

PFO Report

Piedmont Families Organization

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My Adventure in Finding My Waldensian Ancestors

By Jim Schilling

[Editor's note: Jim, a member of his California stake high council, was asked to talk in sacrament meeting about his family history. Jim agreed to let us share with you his interesting story. So far, we have found several points where Jim shares ancestors with the Beuses, Cardons, and Malans.]

Family history never excited me. I never had any relatives that knew the Prophet Joseph, crossed the plains in a handcart, rode with Porter Rockwell, helped settle the west, traveled with the group through Hole in the Rock, went on a mission to England, or anything else exciting.

In order to cope with this lack of excitement in my family history, I had to borrow stories from my wife Kathleen's ancestors. Her ancestors lived in the Plymouth Colony, They fought in the Revolutionary War, and her ancestors were early members of the church. joined the church in England, left everything and traveled to a new land. They knew the Prophet, were at Haun's Mill, fled from the mobs in Missouri, escaped from Nauvoo, pushed their handcarts across the plains to Salt Lake, and settled new lands throughout the west. They suffered great hardships and gained great strength.

My family history was nothing compared with my sweet wife'—until this last September.

My mother was born and raised in Utah. Her parents came from Italy in the early 1900s. Mom said that she was French but they lived in Italy near the French border. I have often wondered why my grandparents moved from Italy to America and settled in Utah, when they were not Mormons.

My grandfather came here in the early 1900s and worked three years in the mines at Park City, Utah. He then went back to Italy and proposed to Grandma. Grandma said yes—provided he quit mining and start farming. Well that was about all I knew about my mother's family: farmers who moved here from Italy in the early 1900s.

This last September we found ourselves in Chamonix France. After a few days of touring Chamonix, Kathleen got out the maps and said, "Let's go visit Italy where your Mom's parents were from." I was not excited or interested since we had spent a year planning each day's activities for this trip and a side trip into Italy was not on the agenda. I resisted and started making excuses like: I had no idea where we were going, we didn't know the language, and I was not familiar with local traffic laws, toll roads, money exchange, and all the other excuses that I could come up with. **Finally, she just gave me that look that says you are a wimp! I quickly repented!** I rented a car and we were off on a great adventure, traveling 250 kilometers from France through the Alps to the Piedmont Valleys of Italy.

It was a miracle that we made it directly to our destination. We spent time in the area where my grandparents were from. We took pictures, walked through the town square. We also found a restored structure called a Waldensian Temple. We even found a section of the town that was named Bouchard, my mother's maiden name.

A week after we got back from our trip, we were at the Oakland Temple cafeteria. Lauralee Foote, our stake president's wife, was working at the temple that day and came over and sat down at our table and visited with us. We talked about a lot of things and we mentioned our recent trip to France, along with our little side trip to Italy to visit the Piedmont Valley. **Lauralee became excited and told us that her grandparents were from that part of Italy.** She told us how they got to America. Later that week, she sent me a paper written by Archibald Bennett, explaining what happened to the people who lived in the Piedmont Valleys and how some of them ended up in Utah. I read the paper and wept.

Please send tax-deductible research donations to PFO, 987 W 2200 N, PG UT 84061. Thanks!

Updated Ordinances Report: 2007 & 1987 through 2007

[Editor's note: We received a report of ordinances by the Gardiol-Durand family organization after publication of our last issue. We now update the report to include their submissions as well.]

Year	Baptism		Endowment		Sealing to Spouse	Sealing to Parents	TOTAL ORD.
	Male	Female	Male	Female			
2007	488	509	489	508	381	543	2,868
1987-2007	5,187	5,332	5,188	5,331	2,917	3,590	27,545

Correction to 2007 Donor's List

As the January issue was going to press, we received a donation from Andrea E. Rasmussen. Her name was inadvertently omitted from the list of 2007 donors. We regret that oversight.

My Grandchildren in the Temple

By Arva Witbeck

I hadn't submitted names to a temple before and so it was exciting to me to have my own family do the temple work. I started with five teenage grandchildren to do the baptisms. The day we went to the Jordan River Temple, they were very busy. We were told that we would have a 2 ½ hour wait. I asked the kids if they wanted to wait. They said yes, the ancestors had waited about 400 years and they wanted to wait that day to get it done. I was excited as I listened to the names in the font area as their temple work began.

My granddaughter and her husband did the initiatory work in the Idaho Falls Temple. My other kids did the endowments in the Idaho Falls, Logan, and Jordan River temples. I wanted them all to have a chance to do it. I have written their names on my pedigree chart by each name that they did. My daughter and her family in Idaho are finishing up the sealings.

