

Witch 215, Meline Charier 1

B 8691 no 4; witch 215, Meline, veuve Nicolas Charier de Raon

18 November 1602; informations preparatoires

Preceded by confrontation with Jennon femme Claudon St Remy, who maintained accusation.

(1) Claudon Toutblanc, 41

Reputation 7 years.

(2) Anne femme Jean Canot, 40

Reputation 6 years.

(3) Catherine femme Jean Masson, 30

5 years earlier her husband was selling animals in Allemaigne with Meline's son, but stopped this because it was not profitable enough. Shortly afterwards, bringing animals back from there, there was a sudden noise and a cow was lost, which he and his men could not find; thought this might have been her doing if she was witch as reputed.

(4) Nicolas Jean Peltre

Long reputation.

(5) Maurice Mengeon, 36

14 years earlier had come to mill where he worked, and her servant had not put her grain up on high; told witness he would scratch his head, and 2 weeks later had strange illness which lasted 11 weeks - had always suspected her of this if she was witch as reputed.

(6) Jean Masson, 41

Long reputation, same story as wife; son's name was Chrestofle.

(7) Humbert Claudon, 35

Reputation 5 or 6 years.

(8) Marie femme Demenge Pariset, 25

2 years before cock of accused was killed in garden of Jean Raville, and blamed mother of witness for not telling her. 2 weeks later she suddenly sickened and died, saying during illness that if she was witch as reputed she might have been cause.

(9) Agnes femme Mathieu Huchon, 46

Reputation 10 years.

(10) Meline fille feu Valentin Poulain, 23

Some years earlier, when she was about to marry late husband, said 'que le diable puisse recommander son corps, mais que son ame soit sauvée tant vivoit elle'.

(11) Jean Baccon de Raon, 40

Reputation 7 years.

(12) Didier Prevost, 46

Reputation 4 years.

(13) Catherine femme Maurice Mengeon, 35

Repeated husband's story about his illness.

(14) Jennon femme Dieudonné Coupechause, 40

Reputation 5 or 6 years.

(19 November 1602)

(15) Margueritte femme Colas des Mailles, 44

Threatened by her, but no misfortune. Had recently asked witness to tell her of what was being said in the town.

(16) Jennon femme Humbert Vergier, 60

Towards last harvest eyes had been very painful, and Meline came to see her, asking for some milk and saying that by this means she would recover - as she did next day. Suspected her over this, especially since she had previously touched her under eyes at spring.

(17) Jennon femme Jean Petit, 60

Had recently heard her beating her daughter, who had called out for help, saying the witch would kill her.

(18) Dedie femme Colas Faillé, 40

Had recently had two pigs sick, which she and her husband suspected had been her witchcraft - was neighbour, and often in house.

(19) Odille femme Demenge Barbonille le jeune, 30

6 years earlier moictrière of late maire Henry had died of illness she attributed to Melline, because she had not bought something she was selling, and because she refused her some butter. Also said she had served in her house at

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Baccarat, and they had sent to devin to find out who caused loss of animals - this was said to be Meline's doing.

(20 November 1602)

(20) Colas Claude le maire, 40

A month before had been angry that a pair of shoes he had made were unsatisfactory; next day a cow sickened and died, which he suspected had been her doing if she was witch as reputed.

(21) Claudatte femme Jean Merielle, 36

3 years earlier were living in same house and husband fell ill; recovered after eating cooked pear she brought him with some fennel. Suspected her if she was witch as reputed, and did have quarrel about chicken, but could not remember when.

(22) Catherine femme Jean Ravibaude, 26

Previous year was angry when refused milk, after which cow lost milk for long time; thought she had caused this if she was witch as reputed.

(23) Noble femme Elizabeth de Dieuze, veuve du clerc juré Coupdelance, 50

Suspected that if she was witch as reputed she might have had something to do with husband's death, in view of words she was reported to have used (omission from record here, probably error by clerk).

