

### **The budget of the community in 1780**

Two great sources of revenues fed this budget; one came from the tax re-entries, the other from the sale of products generated by the communal grounds.

Thus this year there, *the size of the taillon* brought back 550 livres 19 sols; *the cotize* (tax royalty intended to maintain the standard the King) 267 livres 15 sols; the *capitation*, 988 livres 5 sols; the *twentieth*, 824 livres 1 sol; the sale of the glands and sweet chestnuts: 170 livres 11 sols; that of the ferns, 50 livres finally the sale of the *communal*, 636 livres

The whole of these receipts represented a total of 3.487 livres 11 sols.

The tax “pressure” was supplemented by the *dîme*, that is to say the 1/10 on many rural incomes that some had desired to make increase to 1/8 to the great displeasure of the montaltois.

### **The lord Jean Padre**

As of its foundation, our village had to contribute its own share to the defense of Béarn and to take part materially or physically in the manpower of the armed forces.

The registers of the council of the community state, for example, in 1782 *the appointment of the lord Jean Padre of Montaut as cavalier of the Company of the Guards of the count de Grammont, governor general in the kingdoms of Navarre and regional sovereignty of Béarn.*

The document is signed by the clerk of the community, Thomas Navarre, with the agreement of Jeanneton, first jurat.

### **Le dernier seigneur de Montaut**

It is about Monsieur de Beauregardes (actually Valentine Boùrdier de Beauregard), director general of the Domains of the King lord of Igon and other places, where he buys on February 4, 1783 a house belonging to a nailsmith, of this place, Jean Bacqué. He was lord “engagist” of Montaut. This term meant that the purchaser of the seigniority profited from the right of jouissance (pleasure). On the other hand, the attached strongholds and the rights continued to be charged by the King and the abbot of Saint Pée until the Revolution. So that no one in Montaut is unaware of his state, he had made a point of registering on the first page of the register of the deliberations of the council of the community the following mention:

*Register dimensioned and initialed by our noble General Bourdier de Beauregard, lord engagist of Montaut undersigned on first and last sheet numbered 90, to be used for the jurats of the aforesaid community to carry all the deliberations which will be taken. In Pau on April 1, 1776.<sup>65b</sup>*

The register of the Deliberations<sup>66</sup> of the States of Béarn, for the year 1780 in fact states *the Request presented by noble General Valentine de Beauregard of this city (Igon) tending to estar projection of the States per reason of the seigniority ground in the partide deu locq. of Igon rebetide of*

C'icou Jean Loutalet tresorier de l'argent des pauvres vous tiendrés en  
 Compte a Claviot six livres huit sols a Bergeret Et Hamiau  
 quatorze livres huit sols a Sere' six livres huit sols a Bournoy  
 trois livres sept sols six deniers j'icou deux ans a hona seure  
 livres a Navarre s'elou une livre sept sols et a Sere' cinq livres  
 venant en tout a la somme de cinquante six livres dix huit sols  
 six deniers dont nous acquittons les surdits nommés attendu qu'ils  
 sont pauvres et hors d'état de payer la cotité et surha marquée  
 Nous tenoant le restant sur payeurs depuis l'année 1787.  
 Reforant en 1788. C'est a dire deux années de ja échues, au moyende  
 quoy nous acquittons les surdits nommés de tout le quils devoient  
 ala seate. excepté trois livres sept sols six deniers que Bournoy  
 sera tenu de payer en main de Jean Loutalet ancien tresorier en  
 foy de quoy avouant signé a Montant le 10e Septembre mil sept cent  
 quatre vingt neuf. Bommerz curé Bournoy jurat Milly jurat  
 P. A. 1789. jurat

