

B 8707 no 8; witch 260, Jennon veuve Colas Ydoulx, de Nompatelize

13 April 1611; informations préparatoires

(1) Marion femme Mengeon Regnauldin, 24

Had avoided quarrelling with her because of reputation, but 3 years earlier neighbours had reported that the accused was 'une chienne et ne donnoit beaucoup du siens'. After this was in bed one night when she felt something like a person press on her so she could not move, and was unable to make sign of cross. Finally commended herself to God, which brought relief, but remained ill in body and mind for a year, unable to be still anywhere. Believed this had been caused by her witchcraft - long reputation.

(2) ? Toussaint, 50

Long reputation, but he had no personal suspicion; had heard Nicolas Bessel of Villairville claim she had killed his bull.

(3) Colas Gariolle, 30

Long reputation, but no personal suspicion. A month before, when those from village had been summoned to testify against Jennon la Mourratte, she had said that she feared she would not return home, but would be arrested at Etival.

(4) Jean Taxerant, 50

Although he had no dispute with her, and wished her no ill, had been told by several people that she threatened him. Met her a few days later while gathering nuts in hedges, and asked why she threatened him when he had done her no harm. Made as if to beat her, and she went off angrily; some time later was returning home at nightfall when he thought he was being followed by a cart drawn by several beasts, but was no sign of it when he stopped. As he approached village was thrown off his own cart and injured arm, then called for help, at which she appeared, although there had been no sign of her before and it was far from her house. She told him he was 'un bout' and disappeared. Had his arm in a sling for a year, and it was still useless, as he showed them; believed this had been her witchcraft, long reputation.

(5) Jean Regnauldin, 36

Previous spring had bought a load of hay from house where she was living, and used bar which closed door to tie it down; she was angry, and told his servant next day that she wished he had it across his stomach. That night a person seemed to get on bed and take him by throat as if to strangle him; was held like this for some time until he commended himself to God and made effort to throw the encumbrance off with his arms. Heard something strike chest, while the chickens started to call; thought this had been her attempt to strangle him with help of her master, long reputation.

(6) Didier Claudon Noel, 35

20 years before the accused had wanted to lease sheep from Marguittre veuve Colas Houchard, but because of reputation she preferred to entrust them to his mother Mengeotte Noel. Jennon was angry and said she would repent; within a few days a fine ox sickened, and finally had to be killed. When he took it out for this purpose saw her watching; he called her witch without any response. His mother also lost a cow and a calf which died strangely, and they believed this was her witchcraft - long reputation.

(7) Jean Nyel, 52

4 years earlier his late wife Bastienne had been working in Jean Seigaire's house, and had fight with Jennon, who was angry because she normally worked there; she became ill very soon after, and died in a week, maintaining that the accused had bewitched her. Since then had several times accused her of being a witch and causing wife's death, without any reaction - long reputation.

(8) Jean Doridant, 30

3 years before she had been living in their house, and following a dispute gave an apple to small son; he then became swollen and cried incessantly. After a year consulted doctor at Ste Marie, and told him how illness had begun; was given powder for child to eat with 'bouillie', after which he vomited up foul matter, sometimes green and sometimes yellow, until after several weeks he recovered. Had always believed this was her witchcraft, and had accused her without any reparation being sought. Several times she had been to bed apparently healthy, then he heard her complaining and crying, with sounds as if there were several people with her talking, then in morning face was all scratched - this increased his suspicions. During fatal illness of Jean Noel's wife heard her say several times that Jennon had bewitched her.

(9) Mengeon Regnauldin, 28

14 years before his late father Jean had quarrel with her, and lost a fine foal, which he imputed to her witchcraft.

(10) Marguittre femme Nicolas Gariolle, 30

Lived in same house with her (it belonged to Jean Seigaire); had several quarrels, and told her she was reputed a witch, so if any misfortune came she would blame her. She replied 'qu'il luy mesadvientroit le diable que la puisse emporter', but did not think any harm had followed.

(11) Jennon femme Jean Doridant, 30

Story of quarrel and illness of son (aged 1), as told by husband.

(12) Marguittre femme Jean de Boullain, 50

No accusation of witchcraft, but some 20 years earlier had stolen 'ung devantier de drap' worth 18 gros from her house; had been told of this, but chose not to quarrel with her about it on account of reputation.

