

Witch 211, Jeannon Poirot 1

Witch 211; B 8689 no 3, Jeannon veuve Valentin Poirot, Moyemont

21 March 1602; informations preparatoires against Jeannon veuve Valentin Poirot, of Mayemont (taken by court of Chapter of St. Dié at request of procureur for canons).

(1) Claudon Mengin de Moyemont, c. 55

Reputation more than 17 years, 'et que desia ses pere et mere estoient tenus assez communement pour sorciers, et de fait pour le mesme crime ledit son pere avoit esté chassé du village de Reselieulbe et avoit eu l'un de ses freres et une tante bruslez au village de Luoret.' 2 years ago next September had quarrelled with Jeannon, and soon after one of his oxen became sick while grazing. 'Et comme ladite prevenue se mesloit de donner guerison aux bestials malades', her daughter, who was 'chambriere' to witness, took her mother to see it without his knowledge. Mounted her on grey horse he owned; ox died same day, horse became sick and died a few days later. Believed these losses had been caused by Jeannon because they had quarrelled.

(2) Nicolle femme de Colas Noel de Moyemont, c. 21

Reputation as long as she could remember. Had heard her called witch by one Blaisette without demanding reparation.

(3) Nicolas Jean Mengin de Moyemont, c. 40

Some 8 years earlier his sister Alison had accused Jeannon of stealing pears from outside her house; she was furious, threatened her, and gave her a good beating. After this Alison's body became all swollen, so that she was generally judged to be bewitched, and said herself that Jeannon had bewitched her. Remained in this state for 7 years, unable to find healing, then Jeannon visited her. Asked how long she had been ill, and on hearing it was 7 years, said that it was witchcraft, and that the evil persons who caused such sicknesses often gave them for 7 years, so that she might soon be cured one way or another. A few days later the victim died, maintaining accusation to the last. At one stage he had decided to seek out Jeannon and beat her unless she healed his sister, but the latter dissuaded him, saying that she would rather die than have any harm come to him too. Reputation as long as he could remember; her parents had also been suspected.

(4) Blaisatte veuve de Thiery Breton de Moyemont, c. 60

At last St. Jean had had a great quarrel with Jeannon; they had fought, and she had said to Jeannon that no-one had yet called her witch, as they did Jeannon. After this the accused came near her house, and threatened her daughter Marguitte, saying 'qu'elle les aurolt de quelle facon que se doibve estre', and repeating threats several times. Daughter was instantly seized by an illness, so that she had to take to her bed; had died some 3 weeks earlier. During illness had always maintained that Jeannon had bewitched her, as witness did. Very long reputation.

(5) Jean Mengin de Moyemont, c. 80

Reputation more than 20 years; father and mother also suspected.

(6) Claudon Jean Claude de Moyemont, c. 50

Long reputation. Some 5 years before his wife had been called in to see a sick cow, and Jeannon, who 'faisoit estat d'aller veoir les bestials malades', was angry that she was intruding on her 'pratique'. A few days later he had a fine cow sicken and die within the day, which he had always blamed on Jeannon.

(7) Colas Domberat, c. 38

Long reputation only.

(8) Mengeon Colin de Moyemont, c. 28

About a year before had dispute with Jeannon because she had stolen some wood from one of his fields; after this lost a cow and a foal with strange illnesses. Reputation more than 12 years.

(9) Jean Prevost de Moyemont, c. 40

Reputation several years.

(10) Jean le Grand Girard de Moyement, c. 55

Reputation several years; had called her witch himself, and she had not sought reparation, but since then he had lost a number of animals, and thought that if she were a witch this was her doing.

(11) Colas Perrin de Moyemont, c. 72

Reputation more than 30 years.

(12) Honneste homme le maire Jean Vincent de Moyemont, c. 45

At Easter some 5 years earlier he had diverted waters of a small stream for purposes of fishing; had then found Jeannon taking fish, although she had no part in the work, and sent her away. She was angry, and his brother-in-law said he would have been wiser not to quarrel with her, since she might well cause him some illness or other misfortune. Next day became seriously ill, unable to move limbs, and remained in this state for 10 weeks; death expected, and had received last sacraments, when Jeannon visited him, and told his wife that she was weeping for him as if he were dead, but there was no need, since he would not die. Immediately started to feel better, and recovered within a few days; had always thought this had been witchcraft by her, in view of her long reputation.

(13) Colas Jean Simonin de Moyemont, c. 56

Reputation several years.

