

PFO Report & Malan Monitor

Piedmont Families Organization / John Daniel Malan Family Organization

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A Modern Miracle by Boyd L. Cardon



The announcement of the Rome Italy temple has caused a rush of feelings for members of the Church. Leon Parson, a friend and relative, painted the ordinance rooms in the Rexburg, Twin Falls and Calgary temples. He is a descendant of Marguerite Stalè (Stallè) who married Henry Barker and was a sister of Susette Stalè, who married Louis Philip Cardon. All the Stalè family, except Marguerite, who was only 3 years old, were baptized on September 25, 1853 in San Secondo, Torino, Italy by Elder Woodward.

Earlier this year, Leon called me and explained he had felt promptings to make a proposal for paintings in the Rome temple ordinance rooms and asked if we wanted to go to Italy. Wouldn't it be exciting to have a descendant of the early Waldensian converts paint the ordinance rooms in this sacred edifice? In August and September, Terri and I traveled to Italy with Leon and Kathy Parson.

For me the names of places in the Waldensian Valleys like Prarostino, San Secondo, Luserna San Giovanni, Angrogna, Rora, Bobbio, Pramollo, Roccapiatta, etc. were just locations on a map or places mentioned in the notary records sent to us by Brother Giovanni Cena to identify more of our progenitors.

The Synod is a general assembly of the Waldensian and Methodist churches held every year in the Torre Pellice synod hall (Casa Valdese) during the last week of August. On arrival in the Piedmont, we spent three nights in a hotel in San Secondo. We were able to feel the great excitement of the Synod meetings. In the Casa Valdese (Waldensian House) is found a mural of an oak tree with its roots in rocky ground and with the Waldensian symbol "A Light Shining in the Darkness" and a quote from Josuè Gianavello [a Malan ancestor]. I was very interested in the displays and the bookstore. I bought a book *Migranti Valdesi Delfinato, Piemonte, Provenza (1490-1560)*, by Gabriel Audisio (Torino, 2011). To my excitement I found many names of our ancestors: Antionette Cardon whose father



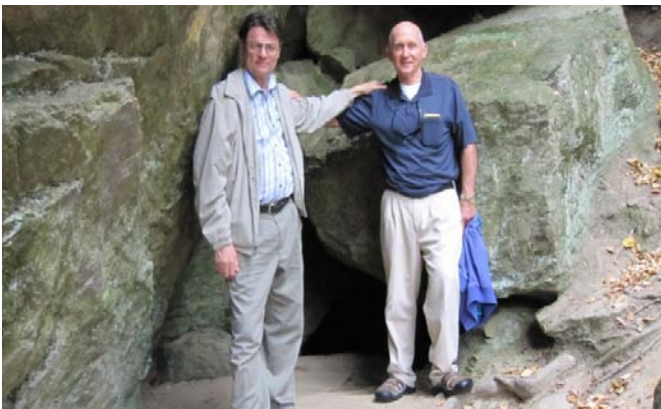
Antionette Cardon whose father

Pierre was of Roccapiata/Prarostino, married to Guillaume Bertin of Roussillon [France] on Dec 3, 1526. Pierre Cardon of Roussillon, Roccapiata/Prarostino married Jan 1, 1500. There were other names: Armand, Barthelemy, Besson, Bonet, Combe, Constantin, David, Durand, Gardiol, Gaudin, Gay, Long, Malan, Meille, Mondon, Olivier, Pasquet, Pellenc, Peyrot, Raymond, Roman, Rostaing, Tourn, and perhaps others. This may help to extend our line and do the temple work for them.



The hamlets of Cardon, Godin, Stalè, and other families were previously unknown to me. The Waldensian valleys were an outpost of European Protestantism from 1550 to 1700. They suffered continual attacks, persecution, and oppression. They were forced to live in the Alpine Ghetto. In 1532, at Chanforan in the Angrogna Valley the Waldensians formally joined the Reformation movement. The Piedmont area is the only place in Italy where about half the population is Protestant or Waldensian.

We were impressed with the simplicity of their meeting places, called temples. On the right front wall were inscribed the Ten Commandments and on the left front wall were written the Beatitudes.



Leon and I visited the cave where during times of persecution the Waldensians sought shelter for worship and safety. They had to eke out a scant living in the mountains, living on goat cheese, chestnuts, etc.

Angrogna has a Museum of Waldesian Women whose names are familiar to those who are descendants of the early LDS converts: Madeleine Bonnet (born 1887, Angrogna), Madeleine Coisson (born 1879, Angrogna), Florine Durand (born 1894, Rora), Lydie Lantaret (born 1838, San Giovanni), Suzanne Pons (born 1848, Rodoretto).

We visited the school house in Angrogna where possibly many of our ancestors studied. Each hamlet had a school. The Bible was their main text. Prior to 1848, the Waldensians were not allowed to attend high schools or universities, or to run businesses. Improvement to the schools came when Englishman John Charles Beckwith read Dr. William Stephen Gilly's *Narrative of an*



Excursion to the Mountains of Piemont . . . (London, 1824). This book led him to become concerned with the plight of a small group of Protestants known as Waldensians or Vaudois who lived in the Piedmont valleys near Pinerolo. Beckwith visited the Waldensians for several years, and then he decided to make his headquarters near Turin and devote the rest of his life to assisting them. Drawing on his experience, he worked to improve Waldensian schools some of which were as “ill-built as barns, as dirty as stables.” He collected money from friends in England, visited the schools, urged building of new schools by the community, sent teachers to Lausanne and Florence for training, and encouraged the education of women. In all he opened or restored 120 district schools. In 1850 he married a Waldensian, Anne Susanne Caroline Valle. The Waldenses were better educated than the Catholics. They could read and write.