(13) Annon femme Jean Regnauldin, 30

5 years earlier Mengeon, son of accused, was servant in their house, and he was very upset about mother's illness at that time. Witness sent her some eggs, and 2 or 3 days later she visited her. Asked where husband and her son were, was told they were in woods, at which she said they would have 'bien du mal'; on return husband said they had narrowly escaped being trapped under cart, and he had injured his side, which he imputed to her witchcraft. 3 years earlier animals of witness were tending to stray towards house of accused, and she chased them away angrily - then lost a cow which they reckoned had been hurt by another, althought here was no sign - thought this too was her witchcraft. Repeated husband's story about load of hay - he forgot to return bar he had taken, and witness, who was in childbed, was in great danger, as was her child. Also story of how something attacked husband in bed; believed this had been her, since she had long hated them.

(14) Jennon femme Demenge Galdrimey, de l'Hoste du Bois, 30

Previous year she had often bought things from Jean Seigaire - oats, butter, cheese - and accused had been angry, saying she went to the house too often. Same day she became ill, went blind and was troubled in mind for 10 weeks; since she was sure accused had bewitched her, she insisted that husband take her to her house on a cart so that she could accuse her directly and demand healing. He would not agree, and within a few days she recovered.

(15) Georgeon Claudon Noel, moictrier à la grange du hault ban, 40

Long reputation, but no suspicion.

(16) Marguitte veuve Jean Regnauldin, 65

When they killed a pig 6 years earlier her daughter-in-law wanted to take boudins to acccused, but witness refused to agree, saying they might as well give them to a dog. Next night something tried to strangle her in bed, and felt as if a hen was walking on her face; believed this might have been accused, long reputation.

(17) Bertremin de Laval, 30

9 or 10 years earlier had been to Etival to hear trials of some witches read out; when he returned the accused, who was then living with him, asked if any of them had accused her. At this he said 'O meschante femme il fault bien que vous soyez sorciere de me demander telle chose', and she cursed him several times. 3 days later his small daughter had swelling like an egg in her throat, and was in danger of suffocating; called angrily on Jennon to look at her, saying that if she died he would use all his means to his shirt to have her burned. Same evening the swelling went down, and after some evil matter had come out child recovered. Attributed this to her witchcraft - long reputation. His wife had told him that her first husband Mengeon Ydoulx had refused her some pears, because of previous quarrels, and she was very angry. Same day he was taken ill on road to Raon, and died 3 weeks later; had always suspected this was her witchcraft.

Said she had been widow for 15 years; husband had left her with 2 children and no means, so had to work for others wherever she was needed. Said she was charged with many deaths of people and animals for which she was not responsible, and had not done as much harm as was thought. Then started weeping copiously, saying she had been tempted by devil 7 years earlier. Had difficulty speaking, so was made to renounce devil.

Said that Persin had seduced her 7 years before, when out gathering wood, telling her she was miserable and had great difficulty providing for her children, then promising to give her a lot of money. Gave her money (oak leaves). and powder - black and red (kill), and yellow (heal). Tried them out on her own cow and pig, which died. Then threw rest of powder in fire and had never used any more. Was told this was impossible, then confessed having used powder to kill ox and foal of Jean Regnauldin, who had called her witch. Had also killed cow of Georgeon Claudon Noel and calf of Jean de Boullain.

Asked about Marion femme Mengeon Regnauldin, said that after she refused her some 'pateneyre' Persin suggested she should do her some harm, and she consented to his seeking to strangle her. Next day he told her he had been unable to do this because she had commended herself to God, but had made her ill. Had also consented to similar attempt on Jean Regnauldin, but Persin also failed with him for same reason. Had killed Bastienne femme Jean Noel, who had beaten her, with powder in soup. Denied 3 or 4 other maléfices, and said these were all she had committed.

Had been to sabat more often than she could say. Had seen Jean Mareschal, ermitte de Boullain, Jean Seigaire, Jennon la Mourratte, Marguittre veuve Jean Laurent and Claudon Mathelon, of Brehimont, and Marguittre femme Nicolas Jeandey of St Remy. Many others present, but they were masked. Usual description of feasting, dancing, hail.

Repeated confessions and charges that afternoon. Asked about a couple more maléfices, but denied committing them. Said she had last seen Persin 3 weeks earlier, again when collecting wood; he told her to go on believing in him, but she said he was a cheat. He replied that he had cheated many others, at which she made sign of cross and recommended herself to Trinity; at this he kicked her in the back, so that she fell down, and he disappeared.

15 April 1611; confessions read to inhabitants of Etival, and she was handed over to duke for punishment.

15 April 1611; procureur asks for death sentence

16 April 1611; Change de Nancy approves