(14) Fleurent Morlot de Moyemont, c. 38

Some 8 years before, when soldiers had been roaming the countryside, he and other bourgeois had left houses on several occasions. Was then informed that Jeannon had been taking food and other objects from his house, so he threatened to prosecute her for theft if she entered his house again. She became very angry and told him he would repent, repeating threat several times; he replied that he feared no-one, except for witches. A few days later his son aged 10 developed ulcers and boils all over his body; this was generally agreed to be witchcraft, and he had lost use of an arm permanently. Believed this to have been caused by Jeannon; long reputation, and parents already suspect.

(15) Claudon Vincent, c. 50

Reputation 20 years.

(16) Colas Noel de Moyemont. c. 30

'Dict que l'année derniere, comme l'on parloit par le village contre ladite Jeannon, de ce qu'elle estoit communement tenue pour sorciere, il ne se peut contenir qu'il n'en parle en son losgis, et l'appelloit sorciere'; had forgotten that his 'chambriere' was relative of Jeannon, and she informed her of what he had said. Soon after lost several animals; rest were sick, and seemed likely to die also. He said in hearing of the same servant that if Jeannon did not stop causing him such misfortunes he would have her burned; within a few days his animals recovered. Long reputation; if the Chapter had not proceeded against her he would have presented himself as partie formelle against her.

22 March 1602; interrogation

Said she was Jennon, widow of Valentin Poirot, aged about 50. She was a native of Moyemont; her father, Demenge Chabauld, had come from Reselieulle, her mother Mengeotte had been from Giriviller. Admitted that she had been arrested on charge of witchcraft, but said that she was being done a great wrong; was as innocent as any woman of Moyemont, and knew of none there who was any more a witch than she was. Was so anxious to be cleared that she would not want to return home even if they offered to release her, unless she had first been purged of the accusation. Then said that if she were found to be a witch she would obey oath and name all those she had seen at sabbats.

Said she did not know how long she had been reputed a witch, nor that her mother and father had been suspected. Agreed that she had fought with Alison, sister of Nicolas Jean Mengin, but denied threatening or bewitching her, as well as conversation before her death.

Asked about quarrel with Blaisette veuve Thiery Breton, and whether they had fought, 'dict que cela est vray, et vouleroit l'avoir tuée, et avoir ses tripailles dans son giron, et par apres elle seroit contente d'estre pendue et estranglée. Mais elle ne voudroit estre bruslée, par ce que l'on dit qu'une personne que n'est pas sorciere ne brusle pas volontiers, et que sy lors de ceste dispute ou depuis, elle fut esté sorciere, il est sans doubte qu'elle l'eut fait mourir miserablement, ou les sorcieres n'ont point de puissance sur aultruy.'

Asked why she bore such hatred against Blaisette, said it resulted from a dispute over some cloth they had made together. Admitted threats to Marguette, but said she had intended to beat or kill them, not to use witchcraft against them. 'Que sy elle eut pense qu'on la deut apprehender pour sorciere presentement, l'on ne fut

esté en ceste peine, parce que des longtemps elle fut pendue et estranglée d'aultant qu'elle eut tué et la mere et la fille et voudroit d'un bon coeur avoir fait (cela) parce qu'elle ne s'en repentiroit jamais.'

Judges reproached her that she showed 'meschant courage' in wishing she had committed such a crime, and been hanged unrepentant, but she repeated that she would not have repented even on the scaffold.

Asked about death of Mengeon Colin's animals, asked that 'les milz diables ayoyent l'ame dudit Colin' until he told the truth. Admitted that Jean le Grand Girard had called her witch, but claimed she had called him witch in return. Agreed she had visited maire Jean Vincent during his illness, but had no recollection of conversation reported, and had not bewitched him. Agreed that she had quarrelled with Fleurent Bazelaire (Morlot), and after at first denying, admitted threatening him. Denied bewitching his son, and then said 'voudroit d'un bon coeur estre sorciere a cette fin qu'elle soit executée par jugement et veoit bien que quand bien elle retourneroit en son losgis on l'enchargera de toutes les fortunes qui arriveront audit Moyemont.'

Asked to renounce Devil, she refused, 'parce qu'elle n'a rien affaire a luy', and then said 'que par Dieu tant qu'elle vive elle ne le renoncera, et n'en fera rien pour nous.'

(? date - paper damaged) Confrontations

Pressed again to renounce Devil, finally said she wanted to see curé to have his advice whether she should do so or not.

Did not reproach any witnesses, but made no further admissions.

10 April 1602; procureur asks that she be given question ordinaire, with moderation suitable to her age.

15 April 1602; Change de Nancy agrees.

No further documents, but she was executed on same day as Ulriot Colas Ulriot, 4 May 1602.