

B 8691 no 1; witch 212, François Marion de Raon

18 November 1602; informations préparatoires

Had been accused by Jennon femme Claudon St Remy of Raon.

(1) Claudon Toutblanc, 41

Reputation 15 years; was 'ung mauvais homme et qu'il a de querelle avec tous chacun'. Had visited him a few weeks earlier when he was ill, and he had come back to consciousness in bed asking where he was and who were the people around him.

(2) Demenge Piernille, 45

Reputation 12 years; was always round fields, was thief, and had been seen bringing in sacks of coal by night.

(3) Anne femme Jean Canot, 40

Reputation 9 years.

(4) Plaisance femme Claudon Toutblanc, 40

Reputation 14 years. Confirmed husband's deposition that they had often quarrelled, to point of going to law, and feared they had suffered losses. Had been with wife during recent fatal illness when he came in and said 'qu'ilz estoient empoignez du diable et qu'il le failloit croire fermement'. Maid had told her he said 'que le diable n'estoit que neufz pas arrier d'eux, et qu'il y avoit trois chauldires en enfer et que les gros diables crailloient dans lesdictes chauldires et que les tiroit hault et bas'.

(5) Catherine femme Jean Masson, 30

10 years earlier she had been cooking bouillies for son Guillaume, then 2, when accused came in through back door (supposedly locked) carrying his body, which he had found in privy all covered in filth. Revived him with some difficulty, and took 3 days to recover fully. Suspected him because they had quarrelled, notably over the privy (were neighbours). Had also heard remarks by wife's deathbed, and story told by maid. According to her version he had said 'qu'il y avoit bien affaire estre a la bonne grace de dieu, et que lors qu'il nous estions fasché, que le diable alloit dire va il est temps que tu l'aille prendre, et que le diable n'etoit que neufz pas arriere'; then saw her make sign of cross, and said 'qu'elle ne doubté avec lui, qu'elle estoit bien accompagné, et qu'il y avoit trois chaudires en enfer, et trois diables en chacun.' Had several times been called in by his children when he had fallen down and was foaming at the mouth, then recovered equally suddenly.

(6) Fleuratte femme Didier Pernille, 33

3 or 4 years earlier heard he was accused by la Pernatte of Etival, and had been suspected since. 6 years earlier had strange illness which lasted 10 weeks, and

now suspected this had been his doing, since it followed quarrel and threats when he said she had encroached on his land when working for Jean Masson.

(7) Fleuratte femme Lucas Guerard, 30

Long reputation. Several quarrels and threats had been followed by misfortunes, but did not know who to suspect.

(8) Jennon femme Colas Parmentier le jeune, 33

6 years earlier had come to house, knowing husband was away, and threatend her with fingers, saying that if husband would not punish her he would. She fled, and a few days later fell so ill she was expected to die. Suspected that if he was witch as reputed he had caused this.

(9) Claudatte femme Didier Villemin, 70

Reputation 15 years. Were neighbours, had had quarrels and lost many animals, but did not know who to suspect.

(10) Jean Didier, 32

Reputation 2 years.

(11) Didier Nostonne, 30

Had recently heard him complaining of misfortunes, saying he would find who had killed his pigs and cows, and that there were witches very near his house.

(12) Jean Masson, 46

Repeated wife's testimony about child falling in privy, and fits of accused. Said he was 'ung homme fort querelleux et de mauvaise réputation'.

(13) Marie servante au précédent, 20

Story of what he had said to her about devil and 3 cauldrons; also told her his illness had taken him while he was on way to salines, and he thought he was in a pear tree, only to wake up and find himself in middle of a stream.

(14) Jean fils feu Michiel Piernille, 20

Previous year had been alarmed to see him wrapped in cloak in doorway at midnight. On last All Saints day his son Pierre had ben in their house, but said he would not come because father would beat him if he did; if he wanted to say paternosters said them by fire without going to church.

(15) Jennon femme Claudin Babel, 60

Reputation 14 years.

(16) Maurice Mongeon, 36

Reputation 15 or 16 years.

(17) Colas Vincent, 40

Reputation 12 years (residence); called witch by wife of Didier Villemain without seeking reparation.

(18) Claudin Babel, 50

Reputation 7 years.