J. Mataridome Bergé tresorier des pauvres vous  
 payez en Compte toutes les livres de la seate de la seate  
 de notre colle de cette parois sept livres et trente sols a Mataridome  
 trois livres quatre sols a Claviot sept livres quatre sols a Bergeret  
 cinq livres quatre sols au pupille de Sere', deux livres dix sols  
 a Sere', trois livres sept sols a Bournoy sept livres a Bournoy  
 attendu leur misere, la somme de trente six livres deus sols  
 vous payez a se la somme en rapportant le present a  
 Montant en Bureau assemblée le 24 Janvier 1785  
Bommerz curé Julien Esquero jurat  
Ladagnous jurat pushe jurat

*Transcription & Translation of a portion of the previous document :*

Lord Jean Loustalet trésorier de l'argent des pauvres vous tient en compte à Clariot 6 livres 8 sols à Bergerat du hameau 14 livres 8 sols à Seré 10 livres 8 sols à Pourrocq 3 livres 7 sols 6 deniers pour 2 ans à Hona 16 livres à Navarre Pilou une livre sept sols et à Serizo 5 livres.

Revenant en tout à la somme de 56 livres 18 sols 6 deniers dont nous acquittons les susdits nommés attendu qu'ils sont pauvres et hors d'état de payer la cotitté y étant marquée.

Nous réservant les rentes des paveux (? pierreux, peut être des droits de carrière) depuis l'année 1787 référante en 1788. C'est à dire 2 années déjà échues au moyen de quoi nous acquittons les susnommés de tout ce qui doivent à la recette excepté 3 livres 7 sols 6 deniers que Pourrocq sera tenu de payer en main de Jean Loustalet ancien trésorier en foi de quoi avons signé à Montaut le 12 septembre 1789.

ont signé Pommez le curé, Bouric jurat, Maupas jurat et Marys jurat

Lord Jean Loustalet treasurer of the money for the poor holds these in account  
for Clariot 6 livres 8 sols  
for Bergerat of the hamlet 14 livres 8 sols  
for Seré 10 livres 8 sols  
for Pourrocq 3 livres 7 sols 6 deniers for 2 years  
for Hona 16 livres  
for Navarre Pilou 1 livre 7 sols  
and for Serizo 5 livres.

Returning a total sum of 56 pounds 18 grounds 6 deniers of which we discharge the aforesaid named ones because they are poor and not of a state to pay the amounts being marked.

We reserve the revenues paid to us since the year 1787 referring in 1788. It is to say 2 years have already fallen and therefore we discharge the above-named ones of all they owe to the receipt except 3 livres 7 sols 6 deniers that Pourrocq will be held to pay in hand to Jean Loustalet former treasurer in witness whereof signed in Montaut on September 12, 1789.

signed : Pommez priest, Bouric jurat, Maupas jurat and Marys jurat

*justice et deu dret de crear bayle, jurais en cour delaqualle lui est mesté et possesseur en lestât deu contrat de vente consenty en sa favour lou 30 août 1772 per Dame Marie de Sereix, héritière de feu M. de Junca.*

Probably confusing the rights attached to the seigniorship of Igon, like indicating the jurats and transferring them on Montaut, of which he was the only “lord engagist”, he decides also to designate the jurats to our community.

This “change of mode” does not seem to argue, with the taste of our fellow-citizens, attached to their old prerogatives.

We find indeed in the registers of the States of Béarn for the year 1767, on page 231 the text<sup>68</sup> of the following request:

*Sus la requeste presentade per lous sieurs Jean Casenave et autre Jean Casenave, dit Lalanne lindus deus habitans de Montaut tendante per las rasons y contiengudes que lie donnât poudet à Mrs lous syndics d'interbenir desu une instance que lous an angatgeat en Cassation de la nomination de jurats faite par Mr de Beauregard engagiste de la seigneurie per y demandar que en exécution de l'article 12 de la coustume dub deux jurats lous continueran d'estar esleguts à Montaut en las formes ordinaires.*

This text, very explicit, emphasizes well the wish of the montaltois to preserve “their acquired advantages” and to preserve their freedom to elect their jurats without interference of a third, who was lord “engagist” of Montaut.

