

Made in Montaut the tenth of January seventeen fifty one, present and pilot NR and B of Montaut and sworn here to me which in the absence of notary the present day retained and signed with lesd. partys and witnesses

Controllé with Nay on January 30, 1751, received sixteen livres, sixteen sols signed Daleman, brought back to moy Pierre Julien, notary public of Montaut by the head jurat on February 14, 1751 which aud. report the original day retained and signed Julien, notary whose says original moy says notary made the present gross pourled. of B.

Signed : Julien, Notaire.

Marriage contracts, as one has just read it were a serious thing. Checked closely by the involved parts, they gave place, inter alia, with the establishment of “receipts of dowries” in due form. We found several in our family archives besides these.

The bell and the roof of the church

The files of Pierre Julien, royal notary of Montaut conceal many details on the everyday life of our community in the second part of the XVIII century.

In 1778, the large bell of Montaut, broke. It thus should be remelted by the sieurs Aeyssère and Lavigne, foundry foremen at Soues, close to Tarbes, who undertake the operation, for the sum of 80 livres for the job, swearing they would provide all the necessary materials. It weighs ten quintals and must be blessed by the priest M.Pommés, on December 26, second festival of Christmas.

Some years later the north roof of the church, is *in dreadful dilapidation, threatening to collapse*, according to Berguin experts' and Marsey master carpenters of the community. The estimate is assembled at 715 livres.

To get Pargent necessary, the municipal officials propose:

- to sell communal beech wood: 400 in Marrouquet as well as the oaks of various sizes until competition of the sum necessary.
- to make a portion of two wood carts for each head of household, at a rate of 25 sols per tank.
- to sell communal grounds by bids.

In 1783, the assembly of the municipal officers and the notable ones meet in the judicial hall to study an ordinance of the Bishop asking for the restoration of the chapel of the church.

Thirteen years before, an official report stated, one had bleached it but it “was however fouled” though it had cost much money to do

Nevertheless sensitive to the episcopal request, *the chapel will be blued and one will hire such painter or gilder that one will judge worthy; by a decision taken through a vote.*

The Guard-pigs

Other functions, of our community at the time, were the subject of meetings of the jurats in front of which were destined

to appear those who were considered *good pastors of pigs of this place* during one year.

Taking into account, undoubtedly, the importance of the porcine herd, the pig guards went in pairs. Perhaps they also wished to share the risks inherent in this kind of activity, a pig could be lost, drown in the Gave, or even be the prey of a wild beast!

The community was brought together, i.e. owners, decided to entrust these guards only after having surrounded themselves with precautions whose least was not the material guarantee than the guards were to produce, their personal solvency not being always obvious.

Their remuneration was at the very least original:

- of January 1 to the Saint Jean (June 24), a measurement of millet.
- of the Saint Jean at the end of the year, two bushels of millet.

The guards, satisfied, began, to reassure the owners of the pigs, *with good keeping as a good father and so guard, against harm or carnage, promised together said and their guarantee, to pay them and repair them in their characteristic.*

It was still necessary to gather them together “equipped with silk” in an easy place of access so as to inform their owners of them. The guards thus began to inform the inhabitants by the sound of a horn in order to *assemble them and lay them down behind the church in the accustomed place, every morning at the rising of the sun.*

One imagines perfectly in the calm early morning, the porcine race, face mask ahead, trotting briskly through the streets of the village to go to the gathering!

Traveling to the places of pasture was to be done under given conditions; they were to carry out *the pigs in good order, one to go in front preventing them from running, the other to follow behind to make them follow the menagerie (dogs).*

A monitoring seemed to be exerted in respect to these instructions; it was indeed specified that in the event of failure, a fine of 15 sols would be inflicted... with the profit of the fine going to the church!

The appointment of a regent

As we have just seen it, any important decision which engaged the future and that of the inhabitants of the community was taken in general assembly.

Throughout the XVIII century, the nomination of the regent (teacher) for the village passed obligatorily by its choice.

After having assembled on the said day, information was transmitted to the heads of household by the common servant, the whole of the decision makers, the head jurat addressed his fellow-citizens to announce the obligation as it was (because of the departure of the preceding teacher) to find another teacher to replace him.

The originality of his function lay in what we could call the “schedule of conditions” of his activities. It was judged that: the future regent was to have qualities necessary to be a good teacher, on the one hand the teacher should be competent to teach in the training of reading, writing, and calculation; in addition he was to inspire the children of which he had charge, in the feelings necessary to honour their father and mother.

