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<sup>1</sup>Cahier des doléances<sup>23</sup>

du tiers Etat,

de la Paroisse de

Gonneville sur

Dives<sup>4</sup>

Le Dimanche vingt neuf mars mil sept cent quatre vingt neuf. L'assemblée<sup>5</sup> du tiers Etat de la Paroisse de Gonneville sur Dives, devenu convoqué sous la nomination des députés destinés à être envoyés à l'Assemblée Préliminaire du tiers Etat du Bailliage de Pont Levêque, qui doit rettenir de premier

Document of grievances

of the Third Estate<sup>6</sup>

of the parish of

Gonneville-sur-

Dives

Sunday the twenty-ninth of March, one thousand seven hundred eight nine<sup>7</sup>. The assembly of the Third Estate of the parish of Gonneville-sur-Dives, having been convened under the nomination of the deputies destined to be sent to the preliminary assembly of the Third Estate of the bailiwick of Pont-l'Évêque<sup>8</sup>, which should be held on the first of

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<sup>1</sup> The original document contains both handwritten and printed text. I have chosen to represent handwritten text in normal typeface and printed text in bold.

<sup>2</sup> I have chosen to preserve the original document's line breaks. These line breaks are not perfectly preserved by this Word file's format, so some lines have additional line breaks.

<sup>3</sup> A cahier de doléances was a document that compiled the grievances of the people when an Estates General was convened. An Estates General was an advisory body convened by the king of France in times of crisis, representing all the people of France and their interests.

<sup>4</sup> Gonneville-sur-Dives is a small parish in the department of Calvados, in the region of Normandy, on the north coast of France.

<sup>5</sup> There are many instances of typographical errors, misspellings, omissions of punctuation, and other things we would consider errors in modern

French. Due to their high frequency, I have chosen not to tag them with [sic], and will simply acknowledge their existence in this footnote.

<sup>6</sup> France under the ancien régime was separated into three estates; the first contained the clergy, the second contained the nobility, and the third contained everyone else. The typical image of the third estate is of the peasant, but there was great variability within the third estate, and its members could be very wealthy. Additionally, the boundary between the second and third estate was, by this time, weakening due to the sale of offices by the French monarchy.

<sup>7</sup> The Estates General of 1789 was convened over the crisis that would become the French Revolution. As an advisory body to the king, at the time Louis XVI, it failed, as the crisis became a revolution and Louis XVI was eventually beheaded by the people of France.

<sup>8</sup> Pont-l'Évêque is a commune in Calvados.

avril prochain ; après avoir la requisition  
de Maître Jean Duval, notaire Royal  
presidant la dite assemblée, deliberé sur  
les doléances qu'elle veut presenter aux etats  
Généraux, a d'une voix unanime aresté pour  
entrer dans les vues de reforme et damelioration  
proposée, & par sa majesté, pour l'avantage  
de tous les membres qui composent cette  
Communauté, et de toutes les communes de  
proposer toutes les doléances suivantes  
et de requerir ;

Premierement que tous les  
impôts sans aucune Exception, soient suportés  
dorenavant suivant une proposition juste par  
le clergé et la noblesse, ainsy que par le tiers  
Etat,

2.° la supression de la Gabelle,  
dont ils souffrent d'autant plus que la

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<sup>9</sup> The first and second estates had more privileges than the third estate, including tax exemptions. To preserve these privileges, the government placed its tax burden on the third estate, the poorest overall.

next April; after having the requisition  
of Master Jean Duval, royal notary  
presiding over the said assembly, having deliberated over  
the grievances that it wants to present to the Estates  
General, has with a unanimous vote terminated to  
enter in the proposed views of reform and of amelioration,  
& by His Majesty, for the advantage  
of all members who compose this  
community, and for all the communes to  
propose all the following grievances  
and to request;

Firstly that all  
taxes without any exception are borne  
henceforth, following a proposition, directly by  
the clergy and the nobility, as well as by the Third  
Estate<sup>9</sup>,

2, the removal of the gabelle<sup>10</sup>,  
for which they have suffered more than the

<sup>10</sup> The gabelle was a tax on salt. It was an important tax in seaside regions, where salt was farmed by drying seawater.

proximité de la mer, les exposent a la vexation journaliere d'une soule d'employés plus odieuse encore, et plus a charge que le prix exorbitant auquel ils sont obligés de payer le sel, dont la plupart d'entreux pauvres et malaisés, pouvoient se passer en se servant d'eau de mer qui leur interdite, ce qui est un sujet habituel de querelles, de Batteries, dextortions et de procès verbaux de la part des employés,

3.° La supression des aides pour être delivrés d'une autre espece de vexation de la part des commis proposés a cette partie ; des entraves qui d'on eprouve journellement pour la vent, transport, etc des eau de vies et autres boissons, qui sont le seul objet de leur Commerce,

4.° L extinction des droits contrôle,

proximity of the sea, and which exposes them to the daily harassment of a soule ball<sup>11</sup>, from employees more odious yet<sup>12</sup>, and charged more than the exorbitant price which they are obligated to pay to the salt tax, which most of those poor and sickened can happen to pay in utilizing seawater, which is prohibited to them, that which is a habitual subject of quarrels, of battery, of extortion and of verbal trials on the part of the employees.

