

B 3347 no 2; witch 049, Jean Godot de Domjevin

Extract from confessions of Genin Margeron, executed as witch at Domjevin on 15 May 1614. As well as Jean, he had named Jeanne Caba, femme Jean Simonette, Barbelline femme Toussaint Henry Toussaint, and Claude Jenin of Benamesnil. Confronted with Jean before execution, he repeated his charge.

24 May 1614; procureur fiscal asks for depositions to be taken

2 June 1614; informations préparatoires

(1) Margueritte femme Henry Virion, 32

Had already heard of reputation when he married her sister Jehenne. 3 years earlier her husband had cut hay, and included some belonging to Jean; she then asked him if they could take this, but he made no reply. Soon after a fine horse died, and she suspected this might have been his doing.

(2) Claudatte femme du maire Nicolas Thirion, 50

Reputation 12 years. 8 years before, as officer for her husband, had made nuisance of himself, by coming round frequently to ask for fines etc, and on one occasion she said something which might have displeased him. Then lost a horse, which she suspected might have been his doing.

(3) Claudon Cherrier, 40

Suspected since execution of his mother Barbelline 8 to 10 years earlier.

(2 pages missing here - not microfilmed)

(6) Fiacre Estienne, 56

Reputation 20 years. 7 years before were both getting their horses ready for ploughing when they got muddled up - thought he might have been angry, since he went off saying nothing, and one of horses of witness died suddenly same day. Suspected this was his doing.

(7) Mengin Jean Claudon, 35

Long reputation. About 8 years before had asked Nicolas Huguet of Lunéville if he would allow him to take over lease of some land currently held by Jean, and Huguet pointed out that he had reputation, saying he thought he should only try for lease if Jean were willing. In fact he was angry at suggestion, as he heard. About 5 years later one of his horses developed little swellings the size of an egg, and he asked Jean to look at it, who said this came from nettles; he kept it in stable and it finally recovered. 3 other horses soon died, however, with trouble in throat, and he suspected this was his doing.

(8) Pierson André, 34

2 years before had been dispute when witness found Jean's animals in his meadow, and heard from servant that he made threats. Soon lost a horse from a strange illness, and suspected this had been his doing. Reputation 8 years.

(9) Jean Henry, 82

Reputation 7 years.

(10) Le maire Jean Dediat, 60

Jean had been accused by one named la Boudenotte, of Reillon, executed some 11 years earlier; reputation since then.

(11) Claudon Jean Claudon, 32

Reputation 10 or 12 years.

(12) Bastienne femme Nicolas Simonotte, 44

Reputed witch since execution of Mongin Lours.

(13) Zabel femme Demenge Pierson, 50

Reputation 12 years, but despite being nearest neighbour had seen no harm in him. After execution of Margo Bergier, femme Nicolas le Comte, some 9 or 10 years earlier, had heard his wife make remark to him that she might have accused him.

(14) Jean Mongeay, 60

Reputation 12 years.

(15) Colas Claudon, 40

Reputation 10 or 12 years, since execution of some witches from Reillon. Only personal suspicion was that he might have caused him to fall from his horse on way to fields earlier that year, just after passing him.

(16) Nicolas Goussat, 40

Reputation 7 or 8 years.

(17) Demenge Fiacre, jeune fils, 27

Reputation 12 years. Repeated father's story (witness 6) about death of horse.

(18) Demenge Voinot, 36

Reputation 12 years.

(19) Arrambourg femme Nicolas Goussat (sister of Godat's wife), 34

At time of marriage 19 years earlier his mother was already reputed witch, and since her execution 14 years before he had always been reputed one. Had no suspicion he had done them any harm, although they had lost many animals - still did not think this was his doing.

(20) Zabey femme Didier Doyen, 50

Reputation since execution of some women from Domjevin 16 years earlier.

(21) Gerardin Thiriat, 36

Reputation since execution of Nicolas Rimbault of Reillon 10 years earlier.

(3 June 1614)

(22) Jehenne femme Jean Mongeay, 50

Reputation 12 years.

(23) Jean Odille, 36

Reputation since execution of Mengin Lours some 18 years earlier, and like many others witness had avoided quarrels with Jean.