This point of view seems to have evolved with time, since nearly twenty years later, Bourdier de Beauregard addresses a letter to Pierre Julien<sup>69</sup>, notary, to name him first jurat, a designation confirmed by his signature appearing in the register of the deliberations of the community. Not being able to assume at the same time the two activities of first jurat and of notary Julien asks at the end of one year to be discharged from his functions.

In his place are named Jean Bernata<sup>70</sup>, first jurat, Jean Tisé, second jurat, Guillaume Matardon, third jurat and Jean Daguette, without reaction of any fellow-citizens.

### **The bureau of the poor**

With concern for the most impoverished of us, as the presence of a municipal officer testifies a “treasurer of the poor” does not seem to have been foreign to our fellow-citizens.

The file<sup>69b</sup> entitled “Vouchers of the bureau of the poor” informs us about their generosity.

Only a small number of inhabitants profited from it: approximately a dozen between (for example) 1784 and 1788, years for which appear the detailed accounts. Among them, those which we could call the “subscribers” to which money sums were given regularly.

The treasurer, whose nomination belonged to the jurats, had a double task: on the one hand to collect the funds, on the other hand, to detect the needy ones, recipients of the assistance found, helped in that by the priest, perhaps better knowing of the material of his parishioners and more capable of preserving their anonymity. Moreover, with

each handing-over of help, in the account of the treasurer was labeled “given to the lord priest” without any more precision.

The origin of the funds came from gifts given, like today, at the time of certain ceremonies, marriages for example or by the alms poured into the poor box of the church, but the principal resource consisted of “subscriptions” taken out by a certain number of inhabitants of the village who committed themselves to paying each year a certain sum to the bureau of the poor, a moral contract, always honoured by their heirs. We thus found in the account of the treasurer for the years 1784 to 1789, an annual subscription of 13 pounds, subject to an obligation from 1696.

Le document que nous avons analysé nous a aussi renseigné sur les motifs, pourrions-nous dire, de l'allocation versée. Nous trouvons, malgré le côté dramatique de la situation des intéressés, des "libellés" dont certains ne manquent pas d'originalité :

The document that we analyzed also informed us about the reasons, we could say, of the versed allowance. We find, in spite of the dramatic situation of the interested parties, the “wording” of which some did not miss originality:

- *4 livres for an inhabitant of the village for which he has a pressing need for his maintenance;*

- *4 livres for a patient which he needs for his bouillon;*

- *4 books for a man in the need to buy britches;*

- *3 livres to buy a little pib grease for the bouillon of his family;*

- *9 livres for one afflicted with the sight to go to consult a doctor at Tarbes;*

- *One requests the treasurer of the poor to buy fabric for a pair of britches of color, made of wool and to take a little more so that they are long. The remainder could be arranged to repair the remains of the old britches.*

- Thus the charity went from there at the end of XVI century. The concern for the most impoverished shows through at the archives of montaltoises during the centuries, the help brought to the poor or the health care and free medicine, is all to the honor of our fellow-citizens.

### **The Estates General**

When the King decided to assemble the Estates General in 1789, they were held in Pau on May 19 in the convent of the Cordeliers?! The communities wrote their registers of grievances and elected 36 deputies.

Like the other parties, the low-clergy chooses its representatives, but their capacities, were regarded as insufficient, they could not be admitted to the Large Body, within the Estates.<sup>72</sup>

The representatives of the clergy were named: Mgr of Noé and the abbot of Charitte, canon of Lescar, two nobles three lawyers for the third; the low clergy chooses two agents: the abbots Saurine and Julien, native of Montaut, son of the royal notary and priest of Arrosés.

### **Montaut at the start of the Revolution**

It is not our intention to treat the revolutionary period in detail. We will turn our readers studying it to the very interesting of Mr Leonce Peyrègne, author of a work: *Petite chronique d'un village béarnais sous la Révolution*. (Marrimpouey Pau 1980)

We will be satisfied to quote some facts or anecdotes, from the official minutes of the municipal Council of our commune are enamelled or to report news facts, resulting from various archives, familial, among others.

