

Appendix C: WALDENSIANS NOT FROM THE PIEDMONT VALLEYS

French Waldensians

by Ronald F. Malan

If your Waldensian ancestors were from France rather than from the Piedmont Valleys, review lesson 3. See especially the discussion concerning the *Bulletin/Bollettino* articles about the Second Exile and, if your ancestors were from Pragelato, the explanation about the Mentoulles parish register.

Persecution and pressure caused French Waldensians quickly to join with the French Reformed church. The BYU Independent Study course *Huguenot Research* should provide the help you need in terms of sources and procedures for these people.

For help with the French language, use the basic French family history course, titled *France: Reading French Handwriting*. For printed records, use a French-English dictionary.

After the initial flush of persecution from the Inquisition in the fourteenth century, most French Waldensians lived either in Dauphiné (the modern departments of Isère, Hautes-Alpes, and Drôme) or in Provence (Basses-Alpes, Var, and Bouches-du-Rhône).

Waldensians from the Dauphiné

For further assistance in researching Waldensians from the Dauphiné, see these sources:

- Cameron, Euan. *The Reformation of the Heretics: The Waldenses of the Alps, 1480–1580* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984). A detailed

exploration of the persecution of the Waldensians in the Dauphiné, this work is more historical than genealogical. But family names are mentioned, and it's a good source for family history in the area.

However, Cameron's claims about the dating and meaning of the synod at Chanforan in 1532, where the decision was made to adhere to the Reformation, have not been accepted by other historians. Further, he limits too severely the sources of information he is willing to consider. This attempt to eliminate sources that may bias his findings results in an unfortunate counter-bias that skews some of his historical conclusions. But the book is useful for family history; just don't accept everything he says about Chanforan or what the Waldensians believed.

- Arnaud, Eugène. *Emigrés protestants dauphinois secourus par la Bourse Française de Genève de 1680–1710* [Protestant Emigrants from the Dauphiné Assisted by the French Bank of Geneva from 1680–1710]. (Grenoble, 1885). Alphabetical listing of those assisted.

I've only found this book at the Library of Congress, which wouldn't loan it even through Interlibrary Loan; but you can order a photocopy of pages of a specific letter of the alphabet, representing the surname(s) of interest to you. Your local library may be able to assist you to request the photocopy, or you can access <http://www.loc.gov/> (the Library of Congress Internet site).

Waldensians from Provence (Southeastern France)

If your French Waldensian ancestors lived in Provence, you may find helpful clues in the following:

- Audisio, Gabriel. *Les Vaudois du Lubéron, Une minorité en Provence (1460–1560)* (Merindol: Association d'Etudes Vaudoises et Historiques du Luberon, 1984) ISBN 2-9500679-0-5. FHL: 944.9 F2

French Notarial Records

Regardless of which area of France your Waldensian ancestors came from, you should check the notarial records of the French department they lived in. French notarial records are among the very richest in Western Europe. Most of the information found in Audisio's book (mentioned above) comes from the notarial records. Some French notarial records go back 800 years and more.

You should begin by reviewing the discussion of notarial records in lesson 3. With that background, there are basically two choices for researching these records:

1. Find a researcher in the French département ("county") where your Waldensian or Protestant ancestors lived. See the BYU Independent Study course, *France: Genealogical Organizations and Periodicals* for an efficient means of making contact with those who can help you. Note that you may have to pay a fee for the service if research must be performed. You may also find the course, *France: The Internet and French Genealogy* to be helpful.
2. Just as it became fashionable in the U.S. toward the end of the nineteenth century to publish county histories, there was a movement in France to publish the essence of the notarial records. Part of the push came from deep concerns about the voluminous amount of information destroyed during the French Revolution and the desire to preserve the surviving records from possible future destruction.

As a result, dozens of volumes of French notarial records were printed, covering virtually every department. The books are titled *Inventaire sommaire des archives départementales de [name of the department]*. Typically, each department has several series of records, so you need to find those with the records of the notaires (notaries). A list of hospitals, or minutes of town meetings in the 1700s discussing local taxes, won't help you much.

The following sample shows a typical entry.

