

PFO Report

The *PIEDMONT FAMILIES ORGANIZATION* ■ *Number 3* ■ *Spring 1994*

Research Progress Report

To date we have received 8 reports (** pages) extracting Waldensian notarial records:

Rorata (3 reports; completed)
Fenile (2 reports; more to do)
Angrogna (3 reports; much more to do)

We were pleased to note early Cardons and Gardiols coming from Roccapiatta to Angrogna to record their transactions.

This is consistent with the Rorata and Fenile records. When a notary was in one of the Waldensian villages, those in need of a notary made the trip, shorter and safer than going to Catholic towns.

An especially gratifying result of this research is identifying maiden names and parents of many of the wives in the early Piedmont Project records for whom this information was lacking

We owe Brother Cena \$8,400 for completed research. A professor, school will soon be out for him; does he research for us this summer, or not?

To help us determine this, please complete the enclosed coupon and return it to John Chatelain, treasurer (address on coupon).

(Continued on page 2)

The Durand-Canton Family: A Peek at Waldensian Life

Some of our Waldensian families descend from the Durand-Cantons. What we have learned about them from the notarial records provides insights into how our ancestors lived and believed.

The central figure in that family was Antoine Durand-Canton, previously known only from brief references in later parish registers. The Piedmont Project gives his birth as about 1668, and his death as 1731. He married Jeanne Bonnet, whom he met during or after the Exile, as Bonnet is not a Rorata surname. It was also known that Antoine's father was a Barthelemy, but his mother's name was unknown.

The Durand-Cantons used a compound surname because there were so many Durands in Rorata that it became difficult to distinguish them. The "Canton" suffix referred to the family's holdings, the western quarter of Rorata. Another branch of Durands added "Ruet" (referring to weaving, their work) to the name.

In 1706, Antoine and his family sheltered Victor Amedee II, Duke of Savoy, who was fleeing foreign troops that had taken Torino. In gratitude, the duke left his personal cup and a silver spoon, and granted the family the special privilege of burying their dead in their own garden. This was a most desirable grant, for permission to bury the dead was a common ploy to coerce conversion to Catholicism.

Antoine's willingness to shelter the duke is impressive. He had persecuted them; it was he who in 1685 had ordered the imprisonment of all Waldenses, and later under pressure from

Report (continued from page 1)

Giovanni Cena can complete several reports a year. **The question is, How many reports can we afford to have him provide per year?** He invests 100-150 hours (200-300 pages), costing us between \$2000-3000 per report.

With some 216 volumes of notarial records in *this* collection, it is certainly desirable for us to keep him busy. (There is *another* collection of similar size for Waldensian villages that weren't under the jurisdiction of Luserna.)

What You Can Do: Our persistent need is for a **steady** supply of funding. We greatly appreciate the financial contributions to date.

The Cardon family has extensive ancestry in Rorata. We have saved those ancestral families, so that Cardons could complete the temple work. But to date no one has expressed interest.

If each of the **known** families of Waldensian descent donated \$10 per month, we could sustain the research without interruption. But some are unable to participate, and others will choose not to. Virtually every family could contribute at least \$5 per month, and such contributions are needed. Of course, those who can contribute more are urged to do so.

We need to establish a base of those who can contribute a **consistent amount each month**. We also need to identify those who are able to contribute a large amount if such is needed—as in our current situation.

Thank you for your interest. This is, indeed, a massive project—but our ancestors are **worth** it. They lived magnificently in their own time, under conditions that challenged their will and moral commitments. Our challenges are different, yet we too can live magnificently—for them, and for those who follow us.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Durand-Canton (continued from page 1)

Protestant countries, had decreed that the survivors would be freed, on condition of perpetual exile. Antoine's own father Barthelemy had been one of the victims of that cruelty, dying during the February 1686 forced march over the Alps, after some nine months in over-crowded prisons with no heat and little food.

Antoine appears in 17 different notarial acts between 1695 and 1709, the end of the record. He served as mayor of Rora at least 3 times (the record has gaps), city auditor 3 times, and tax collector once.

His father Barthelemy is listed in 23 records before his imprisonment. The notarial records reveal that his father was Gioanni, who appears in 45 records, having lived a very long time. He served at least 6 terms as mayor and 11 as town councilor. Gioanni's father Giacomo apparently died young, as he is mentioned in only 6 acts, all after his death.

It was with Gioanni that the suffix Canton was added to this branch of the Durand family.

Barthelemy's wife was Caterina Torno, daughter of Antonio (whence the grandson's name) and Cattarina Morglia. We have identified this line of Morglias for two more generations. The Torno line also continues two more generations, and the grandmother was a Miroto (Mirot), and her father is known.

Barthelemy Durand-Canton's mother is now also identified: Gioanna Pavarino, first wife of Gioanni Durand-Canton. She was daughter of Bartolomeo Pavarino, and granddaughter of Giacomo Pavarino and his wife Margarita.

Giacomo Durand-Canton's wife is not yet known, nor is his father with certainty; but his mother was Maddalena, daughter of Giacobbo Revello.

Through the notarial records, we have extended many pedigrees in this same manner.