The head jurat had thus carried out research to find the best candidate, a candidate who was introduced this day to his fellow-citizens and which had given first an agreement for:

- to take care of the education of the children of the families of this place;
- to officiate the singing in church Sundays and feastdays, masses and ceremonies for the dead
- to accompany the priest or his vicar to the cemetery to make the burials there.

Once the terms of the contract were posed and accepted, the head jurat came to a salary and proposed to the future candidate the sum of sixty livres into two payments over six months which would be paid to him by the guard-bourcier.

The candidate answered these proposals favorably but requested nevertheless some installations from the conditions offered

The first of them related to the supply of two wood tanks to be filled with wood provided by the community which would make it convey.

A second request followed which concerned the parents of his future pupils: they would pay him fifty sols per year for the children who would write and who would make their figures (one can suppose that they were the first rudiments of calculation); two livres for those which would write, thirty five sols for those which would read and thirty sols for those which would start to read.

A single schoolmaster having to his charge a group of children of age and different school maturity, the results obtained were also varied; he thus normally estimated the measure of his services over the year to know it given and received.

One follows an original proposition... since it relates to the teaching of the song! The future regent, if he finds among its pupils, some which have provisions, it obliges to give them lessons. He acts there, undoubtedly seems it of a free service due to his love for the music... the history does not tell us if his followers were numerous!

On the other hand, to sing the ceremony for the dead does not seem to him to have to be a non paid task; he indeed asks twelve sols for an adult death and six sols for the burial of a little child.

He finally wishes to have reserved one day per fortnight to go to the market.

The general assembly of the inhabitants agrees to his different requests and before giving its final agreement, claims a precision as for the schedules of class according to the seasons. Thus the school will be open from All Saints' day until Easter at eight o'clock in the morning until midday and for one and one half hour up to four hours in the evening and after Easter until All Saints' day seven thirty to midday and two hours up to five hours in the evening.

It does not seem, in this timetable, whether there was place for large or small holidays.

The future regent having given his agreement to these proposals, the inhabitants signed; those *which knew how to write and the others stated to know, after being challenged by me the jurat.*

Thus a new schoolmaster in Montaut under Ancien Régime was engaged.

An apprenticeship contract

As with any document which covered a certain solemnity, this type of contrat was always compiled by a notary, in fact, Pierre Julien, royal tabellion of Montaut. Here are the terms:

Jeanne de Catalinat and Pierre Armirailh, her second husband baillé in training for three years with the known as merchant metal worker and clock and watch maker (sic!) Jean Casanabat of the place of Lestelle, Jean Hourlong, their son and nephew of Montaut. They promised to make him remain at his place during the aforementioned three years, to maintain his linen and herds according to his state and in the event of disease or other legitimates absence of the aforesaid Jean Hourlong, to return to Casanabat, two days for one and to generally answer to the faults that that one could make with this one. With the help of this, the aforementioned Casanabat promises and obliges to show in all his capacity and to teach Jean Hourlong the trade of metal worker, to nourish him and to board him during the aforementioned three years either in health or in disease, also to provide him the shoes which he will be able to use and to hold and observe the contents above, the partys signed on the bottom of this contract. Hourlong, Jeangrand, Casanabat.

The Trip hammer

On the site of the mill of Clos, asset of the chaplains in 1639 and carried by a flood of the Mouscle thereafter, installed a forging mill and a trip hammer⁴² or hydraulic power hammer in 1778 intended to cut out and work iron

Let us not forget that we were near the iron mines of Ferrières, then in exploitation and that using small furnaces of the “Catalan” type one could transform ore into ingots.

The installation of this trip hammer made it possible for the chaplains to draw an income from by renting it, which they did as of August 1778, in Jean Casaban, elder son, blacksmith of the parish of Saint Paul, district of Arthez d' Ason, for the sum of 85 livres per year.

This rental was of short duration since we found in the solicitors records Julien^{42b} a last leasing agreement on October 28, 1779 between the syndic of the chaplains, Jean Commet, Etienne Bourié, dit Matheu father and son, Masters forgers of Asson and Jean Grabot of Montaut concerning *the masonry of the old mill of Mouscle located at Montaut with the mechanism of a trip hammer which one made put while waiting for that one needs to make work in the future mill on the following conditions:*

- 1) that if the dam of the large mill has been suddenly carried by some flood which prevents its operation, the aforementioned farmers will be held to give that of Mouscle to the sieurs syndics and will pay him all the advantages of this farm.*
- 2) that he will maintain the mechanism of the trip hammer and masonry of the mill as good fathers would for all repairs necessary, just as of the dam unless she is not completely carried; they will have care to hold open comprise them at the time they floods, to clean the channel, to maintain the line fittings and other things necessary without the aforementioned sior syndic being held that to provide only the casing is deteriorated by use.*

3) that the aforementioned Bourié, father and son will pay each year 24 livres 6 sols of annual stronghold attached to the aforesaid mill, the abbot of Saint Pée and Mister de Beauregard, lord of Montaut... and the aforementioned Grabot will pay, a -return that it will place in the aforementioned mill, 36 pounds per year with the sior syndic.

