

Witch 210; B 8689 no 2, Ulriot Colas Ulriot, Moyemont

21 March 1602; informations préparatoires contre Ulriot Colas Ulriot de Moyemont.

(1) Demenge Badorat de St. Genoy, c. 40

Reputation as long as could remember. When he had been a widower some 9 years earlier Ulriot had proposed that he should marry Barbem daughter of maire Colas Vincent, and he did so. Soon after marriage she became ill with a strange malady, her whole body swollen; when Ulriot asked about her he told him she was about to die. Ulriot said that she had shown no gratitude to him for having arranged her marriage, and suggested that she should visit his house. When witness told her this she refused to go and see 'le meschant sorcier qu'il estoit'; languished and died, maintaining that Ulriot had caused her sickness.

(2) Didier Thiery of Moyemont, c. 60

Reputation more than 13 years. Some 7 years before his son-in-law Claudon Girard had set up as shoemaker, and Ulriot, who practised same trade, had been angry. Claudon then became ill, 'comme une personne demoniaque', and claimed that Ulriot had bewitched him. After 2 years Ulriot offered to cure him, provided he obeyed his orders; he was to be kept awake all night. Started at Ulriot's house, with two local men watching, but they became tired of this and around midnight he came to witness's house. About dawn he started to fall asleep, but witness quickly woke him. Ulriot then came and told them cure had not worked because he had not kept awake, although he could not have known this. Later advised him to make a pilgrimage to Saint Jean de Basse in Allemagne, and carry out various ceremonies and offerings there. On his return Ulriot again told him cure had failed because he had not carried out all instructions, and also told him he had lost his way in a wood at a certain time - this was true, but Claudon had told no-one. Languished another 3 years before he died, always maintaining that Ulriot had bewitched him.

(3) Claudon Mengin de Moyemont, c. 55

Reputation more than 20 years. Some 5 years earlier he and Didier Badorat had been returning from market of Ramberviller with Ulriot, when he mysteriously disappeared; saw no more of him, and told one another that the Devil must have carried him off, and that he was a witch. Had no specific 'soupçon' against him.

(4) Claudatte widow of Claudon Girard de Moyemont, c. 30

Told of husband's long illness, and his belief that Ulriot had bewitched him. Husband had several times told her that Ulriot had admitted to him that he was a witch. Also told how before husband's illness Ulriot had passed by house and 'Il le menaca disant qu'il l'auroit, Ce qu'entendu par elle deposant l'appela sorcier, qu'il les avoit menacés , mais s'il leur mesadvenoit ils le feroient arde et brusler. Surquoy ledit Ulriot ne respondeoit aucun chose, et ne l'en a poursuivie de reparation. Adjoustans que durant la maladie de sondit feu marit il requist plusieurs fois au maire qu'estoit pour lors d'apprehender ledit Ulriot pour sorcier, et qu'il se rendroit partie formelle, et se submittoit aux frais du proces. Mais comme ledit maire le supportoit il ny voulut jamais entendre, aultre chose n'en scait.'

(5) Nicolle femme de Colas Noel de Moyemont, c. 21

Reputation as long as she could remember.

(6) Nicolas Jean Mengin de Moyemont, c. 40

Said that about 18 years before he and some other young persons had been leaving veillée at house of maire Colas Vincent, when they heard a noise from Ulriot's house, which adjoined it. Went close, and heard him say several times to his late wife that he was a witch; then a great grey cat came out under the door, and they said it was the Devil. Reputation more than 20 years.

(7) Jean Mengin de Moyemont, c. 80

Reputation 20-30 years.

(8) Colas Domberat, c. 38

Told of the conversation overheard 18 years before, as by (6). Heard Ulriot say to his wife: 'Marie, je ne scay poinct, sy tu es sorciere, et neangmoings tu as este apprehendée pour telle, et as faits grand deshonneur à tes parents. Et moy qui suis sorcier ne suis poinct este apprehendé, et nay poinct faict de deshonneur à mes parents, combien que je sois le maître des sorciers.' Wife told him to say no more and go to bed. Long reputation.

(9) Mengeon Colin de Moyemont, c. 28

Reputation more than 15 years.

(10) Jean Prevost de Moyemont, c. 40

Reputation more than 15 years.

(11) Jean le Grand Girard, c. 55

Reputation more than 15 years.

(12) Colas Perrin de Moyemont, c. 72

Reputation more than 40 years.

(13) Honneste Homme le maire Jean Vincent, c. 45

Reputation more than 20 years.

(14) Claudon Jean Simonin de Moyemont, c. 55

Reputation several years; witness had heard him called witch by Gros Demenge of Dompierre without seeking any reparation.

(15) Fleurant Babelaire de Moyemont, c. 38

Reputation more than 20 years.

(16) Claudon Vincent, c. 50

Reputation more than 25 years.

(17) Francois Chaulbault de Moyemont, c. 50

Reputation several years. Some 15 days earlier Ulriot had come to his house and asked him why a number of the bourgeois of Moyemont were assembled outside the house of the maire Vincent. Witness replied that they had resolved to send to the Chapter a request that its officers at Moyemont should take evidence against some who were commonly reputed to be witches. Ulriot said he did not think there were any witches in Moyemont; witness told him that he was believed to be a witch, and he believed he would be one of the first against whom evidence would be taken. Ulriot was astonished, and asked him if such persons were still liable to confiscation of their goods, to which he replied that if convicted they were, at which he went away 'plus estonné qu'auparavant, ce qui donna occasion au deposant de dire à soymesme que ledit Ulriot n'estoit trop asseuré veu qu'il tenoit tels propos.'

