reputation, and because they had lawsuit against her.

(2) Girard Mathis, boulangier, 34

3 years before, during quarrel between him and his late wife. she intervened to separate them. Told her to mind her own business and struck her, after which she took him to court. Meanwhile wife became ill, all swollen, and finally died, while he had great pains like gout in hands and feet, which still troubled him. Believed wife's death had been a spell she had put on, as wife herself had thought, and that she had given him his own illness, because of lawsuit and long reputation. (Illiterate)

(3) Margueritte femme François Mourel, vigneron, 52

A cow had died 18 months earlier; did not know cause, but accused was long suspected as a witch.

(4) Jean Vincent, boulangier, 45

Long reputation. (Illiterate)

7 September 1609; formal death sentence from court at St Nicolas