(24) Jehenne veuve Mongenot Galla, 50

Husband had told her after execution of Mengin Lours 18 or 20 years earlier that he had accused Jean, since when he had been reputed a witch.

(25) le maire Nicolas Thirion, 60

Reputation 12 years; same story as wife about death of horse.

(26) Demenge Blaise, 50

Reputation since execution of Margo Bergier 7 years earlier.

(27) Jean Jean Jean, 30

Reputation since an execution at Blamont some 9 years earlier. Had heard Margo Bergier tell executioner, some 5 years earlier, that Jean and Genin Margeron were witches.

(28) Nicolas Anoulx, 40

Reputation 15 years.

(29) Claudon Mongeay, jeune fils, 19

Reputation 8 or 9 years. Had (reluctantly) spent 3 years in his service, and had twice seen him with face injured, although he made no complaint, and suspected this might have been his master's doing.

4 June 1614; substitut for procureur fiscal asks for arrest, interrogation, and confrontations

9 June 1614; interrogation

Said he was about 50, native of Domjevin. Father Jean Godot le viel was still alive, his mother Barbelline had been burned as witch with her sister Chretienne, wife of maire Nicolas Barret, about 10 or 11 years earlier. Married to Jehenne Crounesier of Reclonville for some 18 years, but had never had any children. Had lived in father's house until provisional division of goods with 2 brothers 3 years earlier, when he had taken over a house which was subject to duke. The brothers looked after father by turns. Knew he had been arrested on suspicion of witchcraft.

Had heard he had been accused by Margo Bergier, and by a woman of Reillon, although latter had described him in ways which did not fit. Also accused by Jean Genin, executed at Benamesnil, and recently heard that Genin's brother was also suspected. Had been accused by Genin Margeron, and confronted with him.

Agreed that Henry Virion had suspected him over death of a horse, but said he now repented of this. Had heard that Mengin Jean Claudon suspected others over deaths of his horses.

Asked about injuries to face, denied these, then changed colour and said he knew that the devil beat them, then said this was what people said. Claimed he had taken Henry Thirion before justice at Haussonville over accusations about death of horse, and received satisfaction.

12 June 1614; confrontations

No results of any significance; continued to deny all charges.

15 June 1614; procureur fiscal asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

17 June 1614; Change de Nancy approves

21 June 1614; interrogation under torture

Was given thumbscrews, but would confess nothing. Said only harm he had done was when with other boys he would take cheeses and geese if they could find them.

Seeing they were about to put him on rack he was 'sy villain et infame' as to expose his genitals, showing how he had handled them as a boy to obtain as much pleasure as with a woman, asking if this was a crime - was told that it was.

When racked agreed to confess, Said he had been seduced when angry about accusations by two persons from Reillon, executed about 10 years earlier. Parsin offered him means to avenge himself on those who wished him ill. Gave him 2 kinds of powder, black to kill animals and red to cure them. Confessed to killing some horses as accused, although he denied killing that of his brother-in-law Henry Virion, or those of Mengin Jean Claudon. Pressed to confess to more maléfices, refused to do so.

Said he had been to sabat twice only, first time 2 weeks after seduction. A lot of people unknown to him were dancing, and did so for 2 hours before returning home. Second occasion 2 years earlier had been similar. Had to take off their hats to

Parsin, who was there sitting on a stool. Knew no-one, and most of them were masked, while they said nothing.

23 June 1614; procureur fiscal asks for death sentence

25 June 1614; Change de Nancy approves, subject to repetition of confessions

26 June 1614; interrogation

He now denied everything, saying he had only confessed to avoid greater torture. Aulbertin le Grand Vaultrin, who was there with others from Domjevin to witness execution, claimed he had told him before arrest that even if he confessed something he would finally deny it.

27 June 1614; procureur fiscal asks for renewed torture

28 June 1614; Change de Nancy agrees

1 July 1614; interrogation under torture

When racked again he renewed his previous confessions; only change was that he now admitted he had killed horse of his brother-in-law.

2 July 1614; procureur fiscal asks for death sentence. Change de Nancy approves.

5 July 1614; formal death sentence from Blamont court