We found in the solicitors records of Pierre Julien, another leasing agreement of January 27, 1783:

Pursuant to the royal notary of Montaut and the below named witnesses were present the sior Ménudé priest and syndic of Sirs de Sétharram, which of good sound mind lease the title of a farm for nine years to begin on first March next and finished in similar day of the year 1792, in favour of the sior Pierre Cantonnet and Pierre Menou, traders of Lestelle, interdependent, here present, the Trip hammer that the chaplains have at the place known as Montaut, with the help of the sum of sixty six livre per year that the aforementioned farmers, jointly one and the other without any division nor discussion promises and obliges to pay annually six months the equal sior syndic into two payments in six months, each one to begin the first September next and the second, next March and thus, year per year throughout the lease. With the surplus they oblige to maintain the Trip hammer as good fathers would as well the mechanism and the masonry and the aforementioned sior syndic oblige, on their side, to provide them all the principal parts which may be missing, just as the cuniges and the piles which will be necessary for the maintenance of the dam and the whole, ready to employ on-site.

Moreover the aforementioned sior syndic obliges to put from here at first next March, all masonry out of Trip hammer, to keep water outside, to change to put the tree, to remake plantement and it at two hammers if it is necessary or if the farmers require it and the whole with the liking of the martinier that, the aforementioned farmers will place, which will be held to make beat, without remuneration, iron that the house of Bétharram will have need of; it providing the coal to this necessary, realising what says it sior syndic promises to make good the aforesaid Trip hammer towards and counters all for the payment in fact and right.

Fact and passed at Montaut on January 27, 1783. Present and witnesses, the sieurs Domenica Carlou of this place and the sior Jean Laplace of Lestelle and me, Pierre Julien, notary who, the present ones retained and signed with the partys and witnesses.

Foreigners - the Calais business.

On November 4, 1784 is taken an ordinance ⁴⁴ by the jurats, bearing defense to place any foreigner. Here is the content: *We, jurats of Montaut, civil judges, of the criminal and police force in the extent of our jurisdiction considering the multitude of disorders from abroad occurring in this place wish to cure it as much as it will be in our capacity in order to maintain here the peace, the union and the harmony, we prohibit and defend with all the inhabitants of the place and others which have real goods, to receive, place, or to retain beyond 12 midnight in their unspecified houses, barns and other buildings, no foreigner of any quality, condition, or sex unless they us beforehand communicated character references, in due form given to municipal officers*

proof of their places of birth or their residence to have such regard that of reason, hardly of 50 livres of fine against each contravener, applicable to the King. And so that nobody is unaware of it we ordered that these presents will be posted on the doors of the church of the place and will be made notorious with all the inhabitants, house, by house by the mande (guard).

Carried out this day at Montaut by the judiciary November 4, 1784. Julien, head jurat, Pucheu, Esquerre, Ladagnoux, swore.

Forty eight hours later, the jurats learn that the sieurs chaplains had taken a tenant in their Trip hammer, and presently located there, a foreigner named Calais, driven out of Coarraze by the jurats of that place. A delegation was made by the sieurs chaplains to testify of their surprise (to the jurats) before making them obey the aforementioned ordinance.

The sieur Bonna, their syndic proceeded to rent and exhorted the deputies of congédier that the aforementioned tenant and said the responsibility was for one of them to take and keep the key of the Trip hammer; that consequently, this order having been notified to Calais verbally, he required a small time which was granted to him; but not having filled (obligations) he was called the 22 of the known as month to appear at court and promised to leave before the 25.

There upon, the citizen Calais presented himself with a certificate of the priest of Coarraze which showed that he was not such as one had suspected him.

The chaplains allowed him the Trip hammer until one convinced him of some action which deserves the exclusion of the parish.

A reading was made of the contents of the certificate at the assembly of the jurats and deputies for deliberation. After a vote, it was decided that the decree of November 4 would be carried out according to the form selected.