Extention of the Cardon ROBERT Line

By Boyd L. Cardon

In order to place the time-line of this research in our minds, start with our beloved immigrant ancestors, Philippe and Martha Marie (Tourn) Cardon. Philippe's parents were Jean and Ann (Jouve) Cardon. Jean's parents were Philippe and Jeanne (Jahier) Cardon. Jeanne's parents were Bernard and **Marie (Robert) Jahier**. Until now, we have not been able to connect and extend the Robert line.

In Apendix Two, "Miscellaneous Genealogical Notes" page 33 of *The Search for Jean Cardon* published in Phoenix, Arizona in 1987 and re-published in 1993, Marriner Cardon proposed that the father of our ancestor **Marie Robert**, wife of **Lt. Bernard Jahier**, could possibly be a daughter Jacques Robert (AHR 2954) or Pierre Robert (AHR 2963). On the Cardon family group and pedigree forms, we assumed Marie's parents were Jacques Robert and Mrs. Marie Robert. The temple ordinance work was done for them in 1943-1948 as the parents of Marie. This is not correct., and I will show that Marriner's alternative of proposing Pierre as the father of Marie Robert is correct.

More than five years ago, I began to research the Robert line in the notary records. At that time I could not see any connections. Recently, as I renewed my research in the notary records, I discovered the true connection to more of our Robert ancestors. I now outline this relationship.

First Generation (current records)

1. **Marie ROBERT** was b abt 1673, of Pramollo, Torino, Italy. She was baptized 8 Dec 1934 and endowed 6 Mar 1935.

Her siblings: 1) Maddalena b abt 1666 md abt 1686 Bartholomeo BILLOUR; 2) Catherine b abt 1668 md abt 1688 Daniele VINCON; 3) Margarita b abt 1670 md abt 1690 Daniele FRACHE and had children Daniele and Margarita.

Marie md Bernard Jahier abt 1693. Bernard was b. abt 1662 in Pramollo. He died 10 Jan 1750. He was baptized 8 Dec 1934 and endowed 6 Mar 1935. Marie and Bernard were sealed 17 Apr 1936.

Second Generation (from Exile and notary records)

2. **Pierre or Pietro ROBERT or ROBERTO** b 1648, San Germano. The Waldensian Exiles register in Switzerland lists him as a widower with three of his daughters: Catherine, Marguerite, and Marie (our Cardon ancestor). Evidently, a fourth daughter Maddalena was already married by then. A notary record states that **Pierre md Gioanna BALMAS** in 1665. He would have been only 17 years old. This is not the average marriage age for Waldensian men, but it is feasible.

Pierre's siblings were 1) Gioanna Robert b abt 1640; 2) Bartholomeo Robert b abt 1642 md Mrs Bartholomeo Robert abt 1666; 3) Maria Robert b abt 1644 md Bartholomeo Colombat abt 1664; 4) Margarita Robert b abt 1646 md Giacomo Meynier abt 1666; 5) Michele Robert b abt 1650 md Giovanna Bienato abt 1674; 6) Daniele Robert b abt 1652 md Mrs Daniele Robert abt 1676; 7) Gioanni Robert b abt 1654; and 8) Giacomo Robert b. abt 1656.

A notary record states Pierre md (2) Martra (Marta) Robert (b abt 1646) some time after 1690. Marta was the daughter of Benedetto Robert, son of Pietro Robert. Pierre and Marta appear to have had no children. They were both still living in 1716. She was the widow of Bartholomeo Robert (b abt 1641) son of deceased Gioanni. Bartholomeo and Marta had four children (Gioanna, Maddalena, Beatrisina, and Gioanni). Bartholomeo died by 1686.

3. **Gioanna (Jeanne) Balmas or BALMASSO** b abt 1645 and died before 1675. She was the mother of the four daughters listed above. She had siblings: 1) Agostino Balmas b abt 1647 md first Catherina Balmas abt 1671 and later md Margarita Gay abt 1682. 2) Stefano b abt 1649 md Mrs Stefano Balmas abt 1671 and had two children Giacomo and Agostino 3) Gioanni Balmas b. abt 1651; 4) Gabriele Balmas b. abt 1653 md Catterina Blanc abt 1677.

Third Generation

4. **Michele ROBERT** b abt 1615 of Pramollo, Torino, Italy; died abt Nov 1685.

5. **Mrs. Maddalena ROBERT** b. abt 1619 of Pramollo; died abt 1664.

6. **Giacomo BALMAS** b. abt 1620 of San Germano; died before 1668.

7. **Mrs. Giacomo BALMAS** b. abt 1628 of San Germano.

Fourth Generation

12. **Agostino BALMAS** b abt 1592, San Germano, Torino, Italy; md abt 1616.