3, the removal of aides<sup>13</sup>, to be released from another species of harassment on the part of the clerks proposed in this part; of the obstacles that one experiences daily for the wind, transport, etc. of brandy and other drink, which are the only object of their commerce,

4, the extinction of the control rights,

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<sup>11</sup> "Soule" referred to both a sport and the ball used in the sport.

<sup>12</sup> These odious employees refer to tax farmers, who essentially provided advance payments on taxes to the king, then recouped the debt from those who were supposed to pay the taxes in the first place. Tax farmers were despised by the third estate, as they would try to extract as much money as

they could for their own profit, much more than the amount paid to the king. Tax farming was a risky but lucrative business; many tax farmers were themselves of the third estate, as it was one way to become rich.

<sup>13</sup> The aides were excise taxes; taxes levied on the manufacture of a good, rather than its sale.

centieme dernier, et insinuation, ou au nom & de l'arbitraire de ses droits, qui ne sont la plupart fondée sur aucune loy fixe, et qui par la même sont devenus progressivement exorbitants, et de ne laisser subsister le contrôle que pour assurer la date des actes, moyennant un droit modique et invariablement fixé,

5 un impôt unique sur les rentes et sur les terres, qui servent estimées imposées toutes a proportion de leur valeur, sans distinction de biens eclesiastique, nobles, ou roturiers, pour eviter les difficultés, les embarras et les frais multipliés qu'occasionnent la repartition & la perception de la multitude d'impôts actuellement existants, sous la denomination de taille, capitation, industrie, vingtiemes, sols pour livre, etc

6.° L'obligation d'imposer tous les fonds quelconques sur le rôle de la paroisse, dans les limites de laquelle ils sont suivés,

the last hundred, and insinuation, or to the name & of the arbitrariness of their rights, which are not for the most part founded on any fixed law, and which by the same have become progressively more exorbitant, and to not let the control subsist but for assuring the date of acts, by means of a law that is modest and invariably fixed,

5, a unique tax on annuities and on lands, which serve estimated to impose on all at proportion of their value, without distinction of good ecclesiasts, nobles, or commoners, to avoid difficulties, embarrassments, and multiplied fees that occasion the repartition & the perception of the multitude of taxes actually existent, under the denominations of the taille, capitation, industry, the vingtiemes, sols for book, etc.<sup>14</sup>

6, the obligation to impose any and all bases on the rôle of the parish, in the limits by which they are followed,

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<sup>14</sup> The taille, capitation, etc. were all taxes.

pour faciliter la justice de l'imposition, et la perception, et éviter les contestations et les procès entre les paroisses,

7.° que la construction et l'entretien des grandes routes soient comme tous les impôts à la charge des trois ordres de la nation,

8.° Exemption de contribuer à la construction de la route commencée de Pont-l'Évêque à Caën, pour laquelle, après avoir déjà payé depuis plusieurs années, des grosses sommes sous des routes dont ils ne peuvent faire usage et à eux inconnues, ils payent encore et payeraient quoiqu'elle leur soit non seulement inutile, mais de plus très préjudiciable en ce qu'elle leur ôtera le secours de facilité qu'ils ont de

se débarrasser de leurs denrées, qu'ils ne peuvent vendre que lorsqu'elles sont toutes les paroisses voisines de cette grande route, à laquelle ils ne peuvent accéder, servent totalement épuisées,

9.° La réforme de la jurisprudence`

to facilitate the fairness of taxation, and the perception, and avoid disputes and lawsuits between parishes,

7, that the construction and maintenance of the grand routes be, like all taxes, charged to the three orders of the nation,

8, exemption from contributing to the construction of the route beginning at Pont-l'Évêque to Caën, for which, after having already paid for many years large sums for routes which they could not make use of and which were unknown to them, they paid again and pay for what is to them not only useless, but in addition very prejudicial in that what will remove from them the fear of inconvenience that they have of

parting with their wares, that they can only sell when all the neighboring parishes on this grand route, which the parish cannot access, are totally exhausted of service,