In accordance with this decision, on December 6, 1784, Loustalet, appointed by the community of Montaut stated to have delivered to the syndic, the political ordinance of summation of November to the sieurs chaplains, speaking to the sieur Bonno, to have to conform to the ordinance in regards to the tenant whom they gave the Trip hammer located at the present place, under penalty of fines. Exit Calais!

A contract of share-cropping in the XVIIIème century

On November 23, 1775 in the study Julien ^{44b}, is signed a contract of Boriage between Jacques Eléonore d' Abadie, middle-class man of the town of Nay, living in his smallholding of Séré à Montaut and Michel Garbet and Anne de Mounes, his wife. Here are the terms:

Jacques Eléonore d' Abadie leases for two years which have started 1st of the current month and will finish likewiser New Year's Day 1777 in favor of Michel Garbet and Anne de Mounes of the place of Igon his wife, the smallholding of Séré located at the place known as Montaut to hold it, work and cultivate as a good fathers would and to give some to the sieur d'Abadie and each season, half of all the fruits which will grow there, to the reserve of the l'hautin which will be cut and been dependent on common expenses and equal portions between the Master and the sharecropper to which he will promise to made good and he

the sharecropper held to plow it and dig when it is necessary and the wine will be divided between them by equal portions.

The sharecropper will enjoy the bottom room and the right to cook his bread in the furnace of the fourrière depending of the aforesaid the Séré household as well as half of the garden in which there is a full square of large cabbages of which he will profit and he will be held to leave some as much at the end of the lease: the ahcots (sid), broad beans and peas which will be sown in the fields of the aforesaid smallholding, the seed will be provided by equal portion and the product divided evenly.

The Master reserves for himself to nourish in his enclosure the poultry which he will judge with matter and to lock up in its birdcage, as well as continue hens if they will lay eggs in the barns or elsewhere and the sharecropper will have freedom to only nourish six hens for himself of which he will be able to place in his apartment and if it makes a brood someday, he will be held to withdraw chickens initially that the hens will leave them and it is in this condition that he is allowed to hold to him ten hens and no different.

He will be able to also nourish a pig in the aforementioned smallholding and the Master another that each one will buy on his owns, the sharecropper will be held to keep them and prevent that they do not deviate; he will be given to him by the Master two goose and a gander that he will nourish and of which he will have care and the product will be divided by equal portion between him and the Master.

And to sow the grounds he will be given to him by the quarter Master sixteen of wheat and in the case it is necessary some more will be made by a signed statement between the partys to be returned at the season; to scavoit, the first quartal into full and others after having given a accurate measurement; he will be also given the millet necessary to sow, measured close-cropped and begun again into full and with regard to the seed of the millocq and of small or large flax he will be provided between parts by equal portion.

And to work the aforementioned grounds he was given to him by the Master a cow of the five years age which gives milk and a two year old heifer, both of red hair and in good condition, plus a small horse and a she-ass which one could not estimate because of the epizootic disease which passed in this parish; whose bestial the aforementioned sharecropper could be used for himself to only do the work necessary of the aforesaid smallholding; and if the Master needs to make use of the horse or she-ass to go where he will judge by the way, he can take them except that the sharecropper can not claim in this respect. On the contrary, the sharecropper will be held to return them at the end of the lease in the same state that they are today and to give the Master every day half of the milk which he will milk from the cows and if the aforementioned cows or mountings had suddenly perished in all or part by the fault of the sharecropper he will be held and remains obliged to answer about it to an expert chosen by the partys.

The Master reserves for him thirty quintals of hay which is currently in the barn and as much as will come the next year to lay out about with his will just as the large flax and the broad beans which are sown this year.

And for agricultural ploughing to him will be given two bonnets, a coulter, two arrasères, thirty six terris, three hooks with three points and one to two, a picq, a flying top, the whole costing together seventy two livres, which will be maintained with common expenses and the blacksmith paid by

half; which the sharecropper will be held to return at the end of the lease in the same state, weight and value that he received them.

With regard to the other ploughing implements which depend of the aforesaid smallholding and which the sharecropper will be held to undertake, he will make some draw up a statement with their estimate which will be signed by the partys to be given at the end of the lease and maintained with common expenses.

Of course the Master will provide the wood necessary for the repair of the ploughing implements and he will pay the workman who will be employed for that and the sharecropper held to help him.

