

Witch 259, Jean Seigaire 1

B 8707 no 7; witch 259, Jean Seigaire de Nompatelize

Had been accused as accomplice by Marguitte veuve Pernot Chappon, of Pajaille, with whom he was confronted on 26 June 1599; copy of this at start of documents.

Second accusation by Laurent Jean Rataire of Ayefosse (with other names); date missing here.

Third accusation by Mengin Colas Mengin of St Remy, on 29 May 1599.

8 April 1611; confronted with Jennon la Mourratte of Nompatelize, who maintained her accusation

14 April 1611; Confronted with Jennon veuve Colas Ydoulx of Nompatelize; she maintained her accusations.

22 April 1611; confronted with Esnel femme Demenge Bourotte, of l'Hoste du Bois, who also maintained her accusations. He said that he saw that all those convicted of witchcraft maintained their charges against him, and was sure this would be true of all those convicted in the future.

On same day confronted with Nicolas Poirson of le Vivier, and Marguitte veuve Jean Laurent de Brehimont, who maintained their accusations.

13 April 1611; informations preparatoires

(1) Girard Toussaint, 50

Long reputation. Previous October troops had been passing on way to Juliers, and he had been supposed to house 11, but had avoided this - had to give sergent document attesting fact. A week later was returning with him from market at St Dié, and Seigaire had been boasting of how he had arranged for them to be billeted on neighbours. Witness suggested this was not exact truth, and they had quarrel; within a week a horse died suddenly, which he believed had been his witchcraft.

(2) ? Claudon Noel, 55

Reputation about 36 years, and at that time had been found in hedges 'hurlant comme ung torreau'.

(3) Jean Andreu, 60

Reputation more than 20 years, but no personal suspicion - only resident at Nompatelize for 2 or 3 years.

(4) Jean de Besmont, 55

Reputation more than 30 years; no personal suspicion.

(5) Jean Regnauldin, 36

Reputation as long as he could remember. 6 years before had been next to him at Mass, and instead of saying prayers to God he said nothing but 'des

Colliques' throughout service. Witness told his father, who told him never to speak of it.

(6) Georgeon Claudon Noel, moictrier, 40

Some 9 years earlier had bought house near that of Seigaire for 400 francs, bidding against him at auction. Immediately after daughter-in-law of accused, named Catherine, came to ask him to cede the house to him, offering him 3 resaulx of wheat or more for this. He refused, but then all the cattle he held jointly with Mr d'Etival sickened, and he lost at least 12, whereas those which belonged to Mr d'Etival alone were not affected. Hd always believed this had been his witchcraft - long reputation.

(7) Nicolas Claude Girard, de Brehimont, 60

24 years earlier, when Bouillon's army was passing, the witness, Colas Moullot of la Bourgonce, and the accused were sent to buy arms at Ramberviller. Were coming back at night, and it was very dark but calm, when a wind suddenly surrounded them and they heard something fall, making great noise in woods nearby, with branches moving and even breaking. Seigaire called out 'Arriere diable, arriere diable', which astonished witness, while other companion called loudly on St Nicolas and God to help them, and noise ceased. As they got near home asked Jean what it had been; he replied by asking if he had never known anything like it before, and when he said he had not, retorted that he had not seen much. Knowing reputation as witch, this made him suspect it had been his master come to find him.

(8) Nicolas Moullot de la Bourgonce, 60

No trace of story as told by previous witness, but said that on same occasion when returning from Ramberviller he heard him say 'que pour l'advenir, il ne se soucioit plus ou diable que on le menne, ny qu'on fasse de luy, et qu'on ne luy scauroit plus faire de mal qu'il avoit'. Had always been reputed witch since then.

23 April 1611; interrogation

Refused to take the oath, despite much pressure, while denying he was a witch. Said he wanted to say nothing, but they might as well hold trial today as tomorrow; said they should try him, send him before bourgeois, and then to St Dié for execution, since there were so many who accused him.

Told that in that case he must first confess truth, said he would do so. Said that 20 years earlier soldiers billeted on him had stolen a horse and beaten him; pursued them to Merviller, but could not recover the horse. Napnel met him on way back as he was lamenting, and gave him money for another horse to seduce him - turned into oak leaves. A few days later gave him grey powder to kill men and animals. Had killed cow of Bertremin de Laval, son of late Colas Ydoux (aged 7), and daughter of Mengeon Ydoux (5 or 6), all after quarrels. Only one specified was when he was fined for animals straying. Denied causing harm to animals of Girard Toussaints or Georgeon Claudon Noel.

Then took oath, saying previous refusal had been from ignorance, and he had already decided to confess. Had been to sabat, where those present were masked; ate 'oysillons' and made hail. Had seen Jennon la Mourratte, Jennon veuve Colas

Ydoux, Jean Mareschal l'hermite de Boullain, Esnel femme Demenge Bourrotte, Marguitte veuve Jean Laurent and Jean Thierion (already executed) of Brehimont, and Mengin Colas Mengin (already executed). Had given Napnel a hen each year to avoid going so often as others.

Said he had often refused to take powder from Napnel and committ maléfices, and was badly beaten for this. After being accused by 4 persons had decided to confess as soon as he was questioned, and avoid torture.

Confirmed his confessions that afternoon.

23 April 1611; taken before bourgeois, confessions read out, and sent to duke for execution.

27 April 1611; final confirmation of confessions. Procureur asks for death sentence.

28 April 1611; Change de Nancy approves

4 May 1611; sentence carried out