

B 8707 no 9; witch 261, Esnel femme Demenge Bourrotte, de l'Hoste du Bois (la Salle)

18 April 1611; confession

Was confronted with Jennon la Mourratte, who maintained charge against her, and urged her not to allow herself to be tortured. At this she said she wanted to make a full confession; was reminded that she had been confronted with Mengin Colas Mengin of St Remy some 10 years earlier.

Said that during dearth 10 years earlier had been collecting wood, lamenting their poverty and inability to feed 3 small children, when Persin appeared and seduced her. Promised her a sum of money to feed her children and herself. Gave her money (oak leaves) and powder - grey/kill, yellow/languish. Used powder on her own hen, which died, then to kill pig of Demenge du Val, but for no other maléfices.

Had been to several sabats, where she had seen Jennon la Mourratte, Jennon veuve Colas Ydoulx, and Jean Seigaire. Were many others she did not recognize. Usual dancing and feasting, but had not helped make hail.

20 April 1611; informations

(1) Jacquette femme Anthoine Mareschal, 50

2 years earlier her husband quarrelled with her, then fell ill, saying he had something in his throat trying to strangle him. This lasted a week, then it went down to his feet, and he was thought to be dying, but suddenly recovered. They believed this had been her witchcraft. A week earlier last Friday the officers had come to take her for confrontation with Jennon la Mourratte, but she had been away at Ramberviller; they remained in house of witness for a long time waiting. When she returned was told about this and was angry with witness and husband for not warning her; next day a bull sickened and died. 3 years before she had asked to buy some wheat, which was refused, and they lost an ox the next day; thought all these losses had been her witchcraft. A week ago last Sunday Catherine veuve Colas Gelyat, who was ill in bed (as she remained) said that 2 weeks earlier Esnel had asked for loan of a loaf. When this was refused she said she was dying of hunger, and that Catherine would repent - she immediately fell ill and believed she was bewitched. Long reputation.

(2) Claudatte fille Anthoine Jean Mareschal, 18

Some 4 years earlier her leg had become all swollen; accused said it was 'mal St Curien', and that her mother-in-law Jeannon should make the pilgrimage. She was angry because they sent Jean Tixerant instead, and made threats; a few days later went to fetch some pears from garden and broke her leg. Some 7 or 8 years before her sister Alizon had quarrel with her when she claimed she had promised her some bread and salt for a chappelet; Alizon denied this and called her witch. As they went home were followed by a large cat, and they told one another it must be the accused - finally Alizon said to it 'Vieille sorciere qu'est ce que tu faict icy, tu viens escouter et ouyr ce que nous disons, mon pere te fera brusler la sepmaine qui vient'. At this the cat vanished, but Alizon then had long illness, and thought Esnel had given her this in form of the cat. Long reputation.

(3) Claudatte femme Colas Mengeon Henry, 36

Had various disputes with her, followed by losses of animals (more than they could count), which they imputed to her witchcraft - long reputation.

(4) ? du Val le vieulx, 60

Had lost various animals, but had not quarrelled with her, so did not suspect her. Long reputation.

(5) Jean fils Anthoine Mareschal, 22

6 years earlier her son Jean had been herdsman for pigs of village, and each inhabitant was obliged to send someone to help him in turn. When he went they quarrelled and fought; next day she and her husband found him and gave him good beating. When he told his father he was unwilling to do anything, because previous disputes had been followed by great losses. Despite this they lost 12 of their 30 pigs over next fortnight, although no others died in village, and father sold the rest in Allemaigne to avoid further losses - both believed this had been her witchcraft. 4 years before his father had refused to sell her some rye, and she was angry; later passed her when taking oxen to drink, and one of them died suddenly next day. Also had a mare which sickened, bleeding all over body as if it had been pricked, and when they took it to a smith he did not want to touch it, saying it was bewitched - died 2 weeks later. Imputed these losses to her. Previous week heard Didier Claudon Noel of Nompatelize say she had killed a horse after he refused her some beans. Had several times heard her quarrelling with mother-in-law Jennon; they called one another witch, and Esnel said that she 'ne sçavoit rien du faict de genoxerie que ce qu'elle luy avoit apprins'.

(6) Colas Mengeon Henry, 50

Quarrels followed by losses - same deposition as wife.

(7) Anthoine Jean Mareschal, 44

Story of his illness, as already told by wife. Also refusal to sell her rye 4 years earlier - he only had enough for their own purposes - followed by death of ox. Also believed that she had bewitched his daughter Claudatte. General reputation.

(8) Demenge du Val le jeune, 25

7 or 8 years earlier he and Jean fils Anthoine Mareschal were guarding pigs, and threw stone through her window as they passed. She came out and told them off, but they threw more, at which she threatened them, saying they would not come back as joyful as they went. In woods 3 wolves appeared and carried off pigs (number missing); believed this was her witchcraft, long reputation.

(9) Mengeon Galdrimey, 40

7 years earlier she had asked his wife if she could store 2 pots of verjus with hers; was angry when refused, and later told their servant they would repent. Next day a horse sickened and died, which he had always imputed to her witchcraft - long reputation.

(10) Jennon femme du precedent, 30

Same story as husband.

20 April 1611; interrogation

Said she was about 45, native of l'Hoste du Bois, daughter of Jean Girard Colin. Married about 20 years. Asked about quarrels with Anthoine Mareschal, said these had been with his wife, who had called her witch. Persin had suggested having him strangled, and she gave him her consent, but later he told her he had been unable to do this, and only gave him an illness for a few days. Asked about broken leg of his daughter Claudatte, admitted giving consent to Persin to do this. Since Claudatte and her sister Alison called her witch, Persin scared them in form of a cat as they returned from festival at la Bourgogne.

Had also killed horse belonging to Mengeon Galdrimey, whose wife had refused to allow her to put verjus with hers. Had consented to Persin taking form of wolf and killing pig in herd guarded by Demenge du Val and Jean Mareschal, who had thrown stones into their house.

Said that Persin had seen her 2 weeks earlier and warned her to flee, since she was accused by Jennon la Mourratte; after this she hid in house of Jean Gerardin until officers found her. Now said she had been seduced 12 years earlier, and was already witch when accused by Mengin Colas Mengin. Added to list of accomplices Marguittre veuve Michiel le Mareschal of l'Hoste du Bois, and Jean Claude Mathieu and Ysabel femme Mengeon Jean Dieudonné, of la Bourgogne.

21 and 22 April 1611; repeated earlier confessions and accusations

23 April 1611; brought before inhabitants of Etival and handed over to duke for punishment.

27 April 1611; procureur asks for death sentence

28 April 1611; Change de Nancy approves

4 May 1611; execution carried out