Its appropriate that it will be bought with common expenses four livres of lubricate each year for oiling the wheels of the carts and with regard to main wood of boiler room to the sharecropper the portion will yield which the community will make him, with the load for this one to pay to them the price which will be fixed by him; if he does not have enough of it for his particular use the Master in his smallholding will indicate some him which by the way judging without some cause nor under any pretext that the aforementioned sharecropper can not cross without the express consent of the Master of all costs, damage and interests.

With the surplus it was agreed that the marl will be extracted at common expenses and that the sharecropper will be held to transport it and spread on the fields of the aforesaid smallholding; he will leave a similar quantity of vaze as he finds in the farmyard mixed with trusted ground and for smoking millocq, which will be noted in the state about which he was spoken.

Agreed finally that in the case that the aforementioned Michel Garbet comes to pass before the expiration of this lease, Jean Garbet, his elder son will be able to replace him; to this end they jointly oblige to meet and carry out the conditions stated above under the sorrows in fact and right.

And the partys evaluated the fruits of the aforesaid smallholding to the sum of one hundred twenty four livres each common year. And for the observations above the partys made the obligations, tenders and renunciations necessary.

Done and passed at Montaut on November 23, 1775; present and witnesses the sieurs François Brousset father and son of the aforesaid place and moy Pierre Julien aforesaid notary which signed with the partys and witnesses with the reserve of the aforesaid Anne Mounes who stated to not knowhow to write after of being challenged by moy notary. Appear after the signatures Garbet father and son, those of Brousset and that of Julien.

The epizootic of 1774-1775

J.B. Laborde, historian⁴⁵ of Béarn writes: *the greatest disaster which the history recorded, it is the epizootic of 1774-1775, which claimed almost the totality of the horned animals.*

“The contagious disease, called Dubarrat, which, the *cattle plague* was named for the place it originated, by the King, with as remarkable medical police regulations by their energetic provisions as by their careful wisdom....Soldiers enrégimentés and foreign with the country, were sent to supervise the pace of the plague and to remark, with an inflexible rigour, all the regulations put forth to put an end to the epizootic. “

In August and September 1774^{45b}, with precedence Mr. de Doat, of the Parliament had been moved by this situation and had taken some

Chronique de Montaut

Proprietor	Oxen	Estimate	Cows	Estimate	Calves	Estimate	Total Anim.	Total Frs
Plaa		170		320	0		5	491
Mauhourat		100		500	4	166	10	766
Bayle		0		90	0	0	1	90
Pasquine		120		180	1	50	4	358
Bergerot		0		213	0	0	2	213
Prim		0		550	4	130	11	681
Maupas		0		300	1	46	5	346
Baron		220		168	0	0	4	388
Pouey		200		180	1	25	5	405
Palisses		0		608	3	130	9	738
Aramonde		0		406	3	90	8	496
Hurou		212		335	1	35	9	582
Matheu		0		180	0	0	2	180
Bourdet		200		266	2	140	7	606
Peyrounat		150		250	1	50	6	450
Fringan		320		920	6	180	17	1402
Abadie		390		320	1	30	9	740
Maisonnavé		130		350	0	0	6	480
Casenave		0		280	0	0	3	280
Casanabat		285		212	3	108	8	605
Annette		0		286	2	47	5	332
Berge		150		85	0	0	2	235
Carlou		0		165	2	90	4	255
Navarre		0		70	0	0	1	70
Permasse		95		201	2	81	5	377
Lacaze		0		352	1	24	5	376
Ladagnoux		230		142	1	20	6	392
Blanche		120		185	1	30	4	335
Guilemperé		100		0	0	0	1	100
Bourau		0		75	0	0	1	75
Jouandou		120		75	2	57	4	252
Blanquine		300		138	0	0	4	438
Jeangran		355		60	0	0	4	415
Bernata		150		400	1	60	7	610
Lalaune		0		64	1	35	2	119
Arapsy		0		75	0	0	1	75
Lapuyade		110		206	1	33	5	349
Capéran		0		270	3	130	6	400