E. 376 (Registre) . . . 1646–1648 - Délibérations de la vallée du Queyras.

1646, 5 janv. ". . . assemblée . . . à Ville-Vieille, maison d'André Meyer, chirurgien. Présents: Ant. Donnett, consul de Molines, assisté de Jacq. Garcin, not.; Isaac Fantin et Jean Dalmas, d'Arvieu; Jean Meyer et Barthél. Chabrand, consuls du Château et Ville-Vieille, assistés de David Puy, not.; Franc. Berthelot et Blaise Martin, not., et anciens consuls, d'Abriès; Chaffrey Jouve, not., d'Aiguilles. . . (Guillaume, l'abbé Paul [editor]. *Inventaire Sommaire des Archives Départementales antérieures à 1790, Série E, Tome II, Articles 250–550. Archives de la Vallée du Queyras* [Gap: Imprimerie Alpine, 1913]).

Here is the English meaning:

Deliberations of Queyras Valley [directly west, across the mountains from the Waldensian Valleys].

1646, 5 January. First meeting . . . at Ville-Vieille ["Old-Town"], at the home of André Meyer, surgeon. Attending: Antoine Donnette, town councilor from Molines, assisted by Jacques Garcin, notary; Isaac Fantin and Jean Dalmas, from Arvieu; Jean Meyer and Barthélemy Chabrand, town councilors from Château et Ville-Vieille, assisted by David Puy, notary; Francois Berthelot and Blaise Martin, notaries, and former town councilors, from Abriès; Chaffrey Jouve, notary from Aiguilles. . . .

The names *Berthelot, Dalmas, Fantin, Garcin, Jouve, Martin, Meyer, and Puy* are all Waldensian names. Of course, this does not mean that everyone bearing these names was Waldensian. In fact, some entries in these records mention the Waldensians in a disparaging way, so at least the chief rulers were not Waldensian at this time. Still, you should be aware of the detail in these records—some of them record details of marriages and wills—and the possibility of kinship should be explored.

German Waldensians

by Gerhard Ruf

Nearly all of the German sources for Waldensian family history research deal exclusively with those groups who settled in Germany following their expulsion from the Piedmont valleys at the

end of the seventeenth century. The sources cited here are written in German unless otherwise noted. Unless you know German well, a German-English dictionary is recommended.

Available sources include vital records following the arrival of the Waldensians in Germany, as well as listings of prominent persons and individuals by family that took part in this migration. The following sources are available in the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, Utah. They help to bridge the gap between their new settlements in Germany and locating their places of origin in the Piedmont valleys located in modern Italy.

Vital Records

The microfilms are typically listed in the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) under the location where the records were kept. These church records are usually listed as Reformed Lutheran (Reformierte Evangelisch) and usually begin around 1700. Often the beginning of the record includes births/baptisms, marriages, and deaths that occurred while they were traveling to this destination. The records are typically written in French, the language of the Waldensians at the time. Refer to the FHLC for specific locations that have records available.

Publications of the German Huguenot Society

After exhausting the vital records noted above, probably the most helpful source is the main publication of the German Huguenot Society, *Geschichtsblaetter des Deutschen Hugenotten-Vereins*.

These volumes include articles written by researchers on various aspects of the movement of the Waldensians as well as the early history of their settlements in Germany. References to individuals within the text have their surnames printed in bold.

Volumes 1–23 of this publication are available in the FHL. There is a surname index for the first 14 volumes and another surname index for volumes 15 through 19. The first index is available on microfilm, but the second is not. Only about the first half of these volumes have been filmed. The films may be ordered and viewed at any Family History Center (FHC) located throughout the world.

- Cordier, Dr. Leopold. *Hugenottische Familiennamen in Deutschland: Eine Wegweisung fuer die wallonische, franzoesische, waldensische Familienforschung* (FHL: Europe 943 F2gd V.1–14 Index [microfilm 962761])
- Mathieu, Ursula-Marianne. *Hugenottische Familiennamen in Deutschland, Teil II: Register der franzoesischen und deutschen Namen in den*

Geschichtsblaettern des DHV Zehnt/Band [vol.] XV–XIX, 1937–1988. (Europe 943 F2gd Vol. 20 pt. 7–10)