### **The fountain of Bruquet**

This fountain owes its name to the owner of the land, Bernard Bruquet, on which it is established.

If one believes the assertion appearing in the preamble<sup>73</sup> to a general assembly of the inhabitants of the community, on August 30, 1780, our village, at that time, had only one fountain located on raised communal ground, with more than 400 meters (1,300 ft.) from the center of the borough.

The first jurat the lord Jeanneton, thus proposes to build a fountain *in front of Bruquet* supplied for the collecting from the source whose water *would be led there for the usage of service, to take water for drinking, the service of the houses, the watering of the cattle, the laundering of the linen especially in winter time, and the time of the bad weather, for the tranquility of the women, girls who go to gather water day and night.*

Opinion is thus requested from the assembly joining together the vast majority of the heads of household of the village, an exemplary method of direct democracy, disappeared today, on the principle of the expenditure to engage for such a realization. The present, thus consulted, gave full powers to the jurats to conclude the operation.

On February 19, 1789 is held a second general assembly. Meanwhile, plans and estimates were drawn up *which indicate the works to be made to this object and which appreciate the expenditure at the sum of 2.051 livres.*

A work of this importance cannot be built without the opinion of the intendant of the province M de Boucheport<sup>74</sup> to which the claim was addressed. In answer, he orders *that the plans and estimates in question, will be communicated to the inhabitants of this place in a general assembly for the purpose of deliberating on it.*

*Reading made, it was ruled by most of the inhabitants, with a plurality of voices, that they approve and accept the plans and estimate and beg Mgr the intendant to order its execution.*

A crucial question remained for a small community like Montaut, the financing of such an investment.

It is the subject of a third general meeting to which 146 heads of household are present (rightly from 5 to 6 people per family, it tells of the very vast majority of the inhabitants) during which, the lord Bourrié, procurer, (function instituted by the Constituent Assembly within the framework of the communal law) proposes to *sell twenty five oaks of oldest communal wood and some small pieces of land the least prejudicial and which will be indicated by the lord jurats and will be appointed, assisted by four experts chosen among the laborers of the commune: Carlon Laguerre, Prim, Baylou.*

The inhabitants present give their agreement unanimously; and work can start. The choice of the contractor, after lowest bidding, is made for Gratiaa, of Nay.

It seems that technical difficulties rather quickly appeared due to bad control of collecting the sources which were to feed the fountain, the contractor not having, it seems evaluated all the risks inherent in the aspect of the land and its solidity, the conduit was difficult to support while a slip threatening to break it.

These various risks, as well as the architectural installation of the fountain are the objects of two official reports of March 3 and April 14, 1790. Notwithstanding; it is regulated in Gratiaa, the sum of 1.400 livres.

A second contractor then appears *the lord Pradahs of the town of Pau* named in an official report of October 16, 1790 as *contractor for the works of the construction of the fountain* “.

Having carried out work of completion and having cured the technical difficulties, he makes *offer to provide an expert to check the works and on his side summoned the community to introduce another expert*

Bourrié goes to Saint Pée to solicit the lord Labarrère, architect and Pradal, introduces Jean Fourcade, architect of the town of Nay. Those lend oath on October 17, 1790 between the hands of the mayor.

They check the work and give discharge to the contractor not without having perceived their fees.

For the general satisfaction, the fountain of Bruquet, an integral part of the inheritance of our commune and, for this reason it is necessary to restore it and preserve it, filled its functions during more than one and a half centuries, for the greater comfort of the inhabitants of Montaut.

