

Witch 163; B8667 no 9, Jehenne femme Demenge le Maire, de La Chapelle

14 November 1596; informations préparatoires taken against Jehenne wife of Demenge le Maire of la Chapelle, accused by Blasatte (no. 6), by judges representing Ban de Moyenmoustier, at request of procureur for Mgr. de Verdun.

(1) Demenge Jean Claude de la Chapelle, c. 50

Reputation about 14 years.

(2) Catherine femme a Demenge Valtin de la Chapelle, c. 30

Long reputation.

(3) Jean Reillement de la Chapelle, c. 40

Some 10 years before there had been a great thunderstorm at twilight (or dawn?); had heard from those who lived in same house with accused that she had slept through it as if she would never wake, which made them suspect she was at sabbat.

(4) Valtin Claudon Valtin de la Chapelle, c. 40

Long reputation.

(5) Demenge Simon de la Chapelle, c. 40

Long reputation. Some 6 years before had heard a dispute between her husband and Blason 'son fils voisin', in which latter told former 'qu'il s'advisast de remédier à sa femme', since she had threatened him and he had lost a pig. Husband replied 'que sy elle estoit genaxe qu'il la failloit brusler avec luy'.

(6) Claudon Jean Simon de la Chapelle, jeune fils, c. 20

Long reputation.

(7) Jean des Aches de la Chapelle, c. 50

Reputation about 15 years.

(8) Claudon Valtin de la Chapelle, c. 60

Reputation more than 12 years.

(9) Idoult Marie de la Chapelle, c. 40

Long reputation.

(10) Claudon Jean Claude de la Chapelle, c. 36

Long reputation.

(11) Jean Simon de la Chapelle, c. 60

Reputation about 10 years.

(12) Catherine femme a Jean des Aches, c. 40

Long reputation.

(13) Catherine femme a Colas George Mongenat de la Chapelle, c. 40

Reputation 18 years. Some 7 years before had seen her passing through a hedge close to her, when a great wind suddenly came up without noise; after this could not see her on account of hedge.

(14) Claudon Pellier de la Chapelle, c. 50

Reputation about 20 years.

(15) Jennon femme a Demenge Reillement de la Chapelle, c. 30

Had heard her say that if her son Blason were taken as a witch she would go to see him burned (earlier that year).

(16) Mongeatte femme a Noel George de la Chapelle, c. 30

Some 7 years earlier her mother had reproached Jehenne for taking fallen pears from a tree behind their house, since when the tree had borne no fruit.

(17) Demenge du Rat de la Chapelle, c. 40

Reputation about 17 years.

(18) Noel George de la Chapelle, c. 36

Reputation more than 7 years.

(19) Nicolas Jean Martin du Paire, c. 60

Some time before had heard that accused had said she would put something in plate of Bastienne widow of Perin du Paire, if she could get at it, because she suspected her husband was seeing her.

(20) Valtin Jean Coulat du Paire, c. 40

Had seen no harm in her.

(21) Claudon Valtin le Jeune de la Chapelle, c. 26

Long reputation. Since Blasatte had been arrested she had been crying frequently in her room, and had asked his wife if those who were burned were saved.

(22) Idatte femme a Valentin le Choux de la Chapelle, c. 40

Eight years earlier her cow had suffered a broken leg; if Jehenne was a witch believed she might have done it, since they had taken village animals away from them (?).

(23) Marion femme a Jean Warin, du Paire, c. 30

Always heard her suspected when she lived at la Chapelle.

13 November 1596; record from trial of Blasatte of confrontation with Jehenne.

18 November 1596; interrogation

Said she was about 70, daughter of Claude and Marguittre Perin of Brehimont. Father had died 26 years before, mother 30 (both at la Chapelle).

Had married and come to la Chapelle some 30 years earlier. Knew she was under arrest on suspicion of being a witch; this had never come to her ears until last St. Jean when Sieur Prieur of Moyenmoustier called her witch. Then suddenly said she was a witch, and described seduction 2 years earlier; had been accompanying her husband, but turned back when they reached water at Mesnil - he was on his way to make his peace after some dispute, and she was angry. Made confession in normal terms, but with unusual amount of prompting from judges. Her master was Grand Colas le grand Diable; had given her powders, one of them to put in soup of her husband, but she had not wanted to do this. Had tried one on her cat, which died, but had done no other harm. Had given her grease to put on a 'ramont' and go to sabbat via chimney; there they danced and talked of doing harm - were not many present. Accused Claudel Demenge Martin du Paire, Jean Collin jeune fils and Valentin le Choux of la Chapelle, Catherine femme au maire Willaume du Paire, and the widow of Jacquel de St. Blaise.

19 November 1596; interrogation

Now said she had been seduced 10 years before, but at same place. Still named no malefices, but had been twice to sabbat, and had made hail. Added to list of accomplices Blasatte, her accuser, and Demenge Martin du Paire, brother of Claudel. Judges asked whether she had been reproached by her master when she went to church, and performed Easter duty, but she said he had not spoken of this. Also asked what one should do to protect animals and humans against those who had power to harm them; said for animals one should mix 'lunys et fenoil' and put in drinking trough; people should carry 'fenoil' on them.

Still denied doing harm with powder, but admitted that 10 years before it had been her master who was asleep in her place during thunderstorm.

21 November 1596; interrogation

Brief confirmation of voluntary confessions.

23 November 1596; procureur d'office for Mgr de Verdun, abbé de Moyenmoustier, asks for death sentence.

26 November 1596; Change de Nancy asks that she be given question, but moderately in view of her age.

4 December 1596; interrogation under torture

Repeated essential of confessions, adding some details on sabbat and a couple of malefices. Would not confess to other malefices until shaved and prepared for torture, when she confessed a series of them, including killing her own daughter who had offended her. Then she again said she had done no more, was given thumbscrews; now confirmed earlier accusations, but made no other confessions.

5 December 1596; interrogation

Confirmed admissions of previous day, and accusations. Confronted with Demenge Martin du Paire, who was in prison, maintained her charges.

6 Decernber 1596; yet another confirmation.

8 December 15S6; procureur again asks for death sentence

10 December 1596; Change de Nancy agrees

13 December 1596; execution carried out