

# PFO Report

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## Piedmont Families Organization

No. 61, May 2014

### A tribute to Ron Malan

By Boyd L. Cardon and Donna Malan

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Ron's interest in family history began in the mid-1950. His Piedmont interest began about 25 years ago in 1989 when he learned from Hugh Law that there were many volumes of records in Torino, Italy which had not been microfilmed. The Family History Library had so many other projects going on and it appeared that those records would likely never be microfilmed. Ron learned of an Italian researcher, Giovanni Cena, who might be willing to extract information from those records. Thus in April, 1992 the first notary reports arrived from Brother Cena.

Not long after he began extracting from those records. Brother Cena told Ron that he was having so many spiritual experiences working in those records that he was retiring early so he could devote more time to this important work--and retiring at a significant loss in retirement benefits. He suggested \$10/hour (I think)--an unheard of bargain then, and even more so now.

When Sister Cena died unexpectedly a few years ago, there were still two small sons to care for. Brother Cena moved to the Canary Islands so he would have the help of grandparents to care for those boys. Yet he continues to make trips back to Torino, Italy to extract those Waldensian records for us.

Ron continued the tax-exempt status of the PFO, an umbrella organization for all families from the Piedmont Valleys, and wrote the PFO Reports in order to get financial support for the research and to share the results with families who have ancestors from the Piedmont Valleys. PFO donations are vital, not only to sustain the research, but also because we--the Piedmont descendants--are essentially Brother Cena's financial support due to his loss of other income which he so willingly gave up.

Donna reports: "During much of the snail mail era, our children gathered around our dining room table to assemble and fold the pages of the PFO Reports, stuff the envelopes, attach the address labels, lick the stamps and seal the envelopes. For those who are still receiving the snail mail version, Ron financed the printing and mailing of the PFO Report (except for during our four missions) so the donations to PFO could be used solely for research.

A highlight of our 2000 International Malan Reunion in the Valleys was a day the two of us spent with Brother and Sister Cena. (Edited from my trip journal): He [Brother Cena] introduced us to the head of the National Archives who called for another lady to give us a private tour. The elevator operated only with a key, and every room we went in had to be unlocked with a separate key. We saw stacks and stacks of books--old, fragile, ink-smudged, and ink bleeding through the pages. The library lady allowed Ron to pull out some volumes and look through them. Ron held in his hands a volume dated 1615-1616--records of his ancestors, written by people who actually knew those ancestors. What an experience for him after having devoted so much of his life to

finding those ancestors. Ron and I have both had many spiritual experiences doing family file temple ordinances for these people. We know they have accepted the Gospel. They are dependent on us to financially support the research so their temple ordinances can be done."

**On July 12, 2007 when we were almost ready to scale down and perhaps abandon continuing our research with Bro.. Giovanni Cena.** Ron Malan wrote the following:

"Brother Cena was having enough spiritual impressions while he was doing this work that he felt he needed to spend his full time on the project.

Most of us using his reports are getting older. If we stop, we may not finish before one or more of us passes away, or becomes incapacitated in some other way.

**I can promise you that it would be a long, long time--many years, if ever--before we got the project moving again if that happened.**

According to the cardiologist (Ecuadorian, but trained in the US), I should have died the day of my heart attack. When one of the local temple missionaries was able to talk his way past hospital regulations and help give me a blessing, the Spirit assured me that thousands of ancestors and relatives were pleading that I remain so that these ordinances could be done. Immediately after the blessing, the enzymes began to return to normal, rather than continuing toward death. The cardiologist was astonished.

But there's an important distinction to be noticed: I was given "enough time" to get the ordinances done--and that is very different from being told I'll be around UNTIL they're done. (This last could permit postponing things indefinitely; what I was promised does not.)

I do not understand why a few of us can move fairly readily through the records and prepare names for ordinances--estimating dates and clarifying relationships sufficiently for that to happen--while others who have tried to help are not able to do so. But that is a fact, and so I think we need to utilize those who can to the maximum while they have the health and breath to help.

My opinion is that we need to move forward in faith, and that we on our end need to increase our works so that people donate more, and more consistently. We've shown in the past that this system works, so we just need to work it. At the very least, I think we need to continue as we were doing—Bro Cena completing two full volumes per month if he is able to do so. But let's not give up yet."

Ron passed away on November 25, 2013 and his effort and dedication to this work are sorely missed. He and his wife donated generously each month to the PFO.

**Please help continue this important research project to provide the ordinances of salvation and exaltation to our noble ancestors.**

## **My Story with Italian Research, Ron and the PFO**

By Boyd L. Cardon

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In 1960 during my freshman year at BYU, I took a genealogy class from Archibald Bennett. He told of his experience with the Waldensian research and the history of the microfilming done by Bro. Barker in the Waldensian Parish records.

