

Witch 228, Demenge Leclerc 1

B 8691 no 17; witch 228, Demenge Leclerc dit Mandray, de St Jean d'Ormont

No witness depositions; from confrontations appears that there were at least 25 witnesses.

9 July 1603; interrogation

Said he had been manouvrier since his youth, and had resided at St Jean d'Ormont since his marriage. Parents had been from Mandray; he had one son still living, aged 26, and another was dead, as was his wife. Asked if he had been accused by Marguite veuve Jacquot Coppel of Ayemont, executed at Taintrux some 12 or 13 years earlier, and by Mengeotte femme Demenge Anthoine of Fratteur executed previous year, he said they had done him great wrong, and he hardly knew them.

Questioned about typical accusations of quarrels followed by illnesses of people and animals. Those involved were his neighbour Nicolas le Rouyer, Colas Anthoine, Demenge Jean le Maire, Jean Marchal, Marion veuve Grand Demenge, Cathelon veuve Demenge le Moulat, and Georgette femme Colin Colas Houllon. Said that both his house and the adjoining one of Marion had burned down by accident. He admitted some quarrels had taken place, but generally denied accusations. Were several suggestions that he had been accused of being witch, but he denied these.

10 July 1603; confrontations

No real progress; again agreed to a few quarrels, but nothing more. No reproaches to witnesses.

12 July 1603; Rémy asks for torture; Change de Nancy approves.

31 July 1603; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews for a quarter of an hour 'avec grande detresse' - was sweating profusely and crying out to God for help, but denied everything. Said he had only heard of accusations by convicted witches from hearsay, and had never been confronted. Also withstood rack, even when threatened 'que nous ne le quicterons qu'il ne nous dise la verité ainsy il fera fort bien de la dire avant qu'il soit desmembré et tormenté davantaige'. Also told he would be tortured for several days unless he told truth. Asked if he had committed theft or sodomy, denied these also.

1 August 1603; racked more severely, for an hour and a half, continued to deny everything. Said he had done nothing to deserve such torments, 'lesquelz il estime qu'ilz luy seront meritoires'.

5 August 1603; substitut for PG proposes that he be renvoyé; Change de Nancy approves.

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7 August 1603; released from prison.