Statement of bovine losses at Montaut during the epizootic of 1774

Camy	0	0	3	300	1	45	4	345
Casala	2	286	5	529	1	50	8	865
Capitaine	0	0	0	0	2	70	2	70
Matheu	0	0	2	245	0	0	2	245
Courtie	1	110	3	270	1	36	5	426
Laguerre	0	0	3	325	0	0	3	325
Malascrabes	1	100	3	206	0	0	4	306
Serré	0	0	4	310	4	105	8	415
Brousset	4	385	2	133	3	62	9	580
Aris	1	150	5	439	3	80	9	670
La borde	4	536	3	241	2	63	9	840
Bignes	4	407	4	194	2	72	10	673
Bergoli	2	150	2	250	1	30	5	430
Siot	0	0	6	366	2	80	8	446
Baylou	0	0	6	476	3	111	9	587
Lahorgue	2	265	4	304	1	40	7	609
Bidau	2	240	5	404	3	95	10	738
Monicot	2	266	3	249	0	0	5	515
Lacomme	3	300	4	311	2	56	9	667
Esquerre	0	0	3	270	3	113	5	383
Manaoutou	1	80	6	330	1	15	8	425
Matardonne	4	415	3	270	0	0	7	685
Bernata	2	175	2	175	1	35	5	385
Tisé	0	0	4	430	2	74	6	504
Oubré	0	0	3	255	3	83	6	338
Gaye	3	310	2	134	1	29	6	473
Artigau	2	140	3	245	1	30	6	415
Bourda	2	200	3	250	0	0	5	450
Labié	5	480	3	185	3	53	11	718
Seuqué	4	360	2	145	0	0	6	505
Hourquet	2	240	2	140	1	40	5	420
Daguette	6	600	4	250	2	80	12	930
Hons	1	150	1	100	1	38	3	288
Mongoy	0	0	8	800	5	196	13	996
Geuze	3	350	4	300	2	42	9	692
Lassègue	1	120	4	190	0	0	5	310
Bergère	4	550	4	280	1	28	9	858
Loustau	4	450	4	330	2	62	10	842
Total	113	11962	220	1977	109	3695	461	35871

measurements of disease prevention and police force... It was necessary to have, actually qualified veterinary surgeons, which Béarn cruelly lacked!

Our village was not saved; the jurats⁴⁶ met and decided to prohibit any conveyance, as well as the pasturage in the wood inter-commune of Coarraze and beseeched leniency from above in saying 10 sung masses for which they collected 7 livres 10 sols.

Nevertheless oxen and cows fell to the blows of the epidemic⁴⁷. To avoid any contagion it was necessary to bury them and the jurats decided to dig three large pits. In addition all the cattle sheds had to be limed⁴⁸, and one employed 20 quintals of lime and a contingent of 4 soldiers placed at Navarre-”, to carry out this work.. There was, at the time 78 cattle sheds.

Worse still... it was necessary to cut down the hardly contaminated bovines, which had poor chances of resisting the epidemic and in order to encourage the rural people with this dramatic operation, the States decided to thus compensate the owners for a third of the value of the animals sacrificed.

For the sénéchaussée of Pau, the total of the losses rose to 2130 oxen, 3620 cows and 2281 calves, whose estimate was approximately of 697.014 livres. The third of this sum was paid to the owners. On October 9, 1776, a subdelegated letter of the Intendant required a deliberation of the inhabitants confirming the names of those which would receive the third for their dead cattle of the epizootic disease to fix the total amount and to name two police chiefs to go to Pau, to seek the amount of these allowances^{51b}.

For the community of Montaut, 461 bovines⁵² were lost; it left about 59. The table opposite indicates, the amount of the losses in cattle undergone by each ploughman, separating their value into francs. The indemnisations represented the third of this amount, that is to say: 11.957 francs.

This statement^{52b} which had been asked in each sénéchaussée, comprised a preamble signed by the two general syndics of Béarn, Misters Sus and Péborde of Pardies. Here is the text:

Mr. deputies named by the State... will go to the Court. It is the moment to request the graces which the State already said it would repair the effects of the calamity which afflicts this country. The majority of the communities addressed to us at various times of the state of the cattle which they lost. The disease continued its progress. We do not know the current situation of each community. You will well want, Misters, consequently to occupy without any delayed-action to fill the states which you will find following this letter and to address them to Mister de Beauregard, police chief of the State of your district who will want to forward them to us. In spite of the partial compensation, the consequences of this catastrophe were dramatic.

The impossibility⁵⁴ of the community to face the fiscal burdens is confirmed by the notebooks of guards in 1775; in January one carries a present to make it have patience and a few months later, two pairs of chapons, a pair the poulards and a cheese, to Mr Guivoyer-Labbé, manager for Mister d' Abidos, receiver, *indicator whom he could raise no sum of money from the inhabitants, due to the dead cattle.*

On October 9, 1776, a general assembly of the inhabitants gives authority by vote to Domenica Carlon and Jean Prim, jurats, to go

to seek as soon as possible, as the letter of Monsieur de Sallenave indicates, under intendant, the amount of the third of the dead cattle of the epizootie.

