

B 8724 no 3. Witch 303, Jean Colin de Raon

7 December 1619; voluntary confession

Confronted with Jennon femme Demenge le Maire, who maintained accusation that she had seen him at sabbat, he said it was true that he was a witch.

Said he was Jean Colin, aged 42, porchier of Raon. Some 16 or 17 years before had been guarding animals at Foignon, where he then lived, and was angry that his aunt had beaten him. Parsin appeared, offering to give him money so he would never want, and showing him linen bag. He agreed to renounce God, but when he opened bag it only held leaves, 'ce que le rendit en grande perplexité et grande fascherie de ce qu'il estoit trompé, ceduict et abuse'. When Parsin reappeared 6 weeks later asked him if he had used what he gave him, and when he responded by calling him 'trompeur et abuseur' said 'qu'il luy en donneroit bien de l'autre', giving him black powder.

Master had carried him to sabbat, where he saw Jaspard, married to daughter of Jean Vaultrin marchal du faulbourg, Chrestofle Jean Pierre, Jennon Failly, her mother Didiere, and Anthoinette Chaudron. Went there and back carried in air on master's shoulders.

9 December 1619; interrogation

Said that at time of temptation had quarrelled and fought with another yong man guarding animals; master appeared and tried to get him to kill him with powder, which he refused. Did however say he could kill him if he wished, but he did not want to know about it, and he died 3 days later. Others had made hail, but he feared dearth and thought of the poor, so would not consent.

Told he must have committed other maléfices, said his master had only given him powder 4 times since he came to town more than 12 years earlier. Had killed a cat, then a hen, finally a dog which had bitten his leg - threw rest in the fire. Asked if he had paid his master in return for not being obliged to go to sabbat, said he had given him a goat, then a cock or a hen every 3 years.

Asked if his master did not take the form of a girl so that he could have intercourse with him, said he had done this several times at sabbat, but he had never agreed.

12 December 1619; Change de Nancy says that depositions should be taken to check on his confessions, and that he should be confronted with witnesses.

16 December 1619; informations

(1) Didier Ferry hostelain, 30

In last year had lost 2 pigs which accused had been herding; in one case he had explained that pig was too thin. If he were witch as suspected, thought he had caused these losses.

(2) Noel Roch, 34

Reputation 7 years. 18 months before lost a pig, which Jean said had been killed by wolf; witness then found it dead in river, after which he changed story, saying it had been butted by a cow - suspected he had killed it.

(3) Mongeotte femme Gerard Demenge, 34

7 years earlier had told his wife (then preparing to marry him) that he was a witch, much suspected, and that his first wife had been burned as a witch. Did not know if she told him of this, but 2 months later one of her pigs died; she asked him about it, and he said he did not know cause, but many were dying towards Sennones. Did not know if this was his witchcraft, and had no suspicion.

(4) Jennon femme Noel Roch, 26

Repeated husband's story.

(5) Barbe femme Pierron Halmenan, 32

6 months earlier she had quarrelled with his wife when she was paying her for the keeping of their pigs, and when her small brother took pig to herd next day he said 'qu'il auroit ladite deposante et son marit, ou le diable les auroit, et que quand ils ne s'en souviendroit plus, qu'au bout d'un an il s'en souviendroit bien'. Soon after pig did not return, and he told her husband it was dead, at which he accused him of carrying out his threats, but Jean did not reply. If he were witch as reputed believed he had caused this.

(6) Nicolas Queriot, 30

A year earlier he had been guarding pigs with him, when Jean told him he would not be keeping them by Christmas. He replied that he was a witch, and if he or his family suffered any harm he would employ all his goods to have him burned. Had never seen 'homme plus craintif' than Jean.

(7) Demenge de Mailley, 27

6 months earlier had moved house and gone to live in house previously occupied by Jean. One evening suddenly became so ill as he entered room that he thought he would die; in view of reputation thought this might have been his witchcraft.

(8) Mongeotte femme Jean Sebille, 20

Thought he might have caused death of a pig after a minor dispute over another pig.

(9) Barbe femme Demenge de Mailley, 26

When they moved into house he had talked about complaining to the maire because they were not bourgeois; shortly afterwards had two children ill, although they recovered. If he were witch as reputed, believed he had caused this.

(18 December 1619)

(10) Idoulx de Mailley, 23

Reputation 7 years

(11) Nicolas Johel, 32

4 years earlier had quarrel at mill, during which the accused took the keys from him and locked him in. Next day became ill; this lasted 6 months, then had fever for another 6 - if he was witch believed he had caused this.

(12) Mongeotte veuve Jean Failley, 40

Some 12 years earlier she had taken holy water to house, and he asked her husband if she was afraid of the devil, to which he replied that she feared his wife (executed as witch).

(13) Claudette femme Michel Parmentier, 36

3 years earlier had bought grain from her, but when he asked for more she refused. Next day her small son became strangely ill, and died in 3 days; if he were witch believed he had caused this.

(14) Michel Parmentier, 40

Same story about not supplying as much grain as he wanted. Same evening came to house, as he often did because he was working there, then child died, and suspected him.

18 December 1619; interrogation

Denied killing some of the pigs, but did admit that of Pieron Halmenan, and 2 others of which he had not been accused. Agreed he had killed son of Michel Parmentier - he had been threshing in their house at time, and used powder on him.

19 December 1619; confrontations

Did object to Noel Roch that he had already made a 'faux serment'. Continued to deny many of the charges over deaths of animals, also said he had not caused illnesses of Demenge de Mailley and his family, but the house was 'fort romatique et plains de mauvaise air'.

20 December 1619; Change de Nancy approves death sentence

23 December 1619; formal death sentence from court at Raon