9, the reform of civil and criminal jurisprudence,

Civille & Criminelle, et des sonnes  
rimeuses des procedures dont les longueurs  
entraiment la ruine des deux parties, et qui  
occasionent le desagrement de voir  
naître souvent, par la manniere dont on suit  
les affaires de la contestation la plus  
simple qui n'auroit du être qu'une affaire  
de police, des procès d'un consequence majeure,  
et dont on ne peut voir la fin qu'après longues  
années, et la ruine entiere de plusieurs familles,

10° letablissement d'un tribunal de  
consillation, soit dans chaque paroisse,  
soit dans un districq circonscrit, auxquelles  
seront portées sans aucune frais, toutes  
ses contestations, & entre particuliers avant d'être  
poursuives par voyez judiciare, &

11° lexemption du matelottage,  
qui ocasionne la desertion des jeunes gens,  
de la paroisse et la prive des bras qui ainsy  
seroient les plus necessaires, pour les traveaux

and some rhyming sounds  
of the procedures of which the lengths  
cause the ruin of both parties, and which  
occasion the inconvenience of often seeing  
the establishment by the simplest manner in which one follows  
the business of the dispute,  
which should have only been an affair  
of the police, of lawsuits of major consequence,  
and of which one cannot see the end until after long  
years and the total ruin of multiple families,

10, the establishment of a tribunal of  
conciliation, in every parish,  
in a delineated district, which  
are carried out without any fee, all  
their disputes, and between particular people before being  
pursued by judicial officer, &

11, the waiver of navy conscription  
which occasions the desertion of some young people  
of the parish and the deprivation of arms which thus  
would be the most necessary for the workers

de la griculture, par la crainte de tomber au sont  
pour matelot, crainte d'autant mieux fondée  
qu'ils ne peuvent oublier que, de ceux qui avoient  
eu de billet en mil sept cent soixante dix  
neuf, et qui furent embarqués, a celle époque,  
il en est a peine revenu la huitieme partie,  
et que tous les autres sont morts, plus de  
de plaisir que de fatigue, soit sur mer  
soit dans les hospitaux, et que ceux qui ont  
survécu jouissent presque tous de la plus  
mauvaise santé, de plus la distraction de  
la bu, & de classer pour la maniere, ceux  
qui vonts tendre des fillets & sêcher sur  
le sable, et cela sous le faux pretexte qu'ils sont  
plus propres a être embarqué &, a cause de  
lhabitude qu'ils ont de respirer lair de la mer,  
& qui prive quantité de personnes d'un moyen de  
gagner leur vie,

12.° que labus des concessions,  
de landes et bruyeres, soit proscrit pour

of agriculture, by the fear of falling  
under conscription, fear well founded  
as they cannot forget that, of those who had  
a conscription letter in one thousand seven hundred seventy  
nine, and who made to set sail, at this time  
there have scarcely returned an eighth,  
and that all the others have died, more of  
of pleasure than of fatigue, either on the sea  
or in the hospitals, and that almost all those  
surveyed possess the  
worst health, in addition to the distraction of  
drink, & to class in this manner, those  
who go to stretch out nets & dry on  
the sand, and that under the false pretext that they are  
most proper to be set to sail &, due to  
habit that they breath the air of the sea,  
& who deprive a quantity of persons from a means  
of earning their livelihood,

12, that the abuse of concessions  
of moorlands and heathlands, is proscribed for

toujours; &, et qu'il soit enjoint aux communautés  
propriétaires d'icelles, de les défricher sur le  
champ, et de les mettre en valeur, en les partageant,  
suivant le plan que la raison et lequité oicteront,

13.° qu'il soit accordé une protection speciall  
a la griculture, et aux agriculteurs, en diminuant  
les entraves & qui gênent lexploitation des terres,

14° la supression des deportts comme  
un abus qui occasionne souvent des difficultés,  
dans les paroisses avec les deportuaires et les  
suivent ordinnairement de la présence de leur pasteurs  
pendant l'année de deport,

15.° Dobvier aux portes qu'eprouvent  
les vendeurs de boissons, obligés de les livrer  
dans des futailles fradulleuses, nommées  
bottes, deunyes bottes, ce autres par un reglement  
qui impose à tous les tonnellers la loy de marquer  
d'une manniere inefaçable sur la futaille la commence

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<sup>15</sup> Seigneurs were estate owners with feudal rights. As the economy of France developed over the seventeenth century, the income of seigneurs

ever; & and that it is enjoined to the landowning communities  
here, to clear them right  
now, and to highlight them, in sharing them,  
following the plan that reason and equity will award,

13, that it is accorded a special protection  
to agriculture, and to agricultural workers, in diminishing  
the obstacles & that hinder the exploitation of the lands,

14, the removal of seigneurial<sup>15</sup> privileges to seize  
revenue as  
an abuse that often occasions difficulties  
in the parishes with those whose revenue is seized, and that  
ordinarily follows them in the presence of their pastors  
during the year of seizure,

15, to obviate gates that test  
vendors of drinks, who are obligated to deliver the drinks  
in fraudulent barrels, named  
bottes, deny bottes these others by a rule  
that imposes on all coopers the law to mark,  
in an ineffaceable manner on the barrel, the start

was composed decreasingly of feudal dues and increasingly of land rent, though their feudal rights were still present, as can be seen here.