Bonnecaze⁵⁵ specifies that *the people are overpowered by the weight of misery, not knowing which way to turn, one saw the men and the women attached to draw the charue to plow and sow the grain.*

Four years later the distress of the inhabitants is still great. We want of it for proof some passage of the official report of a general assembly behaviour” on August 21, 1779 *to present to the King and the Monseigneur Intendant the distress and the state of misery currently in the community of Montaut is... since the plague of the epizootie (sic!) and because of the food shortage and dearness of grains the last two years. The King and Mgr Intendant will be convinced of it when a body of inhabitants, heads of household will attest that what one sees nowadays, is without precedence... the pieces of furniture and the most invaluable instruments for a household, siezed by the guards to provide for the payment of the royal impositions; one sees the clothes, the herds of the young grooms, even the beds, removed by the need for the hunger... these invaluable belongings of the families were sold on the public square; one cannot give any more of an idea of the misery of the inhabitants... the third of those having other occupations to live only make chapelets (prayer beads) by taking small boxwood branches on the mountains of Trescouts.*

The celebration of the political events. Rejoicings.

The reading the official reports of the meetings of the community or of commune inform us about the rejoicing shown by our municipal officials at the time of such and such event, for which they found normal to associate the population the joys or the national mournings, even of the province.

It is thus⁵⁷ on December 16, 1781, at the time of the birth of the dauphin (the future Louis XVII) *the municipal body of Montaut, on representation made by the first jurat, which to solemnize all the more Te Deum that one must sing with vespers, in thanksgiving of Monseigneur Dauphin, he will make a bonfire, to which we will assist as well as the notable inhabitants with all the possible decency, with the elite of youth, with our soldiers militiamen, all in rosettes and rifles, will be with the orders of the sieur Blondin, officer of the king to the regiment of the old navy, to make the fire and the evolutions which he will make.*

Then the people will be invited to follow us, all shouting with a voice of joy: Long Live the King! Long Live the Queen! Long Live Monseigneur the Dauphin! After which he will give a public collation of the assistants. Julien, jurat, Esquerre, jurat, Casalaa, jurat, Prim, jurat.

Other rejoicings had taken place at the time of the return of Parliament of Pau, of Versailles and its re-entry⁵⁸ in October 1788. Indeed, Louis XVI, having *judged in connection to grant in all its kingdom the administration of justice, by putting all the Parliaments on holiday,...* *That animated Pau with the purest zeal for the conservation of the privileges of the Province (of Béarn) since it did not cease since the King, had been carried from there.*

Montaut
le 25 1816.
Aout 1807.

Etat de Dépense Ordonné par la Mairie
de Montaut, d'après la Circulaire de M. le Préfet
du 10 aout 1807, A l'occasion de la Fête
de St. Napoléon, de Celle du Vétaillement de la
Religion en France, et de Celle de la N. naissance
de N. S. R. Auguste Empereur, les 15 et
16 Aout de l'an 1807.

mars 1808 Expédié =	Distribution de Poudre a Canon, au Detachement	
du 25 a M. Lajus =	de la garde Nationale locale pour ci	10 francs
cy (pour cet objet) =	Distribution de Pain pour cy	37
a Felix maysy =	Distribution de fromage pour ci	15 75 ^c
adquis réunis au 1 ^{er}	Distribution de Vin pour cy	46
de divers objets au	Distribution aux Joueurs d'instrumens	15
banques m ^{rs}		

Total Cent vingt trois francs 75 Centimes 123 f. 75^c

Certifié le présent Etat véritable par Nous
Maire de la Commune de Montaut.



Labord
Maire

Qui et approuvé l'état de dépense ci-dessus montant à
la somme de Cent vingt trois francs soixante quinze centimes
à concurrence de laquelle le Maire de Montaut est autorisé
à délivrer des mandats sur le Percepteur à vis Receveur des
Revenus Communaux.

La dite somme sera allouée dans le compte que le Percepteur
est tenu de rendre pour 1808 en par lui rapportant les
mandats du Maire dûment quittancés par les parties
prenantes et une copie en forme de la présente autorisation.

à Pau le 18 février 1808.

Le Général de Brigade Préfet
des Basses-Pyrénées

M. Borelles

This noble and firm resistance made mander in body in Versailles where he went and managed to clarify the religion of the monarch whom one had surprised. So that he returned the worthy and virtuous magistrates to their functions and withdrew the destructive laws of freedom and privileges of the Inhabitants of Béarn.

The inhabitants of this community were informed yesterday evening by the sound of the bells to the flight, one Te Deum and a bonfire in thanksgiving.