A few months later, our municipal officials are moved by the absence of a laundrette<sup>76</sup> in the commune: *the general good, they say, requires that it build a laundrette with the descent of the water from the fountain of the Bruquet district and in a place which will be recognized most convenient. The thing is all the more pressing as one approaches winter, that nobody is unaware of the crudeness of the water of the brook Mouscle, only the use of the things, to bleach, are harmful to health.*

One thus decide to build a basin with the good washed mortar, well adjusted well and chisled, in accordance with the plan and estimate. Posters are affixed at Nay, Coarraze, Igon, Saint Pée and other places and at the doors of the church of Montaut.

Two contractors make the offer: Jean Luciat of our village and Martial Lartigue of Coarraze who, offers to do these work for 165 livres (5 livres less) with the guarantee of Vincent Lartigue. Thus was built at the end of the XVIII century this beautiful laundrette of Bruquet whose current state deserves a restoration.

### **Role of the Patriotic Contribution of 1790.**

This document which appears in the municipal archives<sup>77</sup> is interesting in more than one way. It indeed constitutes a photograph of the situation of Montaut at the beginning of the Revolution on the population plan, trade exercises, incomes of the inhabitants.

Initially, some words of history. At that time, the cases of the State were empty... Necker, Minister for Finance of Louis XVI, to make up the deficit of the Treasury which reaches more than 60 million, launches

**Rolle des sommes à recevoir dans la**  
**de Montaut pour la Contribution patriotique de 1790**  
**Declarations faites par les personnes & après denom-**  
**brer**

Noms des personnes qui ont declare	Total de la Contribution Affec	Epoque de l'assiette	
		30. avril 1790.	30. avril 1791.
<p align="center">article 1.<sup>er</sup></p> <p>Je soussigné No<sup>se</sup> Royal a la résidence de Montaut declare avec verité que la somme de quarante livres dont je contribuerai aux besoins de l'Etat excède la proportion determinée par le décret de l'Assemblée Nationale et que j'ai fait don de cette somme à la Nation en engage de la payer aux trois termes reglez a Montaut le 2. Janvier 1790. Julien</p>	40 <sup>fr</sup>	13 <sup>fr</sup> 6 <sup>8</sup>	13 <sup>fr</sup> 6 <sup>8</sup>
<p align="center">article 2.<sup>o</sup></p> <p>Je soussigné Simon Janeton Laboureur de Montaut declare avec verité que la somme de quatre vingt six livres dont je contribuerai aux besoins de l'Etat est conforme aux fixations établies par l'Assemblée Nationale concernant la Contribution patriotique et le Menage d'aigütes Somme aux termes reglez a Montaut le 2. Janvier 1790 Je Sini JANETON</p>	83 <sup>fr</sup>	26 <sup>fr</sup> 13 <sup>8</sup>	26 <sup>fr</sup> 13 <sup>8</sup>
<p align="center">article 3.<sup>o</sup></p> <p>Je soussigné Laurent Bris Laboureur de Montaut declare avec verité que la somme de quarante cinq livres dont je contribuerai aux besoins de l'Etat est conforme aux fixations établies par l'Assemblée Nationale concernant la Contribution patriotique et le Menage d'aigütes La dite somme en trois termes reglez a Montaut le 2. Janvier 1790</p>	45 <sup>fr</sup>	15 <sup>fr</sup>	



two loans, condemned by the difficulties of the moment. He then comes to the idea to establish a patriotic contribution of a quarter of the income of each French per decree.

It was voted on October 6, 1789. It was payable per thirds at April 30 of each year 1790, 1791 and 1792 and... innovation, the tax would be refunded as soon as the credit of the State would have been restored!

Each citizen “offered a contribution” and attested that the sum paid for the needs for the State was in conformity with the fixations established by the French National Assembly; he committed himself moreover to discharging it under the terms envisaged.

The secretary of town hall of the time had the obligation to hold a “role” in other words a list on which all the heads of household of the commune were reproduced and the sums to be recovered were a function of the declarations made by each one.