& le nom de fabricant, sous peine de confiscation,  
d'amende a même de punition affective en card  
recidive dans la fraude, lequel reglement ordonneroit  
la refonte ou la destruction de toutes les bottes,  
a rendroit inutile le jauge qui est un droit onéreux  
et qui saccroit chaque année ;

16° la reforme des mesures inégalles,  
qui retrouvent dans les mêmes halles,  
sources fréquents de querelle, entre lacheteur  
& le vendeur et quelque fois de lanimad version  
de la police envers de vendeur,

17.° Letablissement d'un même poids  
& d'une même mesures par tout le royaume,  
pour éviter la confusion et les abus resultants  
de la difference des mesures et poids, qui varient  
dans presque tous les canton,

18.° la fixité invariable des  
mesures de tous les seigneurs qui varient  
sans cesse, et des rentes et redevances seigneurales,  
qui dans certains endroits se sont accrues

& the name of the fabricator, under pain of confiscation,  
to amend to the same punishment affective in card  
recurring in fraud, that regulation will order  
the redesign or the destruction of all bottes,  
has rendered useless the gauge, which is an onerous law  
and which increases every year;

16, the reform of inegalitarian measures  
that find in the same markets  
frequent sources of quarrel between the buyer  
& the vendor, and sometimes the animated release  
of the police on the other side of the vendor,

17, the establishment of the same weights  
& the same measures for all the kingdom,  
to avoid confusion and the abuses resulting  
from the differences of measures and weights, which vary  
in almost every canton,

18, the invariable fixing of the  
measures of all the seigneurs, who vary  
without ceasing, and of the seigneurial annuities and royalties,  
which in certain locations are accrued

progressivement, d'une maniere exorbitante,  
de sorte que les vasseaux se trouvent obligés  
de payer plus qu'ils ne croient devoir, ou d'intenter  
a leurs seigneurs des procès dont le succès  
leur paroiteroit plus qu'incertain, a raison  
du credit de ces derniers ?

19° que la liberté soit accordée  
aux vasseaux de se racheter d'une multitude  
de corvées odieuses, ou rediculles exigibles  
sur leurs seigneurs, et qui sont un reste  
barbare de la feodalité, dont on devront  
eteindre jusqu'au nom,

20.° que les etats provinciaux soient  
rendu a la normandie, selon la formation de  
ceux du Dauphiné, ou une meilleure si elle  
est possible, avec la liberté de sasssembler  
aussi souvent que lexigeront les besoins de la province,

21.° que les ministres soient comptable  
a la Nation assemblée, et responsables

progressively, in an exorbitant manner,  
so that the vassals find themselves obligated  
to pay more than they believe they should, or to sue  
their seigneurs, of which the success  
seems to them more than uncertain, at the rate  
of the credit of the seigneurs

19, that liberty is accorded  
to the vassals to redeem themselves of a multitude  
of odious chores, or ridicule due  
under their seigneurs, and which are a barbarous remnant  
of feudality, which one should  
put an end to, up to its name,

20, that the provincial states be  
rendered to Normandy, according to the formation of  
such in Dauphiné<sup>16</sup>, or better if it  
is possible, with the liberty to assemble  
as often as the needs of the province require it,

21, that the ministers are accountable  
to the assembled nation, and responsible

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<sup>16</sup> Dauphiné is a region in the southeast of France.

de fonds qui leurs seront confiés,

22.° que l'on votte aux prochains  
Etats Généraux, par tête et non par ordre,

23° que le montant de la dette nationale  
soit constaté de la manniere la plus claire  
& la plus exacte, ainsy que le montant de  
la recette est de la depence, et qu'il soit prix des  
moyens sûrs, pour que la derniere ne surpasse  
jamais la premiere ;

24° que lon ne votte aux prochains  
Etats les subsides, que pour deux ou trois  
ans, aux plus que la nation soit convoquée  
a ces mêmes etats prochains, pour être réassemblées  
six mois avant lexpiration du terme present  
pour la levée de subsides,