The known as day, jurats, and chaperon, Simon Jeanneton, Jean Prim, Etienne Bourrié, known as Matheu, and Laurent Maupas, attended the ceremony, during which the Pommez priest spoke. It was closed by a “mousqueterie”. Then the jurats, followed by the people went to the top of Sarrusse where a bonfire was flaring. The youth, accompanied with instruments, to help carried out pastoral dances. After which was distributed bread and wine.

Bonnecaze⁵⁹ adds: *one would need a whole volume to bring back the relation of the public and particular rejoicings which were made at the time of the re-entry of the Parliament....*

Many other popular rejoicings took place on various occasions; it is not our matter to enumerate them all.

The paper mill

In 1777, the superior of the chaplains⁶⁰ of Bétharram, P.Touton solicited the intendant of the province, Mr. de la Boulaye, for the authorization⁶¹ to install a paper mill with simple battery near the mill which they had already.

The choice of this investment rested on a study carried out on a nearby paper mill, that of Mirepeix, with which it could have entered in competition.

If one believes the study of L.Batcaveaib which relates to the manufacture of paper in Béarn, the profitability of this industry was particularly remarkable, since the current profit margin was higher than 35%! In order to carry out a marketable product of quality, it was necessary to be surrounded by qualified technicians, which the chaplains did by putting at the head of their company a Master-paper maker.

We will study further the manufacturing processes of the time to the improvement of which, Trudaine had contributed much^{61t}

The royal authorization was granted in 1779 by letters of patent.

This one wrote on October 22 by M.Perrin in Pau:

Monseigneur Director General made me the reference, Monseigneur and dear fellow-member, the report herewith presented is by the chaplains of Bétharram who ask for the permission to join a paper mill to a mill that they have on the river of Gave.

I would be very obliged to you, Sir, if you could do whatf you can to grant this permission without any disadvantage resulting from it.

On November 28 Perrin answered:

Monseigneur,

I do not believe there is the least disadvantage to grant to the chaplains of Bétharram, the permission which they ask. The paper mill of Mirepeix which is closest and which belongs to the lord of the place

has no exclusive privilege. The competition will be able to produce only one good effect on the public.

In spite of these two letters the Père Touton by July 1780 did not have the final authorization since writing to M.Perrin:

I had the honor to present a claim to you last January with the plan and the estimate of a paper mill which we proposed to make of masonry of an old fuller, as it is enjoined with people of mainmorte, that you have kindness to authorize it.

The whole was sent to your subdelegate of Pau which delivered his opinion. He awaited day in day the return of these parts for me to give them; he received them forever. I ask you, your grace, to have the kindness to approve your claim and enjoinder with your secretary to send it to you. The receiver of the Domaines asks me for the approval of this construction, to ensure me that I do not risk anything to pay because it is conjoint with people of mortmain to present the estimate of constructions and buildings at the Intendants only to ensure the right of approval of the Domaines which we offer to pay.

But we want to be in rule to obviate any disadvantage. Awaiting this grace of your kindness, I have the honor to be, with much deep respect, of Your Grandeur, Monseigneur, your very humble and obeidiant servant. Touton. Superior.

The final authorization arrived finally.

The chaplains had devoted 5600 livres to this investment.

Thus, in December 1779, an unknown person gave 2.000 livres with obligation, on the other hand, the preaching of seven sermons in seven years in the village where he resided.

One inhabitant of Coarraze, Marie Dufaur also gave 2.000 livres with obligation of a sermon every six years and three sermons in the village of her choice⁶².

To exploit their paper mill, at the end of the year 1780 the chaplains employed a paper Master (received in 1774) in the person of Bernard and Vincent Raguette father and son whose family already managed the paper mills of Rébénacq and Tarbes and whose reputation was well established; designation being made with the biddings, they were “the highest bidders”.

It was rented to them for 400 livres and two reams of paper one of end, the other commune, that the paper maker was to provide at the beginning of each year, for five years. This contract was signed on December 28, 1780 in the study of Pierre Julien, royal notary royal of Montaut.

The paper mill was “a simple battery” that it comprised only one series of mallets driven by the hydraulic force to crush the rag and to reduce it to paste.

In the term of the first leasing agreement on September 25, 1785,⁶³ the sieur Touton, syndic of the chaplains, sublets it to Armand Cazaux, son, paper maker of Bizanos for three years duration. (In our research, we found on several occasions his filigree)

On August 8, 1789, Gabriel Bourgeacq, of Nay, took over the direction and rented it for 600 pounds.