(20 November 1602)

(19) Nicolas Henry Mongin, 60

30 years earlier had heard Colas Francois Morin, brother of accused, declare suspicion that François had given him illness after a dispute. His wife later suspected that he had caused brother's death. Reputation 20 years, quarrelled with everyone.

(20) Jean Bastien, 40

30 years earlier had suggested to witness that he should mistrust his father, which caused him to have doubts about accused. 20 years earlier had told him he had met his brothers in the woods at night and they had tried to kill him, when they were in fact at Rossey in Allemaigne. His mother asked him a day later if it was true he had seen her children, but he denied knowing anything. Had threatened witness, saying 'qu'il auroit bien tost faict', after which he lost several animals - if he was witch as suspected this might have been his doing.

(21) Anne femme Mathieu Hachon, 46

Reputation 6 years.

(22) Bastien Sachot, 32

Reputation 4 years, no personal suspicion.

(23) Demenge Potier, 22

Reputation 7 years.

(24) Marie femme Humbert Claudon, 40

15 years earlier soldiers billeted on accused had come to house of her father, saying they could not remain in his house because he was a witch.

(25) Jean Bietrix, 33

Quarrel 4 years earlier had been followed by threat 'qu'il auroit tantost faict', and this was followed by several misfortunes; if he was witch as reputed suspected he might have been cause.

(26) Jean Menusier, 70

Reputation 7 years.

(27) Jean Parmentier, 68

Long reputation; late mother and sister also suspected.

(28) Colas Georgeon Sellier, 44

Ancestors already suspected; his reputation 4 or 5 years. That day had heard his son François say he did not know how long he had been witch, unless it was since he went to court over some cloth several years earlier.

(29) Lucas Mongin, 40

For many years had numerous quarrels, to point of lawsuit, and were still on bad terms. Had lost many animals, so that 'il apperçoit que sa chance luy est ostée, nonobstans qu'il prenne bien grand peine a travailler'; if he was witch as reputed thought he had caused these losses,

(30) Michiel Lienard, 60

Had heard 2 weeks earlier that he was trying to collect all his debts, saying he feared 'qu'on luy feroit bien du mal'.

(31) Jehenne femme Vincent Rosat, 32

Reputation as 'portenseigne des sorcieres'.

(21 November 1602)

(32) Claudon Magnien, 65

Had recently said that he wished he could find a man to kill him, and he would forgive him his death.

(33) Jean Carillon, 45

Had heard he was accused by witches imprisoned at Etival 4 years earlier.

(34) Colas des Mailles, 52

Reputation 7 years.

(35) Thoms Jean Jacquat, 60

Long reputation as bad man, only 2 years as witch.

(36) Jean des Mailles, 44

Reputation 7 years. When he sold him iron he had never been able to make profit on it; cursed him in his own house, and François then told wife he knew what husabnd said about him.

(37) Pacquatte femme Adam Vaultrin, 23

Some years earlier he had been called to father's house to open chest which they could not open; told her to go away, but she saw him strike little book with his hand, at which it opened.

(26 November 1602)

(38) Mre Pierre Barbas, chirurgien, 27

Reputation 2 years, no personal suspicion.

(39) Catherine femme honn homme Claude Moiron, 50

Reputation 12 years. Last Friday his son François had told her that if his father was a witch it had been on the Haut de la Varde, or after his lawsuit with grand vicaire of Moyenmoustier over 'crouvé des aulnes', when he had been so 'desconforté' that he talked of drowning hmself.

(40) Martin Fachot, 27

Reputation 9 years.

(41) Marie femme Gabriel Ozelle, 50

Reputation 20 years.

(42) Demenge Saffrois, 43

4 or 5 years earlier, as 'bannauld', had reported damage done by children of accused, after which François called him 'mechant homme' and threatened it would cost him dearly. Several losses since then, and if he was witch as long reputed suspected he had caused these.

(43) Gabriel Ozelle

Reputation 7 years, no personal suspicion.

(27 November 1602)

(44) Pierre Colin, 30

Reputation some time, and generally feared as bad and false man.

(45) Mre Hango Seiler, chirurgien, 38

Reputation 8 years (residence).

(46) Jehenne femme Pierre Colin, 27

General reputation.

(47) Didier Prevost, 50

Said he had heard from late Jehenne Roctu, later executed as witch, that François was 'guierre plus net qu'elle'.

