

Witch 196, Jean Goeury 1

B 8684 no 9. Witch 196, Jean Goeury de St Lienard

Copy of accusation by Mengeatte femme Jean Babé.

17 April 1600; informations préparatoires

(1) Pierre Ambroise, 30

Had only heard of reputation since accusation by Jean Lallemand.

(2) Claudon Demenge Streuchey, 24

Reputation 5 years. Had heard from Jean Dieudonné Demenge Gerard, a week earlier, that accused's daughter Colatte had said she thought he was not a witch, but (damage)

(3) Jean Demenge

Reputation since accusation by Lallemand; had heard he had recently been absent from house, and rumour around village was that he was guilty of bestiality.

(4) Collatte fille Jean Goeury, 24

Said she had seen nothing but good in her father, and did not believe he was a witch. Asked whether she had not spoken about bestiality, finally said that she did not wish to damn her soul for anyone. Her mother had told her that when he was accused by Lallemand before previous Easter he had bemoaned this, saying he did not know reason for this accusation, did not fear prosecution for witchcraft, but was very fearful because he had forgotten himself so far as to have intercourse with animals. He had left house on Tuesday morning without saying anything to anyone, and she did not know where he was.

(5) Marion femme Jean Goeury, 45

Had been confronted with Lallemand, who maintained accusation, but he was renvoyé jusqu'à rappel by officers. On return told her about this, then made admission about bestiality. Did not know where he was now, and feared he might be out of his mind.

(22 April 1600)

(6) Mengeon Thiaville, 40

Reputation only since accusation; rumours of bestiality; if he was innocent would not have fled.

(7) Colas le Mareschal, 40

Reputation only since accusation by Lallemand. Believed he had been robber who stole from house of curé when he was absent 9 years earlier - house was surrounded, but he got out of window and managed to escape. Hearsay only about bestiality.

(8) Estienne Francois, 40

Knew nothing about witchcraft, but his wife had heard from wife of Ferry Claudel that she had seen him having intercourse with a goat in his house.

(9) Jean Grand Didier, 40

Reputation several years. Had heard stories about the goat and about robbery by night.

(10) Missing - damaged

(11) Colin Pierron, 40

Reputation since accusation by Lallemand; other stories by hearsay.

(12) Lienard Demenge Lienard, 50

Reputation several years.

(13) Mengeon Masson, 50

Rumours of bestiality.

(14) Missing - damaged

(15) Jacques Houillon, 40

Reputation several years. Some 10 years earlier had quarrel because Goeury had taken one of his calves and refused to return it; accused one another of lying, and he told accused he had lied like a witch, but he sought no reparation.

(16) Ydatte femme Jean Claudel Ferry, 30

Told how she had seen him having intercourse with the goat - he saw her and tried to pass it off, but she said she would have him burned. Did not suspect him of witchcraft.

(3 May 1600)

(17) Mengeatte femme Lienard Demenge Gerard, 45

Reputation only since accusation. Hearsay about bestiality; his flight suggested he was guilty (now absent 3 weeks).

(18) Colas Lallemand, 20

Reputation 5 years, rumours about bestiality.

(19) Blaisette femme Dieudonné Demenge Gerard

Reputation only since accusation Told how his daughter had come to her house after his flight, and reported conversation about bestiality - he had said this was in time of his first wife. 15 years earlier her late husband had arbitrated after he was found stealing pears from garden of the late Demenge Dieudonné - had to pay 30 gros and a resal of oats.

(20) Jean Dieudonné Demenge Gerard, 29

Evidently son of previous witness; repeated her testimony about daughter.

(21) Epron femme Mengeon Thiaville

Reputation several years, and there were 3 in his house who were thought witches, but had no personal suspicion. Her late father Ambroise Pierrat had told her that during great famine he had some oats drying in an oven to be milled, and Goeury had tried to steal them by night, but had to retire in shame because they were being watched.

12 May 1600; report that he was still absent, and could not be arrested.

16 May 1600; procureur orders proclamation of banishment 3 times outside his house

29 June 1600; interrogation

Had finally been found in his house, and taken to St Dié. Said he was about 50, laboureur and native of St Lienard. Knew he had been accused by Jean Lallemand, and had come to see execution, but was not confronted because when he saw him at stake he became so frightened that he decided to absent himself. Asked about accusations of bestiality, and whether he had not made further admissions since his return, denied all this.

Asked whether during his absence he had not sent Mengeon Masson to make offer of money to Chapter if they would cease the procedure, admitted this was the case, but said it had been in respect of the witchcraft charge. Judges pointed out that he must know well such accords were never made in witchcraft cases. Admitted 'qu'il s'a fait mould grande tort de s'avoir ainsy absenté'.

Asked about what he was doing in stable, standing behind goat and holding it by the body, he asked 'sy voulons dire qu'il ayt chevauché sa chievre et qu'il n'est rien de tout cela, et que sommes bien esveillez selon notre age et comment nous sommes sy hardy de luy demander telles choses.'

Said that during absence he had been to val de Viller, then to house of his relative Bastien le Parmentier at Gemaingotte, then to Val d'Orbain. During this time had sometimes been back to hear how things were going.

Confrontations

In preliminary interrogation said that he had no good memory on charges of sodomy, but if he had committed such acts it had been in his youth.

Mengeon Masson told how he had been called to house when accused returned secretly; he said he would give most of his goods to make an accord. Witness accordingly went to canons, but was told not to interfere any more, and that trial must continue.

No reproaches to witnesses, but no admissions. Wife and daughter failed to appear, although summoned, and judges concluded that accused had ordered them not to come. Ydatte femme Ferry Claudel Ferry could not come because she was pregnant and about to give birth.

3 July 1600; procureur asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

9 July 1600; Change de Nancy agrees

24 July 1600; interrogation under torture

Exhorted to tell the truth, he now admitted that when he was 18 or 20 he had twice committed bestiality with a cow when guarding animals of his father-in-law; thought he had been seen by Demenge Lallemand. Claimed he had never done this since, but thought that accusation by Jean Lallemand had been inspired by God to punish him for so great a crime. Denied all other charges.

Given thumbscrews then rack, begged to be released, saying that he had committed bestiality with the goat, and been to sabbat. Seduced 20 years earlier, when angry because he had fallen asleep in fields, and animals had escaped to do damage. Persin appeared, offering to make him rich so that he would never want; money was horse-dung, also gave him black and red powders to kill men and animals.

Had killed the wheelwright Didier des Gotes, who had refused to mend his carts, by throwing powder on him. 10 years ago killed wife of Dieudonné Masson in similar way, because she was always importuning them. These were only maléfices he had committed.

Had been to sabbat many times, and seen Estienne Francois and Mengeon Thiaville of St Lienard, wife of Mengeon Renardin of Contramolin, Colas Gerard of Benifosse, wife of Jean de la Faigne of Clemecey, the late Pariset Bartholemin of Avould, Mengeon Martin of Sarupt, and Jean Lallemand.

25 July 1600; interrogations

Confirmed earlier confessions. Begged for mercy for his children, who were 7 in number, that they should be allowed some part of his goods so that they were not forced to become beggars for rest of their lives. Confirmed accusations, adding names of wife of Claude Bonipaire of le Chanoy du Saulcy (whose first husband (?) Claude Tendon had already been executed), and Jean de Hault of Clingotte.

At second interrogation discharged Estienne Francois and Mengeon Thiaville, saying he had accused them out of hatred.

27 July 1600; Change de Nancy approves death sentence