To avoid whimsical declarations and consequently random payments, it had been requested from each one a declaration honorably attesting to the amount of his income, according to the following formula:

*I undersigned ..... declare with truth that the sum of X livres I will contribute to the needs of the State is in conformity with the fixations established by the French National Assembly concerning the patriotic contribution and I commit myself to discharging the aforementioned sum under the regulated terms. In Montaut the 1790, follow by signature.*

For our commune, this contribution had risen to 2.224 livres.

### **Contents of the role**

It gives us, with precision, an inventory of the trades exerted in our commune, as well as the amount of income of each of its inhabitants, one dependant on the other.

Initially, arrive the “labourers” (our farmers of today). They are 73 and represent the most important profession by far and pay the strongest average contribution. What is the reason? An explanation can be provided to us by a deliberation of our fellow-citizens dated<sup>78</sup> August 18, 1793 at the time of the meeting of the inhabitants for division of the communal funds (division decided by Convention on June 10 of the same year).

Making a detailed inventory of the aforesaid funds, we find there the following heading: *careers for the stone supply of lime whose commerce (lime) is the largest object for the farmers of this place.*

This activity was already attested, among others, more than 80 years before by the ruling of the Parliament of Navarre<sup>79</sup> of September 27, 1718, which regulates at the same time *the capacity of the cart-loads of lime and their price.* Recent research enables us to affirm that this manufacture rises at least in XVI century (schedule of conditions of the construction of the churches of Montaut and Pontacq), and undoubtedly, quite before.

Its importance could explain the relative ease of the laborers, enabling them to assume the strongest contribution.

In the second place come the manufacturers of the chapelets (prayer beads), pious by their number than by their incomes. One counts of them 32 and the importance of this figure can surprise. It can be explained by the crowd of pilgrims who come to Bétharram attracted by the devotion to the “Virgin of the Beautiful Branch” and the miraculous cures which occur there.

At the time, this pilgrimage is regarded as one of the three principal places of spirituality mariale of France and Saint Vincent de Paul, solicited to take of its direction, a request which he refused by modesty, specified that it was one of the more attended in the kingdom and that the number of pilgrims was higher than 20.000 annually.

The local history teaches us that those, going to the chapel, passed between two lines of shops in which the commerce of the chapelets (prayer beads) was flourishing.

Their manufacture was done by hand at their residence. Some number of craftsmen using boxwood as raw material, realized using pedal turns, for the pearls which, once assembled gave birth to the chapelet.

The presence of a dozen tisserands and eight tailors of clothes attests the existence of a textile craft industry.

The precariousness and the scarcity of the means of communication obliged many communities to live in a closed circuit and to use the local product: of sheep, flax and hemp.

The tisserands had rather rudimentary trades employing wool and flax spun by many wives of laborers. Cloth thus obtained was then fulled (our commune had a fuller of cloth) to return fabrics tighter and more pleasant to carry.

The tailors of clothes moved house to house, a sewing machine on the shoulder, scissors, dice, needles and wire in a bag, to carry out the parts of clothing necessary for everyday life.

Journaliers or journalières (day laborers), (as was the term employed in the role) numbering 22 were employed in the many farms in our community. They were often juniors of the family or nonmarried women whose material situation was not easier.

The many chafourniers used the services of the cartwrights and the blacksmiths for the manufacture and the maintenance of the chars and the maréchaux-ferrants for the fitting of oxen, mules and horses.

The table of the “subjects with license” still reveals to us the presence of several tradesmen: five innkeepers installed in our village whose customers often caused diurnal disorders, but especially at night to the great displeasure of the inhabitants. -

A merchant potter provided to his customers, using a turn and a furnace, domestic ustensils, among other things “pots” to make soup.

La présence d'un mégissier peut s'expliquer par la relative importance du troupeau ovin de notre commune. Son métier consistait à utiliser les peaux de mouton ou de chèvre pour en fabriquer et en vendre des objets usuels en cuir.

The presence of a mégissier can be explained by the relative importance of the ovine herd of our commune. His trade consisted of using goat or sheepskins to manufacture them and sell usual leather objects of them.