(48) Jennon veuve feu le Grand Curien, 40

Reputation since execution of 'la Gerarde' 20 years earlier.

(49) Chrestofle Perin, 70

Always thought bad man, recently reputed witch.

(50) Colas Demenge Adam, 53

Reputation as 'fort mal parlant'.

(51) Jean Canot, 60

Reputation 7 years as 'maitre des genax et le portenseigne'.

(7 December 1602)

(52) Jennon femme Claudon Jean Jacquat, de St Dié

Had recently met him on road, and he said 'qu'il ne scavoit ce qu'il vouloit faire et que les diables estoient alentour de luy qui le tiroient d'un costé et d'autre, qu'on luy faisoit grand tort, et qu'on luy prenoit son bien.' She told him to have patience, but he replied 'que le diable la puisse avoir, et que sy dieu ne l'aydoit qu'il estoit ung homme perdu, et qu'il n'avoit encore mangé depuis le jour auparavent et qu'il se vouloit laisser mourir de faing.'

4 December 1602; interrogation

Said he was about 66, a serrurier. Native of Raon, son of François Marion and his wife Margueritte. Agreed he had various disputes, but he had been wronged and was always receiving 'aggressions'. Asked why he had been absent so long, said he had been on business, working at salines. Said his illness (epilepsy?) had been witchcraft by la Gerarde, as she had confessed.

Asked about remarks about 3 cauldrons, said 'qu'il a tousjours oy dire que l'homme ne scauroit faire chose qu'il n'y a trois tesmoings a la personne, le premier que c'est dieu qui scait le secret de la pensée, le bon escript qui nous conduit et donne a entendre la chose, et les mauvais esprits qu'il estoit neufz pas arrier de la personne'. He had heard this from preachers in 'la chair de la vérité' but had never spoken of 3 cauldrons.

Agreed that his late wife and children had died from witchcraft, poisoned by witches with powder, 'et qu'il n'y a rien plus certain que lors qu'une personne est empoigné du faict là, il est griefement perdu'. Knew this because of confessions by witches already executed.

(5 December 1602)

Continued to deny all charges, although he did agree he had given his goods to his children; he denied this was because he feared he would be arrested.

5 December 1602; confrontations

Claimed that Claudon Toutblanc had made him reparation for insults. Said he had great disputes with Lucas Mongin because latter practised 'grandes extorsions' against him. Said to Catherine Moiron that he had been robbed on hault de la Varde by 4 soldiers from guard of Cardinal d'Astice, who also killed a woman. Alleged that Catherine femme Jean Masson had said she could find lost property within 24 hours. Otherwise no reproaches, and denied all charges.

9 December 1602; Change de Nancy decides that he should be presented to the question and intimidated with the instruments; can be threatened with torture but not actually tortured unless he shows signs of willingness to confess.

11 December 1602; interrogation

Had been subject of new accusation by Zabel femme Didier Pescheur, with whom he was confronted that morning. He then refused to take new oath on the bible, claiming that he had already done this at first interrogation. Maintained this refusal despite much pressure from court. Said that Our Lord had been 'faulcement jugé, et qu'il craind fort qu'il sera faict ainsy de lui.'

After some further remonstrances, recorded as shaking his headd, sometimes laughing, sometimes trying to cry. Said he was wrongly accused, and those witches who had accused him, notably Zabel, were 'enfarinée de la mauvaise farine du diable'. Had found judges 'bien rude', and it was not the first time 'qu'on avoit faict tort'; if he died in this state he would go straight to paradise. On further refusal to swer oath the interrogaton was cut short and he was sent back to prison pending further decision from Change de Nancy.

18 December 1602; Change de Nancy rules that he must take oath; if he refused again may be given thumbscrews.

20 December 1602; interrogation under torture

Again obstinately refused to take oath, so given thumbscrews. Would not confess, and finally sent back to prison. Asked if he had been to sabat, replied that he had not and he did not believe there was anyone who hated witches more than he did, since they had done him much harm.

31 December 1602; Change de Nancy orders that he be renvoyé, but that he pay a fine of 30 francs and the costs of the trial from the point when he refused the oath.

8 January 1602; released from prison.

Costs of trial up to point where he had to pay came to 18 francs, shared between duke and abbot of Moyenmoutier. Gens de justice received 6 gros per diem.