Of particular note is the publication of the lists of refugees from the correspondence of Pieter Valkenier, the Dutch diplomat who worked with various German states to establish permanent settlements for the Waldensians. These lists are published in volume 10, number 10 of this publication, which includes its own surname index. It is available on microfiche:

- Valkenier, Pieter. *Geschichtsblaetter des Deutschen Hugenotten-Vereins. Zehnt X, Heft 10.* (Europe 943 F2gd Vol. 10 [FHL microfiche: 6000819 {62 fiche}])

Also notable in this series is volume 22, a dictionary of Huguenot settlements in Germany, with a supplement of seven maps. It has not been microfilmed, but is available through Interlibrary Loan:

- Bischoff, Johannes E. *Lexikon deutscher Hugenotten-Orte: mit Literatur- und Quellen-Nachweisen fuer ihre evangelisch-reformierten Refugies-Gemeinden von Flamen, Franzosen, Waldensern und Wallonen.* (FHL: Europe 943 F2gd Vol. 22)

Contact Information for the German Huguenot Society

You may contact the German Huguenot Society at:

Deutscher Hugenotten-Verein e.V. (DHV)
c/o Deutsches Hugenotten-Zentrum
Hafenplatz 9 a
D- 34385 Bad Karlshafen
Tel. / Fax +49-5672-1433.

For Huguenot questions, contact DHV through:

Ute Bilshausen-Lasalle, An der Schule 14,
D-30938 Burgwedel, Tel. +49-5135-535.

For Waldensian questions, contact DHV through one of the following:

Dr. Theo Kiefner, Lehengasse 5, D-75365
Calw, Tel. 07051/51085.

Gil René d'Heureuse, Sameiskystraße 8a,
D-12277 Berlin.

Ulrich Duse, Liebigstraße 27 B, D-60323
Frankfurt/Main.

Dr. Eberhard Gresch, Hellendorfer Straße 4,
D-01279 Dresden.

Helmut Kimmel, Mainzer Straße 46, D-67657
Kaiserslautern, Tel. +49-631-40362.

Ursula-Marianne Mathieu, Birkenweg 2, D-38173 Sickte, Tel. +49-5305-666.

Hans W. Wagner, Graßweg 3B, D-34121 Kassel, Tel. +49-561-23217.

Primary Migration Sources

An understanding of the migration patterns will allow you to determine a particular group's origin in the Piedmont valleys for continued research.

The most comprehensive source providing a detailed description of these groups is the four-volume work by Dr. Theo Kiefner detailing the movement of the Waldensians from the Cluson valley through Switzerland into Germany:

- Kiefner, Dr. Theo. "Die Wadenser auf ihrem Weg aus dem Val Cluson durch die Schweiz nach Deutschland 1532-1755." (FHL: Europe 943 W2kt V 1)

This work has an excellent surname index and a location index at the end of each volume. It has not been microfilmed by the FHL.

Additional Publications

Three additional publications are also particularly helpful.

The first is a small pamphlet published in Italian:

- "Le Colonie Valdesi in Germania nel 250th anniversario della loro fondazione" (FHL: Europe 943 F2ja). Published in 1949 at the 250th anniversary of the Waldensians' arrival in Germany, it contains a brief description of where each group settled in Germany and where they originated in the Piedmont valleys.

The second traces the origins of the Waldensians settling primarily in Wuerttemberg:

- Baral, Heinrich. "Woher kamen die deutschen und im besonderen die wuerttembergischen Waldenser?" (FHL: Europe 943 A1 #128; microfilm 1045418, item 1). Its 32 pages include an origin location index and a separate destination location index.

The sources noted above may also be available through Interlibrary Loan.

The third additional source consists of the rolls of Frankfurt Public Assistance to Huguenots, from 1746 on. The description of the microfilms reads as follows:

Parish register transcription of baptisms, indexes, inventory of church books, distribution of weekly assistance to Huguenot refugees of France, Waldensian branches of Piedmont, Italy and of the Pfalz, from 1746 on, also public assistance to persons of Frankfurt/Main, 1685-1855.

The FHL film numbers for these records range from 341884 through 341901. On the familysearch.org site, choose the following in order:

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Family History Card Catalog

All Searches

Film/Fiche search

By inputting the film numbers, one at a time, you can find the film number of interest to you.