

Witch 345, la Grosse Alison de Montaigneiz 1

Vosges G706: witch 345, la Grosse Alison de Montaigneiz, veuve Estienne de Ferterulz (Badonviller, 1561)

4 September 1561; la Grosse Alison de Montaigneiz, veuve Estienne de Ferterulz, had been arrested at request of Jehan Hanss of Badonviller, who claimed she was a witch and fugitive from St Dié for that reason.

21 September 1561; interrogation (by officers of comté de Salm at Badonviller)

Said that 14 or 15 years earlier she had been in her house at Ferterul, angry with husband because he worked in mines and gave her nothing, when she was approached by the devil, whose name was Perxins. He promised that if she would obey him and do his will he would make her 'la plus heureuse et la plus riche du monde'. Took something from her forehead with such force that it was very painful. She had had intercourse with him on 3 occasions - he was coldest thing she had ever felt, and often took form of a calf.

Master taught her how to kill her husband, but she was never successful in this. One day when she was angry with Blaise Laneçon of St Dié her master told her to take toads and 'rennes' in fields, then boil them to make a drink for him which would kill him. She made the drink but failed to find opportunity to give it to him. Did kill his child aged 6 months by putting powder in its 'boulyes', so that it died same night; devil then dug up corpse and she and accomplices roasted and ate it in small wood near la Magdelaine.

'Sabas' were on Thursday evenings in that place, and took a broom which turned into a cat when she mounted it and carried her up through the chimney. As sabat could not recognize others because they were changed into form of cats, calves, and dogs; danced to sound of minstrels playing fifes, tambourines, and other instruments.

Accomplices were Katherine la Bollatte of St Dié, and another of the same called la Fuseliere; they had done much harm together. Also Katherine of Padoulx, burned a long time before at Ramberviller.

About 12 or 13 years earlier had been on river, by master's command, to beat water with stick and spoil crops. This resulted in hailstorm which destroyed crops at la Croix de Perrichamps.

Following year killed horse of Colas Pairy of St Dié and another of Colin Lanceon. Had also killed ox of Blaise Lanceon, and tried to kill Claude le Voussez of St Dié by poisoning, but had no power over him.

Confessed she had put powder she had made in soup of le Gros Claude of St Dié, who was ill for long time. She told neighbours he should buy her eggs and eat them to obtain cure, and he recovered as soon as he did this.