

B 8691 no 10; witch 221, Jean Marion, de St Blaise

16 January 1603; informations préparatoires

(1) Hanry Jean Hanri, 50

Long reputation; mother executed 15 or 16 years earlier, grandfather also reputed a witch.

(2) Jean Magdelaine, 40

Reputation 12 years.

(3) Anthoinette femme Jean Magdelaine, 30

Reputation 14 years. Recently had beaten her husband, and she called him witch without any reparation being sought.

(4) Idoult Jané, 27

Reputation as long as he could remember. Reported that Jean Bresson believed that two oxen had died through his witchcraft after a dispute.

(5) Valentin Jané, 46

Long reputation, execution of mother.

(6) Barbe femme du précédent, 40

Reputation since execution of mother.

(7) Mengeotte femme Idoult Jané, 30

Reputation 5 years (residence). 5 years earlier said to her on way to market at Raon 'qu'au diable soit donnée la femme de Hanry Jean Hanry (convicted at Moyenmoutier) que sans elle il n'eust pas eu le bruict d'estre sorcier'.

(8) Jean Bresson alias Neuxat, 30

2 years earlier had dispute and fight, after which he lost various animals he imputed to his witchcraft. Previous summer accused told him he still remembered that he had beaten him, and week later an ox died suddenly - similar suspicions.

(9) Georgeatte femme Mengeon le Clerc, 36

Reputation 10 years (residence).

(10) Claudatte femme Colas le Clerc, 31

Reputation 11 years (residence).

(11) Colas le Clerc, 40

Reputation 14 years.

(12) Babellon femme Jean Bresson, 23

Same story as husband; addded that animals had strayed into his meadow.

(13) Marguittre femme Humbert Drappier, 30

Reputation 15 years (residence). 10 years before, as widow of Jean Chapelle, took horse to accused to be shod. Leg became swollen, and because she suspected him asked another smith at Raon to heal the horse. He was very angry when he heard of this, saying she would see what came of it, and horse soon died, which she thought was his doing if he was a witch.

(14) Jacquat Jean Adam, 60

Reputation 13 years (residence). 4 years earlier previous summer had done duty by ringing bells as storm threatened, only to be told by accused that he would wear them out with so much ringing. Believed this showed him to be a witch, while others thought he could not ring them too much.

(15) Claudon Curien, 46

4 or 5 years earlier heard Jean Thomas of Colroy call him witch in public without any reparation being sought.

(16) Mongeon Bresson, 45

Had quarrelled with him 10 years earlier, after deciding to use another smith, Jacquat Jean Adam, to shoe his horses. A horse then died as if rabid, which he suspected was his witchcraft; this was followed by more serious losses, and he suspected he might have caused these too, but had never dared speak to him for fear of worse. Long reputation, mother executed.

(17) Idoult Jean Martin, 35

Reputation 12 years (residence); story of quarrel with Jean Thomas.

(18) Claudon Verberiat, 40

Reputation 7 years (residence). Story of threats to Jean Bresson and death of ox. Added 'qu'il a ferme opinion que ledit Marion par ses sortilleges a causé les grandes pertes du Bestails qui sont advenues depuis peu de temps ença audit St Blaise, en sorte que les pauvres habitants en sont quasy reduictz en grandes pauvretez.'

(19) Mongeon Bourard, 26

Towards last St Jean had been deputy of commune for collection of taxes. Had added 2 blancs to Marion's payment, because he believed him to be able to pay this, while reducing some other payments, then angrily reproached by Marion with

overcharging him. At that moment son aged 4, who was beside him eating 'breibelles' out of a hat, told him he was ill. Remained so for 5 weeks, unable to stand, until witness put it about village that Marion had bewitched him, even telling maire - then he recovered within a few days. Suspected this had been his doing - long reputation.

(20) Catherine femme du precedent, 26

Repeated same story.

(21) Demenge Potier le jeune, de Raon, 30

4 weeks before accused had been in his house, and started to ask what happened to property of a witch. Witness was astonished, knowing there was a rumour he was to be arrested.

(22) Demenge Piernille, de Raon, 40

Reputation 20 years (when witness lived at St Blaise), and called witch without reparation being sought. 4 weeks before had been rumour he was to be arrested; approached witness and asked if all goods were confiscated when a man was convicted of witchcraft. Was told that inherited good were confiscated, along with half of acquisitions, other half of latter going to wife. Marion replied that he had acquired nothing, and had even sold what little property his wife had.

(23) Jacquatte fille feu Jean Henry, 36

4 years before he had asked for some money due to him at house of Maire Thoussaint at la Neuveville, and was angry when he could not have it. Within 8 days 2 cows and a calf died, and they believed he had bewitched them.

17 January 1603; interrogation

Said he was native of St Blaise, blacksmith, aged about 50. Knew he had been accused by two convicted witches, but said they did him wrong. Agreed that his mother had been executed some 30 years earlier, but denied suggestion she had taken him to sabat. Claimed to have urged her to confess freely if she was a witch.

Admitted disputes with Jean Bresson and his wife, while denying threats and witchcraft. Showed tendency to shift position under pressure, starting with denial, then making half-admissions. Agreed in this way to having spoken of Jean Henry's wife on road to Raon, and then burst out 'et se repent qu'il ne print ung fourche de fer pour assommer la femme dudit Jean Bresson, veu qu'elle luy disoit qu'il avoit ensorcelé leur boeufz et que sy alors on l'eust faict mourir qu'il de par dieu.' Said that Mongeon Bourard had raised his taxes by 3 gros and a half, and he was angry, but denied knowledge of child's illness. Asked about conversation with Demenge Potier, would say nothing at all, except that if they wanted replies to so many questions they ought to have them in writing. Finally asked to be given a few hours to think.

Interrogated again later the same day, he said he had decided to make a full confession. Had been seduced by Mre Navel 10 years earlier, while fencing a field, and feeling sad while thinking of mother's execution and own money problems.

Was promised so much money he would never want, and more success with his business, so yielded and took Navel for master, renouncing God. Gave him money (leaves) and powder - black/kill and grey/cure.

Tried powder out on a hen, which died, then used it to kill horse of Mongeon Bresson, who had gone to another smith. 4 or 5 years earlier had killed cow of Claudon Viberat after his animals caused damage. Had made Mongeon Bourard's son ill, then cured him.

Claimed he had only been to sabat twice, carried through air on master's shoulders. Usual dancing and feasting. Had seen Babellon femme Hanry Jean Hanry (convicted), Jennon veuve Colas Bresson alias Neuxat,, Jaulne femme Claudon Curien, and Claudatte veuve Chrespaille le maire (executed). Made hail, but frustrated by ringing of bells. Gave master a lamb each year to be exempted from going more often.

18 January 1603; interrogation

Confirmed earlier confessions, and added some more maléfices. Ox of Jean Bresson, horse of Marguittre veuve Jean Chapelle (putting powder on nail when shoeing it), 2 cows of Marie Thoussaint.

19 January 1603; procureur asks for death sentence

20 January 1603; Change de Nancy approves, after free repetition of confessions

22 January 1603; final confirmation of confessions