

Witch 165, Claudel Demenge Martin 1

B 8677 no 11; witch 165, Claudel Demenge Martin, du Pair

13 November 1596; Claudel was confronted with Blasatte femme Claudon Collon, de la Chapelle, who maintained accusation that she had seen him at sabat at place called gris maulx bois; he denied this.

14 November 1596; informations preparatoires

Taken at request of procureur for bishop of Verdun, by court of ban de Moyenmoutier.

(1) Catherine femme Demenge Valtin, de la Chapelle, 30

Reputation since execution of mother as witch some 10 years earlier.

(2) Jean Reullemant, de la Chapelle, 40

Had seen no harm in him, but reputation since mother's execution.

(3) Valtin Claudon, 40

Story that mother had taken him to sabat.

(4) Demenge Simon, 40

Reputation since mother's execution.

(5) Claudon Jean Simon, 20

Had heard chambermaid in house of accused's father say that he spoke of going to sabat with mother, where he danced and feasted.

(6) Jean des Anges, 50

Reputation since mother's execution.

(7) Jean Simon, 50

Similar deposition.

(8) Anthoinette femme Jean Warin, de Moyenmoutier, 30

Had been chambermaid in parents' house some 12 years earlier, and heard him singing about going to Repy - thought he meant sabat and was frightened.

(9) Catherine femme Jean des Anges, 40

Reputation only.

- (10) Catherine femme Colas George Mongenat de la Chapelle, 40

Had heard of reputation, and that he said he could make hail when he wanted.

- (11) Claudon Jean Coullon de la Chapelle, 27

Had heard his mother had accused him when executed.

- (12) Claudon Peltier de la Chapelle, 50

Had threatened witness 2 years earlier, as he heard, after being warned over straying animals. Story of singing heard by chambermaid.

- (13) Jehan Valtin de la Chapelle, 30

Suspected since mother's execution; had heard story he had said he had been one of 7 devils who dragged out a pear tree.

- (14) Mongeatte femme Noel George de la Chapelle, 30

Story about pear tree; other included his brother Idoult (now dead) and his mother.

- (15) Nicolas Jean Martin, du Paire, 70

Stories about chambermaid, and telling other boys he knew how to make hail by beating water.

- (16) Valtin Jean Coulat, du Paire, 40

Reputation since mother's execution.

- (17) Hanry Jean Mongenat, du Paire, 30

Knew no harm of him.

- (18) Mengeon Jacquat, du Paire, 30

A year earlier heard from Mongeon Jacquat that accused had come up as he was ploughing and asked why he was doing that, because there would be no grain that year, while 'les femmes seroient contraintes de menger leurs enfans a cause qu'il n'y auroit point de bled'. Also told him that he would make hail under the chimney. Long reputation.

- (19) Jean Pieron, du Paire, 30

Rumours at time of mother's execution.

(20) Idoult Willaume, du Paire, 60

Had heard his mother took him to sabat with her.

(21) Jean Jacquat, du Paire, 28

Story of how accused told him he could make hail by going up chimney, then beating water with stick. Also story about coming up when he was ploughing, saying there would be no summer weather that year, and women would have to eat their children because of the dearth. Did indeed prove right, and there had been great dearth 2 years earlier, 'ce qu'il presume une mauvaise volonté dudit detenu pour estre un genax'.

(22) Claudon Valtin le jeune, de la Chapelle, 26

Boys guarding animals with accused had told how he talked of grease his mother kept in little box, which they put on broom to go up chimney and feast on côte de Repy.

(23) Jean Gerardin le jeune, du Paire, 25

12 years earlier had been guarding animals with accused and Jean fils Jean Valtin Gerardin; in a quarrel Jean accused him of being son of a witch and a witch himself. Had told him he went to sabat on Haute Pierre at Moyemoutier, where there were many he did not know, apart from mother, and they ate small birds. 'Mesme que parfois ils sautoient depuis ladite pierre a la vallée et qu'aussy tost ilz se trouvoient tousjours sur un beau lieu.' Also claimed he had killed 3 oxen belonging to a laboureur in the val de Senones.

(24) Jean Mourice jeune fils, du Paire, 18

Story about how accused passed him in fields 2 years earlier, and there was rumble of thunder, but he could see nothing.

(25) Jennon veuve Jacquat Barthelemin, du Paire, 50

12 years earlier her chambermaid told her accused had said he could make hail if he wanted, and that when thunder damaged ban de Moyemoutier he said the cloud had been prepared behind mountain of Haute Pierre above Moyemoutier for 3 days until it was ready.

(26) Jennon femme Jean Pieron, du Paire, 30

Long reputation.

(27) Barbelline veuve Jacquat Charpentier, du Paire, 30

Story about thunderstorm being prepared for 3 days - said to have been 6 years earlier.

(28) Marion femme Jean Warin, du Paire, 30

Had heard he said he could make hail.

(29) Jean Mongeay, previously maire, of le Paire, 50

Reputation since execution of mother.

15 November 1596; interrogation

Brought before court at abbey of Moyenmoutier, said he was a witch and wanted to confess. Said he was about 19, son of Idoult Demenge Martin, who had died about 5 years earlier; mother Dedier had been executed 8 years earlier.

Agreed he had been suspected as witch for 9 years. Asked if he had met any evil spirit who seduced him, told rather inconsequential story about man dressed in blue like harquebusier, who had promised to clothe him well if he would go with him, but he refused - this had been 3 years earlier, did not know if he was spirit or not.

Mother had taken him to sabat at le gris maux bois 9 years earlier; went behind house and a wind carried them there. Greeted by big man in black, who said they were welcome; then joined in dance, which lasted 2 or 3 hours, but nothing was said. Went again 3 weeks later, flying up chimney with broom between legs; this time Mre Guillot made him renounce God and promise to serve him. Gave him black powder in little box, telling him to use it on animals when he was angry, or had wrong done to him.

Admitted using power to kill calf of maire Willaume, which strayed into their garden.

Asked about sabat, described dancing and feasting in usual fashion. At côte de Repy 8 years earlier had recognized Catherine femme au maire Willaume of le Paire.

18 November 1596; interrogation

Told of 2 occasions when they beat water, causing mist and rain. Others at sabat did talk, but he could not hear what they said properly. Guillot had given him grease for broom, which he kept in hole in wall at home, but had not had any for a long time. Had also been to sabat on Haulte Pierre, where they made hail.

19 November 1596; interrogation

Confirmed previous confessions.

21 November 1596; interrogation

Another confirmation.

23 November 1596; procureur for bishop of Verdun (abbot of Moyenmoutier) asks for death sentence

26 November 1596; Change de Nancy approves, subject to final confirmation of confessions

2 December 1596; final confirmation of confessions. Confronted with Catherine femme au maire Willaume, who denied accusation, saying he was a thief.