25.° que l'on ne socupe des  
loctroy des subside, & qu'apres que la constitution

for the bases which have confided in them,

22, that one votes at the next  
Estates General by head and not by order,

23, that the amount of the national debt<sup>17</sup>  
is ascertained in the clearest and most exact manner,  
as well as that the amount of  
the receipt is the expense, and that it is the price  
by sure means, so that the latter never surpasses  
the former;

24, that one does not vote at the next  
Estates for subsidies<sup>18</sup>, but for two or three  
years, for those more than the nation was convened  
at these same next Estates, to be reassembled  
six months before the expiration of the present term  
for the lifting of subsidies,

25, that one does not provide for the  
awarding of subsidies, & that after the constitution

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<sup>17</sup> France's debt was borne by the king and his government. At the time, the debt was high due to high expenditure in war and at court. The king had the power to annul his debt by simply declaring it so, but this would have severely impacted any trust creditors had in him. Loaning to the king was a

large risk, and interests on loans to the king were high, contributing to the national debt.

<sup>18</sup> Subsidies were taxes.

aura été. Deliberée, accordée et fonctionnée, le retour periodique des Etats generaux aresté & leur convocation, après la terme de ceux de la presente année, fixée a l'époque la plus prochaine et la plus convenable, & que l'on aura fait une loy constitutionelle de la supréssion de tous les privileges pecunieres

Reservent les dits

habitants de Gonneville sur dive, a la sagesse de sa majesté, et de lassemblée nationale, de pouvoir a lextinction du deficis actuel, & aux moyens d'en prevenir un nouveau ; -

De remplacer le produit

de la gabelle, des aides, des contrôle, &, et autres par une juste economie, dans les differentes parties de l'administration, par l'extinction de quantité de privileges, de toutes les pensions acordées a gens qui non rendu aucu'un servue a letat, la réduction de

will have been deliberated, accorded and activated, the periodic return of the Estates General terminated & their convocation, after the term of such of the present year, fixed at the time next and most convenient, & that one will have made a constitutional law for the removal of all pecuniary privileges

The said habitants

of Gonneville-sur-Dives reserve, at the wisdom of His Majesty, and the national assembly, the power of the extinction of the actual deficit, and of the means of preventing a new one;

To replace the proceeds

of the gabelle, of aides, of the control, and others for a just economy, in the different parts of the administration, by the extinction of a quantity of privileges, of all the pensions accorded to people who not have not rendered any service to the state, the reduction of

celle qui sont excessives, avec une retenüe  
sur toutes proportionnée, aux impositions  
sur les terres et la loy expresse, de n'acorder  
du renavant des pensions qu'aux cytoyens  
de tous les ordres, qui auront rendu par  
leurs bravoreux, leurs lumieres  
& leurs valleurs, des services réels a la  
patrie, et toujours á raison de la modicité  
de leurs fortune et non a raison de leur sang  
& de leur vilgesse, et que les noms des  
ceux auxquels il en sera conservé, et de ceux  
qui en ont obtiendront par la suite seront unis  
sous les yeux du publiq, par la voye  
de l'impression ; par la supression des etats  
majors, dans les places non fortiffiées,  
du Royaume, par la réduction de l'armée si  
nombreuse en temps de pays, et enfin par  
tous, Les moyens les moins onereux,  
pour les trois ordres, & de letat,  
Reservent par cillement

those which are excessive, with a retaking  
of all those proportioned, to the taxation  
on the lands and the express law, to not accord  
with the refurbishment of pensions but to citizens  
of all the orders, who having rendered by  
their bravery, their lights  
& their values real services to the  
homeland, and always within reason of the scantness  
of their fortune and not to reason of their blood  
& their vitality, and that the names of  
those to which it has been conserved, and of those  
who have obtained it by the suite are united  
under the eyes of the public, by the sight  
of impression; by the removal of the major  
states, in non-fortified places  
of the kingdom, by the reduction of the army so  
numerous in times of the country, and finally by  
all. The least onerous means,  
for the three orders, & for the state,  
The said habitants reserve by blinking

les dits habitants a la sagesse de sa  
majesté, et de lassemblée nationale,  
de decider si il ne seroit pas plus  
expédient pour le Bien Général, qu'il y  
eut un tresor particullier, nommé le tresor  
Royal, dans lequel seroient versées le produit  
des domaines de sa majesté, tous les revenus  
de sa couronne, et tous ce qui lui seroit abondamment  
accordé, par une Nation genereuse, pour soutenir avec  
la magnificence digne du plus grand Roy  
de Lurope la majesté de son trône, et pour  
lentreten de la famille Royale, trezor ont  
sa majesté disposeroit a son gré, et seroit  
toujours distinct d'un autre trezor, sous la  
denomination de trezor national, dans lequel  
seroient versés tous les Besoins de letat et desquels  
seroient comptables et responsables a la  
nation assemblée tous les ministres preposés a  
la regle de ses fonds,