(18) Colas Farel mulnier à Sainct Genoy, c. 37

Some 2 years before Ulriot had some corn sent to mill, which he wanted exchanged against 'le moyen boutrel du molin'. Witness was angry, saying that he was willing to make such exchanges with good laboureurs, but didn't want to take trouble for 'un meschant homme qui ne valloit rien'. Ulriot heard of his remarks, and a few days later when the witness had to go to Ramberviller on business he saw him leaning on a wall near his house. Plucked up courage and wished him good-day, telling him where he was going and asking him if he wanted to accompany him. Ulriot didn't say a word, so witness left; on way back from Ramberviller he was troubled by a 'tourbillon', which caused him to fall 200 times, and was in great pain for a fortnight afterwards. Believed this had been witchcraft by accused, who had a long reputation.

(19) Honeste homme Demenge Colarcle le Jeune, de Domepvre-sur-Dorbion, c. 38

Some 10 or 11 years earlier had been at house of Dieudonne Houat, hostellier of village of Hadigny, with several others. Had some minor quarrel with Ulriot, and called him witch several times; at this Ulriot said before the company that he was a witch, and asked witness what he was going to do about it. He could only reply that if he had 'de la connaissance aupres de ses seigneurs' he would have him taken and burned. Later he went to annual feste of Moyemont, quarrelled with Ulriot again and called him witch. This time Ulriot sought reparation, but the witness said he could prove his claim, and reported events at Hadigny. Ulriot then admitted that he had said he was a witch, so that witness was able to secure his discharge with costs.

Reputation more than 24 years. Also reported the nocturnal conversation 18 years before; Ulriot had told his wife she was not careful enough, add that although he was the one who used more witchcraft, it was she who was generally reputed a witch.

22 March 1602; interrogation

Said he was Ulriot Colas Ulriot, 'pauvre cordonnier de son estat', aged about 60 and living in village of Moyemont. He was a native of Baccarat, and his mother had been from Ramberviller. As a young man he had married Marie daughter of Demenge Boquel of Moyemont, about 44 years before.

Admitted that he had been arrested on suspicion of being a witch, and that he knew he had been reputed such for 4 or 5 years, but didn't know why. Judges told him his reputation was much longer, and reported conversation with wife, at which he was evidently shocked, and took a long time to reply; finally said he was as innocent of witchcraft as the unborn child or Jesus.

Denied other charges, but did agree that Claudon Girard had accused him of bewitching him, 'et qu'en recompense de cette charge, il prie Dieu que l'ame dudit Gerard ne puisse avoir repos, jusques a ce qu'il aura dit la verité'. However, he denied having recommended cures to him as alleged.

After denying Francois Chabault's story, judges told him he perjured himself, at which he admitted it was true, but still denied asking about confiscation. Was also much put out by Demenge Colardat's story, but finally claimed he could not remember.

Told there were many witnesses, and that for sake of his soul he should confess, 'Il a respondu que sy le pouvons convaincre par tesmoings il aura patience, et est bien asseuré que ne luy amenerons aulcuns tesmoings qui lui maintiennent de l'avoir veu et recogneu aux Sabbatz. Au rest qu'il est aussy net du fait de genoxerie, que le Seigneur dieu de paradis.'

23 March 1602; confrontations

Did not reproach witnesses, but denied accusations, until he came to those of Francois Chabault. These he admitted, and judges then accused him of perjury in view of earlier denials; he remained silent at this.

10 April 1602; procureur d'office asks for question ordinaire, but moderately on account of age of accused.

15 April 1602; Change de Nancy agrees.

22 April 1602; interrogation under torture

At first repeated denials, but when racked (after thumbscrews) he asked to be released so that he could confess. Then said that Mre Persin had seduced him 3 years earlier, but he had done no harm. Judges rejected this as obviously inadequate, and told executioner to rack him harder, at which he said that he saw he could not resist justice any longer, and must tell all. Now said he had been seduced some 25 to 27 years earlier, when in time of death he had no money to buy bread. Took some shoes to Hardigny to sell, but only succeeded in selling 2 or 3 pairs on credit; on way back was lamenting his poverty and wondering how to obtain any money to buy bread, when Mre Persin met him and promised to give him money so that he should never want again.

Some weeks later was angry with Dieudonne Houat of Hadigny, who was trying to make him repay debt of 8 francs, although he knew of his poverty; used powder to kill one of his cows. Same year he killed a horse belonging to Jean Bourat of la Moictresse de Brelon near Moyemont, who had refused to repay him 5 or 6

francs. Some 9 years ago had used powder to kill Claudon Touron, shepherd of Hardigny, who demanded payment of debt of a franc.

Agreed that he had killed Barbe wife of Demenge Badouat, because she had not shown sufficient gratitude when he arranged marriage. Also confessed that he had killed Claudon Girard, whom he had taught cobbling, and who was becoming richer than him and taking away his business. Asked about Colas Farel's misfortune, agreed he had been angry because Colas called him a witch, and had consented to his master tormenting him as he returned.

Confessed to having killed a foal belonging to le noir Colas, living at la moictresse de la Verriere, when Colas would not settle a debt.

Had been many times to sabbat, where he had seen Francois Chabault alias Mareschal, the wife of Colas Jean Thomas, and the widow of Voiry Menginot, all of Moyemont.

23 April 1602; interrogation

Repeated earlier confessions, and accusations. Asked if he had not revealed that he was a witch when he went to confession, said that he had not, and that Persin had specifically forbidden him to do so, or to perform Easter duty; what he had done at that time had been only a pretence. Said that numbers at sabbat had varied from 7 to 40, most of them masked.

24 April 1602; interrogation

Again confirmed story, but discharged widow of Voiry Menginot, admitting that he had accused her out of hatred.

25 April 1602; Procureur asks for death sentence

26 April 1602; Change de Nancy approves