

Witch 167, Catherine Martin 1

B 8677 no 13 and B 8680 no 1; witch 167, Catherine femme Villaume Jean Martin du Paire

2 December 1596; confronted with Claudel Demenge Martin of le Paire, who maintained his accusations

9 December 1596; informations preparatoires

(1) Gerard Bertrand, mesguier de Moyenmoutier, 40

Reputation 5 years.

(2) Epuron Jany, du Paire, 40

6 years earlier had heard from Nicolle femme Jean de la Fouren, of la petite Raon, that accused had caused death of her daughter Jennon, wife of late Colas Endreu. Reputation since then.

(3) Valtin Jean Coulat, 40

After several disputes which he and his wife had with accused, latter had lost proper use of her sight. Believed this was her doing, and she had talked about it. Reputation 7 years.

(4) Jean Mongeay, 50

Had dispute with her over a meadow 10 years earlier, and she threatened him, since when he had lost various cattle; suspected this was her doing if she was witch as reputed.

(5) Jean le Maire, 42

Long reputation, and thought she had been accused by Didier femme Demenge Martin, executed 8 years earlier.

(6) Idoult le Choux, 30

That year she had asked him to reap for her, but he said he was already engaged elsewhere. When in fields went to drink at spring, and suddenly became very ill, bedridden for a month. Suspected her, if she was witch as reputed for 8 years.

(7) Babon femme du precedent, 30

Reputation 6 years; story at second-hand of accused being overheard remarking that she had not protected her fields, and hail had affected them as much as others.

(8) Mongeatte femme Demenge Malfort, 30

7 years before had been in meadow, and saw accused in stream, where she was wetting headscarf. Within half an hour there was a great hailstorm, and witness suspected that if she was witch as reputed she had caused this. Reputation 12 years.

(9) Jennon femme Claudon Jacquel, 28

Accusation by Nicolle femme Jean Fourain over death of daughter; blamed Catherine and Dedier (already executed). Had visited her and said that she should be well covered, beating under bed with their hands. Reputation since execution of Dedier.

(10) Jean Ferry, 36

8 years before, at fiancailles of son in her house, found spider in his glass when he went to drink, and thought she might have intended to do him harm. Reputation since that time.

(11) Benite femme du precedent (licencée de luy), 30

2 years before Fleuratte, niece of accused, was keeping animals, and witness told her to take another way instead of crossing their meadow. Replied that she wished she had earth and hay in her stomach - she was pregnant at time, and later had stillborn child. If she was witch as reputed for 8 years thought she might have caused this.

(12) Demenge Charton, de Moyenmoutier, 36

14 years earlier had heard Barbelline femme Jean Andreu, who was executed as witch, name Catherine as being present at sabat.

(13) Nicolas Mathieu, de Moyenmoutier, 35

Similar deposition.

(14) Claudatte femme Valtin Jean Coullat, 50

Loss of eyesight a year earlier, and suspicion against accused, who bore her such hatred that she was always hostile when they met. Reputation 6 years.

(15) François Didier le Fer, de Moyenmoutier, 60

Had lost 2 horses previous year, and suspected this might have been her doing if she was witch as reputed. He had refused to act as procureur for her daughter over case of child she had, and acted for other party in case. Reputation 7 years.

10 December 1596; interrogation

Said she was about 50, daughter of Dedier Martin and his wife Marion, of la Woeuvre, and had been married 30 years earlier. Taken through charges, she denied them all.

11 December 1596; confrontations

No reproaches, but continued denials.

11 December 1596; interrogation

On hearing that she was ready to confess, was brought before judges. Said she was a witch, and had been seduced by Parsin some 12 years earlier, when angry at having fruit stolen from her garden. Gave her money (leaves) and black powder to kill men and beasts when angry; had intercourse with her.

Tried powder on own cat, which died. Denied using it to kill Jennon fille Nicolle Jean Fourain - had thrown it away and done nothing else.

Was visited again by Persin 2 weeks later, and given more powder. Killed own calf, which caused her too much harm, and calf of Demenge Charpentier, which damaged her garden.

Had been to sabat twice on côte de Repy, carried on master's neck. Usual description of dancing and feasting. Discussion of making rain to spoil haymaking, which they then did in usual fashion. Many present, but were masked, and only recognized Jean le Maire of le Paire and Idatte veuve Thomas, midwife at Moyenmoutier.

Pressed to say more, but would not.

(12 December 1596) Added that she had killed one of her own oxen. Otherwise repeated earlier confessions, and maintained accusations.

13 December 1596; procureur asks for death sentence

14 December 1596; Change de Nancy approves, subject to reiteration of confessions

17 December 1596; confirmed her confessions; trial then read out, and execution followed