Reservent encore les dits

to the wisdom of His  
Majesty, and the national assembly,  
to decide if it would not be more  
expedient for the general good, that there  
is a particular treasury, named the Royal Treasury,  
in which would be deposited the proceeds  
of the domains of His Majesty, all the revenue  
of the crown, and all that which would be abundantly  
accorded, by a generous nation, to support with  
the worthy magnificence of the grandest King  
of Europe the majesty of his throne, and for  
the maintenance of the royal family, treasury of  
His Majesty, arranged at his discretion, and to be  
always distinct from another treasury, under the  
name of the national treasury, in which  
would be deposited all the needs of the state and of those  
would be accountable and responsible to the  
assembled nation all the authorized ministers at  
the rule of their bases,

The said habitants again reserve

habitants a la prudence de sa majesté, et des Etats Généraux de sanctionner leur prochaine assemblée, pour obvier au deffaut des formes qui pouvoient se trouver dans la convocation, la constitution etc de la ditte assemblée, et detabliir une loy constitutionelle tant sous la forme des Convocations, futurs que sous le retour periodique des Etats généraux, à des epoques fixées plus ou moins éloignées suivant que leur dictera leur sagesse

Sempressent les dits

habitants de Gonnevillle sur Dive de profiter de cette circonstance heureuse, pour faire parvenir au pied du trône lassurance de leur fidélité inviolable de leur amour & de leur devoitment sans mornes, pour la personne sacrée du Roy, ainsy que de leurs dispositions a faire tous les sacrifices qui dependent d'eux, pour la conservation de l'autorité Royale, la gloire du Royaume

at the prudence of His Majesty, and of the Estates General, to sanction their next assembly, to obviate to the default of the forms that can find themselves in the convocation, the constitution etc. of the said assembly, and to establish a constitutional law as under the form of the convocations, futures that under the periodic return of the Estates General, at the fixed times more or less kept away following that to them dictates their wisdom.

The said

habitants of Gonnevillle-sur-Dives rush to profit from this happy circumstance, to make to reach to the foot of the throne assurance of their inviolable fidelity, of their love, & of their devotement without dullness, for the sacred person of the King, as well as of their disposition to make all the sacrifices that depend on them, for the conservation of the royal authority, the glory of the kingdom,

l'amelioration de la chose publique, et la  
prospérité de tous les ordres de letat ;

Le Present cahier aresté  
a souscrit par la Communauté des  
habitants de Gonneville sur dive, le dit jour  
et an que dessus, pour être mit aux  
deux deputés, qui vont être nommée par  
la ditte communauté, pour la représenter  
a lassemblée du tiers Etat, qui doit être  
tenue le premier d'avril prochain, en  
Bailliage a Pont Levêque,  
[signatures]

### **PROCÈS-VERBAL**

#### **D'ASSEMBLÉE DES VILLES, BOURGS ;**

**Villages & Communautés , pour la nomination des Députés.**

**Aujourd'hui** dimanche vingt neuvieme jour de Mars

**1789, en l'Assemblée convoquée au son de la cloche en la  
maniere accou-**

**tumée, sont comparus en personne** de la paroisse de  
Gonneville sur dive

the amelioration of the public article, and the  
prosperity of all the orders of the state;

The present document terminated  
to subscribe by the community of the  
habitants of Gonneville-sur-Dives, the said day  
and year as above, to be taken by the  
two deputies, who will be named by  
the said community, to represent it  
at the assembly of the Third Estate, which should be  
held on the first of next April, in  
the bailiwick of-Pont l'Évêque.  
[signatures]

### **TRANSCRIPT**

#### **OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITIES, BURGHS;**

**villages & communities, for the nomination of deputies.**

**Today** Sunday the twenty-ninth day of March

**1789, in the assembly convened at the sound of the bell in  
the accustomed manner,**

**have appeared in person** of the parish of Gonneville-sur-Dives



**pardevant Nous M<sup>e</sup>. Jean Duval notaire Royal presidant la dite assemblée**

**Syndic en exercice de ladite Paroisse ; Savoir ;**

[signatures]

**tous nés François ou naturalisés , âgés de vingt-cinq ans , compris dans les**

**Rôles des Impositions , Habitans de cette Ville , Bourg , Village ou Commu-**

**nauté , composé de cent quarante feux ; lesquels pour obéir aux ordres**

**Sa Majesté , portés par les Lettres données à Versailles le 24 Janvier 1789 ,**

**pour la convocation & tenue des États-Généraux de ce Royaume , & satisfaire**

**aux dispositions du Règlement y annexé , ainsi qu'à l'Ordonnance de M. le**

**Lieutenant-Général du Bailliage d'Auge , dont ils nous ont déclaré avoir une**

**parfaite connaissance , tant par la lecture qui vient de leur en être faite , que**

**before us** master Jean Duval, royal notary presiding over the said assembly

**Trustee in exercise of the said Parish; Knowing;**

[signatures]