We were fascinated to visit the Stallè hamlet and talked with some of the actual Stallè descendants. Our guide was Silvia Gardiol whose ancestors lived in Roccapiatta.

Of course we visited Prarostino and Roccapiatta, where the Cardon and the Stalè and others of our ancestors lived.



The hike up to the Cardon Hamlet was exhilarating. We paused to reflect on our beloved ancestors.

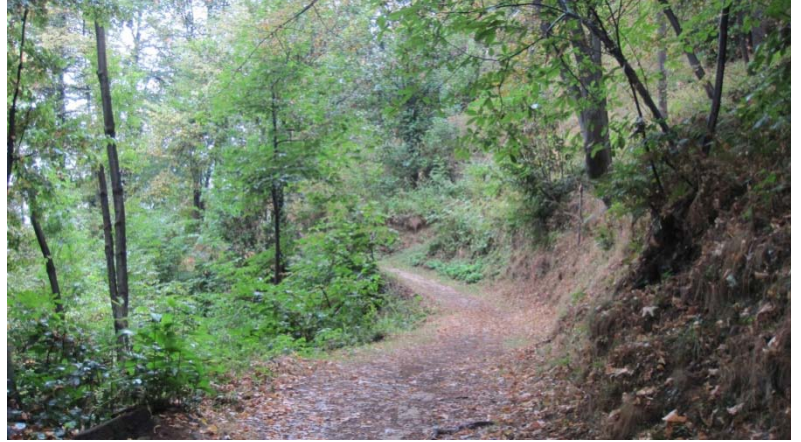




The trail or path to the Cardon hamlet.

To gather more flora and fauna pictures we went to the Grand Paradise Park, to Florence, Tuscany, and Rome.

The outdoor oven still is in place in the house.



We were deeply moved to be in the homelands of our ancestors. We eagerly await the completion and dedication of the Rome Italy temple. Moreover, our beloved Waldensian ancestors will rejoice to see this event.

What a debt we owe to our Waldensian ancestors to seek out their names and do the ordinance work necessary for them in the holy temples. Please continue to support our research by giving generously to the PFO.

The Plight of Waldensian Widows

by Ron Malan

For years I've sought a good example of how difficult life was for our Waldensian ancestors who became young widows. Now I have found an excellent example of Waldensian widows of that era.

The Duke of Savoy levied a tax on each community each year. The leaders in each community were responsible to divide that figure among the inhabitants—and required to pay, themselves, any deficit. Announcing the town assessment and the portion assigned to each family was among the major considerations of the Town Council meetings, held at least annually.

With young children to care for, no Waldensian widow could possibly raise the required sum, and therefore had to resort to selling part of her children's inheritance in order to pay the tax.

Our example is a Malan ancestress, **Maria GONIN daughter of deceased Manfredo and widow of Giovanni PONT son of deceased Pietro**. He died between 1613 and 1618, leaving her with 6 minor children: Gioanni, Madalena, Margarita, Daniele, Davit, and Cattarina. His debts apparently arose as he tried to enhance his children's future inheritances.

On 18 Apr 1619, Maria had to sell land to pay back taxes (Angrogna vol 137 bk 10 pg 77). The next month, 23 May 1619, she sold more land to pay a debt her husband had incurred on 6 May 1606 and another on 3 Feb 1613, part of the proceeds to pay more back taxes and the rest, that debt (pg 104). On 14 Nov 1619 (same year), she paid another of her husband's debts, this time to Gioanni PASQUET son of deceased Peyroto of San Bartholomeo as guardian of the minor children of his deceased brother Daniele, who had loaned the money to Gioanni PONT, Maria's deceased husband (pg 180).

Thus, Maria would have faced the prospects of having to find suitable spouses for her children as they matured, without much of a dowry, and so they would have attracted only poorer spouses. It was much to a widow's benefit to remarry as promptly as possible—and certainly also to her children's benefit. (*The Pont family already submitted for ordinances.*)

Ordinances Report: 2012 to Date & Cumulative (1987 – 2012)

Year	Baptism	Endowment	Sealing to Parents	Seal to Spouse	Total Ordinances
2012 (Jan-Sep)	1,195	1,196	742	494	3,627
1987-2012	17,438	17,418	8,131	3,547	48,581

The total number of *individuals submitted* so far in 2012 is **1,196**, bringing the grand total of *individuals* whose names we have submitted for ordinances since 1987 to **17,438**. Thanks for all you do!

TAX-EXEMPT RESEARCH FUNDS NEEDED

We currently owe Brother Cena \$2,500. Please send your TAX-EXEMPT contribution to PFO, 388 S 460 E, American Fork UT 84003. Thanks for your continued support!

HELP US SAVE POSTAGE!

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