

B 8684 no 7. Witch 194; Jean Lallemant de St Lienard

Accusation by ? Parmentier, 13 June 1598 (see B 8682)

29 January 1600; informations preparatoires. Note that he had been arrested and tortured, then renvoyé, some 10 years earlier, but had been impossible to find the papers to see them again.

(1) Lienard Adam, 27

Reputed witch before previous trial and since.

(2) Mengey Colas Linard de Sarrux, 30

Long reputation.

(3) ?

Long reputation

(4) Jean Claudel de Girompaire, 36

Long reputation

(5) Jean Goeury, 40

Long reputation

(6) Jean Grand Didier, 40

12 years earlier their wives had quarrelled, and next day child was found dead in cot without warning. Lallemant had been out to reap earlier than anyone else that morning, before death was known, with chambermaid, and told her child was dead - had no idea where she was now. Long reputation, and suspected him of being cause.

(7) Jean Colas Lienard de Sarrux, 34

5 years before had dispute with him over some days ploughing he owed, and a few days later, at a feast in house of Jacques Hugo, refused to let him sit next to him, because he feared him so much. Lallemant touched him on shoulder, and before rising from table that arm became very painful - could get no rest for two weeks. Finally went and accused him of causing illness, saying he still had 2 cows which he could use to have him tried - he went off without replying. Pain ceased soon after, and he was cured in another week. Following year, again in Hugo's house, called him witch and accused him of bewitching his arm, but he took no action. Long reputation.

(8) Pierre Ambroise, 30

General reputation, and had heard him called witch without taking any action.

(9) Mengeon Masson, 40

Had heard threat by Jean Colas Lienard to use cows to have him tried - no reparation sought.

(10) Estienne Francois, 45

11 years earlier, when just married in village, had only one cow, which sometimes went into their meadow. One day when they had taken it to their house to seek damages, and he went to fetch it, daughter of accused said to him 'mal chance puisse venir sur ladite vache, sur le maitre et la maitresse'. Cow died immediately after this, while he and his wife were ill for 6 months; believed this was his doing. Long reputation.

(11)

Some years before had heard a servant in their house (whose name and present location he did not know) say that there were toads around their fire, and Lallemant prevented him from killing them, saying 'que c'estoient ceulx qui le nourrissoient'.

(12) Marie femme Jean Grand Didier, 38

Had heard his wife say he was a witch or there were none. Story of death of child in cot 15 years earlier. Heard him called witch several times. notably by his sisters, without seeking reparation.

(13) Mengeatte veuve Martin de l'Avould

Lallemant's wife had told witness that when returning from Clemecey Haute, lamenting way he treated her, a man in black on a horse approached her offering to reconcile them if she would believe in him. She refused, although he followed her almost to house, and although she had spoken to no-one her husband told her she had met 'le grand diable' on the road and he had tempted her. Added that he was a witch or there were none. Long reputation, and witness had testified against him on other matters ten years earlier.

(14) Mengeatte femme Demenge Treuchey

Same story about his wife. Late husband of witness, Voiriat Jean Voiriat, had various quarrels with him, after which they lost several animals, and attributed losses to him. Long reputation.

(15)

Long reputation

(16) Polline veuve Jean le Maire, 50

10 or 12 years earlier her husband had great dispute with him over debt husband could not pay, and then he and 3 of their children developed strange

illnesses at same time; husband died after 2 months, and she thought this had been his witchcraft. Long reputation.

(17) Mengeatte femme Lienard Demenge Girard, 45

Long reputation

(18) Marie femme Jacques Houllon, 40

Long reputation

(19)

Long reputation

(20) Valentin Demenge Valentin de Contramolin, 40

His late brother Mengeon Valentin of Contramolin had been partie formelle against him at earlier trial. Soon after release brother became strangely ill, and finally died after being unable to find healing, suspecting he had been bewitched by him. Had heard him called witch without seeking reparation, and had long reputation.

(21) Colatte veuve Didier Jean Febve, 43

Some 4 years earlier her husband went to ask for money Lallemant owed him for some days' work, but he refused on grounds that husband already owed him money. Next day became strangely ill, and died in a week, which she had always imputed to his witchcraft. Various quarrels between her husband and accused had been followed by losses of animals, which she also thought was his witchcraft. Also told story about his wife and man in black, although in this version she was on the horse. Long reputation.