**all born or naturalized Frenchmen, aged twenty-five years, included in the**

**Functions of Taxation, Habitants of this City, Burg, Village or Commu-**

**nity, composed of one hundred fifty of them; for which to obey the orders**

**of His Majesty, carried by the letters given to Versailles on 24 January 1789,**

**for the convocation and holding of the Estates General of this kingdom, & to satisfy**

**the provisions of the rules appended to them, as well as at the ordinance of Mr. the**

**Lieutenant-General of the bailiwick of Auge<sup>19</sup>, of which they have declared us to have a**

**perfect knowledge, such that by the reading of it which will come to be done, that**

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<sup>19</sup> There are multiple places named Auge in France. This Auge is a region in Normandy.

**par la lecture & publication ci-devant faites au Prône de la Messe de Paroisse ,**

**par M. le Curé ou Vicare, le vingt deux du présent mois, & par la**

**lecture & publication , & affiches pareillement faites le même jour , à l'issue**

**de ladite Messe de Paroisse , au-devant de la Porte principale de l'Église ;**

**nous ont déclaré qu'ils alloient d'abord s'occuper de la rédaction de leur cahier**

**de doléances , plaintes & remontrances ; & en effet , y ayant vaqué , ils nous**

**ont représenté ledit cahier , qui a été signé par ceux desdits Habitans qui sa-**

**vent signer , & par nous , après l'avoir coté par première & dernière page ,**

**& paraphé *ne varietur* au bas d'icelles,**

**Et de suite lesdits Habitans, après avoir mûrement délibéré sur le choix des**

**Députés qu'ils sont tenus de nommer , en conformité desd. Lettres du Roi , &**

**Réglement y annexé ; & les voix ayant été par nous recueillies en la manière**

**by the reading and publication of the above makes for the advocacy for the mass of the parish,**

**by Mr. the Curé or Vicar, the twenty-second of the present month, & by the**

**reading & publication, & signs similarly made the same day, coming out**

**of the said parish mass, at the front of the principal door of the church;**

**we have declared that they will firstly look after the report of their document**

**of grievances, complaints & reprimands; & in effect, having been seen to, they**

**represent us the said document, which is signed by those said habitants who know**

**how to sign, & by us, after having evaluated by the first & last page,**

**& initialed *ne varietur*<sup>20</sup> at the bottom thereof,**

**And of the suite of the said habitants, after having maturely deliberated on the choice of**

**deputies that they have named, in conformity with the letters of the King, &**

**rules appended to them; & the votes having been collected by us in the accustomed manner,**

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<sup>20</sup> *ne varietur* signals something that must not be changed or altered.

**accoutumée , la pluralité des suffrages s'est réunie en  
faveur des sieurs Jean**

Duval, notaire royal presidant ladite assemblée pour premier

Deputé, et Lõuis le Carpentier proprietaire dans la paroisse  
pour second deputé

**qui ont accepté ladite Commission , & promis de s'en  
acquitter fidèlement,**

**Ladite nomination des Députés ainsi faite , lesdits  
Habitans ont, en notre**

**présence , remis auxdits sieurs Duval et le carpentier**

**leurs Députés , le cahier , afin de le porter à l'Assemblée ,  
qui se tiendra le**

**Mercredi premier Avril prochain , huit heurs du matin ,  
devant M. le Lieute-**

**tenant-Général du Bailliage d'Auge , à Pont-l'Évêque , &  
leur ont donné tous**

**pouvoirs requis & nécessaires , à l'effet de les représenter  
en ladite Assemblée,**

**pour toutes les opérations presrites par l'Ordonnance  
suscrite de M. le**

**the plurality of votes have been united in favor of sirs Jean**

Duval, royal notary presiding over the said assembly, for the  
first

deputy, and Louis le Carpentier, landowner in the parish,  
for the second deputy