(24) Marguitte femme Charles ?, 40

3 years before had been sharing house with her, and she told them to find another lodging - unable to do this because it was wrong time of year, and soon son Charles, aged one, fell ill. Remained so for long time, until one day Meline seemed to say something as she looked at him and he recovered - but had died a year later. Suspected that if she was witch as reputed she had caused his death.

(25) Thomas Jean Jacquat, 60

Reputation 12 years.

(21 November 1602)

(26) Catherine femme Honn Homme Claude Moiron, 50

Had been told she had said threateningly 'que le diable avoit emporté feu le clerc juré Capdelance et qu'il emporteroit encor ledit Moiron son marit qu'il avoit son regne presentement'; had bad opinion of her, in view of reputation, and thought she might cause them some harm.

(27) Martin Fachot, 26

Already suspected at Baccarat, and husband's children called her witch openly.

(28) Demenge Saffrois, 43

Reputation 12 years.

(29) Gabriel Ozelle, 42

Reputation 6 or 7 years.

(30) Jennon femme Jean Grand Didier, 30

Story of Jennon femme Humbert Vergier and eye trouble; suggested that Meline had offered to make her some soup.

(31) Catherine veuve Henri Claude, 60

Reputation 7 or 8 years; called witch by son-in-law at Baccarat.

(32) Babellon veuve Grand Colas, 38

Daughter called her witch when she beat her.

(33) Mongeatte femme Perin Hanriat, paistre, 40

2 years earlier next Lent had come asking to buy milk, but since she was selling milk herself witness refused, after which a cow lost much of its milk. When she asked for some again sold it, for fear of greater loss; had always suspected her if she was witch as reputed.

(26 November 1602)

(34) Jean Mereille, 40

Story of illness as told by wife, and cure after eating pear. Had not suspected her at time, but since arrest had thought it might have been her witchcraft.

(35) Claudon Viriat, de Baccarat, 44

When she lived in Baccarat 7 years earlier had often been in his house, and asking to borrow money. On one occasion touched wife's breast, saying there was a pin there, after which she lost milk and gave blood on one side. Suspected this was her witchcraft, and intended to take vengeance if she returned to house, but after that she kept away. Had heard her called witch without seeking reparation.

(36) Babon femme du precedent, 45

7 years earlier had lent her 30 francs, and she refused request for repayment. Later came and asked for another franc, which she would have given her from fear, but had none to give. Same day her daughter aged 7, holding on to her clothing, was taken by a strange wind and fell, breaking her arm. Also story of touching and

loss of milk, which followed refusal of request for oats, because they had none. Also suspected her of causing illness of child which she found at midnight with neck twisted; ill for 4 years, although at one point accused told her to take leaves of 'fromageon et letrier' and this made child better. At end of 4 years child died suddenly after Meline had given them good day through window of poisie. Suspicion was greater because on occasion she found child ill Meline had asked her to visit dying husband and persuade him to make gift to their own daughter; did visit him, but knowing he was a good man talked about salvation of his soul to comfort him, and not about donation.

(37) Curien Daboncourt, de Baccarat, 32

Had disputes with her when she lived at Baccarat, over marriage settlement for his wife, and then had to go to bed with eye trouble. Cured after eating bread, salt and ashes which wife obtained from her house, and suspected that if she was witch as reputed she had been cause.

(38) Jean Grand Jean, de Baccarat, 46

Long reputation, but no personal suspicion despite having been neighbour.

(39) Henry Jean Defein, de Baccarat, 30

Had heard from Claudon Viriat's wife that Meline had caused her great harm.

(40) Demenge Philbert, de Baccarat, 32

General reputation.

30 November 1602; report that she had fled, according to the other people living in same house.

18 December 1602; Change de Nancy responds to information that she has not answered summons by ordering three further calls, after which banishment may follow.

2 April 1603; Change de Nancy declares her banished in perpetuity, with goods confiscated.