

Witch 019, Jean Brice George 1

B 2583 no 5; witch 019, Jean Brice George de Xouarupt

6 September 1624; informations preparatoires

(1) Claude Remy Claude, de l'Estraye, 35

All he had heard against him was that he was 'un peu avaricieux'; had told him at Mirecourt that he heard he was accused.

(2) Remy Jean Parmentier, de Ramonchamp, 50

Long reputation as 'maitre sorcier'; his wife Remiere, cousin of witness, had said 'qu'elle avoit esté excessivement battue de son marit, par ce qu'elle n'auroit voulu aller au diable avec luy et que si Adam Parmentier ne l'eust secourue il l'eust tuée, et qu'elle ne pouvoit plus se depister de ses mains a cause de ses poursuittes ordinaires.'

(3) Jean Thiebault Gerard, de Ramonchamp, 70

Long reputation; father was already suspected and feared.

(4) Henry Jandel, de Ramonchamp, 60

Long reputation as coming from suspect family.

(5) Jean Micquel, d'y Champ, 50

Reputation 24 years (residence), also suspicions of father. Had quarrelled with him and lost animals, but did not suspect anyone. Added 'qu'il y a une grande esmotion pour le jourd'huy au losgis dudit Brice avec une grande poeur'.

(6) Dieudonné Laurent de Xouarupt, 80

His family had always had reputation, and grandmother was commonly called witch, but had found him good neighbour and had no problem with him. Had said to witness that day 'qu'il scavoit bien qu'il ne luy avoit fait aucun mal'.

(7) Maurice Clanne, d'y Champ, 35

Long reputation, but had not seen him do any harm.

(8) Colin Clanne, d'y Champ, 50

Similar deposition, plus reputation of grandmother.

(9) Jean Anthoine Maillot, de Xouarupt, 60

Reputation, and grandmother, but as nearest neighbour had seen no harm in him.

(10) Valentin Haillant, de Xouarupt, 36

Long reputation, no personal suspicion.

(11) Jacot Jean Jacot, de Xouarupt, 40

Long reputation, and had heard that a relative had been burned in Allemaigne. Despite quarrels and lawsuits had never thought he had done him any harm.

(12) Jean Haillant, de Xouarupt, 40

Long reputation, had had quarrels with him, and animals dead, but did not want to suspect him.

(13) Bastien Demenge Remy, de Xouarupt, 50

Similar deposition, adding story of relative executed in Allemaigne.

(14) Nicolas Jean Remy, de Xouarupt, 36

Similar account.

(15) Adam Parmentier, de Xouarupt, 60

Long reputation. More than 20 years before his wife Remiere, cousin of witness, had called him to her aid when Jean beat her. Said in his presence 'qu'elle voudroit bien qu'il sceut ce qu'elle scavoit, mais que cela ne vienne d'elle'. Had also heard that after quarrel and threats Demenge Romain became strangely ill and died.

(16) Mre Pierre Roucelot, tabellion du Thillot, 55

Long reputation, had heard story that he beat his wife because she would not 'apprendre son mestier'.

(7 September 1624)

(17) Anthoinette fille Nicolas Petit Jean, de la Mouline, 28

General reputation in villages.

(18) Toussaine femme Jean Colé, du Thillot, 35

Long reputation. Had been to funeral of Demenge Romain of Ramonchamp a year or two earlier, and heard that when Jean approached body it bled.

(19) Mathieu Mathieu, paticier de l'Estraye, 50

6 or 7 years earlier had outbid him for a garden, after which he and his son gave witness a good beating, 'dont il y en eut plaincte, et comme il n'estoit assez puissant pour se deffendre, il se revencha de la langue appellant ledit Brice sorcier, double sorcier, et qu'il pensoit le mener au sabat'. No action taken over this, and had heard he had beaten his wife for not going with him.

(20) Marguerite, veuve Demenge Romain de Ramonchamp, 60

Her husband had quarrelled with Jean over tithe, but had never said anything to her about threats, or that he was cause of fatal illness. He and his wife had been passing after death, and sprinkled holy water on body in morning. Late that evening her daughter (now dead) told her body was bleeding - thought this was because it was 'gros et enflé'. Long reputation.

16 September 1624; interrogation

Carried out by prévôt at Arches, accompanied by sieur Nicolas Arnoult, conseiller d'état - presence of latter apparently resulted from request made by the accused on 9 September.

Said he was 60, and did not know reason for arrest. Denied being called witch by Mathieu Mathieu, or anyone else. Agreed he had beaten his wife, but it was not for refusing to go to sabat. Denied any relative had been executed as witch.

Agreed there had been quarrel with Demenge Romain over tithe for hospital; Demenge had attacked him with a fork, and he said 'sy tu me frappe, tu me tueras ou je t'en feray repentir.' Said Demenge had lived another 4 years after this.

Asked why he had not come on day he was summoned, said he had been to St Benet en Bourgogne 'par devotion'. Asked whether he had not made a will since accusation, denied this; when told the tabellion would testify, said that it had been 2 months before, to ensure that unmarried children would have as much as others.

Confronted with Jean Colombain, who maintained charges, denied he had ever been to Morbieu, and said Jean had only seen him when he gave him alms outside his house.

Then confronted with Mengeotte, Jean's mother, who now discharged him. Said she had accused him because Jean claimed to have been beaten by him.

24 September 1624; PG des Vosges orders that he be renvoyé.

14 October 1624; prévôt states this has been done.