**who have accepted the said commission, & promised to  
acquit themselves of it faithfully**

**The said nomination of deputies thus done, the said  
habitants have, in our**

**presence, given the said sirs Duval and le Carpentier**

**their deputyships, the document, to take to the assembly,  
which will be held**

**Wednesday the first of next April, eight o'clock in the  
morning, before Mr. the Lieute-**

**tenant-General of the bailiwick of Auge, at Pont-l'Évêque,  
& have given to them all**

**the requisite and necessary powers, to the effect of  
representing such in the said assembly**

**for all the operations prescribed by the said ordinance of  
Mr. the**

**Lieutenant-Général du Bailliage d’Auge , à Pont l’Évêque ;  
comme aussi de**

**donner pouvoirs généraux & suffisans de proposer ,  
remontre , aviser & con-**

**sentir tous ce qui peut concerner les besoins de l’Etat , la  
réforme des abus ,**

**l’établissement d’un ordre fixe & durable dans toutes les  
parties de l’admini-**

**stration , la prospérité générale du Royaume , & le bien de  
tous & de chacun**

**des Sujets de Sa Majesté.**

**Et de leur part, lesdits Députés se sont présentement  
chargés du cahier des**

**doléances de ladite Ville , ou Bourg , ou Village , ou  
Paroisse , ou Commu-**

**nauté , & ont promis de le porter à ladite Assemblée , & de  
se conformer à**

**tous ce qui est prescrit & ordonné par lesdits Lettres du Roi  
, Règlement y**

**Annexé , & Ordonnance susdatée ; desquelles nominations  
des Députés , remise**

**de cahiers , pouvoirs & déclarations , nous avons à tous les  
susdits Comparans**

**donné acte ; & avons signé avec ceux desdits Habitans qui  
savent signer , &**

**Lieutenant-General of the bailiwick of Auge, at Pont-  
l’Évêque; as also**

**to give powers general and suffice to propose, show again,  
advise, and con-**

**sent to all that which can concern the needs of the state, the  
reform of abuses,**

**the establishment of a fixed and durable order in all parts  
of the admini-**

**stration, the general prosperity of the kingdom, and the  
good of all & of every one**

**of the subjects of His Majesty.**

**And on their part, the said deputies having presently  
been charged with the document of the**

**grievances of the said city, or burg, or village, or parish, or  
commu-**

**nity, & having promised to take it to the said assembly, & to  
comply with**

**all that which is prescribed and ordered by the said letters  
of the King, rules appended to them,**

**& ordinance dated; of which the nomination of deputies,  
giving**

**of documents, powers, & declarations, we have to all those  
compared abovementioned**

**given action; & and having signed with the said habitants  
who know how to sign, &**

**avec lesdits Députés , notre présent Procès-verbal, ainsi que le duplicata que**

**nous avons présentement remis auxdits Députés , pour constater leurs pouvoirs.**

**Et le Présent sera déposé aux Archives ou Secrétariat de cette Communauté ,**

**lesdits jour & an.**

[signatures]

Duval

**with the said deputies, our present transcript, as well as the duplicate that**

**we have presently given to the said deputies, to state their powers.**

**And the present transcript will be deposited at the archives or secretariat of this community,**

**the said day & year.**

[signatures]

Duval

## Reflection

I chose to work on this document because last quarter, I did a similar assignment for a small excerpt from a different cahier de doléances. I enjoyed the assignment, so I decided to do something similar for this project.

One difficulty I encountered was transcribing the source text. As the original document is mostly handwritten, some words were hard to make out. I resolved this difficulty by asking for assistance from Richard Watts and Emy Chevalier, who were able to read these difficult words.

One aspect of this difficulty was in trying to transcribe the signatures of the signatories of the cahier de doléances. These signatures were significantly harder to read than the rest of the document's handwriting, with much more variability in legibility than the rest of the handwriting on the document. I ultimately decided against trying to transcribe them, as I did not feel I would be able to. If I was going to try to transcribe the signatures, I might try looking for a census of France at the time, to be able to refer a list of the residents of Gonneville-sur-Dives.

Another difficulty I encountered was that as a historical document, my source text contained many historical words that I could not translate. I resolved this difficulty by using the historical online dictionary Trésor de la Langue Française informatisé, which allowed me to find translations for words like déports, the seigneurial privileges to seize the revenue generated by land.

The philosophy of translation I developed was to try to keep as much of the source text's wording as possible. I did this because the cahiers de doléances contain the voices of the people at the time, and I thought it was important to preserve those voices. As such, I tried to retain as much of the original wording as I felt I could without making the English translation unintelligible. However, I did modernize some elements like punctuation and capitalization. For example, I added some commas where none existed in the original text, as I felt some sentences blended together otherwise.

The only English translation of my source text that I could find was an excerpt in "The New Agriculture in Lower Normandy, 1750-1789" by Alun Davies. I was originally going to use this small excerpt as an example to try to emulate the style of. However, after I decided to preserve the wording of the original French, I could not use the translated excerpt as a style guide, because it changed the wording. It translated "suivant le plan que la raison et l'équité oicteront" as "according to the dictates of reason and equity." I was still able to use this source to inform myself about the context of the cahier de doléances, in addition to some readings from the class I did the transcription/translation assignment in last quarter, which are in the bibliography below.

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