These microfilms were reserved to be reviewed by professionals and names were grouped into what was called the Piedmont Project. (PP). I was thrilled to see the names of our ancestors on these films. However I felt restricted from helping them. After returning from serving as mission president in 1997, I visited with Ron to become acquainted with what was being done. Ron became my mentor on how to do the research in the notary records in my endeavor to find and extend the Cardon and Stalle ancestors whereby they could receive the ordinances. I began my contributions to the PFO Reports in 2000. I have spent many hours searching the notary records to identify connections to our ancestors. I have felt the inspiration and direction of the spirit in doing the research and helping others do the ordinance work for our ancestors. At one time, some were ready to abandon our research because we were thousands of dollars behind in our payments with Giovanni Cena.

Thanks to the faith and the generosity of many we were able to get solvent and have a reserve of several thousand dollars. But now we are in arrears again. We need of \$5000 to pay for Brother Cena's research.

The Italian government is scaling back the hours to the public records because of the economy in Italy. They may even close the archives down. **We must obtain and identify all of our ancestors that we can now. I know we have the means, the faith and the willingness to fund the PFO research with Brother Cena.**

## SUMMARY OF VOLUMES AVAILABLE AND TRANSCRIBED BY GIOVANNI CENA

Number of Available volumes	Number Transcribed and sent volumes	Number volumes to transcribe
569	381 If the cost \$500 per volume, we have spent \$190,500 in the past 22 years. I do not have the exact amount.	188 located in Bibiana, Campiglione Fenile, Pinerolo, Buriasco, Famolosco, Frossaco, Bricherasio, Osasco,

## FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS TO CONTINUE WITH THE WORK WITH GIOVANNI CENA

We have been paying him \$1000 per month. The cost per volume is \$500.00. If we have him transcribe the remaining 188 volumes, then we would need \$94,000.	If he sends 2 per month, it would take 94 months or almost 8 more years for him to transcribe the 188 volumes.
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**PLEASE JOIN THE RESCUE EFFORT FOR OUR ANCESTORS!**

## 2013 Achievements

- **LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE [www.waldensian.info](http://www.waldensian.info) PREPARED BY DALE CARDON ALSOP TO HELP WITH WALDENSIAN RESEARCH AND PRESERVE RECORDS SENT BY GIOVANNI CENA FOR WORLD WIDE USE.**
- **MADE PAYPAL AVAILABLE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE MADE TO THE PIEDMONT FAMILIES ORGANIZATION(PFO).**
- **INTRODUCED A NEW WEBSITE [www.cardonfamilies.org](http://www.cardonfamilies.org)**
- **HELD THE EXTENDED CARDON FAMILY REUNION IN HISTORIC BOUNTIFUL TABERNACLE IN AUGUST**

Currently, my wife and I are serving a 2 year mission serving as executive secretaries to the South America Northwest Area Presidency. We want the research of Bro Cena to continue and also the ordinance work for our ancestors to move forward. I will continue to support and help with the PFO Reports. We need some more help not only financial but with the research of these records.

**SUMMARY OF TEMPLE ORDINANCES PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF  
BROTHER GIOVANNI CENA'S RESEARCH OF THE NOTARY RECORDS**

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**Results of ordinances performed from Boyd L. Cardon's Research**

Year	Male Bap & Endowments	Female Bap & Endowments	Sealings to spouse(should double the number)	Sealing of Children to parents	Total ordinances
2001	155	159	133	197	644
2002	191	203	151	217	762
2003	55	51	41	86	233
2005	67	76	68	38	249
2007	50	50	40		140
2012	98	90	78	83	349
2013	143	130	144	132	549
Totals	759	759	655(1310)	753	<b>2926 (3581)</b>

**Ron Malan's Cumulative ordinances performed from 1987-2012 from all Research of  
Notary Records**

Baptisms	Endowments	Sealings to spouse	Sealings to parents	Total ordinances
<b>17,438</b>	<b>17,413</b>	<b>3,547</b>	<b>8,131</b>	<b>45,581</b>

**URGENT TAX-EXEMPT RESEARCH FUNDS ARE NEEDED!**

**We currently owe Brother Cena \$5,000. Please use *Pay-Pal* OR send a TAX-EXEMPT contribution to THIS NEW ADDRESS: PFO, % Dick Cardon, 987 W 2200 N, Pleasant Grove UT 84062-9239. Thanks for your continued support!**

**HELP US SAVE POSTAGE!**

**We have nearly 200 people on our print-copy mailing list, costing us nearly \$200 per issue. If you have (or are willing to get) an email address, please send it—indicating which family you belong to (Beus, Cardon, Malan, Rivoire, etc.)—right away to [boyd\\_cardon@yahoo.com](mailto:boyd_cardon@yahoo.com).**