

Witch 159: B8677 no 5, Blason Charpentier de La Chapelle

14 November 1596; informations préparatoires, taken by maire and échevins of Moyenmoustier, at request of procureur d'office for Mgr de Verdun, against Blason Charpentier de la Chapelle, village within ban de Moyenmoustier. He was already in prison, having been denounced by Blasette, already convicted of witchcraft at Moyenmoustier.

(1) Demenge Jean Claude de la Chapelle, c. 50

Reputation 12 years. At that time there had been suggestion of going to St. Nicholas (on pilgrimage?) because villagers were all losing their animals; Blason had opposed this, saying 'Quand a moy je ne double aucunement sur mes bestes ny sur genots'; witness presumed that 'il savoit quelque chose' because he alone was not losing animals - but no specific accusation.

(2) Catherine femme de Demenge Valtin de la Chapelle, c. 30

General reputation only.

(3) Jean Reillemant de la Chapelle, c. 40

Reputation 12 years. Around that time they had quarrelled over a pear tree on boundary of their property, and Blason told him 'que de sept ans il ne seroit oblié', after which he had various 'fortunes' with his animals, both cows and sheep, over which he suspected him. Previous year believed he might have caused hail to fall on his field, after he had 'gaigé' his and Blasatte's animals.

(4) Valtin Claudion Valtin de la Chapelle, c. 40

Reputation 10 years.

(5) Demenge Simon de la Chapelle, c. 40

Reputation 6 to 7 years.

(6) Claudon Jean Simon de la Chapelle, c. 20

General reputation only.

(7) Jean des Arches de la Chapelle, c. 50

After a quarrel and threats some 15 years earlier he had lost an ox, which he suspected to have been Blason's doing. Since then had often heard him reputed a witch, although not sure whether he was.

(8) Claudon Valtin de la Chapelle, c. 60

Reputation 12 years. Had heard that when Jennon Brocade (later executed) was about to be arrested, Blason told her 'qu'elle advise de tenir bon'.

(9) Idoult Marie de la Chapelle, c. 40

Had no suspicion against Blason.

(10) Claudon Jean Claude de la Chapelle, c. 36

Told of episode some 10 years before (according to him) when at abbey of Moyenmoustier Blason had not wanted to go on pilgrimage. Believed he might have caused loss of an ox.

(11) Marguitte femme a Jean Claude, c. 30

Some 4 years ago Blason had quarrelled with Blasatte, and they had been calling one another witch.

(12) Jehan Simon de la Chapelle, c. 50

General reputation only.

(13) Catherine femme a Jean des Arches de la Chapelle, c. 40

Suspected he might have caused death of a cow 6 years earlier, after their animals had broken into one of his gardens.

(14) Catherine femme a Colas George Mongenat de la Chapelle, c. 40

Had suspected him for some time, and feared him when she met him.

(15) Claudon Jean Collon de la Chapelle, c. 27

Some 12 weeks before Blason had quarrelled with him and his wife (who was now imprisoned herself); he called her witch, and she replied that if she was, then so was he.

(16) Claudon Sellier de la Chapelle, c. 50

Reputation 6 or 7 years. Previous summer had heard accused arguing with his mother Jehenne (currently in prison); heard latter say 'faulx genax, tu m'oste mon bien'. Had also heard dispute with Blasatte previous year in which they called one another witch.

(17) Jean Valtin de la Chapelle, c. 30

Reputation 2 or 3 years; had heard quarrel with Blasatte.

(18) Fleuratte femme a Jean Barthelemy de la Chapelle, c. 30

Reputation more than 7 years.

(19) Jennon femme a Demenge Reillement, c. 30

Reputation more than 7 years; around 7 years ago her husband had a serious illness, which she suspected Blason might have given him.

(20) Mongeatte femme a Noel George de la Chapelle, c. 30

Suspected him of having killed a pig 7 years earlier after a quarrel.

(21) Demenge du Rat de la Chapelle, c. 40

Reputation 16 years.

(22) Noel George de la Chapelle, c. 36

Reputation about 15 years - placed episode at Moyenmoustier then. After a quarrel and threats, thought he had given him a severe illness which lasted 14 weeks. Also thought he had killed a small pig previous year.

(23) Demenge Reillement de la Chapelle, c. 40

Reputation 10 years. Suspected him of causing serious illness some 7 years before, after drinking together at Moyenmoustier.

(24) Soulatte femme a Claudon Valtin le vieux, c. 70

Reputation 10 years.

(25) Catherine femme a Jean Reillement de la Chapelle, c. 40

Long reputation. 2 years before suspected him of helping to cause hailstorm damage in their field - surrounding fields not affected.

(26) Claudon Valtin le Jeune de la Chapelle, c. 26

Long reputation; had heard his mother call him witch.

(27) Catherine femme a Claudon Valtin, c. 25

Told of hearing both Blasatte and Blason's mother call him witch.

(28) Curien Colas Marie de la Chapelle, c. 40

Told of episode at Moyenmoustier 12 years before. Rumours that he was a witch had been current for 6 or 7 years.

(29) Marion femme a Jean Warin du Paire, c. 30

When she lived at la Chapelle had always heard him reputed witch.

14 November 1596; report that about 5 p.m. that evening Blason had escaped from his cell, but had been recaptured inside prison; he said he had fallen against door and bolt had broken.

13 November 1596; Blason had been confronted with Blasatte wife of Claudon Collon of la Chapelle, who had maintained that she had seen him twice at sabbat, despite his denials.

19 November 1596; interrogation

Said he was about 40, native of Brehimont, son of Nicolas and Jehenne Charpentier. Father had died some 22 years earlier, and he had lived in la Chapelle since then. Agreed that he had been arrested on suspicion of witchcraft, but said he had never previously known he was so suspected. Admitted threatening Jean des Arches, but said he had done him no harm. Only other admission was that his own mother had called him witch.

21 November 1596; confrontations

No reproaches, but constant denials.

23 November 1596; procureur d'office asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire.

26 November 1596; Change de Nancy agrees, but it should be 'mediocrement' and not be repeated.

6 December 1596; interrogation under torture

Exhorted to confess rather than submit to torture, he refused, but said he would rather die than endure torture - to which judges replied that torture was 50 times worse than death. Given thumbscrews, suddenly began to confess. Had been seduced by Mre Parsin some 10 years earlier, when in despair at finding his wheat spoiled by hail. Had committed series of malefices with powder, generally killing animals after quarrels or when angry with owners. Admitted to being at sabbat, where he had seen Demenge Martin of le Paire (not quite certain about him), his brother Claudel (already executed), Valentin le Choux de la Chapelle, his mother Jehenne, wife of Demenge le Maire, the widow Jacquel of St. Blaise, and Mongeatte widow of Pieron from le Paire. When they discussed spoiling crops with hail he was against it, having pity for the poor, but his master beat him, and it happened without his consent. Claimed similar events had happened on two subsequent occasions. Denied killing any persons, although he had made Noel George's wife ill, then been sorry for her and cured her.

Interrogated a second time later that day, claimed he had often been beaten for disobeying master's instructions about avoiding confession and communion, and use of holy water.

7 December 1596; confirmed confessions, but discharged Mongeatte, saying he had been confusing her with the widow from St. Blaise.

8 December 1596; Procureur d'office asks for death sentence

10 December 1596; Change de Nancy approves, subject to fresh interrogation without torture, when he is to be asked about all individual charges.

12 December 1596; confirmed admissions

13 December 1596; execution carried out