

B 8691 no 9; witch 220, Claudel fils Claudon Jean Perrin de Remémont

15 January 1603; interrogation

Procureur for canons states that Claudel, who had been begging his bread at St Dié, and whose father Claude Jean Perrin had been executed as a witch 3 years earlier, had been saying in public that he was a witch and had caused illness of Marie Thouvenin. Arrest had therefore been ordered, if he could be found.

Said that 3 years earlier he had been guarding animals of Remémont with his father, who had taken him to the sabbat, saying they should go to a wedding. Put him on shoulders, and seemed to be jumping as they went. In woods found something like a house, with a great fire, where feast was being prepared. Recognized Catherine femme Didier Jean Charpentier, who was the cook, with Mathieu Balise and Menegeatte fille Claude Malremmeix, both of Ste Marguerite. Saw big man in black, with horns on head, cloven hoofs for feet, and gloves on hands. Approached him and said he should take him as his master, and at father's urging he did so, renouncing previous master.

They then sat at two tables without cloths; at the head of one there were 2 men dressed like priests, in black soutanes and long robes, who were talking to the man in black. Food was unpleaant because not salted; soup was like 'laneures d'escuelles'. After this they danced to sound of musicians, including players of tabourin and bombarde - saw Mathieu Blaise fall over. Were a bride and groom in whose honour feast was held. Father carried him back in same way, and they found the animals where they had left them - had not dispersed. Did not tell mother anything when they went home; was taken again on another occasion, which was similar.

Had not been since father's death, but met man in black near pierres du Faing, on way from St Dié to Ste Marguerite, when he was very hungry. Told him that if Marie Thevenin had refused him bread he must return and make her ill, otherwise he would kill him. Gave him small quantity (nutshell full) of black powder like gunpowder, saying he should mix it with ashes and throw it in her back, after which she would be ill for a year and die. Accompanied him back towards town, reminding him that he would kill him if he disobeyed before he left him. Went to her house and threw powder on her before she saw him; after this she gave him bread, not knowing what he had done to her.

Later, when she was ill, the man reappeared and gave him white powder with which to cure her, but this did not work and he explained that it had failed because she had received all the 'droictz d'eglise', so there was no remedy. Asked if he had used powder on daughter of Fleurent le Saulnier of Viel Marché, as was rumoured in town, he denied this, even when threatened with whipping and being put at bottom of a tower. Said he had been beaten by another boy who was begging at Ste Marguerite, and master appeared to give him powder with which to avenge

himself. When he tried to throw it on him a wind blew it away, so that he was not harmed. Repeated all confessions several times without any variations.

A visit was then made to Marie Thevenin, who was lying on bed at home, very ill. She said that previous autumn she had refused him some bread; she was feeding his sister because she was her god-daughter, and would have given him some but for pains of gout she had in hands. Later he came into house, and this time she gave him bread, but on way to meadow was taken by illness she still had. When she heard he had confessed to his sister that he had made her ill, she found means to get him back to house and question him about it. He denied at first, but she reminded him what he had said to sister, and with mixture of fair words and threats to have him burned as a witch induced him to confess it to her. He promised to heal her, and made her a soup with onions and lard, but this did her no good. Could feel a creature the size of an arm and as long as two handsbreadths, which was moving around stomach and tormenting her with such pain that she prayed God would soon deliver her by death.

16 January 1603; interrogation

Confirmed earlier confessions. Said master had told him he would give Marie a worm which would cause her great pain. Also said there had been more than four dozen people at first sabat, rather less at second, including three or four small children he did not know.

21 January 1603; check made with curé of Ste Marguerite, where inhabitants of Remémont were parishioners, showed he had been baptised on 24 April 1592. No better means of finding age, since both parents were dead.

22 January 1603; procureur asks that in spite of fact that he is only 11 he should be executed, having shown himself to be a witch.

25 January 1603; Change de Nancy approves, subject to repetition of confessions

5 February 1603; interrogation

Repeated earlier confessions, and accusations. Was confronted with Catherine femme Didier Jean Charpentier, who was in prison, and maintained his charges - she said he accused her out of hatred.

16 February 1603; execution carried out