Siblings: 1) Cattalina Balmas b abt 1574 md Pierre Robert abt 1594 (father of Benedetto above); 2) Gioanni Balmas b abt 1578; 3) Bartholomeo Balmas b abt 1580; 4) Marta Balmas b abt 1582, md Stefano Bouchard abt 1602; 4) Giacomo Balmas b abt 1582; 5) Giacomo Balmas b abt 1584.

13. **Maria DORMIGLIOSO** b abt 1596 San Germano.

Brother: Gioanni Dormiglioso b abt 1598; md Gioanna Granget abt 1622.

Fifth Generation

24. **Michele BALMAS** b abt 1549, San Germano; d bef 1617; md abt 1573.

25. **Mrs. Michel BALMAS** b abt 1573 San Germano.

26. **Giacomo or Giacobbo DORMIGLIOSO** b abt 1571 San Germano; md abt 1595.

27. **Mrs. Giacomo or Giacobbo DORMIGLIOSO** b abt 1575 San Germano.

Sixth Generation

48. **Gaspardo BALMAS** b abt 1524, San Germano, Torino, Italy; died bef 1613.

49. **Mrs. Gaspardo BALMAS** b abt 1528 San Germano.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT ANY OF THESE NAMES FOR TEMPLE ORDINANCES. I AM IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THEM. IF YOU DESIRE TO HELP WITH THE ORDINANCES, PLEASE CONTACT ME (BOYD CARDON).

From the above, observe that the Cardons have additional **Robert** ancestors, as well as new **Balmas** and **Dormiglioso** lines. The Robert line is shared by the Beus, Bouchard, Clapier-Combe, and Rivoire families. The Balmas line is shared by the Beuses.

Key Sources:

Gli Esuli Valdesi in Svizzera (1686-1690) [*The Waldense Exiles in Switzerland (1686-1690)*] pg 160 Exiles #2963-2966.

Will of **Pietro ROBERT** son of deceased **Michele**, naming his deceased 1st wife **Gioanna BALMAS**; their daughters Maddalena (wife of Bartholomeo BILLOUR), Catterina (wife of Daniele VINCON), **Maria (wife of Bernardino JAHIER of Pramollo)**, and deceased Margarita, who left children Daniele and Margarita; his current wife Martra ROBERT daughter of deceased Benedetto; his brothers Michele and Daniele; and those he had sponsored at their christenings: Margarita GUIOT daughter of deceased Giovanni, Giacomo ROBERT son of deceased Giovanni; Daniele COLOMBAT, and Catterina MEYNIER. (Valli Perosa vol 49 pg 299, 30 Jan 1711)

Acknowledgment of payment of marriage settlement naming siblings deceased Gioanna (who married Pietro ROBERT son of Michele in 1665, by whom she had Catterinea, Margarita, and Maria), Gabriele, Stefano, Giovanni, and Agostino BALMAS children of deceased Giacomo of San Germano. (Valli Perosa vol 49 pg 12, 21 Nov 1675)

Will of Martra ROBERT daughter of deceased Benedetto and [2nd] wife of **Pietro ROBERT**, naming her deceased siblings Pietro (who left a son Giovanni), Daniele (who left a daughter Gioanna), Maria (who left a son Claudio), and Catterina (who left a son Filippo); and her step-daughters deceased Margarita (wife of deceased Daniele FRACHE, by whom she had a son Daniele), Maddalena, Catterina, and **Maria**. (Valli Perosa vol 49 pg 301, 30 Jan 1711)

Marriage settlement naming sisters Martha (wife 10 years of Bartholomeo ROBERT **son of deceased Gioanni**) and Cattalina (wife of Giovanni BREUZE of Villaro), daughters of Benedetto ROBERT son of deceased Pietro. (Valli Perosa vol 49 pg 374R, 7 May 1675)

Will of Bartholomeo ROBERT **son of deceased Gioanni** of San Germano, naming his wife Martha ROBERT daughter of Benedetto; their children Beatresina, Gioanna, Maddalena, and Gioanni; and **Pietro ROBERT son of his brother Michele**. (Valli Perosa vol 49 pg 376R, 7 May 1675)

Will of Michele BALMAS son of deceased Gaspardo, naming his wife Maria - ; and their children Catalina (widow of Pietro ROBERT), Reffina (wife of Paulo GENRE), Margarita (wife of Martino COLOMBAT), Giovanni, Augustino, and Bartholomeo. (Perosa vol 4 pg 121R, 18 Feb 1613)

Acknowledgment of payment of marriage settlement naming siblings Marta (wife of Stefano BOUCHARD son of deceased Pietro), Giacomo, Bartholomeo, and Giovanni BALMAS children of deceased Michele. (San Germano vol 87 bk 3 pg 58R, 24 Mar 1621)

Other references: San Martino vol 399 pg 388R; San Secondo vols 123, 129; Perosa vols 1, 14, 17; and Torre Pellice vols 171, 172.