

Witch 010, Jean Parmentier 1

B 2203 no 2; witch 010, Jean Parmentier, de Champegnoult

2 May 1618; procureur d'office has been informed of his ill fame as a witch, and orders investigation.

21 May 1618; informations preparatoires

(1) Martin Bourdon, laboureur de Champegnoult, c. 28

General repute. Previous St. Martin witness had refused to cart some grain to mill for Parmentier; when they met later latter said he would repent, and same day one of his horses died suddenly.

(2) Nicolas Boucher de Champegnoult, c. 40

Common fame only.

(3) Noel Warin, manoeuvrier de Champegnoult, c. 36

Common fame only.

(4) Epne Thouvenin, jeune fils de Champegnoult, 23-4.

Common fame. Some 4 or 5 years earlier he had let horses out, and they had gone to eat grass in front of Parmentier's house, which had made him angry. Soon after one of them became ill as if rabid, and died after two days. Had taken it to Mre Francois Marchal at Sercoeur, 'homme expert a guarir les chevaulx', who told him 'qu'il estoit perdu pour estre ensorcelé.'

(5) Nicolas Warin, manoeuvrier de Champegnoult, c. 40

Common fame, but he knew nothing against him on his own account. However, he had heard from Bastien, paistre of animals at Herbeviller, that his mother had maintained throughout fatal illness that Parmentier had given it to her.

(23 May 1618)

(6) Mathiat Play Cesson, de Champegnoult, c. 40

Common fame. Some 3 years before his daughter Francoise had taken 'une baye' to the accused, who was a 'cousturier', but he had asked too much for making what she wanted, and she had found another to do it. A few days later his wife was kicked by a normally peaceable horse in stable, and was for some time given up for dead; witness had always attributed this to Parmentier.

(7) Françoise femme a Demenge Mauffrois de Champegnoult, c. 20

Repeated father's story about 'baye' - had wanted it made for village fete at St. Barthelemy.

(8) Demenge Perey, jeune fils de Champegnoult, c. 20

Reputation only.

(9) Zabillon femme a Mathiat Play Cesson, c. 50

Repeated story as told by husband and daughter; after affair of 'baye' Parmentier had refused to return her salutations of 'bon jour' and 'bon soir'.

(10) Jacques Doyen, laboureur, 36

General repute. Told how 6 years earlier Parmentier had made threatening remarks after witness had refused to rent a 'cheneviere' to him, and a horse had subsequently died.

(25 May 1618)

(12) Laurent Mathieu, laboureur, 46

Common repute only.

(13) Bastien Pierson de Champegnoult, c. 30

General reputation. Some 5 years before his mother had become very ill (all swollen) after quarrel with Parmentier. They were related, because she had married as second husband his wife's brother; she had always said that he had given her the illness.

(14) Dion femme a Colas Mathiat de Herbeviller, 55

General reputation. Some 5 or 6 years earlier her mother had been seriously ill for more than a year, and she had often heard her blame Parmentier after quarrels they had often had.

(15) Margueritte veuve de Demenge Gatton de Herbeviller, c. 55

Some years before had been attending her sister-in-law Claudon Pierson who was ill and swollen. She had always maintained Parmentier had given her the illness, and once when he had visited her told him so - he denied it and left.

25 May 1618; interrogation

Said he was Jean Parmentier, aged about 46, couturier; father had been Jean Boullenger. Admitted that he had tried to flee, in fear of being imprisoned. Asked if

Witch 010, Jean Parmentier 3

his mother had not been driven out of Raon on suspicion of witchcraft, denied this. Denied all other charges.

26 May 1618; confrontations

Simple denials by accused. Only witnesses 13, 15, 14, 4, 1, 11, and 9 actually produced.

26 May; procureur d'office asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire.

28 May 1618; Change de Nancy approves.

31 May 1618; interrogation under torture

Given gresillons, he started by saying he would damn himself if he confessed to being a witch. Then said 'quil est devenu tel pour ses fautes et peschés, et qu'il a heu affaire a sa propre mere'. Pressed on how this had happened, said it had only been twice; he had been tempted as a young man sharing a bed with a woman might be, and his mother had put up a little resistance before giving in. Later said it had happened 6 times.

Eventually agreed under questioning that the Devil had appeared and suggested the incest to him; this had been over 26 years earlier. Had been to sabbat, where he had seen Catherine 'la Maulgrasse'; others had been masked. Placed on rack, said he had also seen one called 'la Grande Didiere. Subsequently added name of Jeanotte wife of Nicolas Marat - he had apparently already been executed as a witch, and she had left Champegnoult under suspicion. Said she had proposed that they destroy the grains, and others had not consented. At Sabbat had danced back to back, but no banquet. Did not give any more names, despite being lightly racked. Confessed to series of malefices using powder; included killing baby of Collan Thouvelin after latter had refused to cart some wood. However, he denied killing Claudon Pierson.

1 June 1618; confirmed earlier confessions

Same day; procureur d'office asks for death sentence

Same day; Change de Nancy approves

7 June 1618; formal sentence and execution.