

B 8680 no 6; witch 176, Claude Tendon de Saulcy

9 August 1597; confronted with his wife Mengeatte (witch 175), who had claimed he was witch and had been to sabat with her; she maintained charges despite his pleas of innocence.

12 August 1597; informations préparatoires

(1) Demenge Jacot, de Contramolin, 35

Reputation over 20 years. Had lost various animals after quarrels with him, over which he suspected him, although he could not be sure. More than 20 years before had been caught stealing wood belonging to ward of witness's father, and had to make reparation.

(2) Mongeon Grand Ferry, de Contramolin, 40

Reputation 18 to 20 years. Previous year his son had quarrelled with Tendon's son, who trespassed on field with animals, and quarrel spread to himself and Tendon, with a lawsuit. Lost a cow worth 50 francs as if rabid, which he thought had been his witchcraft. Also suspected him over loss of a foal some 5 years earlier, after another quarrel over trespassing. 16 or 18 years earlier had been rumour he had stolen 100 francs from Jacot le maire of St Lienard. A little before that had heard his brother-in-law accuse him of stealing some rye at Raon.

(3) Jean Didier Babey, 40

Long reputation as witch and thief.

(4) Demenge Grand Didier, 60

Reputation more than 20 years. Had several times told him he was a poor man to allow himself to be called witch. Story of theft of wood as told by first witness.

(5) Dieudonné Stennenat, 80

Long reputation. Had heard him called witch and thief by his nearest neighbour Jean Colnot without seeking reparation; also some rumours about thefts.

(6) Dieudonné Jean Demenge Jacot, 40

Reputation 16 or 17 years; had various losses after quarrels with his children. Stories of theft of wood and other thefts.

(7) Mengeatte veuve Didier Babey, 60

Reputation 12 to 15 years; had lost animals after quarrels with him, but could not be sure he was cause. His wife had said he had not seen host elevated for 3 years, although there was nothing wrong with his eyes.

(8) Didier Demenge Aulbert, 50

Reputation 16 to 18 years. Had called him witch without reparation being sought, and also suspected him over losses of animals after quarrels. Stories about thefts, including one of wheat from merchant at Raon 9 years earlier.

(9) Jean Demenge Jacot, 35

Had heard Jean Colnot call him witch and thief without reparation being sought.

(10) Jean Blaise Chainel, 66

Long reputation, and had several times called him witch and thief without reparation being sought. Suspected him over various losses of animals after quarrels.

(11) Claude Mengeot, 30

Long reputation. Suspected him over loss of several animals in strange fashion after dispute over piece of rented land which went to court.

(12) Jacot Ferry, 30

Reputation only.

(13) Jean Claude Noel, 55

Reputation 18 to 20 years. 6 or 7 years earlier he had inherited a fine meadow, which Claudon was very anxious to buy, but he sold it to another for 1500 francs. He said witness would make no profit on the money, and after he had spent it on repurchasing animals and other purposes this turned out to be true.

(14) Claudatte femme Mengeon Jean Perry, 32

Long reputation. On his deathbed 12 years earlier her father Didier Henry told her that Claudon was a thief, and had often stolen money from him when they went together to buy animals in Burgundy.

(15) Claude Demenge Colin, 30

Reputation several years, but because his wife had greater reputation she was generally suspected over losses suffered by those who had quarrelled with him.

(16) Jacques Hugo, de St Lienard, 50

Long reputation. 17 years earlier had agreed to buy some dried pears from him, which he then refused to deliver, and they had quarrel in which witness wished all witches to the devil. After this lost some animals with strange illnesses, over which he suspected Claude.

(17) and (18) (Dieudonné Stennenat) missing - page not photographed

(19) Claude Dieudonné, maire d'Anolzey

Partly missing, but story about theft of a sword, which he then returned pretending to have found, and some cloth, which he later heard from servant had been sewn up into clothes in his house. This was 20 to 25 years earlier.

(20) Barbelline veuve Didier Henry, 60

Long reputation. When husband went to Burgundy to buy animals with him he would let him carry his money, because he was liable to get drunk himself. Believed he had stolen some of it, so that they became poor after being rich, while Tendon became rich after once being poor.

15 September 1597; interrogation

Said he was about 60, laboureur, and had lived at Saulcy since marriage over 30 years earlier. At start of marriage he had worked as tailor in houses of peasants, and had worked own land. Admitted the theft of wood some 20 years earlier, and stealing a net with fish in it which he came across.

Was pressed about theft of cloth and sword from Claude Dieudonné, which he obstinately denied. Then told of evidence from servant, and warned 'qu'il pourra bien denier les faits de sortilege qui sont sy occultz lors que l'en interrogeons, veu qu'il denie presentement des faits que luy ferons paroistre le contraire par tesmoings' - he should think of oath he had taken and tell the truth.

Denied series of specific charges about quarrels and witchcraft, as well as thefts. Included item (presumably from missing depositions) about threats made to Marguitte femme Dieudonné Stennenat, after which she died claiming he had bewitched her.

Admitted that around 16 years earlier he had suffered losses from storm, and had also been fined for evading tithe, which had been expensive for him.

24 September 1597; confrontations

No reproaches to witnesses, but no further admissions.

28 September 1597; procureur for chapter asks for question ordinaire

3 October 1597; Change de Nancy approves

14 October 1597; interrogation under torture

Was given thumbscrews on feet, and asked to renounce devil. Did not wish to do this, saying that 'le dieu du temps passé' was his master, and he had never served the devil, so did not want to renounce him. Finally said he renounced devil, although could not do so absolutely because he had never served him.

When racked offered to tell truth, but then insisted he was innocent. Finally admitted he had been seduced by Percin; this was 16 years earlier, when he went to inspect damage done to his grain by great storm. Percin offered to give him 12 times the sheaves he had lost, and he renounced God, after which Percin collected far more grain than he thought he had lost, piling it up in his field.

Went to sabat with his wife a week later, where there were about a dozen people; conventional feasting and dancing. Saw Didier Prevost, Jean Blaise, and Estiennatte, already executed, and Mengeatte veuve Didier Babey, who was the cook. Was given powder to kill people and animals.

Tried powder on cow and calf of his own, which died. 6 or 7 years earlier had used it to kill cow of Dieudonné Stennenat, who made difficulties about allowing him to use mill. 10 years earlier he and his wife killed 2 cows of Jean Colnot, with whom they had been to law.

Had complained to Persin about need to attend sabat and go up mountains, and agreed to give him a black hen every autumn in return for exemption.

Had also used powder on cow of Jean Blaise Chainey, but was not sure if it had died - heard he had lost some animals. This was because he called accused witch and thief.

(16 October 1597) Repeated earlier confessions. Said he had not recognized anyone else at sabat, partly because of poor sight with which he was still afflicted. Said he had committed no other thefts. Asked if for short time remaining to him he could be removed from prison to somewhere warmer.

18 October 1597; formal death sentence from Change de Nancy

21 October 1597; final confirmation of confessions, followed by execution