(22) Claude Tonnerre de Voincheres, 48

4 years before had argument with him in his capacity as maimbour for one of the children of his son-in-law Gregoire Ambroise, and within the hour was taken by strange illness which lasted 8 or 10 days. After recovery Lallemant tried to argue with him again on matter - concerned sharing of goods with wife of Ambroise, who was Lallemant's daughter. Told him to go away and that he would not argue with him after previous experience, which he did, saying he was as good a man as the witness, who replied that he was 'ung bot'. Had not noticed any harm since then; long reputation.

(23) Jacques Hugo, 50

Common reputation. Had heard Jean Colas Lienard accuse him of bewitching his arm, and threaten to have him arrested, to which he replied that he was not the cause.

(24) Jean Treuchey, 34

After argument 5 years earlier had been taken strangely ill for several days - believed this had been his witchcraft. Long reputation.

10 February 1600; interrogation

Said he was laboureur, aged about 60. Had been tried some 10 years earlier, and saw that he was in danger of being tortured again, particularly in view of accusation by Françatte. Denied all charges, including those that he had been called witch.

Confrontations

No reproaches, and straight denials of everything alleged against him.

17 February 1600; procureur asks for torture, with moderation appropriate to his age

24 February 1600; Change de Nancy approves, although he should merely be shown instruments if he seems ready to confess.

11 March 1600; interrogation under threat of torture

Told torments he had suffered 11 years earlier would be nothing to those reserved for him if he failed to confess. Then agreed he was a witch, begging that he should not be tortured. Some 17 years before had been taking a 'houtte' of fish to sell at St Marie, when Persin met him on road, saying he had great difficulty making his living, and promising him so much money he would never want. Gave him black powder, and money which turned out to be horse-dung. Tried out powder on one of his calves, which died, then on cow of Voiriat Jean Voiriat, with whom he had had various lawsuits. Killed cow of Estienne Francois with powder on grass, and had made Francois and wife ill with powder in some food he gave them (damage here). Did not want to confess any more, saying this was enough to die for, but when placed on rack and drawn gently asked to be set down, promising to tell all.

Had killed horse belonging to Mengeon Valentin (reasons missing), which led to suspicions and first trial, after which he hated Valentin more, and master incited him to kill him. Was in house drinking and pretending to be good friends, but put powder in drink, from which he died. Also admitted making Jean Colas Lienard ill with powder in drink, then curing him in same way.

At sabbats held near Girompaire had seen Didier ferry dit de la Maixe of Clemecey, and wife of Jean de la Faigne of Ban le Duc. At other sabbats at Nouvéfosse saw others (some missing), including Polline veuve Jean le Maire of St Lienard, Mengeon Martin, the wife of Jean Babey and wife of Jean Colatte, all of Sarrux. Others who were already dead - Adam Jean Lienard of Sarrux, wife of Jean le Maire, and Colatte veuve Jean Parmentier of Girompaire.

Said he had made annual payemnt of a hen to avoid going to sabbat, and had only been 6 times. Standard description; all filed past Persin at end and bowed to him, while he incited them to do harm.

13 March 1600; interrogation

Added some further maléfices. Had killed Jeandel Jean le Maire of Girompaire, who had denied owing him 5 francs, and child of Jean Grand Didier, after various quarrels.

Said that during previous trial his master had prevented him confessing, and had tried to do same again, saying he would bear pain for him, but he had preferred to confess and endure death 'que vivre davantage en la servitude du diable et par apres estre dampné eternellement.'

Asked about toads, said his master had told him to keep them, and he had kept two under his bed for a year, feeding them until they became very big, then Persin took them. Was sure this was to commit some major crime, and later he brought him some grease he said came from them, telling him to use it to kill a person he hated - but he did not want to, and threw it away in fields. Confirmed all earlier confessions and accusations.

Repeated confessions next day.

17 March 1600; procureur asks for death sentence

21 March 1600; Change de Nancy approves